

August 30, 2023

Since beginning my term as Mayor, I have been focused on working with the Board of Trustees to move towards a decision on the St. Paul's Main Building. While opinions vary on what decision should be made, the sentiment is widespread and uniform that it is time for a decision. The importance of gauging community support cannot be underestimated, and a look at the last 30 years gives a sense of [how difficult that can be](#).

I would like to be clear as to the goal for this public opinion poll so residents understand the rationale behind the ballot language and the importance of their participation. The goal of this public opinion poll is to inform the Board of Trustees whether a majority of residents supports committing to significant work by the Board of Trustees, Village staff, and Village volunteers, along with additional expenditures for the expert advice needed to save part or all of the St. Paul's Main Building.

While we only have preliminary cost estimates at this time for alternate projects to save parts of the St. Paul's Main Building, we believe it is enough information for the Board to share with residents to determine what community support there is for continuing efforts to save part or all of this historic building. In addition to sharing pricing from the cost estimator, we will also be providing residents with details of how a project at St. Paul's could be financed so everyone understands how these expenditures would impact their Village tax bill. While some will likely criticize the completeness of the numbers we have after the work of Mayor Venezia's St. Paul's Committee, we feel that the information we will be presenting to you before the poll is enough information to gauge resident support for continued efforts to develop a plan and get firm numbers on a project that could be supported by residents and funded by a bond resolution.

The St. Paul's Main Building is a part of the [Village's history](#) that all residents should understand before participating in the public opinion poll, and our St. Paul's [webpage](#) includes this history and other important information to prepare for the public opinion poll. I hope this helps to clarify the reason for the October Public Opinion Poll and the importance of your participation.

### **SEPTEMBER PROMENADES CANCELLED**

Members of the Board of Trustees have attended every promenade this year and recognize that residents, especially those with young children, really enjoy the events and that it provides an opportunity for our community members to gather outdoors, enjoy each other's company, and support local businesses. However, we have a responsibility to the community to keep our streets safe, and when an event challenges our ability to do

this we cannot in good conscience continue the event. In light of these unfortunate circumstances, the remaining two Friday Night promenades - September 1 and 15, 2023 - are cancelled.

### **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

The Board of Trustees encourages residents to leave questions regarding the St. Paul's Main Building and the upcoming October 21, 2023 public opinion poll in one of several boxes set up at Village Hall, the Library and the Senior Center. Residents can also send questions via an email dedicated to such: [stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net](mailto:stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net). Our Village Clerk will be monitoring the inbox and the boxes, making sure the questions raised are addressed on our Village website, in mailings or at our upcoming information sessions.

### **RAILROAD PARKING PERMITS**

Resident Railroad Parking Permits: Annual Resident Parking Permits for the Railroad Parking Fields will be on sale commencing Monday, September 11, 2023. Renewal applications will be mailed on September 8, 2023. Current Parking Permits expire on September 30, 2023, and must be renewed by October 30, 2023. For any questions, please call the Finance Dept. at (516) 465-4166.

Non-Resident Railroad Parking Permits - Stewart Manor & Nassau Boulevard: The Non-Resident Parking Permit application process will be done via a lottery this year. If you are interested in purchasing a permit, please mail or bring the following items to Garden City Village Hall, 351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, New York 11530 no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 15, 2023.

- Completed, signed Non-Resident Railroad Parking Application. (The requested Railroad Station – Stewart Manor or Nassau Boulevard must be selected.)
- Check in the amount of \$500 made payable to the Incorporated Village of Garden City.
- Copy of valid vehicle registration for the car to be used in the parking lot.

Please note that as in past years, there is a limit of two parking permits per household. All winners of Non-Resident parking permits will be notified on September 18, 2023. Parking permits are effective for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. If you have any questions, please call (516) 465-4166.

Applications can be mailed to the Finance Department at the below address or dropped off at Village Hall during business hours Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Drop off done after business hours or on weekends may be placed in the drop box located to the right of the front door of Village Hall. Applications can be mailed to the following address:

Finance Department

351 Stewart Avenue  
Garden City, NY 11530

### **SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**

Chief Matthew Pearn and the Officers and Members of the Garden City Volunteer Fire Department would like to invite all village residents to join the department for our annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Village 9/11 Memorial located at the Village Green & Gazebo at the corner of Hilton and Stewart avenues. The remembrance service will be held Monday, September 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. The service pays tribute to the 23 Garden City residents that perished during the attack on the World Trade Center, the 343 members of the FDNY, 23 members of the NYPD and 37 members of the PAPD killed, as well as those who have died of 9/11-related illnesses.

### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY SERIES: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

This is part two of a four-part series of articles by the Garden City Police Department addressing back-to-school safety issues. In last week's article, we addressed safe driving practices. If you missed last week's article, a copy was placed on the Village website. This week's article will cover school bus safety. Parents, grandparents, guardians, and teachers are encouraged to use this article to help teach children about school bus safety.

#### **Bus Stops:**

- Hold your child's hand and walk together to the bus stop in the morning. Research has shown that you should hold their hand on the sidewalk and in parking lots until your child is at least eight (8) years old. Furthermore, until they are ten (10) years old, you should hold their hand while crossing the street.
- Stay with your child at the bus stop. If you cannot stay with your child, arrange for another trusted adult to accompany them.
- When waiting for the school bus, have the children wait in an orderly manner and stand well back from the curb.
- Meet your child at the bus stop after school; never wait on the opposite side of the street. Talk to your child about what they should do if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual.
- Discuss with your children what they should do if they accidentally get on the wrong bus or miss their regular bus stop.
- When children get off the bus, they should use the handrail and look out the door to the rear of the bus before stepping off the bottom step. Research by the

Pupil Transportation Safety Institute tells us that more and more vehicles are passing stopped school buses on the right shoulder – where the door is located.

- Remember, clothing can get caught. Jackets, sweatshirt drawstrings, backpack straps, scarves, and loose clothing may get caught on bus handrails or doors. This could be dangerous while getting on or off the bus.

- Children should take five giant steps straight out from the school bus door and out of the danger zone.

- Teach your child to make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for the driver to signal them before they cross in front of the bus.

- Remind your children to look both ways for traffic before crossing the street. Never assume cars will stop for the bus.

- Never go back for anything you left on the bus, and never bend down near or under the bus.

### **School Bus Behavior:**

- Enter and exit school buses in an orderly manner, using handrails where provided.

- After getting on the bus, go directly to your seat and remain seated, facing forward.

- It is important for students to listen to the bus driver for special instructions or information.

- Speak quietly and politely to the other children near you.

- Do not jump up and down, fight or tease other passengers, or be unruly. These activities can distract the bus driver, and they may not be able to give proper attention to driving.

- Keep aisles clear.

- Keep heads, hands, arms, feet, and other objects inside the bus at all times.

- Never run or throw items inside the bus.
- Help keep the bus clean and in good condition. Report any unsafe or unsanitary conditions to the bus driver.

### **Motorist Reminders:**

- Remember, if you are approaching a school bus from the front or behind and its yellow lights are flashing, the bus is preparing to stop.
- It is illegal – and very dangerous – to pass or overtake a stopped school bus when its emergency red lights are flashing. These flashing lights mean the bus is either picking up or discharging students.
- If the bus’s red lights are flashing, you must stop and remain stopped until the red warning lights are off. This includes school buses that are on the opposite side of divided highways, on multiple-lane roadways, in parking lots, and on school grounds.
- The first-time fine for illegally passing a school bus ranges from \$250 to \$400, 5- points on your license and/or 30 days in jail; subsequent violations carry fines ranging from \$600 to \$1,000, 5-points on your license and/or up to 180 days in jail.
- Be advised that many buses are now equipped with cameras that may result in violators receiving tickets for passing a stopped school bus.

The Garden City Police Department encourages residents to incorporate these safe practices into their lives to make this school year a safe one. Next week, read part three of the Back-to-School Series, “Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety.”

### **HOLIDAY WEEK SANITATION SCHEDULE**

Residents are reminded that there will be NO garbage pickup on Monday, September 4, 2023, though recyclables will be picked up. The Holiday Week Collection Schedule will be as follows:

**GARBAGE**

**RUBBISH**

Western Half of Village: Tuesday and Friday Thursday, September 7th

Eastern Half of Village: Wednesday and Saturday Thursday, September 7th

Residents scheduled for recycling on Monday, September 4th, are asked to put their recyclables out on Labor Day.

### **HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8** 9:00 a.m. Adult Art Class at Cluett Hall. Registration required.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8** 3:30 p.m. Teen Gamers program at the Library. Registration required.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11** 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Remember The Titans* at the Library.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11** 6:45 p.m. Adult Beginner Yoga at the Senior Center. Registration required.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11** 7:00 p.m. GCFD 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Village Green.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11** 7:30 p.m. Library Board Meeting at the Library.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13** 11:15 a.m. Senior Scam Workshop at the Senior Center. Registration required.