

September 7, 2023

ST. PAUL'S PUBLIC OPINION POLL

Saturday, October 21st is the date for the St. Paul's Public Opinion Poll, an important opportunity for residents' voices to be heard on the future of the Main Building. In preparation for the Poll, the Village website has been updated with a page dedicated to informing residents. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) feature already includes answers to many questions you may have about the St. Paul's Building and the upcoming Poll. We will continue to update the FAQs as we receive more questions, and encourage residents to email their questions to stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net. FAQ boxes are also available in the Senior Center, Library and Village Hall where hand written questions can be submitted.

Why is this an Opinion Poll and not a Vote or Referendum? What will the ballot look like? What are the restrictions on the St. Paul's property, and why do we have them? Can I vote by absentee ballot? Answers to these questions and others can already be found on the FAQ page. During the next six weeks, the Village will be sharing with residents information so everyone is ready to decide whether to vote in support of demolition of the St. Paul's Main Building or in support of additional efforts and expenditures by the Board of Trustees and Village Staff needed to continue to price options to save part or all of the building. The importance of gauging community support cannot be underestimated, and that is why we need to hear from you on October 21st!

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Need an absentee ballot for the upcoming St. Paul's Public Opinion Poll scheduled for October 21? Here are important dates to remember:

- **Thursday, October 12** will be the last day for the Village Clerk to receive applications for absentee ballots to be MAILED to voters.
- **Friday, October 13** will be the last day for the Village Clerk to mail absentee ballots to qualified voters.
- **Friday, October 20** will be the last day for the Village Clerk to receive applications for an absentee ballot to be delivered to an applicant or their agent in person.

Absentee ballots may be returned by mail (351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City) or hand delivered to Village Hall, in addition to being dropped off the day of the St. Paul's Public Opinion Poll at the voting location (St. Paul's Fieldhouse) until 8:00 p.m.

POLICY AND PROTOCOL FOR REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES

Traffic Calming Devices are used to break up long uninterrupted streets that have excessive speeding issues. Examples of Traffic Calming Devices are speed humps, speed tables and chicanes. These devices are described in the studies issued by the Village's Consulting Traffic Engineer and available on the website (Numbered Streets Traffic Calming Study, Cathedral Avenue Road Diet Study and Satellite Study). The Village has begun to install Traffic Calming Devices in accordance with these studies. There are now permanent speed humps on Fourth Street after the temporary speed humps yielded substantial reductions in vehicle speeds. In addition, the Traffic Commission is evaluating their suitability for several other streets. As mentioned above, a study of the effect of speed humps installed on Fourth Street demonstrated that the

presence of the speed humps substantially slowed traffic, thereby making it safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. The purpose of this Policy and Protocol is to establish guidelines and criteria under which traffic calming devices, including speed humps, will be evaluated for installation on a residential street. To find out more about the minimum criteria required for traffic calming devices, eligible residential streets and guidelines for placement of such and the procedure to apply for any traffic calming device, visit the Traffic Commission page on the Village website.

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 its 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 who 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.

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. 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.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY SERIES: PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE SAFETY

This is part three of the four-part series of articles by the Garden City Police Department addressing back-to-school safety issues. We addressed safe driving practices and school bus safety in the previous two articles. If you missed either of these articles, you can stop by the Garden City Police Department and pick up a copy. This week's article will cover pedestrian/bicycle safety. Parents, grandparents, guardians and teachers are encouraged to use this article to help teach their children about pedestrian/bicycle safety.

Pedestrian Safety

- ✓ Children should not walk while talking on a cell phone or texting.
- ✓ Pedestrians should always use sidewalks when available and walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk farthest away from traffic. If a sidewalk is unavailable, pedestrians are encouraged to walk in a single file as close to the edge of the roadway as practical. You should also walk against the flow of traffic so that oncoming cars are visible.
 - ✓ Research has shown that until your child is at least eight years old, you should hold their hand on the sidewalk and in parking lots. Furthermore, you should hold their hand until they are ten years old while crossing the street.
 - ✓ Teach your children to be defensive and NEVER assume that a driver sees them.
 - ✓ Always LOOK in all directions before crossing the street, LEFT, then RIGHT, then LEFT again. NEVER run into the street.
 - ✓ Avoid crossing streets at mid-block, especially when parked cars may obstruct vision. Cross at Stop signs, traffic signals, crosswalks, or where crossing guards are present.
 - ✓ When crossing a street, NEVER assume a green light or WALK signal means it is safe to cross the street. Remember; LOOK LEFT, then RIGHT, then LEFT again before crossing.
 - ✓ Remove earphones when preparing to cross the street. You may not be able to hear approaching traffic.
 - ✓ Only follow others across the street once you have checked for yourself that it is safe to cross.

- ✓ Walk the route to school with your child and discuss safe practices. Teach your children about traffic laws and encourage them to ask questions when unsure what to do.
- ✓ Crossing Guards are near schools to assist children and others in safely crossing the street. It is a violation of New York State Law to disregard the signals and directions of crossing guards.
- ✓ Teach your children to obey all directions given to them by crossing guards. This includes crossing only when directed and no running or riding bicycles at crossings.

Bicycle Safety

- ✓ Persons riding bicycles are subject to the same laws as motorists.
- ✓ All bicyclists and passengers under the age of fourteen are required to wear approved bicycle helmets when they are on bicycles.
- ✓ Regardless of what the law requires, the Garden City Police Department recommends that ALL operators and passengers wear bicycle helmets. According to the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute, nearly 97% of all bicyclists killed in accidents were not wearing a bike helmet. Parents should set a good example and wear a helmet.
- ✓ Teach your children how to ride a bicycle and practice riding in a safe location where there are no cars. It is essential for children to learn how to signal, turn, slow down, and stop without falling. Hand signals for bicyclists are the same as for motorists.
- ✓ Teach your children to be defensive when riding and NEVER assume a driver sees them.
- ✓ Bicyclists should carefully look in all directions for vehicles, other bicyclists, and pedestrians. Take extra care when nearing intersections or driveways where vehicles may be turning.
- ✓ Children should walk their bicycles across intersections.
- ✓ Bicycles should be ridden in bicycle lanes when available or as close to the right edge of the roadway as practical in the same direction as traffic.
- ✓ Ride your bicycle in a single file only.
- ✓ NEVER use a bicycle to carry more people than it was designed to carry. Never ride anyone on the handlebars.
- ✓ Wear bright-colored clothing when riding a bicycle and ensure the bike has proper reflectors.
- ✓ DO NOT ride a bicycle while wearing earphones, talking, or texting on a phone. It is illegal to wear more than one earphone while riding a bike.

A bicycle must be equipped with the following:

- a) Brakes that are capable of making the tires skid on dry-level pavement.
- b) A bell, horn, or other device that can be heard at least a hundred feet away; sirens and whistles are NOT permitted.
- c) Bicycles driven between a half-hour after sunset and a half-hour before sunrise must be equipped with a white front headlight visible in darkness for at least 500 feet and a red taillight visible for at least 300 feet.
- d) When purchased new and/or driven at night, a bicycle must have reflective tires or wide-angle spoke-mounted reflectors. Reflectors must be colorless or amber for front wheels and colorless or red for rear wheels.

The Garden City Police Department encourages residents to incorporate these safe practices into their lives to make this school year a safe one. Please read part four of the back-to-school series, “Stranger Danger,” next week.

CONSTITUTION WEEK - SEPTEMBER 17 - 23

The Colonel Aaron Ogden Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has asked me to proclaim the week of September 17-23, 2023 as “Constitution Week” in Garden City. This year marks the 236th anniversary of the drafting of the U.S. Constitution. Our nation’s Constitution, adopted

September 17, 1787, provided a fundamental document for freedom and independence. We all have cause to pause and reflect on this great heritage given to us by our forefathers. Residents are urged to fly the flag all week in observance.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY

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.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 4:00 p.m. [Teen Advisory Board Meeting](#) at the Library

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 11:15 a.m. [Senior Scam Workshop](#) at the Senior Center. Registration required.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 6:30 p.m. [Traffic Commission Meeting](#) at Village Hall and via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 7:30 p.m. [Board of Trustees Meeting](#) at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 1:00 p.m. [Chi Kung with Andrea](#) at the Senior Center. Nominal fee.