

October 18, 2023

The weekend has come for residents' voices to be heard on the future of the St. Paul's Main Building. I want to thank the Village Staff and the Board of Trustees for all the work that has gone into educating residents on the current state of the building, what we know about different options for preservation or demolition, estimated construction costs, financing options, and legal considerations. The Trustees and Village staff have worked hard to present the community with details on a very complicated issue as clearly and concisely as possible. I especially would like to thank Trustee Michael Sullivan who brings to the Board of Trustees a background in both engineering and finance, and who has spent countless hours working with our experts - Westerman Construction, Vakota Architecture, Bond Counsel and Village Financial Advisors - to oversee presentations on construction costs and financing options that answered so many of the resident questions with no bias to any particular outcome.

Everything you need to prepare for the Public Opinion Poll can be found on our Village website, and you will see that the information presented is from hired experts who have put their names behind the information they have provided and have done so in an impartial manner. As your Mayor, I have not associated myself with any group supporting a particular outcome, and I would like to be clear that I am not a member of any group advocating for preservation or demolition. Not only do I truly respect the strong opinions held by so many residents about the St. Paul's Main Building, but I also recognize that I cannot successfully lead on this issue without understanding community sentiment. Thank you to the many who have reached out to show support for the Public Opinion Poll, and to the residents who have been engaging in discussion and educating themselves on the condition of the building, the estimated costs, the financing options presented by our experts, and the legal considerations. Nothing is possible with the St. Paul's Main Building without community support, and I look forward to hearing the voices of residents who participate in this important Public Opinion Poll.

PARKING PLAN FOR SATURDAY'S POLL

The Police Department will be reserving polling parking spaces in the vicinity of Cluett Hall, the parking area on the south side of the Gymnasium entrance, and the garage area just north of the Gymnasium entrance. Signs directing persons to these reserved parking spaces will be in place at the Stewart Avenue entrance to St. Paul's and the north Rockaway Avenue entrance. Persons wishing to vote may also park in other available spaces in the complex. Signs advising of additional parking will be placed by the St. Paul's cottages and the Middle School. Residents are encouraged to avoid the intersection of Rockaway Avenue and Stewart Avenue between 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. due to the Homecoming Parade.

NIGHTTIME LIGHTING OF ST. PAUL'S MAIN BUILDING

The nighttime lighting of the St Paul's Main Building was interrupted when electrical lines were damaged during the removal of an old oil tank last March. This is in no way related to the upcoming Public Opinion Poll. The lack of lighting was reported to the Village Administrator who made sure the lines were repaired, and the building is again being lit at night.

LIBRARY BOARD OPEN SEAT

In addition to the elected eight-member Board of Trustees, our Village has many Boards and Commissions made up of community volunteers. They all play an important role in our Village government. The Garden City Public Library Board of Trustees is comprised of five members appointed by the Village Board of Trustees, and the members serve for five year terms. One seat on the Library Board expires each year on December 31st. If you are interested in serving on the Library Board of Trustees, please send a cover letter and resume to Village Clerk Kelly Galanek at 351 Stewart Avenue Garden City, NY 11530 or by email at

kgalanek@gardencityny.net by November 30, 2023.

PADDLE COURTS

Reilly/Green Mountain platform tennis was here twice this month at Community Park to remove dimples on the paddle courts, fix any chipped areas on the decks and tighten the screens where needed. This work was performed at no cost to the Village since the company was unable to completely strip and re-coat the courts. Reilly/Green Mountain is putting together a proposal for a top to bottom inspection and repair program for the courts.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- OCTOBER 21 7:00 a.m. St. Paul's Public Opinion Poll at the St. Paul's Field House
- OCTOBER 21 1:00 p.m. Garden City Homecoming Parade begins at the Middle School
- OCTOBER 21 3:00 p.m. Slime with Chris Buchman at the Library. Registration required.
- OCTOBER 24 6:30 p.m. Architectural Design Review Board Meeting at Village Hall
- OCTOBER 25 10:30 a.m. Preschool Halloween Parade at the Library. Registration required.
- OCTOBER 25 7:30 p.m. Village Meet and Greet at the Garden City Senior Center
- OCTOBER 26 4:30 p.m. Halloween Bingo at the Library. Registration required.
- OCTOBER 28 4:30 p.m. Halloween Spook-tacular at Cluett Hall. Reservations required.