

October 4, 2023

As the October 21st Public Opinion Poll on St. Paul's approaches, the Village website includes videos of the recent information sessions featuring experts hired by the Village. The first presentation provides financing scenarios for a preservation or demolition project at St. Paul's. The second presentation includes details on construction cost estimates and legal considerations relating to a St. Paul's project. Residents who missed these information sessions are encouraged to watch them to prepare for this important Public Opinion Poll.

I continue to ask residents to submit their questions to [stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net](mailto:stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net), and answers will be shared on the FAQ page of the Village website or in the mailer you will be receiving before the poll.

As the last information session was concluding, a resident raised a question of why the Village was not responding to misleading information being put out by an advocacy group called the "St. Paul's Alliance." The mailings and emails from the St Paul's Alliance and the Historical Society are not coming from your Village government, and the information being put out by the St. Paul's Alliance is inconsistent with the professional advice we have received from our attorneys and financial advisors. I urge all residents to refer to the Village website for information on this important topic and to look for the Village seal on any information related to cost estimates or financing. We are including the Village seal on our materials to help residents identify what is coming from the Village.

### **OUR FIRST RESPONDERS**

On behalf of all Garden City residents, I'd like to thank our first responders for their diligent response to residents and motorists in distress during the prolonged rainstorm on Friday, September 29. Multiple roads were flooded and several motorists had to be removed from their vehicles.

### **HOME COMING AND THE PUBLIC OPINION POLL**

The Board of Trustees voted at an August meeting to set the date for the St. Paul's Public Opinion Poll on Saturday October 21st from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Considerations in setting the date included 1) finding a date when many residents would be in town and available to participate 2) finding a date when weather conditions are less likely to keep residents from voting and 3) finding a date that the St. Paul's Field House and the voting machines were available. We recognize how important participation is and considered a variety of factors with a goal of maximum participation. With residents gathering in our Village on that day and celebrating on the GCHS football field and around town, we expect participation to be positively impacted. Similarly, we are hopeful that young

families watching their children play games at the St. Paul’s fields will take a few minutes to vote in the Opinion Poll. They will already be there! The one concern we have heard is about parking because of the fact that so many residents will be in town and there will be activities at the St. Paul’s fields, a parade from 7th Street to GCHS, and the 1:00 p.m. Homecoming football game at GCHS (parade route: the parade will begin on 7<sup>th</sup> Street by Parking Field 6E and proceed westbound 7th Street, to northbound Cathedral Avenue, to westbound Stewart Avenue, to northbound Rockaway Avenue, to westbound Merillon Avenue ending at the Garden City High School Parking Field). With the long period of time that the polls are open, we believe residents will be able to plan their voting accordingly and avoid difficulties with parking. We will also be working with our Police Department as they are skilled at handling parking in similar situations to make sure parking is not a deterrent to anyone’s participation. We are confident that Commissioner Jackson and his Department are well equipped to handle this. We will share more details with you on the parking plan as the day approaches.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

With the commencement of the 2023/2024 school year, Officers were assigned to the Garden City Police Department’s Back-to-School Enforcement Initiative during September. During this initiative, Officers conducted traffic enforcement throughout the Village, concentrating on the vicinity of schools, bus stop locations, and along routes utilized by student walkers. Overtime subsidized by STEP (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program) Grants was used to assist with the operation of this campaign. During this initiative, Officers issued tickets for the following violations:

<b>Number of Tickets</b>	<b>Violation</b>
209	Excessive Speed in a School Zone
113	Excessive Speed
34	Driving with a Suspended/Revoked License
32	Passing Stop Signs/Red Traffic Lights
23	Unsafe Lane Usage
22	Disregarding Traffic Signs/Controls
17	Driving with a Suspended/Revoked Registration
17	Distracted Driving (Cell Phone/Electronic Device)
13	Blocking Intersection
8	Passing School Buses with Lights Activated
7	Failure to Yield Right of Way
3	Failure to Yield to Pedestrian in Crosswalk
1	Reckless Driving

**COLUMBUS DAY CLOSINGS**

Village offices will be closed on Monday, October 9, 2023 in observance of Columbus Day. Regular sanitation collection this week. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, October 10,

2023 at 8:30 a.m. The Garden City Public Library will be closed on Sunday, October 8, 2023 and Monday, October 9. The Library will reopen on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.