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**THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

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**ST. PAUL'S SITE VISIT REPORT**

When elected and sworn in as your Mayor last Spring, I promised an Administration committed to transparency and professionalism. That promise has been kept ever since, as we addressed various critical Village-wide issues, including the annual Budget, the LIRR impact, resident fire safety, traffic enforcement and how best to use the St. Paul's campus.

Two months ago, I formed a new Mayor's Committee to continue the search for suitable community uses in a renovated and preserved historic St. Paul's structure, or to determine if demolition should be considered with an alternate plan. Thirty-seven residents who are experts in law, architecture, design, engineering, construction, historic preservation, program development and usage, budget, finance and communications volunteered and were formed into Committees. I'm happy to report before starting their research, ALL Committee members agreed that volunteering for this massive study meant leaving agendas at the door and doing the job assigned objectively and thoughtfully.

Recently, I toured the St. Paul's building, along with our Village Assistant Fire Chief, the Superintendent of Buildings and two Architects/Engineers who currently serve on the Mayor's St. Paul's Committee. The Site Report, which can be found on the Village website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net), contains details of that tour. I was alarmed by the building's general lack of care and maintenance that has taken place since the Village acquired the campus in 1992 and more recent "stabilization" work.

Please recall the Village has a responsibility to maintain Village property, which includes St. Paul's. I have therefore asked the professional engineers on the St. Paul's Committee to review the past Engineering Reports authorized by prior Boards of Trustees and report what their recommendations were to those Boards and whether and to what extent those recommendations were or were not properly evaluated and implemented.

I have also asked the Village's financial professionals to provide a Forensic Accounting on the extent that any of the \$2.0+mm authorized in the 1992 St. Paul's bond transaction for building preservation and protection, as well as the recently authorized (2018-2019) \$3.0+mm for the building's roof repair and stabilization, has been spent on those clearly articulated purposes.

The Mayor's Committee on St. Paul's is pursuing a thorough and professional evaluation of potential future use of St. Paul's and will report periodically. In that spirit, the Village has posted a new report of the conditions inside the building based upon the recent inspection by the Assistant Fire Chief and the Superintendent of Buildings, two Committee members and myself. I urge you to read it. As the Mayor's Committee on St. Paul's continues, we welcome all helpful, constructive advice as well as other recommendations from our residents and friends as we strive to preserve our truly unique, historic treasure. Ultimately, a referendum will be proposed to

determine the fate of the St. Paul's Main Building.

View the site report and photos from the visit on the Village website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net).

### **SPEED ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

Mayor Veneziale and Police Commissioner Jackson have reinforced the Police Department's Speed Enforcement and Education Program. Several permanent speed indicator signs were added to Village streets and the Department deployed its mobile speed indicator sign and decoy vehicle at various locations. In addition, the Police Department's Traffic Squad was strengthened with an emphasis on speed enforcement. The results have been encouraging. Preliminary data shows tickets for speed violations in 2021 were more than 50 percent higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2019 while vehicle crashes have been reduced by more than 25 percent.

### **QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES**

I have recently heard resident complaints regarding quality of life issues. In particular, the placing of recycling at the curb before 7:00 AM on the day of collection but not more than 12 hours before collection. Therefore, recycling and rubbish should not be placed at the curb before 7:00 PM on the day before collection. Moreover, business signs on residential properties are prohibited. This includes contractor signs. It is my goal, with the assistance of our Trustees, to address the quality of life issues our residents desire.

### **NATIONAL GRID NATURAL GAS INTEGRITY PROJECT**

Last week, our construction team continued temporary restoration and gas main installation on Kellum Lane, and trenching and gas main installation on Stewart Avenue. The outreach team will continue to keep residents and businesses informed during work and give notice of upcoming activities, maintaining social distancing and eliminating any close contact.

#### **Over the next week, neighbors can expect to see the following activities during work hours:**

- Temporary restoration on Kellum Lane between 9th Street and Stewart Avenue.
- Gas main installation and tie-in work on Stewart Avenue between Kellum Lane and Arthur Street.

#### **Traffic Management Updates:**

- There will be changes in the traffic pattern on Kellum Lane during work hours.
- Westbound traffic on Stewart Avenue between Arthur Street and Kellum Lane will be reduced to one lane during work hours.
- The U-turn in the Stewart Avenue median between Arthur Street and Kellum Lane will be closed at all times for the duration of the project.
- Crews will have flaggers present to redirect traffic as necessary.

### **EPA SAMPLING ITS MONITORING WELLS IN THE EAST**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting sampling of its monitoring wells associated with the Old Roosevelt Field Contaminated Area Superfund Site this week. Four of their monitoring wells are located in Garden City at three locations:

- In the median on Garden Street, just west of the intersection of Grove

Street

- In the street at the end of the western most median at the intersection of Tremont and Garden Streets
- Two wells located at Willow Street, at the intersection of Tremont Street

The contractor will put out cones in the area they are working in and will not be blocking any traffic. This is not a noisy operation. Each stop should be approximately 30 minutes to no more than an hour.