

July 26, 2023

“How much will it cost?” is a question many residents ask in discussing the St. Paul’s Main Building, and the second question is often “how much will it change my tax bill?” Your Board of Trustees understands that residents want answers to these questions, and as we prepare to share with all residents the clearest information we have on the St. Paul’s Main Building before the vote, a key component of that information will be the municipal financing options available to the Village and the associated costs to the residents, whether it is a restoration project, a façade project or demolition. The Finance and Audit Committee is working with the Village Treasurer, bond counsel, and the Village financial advisors to look at the various financing options. The Committee will also provide residents the ability to determine the estimated tax impact of each financing option based on the assessed value of their home.

In response to questions raised by some residents, there is absolutely no truth to any rumor that the building is being “taken apart piecemeal.” Regardless of what path the Village takes on the St. Paul’s Main Building, any contents of the building which are of value will be protected from further damage, and the Board of Trustees has been advised by the last expert retained that the stained glass windows should be immediately shored up or removed to avoid any further damage. Unfortunately, several stained glass windows have started to crumble, so it is critical that we take action to limit any further damage. I thank residents who have been reaching out and offering their help and sharing concerns about items of significance that they wish to see preserved. I fully recognize the difficulty of bringing this issue to a vote, and I appreciate you all trusting my judgment in speaking with concerned residents from all groups and asking for their help when I think it is appropriate. As was stated at the last Board of Trustees meeting, this Board of eight elected officials is working to bring our community to a decision on the St. Paul’s Main Building, and we all recognize the importance of working together to achieve this very important goal. We as a Board are committed to presenting accurate and unbiased information to the community and to presenting you with two options so your voices can be heard.

**9/11 MONUMENT REHABILITATION**

Trustees have engaged Handa Industries of Hicksville to reconstruct the 9/11 Memorial on the Village Green. The rehab will include the replacement of worn pavers, upgrades to the monument lighting, which includes the installation of 24 in-ground recessed lights; 23 lights placed in a circle will represent the Garden City residents killed during the World Trade Center attacks and one center light will represent the rest of the Village and anyone that has passed afterwards. The upgrades will enhance the remembrance ceremony the Fire Department performs each year. The Engineering Department worked closely with Chief Parrella on this design.

**TRAFFIC COMMISSION UPDATE: PARKING ISSUES**

The Traffic Commission is constantly addressing parking sign requests. Some residents want them; others want to be rid of them. Sometimes, those people live on the same block. Parking signs can serve a lot of functions, discouraging all day parking for workers and commuters but allowing for residents to use their streets for parking. Another example, parking at the Raymond Court Parking Lot was restricted to those events that were so popular that the Stewart School and Stewart Field parking lots were full and, therefore, parking at the RCPL was necessary. By controlling the times the RCPL was used and with the Recreation Department providing open gates and easy access to the fields from the Stewart School Parking Lot and a Police Officer guaranteeing parking was done properly in the Stewart Field Parking Lot, the safety of the children attending events at Stewart Field was assured and the negative impact of the RCPL on residents of Raymond Court was minimized. Indeed, for the last year (365 days) the permitted use under this standard amounted to approximately nine Sunday morning Thunder football games/events, 11 Saturdays for LL baseball games and St. Josephs School Field Day.

**SPOTTED LANTERN FLY**

The Spotted Lanternfly has reached Garden City. The insects have been spotted on several trees at the Village Water Works. They were also observed at the Senior Center and outside the Recreation Office at St. Paul’s. Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect from Asia that primarily feeds on a wide variety of plants such as grapevine, hops, maple, walnut, fruit trees and others. This insect could impact New York's forests as well as the agricultural and tourism industries. We are asking all residents to look for the Lanternfly, and if seen, kill it and report it to the NYS Department of Agriculture using the form on their website.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2023**

On August 1, 2023, the Garden City Police Department will participate in a country-wide community crime/drug

prevention awareness program titled "National Night Out" at Garden City Community Park from Noon to 6:00 p.m. According to their administrators, "National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live." National Night Out enables local police departments and residents to form a partnership in making their communities a safer place to live by encouraging residents to:

- Report crime or suspicious activity as soon as it happens.
- Take necessary precautions to discourage and prevent crimes.
- Be prepared for emergencies.
- Discuss the dangers of unsafe driving and what they can do to make roads safer for other motorists and pedestrians.
- Join and support local community organizations that address crime and quality of life issues.
- Help make children aware of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.
- Dispose of all unused, expired, or unwanted medications at Police Department Headquarters.
- Ensure that children know what to do when approached by strangers, either in person or online.
- Participate in the Department's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Program.

During this event, Commissioner Kenneth Jackson and members of the Department's Community Policing Unit will meet with numerous residents, including seniors, adults, and children, to discuss current issues that impact the safety and welfare of the community and what can be done together to make the Village a safer place for all. Commissioner Jackson stated that events such as National Night Out provide an excellent opportunity for the Department and community to interact and work together to develop ideas to make the Village a better place to live and work.

**HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1** 11:15 a.m. Chair Yoga With Maggie at the Senior Center

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1** 12:00 p.m. National Night Out at the Garden City Community Park

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1** 8:15 p.m. Movie at the Pool: *Scoob*. Guest fees apply.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2** 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting at Village Hall

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 3** 7:15 p.m. Summertime Gazebo Concert: Garth Brooks Tribute on the Village Green

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4** 6:00 p.m. Friday Night Promenade: Summer Breeze on Seventh Street

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5** Wacky Inflatable Day at the Pool. Guest fees apply.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6** 2 - 4 p.m. Live music at the Pool: The Hambones. Guest fees apply.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 7** 6:30 p.m. Free Show: Magic by Amore at Nassau Haven