

2011-04-22 / Letters

Preserve St. Paul's!

To the Editor:

Voters in the Village of **Garden City** will go the polls on April 27, 2011 to decide whether to authorize \$3.75 million in public bonds to demolish the iconic St. Paul's School. This 130-year-old High Victorian Gothic building, erected in tribute to Alexander Stewart, the founding father of the Village, is truly one of the most magnificent structures anywhere on **Long Island**. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the signature landmark building in a community blessed with many beautiful buildings. The Village has to date rejected various scenarios which could have resulted in the restoration of the building. It is now faced with the decision of finding other acceptable public or private funding alternatives to enable restoration of the building or razing it. To demolish this architectural and historic treasure would be a travesty. While it is acknowledged that the cost of rehabilitating this historic building is significant, it is hoped that Village residents will recognize the importance of retaining this important vestige to not only the Village's history but also Long Island's. One can only imagine what would happen if the magnificent churches and other architectural masterpieces in **Europe** were not supported by the public and demolished. We owe it to our children and generations that follow to serve as vigilant stewards of the treasures with which we have been entrusted. The Village accepted responsibility for St. Paul's School when it officially designated it as "parkland" in 2004. With that designation comes responsibility for maintenance and preservation. While the Village has yet been able to agree on a plan to ensure preservation of the edifice, it should possibly consider a public-private approach that lessens the burden on the Village taxpayers, but allows for a reasonable level of redevelopment to offset the cost of preservation. It is our fervent hope that the residents of Garden City will demonstrate their community leadership in finding a viable solution to this challenge. Until such time as a plan is developed, it is important that St. Paul's be maintained. Demolition would be wrong for Garden City and wrong for Long Island. Residents should express their support for St. Paul's by voting "No" on April 27th for the Bond issue to demolish St. Paul's.

John D. Cameron, Jr.,

Chairman, Long Island

Regional Planning Council

Where's the story?



4 Points Mentioned