

January 2012

**progress through
participation**

epoa news

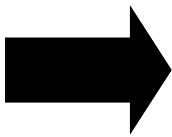
**The Official Newsletter of the Eastern Property Owners' Association
Garden City, New York 11530
www.gcepoa.org**

Representing Residents of the East since 1918

**Nominating Committee Selects Nicholas Episcopia for Village Board,
Robert Martin and Tom Pinou for School Board.**

Electors to Vote at January 17 Public Meeting

**Resident Electors' Meeting: 7:30 pm Stewart School Auditorium
EPOA Public Meeting Immediately Follows—All Welcome**



**Nominee Biographies begin below
Trustees' Update page 2
President's Message page 3
Aircraft Noise Update page 5**

**Special Reports begin page 5
Membership page 7
Garden City Government page 8
Budget Work Session Dates page 11**

The elected members of the Garden City East Nominating Committee, otherwise known as the 10 Member Nominating Committee, have unanimously nominated Nicholas P. Episcopia, current Trustee from the East, to the Village's Board of Trustees (BOT) for a new two-year term.

The Committee in addition has nominated Robert G. Martin to the position of School Trustee from the East, and Tom Pinou to the position of School Trustee At-Large on the Board of Education. Mr. Pinou currently serves as the School Trustee from the East.

The Committee made its selections after a two-day interview and deliberation process in which they considered seven highly qualified candidates. Leo Stimmler, chairperson of the Committee, said "we were all impressed by the knowledge and energy of every one of the seven candidates who were willing to serve in these important leadership positions". The slate of nominees will be presented at the January 17, 2012, Resident Electors' meeting, to be held in the Stewart School Auditorium beginning promptly at 7:30 pm.

Nick Episcopia, who was first elected a Village Trustee in 2005, holds the position of Second Deputy Mayor and is the current and a past Fire Commissioner. He additionally serves on the Mayor's Committee on St. Paul's, the finance and compensation committees and the public information committee, which he has previously chaired. Prior BOT assignments include chairing the vacancy committee, serving as Building Commissioner, Public Works Commissioner, a member of the Traffic Commission, liaison to the business community and the Library Board, and chairman of the Environmental Advisory Board.

Nick is a regular attendee at monthly Nassau Village Officials Meetings and has direct communication with elected officials and the legal department of the Town of Hempstead with regard to such issues as the HUB, Covanta, NextG and transportation. As the Garden City Village Board representative, he attended the NYS Conference of Mayors' [NYCOM] two-day meeting in Albany on proposed NYS legislation affecting incorporated Villages and local government.

He asked the BOT to retain a special consultant to measure emissions from installed NextG boxes to ensure that there is no level of danger to residents and supported installation of sound mufflers on NextG boxes.

continued on page 10

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President | Judy Courtney |
| Vice President | Christine Mullaney |
| Corporate | |
| Secretary | S. Benjamin Murolo |
| Corresponding | |
| Secretary | Joseph Moody |
| Treasurer | John Lattuca |
| Directors | Mathilde Bellmer |
| | Jaime Gans |
| | Walter McKenna |
| | Tom Nappi |
| | Brian Noonan |
| | Sal Norberto |
| | Neil O'Malley |
| | Robert Orosz |
| | Nicole Russo |
| | Robert Rymers |
| | Leo Stimmler |
| | Debra Tennyson- |
| | Feinstein |
| | Matthew Teri |
| | Edward Welch |

representatives

from the east

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Village Trustees | |
| | <i>Dennis Donnelly</i> |
| | <i>Nicholas Episcopia</i> |
| Acting Village Justice | |
| | <i>Brian T. Deveney</i> |
| School Board Trustee | |
| | <i>Tom Pinou</i> |
| Library Board Trustee | |
| | <i>John D. Schultz</i> |
| Architectural Design Review | |
| | <i>Barbara Ruggiero</i> |
| Cultural & Recreational Affairs | |
| | <i>Kenneth Moody</i> |
| Environmental Advisory Board | |
| | <i>Leo Stimmler</i> |
| | <i>Elizabeth Bailey (at large)</i> |
| | <i>Robert Foxen (at large)</i> |
| | <i>Ryan Schnupp (at large)</i> |
| Planning Commission | |
| | <i>William A. Bellmer</i> |
| | <i>H. Bradford Gustavson</i> |
| | <i>Robert Schoelle, Jr.</i> |
| Zoning Board of Appeals | |
| | <i>Brian Paradine</i> |

Newsletter Editor
Christine Mullaney

LABOR CONTRACTS

When we could not come to terms on a new contract with the Village Police Department, the PBA asked for mandatory arbitration to achieve a contract settlement. While we did not achieve some of the cost savings the Board of Trustees (BOT) desired, the terms of the arbitration award were reasonable and in the mid-range of police settlements in Nassau County.

When we settled with the CSEA rank and file for a 1.5 percent per annum wage increase, the local inflation rate was less than 2 percent and is now over 3.5 percent.

We have reached an impasse with our paid firefighters and mandatory arbitration will be the next step. An arbitrator will certainly consider this higher inflation rate when calculating an award.

We are still in negotiations with the CSEA supervisors and the BOT is now debating the merits of a compromise proposal.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

This has been a year of positive change in our fire service. The position of a paid Fire Captain was eliminated and the Volunteer Fire Chief, who actually heads the Fire Department, now sits in at our BOT meetings. By law, the Fire Chief is the head of the Department and the BOT has now formally recognized his authority. This move paid a large dividend when the Chiefs recommended a policy that changed and lowered the manpower requirements of the paid firefighters. This has resulted in paid firefighter overtime savings of close to \$100,000 since June, 2011.

In my (Trustee Episcopia) position as Fire Commissioner, I have observed training sessions, and attended the weekend volunteer recruiting drive. These events were examples of the professionalism and dedication of the Fire Chiefs as well as the other officers and members of our Volunteer Fire Department.

I also want to thank our volunteers for taking the time to run an excellent Fire Prevention Day Open House, their participation in the Wounded Warrior Project, as well as their contribution of refreshments and helping Santa Clause arrive at the annual Village Tree Lighting festivities. We owe these true public servants a real debt of gratitude, and I ask that everyone be as generous as possible in their annual contribution to the Volunteer Fire Department.

VILLAGE FINANCES

As a member of the BOT's Finance Committee, I (Trustee Episcopia) am pleased to report that we are on or below budget in almost every department and that our financial health is excellent and clearly worthy of our "AAA" bond rating.

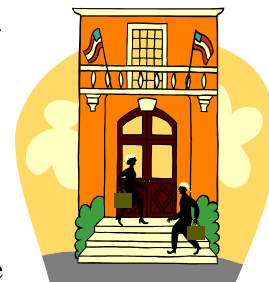
As our budget season approaches, we will again welcome the help and advice of the Citizen's Advisory Budget Review Committee (CBRC) in creating a budget that preserves essential services and programs in the most economical way possible, while also allowing for capital projects and maintenance of the Village infrastructure. Please remember that all residents are welcome at our BOT meetings and public budget work sessions. The dates and time are listed on page 11 of this newsletter and on the Village website: www.gardencityny.net.

ST. PAUL'S

We realize that St. Paul's is an ongoing concern for Village residents, and that some accuse us of having "no vision" if we do not agree with the Committee

continued on page 4

Trustees' Update



**by Nicholas Episcopia
and Dennis Donnelly**

President's Message by Judy Courtney



The past months have been busy for the Eastern Property Owners' Association, with several significant developments occurring. In accordance with the Community Agreement, our nominating committees and EPOA officers have been very active in determining candidates for various Village commissions and boards.

I am pleased to report that in December the Village Board of Trustees approved two new appointments from the East. Ken Moody will be serving on the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs and John Schultz will become the Library Trustee. Both Ken and John went through an extensive selection process, and we were impressed by their backgrounds, knowledge of the Village and enthusiasm to volunteer their time and energy to two very critical parts of our Village.

As they assume their new roles, I would also like to thank Libby Huschle (Library) and Andy DeLannoy (Recreation) for their service over the past few years. Each of them has been excellent examples of what makes this Village work – volunteering their time, providing support to the POAs and making sure the voice of our residents is heard.

As we look into 2012, it is clear that the Village will be confronted by many challenges. The budget process begins quickly, and many difficult decisions will have to be made, both in terms of the Village and School budgets. The balancing of short term costs vs. long term issues will be the real challenge. Are we able to make hard choices about where to spend our dollars, while still having a view of the future and the continued developing vision of where our Village is going? I believe the challenge for all of us in 2012 will be our ability to unite as a community in making these choices.

Which brings me to St. Paul's. The debate continues, and I have no doubt the debate will continue throughout 2012. Village meetings are consumed by this discussion; time and energy seem to be focused on this single issue as all that matters to the Village. Some even claim the very essence of the Village will be dictated by how we handle this issue. While I acknowledge the issue has to be resolved, I believe there are more important issues we should be tackling that will truly impact the lives of our residents.

The EPOA is reviving our "Outside Development Committee" - a group of volunteers led by Chris Mullaney (EPOA vice president) to begin formulating a broad view of all the development happening around the Village, especially the East. What will be the impact of the development of a new major shopping mall on Old Country Rd? How will a new BJ's Warehouse on Stewart Avenue affect traffic on the already chaotic scenes on Stewart and Clinton Roads? How can we proactively influence these things so that Garden City (and especially the East) don't get consumed by this development?

Other similar issues exist – water quality, infrastructure, taxes, etc. Shouldn't we be as passionate on these issues as some are on St. Paul's? As evidenced by the number of candidates we had for our recent available positions, I know that the East has residents who are truly interested in working on these and other issues. My hope for 2012 is that we can focus on what really matters, and use the passion and dedication of all our residents to ensure the right things get done this year and beyond.



The Directors and Officers of the Eastern Property Owners' Association
extend their wishes for a healthy, joyous and prosperous New Year to all residents
of the Village of Garden City.

continued from page 2

Trustees' Update

to Save St. Paul's (CSSP) and the Historical Society (HS). To the contrary, we certainly do have a vision, and that is to preserve the infrastructure and services that Garden City residents expect. As stewards of everyone's tax dollars, any decision on St. Paul's can only be made after a careful analysis of our new budget and consideration of the recently enacted NYS tax cap law, especially in these difficult economic times. This is the sworn duty of every Village Trustee, which we take very seriously.

THE CSSP PLAN

Because over the last several years the Village Board of Trustees (BOT) has stated that any reasonable proposal for a use of the St. Paul's building would be heard and reviewed, after elimination of the AvalonBay proposal, the Committee to Save St. Paul's (CSSP), who themselves had initially proposed the development of apartments in the building, presented their new plan to the BOT at a public meeting in June, 2010. They proposed to create approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of public meeting space on the first floor of the 150,000 sq. ft. building, restore the chapel and make minimal repairs to the structure.

At an estimated cost of \$8.5 million to \$10 million, the plan was not intended to restore the building or even properly mothball the unused portion, but simply to make basic repairs to the existing windows, mortar and roof. When members of the BOT asked the contractor who serves as a consultant to the CSSP how long the repairs he proposed were expected to last, he stated "approximately five years" and that the plan should only be considered "as a start." When the leaders of the CSSP were asked repeatedly for their long-range plan for the building, they said they had none.

The CSSP's financial presentation alluded to a sale and leaseback of the St. Paul's building by the Village to "The St. Paul's Conservancy," which would be established. This entity would then issue bonds, and the debt would be serviced by lease payments from the Village to the conservancy. The conservancy, not the Village, would then be the obligor on the bonds issued by the conservancy. This scheme was vetted with both Village and Bond Counsel and deemed to be on the cusp of legality. It was also determined that the rating agencies would consider the lease obligation as Garden City debt and include it in their calculations of our debt rating. Upon hearing these facts the CSSP withdrew this proposal and asked that regular "General Obligation Bonds" be issued for the project. This plan had been reviewed by Erwin-Lobo-Bielinski in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issued for the demolition bond issue referendum and deemed to be impractical and probably a violation of several Village codes. The majority of the BOT rejected this plan as not only a waste of money but totally inadequate to preserve the structure. It is nothing but a "slippery slope" leading to far greater expenditures in the future.

The CSSP promised a new plan in early December, but instead are now insisting that the BOT have a referendum on their original plan. Their argument—that residents did not vote to demolish the structure, therefore the majority of residents are willing to spend \$20 to \$30 million or more for meeting rooms—is specious. A referendum on the proposed \$10 million plan is a waste of both taxpayer money, and the time of your Trustees and Village administration.

The majority of the BOT has approved funds to review ideas for preservation of the façade and the creation of some public space. This would include the removal of parts of the main building that have no practical use. However, at this time no specific plan has been presented, and there is no guarantee that a partial restoration could be accomplished at an acceptable cost.

POLICE & PUBLIC WORKS

The Police Department has been very active in both patrol and unmarked vehicles attempting to apprehend potential criminals before a crime is committed. The economy has caused a rise in car break-ins and burglaries throughout Nassau County. We in Garden City are no exception. Although our burglary rate is less than it was in 2010, one is too many. The police have made a number of arrests in the car break-in issue. When you see something, call the police.

The Public Works Department has just finished the leaf removal season and has switched gears and equipment to prepare for snow removal. This year we successfully repaved the major parking lots in the Village and replaced the crosswalks along Franklin Avenue. The Village lighting crews added street lights on Meadow Street and repaired numerous outages throughout the Village.

Major construction projects are underway at police headquarters and at the Village pool with completion anticipated in time for the pool season in 2012.

The business sector is suffering with the downturn in the economy. Please try to utilize our local shopkeepers; they depend on your patronage.

Cultural & Recreation News

by Andrew deLannoy



Garden City Pool Redevelopment

We continue to make great progress with the redesign of the adult pool seating deck areas and replacement of the wading pool, spray area, and playground with an interactive water play area suitable for children up to 12 years old. Refer to the Recreation Department's website at www.gardencityny.net for the conceptual design report and reconstruction update pictures.

Its Winter and Time to Exercise

The Recreation Department continues to offer many heart healthy activities throughout the winter months for children and adults. Refer to the Recreation Department's website for the dates and times of our programs.

Don't forget our Open Gym Time for Village children and their families on Sunday afternoons during the winter. This open time provides the opportunity for you to enjoy various gym activities with your children, in an open and unstructured setting. Basketball, volleyball and dodgeball, along with some popular table games, will be available for your use, and Recreation staff members will be on hand to help move the activities along.

Adults looking for some exercise can use the St. Paul's field house and participate in:

Men's Over 40 Open Basketball every Monday and Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm.

Men's Over 30 Open Basketball every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball on Thursday night at 7:30 pm.

Adult Co-Ed Soccer on Thursday night at 8:30 pm.

The indoor running track in Cluett Hall is open and available for resident's use. Twenty (20) laps of this track is the equal of one (1) mile.

Any additional questions, please call Cluett Hall at 516-742-4905.

Seniors, please refer to the Recreation Department's website at www.gardencityny.net for the listing of events and programs offered exclusively for our senior residents.

Update on Aircraft Noise



An announcement was made at the last two meetings of the Town Village Aircraft Safety and Noise Abatement Committee (TVASNAC) concerning one initiative that has been taken to address the issue of aircraft noise. This initiative went into effect on October 31 and is intended to reduce aircraft noise at night.

During nighttime hours, between approximately 11pm and 6am, air traffic controllers are now supposed to direct pilots of aircraft that are landing at JFK to stay at higher altitudes in their approach to the airport. Specifically they will be directed to stay at altitudes of 5000 feet or higher as long as they are 15 nautical miles or further away from the airport, and 3000 feet or higher as long as they are 10 nautical miles or further from the airport.

Garden City is within 10 nautical miles of JFK. According to google distance, the intersection of Stewart Avenue and Franklin Avenue is approximately 8.3 nautical miles from the center of the airport. Therefore, it is not clear whether or not this change will benefit residents of Garden City.

I think it might reduce the number of aircraft flying over Garden City at low altitudes at night. An analysis comparing pre-initiative and post-initiative altitudes of nighttime flights will be needed to determine whether Garden City residents benefit from this change or not.

Elizabeth Bailey

Member-at-large

Garden City Environmental Advisory Board

Library News

by Libby Huschle



The library had a very busy and fun filled Holiday season. All the programs were well attended and the staff is looking forward to a busy New Year. The reference department has been teaching patrons how to download the ebooks since the Kindle now accepts them. Another site that has free downloadable books is Gutenberg.com. The ever popular "Cozy Up with a Good Book" is again accepting registrations. You can register through April 1st. All that is required is a listing of the title and author of books read. These reports will be used for prizes in the spring. So get to the library and enroll.

The Children's Room has planned a busy winter and spring. Some of the programs are as follows:

March 3rd --- Mad Science***April 21st --- Family Game Day***April 19th & April 21st --- Book Discussions
January 23rd --- Storytime registration starts. Storytime begins the week of February 6th.

Craft programs with Shirley Ruby are also planned. Be sure to check the website for times and dates of tickets and registrations. Residents have the ability to register on line, so be sure to take advantage of this current feature.

As usual the Friends of the Library plan the weekly movies and many special programs. Watch the newspapers and fliers for details.

This is my last newsletter. I want to say thank you for my tenure on the board. I loved it. I wish John Schultz all the best in representing the Eastern Property Owners' Association on the board. It is an extremely important and fulfilling position.

The staff and I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Treasury Report

by John Lattuca



Throughout 2011, Garden City residents of the East once again showed tremendous support for the Eastern Property Owners' Association through membership and public meeting attendance. The EPOA current membership total is over 870, including many new households.

As we are all witness to, many of the Village's ongoing issues have a direct impact on residents of the East. This informative newsletter gives the EPOA the ability to reach all residents of the East and inform them about pending Village construction projects, budget updates, cultural and recreation news, and of course potential issues that threaten our way of life in this beautiful community.

Therefore, communication is the largest investment the EPOA organization makes on a yearly basis. In 2011, we spent approximately \$11,000.00 in printing and mailing important communications to residents of the East. This includes our three annual newsletters, important election notification postcards, and other pertinent information relative to our community. Additionally, as of December 1st 2011, our assets were \$19,131.96, consisting of a FDIC insured checking account with a reputable bank in Garden City, and a bulk postage account with the Garden City Post Office. Our 2011 total expenses were approximately \$15,200.00. On behalf of the entire EPOA board of Officers and Directors, we want to thank each member of each household for contributing to the EPOA in 2011 and we look forward to your support in the coming year.

Looking ahead to 2012, we will continue to look for ways to bring value to the residents in the East. This includes looking for more cost efficient ways to streamline our communication process, and ensure that each resident understands both the challenges and opportunities that face the Village.

As in any partnership, we ask that each resident of the East contribute to the effort, and submit the \$20 membership form enclosed in this newsletter. These dues are extremely important and necessary in maintaining the strength of the EPOA, and enable progress within the East.

EPOA

Membership Drive 2012

Your neighbors in the East greatly appreciate your membership in the EPOA and we are looking forward to your continued support in 2012.

Key Objective of the EPOA: To insure that important issues facing the East are effectively communicated to the residents and to the Board of Trustees. Our volunteers continuously monitor issues of concern to residents.

Major issues that particularly impact the East include development in the HUB and nearby communities and development along Franklin Avenue. Important internal issues include Village management and operations, Village and school taxes, library funding, water safety and airplane noise, and traffic problems.

In order to effectively communicate your viewpoints and concerns, the EPOA **needs your help**. One of the easiest ways to **help** is to **renew** your membership in the EPOA for an annual family membership fee of \$20.

A membership form and an addressed return envelope are enclosed.

Please take a moment of your time to join the EPOA.

You may also join through the EPOA Web site—www.gcepoa.org—by following the membership link on our home page.

Many residents have already supplied their email addresses to the EPOA, so that we may contact them with news updates and other important information. Please consider giving us your email address on the membership form. We do not share our email distribution list with anyone!

Since 1918 the Eastern Property Owners' Association has represented the interests of every resident of the Eastern Section of Garden City.

Garden City Government

Why was the Community Agreement developed?

The Community Agreement developed as a compromise solution to prevent any one section of the Village from dominating the Board of Trustees or the School Board. In 1919, when it was adopted, as today, the number of property owners, population density and physical size of each area of the Village were not equal.

The Village of Garden City was incorporated in 1919. There were at the time three developed areas: Old Garden City, now known as the Central section, with 50 homes; Garden City East, now known as the Eastern section, with 160 homes; and Garden City Estates, now known as the Estates section, with 160 homes.

The current Western section was mostly undeveloped land within Estates until 1931, when it formally became its own geographic section of the Village.

Until 1919 two development companies owned and managed the unsold land within each of the three geographic sections. The Garden City Company controlled Old Garden City and Garden City East. The Estates Corporation owned Garden City Estates. The development companies owned the roads, provided fire and police protection and controlled their own zoning by determining the size and allowable usage of each plot of land they sold to individual property owners.

For practical reasons, in 1919, individual property owners in all of the sections, along with the developers, decided to unite as an incorporated village, with one government to provide uniform municipal services and zoning codes.

A debate ensued on how to prevent any one section from dominating the Board of Trustees or the School Board. The Community Agreement was adopted as a compromise solution that has been honored ever since.

How does the Community Agreement work?

Under the Community Agreement, each section is responsible for providing its own candidates for the annual General Village Election, held in March and governed by New York State Election Law. The candidates from the four sections are presented as The Community Agreement Party slate to all voters in a village-wide election.

Each of the four sections, under the Community Agreement, has two seats on the Village Board of Trustees, one of which is the Mayor's. All eight Trustees, including the Mayor, are elected to serve two year terms. At the conclusion of the Mayor's term, the Mayor's seat rotates to another section of the Village, since the Mayor is one of two BOT members from any given section.

The current mayor, Donald Brudie, lives in the Central section. When Mayor Brudie's term ends in 2013, the post of mayor will rotate to the West.

The Trustees are responsible for policy, planning and budgeting for the Village. Individual Trustees serve as liaison to respective departments, such as recreation and public works, and commissions, such as the zoning board of appeals. They also serve as members of certain boards and commissions, such as the Board of Police Commissioners, and as members of sub-committees established by the Mayor.

The Trustees serve without pay. A professional staff runs the Village on a daily basis and reports to the Trustees.

The five-member Board of Education, elected by residents for three-year terms, also serves without pay in the school district, which is a political subdivision of New York State. The BOE is responsible for the efficient management of the schools and appoints the Superintendent of Schools as its chief administrative officer to carry out policy. Each section of the Village is responsible for selecting one candidate and there is a rotating fifth seat. In the upcoming School Trustee elections, responsibility for the at-large position has rotated to the East. The elected Garden City East Nominating Committee has therefore proposed two candidates for the BOE, one from the East and one at-large.

What is the Unified Procedure?

Each section of the Village has a nominating committee that presents candidates for the March General Election to form the Community Agreement Party slate. Under the Unified Procedure, residents of the respective sections meet

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

Garden City Government

on the same date in January. At this meeting of resident electors additional nominees may be presented by persons eligible to vote in general elections who reside within that section. Should that occur, a local "run-off" or primary election is held two weeks later. Only persons residing within that section may vote in the primary election. The winner becomes that section's nominee on the Community Agreement Party's ballot for the March General Election.

In the East this happened most recently in 2009 when a resident challenged the nomination of Dennis Donnelly. There was a primary, which Donnelly won, and he went on to win in the general election. In 2011 a group of residents from different sections of the Village formed another party to run against the Community Agreement Party candidates and petitioned to be included on the general election ballot, which is their right. They chose not to utilize the primaries in their respective sections for their challenge. These candidates lost in the general election.

What is the role of the Property Owners' Associations?

Each section of the Village has its own Property Owners' Association, in accordance with the Community Agreement. The POAs adhere to the Unified Procedure. Each POA has its own governing by-laws that form its nominating committees. Each POA is responsible for holding primary elections as necessary.

The POAs have two critical functions: first, to provide the mechanism for nominating candidates for election to the Village BOT and the School Board. The nominating committees traditionally seek people for Mayor and Trustee who have experience working within the POAs, so as to ensure that our Village officials bring to the table an overall understanding of the Village infrastructure, the various commissions and the Village Code, as well as the duties and responsibilities of a mayor and trustee vested by New York State.

The second function is to serve as a civic association, so that residents can bring concerns to their POA as well as the BOT. To promote communication and cooperation among all four POAs, the section presidents and vice presidents form the Joint Conference Committee to discuss issues that affect the Village as a whole, and to create village-wide awareness of issues that are unique to any given section.

Why keep the Community Agreement?

Since 1919, the Community Agreement has provided an orderly system for nominating candidates for the General Village election. It has ensured that two elected officials from each section of the Village will serve on the BOT at all times.

Under NYS law, anyone may present a petition to the Village Clerk to be included on the General Election ballot. This practice has been discouraged because it could tip the balance of representation on the BOT, since the top vote-getters win the open trustee seats, no matter which section of the Village they reside in.

The Community Agreement prevents domination by one section over the others; avoids control of our Home Rule by a major political party; produces elected officials who have demonstrated a thorough knowledge of Village affairs, and, along with the POAs, provides an open form of government rooted in cooperation, compromise and respect among residents from all four sections of the Village.

EPOA Nominating Committee Seeking Candidates for Board of Directors

The EPOA Nominating Committee, which nominates candidates for officers and directors of the Association, is accepting resumes from interested residents of the East who would like to serve on the board of directors in the 2012/2013 year that commences after the June 2012 annual meeting.

All directors and officers of the Association must be voting members of the EPOA. A voting member is any member who has qualified to vote by paying the annual membership dues.

If you are interested in serving as a director of the EPOA, please send a letter stating your interest and qualifications to the Secretary of the Eastern Property Owners' Association, P. O. Box 7525, Garden City, NY 11530. Or you may email the same to eastpoanc@yahoo.com. Once the committee convenes in February 2012, you will be contacted by the committee chairperson.

No sitting director or officer of the EPOA serves on the 7 member EPOA Nominating Committee.

continued from page 1

Garden City East Nominating Committee

As chairman of the Mayor's Committee to formulate strategies to oppose the LIRR's plan to build a third track on the main line, he formally presented Garden City's opposition at MTA Scoping Sessions and also worked directly with officials from neighboring Villages. As a result of these efforts, the Capital Review Board required full disclosure of the LIRR Third Track project's effects on nearby businesses and residences.

From 1998 to 2005, he served on the EPOA Board, holding the positions of vice president and president.

"I firmly believe in taking a pro-active stance in such matters as labor negotiations; taxation, budget and finances; building, zoning and planning; and the pressures from outside of the Village of Garden City that affect the health of our business community and our quality of life," Nick said.

"My professional expertise in real estate and major construction lending enable me to ask direct, on-point and probing questions regarding any potential development of the St. Paul's building, the HUB, and sites within the Village, as well as our Village Administration's method of reporting to the Board of Trustees," he concluded.

Nick and his wife, Dorothy, have lived in the Village for 38 years and raised their two children here. Their daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren live in the East.

Robert G. Martin, nominee for School Trustee from the East, is a finance and educational professional with extensive senior management experience in both the corporate and non-profit sectors. A graduate of Brown University, he holds an MBA in Finance from Columbia University.

Bob served for seven years, 1997 to 2004, as a trustee on the Mamaroneck (Mamaroneck Union Free School District, Westchester, NY) Board of Education, including a term as president. Bob also served as vice president of the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association.

He served three years in the US Army in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Bob's corporate career began in 1974 with the First Boston Corp. He spent nine years with PaineWebber Inc. as vice president in corporate finance and two years with Berkshire Capital Corp as senior vice president in strategic planning and restructuring transactions.

Bob's non-profit sector experience began in 1993 when he became director of business affairs for the Windward School, an independent coeducational school for learning disabled children in grades one through 12. He later served as vice president of the National Executive Service Corps, as executive director of the Sheldrake Environmental Center and most recently as director of finance and administration of The GO Project, which is an academic enrichment and social services organization serving at-risk elementary students in New York City.

Together with his wife, Rosemarie, Bob moved to Garden City in 2007, settling in the East. In planning their move, Bob said they only looked at communities "with a good quality of life, which to us included an excellent school system. The schools in Garden City have a well-deserved reputation for excellence in academics, extra-curricular activities and athletics."

Bob believes in "giving back" to his community. He volunteered for several organizations while living in Larchmont for 25 years, but "the position where I felt that I had the greatest impact, as well as the most personally stimulating, was serving for seven years on the School Board. I hope to bring what I learned in both my professional and volunteer lives to the Garden City School Board."

Tom Pinou has served as School Trustee from the East since last May, when he was elected to a one year term to replace Laura Brown, who stepped down for personal reasons before her term expired. A resident of the Western section since 2001, Tom has been nominated for School Trustee At-Large. The at-large or fifth seat on the Board of Education rotates among the four sections of the Village and this year choosing a nominee for the at-large position fell to the East.

Tom is a long term volunteer for local Village government, including past service as a director and president of the Western Property Owners' Association. In addition to his duties as a School Trustee, he also serves on the Ad-Hoc Committee that oversees the 2009 \$36.5 million School Investment Bond. "I hope to continue after the 2009 construction bond completes in late 2012," Tom said, "because I feel it will be an important committee, even if it is overseeing basic capital improvement projects for the school district. There is an excellent mix of resident subject matter experts as well as district employees. It is a well rounded group."

Tom has over 20 years of professional engineering experience in both the public and private sectors. He graduated from the New York Institute of Technology with an engineering degree in electrical, mechanical and computer

continued on page 11

continued from page 10

Garden City East Nominating Committee

technology, and began his career in the government defense industry.

Since 1998 Tom has worked in the information technology/telecommunications field and has an extensive background designing and building business infrastructures and data centers. In 2006 he joined BITS (Banking Infrastructure and Technology Services), a nationwide managed service provider for voice and data connectivity, exclusively serving community banks. He is currently BITS' director of network operations and customer care service.

Tom has enjoyed serving on the School Board. "It is rewarding to serve as a volunteer with one common focus toward the children and enhancements to the school district," he explained. "In addition, serving on the 'newest legislative committee' with President Colleen Foley, I am looking forward to see how we can put pressure on our elected public officials to assist us with this straining 2 percent tax cap."

Besides Chairman Stimmler, other Committee members are May Conti, Jaime Gans, Walter McKenna, Joseph Moody, Christine Mullaney, John Pittoni, Allison Sparacino, Robert Stark, Jr. and Mary Weille. They were elected by resident electors at the June 2011 Annual Public EPOA Joint Meeting from a slate of 20 candidates.

Village Announces Budget Work Session Dates 2012

The Village of Garden City has announced the following work session dates from its budget calendar for 2012/2013:

- Saturday, January 21 8:30am Tour of facilities and capital plan presentation
- Thursday, February 9 7:30 pm Budget Study-Work Session 1
- Thursday, February 16 7:30 pm Budget Study-Work Session 2
- Wednesday, February 29 7:30 pm Budget Study-Work Session 3
- Thursday, March 8 7:30 pm Budget Study-Work Session Final
- Monday, April 2 8:00 pm Adoption of Budget

All sessions are open to the public and will start at or be held in Village Hall.

Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings

The Board of Trustees invites all members of the Garden City community to attend twice monthly Trustee meetings.

All meetings are held in Village Hall.

- Thursday, January 12, 8:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- Thursday, February 2, 8:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- Tuesday, February 21, 5:30 pm Grievance Day Hearing/Board of Trustees Meeting
- Thursday, March 1, 8:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- Thursday, March 15, 8:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- Monday, April 2, 8:00 pm Adoption of Budget

Washington Avenue Construction Project Police Activity

At the December 15 Board of Trustees meeting, Trustee Episcopia released data comparing police activity in the residential area east of the Washington Avenue construction project for the periods between 11/17/11—12/13/11 and 11/17/10—12/13/10. In 2011 during that period the police issued 66 traffic tickets, a 244 percent increase from the 27 issued in 2010. In addition, there were three impounds and two arrests in 2011 compared with none in 2010.

Meeting Notice: Tuesday, January 17

Resident Electors' Meeting

7:30 pm: Stewart School Auditorium

The Resident Electors of Garden City, residing east of the center of Franklin Avenue and hereinafter known as Resident Electors of the East, will meet Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Stewart School auditorium for the purpose of designating one candidate for election to the office of Village Trustee from the East for a term of two years, and two candidates for election to the office of School Trustee from the East and at-large School Trustee for terms of three years each. The following names have been placed in nomination by the elected Garden City East Nominating Committee, elected entirely by Resident Electors of the East, and otherwise known as the Ten-Member Nominating Committee.

For Village Trustee: Nicholas Episcopia

For School Trustee from the East: Robert Martin

For School Trustee At-Large: Tom Pinou

Independent nominations may be made by petition in accordance with the following procedure excerpted from the Eastern Property Owners' Association of Garden City, Inc. By-Laws and Procedures for nominating Village Officials and Trustees: Additional proposals for nominations may be made by petition filed at the January Resident Electors' Meeting and signed by not less than 15 qualified Resident Electors*. Any nominating petitions so filed shall, in addition, set forth the names and addresses of the signers and the name and address of the person proposed for nomination and the office for which he or she is nominated.

**Qualified Resident Elector shall mean any resident of Garden City residing East of the center of Franklin Avenue then eligible to register to vote in any applicable school or Village election.*

EPOA Public Meeting Immediately Follows Resident Electors' Meeting

Village Trustees Nick Episcopia and Dennis Donnelly will discuss Village issues and answer your questions.
School Trustee Tom Pinou will report on school issues and take questions.

EPOA President Judy Courtney and Treasurer John Lattuca will report to residents and answer your questions.

A representative from the Garden City Police Department will be present to address resident questions about recent home burglaries, car break-ins and other relevant concerns.

Please come and participate!