



# EPOA NEWS

The official newsletter of the  
Eastern Property Owners' Association  
Garden City, New York 11530

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—108 Years Representing Residents of the East—  
1918-2026

EPOA Public Meetings are held throughout the year. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 16.

Please check the EPOA website for updates on meetings and issues of importance to residents.

Updates from EPOA  
President June Michalak  
Village Trustees:  
Mayor Ed Finneran  
Judy Courtney and  
Vinny Muldoon  
School Board Trustee  
Kristen Pappas  
Library Trustee Mary  
Maguire, and  
East Representatives to  
Village Boards

All Residents Welcome

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Spring 2026

## President's Message

by June Michalak

As President of the EPOA, I want to sincerely thank the residents of the Eastern Section for your continued support, involvement, and encouragement. This organization exists because neighbors care deeply about their community and are willing to step forward to help preserve and strengthen it.

The EPOA is, and has always been, a volunteer organization dedicated to serving this neighborhood throughout the entire year. Beyond meetings, we work to support community initiatives, share information, sponsor local activities, and advocate on matters affecting residents of the Eastern Section and the Village as a whole. Much of this work happens quietly, but it is carried out with genuine care, commitment, and pride in our community.

My own involvement began simply with a desire to help address concerns in my neighborhood. Over time, that grew into a deeper appreciation for the importance of listening, staying involved, and working together in a constructive and respectful way. I want residents to know that I am listening, and that I sincerely do my best to understand the concerns, perspectives, and hopes shared with me.

Residents are always encouraged to visit the EPOA website for updates, information, and official communications regarding matters affecting our community.

It is a privilege to serve in this role, and I remain committed to approaching it with fairness, openness, and a genuine desire to contribute positively wherever I can.

Thank you again for your support and for continuing to be part of a community built on involvement, pride, and neighborly spirit.

Warm Regards,  
June

## Facts of the East—Bill Bellmer

### Elementary Schools in the East

When the School District added three K+ schools in 1958, two were located in the east, one in the northeast, and one in the southeast, in addition to one in the west. All three were of the same basic pattern: single-story with inner courtyards. The northeast [and west] buildings had eleven rooms and served 320 students K-3. The southeast school had eight rooms and served 240 students K-2. It was later augmented to the same size as the others. These schools all now serve only K-1 students.

Property had been acquired on both sides of the north end of Hemlock Street, so that school was named after the street, with Hemlock Park established to its south. In the southeast, the only property available had already been acquired by the Village for Camp Mills Park, located east of Boylston between Locust and Poplar. As it was dedicated parkland, it was necessary to "alienate" it via a legislative act in Albany to allow use as a school. This was done quickly and without problems. Although the school fronts on Boylston, it is named Locust School for unexplained reasons. It could have been named Camp Mills School, since it is in the center of that former facility. Property was later acquired by the Village east of Grove Street, to provide a park for the southeast section. The schools opened in September 1958. The completion of these schools enabled the discontinuance of classes in the Cathedral Avenue building.



A March 1958 view of almost completed "Garden City Lawns Elementary School" on a snowy day, viewed southeast from Boylston and Locust Streets. The tree at left still exists, much larger now. The photo came from a notebook found at the school that recorded construction progress from field to completion.

**EPOA Officers:**

President June Michalak  
 Vice President Steve Ilardi  
 Corp Secty Ralph Healey  
 Corres Secty Joe Moody  
 Treasurer Spiro Dorizas

**Directors:**

Juliet Acquavito  
 Eric Breusch  
 Donald Byrne  
 Bruno Cerrone  
 Grace Chan  
 Jonathan Cruickshanks  
 Jon Debrich  
 Barbara Garry  
 Christine Mullaney  
 Michael Nagler  
 John Pittoni  
 Shane Pomeroy  
 Bill Sweeney

**Representatives (East):**

Associate Village Justice  
 Peter Menoudakos  
 Village Trustees  
 Mayor Ed Finneran  
 Judy Courtney  
 Vinny Muldoon  
 Library Board Trustee  
 Mary Maguire, vice chair  
 School Board Trustee  
 Kristen Pappas  
 ADRB (all a-l)  
 James Bauer  
 Mimi Ho  
 JeanMarie Madelmayer  
 Allyson Murray  
 Civic Beautification Committee  
 Althea Robinson, co-chair  
 Cultural & Recreational Affairs  
 (all a-l) Bill Garry  
 Grace Li  
 Environmental Advisory Board  
 Elizabeth Bailey (a-l)  
 Planning Commission (all a-l)  
 Allyson Murray, chair  
 John Delany  
 Zoning Board of Appeals  
 Alex Bachowski  
 Richard Williams  
 Jim Van Schoick  
 Village Co-Historian  
 Bill Bellmer  
 Editor  
 Christine Mullaney

**Village Update****Mayor Ed Finneran**

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**Marine Corps Property:** we learned recently that the Marine Corps is scheduled to begin environmental testing at the site in the next week or two and that the Corps and their "parent" U.S. Navy (Facilities group) have yet to decide how and or when the property will be offered for sale. Thus, it is unlikely but not impossible that their respective organizations or another governmental agency will choose to inhabit the property.

**Propel New York:** after a very long discussion and negotiation on the pathway of the underground cable through the Village, we and Village counsel are in the midst of negotiating an easement agreement between the parties. It is expected same will be formalized in the next two weeks. Further, at our May 21<sup>st</sup> or June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Propel team will make a presentation on the scope of their program. Finally, we have been told construction is not scheduled to begin in the Village until the spring of 2027.

**Village FY 2027 Budget:** Following the mandated and annual hearing on the FY 2027 budget last month, the Board adopted a \$73.7mm General Fund Operating Budget and \$16.13mm in General Fund capital projects. The capital projects include: major improvements to the lower level of the GC Public Library; road and paving repairs; a project at Village Hall to address ADA access; investing in new equipment for DPW and improvements at St. Paul's, amongst others. Village Treasurer Irene Woo and her team worked for many, many weeks with Department Heads, Village Administrator Suozzi and Board members to formulate the annual plan. Our efforts included three public work sessions held in late March and early April culminating in the hearing and vote. The tax levy will increase 3.91% for the new fiscal year. FYI: over the last 10 years, the actual property tax levy increase has been less than the amount allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law.

**Edgemere Firehouse:** you may have noticed construction fencing was installed to secure the site and prepare for the next phase of work. The project team will begin by having licensed electricians and plumbers disconnect existing utilities and establish temporary utility services to maintain operations throughout construction. The existing generator will also be disconnected during this phase. In addition, the contractor will install a temporary structure to house one of the fire trucks that is currently stored inside the building. The structure will be fully equipped with electrical service, heating and air conditioning to ensure proper protection of essential equipment. Once these preparations are complete, the team will proceed with the demolition of the rear staircase and portions of the exterior rear of the building. Looking ahead, we anticipate that by June, excavation will begin for the new rear foundation, which will

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include a full basement. This will be followed by the pouring of concrete.

**EPA Old Roosevelt Field Site:** Last month after a six-month negotiation between senior members of our staff, lawyers, Trustees and me vis-a-vis EPA Regional Director Michael Martucci and several senior members of his team, an agreement was reached on several procedural issues and we signed off on a Consent Agreement concerning the Old Roosevelt Field Superfund site. Importantly, the EPA had the right to move forward with the work with or without the Village's consent; however they routinely contact the subject Village, et.al., as a matter of course to obtain consent before commencing their project.

The Agreement will allow the EPA to undertake additional remedial action in the Village on Garden and Grove streets, resulting in the further treatment of underground contaminated water emanating from the former Roosevelt Field Airfield. Some of the issues we addressed with the EPA include: the assignment of a Project manager who can be contacted during business hours and by email after hours; a public information session(s) for residents; discussion and adoption of "construction disruption protocols;" and the obligation "to return the disturbed area to its pre-construction aesthetic standard."

The EPA, as well as the Village, has been addressing the Old Roosevelt Field bloom for numerous years following its placement on the Superfund National Priorities List. Be assured the water being treated has not entered our Village well system and the project is essentially a "belt and suspenders" effort to further treat the underground water as it migrates past the Village and toward Hempstead.

We have been advised that the work will likely commence in Spring 2027. When the project begins the EPA will be constructing new groundwater extraction wells, associated well vaults, and pipes to move the underground water to a new treatment facility in Uniondale just over the border from Garden City's easternmost boundary just south of Grove Park.

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### Library Update—Mary Maguire

Great News! Phase one of the library's Lower-Level Renovation passed in the Garden City Village Budget! The library is very thankful for their patrons' ongoing support in this endeavor.

Follow the Library on its new Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/gardencityplny>), and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/gardencityplny>) pages for an update on new arrivals, exciting events and tips to make the most of your library experience. There are wonderful pictures of the many enriching and entertaining events posted there for you to enjoy.

Adult patrons can now find public computers and printing available on the main floor in the Adult Service Department.

Remember that your library card is your All-Access Pass that unlocks the world of free digital content, anytime, anywhere and on almost any device. Stream movies, listen to audiobooks, borrow an e-book, take online classes, learn a new language, get access to the New York Times, Newsday and the Wall Street Journal – all from the comfort of your own home. Visit the digital library pages on the new, amazing **Garden City Library Website**, <https://gardencitypl.org>, and choose services like Libby, Hoopla, Flipster, Freegal and log in with your library card and start exploring! If you need help navigating any of these platforms, classes are given periodically at the library.

Mark your calendar for May 27, "A Conversation with Alex DeMille", sponsored by the **Friends of the Garden City Library**. It will be an intimate conversation about the novel **The Tin Man**, which he co-authored with his late father, long-time Garden City resident, Nelson DeMille. It's an exploration of the implications of AI in modern warfare.

And, in these Spring and Summer months, never forget to take advantage of the numerous **Museum Passes** available at – you guessed it – the Garden City Library, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The Friends' recent contribution of \$55,000 to the Lower-Level Renovation Campaign was accepted by the Library with grateful thanks.

## Board of Education Update—Kristen Pappas

### Primary and Elementary Schools

Locust School is celebrating students Mason Flynn, Riley Urquhart and William Goldner, who qualified to represent both their school and the Garden City School District at the New York State First In Math Championship Tournament on June 13 in Albany after excelling in the statewide First In Math program through their math skills, speed, accuracy and problem-solving abilities.

In March, Stewart School fourth graders participated in a weeklong workshop series centered on *The Pirates of Penzance*, working with performers and guest artists in hands-on acting workshops that culminated in an abridged performance. The program also strengthened literacy skills as students explored vocabulary, character development and themes from the 1879 text.

On May 1, members of the Speaking STEM as a Second Language Club from Stony Brook University visited Stratford Avenue School to lead an engaging engineering activity with third grade students.

### Garden City Middle School

Garden City Middle School families gathered in large numbers for the annual GC Cares-A-Thon, a longstanding tradition that encourages students to learn about meaningful causes and create positive change in their communities. The event highlighted the compassion, creativity and community spirit that make it a valued district tradition.

Garden City Middle School is also celebrating its sixth grade Hackathon team, which earned second place overall and first place for its Capital Display Project submitted ahead of the competition.

### Garden City High School

Garden City High School announced that seniors Sarah Phinney and Olivia Allsbrook were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, for the Class of 2026. Both students have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and involvement in school activities and the community.

On March 12, science research juniors Taylor Maguire and Trisha Samanpure competed in the Round 2 finals of the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury after advancing from an initial pool of 407 projects representing students across Nassau and Suffolk counties.

On April 21, Garden City High School hosted its annual AP Art Show, celebrating the artistic journeys of AP Studio Art students as they presented cohesive portfolios developed throughout the year around personal themes and creative investigations.

On April 24, 40 students from the high school's math research program participated in the Long Island Math Fair at Hofstra University, presenting original mathematical research through written papers and oral presentations. Garden City students earned eight gold medals, 14 silver medals and 12 bronze medals.

Students Tessa Frascogna (dance) and Kate Koczko (voice) were selected as New Faces Honorees by the Roger Rees Awards, which recognize outstanding achievement in high school theater.

Director of Athletics Ed Ramirez recognized the district's winter athletes and teams for an outstanding season. Student-athletes from indoor track and field, wrestling, and boys swimming and diving qualified for state championships, while the girls varsity basketball team won the county championship. Gymnast Charlotte Seebrath captured two state titles and was named Nassau County Gymnast of the Year by Newsday.

### Other District News

The district continues advancing academic excellence and student well-being through several key initiatives. The first phase of the K-2 literacy program review was completed with the implementation of Benchmark Advance, including professional learning, classroom support and

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ongoing feedback from teachers, administrators and families. The Literacy Review Team evaluated curriculum, assessment and student growth, while the second phase of the pilot, Amplify CKLA, is now underway. MyView will follow before the committee presents recommendations for literacy instruction by June 2026.

At its April 22 meeting, the Garden City Board of Education appointed Ms. Jacqueline Rehak as assistant superintendent for business and finance. She joins the district from Rockville Centre School District, where she oversaw budget development, financial operations and district services.

Ms. Lauren Quezada was appointed principal of Homestead School. She returns to Garden City after serving as principal of Floral Park-Bellerose School, where she focused on school operations, student support, staff development and family engagement.

Ms. Lindsay Ward was named principal of Hemlock School. She previously taught at Stratford Avenue School and played a key role in district literacy initiatives and curriculum development.

The Board of Education continues advocating on behalf of students and the community regarding the proposed Zero Emission School Bus Mandate. In recent outreach to state officials, the Board expressed concern about the financial burden of fleet replacement, infrastructure upgrades and related costs on local districts and taxpayers. Additional information and resources are available on the district website.

### Bond & Construction Project Updates

The district continues to make progress on projects funded through the community-supported bond and capital reserves.

During the 2025-2026 school year, the district completed renovations to its baseball and softball fields and added a new multipurpose field to expand athletic and community use. The upgrades were celebrated this April with ribbon-cutting ceremonies attended by student-athletes, coaches, district officials and community members.

### School Budget 2026-2027 Information

The proposed 2026-27 budget reflects the district's continued commitment to academic excellence, student opportunity and long-term planning while remaining within the allowable tax levy limit. The proposed budget totals \$142,385,117, a 3.36% increase from the current year, with a projected tax levy increase of 2.98%.

The budget includes investments in academics, including a new K-2 English Language Arts resource, updated math resources for grades K-5, new science kits for grades 2-5 and expanded novel studies in grades 6 and 8. The district will also continue morning math and writing programs and support STEAM materials, curriculum writing and staffing for the larger incoming ninth grade class.

Support for arts and music programs also remains strong, with funding for new music instruments and updated high school art equipment. Bond-related investments will support the new Bloomberg Lab and renovated art and physics classrooms.

Athletics and extracurricular opportunities also remain a priority. The budget maintains all athletic teams and intramural programs while adding assistant coaching positions and funding updated athletic equipment. The district will also continue supporting a wide range of cocurricular and extracurricular activities, including new clubs at the middle school and high school levels.

We are incredibly grateful to our entire community for its continued support of our schools and students. Thank you to our dedicated PTA, SEPTA, Booster Club, POAs, Village, and the many organizations, volunteers and families whose generosity and commitment help create meaningful opportunities for all our children. Your partnership and unwavering support play an important role in the continued success of our students and school community.



**2027 EPOA Dues for Household**

**One Year Membership.....\$30**

**or Commit to a Two Year Membership.....\$50**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Please make check payable to the EPOA and mail to P.O. Box 7525, Garden City , NY 11530 or pay online at gcepoa.org via PayPal under "Membership," or by Venmo @GCEPOA. When paying by check, the cancelled check is your receipt.

**Registration**

**Designated Members: Any Adult Residents**

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Household Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Garden City,**  
**NY 11530**

**Email\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email\*** \_\_\_\_\_

\*As a dues paying member, if you provide us with an email address, you are eligible to receive our monthly e-communications bulletins. Two email addresses allowed per household. Please print clearly.

**By selecting this box, you consent to receive the EPOA newsletter via email (as provided above), which helps us save on mailing costs. If you do not select this box, the Fall newsletter will be mailed to your household address.**

P.O. Box 7525, Garden City, New York 11530

gcepoa.org /  @GardenCityEPOA /  @GC\_EPOA /  @GCEPOA

**108 YEARS REPRESENTING RESIDENTS OF THE EAST  
Founded 1918**

**THE EPOA HOLDS PUBLIC MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**Please check our website—[www.gcepoa.org](http://www.gcepoa.org)—for updated information and bring your concerns and comments to our meetings.**

**Next scheduled EPOA Public Meeting Tuesday, June 16**

**Public meetings include updates from EPOA President June Michalak  
Village Trustees Mayor Ed Finneran, Judy Courtney, Vinny Muldoon  
School Board Trustee Kristen Pappas  
Library Trustee Mary Maguire  
East Representatives to Village Boards**

**Representing the East for 108 Years**

**All Residents Welcome**

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**Civic Beautification Committee Report—Althea Robinson**

Sadly, at this report, the magnificent array of nearly 50,000 red and yellow tulips planted throughout the business districts and select Village areas will have faded. But happily, we may look forward to the burgeoning baskets of pink and white petunias traditionally lining Seventh Street, Franklin Avenue and New Hyde Park Road, ready for display by Memorial Day.

Renovations and new plantings continue on Seventh, including the east end. Following the complete renovation of the historic Garden City Toll Lodge last season, the Village Parks Department, assisted by the Department of Public Works, established a new landscaping design around the historic Garden City Toll Lodge east of Franklin Avenue on Seventh Street. Take a peek!

New planters are being added to the corners of Franklin and Stewart Avenues. The plants are in-house and ready to go once the tulips fade says Matthew Nordt, Chairman, Board of Cultural & Recreational Affairs, and head of the Parks Department. In response to continued requests from the western section, a pilot project has been introduced to reduce the impact from the LIRR in the North Avenue and Manor Road areas.

According to Chairman Nordt, Parks is in the middle of the tree planting process, and the tree crew is making a good push on tree stump removal. New Hyde Park Road areas have been addressed and are planted. Staff has ripped out the old shrubs and planted a variety of perennials.

This July, the Parks crew will plant the rest of the Village to include the pool and a change of plantings at the Senior Center. Chairman Nordt reports this includes shrubs along the north and west side of the building and replanting with more vibrant shrubs; plus, a privacy screen of Leyland Cyprus plantings will be added to the backyard. Additionally, a 40-foot Liberty Tree will be planted this month on the Village Green with a ceremony planned for August,

It should be noted that while the CBC acts as advisors to the Parks Department, kudos are due Chairman Matt Nordt, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Andy Hill, Village Arborist and Landscaper Joe Umana, the tree planting crew, plus the short-handed two-man planters of florals and shrubs, Tom Armato and Jake Babsen. In addition, we welcome Village Trustee Jessica Tai, Trustee Liaison to the Civic Beautification Committee, with whom we shall consult as plans progress.

While implementation of projects depends upon manpower and budget, it should be noted that questions regarding Village or residential trees and plantings, along with concerns and suggestions, may be addressed to Chairman Matthew Nordt at [mnordt@gardencityny.net](mailto:mnordt@gardencityny.net).

Or call 516-465-4075.

Website: [www.gardencityrecreation.org](http://www.gardencityrecreation.org).