



EPOA NEWS

The official newsletter of the
Eastern Property Owners' Association
Garden City, New York 11530
www.gcepoa.org
twitter: @GC_EPOA

—Representing Residents of the East since 1918—

Fall 2016

President's Message

by Joe Moody

September is the official start of another EPOA year but work does not stop over the summer months. This past summer has been a particularly busy one for myself and vice president Tom Hogan. First, we were contacted by several residents who were notified by the Village that they would need to replace portions of their sidewalks. These residents were upset at the process and an administrative fee the Village began imposing in 2009. There are benefits of the Village managing the sidewalk, including aesthetics and more importantly pedestrian safety. The Village is reviewing the entire process to make it a more informative and less discouraging experience for residents. The administrative fee will remain for the 2016/2017 year budget cycle, but the Village is listening to resident feedback and I anticipate there may be constructive changes in the future.

The issue of crime in the eastern section of Garden City was a significant topic in July and August. I along with vice president Tom Hogan had several conversations and emails with Garden City Police Commissioner Jackson. The Garden City police patrol our neighborhoods 24/7 in both marked and unmarked cars. There has been no decline in patrols and Police Commissioner Jackson and his staff do increase patrols when needed. The Garden City police are in regular contact with other local and county police departments, sharing information and cooperating in investigations as necessary. They are also in regular contact with the EPOA, providing information and listening to feedback from residents. Please remember to secure your homes and lock your cars. For any emergency, of course call 911. If you see something suspicious or disturbing that is not an emergency, call the Garden City Police non-emergency line at 516-465-4100. The safety and security of residents is extremely important to the EPOA and the Village Administration. I am appreciative of the efforts of Commissioner Jackson and the Garden City police, who work very hard to protect the lives and property of all Garden City residents.

Also over the summer the Mayor's Committee on Building Code Changes concluded their findings and made a presentation to a standing room only crowd at the Board of Trustees meeting on September 8. The Mayor's Committee was started in mid-2015 to address concerns expressed by residents regarding new construction or additions to houses that appeared to be too large for the property (aka McMansions). There are representatives from each of the four property owners' associations on the committee, as well as experienced members from the Architectural Design and Review Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. I appreciate the many meetings, extensive research and resilient efforts of the Committee to make recommendations to update the Village Code. I hope that with input from village residents the Board of

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EPOA Public Meeting
October 11, 7:30 pm
GC Fire Department
347 Stewart Avenue

Agenda Includes

Updates from:

EPOA President Joe
Moody

Mayor Nick Episcopia

Trustee John Delany

School Trustee Bob
Martin

Library Trustee Charlie
Murphy

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EPOA Public Meetings

Fall 2016

***All meetings begin at
7:30 PM***

Oct 11—GC Fire Dept

***Nov 15—Senior Center,
Golf Club Lane***

Trustees will evaluate the Committee's suggestions and consider adopting beneficial modifications to the Village Code. The presentation from the September 8 Board of Trustees meeting, where residents' comments were uniformly positive, can be found on the EPOA website. Please share your comments with the EPOA on this topic by emailing contactus@gcepoa.org. We will share your comments with the EPOA Board and the Board of Trustees.

While I have covered a few issues above, I think it is important to remember that many problems have resulted in positive outcomes. The Board of Trustees has significantly accelerated needed capital investments in infrastructure. Over the last year there are more roads being paved, water mains replaced, LED lighting installed, an expanded Senior Center opened, a new pool bathhouse completed, new turf fields at Community Park and renovations completed at the main firehouse. They have worked countless hours to accomplish many positive changes to our Village and I appreciate all they do for Garden City.

I would like to welcome our two new directors to the EPOA board, Bob Schoelle and Brian Finneran. They join the 17 returning officers and directors for what I hope and expect will be a year of progress and cooperation among East residents for the betterment of the Village and those of us who call Garden City home.

Please support our efforts by becoming a member of the EPOA. Joining is inexpensive (\$20 per family annually) and easy by going to our website at www.gcepoa.org. Membership entitles you to receive our monthly e-Bulletin and emergency notifications, to vote in EPOA elections and to participate as an EPOA director if elected. I look forward to seeing many of you at our first public meeting of the year, at the Garden City Fire House, on Tuesday, October 11, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

EPOA Fun Facts Quiz

- 1) Garden City was founded in?
A—1869 B—1902 C—1821 D—1921
- 2) As of the 2010 Census how many people live in the Inc Village of Garden City?
A—18,989 B—25,411 C—28,998 D—22,371
- 3) How many members are there on the Village of Garden City Board of Trustees?
A—5 B—8 C—6 D—9
- 4) According to the 2014-2015 Annual Report, how many Village owned trees are there in Garden City?
A—8,909 B—12,208 C—10,111 D—6,774
- 5) Where was Alexander T. Stewart, the founder of Garden City, born?
A—England B—United States C—Germany D—Ireland

Answers: 1—A 2—D 3—B 4—B 5--D

epoa officers and directors

President	Joe Moody
Vice President	Tom Hogan
Corp Secty	Joe Courtade
Corres Secty	Robert Rymers
Treasurer	Sal Norberto

Directors:

Andy deLannoy
 Paul Dircks
 Brian Finneran
 Barbara Garry
 Mark Hyer
 Tom Mastanduono
 Marc Mehlman
 Barbara Moore
 Tom Nappi
 Michael Nagler
 Robert Schoelle, Jr.
 Jennifer Sullivan
 Theodore Ucinski

representatives from the east

Village Trustees	Nick Episcopia (Mayor) John Delany
Acting Village Justice	Brian Deveney
Library Board Trustee	Charlie Murphy Peter D'Antonio (a-l)
School Board Trustee	Robert Martin
Architectural Design Review	Barbara Ruggiero
Cultural & Recreational Affairs	Ken Moody Judy Courtney (a-l)
Environmental Advisory Board	Leo Stimmler Elizabeth Bailey (a-l) Carol Neidich-Ryder (a-l)
Planning Commission	William Bellmer H. Bradford Gustavson Neal J. Sweeney
Zoning Board of Appeals	Brian Paradine
CBRC	Steve Forte
Editor	Christine Mullaney

Village Update

Mayor Nick Episcopia and Trustee John Delany

CROWN CASTLE:

For the last several months there has been a controversy about the upgrading of Verizon cell phone antenna equipment mounted on utility poles in the rear yards of several homes in the Village. Verizon has retained the firm Crown Castle to do the installation. Several residents in the East object to the installation and want the Board of Trustees to stop it. Upon review of the situation, Village counsel informed us that this is a federal matter because Federal Law and FCC regulations govern this work. Our engineering department checked the plans and specifications and found that the plans for this project meet federal standards.

The residents insisted that we retain the Albany based consulting firm of Municipal Solutions to review Crown Castle's plans and specifications. We immediately vetted the company, which also has done work for the Town of Hempstead, and having found them to be highly respected in their field of emissions testing, retained the company. Municipal Solutions reported in writing that Crown Castle's plans and specifications meet federal standards and therefore as a local government, we cannot stop or block the project because federal law supersedes local law.

Because we take the health and safety of our residents very seriously, we have contracted Municipal Solutions to inspect the equipment to make sure it has been installed properly, and also to do an independent test of the emissions.

At least two months ago, Crown Castle workers arrived at homes in the East to install the updated equipment. When they were unable to produce the required easement documentation, our police escorted them off the residents' properties. They asked to meet with us at which time they said they would come up with a compromise plan and insisted that they have the documentation proving they can enter the residents' yards. As of this writing we have received nothing from Crown Castle.

CSEA:

As previously reported, we have been trying to settle with the CSEA rank and file for the last several years. The "Factfinder's Report," which is the latest step in the negotiation process, was generally favorable to the Village's position, but once again the CSEA rank and file voted against our settlement offer. Therefore, we had no choice but to apply "legislative determination" that gave the union workers a zero raise but kept the other existing contract conditions in place. The negotiation process now starts all over again. Hopefully, some sort of compromise can now be reached.

FIREFIGHTERS:

To date, we have not settled with our paid firefighters' union. The BOT has a certain long-range plan for our Fire Department which we believe will improve both economy and efficiency without any effect on service. It has been years since we have had a new

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Trustees' Update (continued)

**Board of Trustees
2016 Meeting Schedule
Village Hall Board Room
351 Stewart Avenue
8 pm**

**Oct 6, 20
Nov 3, 17
Dec 1, 15**

contract with the paid firefighters. As with the CSEA rank and file, we hope to come to a satisfactory settlement.

Our 2016-2017 budget called for the layoff of two paid firefighters. This was thoroughly analyzed by our Chiefs and they clearly determined that this action would not impede service or increase the risk of danger. When two firefighters resigned, the layoffs were no longer necessary to achieve our budget goals. The next step towards a new contract will most likely be binding arbitration, whereby an appointed arbitrator will listen to both sides, and then produce contract terms which the Union and the Village must accept.

Our residents should know that our Volunteer Chiefs are doing an excellent job recruiting new firefighters. In the past year, 14 new people have signed up as trainees, which is more than one a month. This fact clearly contradicts the remarks made at a BOT meeting several weeks ago by individuals who stated that recruiting new volunteer firefighters would be very difficult.

LIRR MAIN LINE THIRD TRACK:

We continue to oppose this project in every way we can. The Governor's team has said they are not presenting specific plans because 10 years ago, they put out a plan that met with opposition and the public said "absolutely no."

This time, the staff is hiding behind the nebulous concept of "design as we go," which means when they "get there, they will figure out what to do as they move along with construction." They produced a Scoping Document that only highlighted the positive aspects of removing grade crossings while ignoring all the other questions concerning the time frame to complete construction; the cost of the project; and the absence of concrete facts to justify the need for the project itself and how it will benefit the affected communities, one of which is ours. Instead the Governor's staff and LIRR simply say that everything will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement [DEIS] which is expected in December, 2016.

In conjunction with Floral Park, Garden City retained the environmental law firm of Beveridge & Diamond, which reviewed this document and systematically pointed out all the deficiencies. At my request, all of our elected officials on the Town, County and State levels have written letters to the LIRR staff supporting our position. The Board of the Nassau County Village Officials' Association has also sent a strong letter condemning the lack of information and "fast tracking" of this project. The documents and communications, including the critique by Beveridge & Diamond, posted on the Village website show the effort we have already made on this issue. We can only encourage all of you to join us, whether or not your home is adjacent to or across the street from the Main Line because this project will affect entire neighborhoods.

Construction of a second track in Ronkonkoma is causing damage to property and the quality of life. The noise is horrendous and the pounding of the equipment to lay the rails has cracked walls, foundations and ceilings in area homes. The LIRR denies any

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Trustees' Update (continued)

liability and has told residents to retain their own construction engineers to prove that the LIRR construction is causing the damage. Although the Ronkonkoma project is unrelated to the Main Line Third Track between Floral Park and Hicksville, it should serve as a warning that if this massive project goes forward without detailed planning, it has the potential to irreparably and adversely affect entire neighborhoods – not just the homes immediately adjacent to the Main Line tracks.

COMMITTEE ON CODE CHANGES:

In recent years many residents throughout the village have complained that our Building Code allows homes to be built that are far too large for the plots and therefore negatively alter the character of specific neighborhoods. Since over 70% of the plots in Garden City are 60' wide by 100' deep or less, this matters to most of the homeowners in our Village.

In response to this, I formed a committee consisting of the chairs of the Architectural Design and Review Board [ADRB], The Board of Zoning Appeals [BZA] and representatives from the four Property Owners' Associations to study and make recommendations to address the situation. All sections of our Village are represented and the committee members have close to 75 years of cumulative experience on the ADRB and BZA. The committee members chose James Bauer from the East to serve as chairman.

Jim and his fellow committee members did yeoman's work researching and doing their best to recommend changes that will preserve the character of neighborhoods while respecting the rights of all property owners. Their initial recommendations are on the Village website.

The proposed major changes increase the distance between neighboring homes, call for notification to neighbors before demolition of homes or extensions are started, and ensure, if a house is demolished and construction does not start quickly, that the empty lot is graded and grass planted, so as not to leave a hole in the ground.

The proposed plan was presented to an overflowing crowd at the September 8 Board of Trustees meeting. Some Trustees did not agree with all the proposals, stating that the notification was unnecessary and the ADRB was being given too much power. However, one goal is to take some of the subjectivity out of the decision making process of the ADRB, thereby making their job easier.

The comments from residents in attendance were all positive and in favor of the changes. Jim Bauer and other Committee members will be making presentations to the POAs and there will be some fine tuning necessary. However, we are confident that reasonable compromises can be worked out so that the mission of this project—to make changes to our Building Code that will preserve the character of our neighborhoods—will not be lost. We all owe these volunteers a real debt of gratitude for their hard work and fair-minded results. There will be a required public hearing before the Board of Trustees can vote to enact any changes to our Building Code.

Jim has requested that residents send any comments or suggestions on this topic to Village Hall: Kaltman@gardencityny.net. The Committee will review these and consider any changes or suggestions that are made.

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board has hired Joseph DiFrancisco to fill the vacant position of Secretary to the Board. In addition, Mr. DiFrancisco will also act as Deputy Village Administrator. Mr. DiFrancisco's background includes work as a manager of a number of operations, management and supervision of both union and non-union employees, data development, reporting and analysis. He also holds a green belt certification in Six Sigma procedures and organization, a set of techniques that focuses on management issues such as productivity and efficiency. He will assist the Village Administrator and the Board with human resources, data collection and strategic planning, to name a few areas.

GENESCO SETTLEMENT

After many years in litigation and negotiations, the Village has finally settled the case involving the pollution of wells 13 and 14 by Genesco and its predecessors for \$10 million. This amount is not a wind-fall because, since the 1980s, the Village has had the cost of the remediation of these wells which will continue into the future. In addition, the water tank on Old Country Road has passed its useful life and will be replaced. While the cost of replacement has not been finalized, it is possible that part of the

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Trustees' Update (continued)

settlement will be used to offset this replacement cost.

ST. PAUL'S PARKING FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

Parks and Recreation, with DPW, has proposed an upgrade to the parking at St Paul's. It is expected that an additional 50 spaces will be added. Approximately 35 spaces will be added near Cluett Hall (including 2 handicapped spaces) and 15 spaces near the Rockaway Avenue entrance.

PAVING

The paving of the Village streets is just about complete. This season approximately 5.5 miles of streets were paved. The Village has some 76 miles of streets which are usually on a 20-year repaving schedule equaling 4 miles per year. You will note that the extra paving was done this year to make up for prior years' short falls.

ZONING CHANGE

Ring Road-Marriott Residence Inn-The Zoning Change Review Committee has concluded its review of the application submitted by OTC Development Corporation seeking to expand the permitted use of a six acre parcel of land on Ring Road to include hotel usage. OTC is a seasoned and experienced developer and proposes to build a Marriott Residence Inn on the site. The Committee anticipates recommending to the Board of Trustees that it approve the requested change in zoning. A public hearing before the Board of Trustees is expected to be held on October 20. Check the Village website for the final date and time. A full presentation by the developer and H2M will take place at the public hearing. The Committee's action is based in part on the favorable review by the Village's consultants H2M and our Building Department. Assuming the Board of Trustees approves, other Village (Planning and ADRB) and County approvals are required, which could take six months followed by an approximate 18 month construction period.

Cultural and Recreation Affairs—Ken Moody

Upcoming Senior Trips

Wednesday, October 19 – Lunch and "A Funny Happened on the Way to the Forum" – at Westbury Manor. Lunch will begin at noon, followed by the fun comedy performed by the artists from Plaza Theatrical Productions. Transportation will be provided by the Recreation Bus. This trip will cost \$35, checks only made payable to Plaza Theatrical Productions.

Tuesday, November 1 – "Broadway Sings" at NYCB Theatre at Westbury. Come with us as we listen to Broadway performers sing popular hits! Transportation will be provided by the Recreation bus. This trip will cost \$35, check only made payable to Rendezvous Travel.

To register for any of these trips, please visit the Recreation Office at 108 Rockaway Ave.

These two trips have been filled: A Night at the Opera to see Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" at the Met and the Dyker Lights Tour in Brooklyn to see the holiday lights.

St. Paul's Cluett Hall and Fieldhouse—Continuing with Strategic Plan improvements, the removal of the old cinder track on the St. Paul's fields is underway and will be completed approximately October 1. The Cluett Hall and Fieldhouse improvements will include floor refinishing, painting, exterior door replacements, restroom upgrades and new LED lighting, all to be accomplished this fall.

Neighborhood Parks—New irrigation systems in all neighborhood parks are set to be installed starting the first week in October. This will enable and support our overall upgrade of natural turf playing fields in all of our parks.

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Cultural and Recreation Affairs (continued)

Community Park Field Project—On Thursday, Sept 8 we held the ribbon cutting ceremony on the new turf Fields at Community Park. They are now open and ready for play. The project was on time and within budget.

Community Pool—Based upon recent surveys, our pool members were very happy with their experience at the pool this past season. Staff is critiquing the entire facility and operation with a continued eye on improving wherever possible. One area we will be paying special attention to is how we serve our mobility impaired members to make their experience as user friendly as possible.

Platform Tennis—Our platform tennis application for resident membership covers the season beginning Sept 15, 2016 to April 30, 2017. This membership is open to any individual who is a resident of Garden City. It covers unlimited play for the membership holder only under the rules and regulations set forth by the Garden City Recreation Department. It does not cover guests or any programs or special events that the Recreation Department itself chooses to run. Said events would require an additional fee if applicable. The fee for membership will be \$225. Evening seasonal platform tennis memberships cover unlimited play after 5 p.m. for a fee of \$150. To register for membership, please visit the Recreation and Parks Office at 108 Rockaway Ave.

Youth Tennis Lessons for the Fall —Recreation and Parks is pleased to announce the start of registration for our Fall Indoor Tennis Program for children who are GC residents or attend GC Public Schools (proof required for non-residents) at the Community Park Tennis Center. Class sessions will run for 10 weeks and begin on Monday, Sept 19. We offer classes for children ages 4 – 18.

Fall Roller Hockey Registration—Recreation and Parks is again offering various roller hockey programs this fall for both youth and adults who reside in GC. All programs take place at the roller rink located at Community Park. Each participant is required to wear full equipment at all times. This includes hockey helmet with a cage, hockey gloves, shin pads, elbow pads, roller blades, hockey stick, long pants, and a protective cup.

For further information or to register for tennis or roller hockey, visit our offices at 108 Rockaway, download and mail an application from our website at www.gardencityrecreation.org, or if you have a password you can register online at www.gcreconline.gardencityny.net

US Sports Institutes Fall Program Lineup for Ages 2-7 —Recreation and Parks has again joined with US Sports Institute to offer a wonderful group of instructional, fun classes for children ages 2 – 7 who are residents of Garden City. For the days the classes are offered, prices, and to register, please visit US Sports Institute's website at www.ussportsinstitute.com

Pastel Class with Arleen Urban—Recreation and Parks is again offering a 10-week adult art class for residents that will teach the beginner as well as the advanced student the art of painting portraits and landscapes/still-life in pastel from photographs. Classes will be held Fridays from 9 to 11:30 a.m., beginning Sept 9. The cost of the program is \$135. Arleen Rueth Urban is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America. To register for this session please visit the Recreation and Parks office at 108 Rockaway Avenue. If you have a password, you may register online at www.gcreconline.gardencityny.net.

Dance Registration—The Dance Conservatory Program is back with Director Felicia Lovaglio, offering classes to GC residents ages 3½ years through adult which are non-performance based. Age is determined by the start date of the desired class. No walk-ins will be accepted until September 20. Participants MUST be the required age by the start of the program in order to register. Each session costs \$265 for 22 weeks of class. Classes will begin the week of 9/26.

Library Update—Charlie Murphy

LIBRARY REDESIGN

The Garden City Public Library was designed and built almost fifty years ago. Although the building is well-maintained, the library is long overdue for a makeover. Several months ago, the Library Board hired an architect to review the current structure and layout, as well as to make suggestions on how to cost effectively update the library to a more 21st Century model. At the July Board meeting, Ms. Elisabeth Martin of MDA Design Group presented her design plans to the Library Board and residents in attendance. Her design intends to make the Garden City Public Library the "Go to place" in the community. Ms. Martin suggests to modernize our traditional library where the philosophy changes from "collection-centric" to "people-centric". This community-like setting would contain more open spaces and meeting areas for adults and children. The Library Board expects to have more meetings to review these future plans with the public, as well as the Garden City Village Trustees.

LIBRARY ELEVATOR

Based on the timetable presented by the Garden City Village, the library elevator is expected to be completed by the end of October. Once this upgrade is completed, the downstairs meetings areas will be available for patrons. We would like to thank all of the residents for their patience during this renovation period.

THINKING ABOUT BUYING AN IPAD?

Before going out and purchasing an iPad, the Garden City Public Library has iPads available for use within the Library. An iPad may be borrowed for two hours at a time. Give it a try before buying your own.

THE FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Garden City Public Library have a new President, Nancy Minett. The Friends is a non-profit organization that helps support many of the library's programs and resources. If you would like to become a member of the Friends or make a donation, please find the following weblink <http://www.gardencitypl.org/index.php/donate--join>. Thank you.

FALL/WINTER/SPRING HOURS ARE BACK:

Monday through Thursday—9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday—9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cultural and Recreation Affairs (continued)

Adult Yoga Classes

Connie McKnight, our certified yoga instructor, has designed adult yoga classes with all ages in mind. Each class is one hour long and runs for 10 weeks at a cost of \$85. Any GC resident is invited to join these relaxing classes. To register, please visit the Recreation and Parks Office at 108 Rockaway Ave.

Flag Football

The Recreation Department will again offer our popular Flag Football Program at Grove and Nassau Haven Parks. This program is open to children who reside in Garden City. Games are played in the playgrounds on weekday afternoons and during the day on school holidays. Games will start the 3rd week in September. Once the teams are made, you can pick up a schedule at the park where you chose to play. In order to register, please visit the Recreation and Parks Office at 108 Rockaway Ave.

Senior Center

The Senior Center continues to be an amazing resource for our senior population with over 1,300 visitors per month, even during the summer months.

Facts of the East—Bill Bellmer

Greenfield Cemetery

Among the many things the East can claim a connection to is a cemetery.

Greenfield Cemetery was established by the Town of Hempstead in 1855 on a ten-acre plot halfway between Hempstead Village and Mineola on the Hempstead Plains to augment the church cemeteries in Hempstead. It was fenced, had a keeper's house, and was accessible from a new road named Franklin Ave. In 1869 another ten acres was added north of the first plot. Unfortunately, the cemetery was located quite near where A. T. Stewart decided to build his model community. To remedy a situation that he considered not in keeping with his plan, he bought a piece of property of the same size southeast of Hempstead on the "South Oysterbay Turnpike" (now Nassau Rd.) and offered it to the Town in exchange for the existing land. He also offered to relocate all the existing interments at his expense. This offer was accepted and the transfers made to the new location, which was eventually expanded to its present 158 acres. The first entries in the new Greenfield Cemetery register show that 115 persons were "reinterred from the Plains", the first being a John Van Nostrand in March 1870.

The original cemetery land, centered on what is now Magnolia Ave., was then used as part of Stewart's Central Railroad of Long Island branch to Hempstead. That railroad branch was later relocated to the path on which Country Life Press station would be built. In 1910 the present street plan was laid out from St. James St. South to Meadow St. and between the railroad and Washington Ave.

The accompanying 1857 map detail shows the original Greenfield Cemetery in the upper right corner, between the original LIRR branch to Hempstead and "Glen Cove Road" (now Clinton Road). The two named roads, Court House Avenue, and Washington Ave (not the present one) led northwest from Hempstead to the county court house that was located on Jericho Turnpike in what is now Garden City Park, and to Hyde Park, now New Hyde Park. The map, which covers a larger area, can be viewed online in our Garden City Public Library collection at www.NYHeritage.org by searching keyword "1857".





Membership Drive 2017 Begins

October 1st begins our unofficial 2017 Membership Drive. If you would like to join now, please go to the EPOA website—www.gcepoa.org—download a membership form and mail it, with a \$20 check, to the EPOA at P.O. Box 7525, Garden City, NY 11530.

Or you can pay by credit or debit card through PayPal.

Our official 2017 Membership Drive begins with the January, 2017 newsletter that includes a membership form and mail-in envelope.

If you are not a current member, by joining now you become a member for the remainder of 2016 and all of 2017.

Membership entitles you to monthly and emergency e-Bulletins (you must supply an email address) on important Village issues and voting in EPOA officer/director elections, in addition to serving on the EPOA board if elected.

The EPOA stays in regular contact with the Village Police Department and sends police notices via the e-Bulletin to our members as we receive them to keep residents informed.

If you are a current member and are not receiving the e-Bulletins, please let us know at contactus@gcepoa.org.

Did You Know? In April 1876, just three weeks after his death, multi-millionaire Alexander Stewart's body was stolen from his crypt at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in New York City. Terms were finally agreed upon and the ransom amount was set at \$20,000. At an undisclosed location, the body was exchanged for the specified ransom amount. No one was ever apprehended for the grave robbery. A positive identification of the body was never made, but the returned remains were entombed in a new vault in the basement of the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City.

School District Report—Bob Martin

The 2016/2017 school year began on August 24 with new teacher orientation. The new teachers received a three-day program to introduce them to our District, our goals and our expectations of staff. In addition, they had a tour of the District before reporting to their buildings. The entire staff and administration were welcomed back on August 31 at Superintendent's Conference Day. The first day for students was September 6. Opening went smoothly with only a few minor glitches, which is normal at the beginning of every year.

Dr. Feirsen presented the goals for the school year at the September 7 work session. This presentation is the culmination of discussions between the Board and Administrating which began last Spring. Several of these goals are multi-year goals and carry over from the prior year. Some are to comply with new mandates. There are always important new goals intended to continuously improve the educational experience for our students.

The continuing goals include initiatives to define and enrich what it means to be "college and career ready," continue the curriculum review with a focus this year on social studies, world language and health, launch the next phase of our technology initiatives, continue to implement the districtwide security project, further develop the plan for utilization of the Capital Reserve Fund, and continue the study of the high school starting time.

Goals which are new for this year include initiating a curriculum review in reading, preparing for and conducting contract negotiations with the teachers and the administrators bargaining units, conducting a demographic study, and updating district plans for professional development and academic intervention services. It promises to be an exciting and busy year. As always, thank you for your support of our schools.



What is the Role of the POAs in the Village?

Under the Community Agreement, which originated in 1919 when the Village of Garden City was incorporated, each section of Garden City has its own property owners' association.

The POAs have two critical functions, the first of which is to provide the mechanism for nominating candidates for election to the Village BOT and the School Board. The individual POAs have their own by-laws to form their nominating committees, and all are responsible for holding the local "run-off" elections when they are necessary.

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 NYS.

The second 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.

Save the Date: EPOA Public Meeting

Tuesday , October 11, 7:30 pm

**Garden City Fire Department
347 Stewart Avenue at Village Hall**

All Residents Welcome

Updates from EPOA President Joe Moody, Mayor Nick Episcopia, Trustee John Delany

School Trustee Bob Martin and Library Trustee Charlie Murphy

—Bring your concerns and comments to the meeting—

Representing Residents of the East Since 1918

EPOA NEWS

Eastern Property Owners' Assoc. Inc.

P.O. Box 7525

Garden City, New York 11530



To: