



**Resident Electors' Meeting: January 19th 7:30 pm GC Casino John Delany Nominated for Trustee (details page 8)**

**EPOA Public Meeting Follows**

- Updates from Trustees on Village issues: budget, labor, senior center, social services site and more
- Updates from School and Library Trustees
- Check EPOA website for meeting updates

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

**Winter 2016**

**President's Message**

**by Joe Moody**

As the year 2016 begins, I would like to wish all residents a happy and healthy New Year, on behalf of myself and the officers and directors of the EPOA. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our public meeting on Tuesday, January 19th beginning at 7:30 pm at the Garden City Casino. There will be updates on Village issues from Mayor Episcopia and Trustee Delany, from myself and other EPOA directors and representatives, plus the School and Library Trustees. I would also like to remind residents that the Village budget process for the fiscal year commencing in June, 2016, is underway and that budget work session dates are posted on the Village website and will be added to our website and e-Bulletin. These meetings are open to the public.

A majority of the feedback the EPOA has received from residents over the last six months has been in regards to traffic enforcement and road conditions. EPOA Vice President Tom Hogan has reached out to Police Commissioner Jackson to invite him to discuss traffic enforcement with Garden City residents at an upcoming public EPOA meeting. As soon as we have a date and time set the EPOA will make an official announcement. Currently the Village is looking into the cost and implementation of small post mount radar feedback signs. According to studies, these traffic calming signs can slow down speeders up to 80% of the time when alerted by a radar sign with a typical speed reduction of 10-15%. The EPOA will continue to work with the Village on this matter to see if these signs can be implemented effectively.

To address road conditions the EPOA membership was able to communicate to Nassau County the need to pave Washington and Clinton Roads which are near completion. Mayor Episcopia and East Trustee Delany have also put a tremendous amount of focus on the repairing of our County and Village Roads. The Village increased the road paving budget for 2015-2016 by approximately twenty percent. As we near the beginning of the 2016-2017 budget process, I will pay very close attention to this subject to ensure the roads continue to be improved. The EPOA will request a schedule of road paving from the Village once the budget is complete and we will communicate that information to our membership.

January marks the beginning of the EPOA member drive for 2016. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a membership form and addressed envelope. Our dues remain only \$20 per year for each household. The four Village POAs are the cornerstone of our volunteer form of government. So please take a moment to renew your EPOA membership or join for the first time. By filling out the membership form enclosed in this newsletter and paying your \$20 dues, you enable the EPOA to continue our mission as envisioned in the Community Agreement. These funds support all printed material, including

## President's Message (continued)

***EPOA Meeting Schedule  
Winter/Spring, 2016  
All meetings begin at  
7:30 PM***

***January 19***

***GC Casino***

***February 16***

***St Paul's Senior Center***

***April 19***

***St. Paul's Senior Center***

***June 7***

***TBD***

this newsletter that is mailed to every resident of the East, our website available to all, our e-Bulletin that is sent to dues paying members who supply an email address, and primary elections. Another way of joining is through our website at [www.gcepoa.org](http://www.gcepoa.org). You may also contact us through the website's contact link with your concerns and comments on any Village issue. We enjoy hearing from you.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Trustee John Delany, who has been unanimously nominated by the GC East Nominating Committee for a two-year term as trustee. Trustee Delany previously served as a 17-year member and chairman (2003-2006) of the Garden City Library Board of Trustees. He was a member of the Citizens Budget Review and Advisory Committee from 2013 to 2015. Trustee Delany served two terms on the EPOA board of directors, from 1976 to 1985 and from 2013 to 2015. He has served as a Village Trustee from April 2015 to the present.

## Village Budget Meetings

*Budget Calendar for fiscal year 2016-2017*—We encourage all residents to attend our budget sessions. All meetings are open to the public and provide valuable information for all residents.

February 11	Budget Presentation-Thursday-7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
February 25	Budget Work Session 1-Thursday-7:30 PM—9:30 PM
March 8	Budget Work Session 2-Tuesday-7:30 PM---10 PM
March 10	Budget Work Session 3-Thursday-7:30 PM ---10 PM
March 24	Budget Work Session 4-Thursdsay-7:30 PM---10 PM
April 4	Trustees Annual Organizational Meeting-Budget Hearing.

## epoa officers and directors

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

### **Directors:**

Judy Courtney  
 Andy DeLannoy  
 Barbara Garry  
 Mark Hyer  
 Steve Illardi  
 Tom Mastanduono  
 Marc Mehlman  
 Barbara Moore  
 Michael Nagler  
 Tom Nappi  
 Neil O'Malley  
 Jennifer Sullivan  
 Ted 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 (at-large)  
 School Board Trustee  
 Robert Martin  
 Architectural Design Review  
 Barbara Ruggiero  
 Cultural & Recreational Affairs  
 Ken Moody  
 Judy Courtney (at-large)  
 Environmental Advisory Board  
 Leo Stimmler  
 Elizabeth Bailey (at-large)  
 Carol Neidich-Ryder (a-l)  
 Planning Commission  
 William Bellmer  
 H. Bradford Gustavson  
 Neal J. Sweeney  
 Zoning Board of Appeals  
 Brian Paradine  
 CBRC Linda Ryan  
 Editor Judy Courtney

## Trustee's Update—Mayor Episcopia and John Delany

*Franklin Court Discussions:* At the December 3 Board of Trustees Meeting, a group of Franklin Court residents lobbied for removal of the gated fence on the Village-owned field adjacent to the townhouses known as the Mews. In December, 2013, a group of townhouse (Mews) owners formed the Franklin Court LLC and purchased the land from the Village. It was not until the LLC installed a black wrought iron fence six months later that a group of Franklin Court residents objected to the sale of the field and compared the six-foot fence to the Berlin Wall, even though, at the request of the Village, the LLC left the gate unlocked to allow continued daytime public access to what was now their private property. Nonetheless, insisting that use of the grassy field had been taken away from them, the Franklin Court group continued to call for restoration of their neighborhood "park."

In an effort to quell growing animosity, the Village entered into negotiations to buy back the field and the sale closed earlier this year. As part of the negotiated terms of the sale, the Village Board agreed to keep the fence in place and said that in December, possible removal of the now Village owned six-foot high fence would be discussed.

The gate is open during the day and locked only at night, allowing free public access to the field. The gate is unlocked and locked by a regular Recreation Department employee each day in the course of making the normal rounds to do the same at all of our fenced-in parks throughout the Village. No one was hired to do this as asserted by the Franklin Court group.

It should be noted that prior to their purchase of the field by the LLC, many of the Mews residents complained that the field was being used as a "doggie bathroom." When the gates were left open during the day, first by the private LLC owners, and then by the Village, this practice continued.

To stop this objectionable practice, two large "No Dogs Allowed" signs have now been prominently posted on the fence by the Village, so that coupled with our "leash law," no dogs are to be on the field, leashed or unleashed. It should be noted that in turn, the signs have prompted a letter of complaint written by a resident who does not reside anywhere in the Franklin Court neighborhood.

The Franklin Court residents lobbying for removal of the fence claim that the field is now "overrun" with unleashed dogs because of the fence which confines them to the field so they cannot run into the street, as is possible on open green spaces throughout the Village.

## Trustee's Update (continued)

We have local "leash" and "pooper-scooper" laws that apply to all public areas in the Village which, if not obeyed, can result in a fine. A person getting an appearance ticket for a loose dog offense must appear in court where the maximum allowable fine is \$1,500. The judge, however, may set the fine at any amount lower than this. The police cannot issue a summons unless they are called and witness the infraction. According to Garden City Police records, in the four years from 2012 through November of 2015, there were 6 dog complaints for the entire Franklin Court area: 1 in 2012, 2 in 2013, zero in 2014 and 3 in 2015.

On December 3 at the BOT meeting, a Mews resident asserted that he and his neighbors want the fence to remain in place. After describing several past incidents, he maintains that the fence has stopped young people from congregating on the field and disturbing the peace after dark and late into the evening hours.

It should be noted that the Mews townhouses are closest to the field and the single family Franklin Court homes are geographically located at a distance of what could be the equivalent of approximately two blocks south of the field.

The Franklin Court field is essentially a "passive park" because there are no benches, playground or basketball and tennis courts to cause anyone to use the area legitimately after dark. Likewise, the field is not a dog run or a place where owners can conveniently fail to pick up dog waste as they are required to do by law.

Your Board of Trustees is committed to preserving the quality of life of all neighborhoods, including Franklin Court, a unique self-contained enclave. The Village now owns the field and the fence. Therefore, we have a duty to listen and consider all sides of the argument before deciding whether or not to remove the fence.

Labor Contracts - As previously reported, all of our labor contracts were up for renewal. Last December, we settled with the CSEA supervisors, but sadly we have yet to settle with the CSEA rank and file. This group is our largest labor union and after mediation, the Village made what the BOT thought was a fair settlement offer. Although the union's leaders agreed to the terms, the members turned it down by a huge majority. We have given out terms to the union representatives and stated that they must have a sense that the rank and file will approve our final offer. We will not be made to look foolish for a third time. We will require a strong sense from the union representatives that the terms they agreed to will be approved by the rank and file. If we cannot come to a settlement a factfinder will be

### ***Board of Trustees 2016 Winter/Spring Meeting Schedule***

January 14  
February 4  
February 16  
March 3  
March 17  
April 4

## Trustee's Update (continued)

appointed to make a recommendation. If there is no settlement after this report is issued, the BOT will go to what is termed as "Legislative Determination," which effectively says there will be no pay increase while all other terms of the existing contract remain in place, and the entire negotiation process starts all over again. Hopefully, a settlement can be reached before this happens.

To date, we have not settled with our paid firefighters. 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 several years since we have had a new contract with the paid firefighters. As with the CSEA rank and file we hope to come to a satisfactory settlement. However, if we cannot, by law, we will have to again go to arbitration and accept whatever decision the arbitrator makes.

Village Services: We continue to have excellent service from our police. They are adamant in enforcing our speeding laws and taking the proper measures to protect us from burglaries and other crimes. If you see any suspicious activity please do not hesitate to report to the police.

Our volunteer firefighters continue to do yeoman's work on behalf of all of us. They have had an excellent recruiting drive, and the new equipment that the Village purchased will make it easier for them to protect us.

Our Village continues to provide service in an efficient manner. Under Mr. Suozzi's direction we are keeping in line with our overall budget, and continue to look for ways to increase productivity and eliminate waste.

Golf Club Lane construction -The new senior/community center construction is proceeding on time and within budget. This project started at approximately \$800,000 and was expanded and improved to over \$2 million. This expansion was approved so that the Village would have a first class community center. Yes it will be used primarily for senior activities during the day, but like the old building will be available for meetings on weekends and in the evenings for a wide variety of village groups. No one small vocal group of people will be allowed to run or dominate this facility. It was paid for by all of us, all should be able to enjoy it.

A reminder about garbage and trash – We have received complaints in the past few weeks about residents putting garbage in front of their houses and trash being put out days before the scheduled pickup. The Village code (Section 115-6) requires that (1) that garbage is placed at the rear of the residence only; not in the street for pickup and (2) trash is to be placed at the curb line no sooner than 7:30 PM on the day before scheduled trash pickup.

Fire House – The renovations of the Fire House have started with the removal of asbestos. The actual construction work will now begin with a completion by early April, 2016.

## EPOA 2016 Scholarship-Early Announcement

It is with pleasure that the Eastern Property Owners' Association announces that it will once again award a \$1000 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in the eastern section of Garden City. The candidates, or their families, must be dues paying members of the EPOA. They must be currently attending either public or private high school and planning to attend college in the fall of 2016. Criteria for this scholarship requires that the candidates be involved in some form of community service.

Early in 2016 applications will be available on the EPOA web site at [www.gcepoa.org](http://www.gcepoa.org) or from the GCHS Guidance Department. Deadline for applications will be in the early spring.

Should you have a question, please call Barbara Moore at 516-747-7047.  
We encourage all seniors to apply!

## School Board Update—Bob Martin

The 2015 – 2016 school year continues with many academic, athletic and extracurricular activities. This EPOA report will focus on two activities: the work of the Legislative Affairs Committee and the recognition of our Veterans on November 11.

The longstanding Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) has taken a different approach from past years. The LAC is a committee of the School Board with members drawn from the School Board, Administration and the public. Last year the LAC joined with members of the Manhasset and North Shore School District's LACs to discuss issues of joint concern with our New York State legislative representatives. This is a first step in building stronger connections with our respective school communities and Albany.

The joint efforts continued this year as members of the three School District's committees met on October 27 with Mr. Dennis Tompkins, Chief of External Affairs for the State Education Department. They had a wide ranging discussion, polite in tone, with a thoughtful exchange of views. All expressed support for rigorous educational standards and acknowledged the proper role of testing in student evaluations. They also expressed frustration with the loss of local control over our Schools, the "one size fits all" approach to regulation and the continuing and expensive unfunded mandates issued by Albany. Mr. Tompkins expressed understanding, with some humor, of the frustrations and concerns we discussed. He indicated that the new Commissioner is committed to, in his words, "making things right."

In recognition of our Veterans, on November 11, Stewart School held a wonderful Veterans' Day Assembly. The EPOA School Board representative Bob Martin was privileged to participate as one of the 30 Veterans honored by the children of Stewart School. The veterans marched into the packed auditorium with the students standing and applauding. Short comments were made about each Veteran's military experience. Several students read letters they wrote to the Veterans. Each Veteran received a gift bag with more letters, a tee shirt, drawings and a jar of M&M candy. The assembly concluded with a short video of each class saying "Thank You" to the Veterans. Following the Assembly, the Veterans were invited into the classrooms to talk with the students. It was one of the most extraordinary, touching and poignant tributes to Veterans Trustee Martin had ever seen - "certainly the most moving I have experienced."

## Library Update— Charlie Murphy

### Library Redesign

The Library has started the process to examine ideas to meet the ever-changing needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are planning to hire an architect to redesign and reconfigure the library to better serve the community. If you have any suggestions for the redesign or programming suggestions, please fill out a Comment Card located at the front circulation desk.

### Elevator Project

The library elevator will be replaced this winter. Since this will be a fairly comprehensive project, the elevator will be out of service for a period of time. The library plans to post this information on their website, as well as inside the library as soon the project start date is finalized. Unfortunately, beginning in the winter months, there will be a significant reduction in activities in the lower level community rooms as a result of the loss of the elevator in this section.

### Library Hours

#### *Winter and Spring Hours*

Monday-Thursday	9:30 am – 9:00 pm
Friday	9:30 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am- 5:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### New Mobile App

The Nassau public libraries have launched a new mobile application, which is compatible with Apple and Android devices. Library users are now able to get access to many library services in the palm of their hands. The Nassau Public Libraries Mobile app is available for download free of charge. Users of this new app have the ability to search for materials, view events and programs and find additional information. After a user chooses a home library, the remaining menus will change based on the library's offering. Audio and eBooks can be downloaded directly to a mobile device for instant access.

### Why use Amazon?

The Nassau County Digital Doorway is available for all Garden City residents. The collection is quite extensive and, equally important, free! Please see the link below for more information.

<http://nassau.lib.overdrive.com/B430988B-5953-4818-B35C-D98B5FF62639/10/50/en/Default.htm>

### Children's Programs

Annually, the library's Children's Room offers scores of programs for children- too many to list!. Please visit the Children's Department web link for all the activities taking place. <http://www.gardencitypl.org/childrennews>





## GC East Supports John Delany for Trustee

The independent Garden City East Nominating Committee has voted to support the nomination at the January 2016 Resident Electors' meeting of current East Trustee John Delany for the position of Village Trustee from the East for the two-year term commencing in April 2016. The vote was unanimous, with 3 members absent and not voting.

Committee members who interviewed Trustee Delany were impressed with his command of the myriad issues that affect the Village and the many hours he devotes to Village business. He serves as the representative from the East on the Traffic Commission, Commissioner of Public Works, liaison to the Chamber of Commerce and one of three Trustees on the Public Information Committee, Law Committee, the Executive Staff Compensation Committee and the Committee to Fill Vacancies.

Trustee Delany previously served as a 17-year member and chairman (2003-2006) of the Garden City Library Board of Trustees. He was a member of the Citizens Budget Review and Advisory Committee from 2013 to 2015.

Trustee Delany served two terms on the EPOA board of directors, from 1976 to 2002 and from 2013 to 2015. He has served as a Village Trustee from April 2015 to the present.

Additional proposals for nomination as a Village Trustee may be made by petition filed with the Corporate Secretary of the EPOA at least 30 days prior to the January electors' meeting as per EPOA procedures. No such petition was filed as of the deadline for this newsletter.

The Resident Electors' meeting will be held on January 19, 2016, at the Garden City Casino, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Voting members of the 2015 GC East Nominating Committee were: Jill Bauer, Joe Courtade, Judy Courtney, Jaime Gans, Bill Graham, Mark Hyer, Maureen McConnell, Ken Moody, Christine Mullaney (chair), Heather Nielsen, Brian Paradine and Leo Stimmler.

## Recreation And Parks

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There has been a lot of activity within the Recreation and Cultural Affairs Commission during the fall months..

**Strategic Plan**—With the support of the Village Trustees and the Recreation Commissioners, Sports leaders and others, the Department is finalizing a long term strategic plan. This plan will address infrastructure and upkeep needs of the Village Parks, including Community Park. The report, including extensive resident input, provides recommendations for both operational and capital improvements throughout the Village. The plan will be available on the Village website as well as through the POAs.

**Field Reviews**—Extensive study has continued over the past several months related to the upkeep of various village playing fields. Each field gets extensive use, either through youth soccer, adult softball or other activities. Community Park fields, always one of the busiest in the network, have been especially in need of review. The Recreation Commission has employed Cameron Engineering to review the Community Park fields, and supplied to Recreation Commission as well as the Board of Trustees with a variety of options for upkeep of this important facility. Final determinations will be made in the coming months.

**Winter Programming**—Many programs have been planned to help all residents pass the winter months. These includes Adult Platform tennis, Lego Robotics, Adult Dance Performance, Youth Indoor Tennis, Winter Floor Hockey and many exciting Senior trips. Visit the Recreations and parks website at [www.gardencityrecreation.org](http://www.gardencityrecreation.org) for more details and registration information.



## Facts of the East—Bill Bellmer

### The Long Island Motor Parkway

When William Vanderbilt, Jr. built his limited-access parkway from Queens to Lake Ronkonkoma in the 1910s, in order to avoid the estates of Old Westbury, he brought the road south into Garden City and then east across the Hempstead Plains to its destination. The roadway and nascent adjoining airfield east of Clinton Rd. defined the East, otherwise undeveloped at that time.

The roadway tunneled under Old Country Rd. (which was two lanes wide at the time), entered Garden City between the present houses on Russell Rd. and Pell Terrace, and continued almost to Kingsbury where it made a broad turn to cross Clinton on a concrete bridge. On the east side of Clinton a Parkway access road was established, now called Vanderbilt Court, with a gatekeeper's house (called a Toll Lodge) that would ultimately be moved to Seventh St. for our Chamber of Commerce. The Parkway Manager's office was also located on the access road, replaced in 1929 by a new building, adjacent to Clinton, that still exists as a private residence. North of what is now Transverse Rd. abutments were constructed for a proposed bridge over the Parkway to connect the properties west and east of it. They still exist in the backyards of the residences, next to the filled-in roadway depression.

When the Parkway was closed in 1938, the first thing to go was the Clinton Rd. bridge, the source of many accidents due to its three-portal layout. The 50-foot right-of-way from Old Country Rd. to Clinton was subsequently divided up and sold to the properties on Russell and Pell that backed on it. East of Clinton, however, the roadway still exists, from the top of the remaining bridge embankment, past the north end of Raymond Court, almost to the exit roadway from Roosevelt Field at Stewart Ave. Accessed from Clinton or Raymond Ct., this section is now a bucolic walk in the woods, which one would scarcely believe is in the middle of the bustle surrounding it. It's hard to imagine that once there were no trees at all. Efforts have been made to turn it into a Village walking trail, so far to no avail.

The west part of this section is owned by the Village, while the east part has been recently sold by the County to Roosevelt Field owner Simon Properties, who is developing part of its acquisition with the Maggiano's restaurant on Ring Rd.



**The Motor Parkway bridge over Clinton Rd. with the first Manager's office and Toll Lodge (no porte-cochere yet) at right and airfield buildings upper right**



## Membership Drive 2016

This January Newsletter begins the official kickoff of our 2016 Membership Drive. As an EPOA member you receive the following benefits:

- Receive the monthly e-Bulletin about issues in the East and the Village (must give us your email address).
- Opportunity to vote in EPOA elections for Directors.

Enclosed is a Membership Application. You can mail this with the enclosed envelope or go online at [gcepoa.org](http://gcepoa.org) and click on the Membership tab. It is only \$20.00 per household.

### EPOA Joins Twitter @ GC EPOA

The Eastern Property Owners' Association is now on Twitter @ GC\_EPOA. Twitter is an online social networking service that enables users to read short messages, referred to as "tweets." The EPOA believes this account will provide another communication tool for notifying members quickly and efficiently about meeting times, events, and related articles.

For EPOA members that already have a Twitter account, you can follow the EPOA's account by searching "GC\_EPOA." For members that do not have a Twitter account, you can set up your Twitter account at <https://twitter.com>, search under "GC\_EPOA" and select to follow this account. There is no charge for this service.

Following approval of your account by the administrator of the EPOA account, you will receive updates on your Twitter home page from the EPOA. The EPOA looks forward to seeing you @ GC\_EPOA. If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to [contactus@gcepoa.org](mailto:contactus@gcepoa.org).



**2016 EPOA Dues: Please remit as soon as possible!**

**One Household.....\$20.00 (maximum)**

Please make check payable to the EPOA and mail in the enclosed envelope.  
The canceled check is your receipt.

**Registration**

Designated Members: \$20 for Husband, Wife or Any Adult Residents

**Name**

**Amount Due: \$20**

First \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_

First \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**\*As a dues paying member, you are eligible to receive our e-communication bulletins!**

**Two email addresses allowed per household. PRINT CLEARLY!**

**Join us on Twitter @GC\_EPOA.**

**Any questions or concerns about the Village or the East, let us know at [contactus@gcepoa.org](mailto:contactus@gcepoa.org).**

**Thank You for Your Support!**

Box 7525, Garden City, New York 11530  
[www.gcepoa.org](http://www.gcepoa.org)

**Save the Date: Tuesday January 19 at 7:30!**

**Resident Electors' Meeting  
7:30 pm Garden City Casino**

**EPOA Public Meeting Immediately Follows**

**See inside newsletter for additional information  
Check EPOA website for updates: [www.gcepoa.org](http://www.gcepoa.org)**

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EPOA NEWS  
Eastern Property Owners' Assoc. Inc.  
P.O. Box 7525  
Garden City, New York 11530



To: