

January 2011

**progress through
participation**

epoa news

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

Nominating Committee Selects Dennis Donnelly for Village Board

**Electors to Vote at January 18 Resident Electors' Meeting: 7:30 pm GC Public Library
EPOA Public Meeting Immediately Follows—All Residents Invited**

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

Leo Stimmler, chairperson of the Committee, said the Committee members were pleased with the impression that all five candidates made during their interviews but Trustee Donnelly's degree of experience and the depth of his knowledge made him the unanimous choice. "I've never been more impressed by a candidate than I am by Trustee Donnelly," Stimmler commented. "He's smart and he works hard. In any Village conflict, he listens to all sides, investigates and researches all potential solutions. He then makes a plan of action and works tirelessly to ensure that the Village implements it."

Dennis Donnelly has lived in Garden City since 1969 and is presently serving his first term as a Village Trustee from the East. During his tenure Trustee Donnelly has served as Police Commissioner, Commissioner of Public Works, Chairman of the Traffic Commission, Chairman of the War Memorial Committee, liaison to the business community and as a member of the Public Information Committee.

Additionally, he has worked to conceive and initiate the SCOPE (Strategic Core Operations Planning Endeavor) project with Adelphi University. This project merges the academic expertise of the university and the functions of village government.

Prior to his term as Village Trustee, Dennis served as president of the EPOA and chairman of the Joint Conference Committee (JCC).

Dennis was also a member of the executive committee of the Garden City Chamber of Commerce and has served as the chairman of the Pineapple Ball Committee since its inception in 2003. The Chamber honored Dennis with the Community Achievement Award in 2008.

After 35 years with Verizon and its predecessor companies, Dennis retired in 2004 as Director of Government and Community Relations for the Long Island region. Among his many assignments, Dennis served as communications consultant for the U.S. Tennis Tournaments and the Sarajevo and Nagano Winter Olympic Committees.

Dennis was appointed by Mayor Koch and his predecessors to various ad hoc committees involving NYC operations. He also served in various advisory capacities to the borough presidents of both Brooklyn and Queens.

Dennis has been honored by numerous organizations, including Man of the Year by the Queens Museum. He has served as chairman of the Queens County Overall Economic Development Corp., the Downtown Brooklyn Development Corp. and the Queens Festival Corp., among others.

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President	Walter McKenna
Vice President	Judy Courtney
Corporate Secretary	Jaime Gans
Corresponding Secretary	Christine Mullaney
Treasurer	John Lattuca
Directors	Mathilde Bellmer Harold Hecken Frank Livoti Thomas Logan Cheryl McAuliffe Joseph Moody S. Benjamin Murolo Neil O'Malley Robert Orosz Robert Rymers Leo Stimmler Edward Welch Rex Wood

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>Laura Brown</i>
Library Board Trustee	<i>"Libby" Huschle</i>
Architectural Design Review	<i>Barbara Ruggiero</i>
Cultural & Recreational Affairs	<i>Andrew deLannoy</i> <i>James Pratt III (at large)</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	<i>Christine Mullaney</i>

Covanta Expansion

The Covanta Resource Recovery Plant on Stewart Avenue and Merchants Concourse has applied to the Hempstead Industrial Development Agency (IDA) for tax abatements to enable the plant to add a 4th boiler. The addition of the 4th boiler would equip the plant to process up to 40 percent more garbage than the current capacity, which is 975,000 tons of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste). It seems curious that a facility that is not running to its current capacity would need such a large addition, unless there is some plan to add additional garbage. The facility averages 950,000 tons a year.

The plant primarily processes garbage from Hempstead and Brookhaven Townships, but in recent years the plant has increased the amount of garbage from New York City. The breakdown of MSW is 72 percent Nassau & Suffolk, and 27 percent NYC.

We are also very concerned about the possibility of solid waste being moved by rail along the Central extension to the Covanta plant. On December 14, the Village Administrator, Village Counsel and Trustee Episcopia attended the Town of Hempstead IDA hearing. This hearing was not open to comments or questions from the public and one of its purposes was to accept or reject the Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) on the proposed boiler. We are happy to report that, although the IDA Board accepted the FEIS, Covanta has agreed to a covenant with the Town of Hempstead absolutely prohibiting any waste of any sort to be delivered to the Covanta plant on any rail line, not just the Central extension.

As further protection, it was proposed that this covenant should be expanded to include all the surrounding municipalities including Garden City. The process now requires a "Statement of Findings," which outlines the plans to militate against environmental concerns such as water usage and traffic.

The key here is that there is no benefit to the Nassau and Suffolk communities by building this 4th boiler. The 8 million or so tons of waste sent off Long Island this year happens because municipalities and others have less expensive alternatives to Covanta. A new boiler will only serve the NYC boroughs and not benefit Long Island communities. At this point in the process it is important to urge our residents to use the Town of Hempstead website and email our representatives urging them to oppose the new facility. Communication directly to the IDA board will also help. Although Covanta's counsel stated at the hearing that construction of this facility is at least three years away, now is the time to actively campaign against it.

NextG Update

In November the BOT engaged the services of VitaTech Engineering to perform a series of detailed tests within the rear yards and homes of residents that are adjacent to the nine sites where NextG Communications installed antennas to rear yard utility poles. The purpose was to verify and document radio frequency (RF) emissions. The Village agreed to pay approximately \$17,000 for an independent assessment of the emissions out of concern for the welfare of our residents.

The results of these tests were summarized by Village Administrator Robert Schoelle in a letter to Trustees, with these conclusions:

"Eighteen (18) inspections were conducted on Monday, December 6th and seventeen (17) inspections were conducted on Tuesday, December 7th. The engineer from VitaTech was accompanied, at each inspection, by either the Director of

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Trustees' Update



by Nicholas Episcopia and Dennis Donnelly



President's Message by Walter McKenna

As we enter 2011, I hope you and your family has enjoyed the holiday season, and I would also like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year! The EPOA will kick off the year with our annual meeting on January 18 at 7:30 pm in the GC Library. I encourage all residents to come to this meeting to hear updates from our Village and School Board Trustees on many issues. You can also use this forum to speak directly to your representatives and seek information on any topic that may be of interest or concern to you.

The New Year will once again be a challenge for our Village Trustees as they will immediately be tasked with finalizing a Village Budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Managing this will not be an easy task in the current economic environment. Trustees Donnelly and Episcopia continue to be concerned with many revenue shortfalls and expense increases, and have continued to work since the last budget cycle on these issues with success in many areas. In addition, the Citizens Budget Review and Advisory Committee, which has continued working on various expense analysis projects since last year, will once again be in full swing reviewing the departmental budget in an effort to suggest efficiencies and cost reductions. I encourage the BOT to aggressively pursue any possible cost reductions and to review the details of each and every department so as to reduce expenses wherever possible. It is very important to note that all the Village budget work sessions are open to the public; I would ask that you attend these meetings to see and listen to the review of each department's budget. The first meeting is on January 22 in the Village Hall Board Room. If you have any questions regarding these meetings, please contact me via the EPOA website at www.gcepoa.org, using the contact link.

Another very important issue that we are continuing to follow and act upon as needed is the Nassau Hub Study (www.nassauhub.com). In speaking to residents, many seem to equate the HUB study area to the Lighthouse Project, approval for which was denied by the Town of Hempstead in 2010. While the Nassau Coliseum is one area incorporated within the HUB, the actual HUB study area consists of a large portion of Central Nassau. The study looks to determine the need for and suggest alternative modes of transportation within this area to alleviate vehicular traffic congestion. I suggest that you visit the website above to review and see a map of the currently included destinations and also to participate in the online survey, the results of which are being considered in the final analysis. The important take away from this is that the entire GC Village is right smack in the middle of the HUB study area and any alternative modes of transportation that may be suggested MUST pass thru the Village, which could have a devastating effect. On November 18, 2010, the EPOA hosted a presentation by the Nassau County Planning Commission and the lead consultants on the project, who gave an overview of the study and also listened to and responded to resident concerns about any proposed transportation initiatives that have been discussed. Many residents attended this presentation and were thankful that they did, as many in attendance did not realize the impact this could have on GC. We will continue to communicate with the County and their consultants and are looking forward to a second presentation in late January or February, when they will present their updated findings and next steps. I will be working with the presidents of the other property owners associations to coordinate a joint meeting whereby ALL residents can become informed as to this project and its next steps.

One additional very important issue is that of the Covanta expansion. Covanta is the refuse recycling plant located just East of the Meadowbrook Parkway off Stewart Avenue. They are seeking approval to increase their garbage incineration capacity by 40 percent with the addition of a 4th burner. The EPOA, along with Trustees Donnelly and Episcopia, continue to closely monitor the hearings and developments. Covanta's Final Environmental Impact Statement was recently approved. We are anxious to hear of the plans related to this project. The tremendous increase of capacity at this plant will mean increased air pollution to the East, a strain on our already depleted water table, a tremendous increase in the trucking of waste into and around the Eastern Section of the Village. As part of the FEIS approval, they agreed not to transport the waste via existing railways. We will continue to inform you of updates as the process moves forward. I ask you to also follow this issue and become vocal when the public hearings are announced.

The residents of the East should be assured that your fellow residents who volunteer their time to serve as members of the Board of the EPOA, as well as on the various committees and commissions in the Village, remain committed to protecting your interests and concerns. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to become involved, I encourage you to contact the EPOA via the contact link on our website at www.gcepoa.org so that we can hear and respond to you.

Please support our efforts by becoming a member of the EPOA. Joining is easy by using the membership forms enclosed in this newsletter or by going to our website at www.gcepoa.org. You can also go to our website for updates on other Village issues and to email us with your comments or concerns on ANY issues.

An Interview with Garden City High School Principal Nanine Cuttitta



Nanine Cuttitta has been principal of Garden City High School since September of 2008. She was interviewed by EPOA Director Christine Mullaney.

Q: You were at Deer Park High School for 12 years, beginning as a social studies teacher and leaving after serving six years as principal. How does a high school principal provide effective leadership?

I think it is really important when joining a new school community to listen, be visible and learn all that you can about the students, faculty/staff, parents and the community. In order to accomplish anything, you have to build relationships and garner trust. I find that most often collaboration is the key to getting things done. Delegation is also important. I am very fortunate to have two outstanding Assistant Principals to work with: Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Steingruebner.

Q: When you came to Garden City High School in 2008, what did you identify as the most pressing problems and what have you done about them?

The personnel changes in building administration during the recent years before I joined the team caused problems for our school due to a lack of continuous, consistent leadership. Most research says it takes 3-5 years to make meaningful change in a high school. I think we are well on our way.

We have created systems to address things that require them. Some examples are the honors appeals process; add/drop procedures and policy revision, institution of a research and writing initiative, a library media curriculum review, comprehensive AIS (academic intervention services) plan for the high school, procedures for entering and exiting the reading program, review of summer reading assignments, a regular review of data quarterly to ensure consistency, common prep period for co-teaching teams, curriculum writing initiatives, and changes to the commencement exercises.

Q: In the past two years, how have you gone about building trust and a collaborative relationship with staff, students and parents?

I think and hope that people see me as a person who means what she says and says what she means. I am honest and straightforward. I am loyal and trustworthy. I am a good listener. I follow up. I do not make promises that I cannot keep. Over time, I think people put that all together and hopefully that leads to a trusting and collaborative relationship.

Q: What role should parents play, if any, in the operation of a school?

We are fortunate to have an active PTA and SEPTA. Parent input is important. I use surveys to collect feedback from parents. I like that parents have a place on our committees. We can accomplish much more together than individually.

Q: How open—physical ingress and egress—is the high school during the day for both students and others? Except in emergencies, do parents need appointments to come into the school?

For arrival, the Rockaway and Merillon doors are open. After 8 am, only the Merillon doors are open. We have a hall monitor stationed there throughout the day. All visitors must sign in. This is all to ensure the safety of our students. All of the exit doors open from the inside out, all of the time. It is best if parents call before they come to visit. That ensures that the people they need to see are available for the parents when they arrive.

Q: In November the GC school district, along with the PTA and the Community Coalition, hosted John Halligan, the father of a 13 year old boy who committed suicide in 2003 after years of bullying. Was it well attended? The Middle School also has a comprehensive program in place to address bullying. Specifically, how do you and your high school staff identify acts of bullying and how do you address the problems that do arise? What protocols are in place to prevent bullying, both physical and cyber-bullying?

I think it was well attended. I do not have an exact number but the turnout was good. We will be hosting a speaker in February to address cyber-bullying and internet safety with students in grades 9-12. We are speaking to our colleagues in other districts to stay abreast of best practices and programs to address this serious problem. There are many

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resources for students and parents on the high school website. We hope to institute a unit into our health curriculum and look forward to the recommendations of the district-wide Cyber-bullying Committee formed this year.

Specifically, we take bullying/cyber-bullying seriously at the high school. If an incident comes to our attention, we investigate it and address it with student and parent conversations/meetings and a formal written warning that goes into the alleged bully's permanent record. If the incident warrants further disciplinary action, then it is taken. We do not hesitate to contact the police department for their assistance.

Q: How does the high school educate students on the potential dangers of social networking and its ramifications?

I mentioned the speaker scheduled for February. We addressed our students about this topic at our opening assemblies. We are hoping to bring in a program entitled Stories of Substance which addresses a myriad of relevant topics of interest to high school students, including social networking.

Q: How severe a problem is drug use, including alcohol, in the high school?

We just conducted the Youth Development Survey in November with our student body. This is similar to the PRIDE survey which has been conducted in the past. That data will tell us specifically the extent of this problem. I know this is a significant issue that every high school faces. If we find a student to be in possession of or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or paraphernalia, we suspend the student. This has occurred at the high school. We contact the police if drugs are involved. We make referrals to agencies /outside professionals to assist our students and their families if they need it.

Q: Students who excel, academically and/or in sports, receive lots of recognition in and out of school. How is the average student encouraged to do his or her best? I'm looking for specific ways in which teachers and other staff encourage the ambitions or support the achievements of the middling student. For instance, can a student who has the interest but not necessarily the grades, take an AP course?

We encourage every student at GCHS to do his or her best. We offer many rigorous courses that prepare students for success in college and beyond. One example is that we reviewed the curriculum of the Global History and Geography Regents level course and last year implemented new activities, projects and assessments to increase the rigor in that course. We have an honors appeals process that many students take advantage of. Our philosophy is to encourage students to try. We offer many AP courses that have open enrollment including AP Statistics, AP Psychology, AP Human Geography and AP European History. Last year we administered 1124 AP exams. We also offer college level courses in Italian through St. John's University and Business Law, Accounting and Business Management through Adelphi University.

Q: How do you evaluate teachers—what is a good teacher?—and how do you provide assistance where you identify it as necessary?

Our district employs the Danielson model of evaluating faculty. This is a comprehensive model based on four domain areas: Planning and Preparation, the Classroom Environment, Instruction and Professional Responsibilities. Teachers are observed and evaluated annually. I think a good teacher is one who engages his/her students, makes learning relevant and meaningful, possesses enthusiasm and has the ability to self-reflect. We support teachers in many ways. These may include assistance with planning lessons/units, or could be as formal as a Teacher Improvement Plan.

Q: Have there been any major curriculum initiatives since you became principal, or are any changes considered necessary or planned?

The Library Media Curriculum Review has led to the Research and Writing Initiative. You can check out the high school home page for specific details including a copy of our Research Guide. We are in the process of reviewing our English Language Arts curriculum right now. We are in the third year of implementing NY State's new math curriculum.

Q: What do you think the major strengths of Garden City High School are?

Our students! We say it every day- our students are the greatest! The amount of community service that our students are involved in is a point of pride for us.

Another strength is the wide variety of courses/programs we are able to offer our students.

Library News by Libby Huschle



The Garden City Public Library has upgraded its website. Software called EventKeeper will make the registration process for programs quicker and easier. Your library card number must be entered, so be sure you have a valid library card. To register for children's programs, the child's card number is required. Please make sure each child has a valid personal card.

"Cozy up with a Good Book" registration is in progress. Be sure to register before the end of January or you may miss this wonderful winter program. Registration for "Eddie Costello's Trash or Treasure Antiques Roadshow," which will be held on January 30 at 2pm, begins at 1pm January 16.

February in the adult department is very busy with several programs for computer buffs – Excel for Home Use and Social Networking Online. Vita will again give tax help. Registration is necessary so watch the website or newspapers for the exact time and dates.

The Friends of the Library are doing very well with their book sale shelves and donations. However, the sorting and pricing of the materials is very time consuming, so they are looking for some volunteers to help with this process. Please call Barbara Nothel at 747-7107 if you can spare some time on either Monday afternoons or Thursday mornings. The Friends do a great deal for our library.

There are several Friends programs in March: Linda Ipanema in concert "It's a Great day for the Irish" on March 17 and Anne E. Kravis in concert "Sweet Rose Review" on March 31. Along with showers, April brings David Houston doing a dramatic reading for Long Island Reads Books (14th), and Frank Hendricks in concert with "Stout" Civil War Music (28th). This concert coordinates with the Civil War exhibit in the April Showcase.

Activities in the Children's Room are divided between Storytimes, Crafts and Special Programs. There is a special flyer noting all of them or you can go to the website for dates, times and registration. Several of the special programs are: "Objects in Motion" with the Gizmo Guys, juggling fun for the whole family on February 24 at 10:30am; "Play Hooray!", a musical movement program for tots and parents on March 12 at 9:30 or 10:30am; "Fancy Nancy Tea Party," come for stories, make treats, and have tea with Miss Donna and Lisa Basini on April 16 from 1:00 to 3:00pm.

The staff and trustees hope you had a wonderful holiday and have a happy, healthy New Year. They are here to serve your many needs.

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 2011/2012 year that commences after the June 2011 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.

No sitting director or officer of the EPOA serves on the EPOA Nominating Committee. The committee is comprised of seven residents of the East who have expressed interest in volunteering for this important task. Four residents were nominated and elected to the Committee at the June 2010 annual meeting; they are Peter Bee, Donald Byrne, Harry Oellrich and Karl Schmidt. The remaining three residents, who were nominated and approved by the EPOA board of directors, per the EPOA by-laws, are David Foxen, James Morrell and Matthew Teri.

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 January 2011, you will be contacted by the committee chairperson.

EPOA

Membership Drive 2011

Your friends and neighbors in the East greatly appreciate your membership in the EPOA and we are looking forward to your continued support in 2011.

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.

Garden City is facing several MAJOR issues that particularly impact the East: HUB Development and Light Rail, Covanta Plant expansion and development on our borders are chief among them.

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 or become a new member of 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!

**The Eastern Property Owners' Association Represents the
Interests of Every Resident of the Eastern Section of
Garden City.**

“Progress only comes through community participation.”

Cultural & Recreation News

by Andrew deLannoy

Announcing the Pool Redevelopment Sub-Committee

Four residents from the eastern section have volunteered to serve on the Pool Redevelopment SubCommittee. Michael Maloney, Marc Miner, Nicole Russo and Bill Sweeney are working in conjunction with the design team of deBruin Engineering P.C. and RGR Architecture in a series of focus meetings. Overall project goals will include the replacement of the wading pool, spray area and playground with an interactive water play area suitable for children up to 12 years old, as well as renovations to locker room spaces. The project team will collect valuable input from committee members to formulate conceptual designs and construction cost estimates.

The first focus meeting was held on December 15, 2010. Refer to the Recreation Department's website at www.gardencityny.net for the dates of future meetings.

It's Winter: 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, 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 starting at 7:30 pm.
- Men's Over 30 Open Basketball every Tuesday night starting at 7:30 pm.
- On Saturdays, men ages 18 and older can play pick-up basketball in the Middle School South Gym from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.
- Adult Co-Ed Volleyball on Thursday nights starting at 7:30 pm.
- Adult Co-Ed Soccer on Thursday nights starting 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.

Village Announces Budget Work Session Dates

The Village of Garden City has announced the following work session dates from its budget calendar for 2011/2012:

Saturday, January 22—8:30 am, tour of facilities and capital plan presentation.

Thursday, February 10—7 to 10 pm.

Saturday, February 12—8:30 to 11 am.

Thursday, February 17—7 to 10 pm.

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

For additional information, please visit the Village website at

www.gardencityny.net

Treasury Report

by John Lattuca



If membership totals are any indication of Garden City's eastern property owners' eagerness to get involved and be informed of the many issues that face the Village, 2010 was another successful year. Current EPOA membership is over 950, with approximately 200 new households joining over the past 12 months.

True to the EPOA mantra, "progress through participation," this 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 may impact the way our residents live their lives. To that end, communication is the largest investment the EPOA organization makes on a yearly basis. In 2010, we spent approximately \$9,700 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 1, 2010, our assets were \$18,677.89, consisting of an FDIC insured checking account with a reputable bank in Garden City, and a bulk postage account with the Garden City Post Office. Our 2010 total expenses were approximately \$15,100.

Looking ahead to 2011, 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.

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Trustees' Update

Public Works or the Village Engineer. Although a final written report is not expected to be received until approximately January 1, 2011, inspections found that the Wi-Fi internal modems within the homes were at levels similar to the NextG installations. Cell phone readings were also noticed. All readings (NextG, Wi-Fi and cell phones) were well below the FCC limits (acceptable levels at 2100 MHz is 1000 microwatts per square centimeter. Measurements were less than 1 microwatt). Two locations had high electrical emissions and the residents were advised to contact LIPA or a licensed contractor for corrective action."

State Mandate and Other Reforms

On Thursday December 16 Garden City hosted a press conference for Nassau and Suffolk village officials, as well as the President of the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), that Deputy Mayor Donald Brudie and Trustee Episcopia attended. NYCOM president Samuel Teresi has been traveling throughout the state urging local municipal leaders to cooperate with NYCOM in urging our elected representatives to not only relieve the local governments from numerous unfunded mandates but also to change certain onerous provisions of the Taylor Law as it pertains to compulsory arbitration and other labor related issues. Additionally, NYCOM is pushing very hard to have the state government increase employee contributions to their pension plans and medical insurance. These costs have climbed to a level that is becoming unsustainable for many communities, including Garden City. As Trustee Donnelly's resolution shows (see page 11), your BOT is firmly committed to supporting NYCOM in this effort and we will continue to support citizen's groups such as our POAs, in contacting our legislators and urging these very important changes.

St. Paul's

The BOT is in the process of finalizing the required Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on the demolition of St. Paul's. Bids have been received for the demolition of the main building and Ellis Hall, as well as bids for the remediation of any environmental hazards if the main building is not demolished. Current regulations also require environmental hazards to be remediated even if both buildings are demolished. These were included in the demolition estimates. The bids are being reviewed by the Village engineering staff and due diligence will be performed on any contractor selected. When this is completed a final EIS, including a statement of findings, will be issued and a final public hearing held. The BOT will then vote on authorizing a bond referendum. Please note that if the referendum passes it is an authorization to sell bonds for demolition, not a command. The BOT must have a separate vote on whether or not to sell the bonds and move forward with demolition of both structures. Hopefully this process will be completed in the next 30 to 45 days and the final hearing held as soon as possible afterwards.

Meet Your Neighbors and New EAB Members

The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) added three new at large members recently, all of whom live in the East. They are Liz Bailey, Bob Foxen and Ryan Schnupp and they want to introduce themselves to their neighbors in the East.

Liz Bailey: My family has lived in Garden City since 1963, and I graduated from Garden City High School, class of 1968. After obtaining a graduate degree in chemistry, I accepted a position with the Air Quality Branch of the Tennessee Valley Authority, where I worked for 32 years in various aspects of air quality. I have studied the chemistry in plumes of coal-fired power plants, collecting samples using instrumentation mounted in small aircraft. I also spent considerable time collecting and analyzing data obtained from monitoring sites. The last 10 years of my time at TVA was spent doing modeling work, i.e., conducting air quality simulations using computerized models and analyzing the results. Probably the highlight of my career at TVA was doing essentially all the air quality simulations for TVA's portion of the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative. This was a regional modeling project that sought to determine quantitative relationships between air pollutant emissions, both natural and manmade, and their effects.

I hold memberships in several scientific organizations: American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Geophysical Union and American Chemical Society.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns that should be brought to the attention of the EAB. My email is embl58@aol.com.

Bob Foxen: My background includes over 30 years experience in the energy and environmental fields and I am the founder and primary owner of an energy development company. I have extensive experience with groundwater contamination issues and I previously also worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency in Washington in the waste water policy group. I am familiar with the environmental impact statement process, having prepared environmental impact statements for power plants, and developed fossil and biomass power plants. I am a registered professional (environmental) engineer with a graduate degree in environmental engineering from Manhattan College. If any resident has a question, please feel free to contact me by email at bob_foxen@globalcommon.com.

Ryan Schnupp: I graduated from Garden City High School in 2001 and the route that I took in life was due to my earth science teacher. That class provided me the basis and direction I needed to pursue a college education and career path. After graduating from Hunter College, I obtained an M.S. in Environmental Systems Management at Pratt Institute. My first job was with a small environmental consulting company on Long Island. I then joined the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and am currently at an international consulting company specializing in infrastructure, the environment and water and buildings.

What I hope to bring to the EAB is expertise in asbestos, mold and indoor air quality issues. My interests are also in renewable energy sources, green infrastructure and global climate change. I recently was responsible for setting up the EAB email address that anyone in the Village can write to with a complaint about airplane noise or other relevant issue: eab.gardencity@yahoo.com.

Leo Stimmler: Leo is not new to the EAB. He has been an EPOA director since 2005 and serves as its liaison to the EAB. His special interests are monitoring the quality of our tap water and the Nassau HUB study.

Leo may be reached at leostimmler@gmail.com.

**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.**

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Dennis Donnelly nominated for Village board

A member of St. Joseph's Church, Dennis and his wife Nancy have three children, all of whom attended Garden City schools.

Dennis encourages everyone to get involved in the community. "It is through volunteer efforts of many residents that this Village has maintained its beauty and stability," he told the Committee.

Besides Chairman Stimmler, other Committee members are Roger Eltringham, Jaime Gans, William Graham, Joe Moody, Ken Moody, Neil O'Malley, John Schlapp, Bob Stark and Mary Weille. They were elected by resident electors at the June, 2010, Annual Public EPOA Joint Meeting from a slate of 22 candidates.

The following resolution was introduced by Trustee Dennis Donnelly at the December 16th Board of Trustees meeting. It was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the level of property taxation throughout New York has reached dangerously high levels: and

WHEREAS New York leads the nation in property taxes simply because we lead the nation in imposing inefficient state mandates on our local governments: and

WHEREAS two of the largest components of every municipal budget over which local officials have little control – pension payments and health insurance costs – are increasing at exorbitant rates: and

WHEREAS in the case of pension costs, bills from the State Retirement System will increase by an average of 40% in both 2011 and 2012: and

WHEREAS state laws pertaining to the collective bargaining of contracts between municipalities and employee unions, particularly those pertaining to firefighters and police officers, do not allow local officials to reasonably control the costs such contracts impose on property taxpayers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village of Garden City, that the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly must reform the cost drivers that lead to high property taxes in New York – including pension benefits, health insurance costs and the collective bargaining process – as the central element of any effort to provide overdue property tax relief to the residents and businesses of New York.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, Senator Hannon, Member of Assembly Thomas McKeivitt, and the New York State Conference of Mayors.

Streets & Traffic by Mathilde Bellmer



All-way Stop Signs

The Traffic Commission has been considering many requests for all-way stop signs throughout the Village.

All-way stop signs have been approved in the East in 2010 for Bayberry at Lefferts and for Mulberry at Lefferts, and are pending for Chestnut at Prospect, Chestnut at Tremont, and Magnolia at Meadow.

A request to add stop signs on Meadow at Magnolia for speed control was denied in October 2008, but when re-presented, was approved in November 2010. Subsequently, a request has been made by a different resident to have the signs removed. The Traffic Commission, meanwhile, is considering adding a sign on the Magnolia approach, thus making the intersection all-way.

Fair Court Parking Lot

A request had been made to install a fence on the Washington side entrance to the Fair Court Parking lot, but it was denied by the Traffic Commission.

Meeting Notice: Tuesday, January 18

Resident Electors' Meeting

7:30 pm: Garden City Library, Large Meeting Room

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 18, 2011, at 7:30 pm in the large meeting room of the Garden City Library for the purpose of designating one candidate for election to the office of Village Trustee from the East for a term of two years. The following name has 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 10 Member Nominating Committee.

For Village Trustee: Dennis Donnelly

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

Laura Flanagan, GC Library reference department head, will give a special presentation on all the services, electronic books and databases available to the community:

“We’re More Than Just Books—Come Check Us Out.”

**Trustees Nick Episcopia and Dennis Donnelly
will discuss Village issues and answer your questions.**

**EPOA President Walter McKenna and Treasurer John Lattuca
will report to residents and take questions.**

**School Board President Colleen Foley and Trustee Laura Brown
will update and answer questions.**

Please come and participate!