



EPOA NEWS

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

**Resident Electors'
Meeting: January 21
Stewart School
7:30 pm
Nick Episcopia nomi-
nated, see page 7**

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

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Trustees' Updates	2-3
Cultural and Recreation News and School Updates	5
Library Update	6
Facts of the East	8
Recreation Survey	9
Membership Drive	10

Winter 2014

President's Message

by Christine Mullaney

As the year 2014 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 21, beginning at 7:30 pm in the Stewart School Auditorium.

Financial issues always dominate the beginning of the year, as the next Village budget needs to be finalized by the Trustees for the fiscal year that begins June 1. The Citizens Budget Review Committee once again will be an important contributor to the budgeting process, offering recommendations that potentially affect every department. The two CBRC representatives from the East are EPOA director John Delany and Linda Ryan.

One unknown heading into 2014 is the affect that reductions in Village staff over all departments—approximately 270 employees compared with 316 eight years ago—are having or might potentially have on the delivery of services to residents. Mayor Watras has stated publicly that there will be no reduction in services but Village auditor James Olivo has been less certain. It is clearly a situation that bears watching and the EPOA is always interested in hearing from residents on such issues.

Some departments are requesting more personnel, including the police. According to Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson, the department agrees with a CBRC recommendation that the force be increased to 52 officers from the current 50. Police, fire, public works, parks and recreation—every departmental budget—will be under vigorous review during the upcoming Village budget work sessions. These sessions, usually held in the Village Hall board room, are open to the public and are well worth attending. Please check the Village website for a list of the meeting dates and location.

The EPOA continues to monitor development, both inside and outside the Village. Of particular concern in the East is the already crowded Stewart Avenue corridor. The Village was successful in limiting redevelopment at the Roosevelt Field Mall, where internal construction is underway as part of a major makeover. The Simon Property Group has yet to announce its plans for the Ring Road property that it owns. Located within the Village are the properties at 555 and 550 Stewart, zoned residential on the north side and commercial office building on the south. The plans for construction of 25 town houses on the north side, where Raymond Court is the adjacent street, were recently scrapped and the owner's intentions for the properties are unknown at this point.

One of the main tasks that the EPOA performs is keeping residents of the East informed on the many issues facing our Village. The newsletter has existed for many years and for most of those years was the primary method used by the EPOA to reach residents. This changed in the last decade, first with our website, then with the addition of the e-Bulletin in the last year. The newsletter is mailed to every resident of the East and the website is accessible by anyone with a computer, tablet or smartphone. The e-Bulletin, however, is sent only to dues-paying members of the EPOA who have supplied us with their email addresses. (continued on page 4)

epoa officers and directors

President	Christine Mullaney
Vice President	Joe Moody
Corp Secty	Debby Tennyson-Feinstein
Corres Secty	Robert Rymers
Treasurer	Sal Norberto

Directors:

Mathilde Bellmer
 Joe Courtade
 Judy Courtney
 John Delany
 Jaime Gans
 Tom Hogan
 Mark Hyer
 John Lattuca
 Walter McKenna
 Tom Nappi
 Brian Noonan
 Neil O'Malley
 Leo Stimmler
 Matt Teri

representatives from the east

Village Trustees
 Dennis Donnelly
 Nick Episcopia
 Acting Village Justice
 Brian Deveney
 Library Board Trustee
 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)
 Planning Commission
 William Bellmer
 H. Bradford Gustavson
 Robert Schoelle, Jr.
 Neal J. Sweeney
 Zoning Board of Appeals
 Brian Paradine

Trustee's Update: Nick Episcopia

Litigation The ACORN/MAHANY trial (P Zone Litigation) occurred in July. In early December Judge Spatt issued his decision which ruled for the plaintiffs and stated in its simplest terms that Garden City had violated that Fair Housing Act and the Civil Rights Act by changing the zoning from Public Use to RT (Residential Townhouses). This zoning called for 90 single or 150 townhomes on the main site, and over 30 multifamily units on the west side of County Seat Drive. The ruling requires Garden City to submit a remedial plan within 30 days. The Village completely denies any discriminatory intent when the RT zoning was adopted. The chief concerns were traffic, congestion, impacts on public services and population density. We plan on appealing this ruling and have retained the law firm of Jones Day, Kirkland & Ellis as our appellate counsel.

CSEA Negotiations. The CSEA rank and file contract, which includes over 170 Village employees, expired in May 2013. Mayor Watras appointed Bob Schoelle, Gary Fishberg (Village Counsel) and Trustees Episcopia & DeMaro as the negotiating team. The main topics concerned health care contributions, step payments, work rules, annual pay increases and layoff protection. After six grueling negotiating sessions, the CSEA representative and our negotiating team reached a consensus. However, the rank and file rejected this by a very large margin. According to the law, the next step is the appointment of a mediator and if mediation fails, then a fact-finder is appointed to continue negotiations. If that process fails, the Board of Trustees can then impose a settlement. However the only item the Board can rule on is salaries. No other term of the existing contract can be changed. On another note, seven senior employees have accepted our buyout offer and have chosen early retirement. This will have a positive effect on our salary and benefits expenses and the Board will make every effort to limit the number of replacement employees. It should be noted that in the year 2005 Village staff numbered 315 people and the staff is now at 267. The BOT has accomplished this through attrition and other staff reductions. Though a substantial number of employees are gone, there has been no noticeable diminution in services. We have not yet reached an agreement with the CSEA Supervisors' Union.

Ellis Hall: The BOT has approved a resolution to abate the asbestos from Ellis Hall on the St. Paul's campus. The cost is approximately \$300,000 and will be funded 50% through a grant from Nassau County and 50% from Village funds. After remediation, Ellis Hall will most likely be demolished, but that has not yet been formally approved.

Senior Center: This fall, the BOT voted 6-2 to expand the Golf Club Lane Senior Center by 3,296 sq. ft. The expansion will include a larger kitchen and lounge, increase meeting room space and expand the bathrooms at an approximate cost of \$1.5M. The architectural plans have not yet been received for formal review.

On a personal note I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 15-Member Nominating Committee of the East for my nomination as Village Trustee. I will do my very best to preserve our services and quality of life at the lowest possible cost to our taxpayers.

Trustee's Update: Dennis Donnelly

Board of Trustees 2014 Meeting Schedule

January 9

February 6

February 18 (Tuesday)

March 6

March 20

April 7 (Monday)

May 1

May 15

June 5

June 19

Police -The police department has been very busy trying to prevent both burglaries and car break ins during the last 3 months. Fitting a pattern in Nassau County, the village has been targeted by criminals of property crimes. Due to diligent and thorough detective work, we have made numerous arrests of subjects involved in both types of crimes. In one instance, the arrest of the perpetrator also cleared up eight other burglaries in the village. In another case, the arrest of a person for theft from cars revealed that he had 52 prior arrests for similar crimes. The use of some high tech equipment as well as old-fashioned foot work led to many arrests in these crimes. The police have issued a number of press releases about making sure you lock your car and tips on lighting around your home. We all need to be vigilant and if you see something, say something. A call to the police can lead to crime prevention and apprehension.

Fire - We have had 3 fires in the village causing severe damage to the homes involved. In one case, an unoccupied home went on fire. There were contractors working on the house when the fire started. The second fire occurred when the occupants were out causing a delay in reporting the fire which was initially called in by a motorist. The third fire was called in by a neighbor when smoke was evident. This fire was fanned by 35 mile an hour winds. In all cases, we had quick responses and over 40 volunteers at the scenes. We initialized mutual aid from various other villages as well. The response we had from our career firefighters was the same as it's been for years. We had career firefighters from multiple firehouses respond with 2 pumpers as well as the ladder truck manned by volunteers.

Family Court - We recently met with the county about the move of Family Court to the old Social Services site on 11th Street. The county will be completely renovating both the exterior as well as the interior of the building. There will be NO detention center in Garden City. It will remain in Westbury where it is currently located. There will be no new entrances to the parking lot and all construction traffic will come in and out from Old Country Road and Court House Drive, thereby avoiding village streets. Construction will be in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be all exterior work and environmental abatement which will take 20 months. Phase 2 interior work will take an additional 24 months. The county plans to start construction sometime in the spring of 2014 and anticipates occupancy in 2018. We will be working with the county on the related traffic study and collaborating on issues affecting our village.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

The current Newsletter launches a new look for the EPOA, a look that is also incorporated in our redesigned website and e-Bulletin. I want to thank Joe Moody, Matt Teri and Bob Rymers for the many hours they have devoted to this project that began with discussions early last year. It would not have happened without their expertise and efforts.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a membership form and addressed envelope. Our dues remain only \$20 per year for each household. Although every owner of real property or adult with principal residence in the East is automatically an EPOA member, it is the dues-paying members who enable the EPOA to function for the benefit of all residents. The four Village POAs are the bedrock of our volunteer form of government.

So please take a moment to renew your EPOA membership or join for the first time. Many residents regularly volunteer their time to the Village, to their schools, to their church, to sports programs and in myriad other ways. 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 and lend needed financial support to the volunteer efforts of your friends and neighbors.

Another way of joining is through our website at 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Library Trustee John Schultz for his service. John has resigned as a Trustee for personal reasons after representing the East for the past two years. His hard work and expertise in technology and finance will be missed.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Deputy Mayor Episcopia, who has been unanimously nominated by the GC East Nominating Committee for another two-year term as trustee. Nick has served the East and the Village with tremendous commitment and ability since he was first elected a trustee in 2005. Both Nick and Trustee Dennis Donnelly will be reporting on all Village issues at the January 21st meeting and will be available to answer residents' questions on any Village topic.

EPOA 2014 Meeting Schedule

January 21	7:30 PM	Stewart School Auditorium
March 18	7:30 PM	Senior Center, Golf Club Lane
April 15	7:30 PM	Senior Center, Golf Club Lane
June 9	7:30 PM	Village Hall Meeting Room

EPOA SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce that we will again be awarding a scholarship to a graduating, high school senior residing in the east. Please watch for details and the criteria required in early 2014 in the Garden City News and the EPOA website. We wish all of our seniors good luck as they choose their colleges.

Cultural and Recreation Affairs—Ken Moody

Recreation and Parks Needs Assessment Final Results

The Department of Recreation and Parks Community Wide Assessment Survey Final Report is now available on the Recreation Department website <http://www.gardencityrecreation.org>.

Roller Rink Redevelopment Project

There has been discussions with DeBruin Engineering for Phase III of the project, which will include prefabricated restrooms near the new roller rink at Community Park. The plan is for some of the work to be completed by department employees for sewer connections and pouring concrete slabs for the foundation. Programs are available for residents from Kindergarten to adult. For more information, please visit the Recreation Department website and click on our hockey page at <http://www.gardencityrecreation.org/Hockey.html>.

Super Storm Sandy Recovery

The Village lost 675 trees during the hurricane last year. Phase I of the tree planting has begun. Approximately 225 trees are currently being planted. More plantings will continue in 2014. The Arbor Restoration Plan for Garden City has been compiled by a team of graduate students from Cornell University Department of Landscape Architecture with the approval of the Chairperson of the Urban Horticulture Institute at Cornell University, Department of Horticulture. Recommendations include tree selection guides as a basis to find the right tree species and cultivar for the right size planting spaces. Special patented structural soils will be included in all planting specifications when obtained from sole source distributors. The Arbor Restoration Plan is on the Village website for review by our residents at <http://www.gardencityny.net/>

Senior Center Project on Golf Club Lane

Plans for the construction project should be completed by the end of February. Bids will go out in March and will be awarded in April. The target date to begin construction would be May 1st and the goal is to have it completed by the year's end.

School Board Update—Bob Martin

This fall was very active as the School Board received reports on several academic areas. In addition, the administration reviewed with the Board progress toward meeting various evolving State mandated initiatives. These initiatives include the Common Core curriculum, implementing the Annual Professional Performance Review, various testing mandates, and computer based testing.

One of the Board objectives is to connect in new ways with the Garden City community. To this end, Board meetings were held in several schools including Locust, Hemlock and Stewart. Each meeting was preceded with an informative tour which highlighted the many improvements to the buildings undertaken over the past two years. Many of these mechanical improvements are not visible, such as the new boilers and heating elements. Some, such as the new windows, are not only very visible but greatly improve the environment in the buildings. The feel in the classrooms is markedly different with natural light streaming in through the new windows. The Board, and the community members who joined the tours, were impressed with the scope of the work and the improvements to the physical plant.

The next Board work session will be on January 7 at the Middle School when the Technology Committee will present its report. The next regular meeting will be on January 14 at the High School.

Library Update—John Schultz

The Garden City Public Library's Reader's Advisory Series Title Swap with the Librarians begins on Tuesday, January 14th from 11:30AM - 1PM on the Lower Level of the Library. Title Swap is a series of programs that gives patrons and librarians the opportunity to share new book titles and briefly discuss them. This program is open to all adult Garden City Public Library cardholders. Registration began on Monday, December 30th. You may register in person at the Reference Desk, by phone at 516-742-8405 (ext. 2) or by email to speak-ingofbooks@gardencitypl.org.

Tom Ehlers of Method Test Prep will be at the Library on Wednesday, January 15th from 7:30 - 8:30PM to explain their product, an online test prep for the SAT exam. It is accessible through the Garden City High School website to all residents. Mr. Ehlers will discuss how to access the online site and explain how much it covers. Registration begins online on Eventkeeper on January 2nd, 2014.

Registration for Winter programs will begin Monday, January 13 at 9:30AM. Registration for Storytimes will be done online on Eventkeeper (www.gardencitypl.org). Patrons can either register online at home, from the office, or in the Library. Each child needs his or her own Library Card to register for Storytime. Registration for Book Discussions must be done in the Children's Room. Non-residents can begin registering for Storytimes and book discussions beginning Monday, January 27 at 9:30AM. Lapsit and Mother Goose Storytimes begin the week of Monday, January 27. All other Storytimes will begin the week of Monday, February 3. For more information on Storytimes, book discussions, and other winter programs, look in the Children's Room for our Winter Flyers or ask a Children's Librarian.

Finally, I have decided to step down from the Library Board for personal reasons. It has been a pleasure to serve the community in this capacity and I wish the Library Board well in their future endeavors.

Bob Schoelle, Village Administrator, Retires

Thanks to Bob Schoelle

The EPOA extends our thanks to Bob Schoelle, Village Administrator, who will be retiring after 32 years of service to the Village. As Village Administrator, Bob has led the Village through growth and many changes. He has always had a commitment to ensuring that Garden City remains a very special place to live. His work, dedication and enthusiasm have truly made a difference to the Village. We wish him well as he enters his retirement with his wife, Monica, and family. Thank you, Bob, for all you have done!



Keeping the Gardens in Garden City

Village Beautification Committee—Althea Robinson

Working with the Village Department of Recreation and Parks, including the Director Kevin Ocker and Parks General Supervisor Michael Didyk, the Civic Beautification Committee has continued to enhance the village landscape with a variety of annual and perennial flowers offering a sequence of bloom throughout the seasons. The Committee, appointed by the Mayor of Garden City, consists of representatives from all four property owners' associations, with the responsibility of both designating and designing various landscape improvements throughout the village. In recent years additional plantings were added to areas around Village Hall and have been continued on entryways to the Village, all railroad stations, parks, and Village monuments and the public library.

Over 800 mums in various fall colors were ablaze throughout the Village this past autumn and once again a beautiful fall display including a large cornucopia, mums, hay bales and pumpkins offered the perfect setting for family photos at the Village Green. Over 35,000 spring flowering bulbs in shades of pink have been planted in recognition of breast cancer awareness.

The long-standing Village Civic Beautification Committee became reactivated in 1988 when the Bank of New York, through its "If I Were Mayor" Contest, provided foundation funds for enhancing Garden City's landscaping efforts. The program is ongoing with the committee's chairperson customarily serving from the property owners' association represented by the Mayor of Garden City. Chaired by Suzie Alvey (WPOA) throughout Mayor John Watras' term, the other representatives are Janet Curtin (CPOA), Kathleen Auro (Estates POA), and Althea Robinson (EPOA).

*"Such gardens are made by
singing 'Oh, how beautiful' and
sitting in the shade."*

Kipling



Nick Episcopia Nominated for Village Trustee

The 15-member Garden City East Nominating Committee has unanimously nominated Nick Episcopia, current Deputy Mayor from the East, to the Village's Board of Trustees for a new two-year term. Mr. Episcopia, who was first elected a Trustee from the East in 2005, expressed his interest in continuing to serve our Village and the Committee agreed that he has done an outstanding job representing not only the interests of the East but of the entire Village.

Nick currently serves as liaison to the Recreation Commission, chairman of the Public Information Committee and chairman of Mayor Watras' Committee on St. Paul's. He served two terms as liaison to the Library Board of Trustees, chaired the Vacancies Committee and the Traffic Commission (where he is currently a member), is a past Commissioner of Buildings, and served as liaison to the Garden City Chamber of Commerce.

From 1998 to 2005, Nick served on the EPOA Board, holding the positions of vice president and president. Nick and his wife, Dorothy, have lived in the Village for 40 years and raised their two children here. Their daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren live in the East.

Our thanks to all the members of the East Nominating Committee. They are Judy Courtney, John Donachie, Matthew Durnan, Andrew Galligan Jr., Jaime Gans, Maureen McConnell, Walter McKenna, Patrick McNamara, Ken Moody, Gerri Moratti, Ted Rechner, Robert Stark, Jr., Leo Stimmler, Matt Teri, and John Wilton.

Facts of the East—Bill Bellmer

Curtiss Engineering Corporation

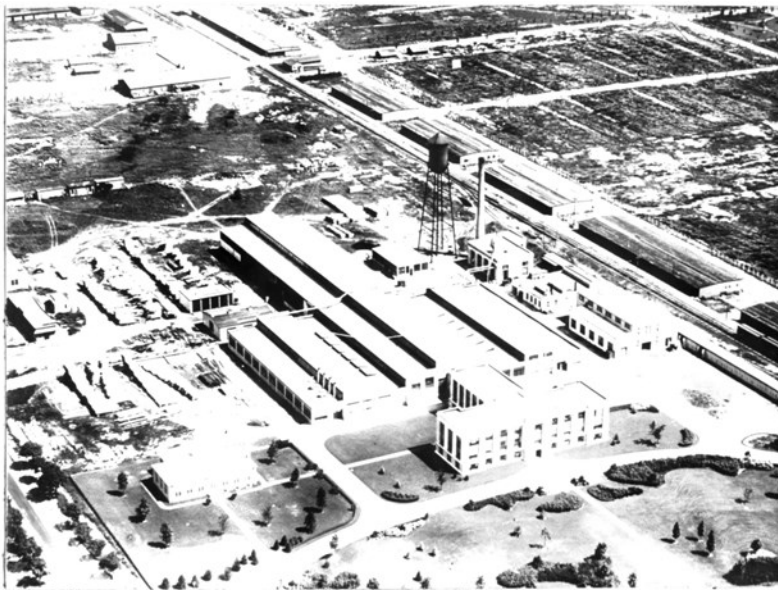
Glenn Curtiss, among other pursuits a pioneer aircraft manufacturer, established the Curtiss Engineering Corporation on Clinton Road and Stewart Avenue in 1917 to further his aircraft development near an airport, in this case Hazelhurst Airfield just to the north, now Roosevelt Field Mall. In 1920 he moved his airplane production from Hammondsport, NY to this facility, where the company produced three-quarters of the nation's planes. The complex included a ten-foot-diameter wind tunnel, at the time the largest in the country.

In this period Curtiss lived in the house originally owned by Gage Tarbell, one of the founders of Garden City Estates in 1908, located on the northwest corner of Stewart Ave. and Nassau Blvd. He often commuted to work across town by bicycle, an item that had first launched his interest in mechanical devices.

An early project for the company was the design and fabrication of tri-motor planes for the Navy, capable of crossing the Atlantic. One of these, the NC-4, successfully reached Europe in 1919. The Curtiss JN-4, the famous "Jenny" trainer in World War I, was also designed here. Curtiss ended operations at the location in 1931.

In the 1930s the plant was vacant; when WWII came Sperry Gyroscope occupied it. In 1949 it was purchased by Oxford Filing Supply Company, later Esselte Pendaflex, which produced office supplies there until the early 1990s.

Occupants of the buildings today include the BOCES headquarters in front and a FEDEX facility in the original manufacturing area. The Chase Bank occupies one of the original buildings at the corner of Stewart and Clinton. The Curtiss legacy continues, however, with its name engraved at the top of the front façade of the expanded main building and in the brickwork of the still-standing powerplant chimney.



Recreation Survey Completed

The Recreation and Parks Department recently completed a community wide Assessment Survey. Over 900 residents responded, providing input related to residents' personal knowledge about Recreation and Parks programs and specific improvement recommendations, opinions about the effectiveness of marketing and publicity of Recreation and Parks offerings and general questions about the quality of life in the Village. In addition, residents were asked about the financial implications of their recommendations, resulting in a balanced view of "wish list" and a practical approach to Village needs. The survey was conducted by Management Learning Laboratories, a national survey firm with extensive expertise in municipal recreation and park strategies.

The results of the survey are quite extensive. Reaction from residents about current recreation services was quite positive with many respondents providing specific examples of how they have benefited from current programs. Ninety-six percent believe that our well maintained parks add to the quality of life within the community and 95% agreed that parks and recreation is an essential service to the Village.

Facilities— the results clearly suggest that the Recreation department needs to continue to emphasize maintenance of its facilities along with the possible development of a centralized facility. Some specific results state:

- The Recreation Department should ensure that it provides opportunities and spaces for their residents to participate in special events.
- The Department needs to provide facilities for athletic activities.
- They also need to consider offering a centralized facility which would offer the space for different activities and programs.

Programming- the results clearly suggest that there are several areas of interest that include fitness, aquatics, arts and crafts and athletics. Specifics suggested:

- The Recreation Department should work towards providing programs and activities that would be attractive to all members of a family.
- The Department should consider offering more fitness-related activities and facilities for their residents.
- The Department should consider providing various activities that can lead to personal Development.
- Another consideration is offering more activities and facilities related to environmental recreation.
- The Recreation Department should also consider providing opportunities for its residents to enjoy the range of activities that fall in the general area of arts, crafts and performance.

The full report can be found by clicking on the "ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION" tab to the left and then click on "CURRENT VILLAGE ISSUES".

The report is listed under the PUBLIC NOTICES section.



Membership Drive 2014

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

Key Objective of the EPOA: To ensure that important issues facing the East are effectively communicated to and from the residents and to the Board of Trustees.

Our volunteers continuously monitor issues of concern to residents and represent you and your family on and before various Village boards and commissions.

If you were a member in 2013, we thank you for your support and ask that you renew your membership for 2014. If not a past member, please consider joining with your neighbors in the East who already support the EPOA's common goals.

The annual family membership fee is \$20.00 total for husband, wife or any adult residents. Membership covers the period 01/01/14 through 12/31/14.

Development issues remain a major concern in the East- Old Country Road, Stewart Avenue and the area of Roosevelt Field. Other important internal issues include Village management and operations, infrastructure maintenance, taxes, library funding, water safety and airplane noise, and traffic issues such as speeding.

A membership form (page 11) 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 already have supplied their email addresses to the EPOA, so that we may contact them with news updates and other important information via eBulletins sent monthly and in emergencies as necessary.

Please consider giving us your email address on the membership form. We do not share our email distribution list with anyone!

President Christine Mullaney

Vice President Joe Moody



2014 EPOA Dues: Please remit as soon as possible!

One Household.....\$20.00

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

Registration

Designated Members: \$20 per household (includes all adult members)

Name

Amount Due: \$20

First _____

Last _____

First _____

Last _____

Additional Adult Member(s)

First _____

Last _____

First _____

Last _____

First _____

Last _____

Total Remitted (\$20 maximum) \$ _____

Household Address: _____
Garden City, NY 11530

Email: _____

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

Thank You for Your Support!
Box 7525, Garden City, New York 11530
www.gcepoa.org

Save the Date: Tuesday January 21, 2014 at 7:30!

**Resident Electors' Meeting
7:30 pm Stewart School Auditorium**

EPOA Public Meeting Immediately Follows

**See inside newsletter for additional information
Check EPOA website for updates: www.gcepoa.org**

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



To: