



# EPOA NEWS

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

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—100 Years Representing Residents of the East—  
1918-2018

**Resident Electors'  
Meeting: January 16  
Senior Center at Golf  
Club Lane, 7:30 pm**

**GC East Committee  
nominates John Delany,  
Michael Cassaro for  
Village, School posts.  
Bob Martin to challenge.**

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**EPOA Public Meeting  
follows with updates  
from EPOA President  
Tom Hogan, Village  
Trustees John Delany  
and Mark Hyer, Library  
Trustee Charlie Murphy,  
School Trustee Bob  
Martin and East  
representatives to  
boards & commissions.**

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## Winter 2018

### President's Message

by Tom Hogan

On behalf of myself and the officers and directors of the Eastern Property Owners' Association (EPOA), I would like to wish all residents a happy and healthy New Year. As we approach the New Year, I hope you will each consider volunteerism within the village as one of your goals to accomplish in 2018. I joined the EPOA four years ago and have been inspired by the many volunteers that make the village a great place for all of us and our children to live. I see residents giving their time in the village, through the PTA, in their places of worship, in the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, as well as through coaching sports. As a father of three beautiful daughters, my family benefits immensely from this and I thank you all.

I hope you will extend your volunteerism to the EPOA in 2018. I know this can be difficult. Between work, personal commitments, school, sports and play dates (to name a few), there seems like an unending list of commitments that could drive a person crazy. We understand this and it is why we would be grateful if you would provide some of your limited time by attending an EPOA meeting or becoming a member. If you want to go a step further and volunteer within the village, the eight-member Board of Trustees is working with the EPOA and other property associations to encourage residents to provide input on one of the following village boards and commissions: Planning Commission, Environmental Advisory Board, Architectural Design Review Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs. Please visit [gardencityny.net](http://gardencityny.net) to review the nature of each Board or Commission and send an email to [contactus@gcepoa.org](mailto:contactus@gcepoa.org) for further information about applying. Is there something you think the village could do better? Are you passionate about a village issue? One of the basic tenets of the EPOA is "Progress through Participation." How about contributing your time to the EPOA and the village?

At our last public meeting, a representative from the developer of 555 Stewart Avenue gave a presentation regarding the details of the proposed rentals at this location and fielded questions. Included in this newsletter is a summary of the facts thus far of this proposed development. I encourage residents in the East to stay informed about this and other commercial developments in the village as there are other privately-owned parcels of land at Ring Road (near Maggiano's Restaurant), as well as 550 Stewart Avenue (across the street from 555 Stewart), that are under consideration for future commercial developments. The EPOA takes these commercial development plans and their effects seriously and that is why the EPOA has expanded its Development Committee from four to six directors.

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## President's Message (continued)

### *EPOA Public Meetings Winter/Spring 2018*

*January 16—February 26  
April 10—June 4*

*Meetings begin at 7:30 pm  
in the Senior Center on  
Golf Club Lane*

*For updates, check EPOA  
website  
[www.gcepoa.org](http://www.gcepoa.org)*

At our January 16 meeting, there will be updates on various village issues from our trustees, from myself, and other EPOA directors and representatives. At this meeting, we will discuss the independent Garden City East Nominating Committee's nominations for Village and School Board Trustees. I would like to congratulate Village Trustee John Delany on being re-nominated for a two-year term to the Board of Trustees, effective April 2018, and Michael Cassaro for his nomination to a three-year term to the Board of Education, effective July 2018. Thank you to Joe Nadolny, chairperson of the Committee, for coordinating the committee meetings, setting up the interviews, and ensuring the process was completed according to our procedures. At press time of this newsletter, we learned that our current School Trustee, Bob Martin, would challenge the Board of Education nomination.

As a reminder, dues paying members receive monthly ebulletin updates, which include information regarding upcoming village meetings and EPOA public meeting guest speakers. In the New Year, we are looking to have representatives from the Village's Police and Building Departments present at EPOA meetings.

I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you at our next meeting. Thank you and best wishes for 2018.

### **EPOA Summary of 555 Stewart Avenue Proposed Development**

Below please find a summary of the proposed development at 555 Stewart Avenue based on the presentations by the commercial developer (the "Developer") at village, school, and EPOA meetings. The Developer is seeking to have the village rezone this property to allow the building of rental units.

The EPOA has been tracking the development for several years and will continue to provide updates. The village is reviewing the Developer's application and nothing has been finalized to date. The EPOA will notify residents concerning upcoming meetings related to this project.

**Project Details:** The proposed building at 555 Stewart Avenue is a 150 rental apartment building. The plan is for 20 1-bedroom (approx. \$3,800/month); 115 2-bedrooms (approx. \$4,250/month); and 15 3-bedrooms (approx. \$5,500/month) apartment rentals. In accordance with the village's legal obligations, 15 of these units will be classified as "Affordable" at lower rental prices.

The building complex will be "U" shaped with the "opening" of the "U" facing west. The rear of the building will be 4 stories and at the two ends it will drop to three stories, then two stories.

There will be 42 short-term/visitor parking spots at grade level and there will be a two-level underground parking garage with 301 parking spots for a total of 343 parking spots.

**Schools:** Based on existing data for this type of multi-family building, the Developer anticipates 17 school age children residing at this location. The EPOA questioned this and suggested at the village's November 1, 2017 Zoning Change Review Committee Meeting that the Developer meet to discuss this further with the Board of Education (BOE), which the Developer did. Although the Developer will pay the village the full amount of assessed village taxes, at the November 8 BOE work session their attorney, Mr. Kevin Walsh, stated his client would be seeking a 20-year Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) with respect to school taxes. PILOTs are used by Industrial Development Agencies to encourage businesses to locate into their jurisdictions. Under such an agreement, a company makes a fixed yearly contribution to a municipality or school system rather than pay property/school taxes. The amount paid is typically lower than what would have been paid if taxed normally. If granted, a PILOT would allow the developer to phase-in its full amount of school taxes over a 20-year period. The BOE, in coordination with the EPOA, is closely monitoring this.

**Traffic:** The traffic study performed by Cameron Engineering, which was paid for by the Developer, concluded that there would be no significant increase to the traffic already in the area. The EPOA questioned this, particularly with respect to its impact on the intersection of Clinton/Stewart, and recommended that the village pay for its own independent study. In response, the village has asked its own traffic consultant, H2M, to review Cameron Engineering's study. The existing traffic light currently on Stewart Avenue for the 555 parking lot will be moved about 25 feet west to line up with the entrance of this new development and there will be other adjustments to allow for an eastbound left turning lane into the complex.

**Raymond Court:** The EPOA has requested that the Developer work closely with our neighbors at Raymond Court to limit the negative impacts of this building (e.g., lighting, traffic barrier, etc.).

## epoa officers and directors

President Tom Hogan  
 Vice President Steve Ilardi  
 Corp Secty Joe Courtade  
 Corres Secty Paul Dircks  
 Treasurer Sal Norberto

### **Directors:**

Jonathan Debrich  
 Andy deLannoy  
 Barbara Garry  
 Tom Mastanduono  
 Marc Mehlman  
 Joe Moody  
 Barbara Moore  
 Joe Nadolny  
 Michael Nagler  
 Tom Nappi  
 Robert Rymers  
 Robert Schoelle, Jr.  
 Jennifer Sullivan  
 Theodore Ucinski

## representatives from the east

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

## Village Update Trustees John Delany and Mark Hyer

### **Family Court Construction**

While it does not look like it, Nassau County DPW states that the construction at the Family Court site is on schedule for phase one (the core and shell) to be completed by October 2018.

### **St Paul's**

The firms hired by the Village, led by the architectural firm of Beyer Blinder and Belle, continue their work on a proposed plan for St Paul's. It is expected that an initial plan should be forthcoming in early 2018.

### **555 Stewart Avenue**

The application is still pending before the Zoning Change Committee. As proposed, it would include 150 rental units—20 one bedroom, 115 two bedroom and 15 three bedroom. As required by the Federal Court decision, 15 units would be classified as affordable, while the remaining units would be at the much higher market price.

### **Marriott OTO Hotel**

This project is presently on hold until Nassau County approves the use by the hotel of the County's sewer system, which is the system in that area. OTO has already obtained the necessary zoning change and exterior construction permit from the Village. Before OTO starts interior construction, they will need approval from the Village. Once the Nassau County approval is received, OTO will begin the exterior construction.

### **Speed Cameras**

The Board has approved requesting our State Legislators, Kemp Hannon and Ed Ra, to support "home rule" legislation to allow the Village to install and operate up to 5 speed cameras. The Board felt that the use of the cameras will be an enhancement to our police power to deter speeding. We ask that residents contact the offices of Kemp Hannon and Ed Ra and encourage them to support the Village's request. Please find contact information at:

**<https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/kemp-hannon/contact>**  
**<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Edward-P-Ra/contact>**

### *Upcoming Board of Trustee Meetings*

*January 11  
 February 8  
 February 27  
 March 8  
 March 22  
 April 12  
 April 26*

***Meetings begin at 8pm in the Village Hall board room.  
 Check the Village website for updates.  
[www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net)***

## Cultural and Recreation News—Ken Moody

### **Strategic Plan Update**

Year two of the Strategic Plan has seen the completion of the Multi-Sport Field at Community Park, additional improvements to the Fieldhouse at Saint Paul's and many improvements to our Comfort Stations in the neighborhood parks. Work will begin shortly on the replacement of the playground apparatus at Community Park. The new playground will allow for full inclusion of special needs youths. Later this winter, staff will begin the planning and scheduling of the full renovation of Field #2 at Community Park. This field will be converted to a synthetic turf infield and new natural turf outfield.

### **Garden City Pool News for 2018**

Opening day will be Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 12 noon. Another year of great events awaits all who join. We will again have Movie Nights, Sunday afternoon entertainment, Senior Citizen Days, Family Fun Days, Mini Golf Glow Nights, Saturday Night Party Under the Stars Nights and much more. All of these and other programs and fee structures will be in the pool brochure that will be mailed out the first week in March. We are working on an online version of the pool brochure to keep residents updated.

For those who have appreciated the beautiful plantings and gardens at the pool over the years, we regret to announce the impending retirement of long time employee Mari Hill. Mrs. Hill always made sure the pool was beautifully planted and we are sad she is leaving but happy for her as she is retiring after many years of service to the Village.

For the latest Pool and Recreation news please go to [gardencityrecreation.org](http://gardencityrecreation.org) for all our updated and upcoming events and news.

### **Special Needs Adults**

Recreation and Parks has been working on planning activities for adults of the Village with special needs. The first two events, a Mini Golf Social and a Basketball Social were the beginning of what we hope to be the newest line of programming for our Village. We are in the planning stages to hold socials, exercise programs, and arts and crafts dates during the winter and spring months. For further information or to put your name on the notification list, please contact Sandy Young at 516-465-4076. All events will also be listed on the website and in the local papers.

### **Recreation and Parks' Winter Programs**

#### **ST. PAUL'S FIELDHOUSE ADULT EVENING PROGRAMS – FEE INFORMATION:**

A new fee schedule is in place for any adult interested in participating in Adult Evening Activities at St. Paul's. All programs are open to residents who are Garden City high school graduates or older and their non-resident guests (no more than two per resident). The fee schedule is as follows:

- Season Pass – good for any sport on any day, expires on May 25, 2018: \$250 for residents only
- 10 Play Pass – good for any sport for 10 visits: \$50 for residents and \$70 for non-residents
- 5 Play Pass – good for any sport for 5 visits: \$25 for residents and \$35 for non-residents

"Pay as you go" prices will be \$6 for residents and \$8 for non-resident guests. A participant may also "pay as you go" but payment will only be accepted by check or credit card, NO CASH ACCEPTED. As always, a guest will not be allowed to participate in any activity without a resident participant.

### **Youth Programs**

Registration is open for the Winter Children's Tennis Program at the Community Park Tennis Center. Class levels and a schedule of classes is available on the website at [www.gardencityrecreation.org](http://www.gardencityrecreation.org) or at the Recreation and Parks office at 108 Rockaway Avenue. You may visit the office to register or register online if you have a password at [www.gcreconline.gardencityny.net](http://www.gcreconline.gardencityny.net). Classes begin on Monday, January 8. All classes will run for 10 weeks.

It's Lego Motor Mania at St. Paul's Cluett Hall! "Bricks4Kidz" Legos classes build on the popular "LEGO" bricks to deliver high-quality educational play. Each hour-long class is an engaging experience for your child with a new project each week. Our unique models aren't the kits you find on the shelves of a toy store. They're designed by "Bricks4Kidz" to teach concepts across a variety of subject areas. We kick things off with a discussion about key concepts related to the model, then get right into building. Working with a partner, or on their own, your child will experience the hands-on fun of seeing a model come together piece-by-piece, from concept to completion – and it's motorized! Classes begin on Wednesday, January 10 and the six-week program costs \$135.

Recreation and Parks offers youth yoga classes for ages 6 - 18. Each class in our ten-week session is 55 minutes long. All classes begin on January 11 and will be held in St. Paul's Center. Any GC resident in this age group is invited to join these relaxing classes. The cost of this 10-week session is \$105.

Plaza Theatrical Productions will visit St. Paul's Cluett Hall on Sunday, January 28 at 1pm to perform the well-loved story "Pinocchio". Tickets to this show will be \$5 and reservations can be made by calling the Recreation and Parks' Office at 516-465-4075.

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## Cultural and Recreation News (continued)

There will be a gym program Tuesday through Friday during the February break in St. Paul's Fieldhouse. This program will be open to children in grades K – 12 and games will be run during the following times:

Kindergarten and 1st grade – 9am to 10:30am

2nd and 3rd grades - 10:30am to 12 noon

4th, 5th, and 6th grades – 12 noon to 2pm

Grades 7 to 12 – the fieldhouse will be open for supervised open play from 2pm to 6pm

There will also be a movie day during that week. Please check the Recreation and Parks' website in February.

### **Adult Programs**

Recreation and Parks holds open basketball time in the Middle School gym on Saturdays from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. This program is open to residents ages 30 and older. Games are strictly pick up. The program will run until February 17, 2018.

St. Paul's Fieldhouse is open to adults ages 18 and older several weeknights for basketball, volleyball and soccer. There is a nominal cost to play each evening. For further information and a schedule of playdates, please visit their website at [www.gardencityrecreation.org](http://www.gardencityrecreation.org).

Adult group tennis lessons are now forming with lesson taking place at Community Park's Tennis Facility. This 10-week program is open to all levels of interest. The course costs \$260. Interested residents can register at the Recreation and Parks Office at 108 Rockaway Avenue.

### **Programs for Seniors**

Recreation and Parks' Senior Center is the place to go for exercise, speakers, special events, or just to meet up with new people. A monthly calendar and special events pages is printed every month and is available at the Senior Center or the Recreation Office.

Garden City Recreation and Parks is pleased to offer beginner Mah Jongg lessons to our seniors. This eight-week course (extended from 6 weeks) will cover the basics of the game and the rules so you can enjoy playing. The class will meet every Monday from 10am to 12 noon beginning Monday, January 8. The cost of this eight-week class will be \$64 and space is limited. Checks should be made payable to the Village of Garden City. To register for this class, please go to the Recreation and Parks Office at 108 Rockaway Avenue and fill out the form. Applications will be accepted until all 16 spots are filled.

PLEASE NOTE – an additional \$10 supply fee will be payable to the instructor at the first class.

### **Upcoming Senior Trips**

Below is Garden City Recreation and Parks' winter trip list for seniors who are residents of Garden City. If you would like to register for any of our trips, please visit the Recreation and Parks Office at 108 Rockaway Avenue. Payment must accompany registrations.

Monday, February 5 - JOIN US FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR! We will travel by coach bus into NYC where we will enjoy authentic Chinese cuisine and entertainment to celebrate the "Year of the Dog"! New Year is the grandest traditional festival with many legends, traditions and taboos. Learn the customs and traditions of the world's oldest culture. Space is very limited. The cost of this trip will be \$85, checks only, made payable to Rendezvous Travel.

Tuesday, March 6 - Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. We will travel by coach bus to Philadelphia for the famous Flower Show! This year's exhibits will feature "Wonders of Water," with exotic flowers, a beautiful rain forest, fanciful fountains and more. The cost of this trip will be \$70, checks only, made payable to Rendezvous Travel. Lunch will be on your own. Space is limited.

Tuesday, April 17 - Brooklyn Brownstones - We will travel by coach bus to Brooklyn where we will explore historic Brooklyn neighborhoods with their tree lined streets and 19th century row houses while we learn about the "brownstone revolution" and the joys of living in Brooklyn. Lunch will be included at Juniors. The cost of this trip will be \$85, checks only, made payable to Rendezvous Travel.

Thursday, June 14 - Trip to New York Botanical Garden "Visions of Hawaii." We will travel by coach bus to NY Botanical Garden. The New York Botanical Garden will present Georgia O'Keeffe: Visions of Hawaii, a major exhibition exploring the artist's immersion in the Hawaiian Islands. Highlights include a stunning display of more than 15 of O'Keeffe's paintings, not seen together since their debut in 1940. Discover a lush flower show evoking the gardens and landscapes that inspired O'Keeffe. We will then have lunch at the Seashore Restaurant on City Island. The cost of this trip will be \$90, checks only, made payable to Rendezvous Travel.

## Library News—Charlie Murphy

The Garden City Public Library is more than books! The library serves the community in many different ways. Please see below some of the events and resources available to our patrons. For those residents who don't want to visit the library, we have thousands of downloadable books and databases available for your home/business use. For even more information about activities and services, please visit the Garden City Public Library homepage: <https://www.gardencitypl.org>.

### **It's Back!!!!!!.....Eddie & Jean Costello's Trash or Treasure**

Do you have something that is old, unusual, or perhaps even bizarre? Learn how to identify today's hottest collectibles. Eddie Costello will be guest appraiser and host. The first 40 people to attend will be given the opportunity to bring an item they would like to have appraised, and Eddie will provide an appraisal, and rationale for the valuation. In addition, Eddie will hold the crowd spellbound with his knowledge of antiques and collectibles. Eddie is a veteran appraiser, with over 40 years of experience. His crowd-pleasing appraisal events and entertaining demeanor always make for an informative and entertaining show.

Registration begins January 15 at 9:30am. You may register in person or register by calling the Reference Department at [516-742-8405 ext. 222](tel:516-742-8405). To be guaranteed an appraisal, you must sign-up for this program ahead of time. On the day of the program, walk-ins are welcome; however, walk-ins will receive an appraisal after those signed up, if time permits. Non-Garden City Library cardholders may call on Wednesday, January 24 to register if space is available. Contact: Laura Flanagan at [516-742-8405 ext 239](tel:516-742-8405) or [lflanagan@gardencitypl.org](mailto:lflanagan@gardencitypl.org).

### **Do You Want Your Children to Learn a New Language?**

Created by the British Broadcasting Corporation and marketed by Early Advantage, the award-winning **Muzzy Online** language-learning courses target a child's "window of opportunity" years to learn a second or even a third language. Loveable Muzzy and his fun friends guide the child on the journey to learning any of eight new languages.

**Muzzy** has become an internationally recognized program and has won numerous awards such as: the Parents Choice Gold Award, the iParenting Media Award, American Association of Teachers of German, and the English Speaking Union Award.

### **Where Do You Come From? .....Beginner's Assistance with Genealogy**

Genealogy is one of America's fastest-growing hobbies. The popular television program *Who Do You Think You Are* and commercials for Ancestry.com remind us that we can take the journey back in time to discover our family history.

If you would like to start your search, contact GC Librarian Nancy Sherwood to arrange for a half-hour session to receive some tips for beginning genealogy research. You will learn about the resources available at the Library and receive some hints to begin your research. Contact Ms. Sherwood at [516-742-8405, ext. 227](tel:516-742-8405).

### **How About "Checking Out" Our Technology.....**

**Playaway Launchpads (for Children)** The Garden City Public Library's Young Adult Department is excited to announce the addition of Playaway Launchpads to their AV collection. Playaway Launchpads are pre-loaded tablets with high-quality, ad-free learning apps to provide themed, grade-leveled, subject-based learning. Subjects include ACT and SAT Prep, Middle School Science, Languages (including Spanish, Italian, and German), and Brain and Casual Games. Each Launchpad comes with a 7" HD touchscreen, an *Android* operating system, a protective case, and pre-loaded apps. The Playaway Launchpads are circulating, but may be taken out only by Garden City adult card holders. They circulate for seven days and are not holdable, but can be renewed one time. There is a limit of one Launchpad per household at a time. Late fees are \$2 a day up to \$25, and the replacement fee is \$99.

#### **Borrow an iPad (for Adults)**

Apple iPads are available at the Circulation Desk for use within the Library. An iPad may be borrowed for two hours by a patron in good standing with a Garden City Public Library card. The borrower must be 18 years old or over. (An adult may borrow for a child's use.) The borrower must leave a driver's license or NYS photo ID with Circulation staff. An iPad may not be reserved, renewed, or borrowed overnight. The device must be returned by handing it to a staff member at the Circulation Desk. Late fees are \$1 per hour. The replacement cost is \$597. The borrower must not personalize the iPad or any software, change device settings, or order or install any items.

#### **Discover Chrome (for Adults)**

It looks like a laptop, but it doesn't run *Windows* and it's not a Mac. Chromebook is like an *Android* tablet with a keyboard. Check one out, settle into a comfortable spot in the Library, and browse the web. A Chromebook may be borrowed for two hours by a patron in good standing with a Garden City Public Library card. The borrower must be 18 years old or over. (An adult may borrow for a child's use.) The borrower must leave a driver's license or NYS photo ID with Circulation staff. A Chromebook may not be reserved, renewed, or borrowed overnight. The device must be returned by handing it to a staff member at the Circulation Desk. Late fees are \$1 per hour. The replacement cost is \$232. The borrower must not personalize the Chromebook or any software, change device settings, or order or install any items.

## GC East Supports John Delany for Village Trustee, Michael Cassaro for School Trustee Bob Martin to Challenge Cassaro

The independent Garden City East Nominating Committee has voted to support the nomination at the January 2018 Resident Electors' meeting of current East Trustee John Delany for the position of Village Trustee for the two-year term commencing in April 2018. The Committee also selected Michael Cassaro as its nominee to a three-year term on the Board of Education beginning in July 2018.

Mr. Delany has been a Village Trustee since 2015. Mr. Delany is the Chairman of the Village's Environmental Advisory Board and serves on the Village's Finance and Audit Committee and Legal Committee. 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.

Mr. Cassaro works as an educational consultant in public and private schools and as a graduate school instructor for aspiring principals at Bank Street College of Education. He holds a B.A. in German and philosophy from Holy Cross, an M.A. in childhood education from New York University, and an M.S.Ed in mathematics leadership from Bank Street College. Mr. Cassaro is a graduate of the Garden City Public Schools.

Mr. Cassaro and his wife moved back in 2014 to Garden City, where they are raising two children. In his current work as a mathematics and leadership consultant with Metamorphosis Teaching-Learning Communities, Mr. Cassaro and his colleagues present and work internationally to effect systematic, sustainable change in mathematics education. He spent over 10 years as a teacher and mathematics staff developer in a range of elementary grades in the Bronx, Harlem, and in Newark, NJ, after prior teaching experiences in Massachusetts and rural Austria.

Voting members of the Committee were Liz Bailey, Steve Ilardi, June Michalak, Joe Moody, Marisa Moody, Christine Mullaney, Joe Nadolny (chair), Mike Nagler, Heather Nielsen and Karl Schmidt.

As this newsletter went to press, we were informed that current School Trustee Bob Martin intends to challenge, as is his right, the selection of Michael Cassaro by the East Committee. Therefore, there will be no vote for school trustee at the January 16 Resident Electors' meeting. There will be a second Resident Electors' meeting—a primary election—in accordance with EPOA procedures, in which all East resident electors may participate. A postcard will be mailed to all East resident elector households within four days after the January 16 meeting stating the date, place and time of the election, plus other information as required.

Mr. Martin is completing his second three-year term as School Trustee from the East. He is a finance and educational professional with extensive senior management experience in both the corporate and non-profit sectors. Prior to moving to GC in 2007, he served for seven years as a trustee on the Mamaroneck Board of Education, including a term as president. He also served as vice president of the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association. He is a graduate of Brown University and holds an MBA in Finance from Columbia University.

## Library News (continued)

### **Do You Want to Start Your Own Book Club? .....New Book Club in a Bag Titles**

The Garden City Public Library has added Celeste Ng's new bestseller, *Little Fires Everywhere*, to the **Book Club in a Bag** collection. In addition, the Library recently added B.A. Paris's latest psychological thriller, *The Breakdown*, to the collection. There are now 62 **Book Club in a Bag** titles for book clubs to use.

If you've always wanted to start a book club or if your existing book club is looking for an easier way to select books, then the Library's **Book Club in a Bag** may be just what you need. Each canvas tote bag checks out for six weeks and contains 10 copies of a discussible title, usually a large type, audio material, and an information package with a summary, book reviews, biographical information, discussion questions, an author interview, and suggestions for further reading. The bag also includes a sign-up sheet for the leader to keep track of who has which book.

Whether you want to reserve a new **Book Club in a Bag** title or are looking for a recommendation for your book club, call or visit the Reference Desk for more information. You can also email Librarians Laura Flanagan and Ann Garnett.

## Facts of the East—Bill Bellmer

### Hempstead Crossing and the Wye

Between 1894 and 1922 “Hempstead Crossing” station in Garden City was a scheduled stop on the LIRR. Distinct from the Garden City and Country Life Press stations, it was initially located just north of Stewart Avenue on the line that started in Mineola and terminated in Hempstead (the original LIRR branch to Hempstead that opened in 1839).

The actual track crossing that gave the nearby station its name was located in the center of what is now called the “Wye” parking field (Field 6E). At this point the track to Hempstead crossed the Stewart Line (Central RR of LI) track that continued past the Garden City station eastward to Clinton Road and ended in Babylon. It was the only right-angle crossing on the railroad.

Wye is a railroad term for a set of tracks that allows a train engine to reverse direction. In this case, there were originally tracks adjacent to the crossing that allowed an eastbound engine from Garden City station to either branch north toward Mineola or branch south toward Hempstead. The branches formed the angle parts of a sideways Y. The track from Mineola to Hempstead connected to and crossed the two branches of the Y. By taking a branch, then backing on the crossing track, then going forward on the other branch, an engine was able to reverse direction (like a car making a U-turn on a narrow street). Eventually branches were added to form a complete diamond configuration. The only remaining branch is the curve from Garden City to Country Life Press.

An array of tracks at Mineola and at Valley Stream allowed a train to come from Oyster Bay or Hicksville, through the Wye area, and continue to Hempstead, Garden City, or the Valley Stream (West Hempstead) branch all the way to Far Rockaway. A switch tower with 40 levers was located in the center of the Wye in 1890 to control the various movements, as well as the Franklin Avenue trolley crossing (1902 to 1926). It lasted until 1939, when the N/S track at the Wye was eliminated and the tower was replaced by a cabin located just west of Franklin Avenue that controlled only the switches west of Franklin Avenue.

In 1909 a branch was added at the Wye to allow freight to be moved from the main line at Mineola to the developing areas east of Garden City, including Camp Mills in 1918 and Mitchel Field. In 1922 the west end of the Central Branch shuttle service to Meadowbrook was moved from the Garden City station to Country Life Press and a new branch added at the Wye to that station. The service was ended in 1959.

In 1923 the Hempstead Crossing stationhouse was moved to the island between the E/B and W/B lanes of Stewart Avenue and renamed “Stewart Ave.” The station didn’t get much use, though, and in 1926 the stop was discontinued. At the same time, with much fanfare, a loop service using regular train cars was established from Jamaica, via Valley Stream and West Hempstead, through the Wye to Mineola, and back to Jamaica. Manned crossing gates were installed at street crossings including at Stewart Avenue and Old Country Road. In 1935 the LIRR took a Public Service Commission requirement to eliminate grade crossings for passenger service to instead end all passenger service between West Hempstead and Mineola.

In 1950 the Village purchased the NW quadrant of the Wye for a parking field. In 1952 the house on the property at the east dead-end of Seventh Street, originally used by the LIRR section foreman, was renovated for the first Public Library. In 1960 the remaining three quadrants were purchased to give the parking areas there today. The SE quadrant was initially separated for use by Country Life Press commuters with access only from St. James Street S. Sometime after 1964 the divider was removed and that access was closed.





The Wye tower, facing NE.

The Hempstead Crossing station facing N, with a battery car from Mineola to Valley Stream crossing Stewart Avenue.



## EPOA College Scholarship



It is with pleasure that the Eastern Property Owners' Association announces that it will once again award a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who resides in the Eastern section of the village.

The candidates, or their family, must be dues paying members of the EPOA. They must be currently attending public or private high school and entering college full time in the fall. The focus of this scholarship is community service. Candidates must be involved in some form of community service and must submit an application on the EPOA website at [www.gcepoa.org](http://www.gcepoa.org).

All interested seniors are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

## School Board Update—Bob Martin

Garden City District Schools opened smoothly under the direction of Interim Superintendent Dr. Alan Groveman. The academic year began with the announcement that the high school was named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This outstanding achievement is a result of the hard work and dedication of the high school administration and faculty. They are to be applauded for this achievement. My report will focus on several areas where our students continue to excel, including academics, fine arts and athletics.

### **Student Achievement:**

The student's achievements are the result of their hard work under the direction of a dedicated faculty, committed coaches and involved parents.

Academics. With a strong district focus on college and career readiness, 98% of the Class of 2017 is attending college. In the class of 2017, 90% of our graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. A data dense report detailing student academic achievement was presented at the December 4<sup>th</sup> work session. The full report is posted on the district web site. Our students continue to achieve at a very high level both in absolute terms and in comparison to similar districts. A particular highlight is the 2017 mathematics assessments in grades 6 – 8. The results for the three grades were outstanding, with Grade 7 ranked number 1 in Nassau County!

Fine Arts. The High School Marching Band received first place finishes and several awards for best music, best overall effect, best visual, best guard, and best percussion at regional competitions. The marching band was also a prominent performing group in the homecoming parade. Music is an important part of the curriculum in the elementary schools. The Stewart and Stratford string ensemble won GOLD at the NYSSMA Majors.

Athletics. This year it was the boys' varsity teams turn to excel. The varsity football team repeated as the undefeated Long Island County champion, and this year was named the best high school football team on Long Island. The boys' varsity soccer team also had an outstanding year, winning the Long Island Championship.

### **Superintendent of Schools Search:**

The School Board's executive search consultants, Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), interviewed more than 70 people in individual meetings and focus groups, and received 599 replies to the online questionnaire. This information was used to develop a profile of the values and experience our stakeholders would like to see in the next superintendent. During the month of December a group of experienced school administrators who have demonstrated the characteristics enumerated by the constituent groups met with the School Board. The Board's goal, as stated previously, is to have a new superintendent on board for the start of the 2018 – 2019 academic year.

### **School Information and Resources:**

The EPOA was saddened to hear about the terrible middle school bullying incident. Below please find school-related contacts and resources, for the purpose of asking questions, sharing your concerns, and making suggestions for improvements:

- Dr. Groveman, Interim Superintendent, [Grovemana@gcufsd.net](mailto:Grovemana@gcufsd.net)
- Board of Education e-mail: [BOE@gcufsd.net](mailto:BOE@gcufsd.net)
- Garden City Middle School Principal/Asst. Principals: [gardencity.k12.ny.us/domain/1083](http://gardencity.k12.ny.us/domain/1083)
- Executive Committee of the PTA contacts: [gardencitypta.org/about\\_us/contact\\_us](http://gardencitypta.org/about_us/contact_us)
- Middle School PTA Board:  
[gardencitypta.org/schools/middle\\_school\\_pta/middle\\_school\\_p\\_t\\_a\\_board\\_list](http://gardencitypta.org/schools/middle_school_pta/middle_school_p_t_a_board_list)
- School Anti-Bullying Resources: [gardencity.k12.ny.us/domain/1189](http://gardencity.k12.ny.us/domain/1189)



**2018 EPOA Dues for Household**

**One Year Membership.....\$20.00**

**or Commit to a Two Year Membership.....\$40.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Please make check payable to the EPOA and mail in the enclosed envelope, pay online at gcepoa.org via PayPal under "Membership," or by Venmo @GCEPOA. When paying by check, the canceled check is your receipt.

**Registration**

**Designated Members: Wife, Husband, and Any Adult Residents**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**100 YEARS REPRESENTING RESIDENTS OF THE EAST  
1918-2018**

**Save the Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:30pm**

**Resident Electors' Meeting  
Senior Center on Golf Club Lane**

**EPOA Public Meeting Immediately Follows  
All Residents Welcome**

**Updates from EPOA President Tom Hogan, Trustees John Delany and Mark Hyer  
School Trustee Bob Martin and Library Trustee Charlie Murphy**

**—Bring your concerns and comments to the meeting—**

***100 YEARS REPRESENTING RESIDENTS OF THE EAST: 1918-2018***

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EPOA NEWS

Eastern Property Owners' Assoc. Inc.

P.O. Box 7525

Garden City, New York 11530



To: