
EPOA NEWS

President's Message

EPOA President Christine Mullaney's Fall Message

As I begin my term as EPOA president, I would like to thank the members of the nominating committee for selecting me, and the residents who voted at our June meeting. I am looking forward to working with Joe Moody, the new vice president, and Robert Rymers, the new corresponding secretary, as well as the other returning officers and directors. I especially want to welcome newly elected directors Joe Courtade, John Delany and Tom Hogan. And I want to thank Judy Courtney for her excellent leadership as president these past two years, at times under difficult circumstances that included running two primary elections for Village trustee.

The EPOA continued over the summer to monitor issues that affect Village residents and to respond to residents' concerns that are brought to our attention through the contact function on our website (www.gcepoa.org) or by mail through our Post Office Box (7525). Often these involve traffic issues but early in the summer a resident contacted us regarding conditions on the tennis courts at Grove Park that rendered the courts unusable and potentially unsafe much of the time. I spoke with the resident and with Trustee Episcopia, who quickly followed through with Village and Recreation Commissioner Ocker, and the long-standing problems were corrected with new drainage by early August. This is a great example of a frustrating situation that is satisfactorily resolved through communication and cooperation.

Historically, the EPOA has followed developments at Roosevelt Field closely, since the mall sits on our eastern border and changes there disproportionately impact our section of the Village. In the last 18 months the EPOA has hosted two information sessions for residents with Simon Property Group (owners of the mall)

executives to discuss their proposed expansion. Over the summer new discussions were held between the Town of Hempstead and Garden City regarding potential zoning changes that pertain specifically to regional shopping malls. During ongoing discussions TOH officials have been entirely cooperative with the Village, and Village officials are confident that there will be no zoning changes that would allow development beyond the planned addition of Neiman Marcus, which includes some additional retail and parking decks. At a TOH zoning hearing on September 17, which I attended along with Trustees Donnelly and Episcopia, the town board adopted the maximum cap on total floor area that GC wants in the proposed new ordinance chapter. Voting on the new legislation itself was deferred until October 2. Be assured that the Trustees and the EPOA remain vigilant on this and other outside development situations. At this time, Simon Property Group is anticipating a completion date for everything in the spring of 2016. (Message continued on page 2.)

October Meeting

**Tuesday, October 8th,
2nd Floor, Village Hall**

**Forest City Ratner -
Discussing proposals for the
renovation of the Nassau
Coliseum and Plaza**

**School Board Update -
Review the beginning of
another school year**

**Trustee Updates -
updates on critical
Village issues including
the developments for the
Senior Center and other
topics**

All residents invited

President's Message - continued

New developments at the library, the casino and the Golf Club Lane senior center continued through the summer. (Please see the Trustees' Update beginning on page 3.) EPOA directors in May passed a resolution asking the Library trustees to reconsider their decision to close the library on Sundays for the foreseeable future and we are happy that they have found a way to do so, from the period of mid-October 2013 to mid-May 2014. In addition to John Schultz, trustee from the East who joined the Library board a year ago, there are two new library trustees as of this summer: Lola Nouryan from the central section and Peter D'Antonio from the East, who is filling the at-large post. They join chair Randy Colahan (Estates) and vice chair Gloria Weinrich (West). The library board of trustees is separate from the village board of trustees and is responsible for adopting policies and securing funding for the budget. They have scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2013 on October 16, November 11 and December 9 in the small meeting room of the library. We urge residents to attend and express their concerns and suggestions directly to the Library trustees.

As to the Senior Center on Golf Club Lane, where the EPOA holds the majority of its meetings, the BOT made it clear at their working session on September 6 that they intend to renovate and expand the building. The only question is the scope and subsequent cost of such an upgrade, which ranges from approximately \$830,000 for the original proposal to \$1.5 million for a new proposal, depending on the plan chosen. Over the last year the EPOA directors, as a board and as individuals, have been very active following renovation suggestions at this facility. Directors have expressed concern over a lack of usage numbers and other data to support enlargement. There is general agreement that the 37-year-old facility needs upgrading. In an internal poll taken in early September, all directors, for a variety of reasons, opposed spending the higher amount on the newest proposal. Some directors supported the original renovation proposal. I hope that the Trustees will arrive at a reasonable compromise. This is an active, engaged, thoughtful POA board, as it should be.

A number of directors have expressed an interest in increasing their involvement in EPOA activities. Consequently, over the summer I asked every director to take on a specific assignment, such as attending school board meetings, serving on the traffic committee or following senior issues. Some directors already serve the Village in additional ways: Leo Stimmler is the East's representative on the Environmental Advisory Board and John Delany is a member of the Citizens Budget Review Committee from the East.

I have also asked some non-directors to help us out in specific ways. This is reviving a former practice that lets the EPOA benefit from the experience and abilities of residents who want to continue or begin volunteering. Allison Sparacino, a former EPOA director and officer, will be attending library board meetings for us as an interested resident. Dorothy Episcopia, a former EPOA president who was instrumental in stopping overexpansion at Roosevelt Field 13 years ago, is serving as a member of the outside development committee. And another former EPOA director, Bob Orosz, will be attending school board meetings, particularly those that involve budget decisions. My thanks to all.

Please note that our upcoming public meeting on Tuesday, October 8, is at Village Hall, not Stewart School as in the past. There will be reports from our Village, School and Library trustees, in addition to a speaker from Forest City Ratner, the development group chosen to renovate the Nassau Coliseum and Plaza. I hope to see you there!

epoa officers and directors 2013-2014

President: Christine Mullaney
Vice President: Joe Moody
Corporate Secretary: Debby Tennyson-Feinstein
Corresponding Secretary: Robert Rymers
Treasurer: Sal Norberto

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

Newsletter Editor: Judy Courtney

Trustee Dennis Donnelly

Police Update - During the summer months the police department continued an aggressive traffic enforcement program. The department targeted speeding and other moving violations throughout the village. The result was the issuance of hundreds of tickets and a safer Village. The program will continue for the remainder of the year. Commissioner Jackson has stressed that speeding will not be tolerated in Garden City.

Fire Update - The fire department saw the layoff of 6 career firefighters saving the village \$950,000. Although layoffs are always painful the village continues to be protected 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The firehouse just off Clinton continues to be manned by career firefighters. Chief of the department William Castoro and his assistant chiefs oversee the entire fire service. Garden City is blessed to have about 100 dedicated volunteer firefighters who are well trained and available 24 hours a day. These men and women are our neighbors and friends. When you get an opportunity please give them a thank you. Garden City continues to be one of only two communities on Long Island to have a fully integrated career and volunteer force.

Business Update - The business community has seen some businesses close and some new ones take their place. New to the village are a number of restaurants. Revel restaurant is a beautiful Manhattan style restaurant featuring seasonal American food and is located on Franklin Ave. in the space vacated by the Viking store. There is also a new sushi restaurant and a Tapas bar opening on Franklin on the same block as Calageros Italian restaurant. Calageros is also expanding into the former Garden City gallery space and, when completed, will be one of the largest eateries in the village. Their addition will include catering space on the lower level. Finally, the Garden City Hotel will be opening the Polo restaurant on the main floor of the hotel. Polo will feature 28-day dry aged prime steaks.

Promenades - Each Friday night during the summer the village closed Seventh St. to vehicular traffic to create a promenade atmosphere. Featuring live music, magic shows, fire trucks and tables and chairs set up along the street residents were able to socialize with their neighbors and friends in a safe community environment. The program was a tremendous success and grew each week of the summer. A real family experience!

Trustee Nick Episcopia

Board of Trustees (BOT). The ACORN/MHANY trial occurred in July. This court case concerns the zoning of the "P Zone", otherwise known as the Social Services Site, which The Village had zoned for single-family housing. This zoning has been challenged by ACORN/MHANY. Federal District Court Judge Spatt has heard the case and is now reviewing the arguments. A decision should come in the fall. In the meantime, we feel an appeal will occur from either side and have retained the firm of Jones, Day Kirkland & Ellis to assist us as the case continues.

Contract Information - The CSEA 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 concern pay, health care contributions, "step payments", work rules, annual increases and layoff protection. Negotiations continue.

Senior Center - There has been much discussion recently about the proposed renovations to the Senior Center at Golf Club Lane. The Village's recent Senior Survey showed low membership in senior organizations and a desire for more activities and trips. There was not much direct reference to a need for increased meeting space. Two proposals are being considered by the Trustees. The first, (estimated cost of \$850,000) would renovate and improve the current building, (presently 2,310 sq./ ft.) with an additional 1,653 sq. ft. A second proposal being considered further expands the Senior Center to allow for additional meeting rooms and space that could be used by all Village Residents and would have an additional 3,296 sq. ft., a much larger kitchen and lounge as well as larger bathrooms and increased meeting space. The cost would be approximately \$1,500,000. This second plan was presented to the public in an open work session on Friday September 6th. The BOT will be discussing both plans to determine the best steps for moving forward.

Casino - Another topic discussed this summer was the use of the Garden City Casino. Trustees met Casino Directors with a view towards creating a public private partnership. Many residents are not aware that the Village owns the building and the Casino Corporation operates the site through a licensing agreement. The Casino Corp. pays no rent to the Village but is responsible for all operating expenses and maintenance. There are several ideas under consideration from the Trustees, and no decisions have been made.

Library Update

Submitted by John Schultz, Library Trustee

The Library Board of Trustees is very pleased to announce that the Library will be open Sundays starting in mid-October. Special thanks to the Village Trustees for working with us to allocate the necessary funding to make this possible.

We are very excited to begin our Fall reading programs. We had a Title Swap on Tuesday, September 24, enabling residents and Librarians to come together to share and discuss new book titles.

The Friends of the Garden City Library will be sponsoring a discussion on "The Art Forger" by B. A. Shapiro. It is a fiction book based on the 1990 art robberies from the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum in Boston.

The children's Fall programs have begun. Registration for upcoming events can be done online with Eventkeeper, which is found on the Library website, <http://www.gardencitypl.org/>. We also encourage all children in the Village to sign up for their library cards if they have not already done so.

Another Library offering is for students in grades 10 through 12. They had the opportunity to take a practice SAT/ACT exam on Saturday, September 28th from 10:00am to 2:30pm. In addition, Kaplan, a learning services organization, will return to the Library on October 9th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm to review and analyze the test results.

Finally, the present Library building is celebrating its 40th anniversary this Fall. Thank you to all past and present library patrons, employees and volunteers. Your service and dedication to the principle that knowledge be available to all who seek it, have nurtured a modest brick building into a community center of learning.

EPOA 2013-2014 Meeting Schedule

Oct. 8th 7:30 PM

Village Hall

Nov. 19th 7:30 PM

Sr Center (Golf Club Lane)

Jan. 21st 7:30 PM

Location TBD

March 18th 7:30 PM

Sr. Center

April 15th 7:30 PM

Sr. Center

June 9th 7:30 PM

Location TBD

Recreation and Cultural Affairs Update

Submitted by Ken Moody

We had a great pool season and pool membership continues to grow. Family memberships increased by 40 families this year (and were up an additional 60 the previous year!) Member visits totaled 68,997 resident visitors and we had 8,431 guests over a 12 week period. The infrastructure had no breakdowns and our food concession services were excellent. All in all we had nothing but compliments from members.

Our Parks Division Arborist, in conjunction with the recommendations received from Cornell University Urban Forestry Institute, has prepared Phase I of the Tree Replacement Plan and 200 trees will be planted this fall. Phase II will be completed in the spring of 2014 with another 300 trees to be planted. Both phases include the introduction of new cultivars of trees in order to insure diversity in our urban forest.

Once again all of our summer camps were filled to capacity and our summer program in the neighborhood parks continued to offer grass roots supervised recreation opportunities to resident children.



It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 6-12 the Garden City Fire Department is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires.' During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of kitchen fires--most of which result from unattended cooking—and teaching local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place.

According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

"Often when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Chief William Castoro. "Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson."

Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you when items are done.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.
- Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

The Garden City Fire Department will be hosting our annual open house and fire prevention day on Sunday, October 6th. Events will begin at 12:30pm at Fire Headquarters; we hope to see you and your family at our house.

As always, the department is looking for new members to join our ranks. Please visit our webpage www.gcfndny.com for more information on how you can help serve our community as a Volunteer Firefighter!

October is "License Your Dog" Month

License your dog today..... it's your pet's ticket home if they get lost!

Come in to Village Hall during the month of October and your dog will receive a free bone with each new registration. As a reminder under Local Law 1-2010, The Village of Garden City now provides, and is responsible for, all licensing of dogs within the Village as of January 1, 2011. Since every dog within New York State is required to be properly licensed, Village Hall is ready to assist all residents with this process and answer any questions that they may have.

epoa news

Eastern Property Owners' Assoc., Inc.

P. O. Box 7525

Garden City, New York 11530

Dated Material

Or Current Resident

Washington Avenue Airfield

The Washington Avenue Airfield marker is located on the east side of Washington Ave. south of Old Country Rd, near Fairview Court. This airfield, commonly called the Mineola Field due to its proximity to that village which is the County Seat, extended south from Old Country Rd. to as far as Osborne Rd. and from Washington Ave. east to as far as the Long Island Motor Parkway, which was being built at the time just east of present Russell Rd. The field had hangars along the north side and a grandstand on the west side. It existed from 1909 until 1912, when operations were moved to the Hempstead Plains airfield east of Clinton Rd.

On the recommendation of aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss, the area was leased from the Garden City Company and used by members of the New York Aeronautical Society, which had its headquarters at McLaughlin's Hotel, located on the northeast corner of Old Country Rd. and Willis Ave., a block away. The "Golden Flyer" airplane (also called the "Gold Bug", which gave the hotel its new name), built by Curtiss, flew around the airfield on 17 July 1909 to win the \$10,000 *Scientific American* prize for a sustained flight of 25 Km. (16 miles).



Crowd cheering Clifford Harmon at Washington Ave. Airfield

Facts from the East—The Eastern section of the Village has an incredible history. In each edition of the EPOA news, we will share some interesting facts. Our thanks to Bill Bellmer for his help in preserving our history.