

June 2008

# epoa news

The Official Newsletter of the Eastern Property Owners Association, Garden City, New York 11530

## Public EPOA Meeting at GC Library on Monday, June 2 Elections, Updates on Issues Scheduled

There are so many issues facing the Village, I thought I would try to update you on the status of as many as possible.

St. Paul's: The EPOA has taken the position of supporting the review process. We recommended that the proposal for St. Paul's contain no provision for community space so as to maximize the financial returns to the Village. We support a public vote on any proposals be held in September.

P-Zone: This is the area immediately surrounding the old Social Services Building between Court House Drive & Washington Avenue and bordered by 11<sup>th</sup> St. This area was re-zoned in 2006. It is currently zoned for 80-90 single-family homes or approximately 150 town houses. The zoning on the property is being challenged in court in a lawsuit filed by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). This lawsuit is currently in the discovery stage in Federal Court Eastern District.

550 Stewart Ave: The north side of this project will be renumbered 555 Stewart Ave. This is the empty parking lot on the north side of Stewart Avenue just west of the entrance to Roosevelt Field. The project was recently approved by both

the Planning Commission and the Architectural Review Board for 25 town houses. Construction could begin in the fall.

The south side of this project is the old site of the Newsday building directly opposite the parking lot. This site will be a three story commercial office building. The 92,000 sq. ft. building has been approved by the Planning Commission and ADRB. This project must now be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Winston Project: Although this proposed condominium project is in Mineola, any subdivision of the property (as in condos) requires the approval of the Garden City Planning Commission because it is within 300 ft. of the neighboring village. The EPOA has requested the density of the project be scaled down. The proposed nine story building would be the densest concentration in all of Nassau County and out of character with the surrounding community.

HUB Project: This massive development includes reconstruction of the Nassau Coliseum, as well as housing, retail, sports businesses, restaurants, shopping, offices, a minor league baseball station, and more. The retail business portion of this project is over 500,000 sq. ft. alone. Although not officially part of this project, north/south mass transit through the heart of Garden City is part of the county HUB transportation plan. Public hearings on the zoning changes necessary for this project will be held by the

### President's Message



by Dennis Donnelly

**Save the Date:  
Monday, June 2**

*Garden City Library, Lower  
Level, 7:30 pm*

**Annual EPOA  
Joint Meeting**

**Elections & Updates on  
Current Village Issues**

—ALL INVITED—

**Join Your Neighbors  
Listen and be Heard**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
Christine Mullaney**

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# epoa officers and directors 2007 - 2008

**President** Dennis Donnelly  
**V. President** Harrison Oelrich  
**Secretary** Allison Sparacino  
**Treasurer** Karl Schmidt

**Directors**

Mathilde Bellmer  
 Patrick Bradley  
 Jamie Gans  
 Harold Hecken  
 Anthony Libertella  
 Frank Livoti  
 Thomas Logan  
 Cheryl McAuliffe  
 Walter McKenna  
 Christine Mullaney  
 Neil O'Malley  
 Barbara Ruggiero  
 Leo Stimmler  
 Rex Wood

## representatives from the east

**Village Mayor**  
 Peter Bee

**Village Trustee**  
 Nicholas Episcopia

**Acting Village Justice**  
 Brian T. Deveney

**School Board**  
 Laura Brown

**Library Board**  
 Elizabeth "Libby" Huschle

**Cultural & Recreation Affairs**  
 Andrew deLannoy  
 James Pratt III (at large)

**Planning Commission**  
 H. Bradford Gustavson  
 Robert Schoelle, Jr.

**Board of Zoning Appeals**  
 Brian Paradine

**Environmental Advisory Board**  
 Leo Stimmler

# Trustees Tackle Major Issues

First, I would like to thank all the residents who turned out on very short notice and voted for the candidates of the Community Agreement Party. On only a few days notice concerned residents were able to mobilize a substantial majority of fellow residents to soundly defeat the write-in candidate. Our time-tested system provides opportunities for challenges to POA candidates, with only 15 signatures required on a petition for a challenge to an official nominee. This has happened several times in recent years. The recent write-in campaign may be legal but clearly violates the Community Agreement and threatens our governmental system. The people showed by an overwhelming majority that they disapproved of this tactic. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your trustee for another two years.

The Mayors Committee on St. Paul's has retained an expert real estate analyst to hopefully finalize an agreement with Avalon on the restoration of the St. Paul's building. The Committee hopes to have alternatives ready to present to the BOT by June. The BOT then will decide on the method of polling the residents. Personally, I agree with the EPOA board that residents should not be paying for any public space in the main building. Our goal should be to maximize Avalon's payments to the Village.

The BOT is pleased to report adoption of a \$55 million budget for fiscal 2008/09. We worked alongside the Citizens Budget Review Committee to

obtain a final result. The resulting 3.4% annual increase in Village taxes was substantially less than originally requested, even though we had to deal with items like delayed court rulings in tax certiorari suits. The total Village tax increases over the last two fiscal years was 1.7%, substantially below the inflation rate of almost 4%. Our thanks to the individuals on the Citizens Committee for their work and valuable input.

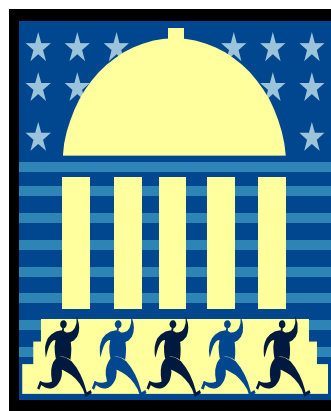
The ACORN litigation on the P Zone continues to drag on. As of this writing, one former trustee needs to be deposed. In another matter, we continue to litigate against Genesco Inc., a company formerly located on Jericho Tpke. The evidence shows that their facility caused pollution to the ground water that the Village was forced to remediate with a new stripping tower. We are represented in this by specialty environmental

counsel. We recently turned down a settlement offer as inadequate.

Our neighbors in Mineola have proposed a large condominium project on Old Country Road and Willis Avenue. This project would have almost twice as many units per acre as anything else in Nassau County. Since the project is 300 feet from the GC Village line, our Planning Commission has to approve their "subdivision" plan, not the actual project. Along with former Mayor Hal Hecken and our planning consultant, I attended a Mineola Village board meeting, where we expressed our opinion that the project

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## Trustees Update



**By Nicholas  
Episcopia**

**TO ALL RESIDENT ELECTORS AND PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF  
THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF GARDEN CITY  
JOINT MEETING—MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008  
7:30 P.M. GARDEN CITY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL**

**Purpose of the Eastern Property Owners' Association Annual Meeting:**

- To Elect** (1) EPOA Officers and Directors for the 2008 – 2009 term  
(2) Four members of the seven member EPOA Nominating Committee that proposes candidates for EPOA Officers and Directors
- To Conduct** Other such business as may properly be considered

In accordance with the EPOA by-laws, a Public Notice listing the names and addresses of the following persons and the offices for which they were nominated, as well as the procedures and requirements for placing additional person(s) in nomination for said offices, was published in the Garden City News. No additional nominations for EPOA Officers and/or Directors have been received by the Secretary. The current Nominating Committee has placed the following candidates in nomination:

**EPOA OFFICERS**

*For a term of one year:*

<b>President</b>	Dennis Donnelly	141 Meadow Street
<b>Vice President</b>	Harrison Oellrich	93 Lefferts Road
<b>Secretary</b>	Allison O'Hare Sparacino	32 Claydon Road
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karl Schmidt	38 Russell Road

**EPOA DIRECTORS**

*For a term of three years:*

Mathilde Bellmer	156 Poplar Street
Jaime Gans	9 Damson Street
Frank Livoti	138 Washington Ave.
Leo V. Stimmler	67 Huntington Road

*For a term of two years:*

Anthony F. Libertella	1 Warton Place
Neil O'Malley	55 Commander Avenue

*For a term of one year:*

Judy Courtney	3 Tremont Street
John D. Schultz	41 Wyatt Road

**Purpose of the Resident Electors' Meeting:**

**To Elect** All ten members of the Garden City East Nominating Committee that proposes candidates for Village-wide offices, Village Board of Trustees and School Board Trustees. The EPOA Directors have placed the following 20 candidates in nomination for election to the Ten Member Garden City East Nominating Committee:

James Brady	12 Huntington Road	Frank Livoti	138 Washington Avenue
James Carney	6 Chestnut Street	Frederick J. Magovern	34 Chestnut Street
Maureen Clancy	400 Stewart Avenue	Walter McKenna	142 Washington Avenue
May Conti	45 Kenwood Road	Gerhardt Muller	138 Willow Street
Genevieve D'Agostino	49 Transverse Road	Harrison Oellrich	93 Lefferts Road
John Delany	1 Spruce Street	M. John Pittoni	31 Locust Street
T. Roger Eltringham	98 Meadow Street	Karl Schmidt	38 Russell Road
Dorothy Episcopia	38 Claydon Road	Allison Sparacino	32 Claydon Road
Nancy Fredericks	172 Pine Street	Leo Stimmler	67 Huntington Road
Harold "Hal" Hecken	42 Huntington Road	Robert Rex Wood	92 Kingsbury Road

Eligible voters must be (1) past their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, (2) citizens of the USA, (3) residing within the corporate limits of the Village of Garden City, East of the center of Franklin Avenue, and (4) qualified to vote in this Village, in the County of Nassau, and in the State of New York for at least 30 days. All eligible electors described above may vote to elect the Ten Member Nominating Committee. Additional candidates for election to this committee may be proposed by not less than 15 resident electors by submitting a petition to the Secretary of the EPOA at 32 Claydon Road, not later than 20 days prior to the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The petition must set forth the name and address of each such candidate, and also be signed by each proposing elector, including their names and addresses.

# NOMINEES FOR EPOA OFFICERS 2008-2009

The 2007-2008 Seven Member Nominating Committee of the Eastern Property Owners' Association has nominated the following persons as candidates for election to the positions of Officers and Directors of the Association:

**President: Dennis Donnelly**

**Dennis Donnelly** has been a Garden City resident for over 39 years. He retired after 35 years from Verizon, where he held the position of director of public government affairs for the Long Island region. Dennis and his wife Nancy have three children who all attended Garden City schools. A member of St. Joseph's parish, Dennis is active with the Garden City Chamber of Commerce. He has been a director of the EPOA for 5 years and is completing his first year as president. Dennis also served as chairperson of the Ten Member Nominating Committee. He recently was honored by the Garden City Chamber of Commerce and received its Community Achievement Award.

**Vice President: Harrison Oellrich**

**Harrison (Harry) Oellrich**, a 41 year resident, has lived in the east for 23 years. Harry is employed by Guy Carpenter & Co., LLC. as managing director. A gradu-

ate of GCHS, he earned his BA and MBA from Hofstra. He is a five term member of the EPOA board, presently serving as vice president, and has also served on the Ten Member Nominating Committee. A founder of several public/private collaborative initiatives with the federal government, Harry acted as sector coordinator for the insurance/reinsurance working group of the President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board. Harry is a member of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection on Stewart Avenue, where he recently served a second term as the congregation's president and has previously chaired its finance and other committees. He is married to Roxanne and they have three children attending Stewart School. Harry is active coaching children's athletics as a part of the Centennials and GCAA programs.

**Secretary: Allison O'Hare Sparacino**

**Allison O'Hare Sparacino** and her husband Michael have been residents since 1987. They have one son who attends the Garden City Middle School. Allison earned her BA in Accounting at Queens College and started her career as a CPA at Coopers and Lybrand (now Pricewaterhouse Coopers). She continued working in finance at Citigroup for 9 years and

"retired" in 2000. Allison became more involved in the community, volunteering as a catechist in St. Joseph's Religious Education Program, and has been a director and secretary of the EPOA since 2003. She periodically takes on consulting assignments and worked part time in a local Garden City business for several years.

**Treasurer: Karl H. Schmidt**

**Karl H. Schmidt** and his wife Catherine have been residents of Garden City since 1976. Karl is a graduate of New York University with a BS and MBA in finance and also has done postgraduate work at Columbia University. Karl worked for 30 years for Chase Manhattan Bank in their Commercial Banking Group with multinational clients. An active member of the New York Society of Security Analysts, Karl for the past 12 years has been president of Bristol Advisors, Inc., a financial consulting firm. He has been a director of the EPOA since 2001, served as its liaison with the Village's Architectural Review Board and as a delegate at school board meetings. Karl will be completing his fourth year as treasurer of the EPOA.

## NOTICE

Directors of the EPOA have unanimously approved splitting the secretary function into two positions, recording secretary and corresponding secretary, pending membership approval. This item will be put on the agenda of the EPOA's first public meeting in October, 2008.

# NOMINEES FOR EPOA DIRECTORS

*For a term of three years:*

**Mathilde Bellmer**

Mathilde and her husband Bill have been residents of Garden City for over 40 years. She is twice retired as a registered nurse and as a travel agent. Mathilde has a long history of volunteerism in the Village and is currently a volunteer in St. Joseph's Re-

ligious Education Program, in addition to working at the Garden City Library. She has been a director of the EPOA since 2005 and served as its liaison to the Streets & Traffic Commission for one year.

**Jamie Gans**

Jamie has lived in Garden City since 1981 and is the mother of six children. A gradu-

ate of Marymount College, she earned an MS from Hofstra. Jaime retired from Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, where she was manager of litigation legal assistants for 25 years. A recipient of the Legal Aid Society's Pro Bono Award for work with the Juvenile Rights Division, she is also a volunteer with Woman at Risk and serves as both a lector and Eucharistic minister at

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# NOMINEES FOR EPOA DIRECTORS (continued)

St. Joseph's. Jamie has been a director of the EPOA for three years.

**Frank Livoti**

Frank is a 1978 graduate of St. John's University Law School and has been a practicing attorney for over 20 years, with offices on Franklin Avenue. Married, with two children who attended Garden City schools from kindergarten through high school, he served as an EPOA director in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Frank returned to the EPOA as a director in 2005.

**Leo V. Stimmler**

Leo has been a resident of Garden City for 28 years. He is a graduate of the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Work and has worked in drug and alcohol treatment with the NYC Health and Hospitals Corp. since 1975. He is currently the associate executive director of their chemical dependency treatment programs in North Brooklyn, specializing in services for adolescents and adults with advanced addition. Leo has coached boys soccer for the GC Centennials and the GC Athletic Association and organized "The Jokers," a men's over-35 softball team. His wife Kathleen and their two adult sons are graduates of the Garden City public schools. Leo has been a director of the EPOA since 2005 and serves as its liaison to the Village's Environmental Review Board. His special interest on the review board is water quality.

*For a term of two years:*

**Anthony F. Libertella, Ph.D., J.D.**

Anthony has been a dean of the School of Business and special assistant to the president for business development of Adelphi University for the past eight years. A highly visible figure in the LI business community and a prolific scholar, he is a past president of the GC Chamber of Commerce and is chairman of the board of advisors for the Long Island Development Corp. He is widely published and has served as editor-in-chief and managing editor of three leading academic business journals. He currently serves as section editor for the *Journal of Business Ethics* and has co-authored a book, *University in Crisis: the Corporate Eclipse of the University*. Anthony and his wife Kay are the parents of two children.

**Neil O'Malley**

Neil has lived in Garden City since 1995 and has been a member of the GC Fire Department since 1999, attaining the rank of Captain in 2005. He is also a NYS emergency medical technician. An active parishioner of St. Joseph's, Neil and his wife Sheila are the parents of four children, who attend St. Joe's, Stewart School and the Middle School. Neil is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, and works as a grip, primarily on television commercials. He has also worked on many motion pictures and television shows, including Spiderman and The Sopranos. Neil has just completed his first year as a director of the EPOA, where he served as coordinator of the

EPOA high school scholarship.

*For a term of one year:*

**Judy Courtney**

Judy is a life long resident of Garden City and has been involved in a variety of Village activities, including GCAA, the PTA and SEPTA. She graduated from Manhattan College and holds a BA and MA in career development. As a human resource professional, she has over 20 years experience in such organizations as JPMorgan Chase, Fleet Bank and Swiss Reinsurance. Judy served as an EPOA director in the late 1990s. She is currently serving as an interim director and is the liaison to the Continuing Education Committee. She has one daughter who recently graduated from GCHS.

**John D. Schultz**

John and his wife, Lisa Lehnert, M.D., moved to Garden City two years ago and are the parents of two young daughters who will be attending Garden City public schools. John is originally from Stewart Manor, while Lisa grew up in the Village. An accounting graduate of Penn State with an MBA from Fordham, John is a senior finance manager with Investment Technology Group, Inc., responsible for ITG's firm-wide planning and budgeting as well as controller to their US Technologies' Infrastructure unit. His family belongs to the Old Cove Yacht Club in New Suffolk, where John developed and is the administrator of its Website.

*(Trustees Report continued from page 2)*

must be scaled down. However, the Mineola BOT approved the project unanimously. I also attended the Nassau County Planning Commission meeting, where they essentially agreed with the Mineola BOT. The next step is to petition the GC Planning Commission to reject the subdivision plan. This process, however, will not be easy.

The time is here for the "Scoping Sessions" for public input to the Town of Hempstead BZA on the HUB. The Village has retained Bolton St. John's, a lobbying firm with an excellent track record, to help us in the effort to scale down this project. Especially troublesome is the planned 500,000 sq ft of retail development. Hal Hecken, his committee members and Dennis Donnelly will be meeting with BSJ prior to attending the BZA session. The meetings are set for May 22 at 10 a.m. and May 27 at 7 p.m., One Washington St., Hempstead. Please come and express your opinion.

There has been a lot of press recently about alleged ethics problems involving Mayor Bee and Deputy Mayor Mauk. I can assure you that in no instance where the Mayor recused himself from a decision because of a potential conflict did he in the slightest way attempt to influence any trustee's vote. Our ethics policy is used by many Villages in NYS and is not designed to be a tool for attacks on an individual trustee's political enemies.

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# TEN MEMBER NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Property Owners Association has selected the following candidates for election to the Ten Member Nominating Committee from the East. These will be voted on by Resident Electors at the EPOA annual meeting on Monday, June 2, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Garden City Library. This committee will propose candidates for Village-wide offices, Village Board of Trustees and School Board Trustees.

## **JAMES T. BRADY**

**James T. Brady** has been a Garden City resident for 33 years. Jim is president of James. T. Brady, Inc., a medical publisher's representative company. He is a graduate of St. John's University and served in the US Army for two years (Vietnam vet). An active member of the community, Jim is president-elect, Rota-Care, a free health care clinic for people in need, past president of the GC Jaycees, Garden City Little League, and the EPOA (1996-1998); a life director of the Garden City Men's Association and past president of the Mineola-Garden City Rotary Club. He has served on the EPOA board of directors as chairman of Streets and Traffic Committee and also as treasurer. Jim has served on the Ten Member Nominating Committee, in 2003 as its chairman. Jim is currently head usher at St Joseph's Church.

## **JAMES CARNEY**

**James Carney** has been a resident for over 13 years. He is a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, BS in engineering; MBA in finance from Baruch College. He is currently employed as executive vice president of Citigroup Technology as global head of Data Center Planning and construction and chief of staff for Citigroup Technology for North America. Previously Jim served as vice president property management for Salomon Smith Barney and assistant director of engineering for ABC Television Network. Jim was a director of the EPOA starting in 1977, served as its president from 2003-2005 and finished his term with the EPOA in 2006. He also has served on the Ad Hoc

Citizens Advisory Committee to the Garden City School District and ad hoc liaison member to the Construction Steering Committee. Jim is currently serving on BOT's Advisory Committee for St. Paul's, as well as a member of the current facilities ad hoc committee to the GC School Board of Trustees. Winner of the "Citizen of the Year" and PTA awards, he has been a soccer coach with Garden City Centennials and member of St. Joseph's Parish. Jim's wife Maryellen is a secondary school math teacher in Bellmore Merrick district and they have two son's attending Garden City public schools.

## **MAUREEN CLANCY**

**Maureen Clancy** has been a Garden City resident since 1960. Maureen is a graduate of Rosemont College and is an independent insurance broker with offices in Garden City. She has served as a Village trustee, deputy mayor and commissioner of various Village departments. A director, secretary, vice president and president of the EPOA, Maureen is also active in many community and civic organizations, including the Girl Scouts and St. Joseph's parish. Maureen is a past president of the Garden City Historical Society and a past president of the GC Chamber of Commerce. Maureen also serves as secretary of Rotacare and most recently was appointed to the Village Board of Ethics by Mayor Peter Bee.

## **MAY CONTI**

**May Conti** has been a resident since 1971 and is a graduate of Fordham University. She retired from Willis Construction Services Corp in NYC in 2006 where she was assistant to the president and CEO. May has served as a director of the EPOA and on the Seven and Ten Member Nominating Committees. She is past president of the district-wide PTA and was a school board trustee from 1988 to 1994. May is also involved with St. Joseph's parish, is a former president of the Religious Education Board and is a catechist for more than 20 years.

## **GENEVIEVE D'AGOSTINO**

**Genevieve D'Agostino** has been a resident for over 17 years. Gen was a director of the EPOA from 2004 to 2006 and served as its newsletter editor during the 2005/2006 term. She and her husband John have one daughter, a graduate of GCHS. Gen is a graduate of Adelphi University and is currently vice president/treasurer for the New York State Housing Finance Agency/State of New York Mortgage Agency. She also serves on the board of directors of the New York State Government Finance Officers' Association.

## **JOHN DELANY**

**John Delany** has been a resident of the East since 1971. He was a director of the EPOA for 9 years, served as the Library trustee representing the East and was chairman of the Library Board of Trustees for 21 years. In the past John served on both the Ten Member Nominating Committee for the East and the EPOA's Seven Member Nominating Committee. He is a graduate of Villanova University and St. John's Law School. John is employed as an insurance executive. He is married, has three children, with two daughters and 5 grandchildren living in Garden City.

## **T. ROGER ELTRINGHAM**

**T. Roger Eltringham** has been a Garden City resident since 1982 and has worked in the Village since 1970. He is vice president of sales and marketing of Alliance Plus, a general insurance brokerage. Roger is a graduate of SUNY Stony Brook and a member of the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors. He has served as secretary, vice president and president of the EPOA. Roger is also active in other Village matters having previously served as president and lieutenant governor of the Kiwanis Club. He is a past president of the GC Jaycees, the Leukemia Society of America and the Cherry Valley Co-op. He is president of the Garden City Chamber of Commerce and previously served as secretary/treasurer. Since 1979, Roger has been the race director of the annual Merrill Lynch Turkey Trot. He also chaired the

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70th anniversary of the Community Agreement celebration and organized the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Village.

**DOROTHY M. EPISCOPIA**

**Dorothy M. Episcopia**, a resident for 35 years, is a past EPOA president, vice president and secretary. She is a former chairman of the Mayor's Committee to Monitor Development Outside of Garden City. Dorothy has served on the Board of Education's Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee and is the founding co-chair of the Arts-In-Education program of the GC public schools. She served as fundraising chairperson for the Garden City PTA Student Loan Fund. Her many other volunteer activities include serving as a civic member of the GC Chamber of Commerce and with the St. Joseph's Pre-Cana Program. Dorothy also has served on both the Ten and Seven Member Nominating Committees of the EPOA. A graduate of Wheaton College (MA), she is senior paralegal with a Mineola law firm.

**NANCY FREDERICKS**

**Nancy Fredericks** served on the Garden City Board of Education from 1998 - 2006. Now retired, she was an educator since 1968 and has continued to serve the community. She has served in numerous administrative and supervisory capacities for several NYC and LI school districts. Her expertise is in foreign language teaching and she has authored several books and publications in this area as well as in general education. She has been a member of the committee on AIDS instruction in the Garden City schools, chairperson of the Long Range Facilities Planning Committee, and a Pre-Cana in-home group leader for St. Joseph's Church. A resident of Garden City since 1977, she is married with two children who attended Garden City schools.

**HAROLD (HAL) HECKEN**

**Harold (Hal) Hecken** is a life-long resident of Garden City and served as the Village's mayor from 1999 to 2001. He was a Village trustee, representing the East for

four terms. During that time he served as deputy mayor and commissioner of police, recreation, finance, public works, building and planning, as well as chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Board. He served on the EPOA board as a director for 11 years, including president from 1984 to 1986. Hal retired from Nassau County in 2002, where he served the Department of Recreation and Parks for 30 years as director of management analysis. Hal is a graduate of Cornell University, has a Masters in public administration and is a veteran of the Korean War. He is currently a board member and treasurer of the Cornell Cooperative Extension and returned to the EPOA as a director in 2006. Hal was reappointed by Mayor Bee as chairman of the Mayor's Committee to Monitor Outside Development. The committee is following such projects as the HUB, the LIRR third rail, Winston residential development in Mineola and several other planned housing developments of interest to residents in the East.

**FRANK LIVOTI**

(see Nominees for Directors)

**FREDERICK J. MAGOVERN**

Frederick J. Magovern is a lifelong resident of Garden City and graduate of St. Joseph's School, GCHS, Manhattan College and Fordham Law School. He is a partner in the NYC law firm Magovern and Sclafani, where his area of expertise is family law and adoption. Fred is a founding member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and has lectured extensively on related issues. He has served as a GCAA soccer coach and on the EPOA Seven Member Nominating Committee. He is on the board of trustees of the Buckley Country Day School.

**WALTER McKENNA**

**Walter McKenna**, a graduate of New York Institute of Technology School of Management and Accounting, is currently the financial and operational controller at Specialty Brands of America, Inc., a leading branded packaged goods company headquartered on LI. Experienced in finan-

cial reporting, accounting, management and acquisitions, his professional credits include: assistant controller of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), as well as manager of financial accounting at Montefiore Medical Center. Walter and his wife Lynette have two pre-school age children. Walter has been a director of the EPOA for two years and serves as its liaison to the Streets and Traffic Commission.

**GERHARDT MULLER**

**Gerhardt Muller** has been a resident for over 35 years. He was a director of the EPOA for 9 years, including 4 years as treasurer. He is a professor at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Gerhardt worked for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for 29 years in various planning and operational positions (1968-1996). He also served as president and other council positions at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Garden City. He and his wife, Gisela, have been married 39 years. Their four sons all attended Garden City schools.

**HARRISON (HARRY) OELLRICH**

(see Nominees for Officers)

**M. JOHN PITTONI**

**M. John Pittoni** has been a resident for 38 years. John is a graduate of Holy Cross College and Fordham Law School. He is the senior partner in the Garden City law firm of Pittoni, Bonchonsky and Zaino and was the chairman of the Nassau County Bar Association banking committee for 5 years, lecturing on many issues involving banks and banking law. John served many terms as an EPOA director, acting as chairmen of various committees. In 1977 he became the youngest person to serve as president of the EPOA and then served its longest term (1977-1980). He was called on again to be president in 1990 and 1991 and is the only person to have held the position of president twice. He was named chairman of the Mayor's Committee to review Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Center's group home

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# TEN MEMBER NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

application on Meadow Street and was instrumental in blocking its entry into the Village. He has actively been involved in Village and EPOA matters for more than 35 years and has served on the EPOA Seven and Ten Member Nominating Committees more than 20 times, often as chairman of the committee. John was also entertainment director at the Casino and a member of the board of governors at the Cherry Valley Club, as well as its entertainment chairman for seven years. He has been and is a member of the board of directors of the Garden City Chamber of Commerce

**KARL SCHMIDT**  
(see Nominees for Officers)

**ALLISON SPARACINO**  
(see Nominees for Officers)

**LEO V. STIMMLER**  
**Leo V. Stimmler** has been a resident of Garden City for 28 years. He is a graduate of the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Work and has worked in drug and alcohol treatment with the NYC Health and Hospitals Corp. since 1975. He is currently the associate executive director of their chemical dependency treatment programs in N. Brooklyn, specializing in services for adolescents and adults with advanced addiction. Leo has coached boys soccer for the GC Centennials and the GCAA and organized "The Jokers," a men's over-35 softball team. His wife Kathleen and their two adult sons are graduates of the Garden City public school system. Leo has been a director of the EPOA since 2005 and serves as its liaison to the Village's Environmental Review Board. His special interest on the review board is water quality.

**ROBERT REX WOOD**  
**Robert Rex Wood** has been a director of the EPOA for five years. Along with his wife, he has raised three children in Garden City and has been involved in many community activities, including coaching soccer and baseball as well as serving as a zone chairman and district captain for the GC Community Fund. Rex had a long career at Avon Products, serving in many different marketing and operations management functions. He also served three years as an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers. Rex has been the chairperson of the EPOA Membership Committee for the past three years.

## Cultural and Recreation News

by Andrew deLannoy



The 2008 Garden City pool season is almost upon us. Pool brochures, including the membership application, will be in the mail shortly to all residents. Save on gasoline this summer and join your friends and neighbors at our award winning pool facilities.

Some of the great trips available for seniors include Lower Manhattan on May 27th and the Chelsea Market on June 11th. Check with the Recreation Office in the Cottages at St. Paul's facility for information on additional trips.

The new clubhouse and newly installed platform courts at Community Park will be open for business shortly. This is a tremendous improvement for Community Park. One item is remaining, Athletes Square, to be completed over the summer. This will finish off the park's improvements with picnic tables, benches and unique paver paths.

Registration for Village summer recreational programs is well underway. Consult your spring edition of *Leisure Times* for programs, schedules and registration fees, or drive down to the Recreation Office in the Cottages at St. Paul's.

As always, our dedicated recreation staff is encouraging your open feedback regarding our programs, facility conditions and customer service. We value our residents' opinions.



# School District Report

by Laura Brown



The Garden City Public Schools have been very busy over the past few months. The ad hoc committee that was created to review our facilities has started meeting. They were given the new demographic study that was recently completed and will use that data, as well as other information, to help them make their recommendations to the Board of Education.

The Connect Ed service is now in operation. Connect Ed is a school-to-parent communication system that allows the school district to send and track personalized phone messages to students, parents and staff in minutes.

The school district has reported a number of student and staff achievements, including the following:

- One of our elementary students has been selected as a winner of the Nassau Reading Council's Young Author's Contest.
- Fifty-five Garden City students received awards in the National Latin Exam administered in March. ("National" is actually a misnomer because 11 foreign countries also participated.) Of this group, 16 received gold awards and 12 received silver awards. (A total of 86 students took the exam in Garden City, so the percentage of winners is quite high.) One of our students received a perfect score in the Latin I Exam, and another received a perfect score in the Latin II Exam.
- At the middle level, a student has been selected as the Long Island recipient of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT) FULVI Love of Language Award, the second year in a row that a Garden City student has received this honor.
- Three papers submitted by Garden City High School teams for the Toshiba Exploravision Contest received honorable mention, placing them in the top 10% among more than 5000 submissions.
- Forty two Garden City students, representing all schools and levels, were selected to participate in the 2008 Art Supervisors Association's All-County Art Exhibit. The show, held at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Harley University Center on Sunday, March 9th, honored the most talented young visual artists in Nassau County. The 42 students selected for the exhibition represented an all-time high for our district, with the total surpassing by far last year's group of 25.
- Fourth grade teacher Seth Messier has been selected as a Covanta Energy and Center for Science Teaching and Learning finalist in the Teacher Challenge competition. Seth's math-science-technology unit on simple machines will be featured in a collection of lesson plans to be published in hard copy and on line. He may also receive additional honors when the competition is concluded shortly.

# Library News

by Libby Huschle



On April 19th the library hosted the official dedication of the recent renovations. The staff provided excellent refreshments in the Café, which is located on the lower level. Tours were conducted by staff and pages to familiarize patrons with the new lower level location of the computer room and audio visual room. Choosing recorded books, play-a-longs or videos is much more efficient in the new location.

The adult reading room is complete and patrons will find extremely comfortable seating to enjoy while browsing magazines or newspapers. Activity in the refurbished young adult department has been very lively. This is probably due to the cheerful colors and interesting displays.

Tom Witt has been appointed acting director of the library. He will serve in that capacity while the library trustees conduct a search for a replacement for Alan Roeckel, who is retiring June 20th.

If you haven't been to the library recently, make sure to stop by soon. The staff look forward to serving your needs or just saying "Hello."

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## EPOA President's Message (continued)

*(continued from page 1)*

Town of Hempstead in late May. The Village will be represented by a lobbying firm, but the trustees and the EPOA will be there to object as well. This is the singular most serious threat to Garden City in the near future.

Village Budget: The Citizens Budget Committee working in conjunction with the Board of Trustees has worked very hard to come in with a \$55 million budget for 2008-9. The trustees have looked at how we as a village can become a greener village and conserve energy and natural resources as efficiently as possible.

Commercial Update: The old Food Basket site has been approved for "Natural Market," a fruit, vegetable and whole foods supermarket that should open this summer.

Texaco Gas Station site: (7th St. & Franklin) This site contemplates retail on the first floor and condomini-

ums on the second floor. The project is being scheduled for a hearing by the Zoning Commission at their June meeting. It will then go to the Planning & ADRB.

Hotel Site: As of May the sale of the hotel has fallen through. No further info is available other than the current ownership will continue to run the hotel.

Old Saks Building: This building has been completely renovated and will house Winthrop University Hospital Rehabilitation facilities, Healthtrax (a health & fitness center), a Walgreens, as well as Morgan Stanley brokerage and a Japanese restaurant.

After the June 2nd public meeting at the Garden City Library, we will go into our summer hiatus until September, although each of us on the EPOA board will stay active all summer long to ensure the needs of the residents of the East are met. "Progress Through Participation" is our motto and we need your support to keep Garden City the great village that it is!

# The Community Agreement: Its History and Importance

Lately, a few residents have advocated “...doing away with *The Community Agreement*.” This has prompted many others to ask “*What is The Community Agreement, how does it work, and why should we keep it?*” Here are some answers.

## What is The Community Agreement?

The Community Agreement originated in 1919, when the Village of Garden City was incorporated. At that time, there were three developed areas in Garden City – “Old Garden City,” now known as the Central Section, with 50 homes; “Garden City East,” now known as the Eastern Section, with 160 homes; and “Garden City Estates,” with 160 homes, now known as the Estates Section. The current Western Section was mostly undeveloped land within Estates until 1931 when it formally became its own geographic section of the Village.

Until 1919 two development companies owned and managed the unsold land within each of the three geographic sections. The Garden City Company controlled Old Garden City and Garden City East, while the Estates Corporation owned the Estates Section. The developers owned the roads, provided fire and police protection and controlled their own zoning by determining the size and allowable usage of each plot of land they sold to individual property owners.

For practical reasons, individual property owners in all of the sections, along with the developers, decided to unite as an incorporated village with one government to provide uniform municipal services and zoning codes.

A debate ensued on how to prevent any one section from dominating the Board of Trustees or the School Board. In 1919, as today, the number of property owners, population density and physical size of each area are not equal.

To resolve the problem, the Community Agreement was adopted as a compromise solution that has been honored ever since.

## The Community Agreement Party

Under the Community Agreement, each of four sections of the Village has two seats on the Village Board of Trustees, one of which is the Mayor’s. All eight Board members, including the Mayor, are elected to serve two-year terms. At the conclusion of the Mayor’s term, since the Mayor is one of two BOT members from any given section, the Mayor’s seat rotates to another section of the Village.

Each section is responsible for providing its own candidates for the annual General Village Election, held in March and governed by NYS Election Law. The candidates from the four sections are presented as The Community Agreement Party slate.

## The Unified Procedure

To form the Community Agreement Party slate, each section has a nominating committee that presents candidates for the March General Election. Under the Unified Procedure, residents of the respective sections meet in January, at which point addi-

tional nominees may be presented by persons eligible to vote in general elections who reside within that section. Should that occur, a local “run-off” or primary election is held two weeks later. Only persons residing within that section may vote in the “run-off” election. The winner becomes that section’s entry on the Community Agreement Party’s ballot for the March General Election.

## The Property Owners’ Associations

Under the Community Agreement, each section has its own Property Owners’ Association. The POAs adhere to the Unified Procedure. The individual POAs have their own by-laws to form their nominating committees, and all are responsible for holding the local “run-off” elections when they are necessary.

The POAs have two critical functions, the first of which is to provide the mechanism for nominating candidates for election to the Village BOT and the School Board. The nominating committees traditionally seek people for Mayor and Trustee who have experience working within the POAs, so as to ensure that our Village officials bring to the table an overall understanding of the Village infrastructure, the various commissions and the Village Code, as well as the duties and responsibilities of a mayor and trustee vested by NYS.

The second is to serve as a civic association, so that residents can bring concerns to their POA as well as the BOT. To promote communication and cooperation among all four POAs, the section presidents and vice presidents form the Joint Conference Committee to discuss issues that affect the Village as a whole, and to create village-wide awareness of issues that are unique to any given section.

## Why Keep the Community Agreement?

Since 1919, the Community Agreement has provided an orderly system for nominating candidates for the General Village Election. It has ensured that two elected officials from each section of the Village will serve on the BOT at all times.

Under NYS law, anyone may present a petition to the Village Clerk to be included on the General Election ballot.

However, the practice has been discouraged because it could tip the balance of representation on the BOT, since the top vote-getters win the open trustee seats, no matter what section of the Village they reside in.

The Community Agreement prevents domination by one section over the others; avoids partisan politics and control of our Home Rule by a major political party; produces elected officials who have demonstrated a thorough knowledge of Village affairs, and, along with the POAs, provides an open form of government rooted in cooperation, compromise and respect among residents from all four sections of the Village.

by Dorothy Episcopia  
Past President, EPOA

# **Save the Date**

**Monday, June 2  
7:30 p.m.  
EPOA Annual Meeting**

**Garden City Library, Lower Level**

**On the agenda: Election of EPOA Officers, Directors  
and  
Nominating Committee Members**

**Updates on Current Village Issues**

***All Invited to Listen and be Heard***