

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Garden City Estates
Property Owners' Association
Held on January 15, 2013 at Stratford School**

The regular monthly meeting of the Garden City Estates Property Owners' Association was held at Stratford School on January 15, 2013.

Library Committee

The Library Committee Chairman Randy Colahan reported that he had been named as Committee Chair for another year. There was \$87,000 increase in the Library budget for the coming year representing a 2.4% increase over last year's budget. \$80,000 of the \$87,000 in additional costs is mandated by State requirements for pay raises.

Due to the recent of Sal Catania, who had instrumental in the movie program being offered at the Library, a new Director for that program, Steve Tobias, has taken over the job.

Recreational Committee

Pat Manley reported that the Village is looking at capital projects for over the next five years. These include landscape improvements on the Seventh Street business district as well as a survey that is to be conducted on recreational and cultural affairs. Kathy Auro, the Senior Advisory Committee, said that a survey is being sent out to all seniors as well as a newsletter which acquaints seniors with the activities going on in the Village which are directed to them.

Zoning

Betsy Andromidas raised the issue of a house near her home off Newmarket Road which is being inhabited by Adelphi University students. There are as many as dozen students living in the house at various times and it is understood that there are a few other homes in the Village where the same situation exists. The Village Trustees and Village authorities have been advised of the situation. There is a concern that the number of unrelated persons living in this house constitutes a fire hazard as well as a violation of Section 1.27 of the Village Administrative Code which provides that no more than two lodgers may reside in a single family home. The matter is being pursued at all levels of the Village Government to ensure that Garden City homes do not become boarding houses for students attending Adelphi University.

School Board

School Board President Colleen Foley distributed the high school profile. She then discussed security concerns and advised that the Garden City School District has a very close relationship with the Police and Fire Departments. This includes lockdown and lockout drills performed on a regular basis. There are no plans to arm either administrators or school custodians.

Approximately \$33 million of the bond work for the improvement of the Garden City school system has been expended and there is the possibility that another \$2.6 million of the bond funds will not be spent. The music addition has recently been concluded at the High School and that an opening ceremony is scheduled for February 7, 2013. Other improvements as a result of the bond issue include repairs to the bus storage facility, a new phone system and lighting replacements at several schools. There are some issues with National Grid installing gas lines at certain schools. There are also additional technology needs which are being addressed.

Trustees Report

Trustees DeMaro and Daughney reported on developments in the Village. Trustee DeMaro asked that all residents notify the Village with their telephone numbers so that they can be notified in the event of emergencies. There have been recent changes implemented in Fire Department with tours of duty going to twelve hours from fourteen hours. Trustee Daughney discussed the recent recommendations which have been implemented which require that all paid firemen and their lieutenant be sheltered at the main fire house at Village Hall during evening hours, with auxiliary fire houses being closed during the night time hours. Trustee Daughney advised that the new fire alert system has actually cut down response times and volunteers are getting to fires much more quickly. Negotiations with the Fire Fighters Union are continuing and there has been no contract in effect for the last four years. There is a mandatory arbitration provision in effect in the event that an agreement is not reached between the Village and the Firemen's Union.

With respect to repairs from Hurricane Sandy, the Village has expended approximately \$4.5 million which does not include sidewalk repairs and repairs to lighting. Trustee Daughney anticipates that the Federal Government will likely reimburse 75% of the funds expended by the Village with the State Government reimbursing another 12%. The Village is looking into the possibility of bonding out the cost of the Sandy cleanup as a prudent fiscal measure. There is also being investigated the possibility of buying additional generators for Village facilities so that in the event of a power failure residents would have a place to shelter.

Guest Speakers

President Slattery then introduced two guest speakers of the evening, Ryan Donnelly of the Donnelly Group and Craig Tigh of T & T Enterprises. Ryan produced a very comprehensive study showing the improvements in the Garden City real estate market over the last year, particularly in the Estates Section. Ryan emphasized the Estates Section is one of the most desirable places to live in the Village and he believes that demand will be strong throughout the coming year. It pointed out that there was a glut of potential buyers on the market looking to move into the Estates area. Ryan advised prospective sellers that if their homes were priced right, they would sell quickly.

Craig Tigh of T & T Enterprises has been a resident of the Village for thirty-two years. He is licensed automobile dealer and pointed out some of the statistics concerning recent car sales. He also pointed out that there are approximately 250,000 cars that were lost in Hurricane Sandy, which created supply problems for dealers who have no inventory to sell in view of high demand. This increased the prices of used cars, which had not been plentiful due to the recession in years 2007 and 2008. Craig then discussed the pros and cons of owning versus leasing of a vehicle. Even if you use a vehicle for more 15,000 miles a year, the standard allowance for most leased vehicles, Craig is able to structure a lease so that you can use a vehicle for as many miles a year as is necessary. Craig also emphasized by leasing a new car, you are getting the manufacturer's warranty, have lower monthly payments and lower down payments. Craig has a full service facility located in Floral Park which is able to service car that are leased through him.

The meeting concluded with thanks from President Slattery for all those attended the meeting. The meeting was concluded at 9:50 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Garden City Estates Property Owners Association will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Holland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Holland
Secretary

**Minutes of the Electors Meeting of the Garden City
Estates Property Owners' Association
Held on January 15, 2013 at Stratford School**

The Electors Meeting of the Garden City Estates Property Owners' Association was held at the Stratford School cafeteria on Tuesday evening, January 15, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. President Slattery opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and then turned the conduct of the Electors Meeting over to Manny Velez, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Velez announced that the Nominating Committee had selected Laura Hastings of 147 Euston Road as the Estates Property Owners Association's candidate for School Board Trustee. Ms. Hastings was not challenged. The Nominating Committee selected as its candidate for Village Trustee John DeMaro of 84 Wellington Road, our current Trustee. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Estates Property Owners' Association, a challenge to Mr. DeMaro's selection as candidate was made by Gregory R. Blair of 80 Oxford Boulevard. Mr. Blair's petition was timely received and had a sufficient number of signatures to qualify as a proper challenge. Accordingly, a run-off election will be held on January 29, 2013 in the lobby of the Stratford School between 4:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Any resident of the Estates Section can vote for the candidate of their choice to represent the Estates Section as a Village Trustee.

Each candidate then made a brief speech briefly outlining their qualifications. Greg Blair, the challenger, is a fifteen year resident of the Estates Section and has been a long time parishioner at St. Anne's Parish where he served as Parent Representative, Chair of the Finance Committee and as a CYO Basketball Coach. Greg has lived in the Franklin Square/Garden City area for virtually all of his adult life. Greg was with NatWest Bank between 1980 and 1990 dealing in renewable energy projects. Since that time, he has founded his own company and is an independent business entrepreneur. He has industrial management experience and believes that his background would bring a different set of skills to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Blair emphasized that he was not a "Committee to Save St. Paul's" candidate and remains open to discussing private/public partnerships to determine a feasible use for the St. Paul's facility.

John DeMaro, the choice of the Nominating Committee of the Estates Property Owners' Association, then spoke. Mr. DeMaro is married to Kim DeMaro. They have three children and reside at 84 Wellington Road. Mr. DeMaro stressed his experience, his voting record and commitment to the Village, pointing out his involvement in the Property Owners' Association as Present and his service on several committees of the Board of Trustees. Mr. DeMaro said that he has learned every step of the Village process by serving on the Traffic Commission, as Commissioner of Public Works and as an attorney in the Ruskin firm on Long Island for the last twenty years where he is engaged in an intellectual property law practice. Mr. DeMaro stressed that during his service on

the Board of Trustees for the last two years, the tax rate has remained low and executive compensation perks previously paid to senior Village officials have been removed.

The Electors' meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.