

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.

APRIL , 2007

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc. cordially invites you to attend its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, **April 25, 2007** at 8:00 PM in the Greenville School Cafeteria, Glendale Road, Scarsdale, NY. We will begin our 60th year of service to the Edgemont Community.

On the agenda for the **April 25th** meeting are the President's Report; the Treasurer's Annual Report; the election of Officers and Directors of the Council for 2007-2008; and a Guest Speaker.

Please join us for coffee and dessert between 7:30 and 8:00 PM

GUEST SPEAKER

What is the Westchester County Board of Legislators, what do they do, and how does it impact us? From management of the Bronx River Parkway Reservation to a legislative package for property tax relief, to its land use and planning document, "Patterns for Westchester", county government is very involved in making Westchester County a desirable place to live. This year our guest speaker is the Hon. William J. Ryan, Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Mr. Ryan will speak to us about county government and the various ways in which it works to improve the quality of life in Westchester County.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As I complete my third, and final, year as President, I cannot help but look at how ECC has changed. ECC has grown, both in membership and as an organization. We held our first Edgemont Get-Together last September at the Greenburgh Nature Center and hope to do so again this year.

In addition, the Council now has its web site up and running. You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader to view some of the content. Please visit The Edgemont Community Council online at www.edgemontcommunitycouncil.org.

ECC is the umbrella organization for all the Edgemont civic associations, and as such it is the only common forum representing the entire Edgemont community. As it begins its 60th year of service to this community, I ask that you support ECC by sending in your membership dues. In addition to supporting the annual newsletter and other activities, your dues support the School Board Nominating Committee, which is funded solely by ECC. I also encourage you to become involved, either with your civic association or with ECC. The greater our awareness and participation, the more we will make a difference in the quality of life in Edgemont.

I look forward to greeting you personally on the 25th.

Michelle McNally

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.

Founded in 1947 to determine community opinion on civic matters and coordinate community action thereon and to plan and promote the general welfare of the community embraced within Union Free School District # 6.

Officers and Directors

OFFICERS:

President Michelle McNally
1st VP Robin Schaffer
2nd VP Christine Klerer
Treasurer James F. Lasser
Recording Secretary Pamela Ray
Corresponding Secretary Madelon K. O'Shea

DIRECTORS:

John Blakley Larry Rusoff
 Todd Garvelink John Sganga
 Karen Gattegno David Stern
 Neal Lerner Lisa Wexler
 David Younger

SBNC Representatives

Brenda Beiser Burt Lefkowitz
 Heather Thorp (alt)

Newsletter Editors: Mark Baron
 Michelle McNally

The eight member Associations of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. are

- The Central Park Avenue Civic Association
- The Cotswold Association, Inc.
- The Edgemont Association
- Fort Hill Association
- Greenridge Association
- Longview Association
- Northern Greenville Association
- Southern Greenville Association

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc. Newsletter is published annually by the Board of Directors and is distributed without charge throughout the Edgemont Community

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

In accordance with the Council's by-laws, the election of Officers and Directors will take place at the Annual Meeting. The following names have been placed in nomination as Officers for 1 year terms; Directors for the terms indicated; and School Board Nominating Committee Representatives and Alternates, as indicated, by the Nominating Committee.

OFFICERS:

President Robert Bernstein
First Vice President Michelle McNally
Second Vice President Todd Garvelink
Treasurer James F. Lasser
Recording Secretary Pamela Ray
Corresponding Secretary Lisa Wexler

DIRECTORS:

3 Year Term Ending June 30, 2010 Robert Bernstein
 Christine Klerer Michelle McNally
 Madelon O'Shea Robin Schaffer

SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:

Regular Member— 2 yr term ending 6/30/09 Eric Kantor
Alternate Member—1 yr term ending 6/30/08 Siobhan Dolan

Just a reminder from your Board of Directors about Voter registration. All citizens of the United States who are registered voters are eligible to cast a ballot in the School District budget vote and election on **Tuesday May 15, 2007**. The voting place is the Gymnasium at Edgemont Junior/Senior High School on White Oak Lane. The polls will be open from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Registration information can be obtained from the School District at its business office at Edgemont Junior/Senior School on White Oak Lane during normal school hours.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year, ECC launched two new initiatives. The first was the Edgemont Get-Together, which we held at the Greenburgh Nature Center in early September. The second was our website. Our website committee includes Todd Garvelink, Jim Lasser, Larry Russoff, and David Stern. They've done a great job. Please visit us online at www.edgemontcommunitycouncil.org.

Dealing with Town affairs has been somewhat challenging. Over the past year, Town Board meetings have been dominated by wrangling between the Supervisor and Town Council over the day to day management of the Town, which has resulted in very little being accomplished by our governing officials; however, we are beginning to see some progress. ECC has called for action on a number of issues important to our community including:

Sidewalk Policy: Last year the Town Council directed the Supervisor for the second time to develop a sidewalk policy. The Supervisor put forth a proposal last spring, and a public discussion was held on June 28. ECC attended that meeting and commented on the proposal, but the Supervisor was not present, there was no stenographer to provide a transcript, and nothing was accomplished.

A public presentation and discussion on standards for the construction and installation of sidewalks as they relate to public safety was held on March 28. At this meeting the Town Council presented a plan developed by Town staff that for the first time attempted to tackle this complex issue in a rational and meaningful way. The Town outlined three steps for dealing with this issue. The first step is to begin reclaiming the Town's 5-foot right of way, measured from the curb or edge of a road. The Town realizes that many residents have obstructions in the right of way, and it was suggested that this be phased in over a period of time.

The second step was to fill in gaps in existing sidewalks. For example, sidewalks on Central Avenue and Route 119 are not continuous. The Town would look at installing additional sidewalks where needed.

The third step would be to look at installing sidewalks at bus stops, around scatter-site housing sites (multi-family public housing), and around schools. Here the Town would be defining areas, not just a particular street, where people are walking and would seek to address pedestrian safety.

While this does not resolve the matter immediately, the Town's efforts to address pedestrian safety issues in an

organized way bode well for accomplishing something. The next meeting on sidewalks, for which, as of this newsletter, there is no date, will deal with the costs – how much and who pays. This too may be controversial. A state comptroller opinion last year suggested that the town's current practice of charging only unincorporated area residents may be unlawful.

ECC wants residents to be aware that it is not advocating for a sidewalk on every street in the Town. ECC has asked for sidewalks only on streets where needed for public safety. ECC has also asked the Town to enforce keeping its right of way unobstructed on all streets so that pedestrians will at least have a way to get out of the path of vehicles.

ECC understands that residents who oppose a sidewalk in front of their home do so for several reasons: they do not want to shovel it when there is snow; they are concerned about liability should someone fall; they don't like the look of most sidewalks/footpaths; they see them as giving their street a more urban character; and they believe all streets should be considered equal and therefore all in need of sidewalks.

In response, ECC has asked the Town to revise its snow and ice removal ordinance so that for public safety reasons, the Town assumes responsibility for removing snow and ice from sidewalks along major thoroughfares, like Ardsley Road and Fort Hill Road and from any other sidewalks that are constructed for public safety reasons. We believe clearing these sidewalks should be the responsibility not of individual property owners, as the Town currently requires, but of the Town itself – because it is the Town that will almost certainly be held liable in the event an unsafe condition on these sidewalks results in an injury or death.

It is ECC's hope that the Town Board will follow through on developing a sidewalk policy to address pedestrian safety issues throughout the Town.

Leaf Collections: After numerous complaints, the Town added \$20,000 to its leaf-collection budget for this year. How the Town's Department of Public Works intends to use the extra money it has been allocated for this purpose is not yet known.

Garbage Collections: We continue to ask the Town for a second garbage collection during holiday weeks, rather than two recycling collections. The Town recently has indicated that it will take this request under advisement.

Mediation: The Town spent \$25,000 on a mediator to try to settle the dispute between the villages and the unin-

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

continued

(Continued from page 3)

incorporated area over the allocation of millions of dollars of parks and recreation expenses for parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities that are open town-wide but paid for solely by residents in the unincorporated area. The dispute developed in connection with rulings issued in favor of ECC director Bob Bernstein in the so-called "Taxter Ridge" lawsuit. In the Taxter Ridge case, the State Supreme Court ruled that the cost of the Taxter Ridge parkland, which is open to the entire Town, had to be paid for by the entire Town, not just the unincorporated area. A subsequent lawsuit was filed concerning all Town parks that are open town-wide.

During the mediation, Bernstein offered a framework for how the dispute might be resolved and invited the other representatives at the table to respond. After multiple meetings of the group with the mediator, he received no proposal in response, and the mediation ended. ECC continues to believe that a negotiated solution rather than a court ordered one would be better for everyone.

Tennis Bubble at Veteran Park: The Town has yet to complete a deal with the private company Sporttime to build a tennis bubble at Veteran Park. The bubble would be put up only for the winter months so that residents would have a year round facility to play tennis. Installing the tennis bubble also would enable the Town to expand its instructional program. The terms of the deal would require that the tennis facility be open to all town residents, including those in the villages - at least during the months that the bubble is in place. However, at the urging of certain village officials who are concerned that parks open town-wide might have to be paid for town-wide, the Town has taken the position in the Bernstein litigation that even if it were in the best interests of the Town to do so, the Town has no legal authority to allow any of its non-federally funded parks to be open town-wide for any reason. As a result of the Town's litigation position, Sporttime has put its interest in the project on hold.

Comprehensive Plan: The Town has allocated funds in its 2007 budget to update its Comprehensive Plan, including the Central Avenue Comprehensive Development Program. A comprehensive plan is the framework for all the land use laws and regulations in the Town. Although the Town did an Open Space plan in 2000, the last time the Town looked at planning and land use in the unincorporated

area was during the 1970's. The Town has appointed a nine-member committee to work on this project, seven of whom are representatives of the Town and two who are community liaisons.

Central Avenue Comprehensive Development Program: In addition to supporting an update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, ECC has asked the Town to update The Central Avenue Comprehensive Development Program. The Central Avenue plan was developed in 1976. It's thirty years later, and it needs to be updated for future development and redevelopment

Finally, ECC has asked the Town to institute a moratorium on multifamily residential development on Central Avenue so that the Town can study the mix of uses on Central Avenue and their densities in the context of updating the Central Avenue plan. The proposed moratorium was sent to the Planning Board and to the County for review. The county has submitted its comments, and the Town is working to address them.

Zoning Code Revision Committee: The Town has appointed a nine-member committee to update the Town's zoning code. The committee is comprised of seven town representatives and two community liaisons. The Town Board has retained the services of the planning consulting firm BFJ Planning to assist in this effort.

Proposed Ethics Legislation: The Town is revamping its Ethics Board which, despite several controversies, has not held a meeting in more than three years. Certain Board members have now resigned; others have not been reappointed. The Town Board has appointed two new members to the Ethics Board. In addition, the Town Council has proposed revisions to the Ethics Code. Highlights of its proposal include prohibiting Public Officers, Employees or Agency Members of the Town from accepting campaign contributions from applicants, or their legal or other representatives, who have applications before any of the Town boards; as-of-right applications would not be affected. In addition, any person who can present a verified complaint will now be able to seek an opinion from the Ethics Board; previously, only the Town Board could request an opinion from the Ethics Board. ECC has supported ethics reform. It is gratifying to see reform finally happening.

Traffic Safety Reminder

Council reminds all drivers to observe local speed limits; to obey traffic signals — especially stop signs and to be considerate of pedestrians

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In accordance with the current School Board Nominating Committee By-Laws, Sections A.4(a&d), Designation of Members of the Committee "...The second announcement must include the dates and places of the meetings at which elections will be held and the names of all candidates previously submitted who will be considered for election. ... **If an organization does not comply with the foregoing requirements, its designees shall not serve as a member of the Committee**" Only the individuals named below from their sending organizations will be eligible for election and subsequent seating on the Committee.

Central Park Avenue

2 Year

1 Year

Alternate

Edgemont

May 21, 2007— 8:00 PM

Edgemont High School Faculty Lounge

2 Year Darrel Seipe

1 Year Miclele Caplan

Alternate

Fort Hill

TBA

2 Year

1 Year Monica Sganga— completing 2 year term

Alternate

Greenridge

June 3, 2007 — 4:00 PM

Will be announced in the Association's mailing

2 Year Urvashi Kohli

1 Year Wasim Salimi— completing 2 year term

Alternate

Longview

May 14, 2007 – 8:00 PM

Greenville School Library

1 Year Leslie Heineman— completing 2 year term

1 Year John Blakley — second 1 year term

Alternates Judy Seiff; Margie Lewis

Northern Greenville

April 16, 2007 — 8:00 PM

Edgemont High School Conference Room

2 Year Michaeline Curtis

1 Year Jodi Roth

Alternate Pei Ling Liu

Southern Greenville

May 21, 2007 — 8:00 PM

Greenville School Library

2 Year Calvin Chin

1 Year Mark Nadasdi— completing 2 year term

Alternate Gary Stern

Cotswold

May 6, 2007 — 4:00 PM

10 Chedworth Road

2 Year Lisa Feldman

1 Year Karen Sexton— completing 2 year term

Alternate Wendy Amer Hirsch

Edgemont Community Council

April 25, 2007 — 8:00 PM

Greenville School Cafeteria

2 Year Eric Kantor

1 Year Burt Lefkowitz—completing 2 year term

Alternate Siobhan Dolan

Annual Meeting
April 25, 2007
Greenville Cafeteria
8:00 PM

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.
PO Box 1161
Scarsdale, NY 10583-9161

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P.O. Box 1161

Scarsdale, NY 10583-9161

I am interested in furthering the activities of the Edgemont Community Council and would like to become a member.
Enclosed are my family's dues for the year July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

eMail Address: _____

Regular Membership \$15

Supporting Membership \$30

Your comments please: