

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.

APRIL , 2006

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc. cordially invites you to attend its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, **April 26, 2006** at 8:00 PM in the Greenville School Cafeteria, Glendale Road, Scarsdale, NY. We will begin our 59th year of service to the Edgemont Community.

On the agenda for the **April 26th** meeting are the President's Report; the Treasurer's Annual Report; the election of Officers and Directors of the Council for 2006-2007; the presentation of our 2006 Silver Box Award; and a Guest Speaker.

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

GUEST SPEAKER

Over the last year discussions about property assessments and the maintenance of our tax base, previously considered arcane and dull topics, have found their way into ordinary conversation, particularly with regard to their impact on school taxes. Given the importance of our schools to this community, ECC thought it would be worthwhile to learn how other communities are dealing with these issues. Last month, the Village Trustees of Bronxville approved a village-wide revaluation aimed at restoring tax equity and the stability of the tax base for its school system. This year our guest speaker will be Ms. Elizabeth Harding, a Bronxville resident who championed village tax reform. Ms. Harding will share Bronxville's experience with us.

THE SILVER BOX AWARD

The 2006 Silver Box Award for Community Service will be presented to Mrs. Michelle McNally in recognition of her ongoing service to the Edgemont community. Her biography is on page 4.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The past year has been a busy one. Membership increased substantially, and this enabled ECC to fund additional mailings for the School Board Nominating Committee and at Halloween time. We are also in the early stages of setting up a website (<http://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 59th 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 26th.

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

DIRECTORS:

John Blakley	Larry Rusoff
Peter Fisch	John Sganga
Mrinal Jhangiani	David Stern
Neal Lerner	

SBNC Representatives

Brenda Beiser James F. Lasser

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

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	Michelle McNally
First Vice President	Robin Schaffer
Second Vice President	Christine Klerer
Treasurer	James F. Lasser
Recording Secretary	Pamela Ray
Corresponding Secretary	Madelon K. O'Shea

DIRECTORS:

3 Year Term Ending June 30, 2009	Todd Garvelink
	Karen Gattegno
	Lisa Wexler
2 Year Term Ending June 30, 2008	John Blakley

SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:

Regular Member— 2 yr term ending 6/30/08	Burt Lefkowitz
Alternate Member—1 yr term ending 6/30/07	Heather Thorp

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 16, 2006**. 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's projects were fewer but greater in scope. Highlights include:

The Town continued to be responsive to our request that shopping center owners comply with the Town's zoning regulations. After withdrawing its site plan application for renovating the Midway Shopping Center, in protest of a permit condition that they comply with zoning code parking requirements or seek a variance, the owners of the Midway Shopping Center reconsidered their position, re-did the parking lot to comply with the Town's regulations, and subsequently were granted the approvals needed to complete their renovations and bring in additional tenants.

ECC also was successful in getting the Town to enforce regulations protecting environmentally sensitive areas. The Town has been responsive to our efforts to protect wetland areas and to prevent clear-cutting of trees on vacant lots where new homes will be built. Greater attention also is being paid to environmental issues at Planning Board reviews. A new tree ordinance is still in the works, but the expectation is that the Town will have a new tree law in the near future.

ECC director David Younger has been working on building a website which we hope to make regular use of in the coming year.

This year, the Central Park Avenue Civic Association, which has been inactive for several years, was revitalized. Its directors and officers include Ed Krauss, Arthur Beiley, Lorena Chang, Linda Eisenkraft, Rob Griffin, Ken McDavid and Norma Segal. The association will have an annual meeting in May and will participate in the School Board Nominating Committee. To those in this civic association area, we encourage you to get involved.

Without question, the most difficult and serious issue ECC dealt with this year was the Town Board's effort to mediate the dispute between the Town and its unincorporated areas, including Edgemont, 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 areas. The dispute developed in connection with rulings issued in favor of ECC director Bob Bernstein in the so-called "Taxter Ridge" lawsuit and the Town Board's subsequent decision to appeal the court's ruling. 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. In December, the Town Board decided to hire a mediator to deal with this dispute.

Bob, ECC and the Council of Greenburgh Civic Associations (the umbrella group representing the rest of unincorporated Greenburgh) all supported mediation in an effort to avoid further litigation. The Town's six villages demanded that the Town Board appeal the Taxter Ridge ruling and refused to participate in any mediation. Accordingly, village officials boycotted the first two mediation sessions.

Residents should be aware that Bob worked tirelessly in good faith to achieve a negotiated resolution. He put several proposals on the table at the January meeting and received no response. Instead, in February, the Town Board bowed to pressure from village officials and filed its appeal papers. As a result the effort to mediate the dispute over parks and recreation expenses is on hold, at least for now. Bob has said he can mediate or litigate, but that as a volunteer, expending his own time and money on behalf of unincorporated Greenburgh, he cannot reasonably be expected to do both at the same time. The Town Board has chosen to litigate, and Bob says he will do likewise until such time as the Town makes a serious proposal. His response to the Town's appeal was filed last month, and a new lawsuit covering the rest of the Town's park and recreation expenses will be filed this month. Copies of the briefs are posted on the "Grassroots for Greenburgh" website (<http://home.att.net/~grassrootsforgreenburgh/>).

I urge everyone to support Bob in this effort. To collect and hold contributions for the cost of preparing and filing court documents, a legal defense fund has been established. For those who would like to contribute, checks should be made payable to Bob Bernstein and sent to him at 48 Old Colony Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530.

And finally, on a lighter note, the Southern Greenville and Fort Hill Civic Associations have organized an Edgemont get-together at the Greenburgh Nature Center on **Sunday, September 10th** from 3pm to 5pm. ECC and the other Edgemont civic associations have been invited to participate in hosting this event. Leave your Town cares at home, and come see and meet your neighbors.

The ECC Board looks forward to a fun and productive upcoming year.

The Silver Box Award to Michelle McNally

This year, for the first time in our collective memory, the Silver Box Award for Community Service will be awarded to a sitting Council officer. ECC is proud to present the 54th box to President Michelle McNally.

In announcing the award, selection committee chair Robin Schaffer (a past Silver Box honoree himself) said, "Michelle is incredibly deserving of this honor. Not only has she worked tirelessly for years on behalf of the Edgemont community, but her accomplishments for Edgemont have been huge. Furthermore, even though the ECC doesn't ordinarily give its award to current officers, let alone its president, the feeling this year was quite different. The civic association heads were all in favor of recognizing Michelle's contributions, and recognizing them now. No one thought otherwise."

Michelle has lived in Edgemont for more than 20 years. She is a graduate of the City College of New York, with a B.A. and Masters in English. Married to Charles McNally, they have two children, Caroline and William. William is currently in his junior year at EHS. Caroline, a 2005 graduate of Edgemont High School, is a freshman at Cornell.

Prior to becoming ECC president, Michelle served two terms on the Edgemont School Board from 1998 to 2004. Since becoming ECC president in 2004, ECC membership has more than doubled; under her leadership several Edgemont residents have been encouraged to serve on Council's board, and ECC has assumed a leadership role on a wide range of issues important to Edgemont.

Among her accomplishments as ECC president, Michelle led the organization in:

- Challenging the Town's assertion that it had no authority to build sidewalks for public health and safety. The State Comptroller's office issued an opinion in Edgemont's favor.

- Defeating a proposed town-wide zoning change that would have equated state regulated health facilities with private medical practices and would have zoned them throughout the Town, including residential areas in Edgemont.

Urging Town officials to comply with Town code ethics prohibitions against soliciting political contributions from developers with applications pending before the various Town Boards.

In addition, she is currently working with Town officials and other civic leaders on revisions to the tree law that will satisfy objections voiced by Edgemont as well as other residents of unincorporated Greenburgh. She has also led efforts to re-start the Central Park Avenue Civic Association. That Association, which had been dormant for many years, will hold its annual meeting in May and will once again be represented on Edgemont's School Board Nominating Committee. Michelle was also instrumental in getting the ECC to support the work of the Edgemont Village Exploratory Committee.

As a member of the school board, she served as vice president from 2002-2004 and was the board's representative to the Town, where she was successful in obtaining thousands of dollars in cable TV funds for the school district's extra-curricular cable TV activities. Michelle also served on the Edgemont Committee on Community Health, the Kindergarten Study Committee and was, for several years, a PTA grade parent.

Since 1996 Michelle has been a member of the Town's Antenna Review Board and also served on the Town's Zoning Board Rules and Procedures Committee.

Prior to being elected to the School Board, Michelle was active for five years on the ECC, first as the representative of the Cotswold civic association, and then as a director and co-chair of the ECC's zoning and planning committee. Among her accomplishments, McNally was responsible for obtaining builder escrow funds from the Town to rehabilitate the two tennis courts at Greenville Elementary School. Builder escrow funds are monies contributed by a developer/property owner when land is subdivided to build housing. Such funds can only be used for recreational purposes.

McNally was also president of the Cotswold Association from 1993 to 1997 and was the 1999 recipient of Cotswold's Distinguished Citizen Award.

School Budget Information Meeting

On Monday, May 1, at its regularly scheduled meeting, your Board will host a School Budget information meeting. The Board of Education will have already adopted a budget resolution for approval by the voters on May 16th and the information will be presented to the community at this and other forums prior to the vote. In its belief that the best voter is an informed voter, the Board urges you to attend this session.

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 May 9, 2006 — 7:30 PM Edgemont High School Faculty Lounge

2 Year Norma Segal

1 Year Rob Griffin

Alternate

Edgemont May 22, 2006— 8:00 PM Edgemont High School Faculty Lounge

2 Year Judy Kaminstein

1 Year Jules Natowitz— completing 2 yr term

Alternate

Fort Hill May 7, 2006 — 4:00 PM 6 Sundale Place

1 Year Margaret Goldberg

1 Year Monica Sganga

Alternate

Greenridge May 21, 2006 — 4:00 PM Will be announced in the Association's mailing

2 Year

1 Year Marjorie Weinstein — completing 2 year term

Alternate

Longview May 22, 2006 - 8:00 PM Greenville School Cafeteria

2 Year Leslie Heineman

1 Year John Blakley

Alternates Judy Seiff; Margie Lewis

Northern Greenville April 24, 2006 — 8:00 PM Edgemont High School Conference Room

2 Year

1 Year

Alternate

Southern Greenville May 22, 2006 — 8:00 PM Greenville School Library

2 Year Mark Nadasdi

1 Year Bonnie Orden — completing 2 year term

Alternate Roz Chantz

Cotswold May 7, 2006 — 4:00 PM 10 Chedworth Road

2 Year Karen Sexton

1 Year Roberta Binder

Alternate Lisa Feldman

Edgemont Community Council April 26, 2006 — 8:00 PM Greenville School Cafeteria

2 Year Burt Lefkowitz

1 Year Brenda Beiser—completing 2 year term

Alternate Heather Thorp

Annual Meeting
April 26, 2006
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, 2006—June 30, 2007.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

eMail Address: _____

Regular Membership \$15

Supporting Membership \$30

Your comments please: