

# The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.

APRIL, 2010

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc. cordially invites you to attend its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, **April 28, 2010** at 8:00 PM in the Greenville School Cafeteria, Glendale Road, Scarsdale, NY. We will begin our 63<sup>rd</sup> year of service to the Edgemont Community.

On the agenda for the **April 28<sup>th</sup>** meeting are the President's Report; the Treasurer's Annual Report; the election of Officers and Directors of the Council for 2010-2011; the presentation of the Silver Bowl award for service to our community; a Guest Speaker; and a vote on two proposed amendments to the by-laws.

### GUEST SPEAKER

This year's guest speaker will be new Westchester County Executive Robert P. Astorino, who will discuss the challenges we face in this time of government fiscal austerity. We are honored to have Mr. Astorino as our guest.

### THE SILVER BOWL AWARD

This year the ECC will bestow its Silver Bowl Award for distinguished community service on longtime resident John C. Gerspach of Old Edgemont. Mr. Gerspach is being recognized for more than 25 years of service to the Edgemont community, on behalf of the ECC, the Edgemont Association, the E Club, as a coach, as an organizer and host of the annual Edgemont Halloween Parade, as a mainstay of our Christmas Eve caroling at Crane Pond, as announcer at Edgemont Panther football games, and so much more. Please turn to page 5 for a précis of John's service.

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Amid signs this spring that the country may finally be emerging from the Great Recession, this has been yet another good year for our school district, which is in its fifth year of a remarkable financial turnaround -- with five consecutive years of single digit tax hikes, including this year's proposed hike of 2.6%, which is the lowest in 20 years. At the same time, the quality of an Edgemont education remains unmatched, as the district continues to receive state and national recognition for excellence. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the Town of Greenburgh, which has not only increased town taxes to Edgemont residents by more than 55% over the past five years but, as you'll read in this issue, the town Supervisor is now proposing the consolidation of our fire district with that of Hartsdale and Fairview which, if spending remains the same, would result in an immediate increase in our fire taxes of 20%.

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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Bob Bernstein*

*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:**

<b>President</b>	Robert Bernstein
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP</b>	Michelle McNally
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP</b>	Todd Garvelink
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Sganga
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Karen Kelly
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Larry Rusoff

**DIRECTORS:**

Marc Ackerman	Schuyler Kraus
John Blakley, Sr.	Geoff Loftus
John Coleman	Madelon O'Shea
Jonathan Faust	Andrea Weiss
Robert Klerer	

<b>SBNC Representatives</b>	Catherine Woods
Amy Rothschild	Nancy Shifren

<b>Newsletter Editors:</b>	Mark Baron
Robert Bernstein	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:**

<b>President</b>	Robert Bernstein
<b>First Vice President</b>	Marc Ackerman
<b>Second Vice President</b>	Jonathan Faust
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Sganga
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Karen Kelly
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Larry Rusoff

**DIRECTORS:**

<b>3 Year Term Ending June 30, 2013</b>	Gregory Adams
	Robert Bernstein
	Jonathan Kelly
	Robert Klerer
	Geoff Loftus
<b>2 Year Term Ending June 30, 2012</b>	Jonathan Faust
<b>1 Year Term Ending June 30, 2011</b>	Schuyler Kraus

**SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:**

<b>Regular Member— 1 yr term ending 6/30/11</b>	Nancy Shifren
<b>Alternate Member—1 yr term ending 6/30/11</b>	Jonathan Bender

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 18, 2010**. 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. All high school seniors who will be eighteen years of age by May 18<sup>th</sup> are urged to register to vote as soon as possible so that they may be allowed to participate in the election.

❧ PRESIDENT'S REPORT ❧

The Edgemont Community Council had a remarkable year in 2009, with record high membership and a series of initiatives on behalf of the greater Edgemont community.

For much of the year, the ECC focused on the Town of Greenburgh's growing financial problems with Edgemont's town taxes having increased 55% over the past five years. In March, the ECC received a report from then Town Comptroller Michael Kolesar warning that several town departments lacked internal financial controls. A week later, after Kolesar's comments were publicly reported, he was fired. Kolesar has since filed suit against the Town alleging infringement of his First Amendment rights.

Later in the year, the ECC discovered that the Town was planning to include as "revenue" in its budget millions of dollars in "unclaimed funds," which turned out to be property tax refunds that the Town had owed for years but never paid to hundreds of residents. The ECC "outed" the Town by posting the refund list on the ECC website. As a result of our efforts, taxpayers in Edgemont and throughout the Town have so far been able to claim more than \$700,000 in refunds.

The ECC also disclosed at a recent meeting that the Town had been sued last summer for \$4.5 million by the Valhalla School District. The Town had made no mention of the suit or that the Town had filed a motion to dismiss, which was denied in November.

By not disclosing the suit, the Town was able to keep the public from learning that Town Clerk Judith Beville, who was running for reelection last fall with Paul Feiner, was suing the Town in her capacity as a member of the Valhalla School Board. The public was also not told that Valhalla was relying on Feiner to support its case against the Town. Because these issues had never been discussed publicly at any town board meetings, the ECC became the only forum in the entire town where any of these issues were raised.

Three years of burglaries in Edgemont, followed by a series of recent armed robberies at the 7-Eleven and Chase Bank along Central Avenue, which was then followed by a home invasion in which an elderly couple was tied up at knife-point and had their home ransacked and robbed, led the ECC to invite Greenburgh Police Chief Joseph DeCarlo to one of its regular monthly meetings, which drew a large turnout.

The ECC also held a joint community meeting with the Greenville Fire District at which dozens of residents voiced disapproval of the town supervisor's plan to seek consolidation of the Greenville, Hartsdale and Fairview Fire Districts. The ECC had concluded that such a plan would result in a 20% increase in Edgemont's fire taxes in order to subsidize the other two districts or, to keep Edgemont's taxes flat, would require substantial cuts in manpower that would undermine public safety.

In another controversy, the ECC informed residents in the vicinity of Metz Reservoir that Town officials erroneously waived their rights under Town Code to notice and a public hearing when they secretly gave United Water of New Rochelle permission last January to erect a concrete dome-like flying saucer structure over the Metz Reservoir. The town's actions violated the rights of residents under the Town Code to notice and a hearing whenever any utility plans construction work in a residential neighborhood. The town also disregarded town code requirements for site plan approval, the clear-cutting of trees on more than an acre of property, and the altering of a water course.

Residents are reminded that minutes of the ECC, which meets the first Monday of every month throughout the school year, are posted on the ECC's website, [www.edgemontcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.edgemontcommunitycouncil.org).



**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ECC BY-LAWS**

This year there are two proposed amendments to Council's By-Laws: one addresses the President's term limit; the other addresses the designation of School Board Nominating Committee representatives if a civic association fails to elect or otherwise designate representatives.

**AMENDMENT I - ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS**

This amendment addresses how long a person may serve as President. Currently, ECC's By-Laws permit the President to serve for three (3) consecutive one-year terms. The proposed amendment would remove this limit. Adoption of this amendment would provide for continued leadership and organized operation of Council. The six year term limit for directors ensures against any individual holding the office of President indefinitely. The proposed amendment to Article VI, Section 1 of ECC's By-Laws would delete the sentence that appears in italicized bold face below. No other provisions in Article VI would be changed.

**ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS**

Section 1 - The officers of the Council shall be the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Members and who shall serve for a term of one year each. *No person may be elected to serve as President for more than three consecutive elective terms while there shall be no limitation on the number of terms any other officer may serve.* Any member of the Council shall be eligible for election as President, First Vice President, or Second Vice-President if such Member is either a director elected by the members whose term has not yet expired or is elected by the Members as a director at the same annual meeting at which such Member is elected to such office. If no director is willing or able to fill the offices of Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary or Treasurer, any Member of the Council shall be eligible for election to such offices.

**AMENDMENT II - SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

This amendment addresses the election of School Board Nominating Committee Representatives in instances where a civic association does not designate SBNC members. If a civic association is inactive or otherwise fails to elect or otherwise designate SBNC representatives, there is no SBNC representation for that civic association or the geographic area it covers. The broadest possible participation in the SBNC is essential to maintaining its effectiveness. The proposed amendment to ECC's By-Laws would allow the ECC to accept SBNC nominations directly from residents of an area where the civic association fails to designate nominees. These nominations would be noticed in ECC's Annual Newsletter, as is currently the case, and voted on at ECC's Annual Meeting. Should nominations be made after the date of ECC's Annual Meeting, such nominations would be voted on at the next publicly held ECC meeting. ECC proposes adding a new Section 4 to Article VIII. The existing Section 4 would become Section 5 with changes as shown. As noted above, all changes appear in italicized bold face. Section 1, which is referenced, is included for your review.

**ARTICLE VIII - SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 1: The President shall include in two issues of the Edgemont Newsletter the following: (1) in the first issue the date by which and the appropriate names and addresses of persons to whom those desiring to be considered for the position of School Board Nominating Committee representative or alternate by the Council should indicate their interest; and (2) in the second issue the names of all persons who have indicated a desire to be considered for the position of School Board Nominating Committee representa-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Silver Bowl Award for Service to John Gerspach

The Edgemont Community Council is pleased to announce that this year's winner of the Silver Bowl Award for community service is long-time Edgemont resident John C. Gerspach.

Gerspach, a resident of Old Edgemont since 1984, and currently chief financial officer of Citigroup, has served the Edgemont community in a multitude of ways.

He served as a director of the ECC for six years, was a former president of the Edgemont Association, is a past chair of the ECC's School Board Nominating Committee, was co-president of the E Club for five years, ran E-day each year that he was president, and was responsible for raising the money to build the fitness center at the Edgemont Junior Senior High School. He has also coached over 20 Edgemont Rec teams over the years, including six years coaching the junior panther football teams, and for seven years announced the high school home football games at Blanford Field.

Gerspach is perhaps best known for hosting the annual Halloween parade party in Old Edgemont,

which has attracted costumed children and their parents from throughout the entire Edgemont community for at least a generation. Also, between 1984 and 2002, he was involved with putting the festive lights on the Christmas Tree at Crane Pond. In addition, since the early 1990s, he and his wife Dori have provided the song sheets and candles for the annual carol sing tradition, also at Crane Pond — an Edgemont tradition that goes back to the 1930s.

"I am very pleased that we will be honoring John this year," said Bob Bernstein, ECC president. "What's truly remarkable is that in his more than 25 years of distinguished service to the Edgemont community he hasn't won this award before. Quite frankly, we all thought that he had, and were embarrassed to discover that he hadn't. I therefore urge all Edgemont residents to please join us in recognizing John for his outstanding contributions. This honor is well deserved and long overdue."



### Edgemont's Civic Associations

The Edgemont Community Council is a large umbrella organization for all residents of the Edgemont Community. There are 8 local civic associations in the Community as well, whose presidents serve as directors of ECC. Our member associations are –

Central Park Avenue is on the east side of Central Ave and includes the following address: 300; 330-356; and 370-372. This organization is currently not functioning and as a result, sends no delegates to the School Board Nominating Committee

Edgemont Association is one of the two original Edgemont civic associations, with boundaries running from Central Avenue to the Bronx River Parkway, Dromore Road to the Yonkers line east of Old Army Road and the co-ops with addresses 500-509 Central Ave.

Ft. Hill encompasses the area north and south of Underhill Road. It runs from Fort Hill Road south to include Stonleigh Close and the east side of Anadale, and west along Sheridan. On its northern side it includes Rock Hill Lane and goes west to Sprain Road.

Greenridge is centered around streets adjacent to the Scarsdale Golf Club and has a Hartsdale address.

Longview runs from Central Avenue west to Sprain Parkway, from the north side of Ardsley Road to the invisible east/west line that runs down the middle of Sheridan Road.

Northern Greenville includes Scarsdale Country Estates; Scarsdale Meadows; Stoneridge Manor and all of the area behind the post office north to Healy Avenue.

Southern Greenville roughly corresponds to boundaries of Central Avenue west to Sprain Parkway, Jackson Avenue to Ardsley Road.

The Cotswold Association dates back to the late 1920's. Its boundaries run from the Yonkers line to Ardsley Road, from Central Avenue to the west side of Old Army Road.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ECC BY-LAWS**

(Continued from page 4)

tive or alternate of the Council and the date and place of the election with respect thereto. The issues of the Edgemont Newsletter in which such information shall be placed shall be the same issues as those in which the President decides to include similar information for the other participating organizations of the School Board Nominating Committee.

***New Section 4: If for any reason, on or before March 15 of any year, a civic association does not have two (2) designated members to the School Board Nominating Committee and at least one (1) designated alternate member to the School Board Nominating Committee, then the Council Board of Directors may: (i) accept nominations to fill any such vacancy directly from residents of the area represented by the affected civic association; and (ii) thereafter select an individual to fill each vacancy from the nominations received. Any such directly made nominee/selectee must be a resident of the area covered by the affected civic association. All such nominations shall be noticed in accordance with Section 1 of this Article. The Council shall select the candidate(s) to fill any vacancy by plurality of vote of Council Members at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. The term of any SBNC member thusly selected shall be 1 year. This section shall supersede Edgemont School District School Board Nominating Committee Rules and Procedures 4(d).***

***Existing Section 4 would become Section 5 with changes as shown below:***

Each School Board Nominating Committee representative and alternate shall meet the eligibility requirement specified in the Edgemont School District School Board Nominating Committee Rules and Procedures, ***provided, however, that if, for any reason, a civic association does not have two (2) designated members to the School Board Nominating Committee and at least one (1) designated alternate member to the School Board Nominating Committee on or before March 15 of any year, the Council Board of Directors may fill any such vacancy in compliance with the Council's By-Laws.*** If there shall be any conflict between these By-Laws and the Edgemont School District School Board Nominating Committee Rules and Procedures, the ***former*** shall prevail.



**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.

Council reminds you to support the Edgemont Foundation. The Foundation operates as a not for profit corporation for the purpose of making grants to the Edgemont School District in order to fund miscellaneous, but worthy, unbudgeted projects. This past year the Foundation made several large grants to the Edgemont School System. Any size gift is appreciated.



Check the Blue Book for civic association meeting dates and contact information. Please help support Council's efforts, and those of the local associations as well, by becoming a member of your local association in addition to Council.

Remember, membership in The Edgemont Community Council is available at two different levels. Regular Membership at \$15 and Supporting Membership at \$30.



**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 19, 2010— 7:00 PM

Edgemont High School Faculty Lounge

**2 Year** Debbie Schenfeld — competing a 2 year term

**1 Year** Linda Lorch

**Alternates** Sarah Stern

**Fort Hill**

TBA

**2 Year** Marilyn Berman

**1 Year** Kim Aslanian — competing a 2 year term

**Alternate**

**Greenridge**

May 29, 2010—4:00 PM

Will be announced in the Association's mailing

**1 Year** Adam Bench — competing a 2 year term

**1 Year**

**Alternate**

**Longview**

**1 Year**

**1 Year**

**Alternate**

**Northern Greenville**

**2 Year**

**1 Year**

**Alternate**

**Southern Greenville**

**1 Year**

**1 Year**

**Alternate**

**Cotswold**

May 2, 2010 — 4:00 PM

Will be announced in the Association's mailing

**1 Year** Liz Kaufman

**1 Year** Mark Romney — completing 2 year term

**Alternate** Andrea Weiss

**Edgemont Community Council**

April 28, 2010— 8:00 PM

Greenville School Cafeteria

**1 Year** Nancy Shifren

**1 Year** Catherine Woods — completing 2 year term

**Alternate** Jonathan Bender

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

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**Annual Meeting**  
**April 28, 2010**  
**Greenville Cafeteria**  
**8:00 PM**

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*The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.*  
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, 2010—June 30, 2011.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership \$15                       Supporting Membership \$30

Your comments please:

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