



# 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.

Post Office Box 1161  
Scarsdale, New York 10583

EdgemontECC.com  
FB.com/EdgemontCommunityCouncil

**March 2019**

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc. cordially invites you to attend its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 8 PM in the Greenville School Cafeteria, Glendale Road, Scarsdale, NY. We will begin our 72<sup>st</sup> year of service to the Edgemont community. On the agenda for the April 10th meeting are the President's Report; the Treasurer's Annual Report; the election of Officers and Directors of the Council for 2019-2020; the presentation of the Silver Bowl award for service to our community; and a Guest Speaker.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

This year's guest speaker is Lohud's Tax Watch reporter and columnist David McKay Wilson. Mr. Wilson has written the Tax Watch column since 2012. The post caps a career at The Journal News that began in 1986, covering City Hall in White Plains. His assignments have included City Hall in New Rochelle and Yonkers, county government in Westchester and Putnam, transportation, politics, the State House, and education. Mr. Wilson's columns have focused on public policy issues involving the state's broken property tax system, affordable housing, corruption in volunteer fire departments, the future of Westchester County Airport, and Edgemont's possible incorporation. Mr. Wilson has also led community conversations on a variety of subjects, including school budgets, affordable housing, taxation of state law, and efforts locally to mitigate the loss of the state and local tax deduction. Fearless and feared, Mr. Wilson has lived in Mahopac for the past 19 years, but his world remains in Westchester.

### **THE SILVER BOWL AWARD**

This year the ECC will bestow its Silver Bowl award for distinguished community service on Old Army Road resident David M.C. Stern, EHS Class of 1982. Between 2010 and 2016, David was a member of the Edgemont School Board and from 2015-2016, he served as school board president. Please turn to pages 3-4 for a full overview of David's service.

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

This year's been quite a ride for the ECC. With many of us focused on the ups and downs of Edgemont's state-wide effort to win the right to vote on whether to incorporate as Greenburgh's seventh village, the ECC has continued to function as Edgemont's eyes and ears when it comes to the day-to-day goings on in Town government and its impact on the 7,500 of us who call our 2.5 square mile school and fire district home. We have no shortage of volunteers, our regular monthly meetings are well attended, our discussions are robust, the opinions aired are lively and diverse, and as more and more of our newer residents get involved, it's clear that a younger generation of our residents will soon be poised to take the reins of community leadership, which is of course as it should be in a community as vibrant as ours.

During the past 12 months, the ECC continued its efforts to challenge the Town's determination to greenlight a 94-bed assisted living facility at the site of the former Sprain Brook Nursey at 448 Underhill Road; we've also monitored the Town's efforts to offer alternatives to incorporation by offering to give residents more involvement in local land use decisions and possibly expanding the Town Board from five to seven members.

At the same time, the School Board Nominating Committee, which is funded by the ECC, continues to do what Edgemont does best: serve as a community grassroots network to recruit and nominate the best qualified of our neighbors to serve on the school board for one of the best school districts in the country.

The ECC is the umbrella organization for all the Edgemont civic association and is the only group representing the entire Edgemont community. As it begins its 72<sup>nd</sup> year of service, I ask that you support the 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. I also encourage you to become involved, either with your civic association, or with the ECC itself. The greater your awareness and participation, the more we can make a difference for Edgemont. I look forward to seeing you on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Bob Bernstein*

*The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.*

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**Officers:**

President: Robert Bernstein  
First Vice President: Richard Gipstein  
Second Vice President: Andrea Weiss  
Treasurer: Dylan F. Pyne  
Secretary: Jennifer DeMarrais

**Directors:**

Tom Agolia	Mark Lafayette
Robert Bernstein	Tamim Nazif
Joshua Berlin	George Nuhko
Lisa Decker	Yasmin Pacia
Jennifer DeMarrais	Nilesh Patel
Nancie Ellis	Dylan F. Pyne
Jeremy Feffer	Gary Stern
Alan Fishman	Philip Spampinato
Richard Gipstein	Haibiao Qin
Jon Guttenberg	Andrea Weiss
Warren Hershkowitz	Eliana Weissman

**SBNC Representatives:**

Diane Gipstein  
Henie Simon  
Adriana Andrade (alternate)

**The eight member associations of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. are:**

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

**Newsletter Editors:**

Robert Bernstein  
Colin McCarthy  
Dylan F. Pyne

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**

**Officers**

President	Robert Bernstein
First Vice President	Richard Gipstein
Second Vice President	Andrea Weiss
Treasurer	Jeremy Feffer
Secretary	Colin McCarthy

**Directors - 3-Year Term Ending June 30, 2022**

Jeremy Feffer, Vic Gialleonardo, Richard Gipstein, Colin McCarthy and George Nukho

**Directors - 2-Year Term Ending June 30, 2021**

Tamim Nazif, Ocean Mills and Kejia Wang

**Central Park Avenue ECC Director (Term Ending June 30, 2020)**

Eileen Westler

**Northern Greenville ECC Director (Term Ending June 30, 2020)**

Alan Fishman

**School Board Nominating Committee**

Chair - Andrea Weiss  
1 Year – Diane Gipstein  
1 Year – Henie Simon  
Alternate – Adriana Andrade

*Thank you to Lisa Decker, Jennifer DeMarrais, Dylan F. Pyne and Haibiao Qin who will be completing their terms on the ECC Board of Directors this year, for their years of service to the community.*

*Stay informed on what is going on in Edgemont*

The Edgemont Community Council meets the first Monday of every month throughout the school year. We encourage you to attend our meetings and visit the ECC's website, [www.edgemontecc.com](http://www.edgemontecc.com), where we post minutes from our monthly meetings as well as regular news updates. Also please visit our Facebook page ([FB.com/EdgemontCommunityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/EdgemontCommunityCouncil)) or follow us on Twitter @EdgemontECC to join the dialogue and sign up for Edgemont news alerts.

*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 21, 2019. The voting place is the Gymnasium at Edgemont Junior/Senior High School on White Oak Lane.

The polls will be open from 6 AM to 9 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 students who will be eighteen years of age by May 21st are urged to register to vote as soon as possible so that they may be allowed to participate in the election.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As I write, the issue of whether Edgemont will get the right to vote on its incorporation as Greenburgh's seventh village is still up in the air. The Edgemont Incorporation Committee, which is separate from and independent of the ECC, filed its first petition seeking a vote in February 2017. Now, more than two years later, and armed with a second petition with more than 1800 signatures, the EIC is expected to start the process all over again.

So what will make this second effort any more successful than the first? There were two issues that derailed that first effort. The first was the description of the territory to be incorporated. Even though it was taken verbatim from a description of the borders of the fire district that has been in place and operating successfully for the past 95 years, the Town Supervisor's finding that the description lacked "common certainty" was upheld because its preamble referred to a school district map from 1899 that differed slightly from the description that was reviewed and approved in 1923. The EIC will presumably address that issue by removing the preamble and any reference to that 1899 map.

Somewhat more challenging is the so-called "List of Regular Inhabitants" or "LORI." State law requires that to incorporate a village, it must have at least 500 "regular inhabitants." State law also requires that the LORI, also contain the "names and addresses" of the regular inhabitants of the territory to be incorporated. The EIC filed its first petition with a LORI containing the names and addresses of nearly 5,000 regular inhabitants. However, even though that list was more than enough to satisfy the requirement that there be at least 500 regular inhabitants, the Town Supervisor's finding that the EIC's LORI did not also include names and addresses of children and non-U.S. citizens was found to be a sufficient basis to reject the petition and prevent a vote.

The EIC's challenge now is to supplement its LORI with the names and addresses of children and non-U.S. citizens. This is challenging because, among other things, federal law protects the safety and privacy of children by making it unlawful for schools to disclose their names and addresses without parental consent. The EIC has said it will try to get the information for the LORI directly from parents, and to prevent public disclosure of such information by insisting that the Town comply with state law that deems disclosure of such information about children to be an unreasonable invasion of privacy. The Town has not said what it will do in that regard, stay tuned.

In the meantime, the ECC is continuing to challenge the Town Board's grant of a special permit to allow construction of a 94-bed assisted living facility at the site of the former Sprain Brook Nursery at 448 Underhill Road. The ECC went to court after the Town Board granted the permit even though the zoning code, for safety reasons, did not allow such permits to be granted if the facility's access to the nearest state road was not direct and non-circuitous. Here, the facility's nearest access to a state road is Underhill Road, which as everyone knows, is a mile-long narrow winding two-lane road with horizontal and vertical curves and a downward sloping double-hairpin turn.

A state court judge recently dismissed not only the ECC's suit, but also the suit filed by the fire district. The court did so on the ground that no one in Edgemont – not the ECC, not the fire district, and not even residents whose properties abut property of the proposed facility or who live along the dangerous Underhill Road corridor has any legal standing in court to challenge the Town Board's having granted a permit in violation of its own law. For that reason, the ECC and the fire district have each filed a notice stating their intention to appeal that ruling. It's one thing if Edgemont cannot even get the right to vote on its own incorporation; it's even worse when its own residents, civic groups and fire district don't even have legal standing to challenge an action of the Town Board that adversely impacts the people who live in Edgemont.

### **SILVER BOWL AWARD FOR SERVICE TO DAVID M.C. STERN**

The Edgemont Community Council Silver Bowl Award for Distinguished Community Service has been awarded almost every year since 1950. The ECC's Silver Bowl Committee this year recommended that we present this year's Silver Bowl to Edgemont resident David M. C. Stern. David served two terms on the school board, from 2010 to 2016, was president in 2015-2016, and made his mark on the curriculum, audit and superintendent search committees, as well as liaison to the Edgemont

School Foundation and the Scarsdale Teachers Institute. He has coached over 20 seasons of local youth sports (soccer, lacrosse, basketball and tee-ball), and now serves as president of Edgemont Youth Lacrosse. In the schools, he has taught Great Books and volunteered in the Wiggleworks reading program. He currently sits on the School Board Nominating Committee and is a former director of the ECC. He has been an assistant Cub Scouts den leader, and he has been a long-time member of Greenville Fire District’s volunteer fire company, where he has served as a volunteer firefighter (as well as secretary and treasurer of the company). David also currently serves as chairman of the board of Westchester Institute for Human Development, a Valhalla-based organization that works with developmentally disabled men and women, and a member of the board of MusicCorps/Renovation in Music Education in Washington, D.C., which uses music to help wounded military veterans recover. David has also been a director of the Scarsdale/Edgemont United Way, and a member of the Woodlands Community Temple School Board.

Professionally, David runs a consulting firm that provides strategic business advisory services to healthcare organizations and investors. After graduating from Edgemont in 1982, David went on to get a BA and an MBA from Yale. David lives on Old Army Road with his wife Mary Elizabeth and their children Kasey, Gavin and Fiona.

**REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 2019-2020 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. In accordance with a 2010 change to Council’s by-laws, unless Council’s Board of Directors acts to fill a position, only the individuals named below from their sending organizations will be eligible for election and subsequent seating on the Committee.

Central Park Avenue - INACTIVE - Please contact [EdgemontCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:EdgemontCommunityCouncil@gmail.com) if you are interested in reactivating your Civic Association

1 Year	Josh Berlin
1 Year	TBD
Alternate	TBD

Northern Greenville - INACTIVE - Please contact [EdgemontCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:EdgemontCommunityCouncil@gmail.com) if you are interested in reactivating your Civic Association

1 Year	TBD
1 Year	TBD
Alternate	TBD

Old Edgemont - Annual Meeting Monday May 20, 2019 at 8:00 PM in the EHS Guidance Conference Room

1 Year	Sharyn Lewis
1 Year	David Stern
Alternate	Jennifer Frain

Southern Greenville - Annual Meeting Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 8PM at Greenville School Library

2 Year	Fatima Shama
1 Year	Hilary Greenburg
Alternate	Joseph Gojka

Fort Hill - Annual Meeting TBD

2 Year	Jennifer DeMarrais
2 Year	TBD
Alternate	TBD

Cotswold - Annual Meeting Sunday June 2, 2019 at 3PM at Location TBD

2 Year	Amy Foote
1 Year	Ann Devries
Alternate	Jaimee Schultz

Greenridge - Annual Meeting TBD

2 Year	TBD
2 Year	TBD
Alternate	TBD

Edgemont Community Council - Annual Meeting Wednesday April 10, 2019 at 8PM in the Greenville Elementary Gymnasium

1 Year	Diane Gipstein
1 Year	Henie Simon
Alternate	Adriana Andrade

Longview - Annual Meeting Sunday June 9, 2019 at 4PM During Wheels Day (Longview and Delhi)

2 Year	Joan Zolot
1 Year	David Roy
Alternate	Deborah Rappaport

*The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.*

P.O. Box 1161  
Scarsdale, NY 10583-9161

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**ANNUAL MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2019  
GREENVILLE CAFETERIA  
8:00 PM**

Contact the ECC: Email – EdgemontCommunityCouncil@gmail.com | Facebook – FB.com/EdgemontCommunityCouncil  
| Twitter – @EdgemontECC

Mail form and Payment (Cash or Check) to:  
*The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.*  
P.O. Box 1161  
Scarsdale, NY 10583-9161

<input type="checkbox"/> Central Park Avenue Association <input type="checkbox"/> Cotswold Association <input type="checkbox"/> Greenridge Association <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Hill Association <input type="checkbox"/> Longview Civic Association <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Greenville Association <input type="checkbox"/> Old Edgemont Association <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Greenville Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Civic Association
Names of Residents in Household over 18:	
Mailing Street Address:	
Email Address(es) of Resident(s) in Household:	

I am interested in furthering the activities of the Edgemont Community Council and would like to become a member or renew my membership.

I have NOT paid my dues for this year so enclosed are my family's dues of \$30 for July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019. This ensures my voting rights at the upcoming ECC Annual Meeting. If I have already paid this year then I want this to be an additional contribution to further support the ECC.

Enclosed are my family's dues of \$30 for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.