

Mayor's Newsletter - 4/12/2015



Willow Point Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park April 2015 **Not too long ago**, the picture in the

banner of the previous Newsletter showed the Hudson River almost completely covered in thick ice; it looked like a scene from another frozen world. It is nice to see a different picture today.

Held yesterday, the annual Youth Little League Parade is always the first marker each year that Spring has arrived in the Village. It was a very good sign that the kids and coaches and moms and dads - led safely by officers of the DFPD and members of the Volunteer Fire Department - marched in almost perfect weather to Memorial Park. **Spring is here!** .. good luck to all the kids for a fun baseball season, and to all the youth in the village who will be busy during the spring in many different activities.

Here is a quick **Spring Update** on things going on in the village, projects in process, and some dates and activities coming up:

Update on Waterfront Park



The re-dedication ceremony for the new Waterfront Park is being scheduled for Saturday, June 13. More details to follow.

More information on the program will be provided in the coming weeks. In addition, the park will be able to host the **high school graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 20.**

Following the graduation event, pedestrian access to the park for the remainder of the year will be ***limited to the paved pathways only.***

This is a prudent decision in the best long-term interest of the park. Any activity on the open sod and grass areas will only trample and destroy the new environment, which needs time to establish strong and healthy roots to last into the future. Millions-of-dollars have been spent to upgrade and enhance this beautiful new park, and we don't want to take any chances or risks that would jeopardize the investment.

The village will update residents with additional details on the re-dedication ceremony, as well how access to the pathways, pier, boat dock, and beach areas will be managed this year.

Here are some early preview pictures taken this weekend on the waterfront and some of the final work being done:







... and some local residents are already getting out to enjoy Spring at the waterfront.

As the weather gets better, we want to encourage residents to **support all** of the **Dobbs Ferry local business merchants** helping their spring season off to a strong start. **Dobbs Ferry Historical Society**



Sunday, April 26 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM

'Help restore the Mead House'

Meade House | 12 Elm Street

Help restore the Mead House



Limited raffle of 300 tickets

First prize **\$5,000** | Second prize **\$2,500**

Third prize **\$500**

\$50.00 raffle ticket can be purchased at dobbsFerryHistory.org
or by contacting Co-President Frank Farrington
at **914.774.0664**.

Sunday, April 26 | 4-7pm

Drawing for the raffle | Dobbs Ferry Waterfront History presentation
to celebrate the opening of the Waterfront | Food and drink | **FREE**



Please support the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society by becoming a member.

There are always great programs and events through-out the year



Congratulations to the **Historical Society** for its **Alexander Hamilton Lecture Program** held on the night of Saturday, March 7th. What a tremendous success! It was so great to see so many people of all ages at the Meade House to support the historical presentation on this Founding Father who spent so much time in the village of Dobbs Ferry. **Great Activities at the Dobbs Ferry Senior Program** Thank you to the **Masters School** and their senior class for hosting and organizing a special Inter-generational Prom at the beautiful Estherwood House on the school's campus. A great time was had by all, and it really meant a lot to everyone involved - of all ages. This is also what community partnership is all about, and we are grateful to the Masters School for being such an involved neighbor. It really makes a difference.



Abby and Scottie

a great time dancing

Dobbs Ferry Annual Senior Week - Week of

May 11th

May 11 - 15

Embassy Community Center

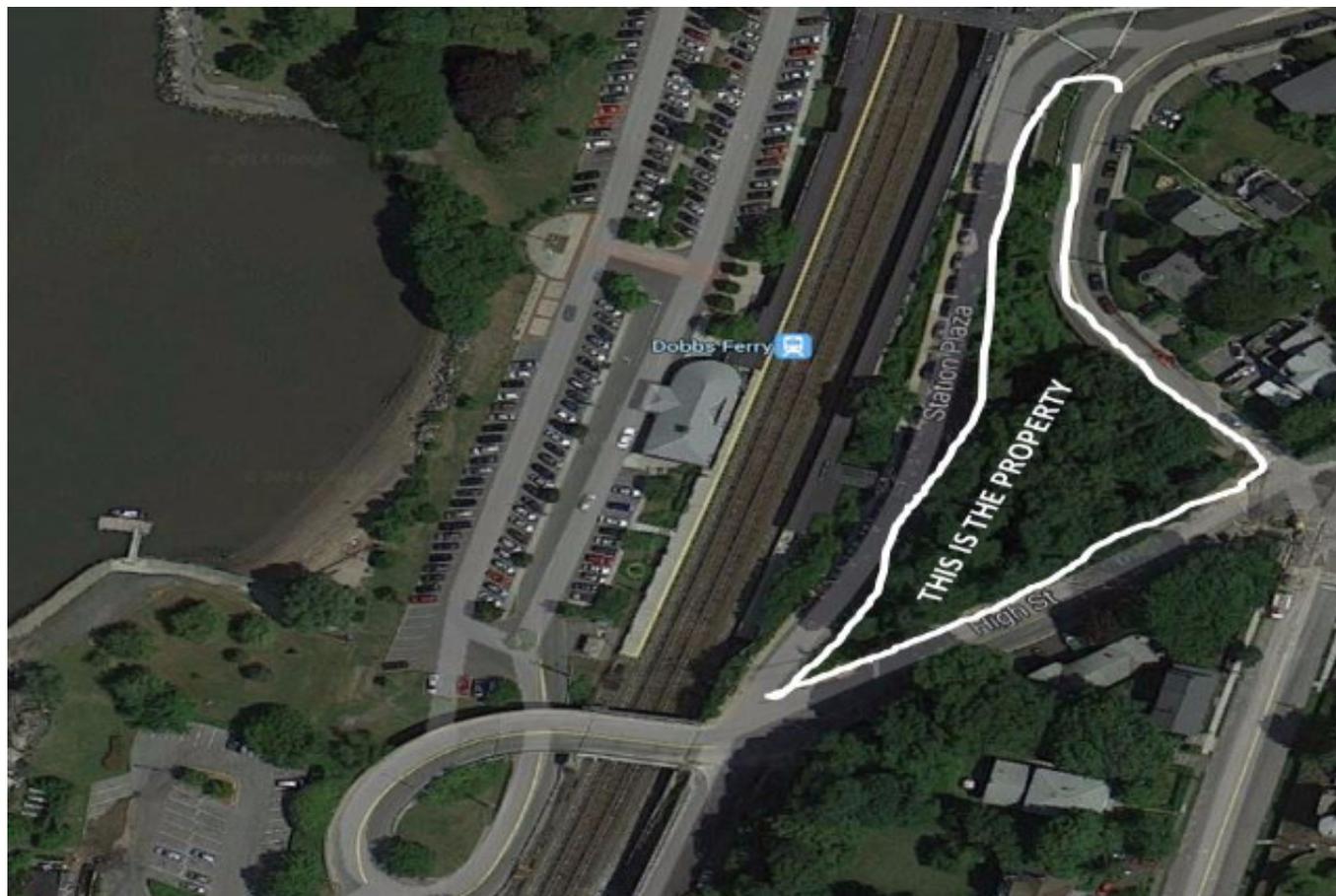
60 Palisade Street

A week of many activities - all FREE for seniors!

Exercise Classes, Lunches, Health Fair, Dinner Dance, and more!

Call 693-7792 for details and registration information **Highstreet View Shed Project**

In progress and under review by the Conservation Advisory Board ('CAB'), this is an exciting initiative to create a new view shed and improve the environment. The Board of Trustees previously referred the project to the CAB for review and commentary. The CAB has since submitted an initial report to the board with recommendations for a phased-in approach to the project; this will include the retention of a professional Arborist to help identify the good trees from the bad, focusing of course on the invasive non-native growth that is killing the good trees, and blocking-out the view; working with the village's landscaping expert to also lay out a ground cover plan so as to help retain the soil and mitigate run-off. Village staff and Trustee Cassell (as Liaison to CAB) are coordinating with the CAB and Landscaping experts to develop the final plan. The board will then review and consider implementation / action this Spring. *Here are some pictures for a perspective of the view shed project:*





This is the property This is how the views currently look ... **and below are examples of the enhanced views the village is working to create**





Community Clean-up Day

Presented by Dobbs Ferry Parks and Recreation **Sunday, April 19th 12 noon to 1:00 PM**

Cleanup Day Volunteer





Clean-up site locations:

Grades K-2 @ Memorial Park

Grades 3 - 5 @ Gould Park

Grades 6 -8 @ Little White Church Cemetery

Grades 9 - 12 @ Middle School / High School Campus

All children under age 14 are required to have an adult.

The Recreation Department will have staff members at each site.

All participants required to bring **work gloves** and a **garbage bag**.

PIZZA AND WATER will be served for all participants at the Community Center at 1:15 PM

*This community activity has gotten bigger every year. It is a great way for kids and families and friends to help clean-up the village, and its good for the environment ... **And, you get PIZZA afterwards!***

Please come out and support Community Clean-up Day! A note about the 2015-16 Tentative Village Budget ...

- **The new 2015-16 Tentative Fiscal Budget will be presented at the next regular board of trustees meeting on Tuesday, April 14th at 7:30 PM.** The Village Treasury Department, Department Heads, and Staff have been working hard and planning for the budget this coming fiscal year. The budget and capital planning process has been a high priority of the administration with positive results; this includes the supporting efforts of the ad hoc Citizens Budget Committee, which does an excellent job providing additional input, analysis, and recommendations which serves to strengthen the process. Through these collective efforts, Dobbs Ferry has kept its tax rates low while continuing to deliver superior services and planning for a sustainable long-term future. The village maintains the strongest A bond ratings, and New York State recently confirmed that Dobbs Ferry has one of the lowest (best) Fiscal Stress Test scores in the state as measured by the Comptroller's Office. The tentative budget will continue to be reviewed - including an additional public workshop on the budget to be held on April 16th at Village Hall - and there will be further work done to be sure an accurate and prudent final budget is adopted on April 28th; as in all prior years full details will be communicated and outlined in the Mayor's Newsletter and available on the village's website



The end of an era and a bow tie

'Chairman' **Ed Plotkin**, who served on the Planning Board for **50 years**, chaired his final meeting last week as he will now be stepping down into 'retirement'. Actually, Ed will not be retiring from his 'real' job as a professional engineering consultant. Ed is so much in demand he is busier now than he has ever been. But he has decided to retire from his volunteer job; and he will be greatly missed by the village. Ed did a fantastic job as leader of the Planning Board; he leaves the board in great shape with outstanding current members to continue the important work of this committee.

Because of Ed Plotkin, Dobbs Ferry is a Better Place.

We will miss Ed, and we wish Him and his Family the Best of Luck in the Future.



That is it for now. We will keep everyone updated on all of the ongoing projects and initiatives, as well of course the final fiscal budget process. Please don't hesitate to contact the board if you have any concernss, issues or ideas you would like to discuss. The trustees' e-mails are on the village website, and we do want to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Mayor Hartley Connett

April 12, 2015