

Holiday Messages

Mayor Connett's final Newsletter



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## Office of the Mayor

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## *Mayor's Newsletter*

### Mayor Hartley Connett's Final Newsletter

*Holiday events, some quick updates  
and perspectives from a small town Mayor  
before signing off 'Vision-Action-Progress'*

**December 3, 2017**

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### **2007 Holiday Christmas Tree Lighting Cedar and Main Street Plaza**

(Back) Mayor Connett (in the funny elf cap) and DPW Foreman Steve Trezza.  
(L-R) incoming Mayor Bob McLoughlin, Trustees Donna Cassell and Larry Taylor, Administrator Charlene Indelicato, Abby Connett, and Recreation Head Kendra Garrison.

Dear Residents,

The Villageee wishes everyone a **Happy** and **Safe Holiday Season**.

**Merry Christmas** and **Happy Hanukkah**



The traditional **holiday Christmas tree lighting** ceremony was held last night with hundreds of families, children and residents coming to the downtown to take part ... **Santa showed up too!** All the kids brought their positive energy to help the Mayor and the village workers with the lighting countdown "...10, 9, 8 ..." leading to such a festive illumination downtown. In several weeks the **Menorah lighting** will take place (Dec 13). One of the beautiful things about Dobbs Ferry is our diversity and how we respect and embrace our different cultures and traditions. It is the reason why most of us are here, and it makes our village a special place.

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This will be my final Newsletter as Mayor of Dobbs Ferry. It has been an incredible honor to serve the village for the past 8 years. I worked hard to be the best Mayor possible, and to serve the interests of all the residents. As Mayor over these years, I've had the pleasure of working with an amazing group of people who are all dedicated to **making Dobbs Ferry a Better Place** - fellow trustees, village staff, volunteers - together we accomplished a great deal. Since 2009, here are a few of them:

- Over **\$150,000,000** estimated in property redevelopment projects, and completion of a beautiful new waterfront park - ***on time and on budget.***

- Over **\$8,500,000** in new additional revenues (property tax, permits, and fees) fore-casted over the next 10 fiscal years.

- Leading to **Capital Project Funding** for reconstruction projects to upgrade the **Community Embassy Center** (project in process), and **Memorial and Gould Park Pool Facilities** (to commence in the Spring of 2018).

- Significant upgrades and redevelopment of properties and buildings in the Gateway and Business Zones, which has lead to a **revitalization of the Downtown Cedar and Main Street Business District.**

- **8 successive years of historically low village tax rates,** maintenance of a stable fund balance and the village's '**A**' debt rating.

- **Construction of a new downtown municipal parking lot** (in process), and in conjunction a new pedestrian connection / sidewalk enhancement project '**Stairway to Cedar and Main**' to be constructed from Palisade Street (starting in the Spring of 2018).

- **Restoration of the historical Little White Church Cemetery**; as well significant new non-taxpayer funding to support the work of the Historical Society.

- **Passage of the New Village Zoning Code**, the **Master Vision Plan**, and legislation which paves the way for the community (with board approval) to create **Historical Districts**.

- Over **\$600,000 investments in energy efficiency and sustainable initiatives**; leading to the village's designation as a **Climate Smart Community**, the first municipal in NY State to be awarded a **Bronze Star** for excellent in the environment, and projects which will save the village and tax payers millions of dollars in the future.

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### **Bringing the Fun back to Dobbs Ferry ...**

We also worked to *bring the fun back to Dobbs Ferry*. **Ferry Festa** and the **Halloween Walk** were taken to whole new levels, and we brought back **July 4th Fireworks**. Dobbs Ferry was named '**The Hippest Rivertown**' in 2014 (Journal News); and our revitalized downtown and restaurant scene is the envy of the region. We also welcomed back **Santa on the DFFD firetrucks** ... and we danced the Horah with Rabbi Benji for the **Menorah Lighting**.

We were serious about how we ran the village's business, but we had a lot of fun doing it too.

## **Non partisan approach ...**

I am most proud of how we governed and went about our business ... **in a completely non partisan way.** As an Independent, it doesn't matter to me if you are a Democrat, or a Republican, or whatever you want to call yourself; as long as you are willing to work hard and contribute in a positive way to help. It's not easy, but it is the best way to govern and get things done. In this way, the board's 4-3 decisions were stronger than our 7-0 votes. That is because 4-3 decisions require more work to get done - recognizing the minority opinion - and ultimately leading to much better outcomes which are in the best interests of all. This non partisan approach served Dobbs Ferry residents very well. I hope the new board will work in a similar fashion.

I want to congratulate and wish **new incoming Mayor Bob McLoughlin** all the **Best of Luck.** Bob is a good man, and he is very knowledgeable of the village having chaired the citizens budget committee and the village's nominating committee for several years. With Bob and his new team, along with the great trustees currently serving on the board - **Donna Cassel, Vinny Rosillo, Larry Taylor, and Nicole Sullivan** - the village will be in very good hands. With a



strong financial footing and exciting projects in the works, and new priorities which the new board will set, **the future of Dobbs Ferry is very bright indeed!**

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Honoring outgoing Deputy Mayor Vic Golio





On November 28, the Board and Mayor honored outgoing **Deputy Mayor Vic Golio**. Vic is a lifelong Dobbs Ferry resident. Vic came into office in 2009 with Mayor Connett, serving as Trustee for 8 years, the past 2 years as Deputy Mayor. Vic was a great trustee and involved in many aspects of the board; most notably he was very active with the Citizens Budget Committee and worked as a leader over the years in the village's union relationships, which were a success for both sides. Pictured are Vic's wonderful parents, Vic 'Ducky' Sr and Paula; His beautiful wife Georgette and two beautiful daughters Olivia and Grace; the Mayor and First Lady. **Vic made Dobbs Ferry a much Better Place** - he will be missed. We wish him and his family all the Best in

the Future.

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## ***Project Updates***

### **New Embassy Community Center**



Since we last reported, the project to reconstruct the **Community Embassy Center** has made good progress. Work on the foundation has moved ahead and the footings are completed. This has been *the* priority project of the current administration, and is funded in the current capital budget. It will now be shepherded forward by the new board. We look forward to updates as this exciting project moves ahead - and hopefully a completion date in 2018.



## New Municipal Parking Lot at 99 Cedar Street

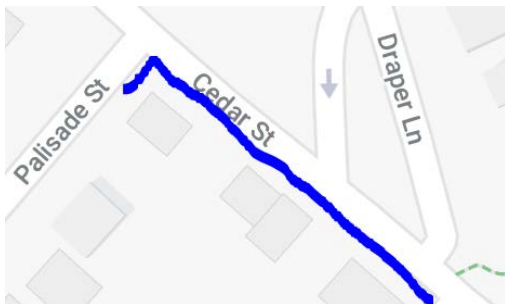


**The new downtown municipal parking lot is also making great progress.** When completed, this parking resource will add over 95 new parking spaces to help support the downtown businesses and

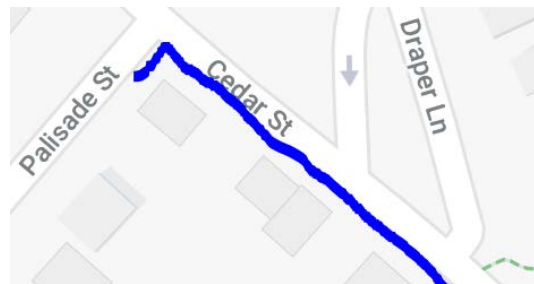
residents.

In conjunction with this parking project, the current board has **approved the design and construction for a major new enhancement to the Cedar Street sidewalk** (southern side), leading from Palisades Street to the Cedar /Main intersection. The new '***Stairway to Cedar and Main***' sidewalk has been uniquely re-designed with a series of steps and landings, as well new railings, to make for a better pedestrian connection from the new municipal lot to the downtown area. This project has been approved within the current operating and capital budgets; a significant portion of non tax payer funds will be contributed by the **Dobbs Ferry Local Development Corporation** ('DFLDC'). One of the investment functions of the DFLDC is to enhance economic activity in the village/downtown, as well improve the safety and well being of the residents.

Map showing new ***Stairway to Cedar and Main***







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Well, that is it. It has been a great eight years. I wish the new board all the Best of Luck.

We love Dobbs Ferry and we plan to stick around for a long time.

*Dobbs Ferry has a Bright Future.*

Wishing everyone a **Happy** and **Safe Holiday Season ... Merry Christmas** and **Happy Hanukkah**.

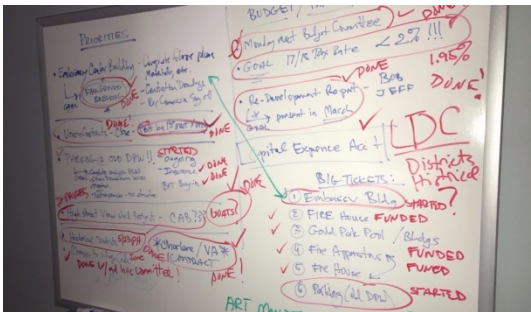
*Vision - Action - Progress signing off.*

Best regards,



Hartley Connett

December 3, 2017



The Job is Done ... and a Fresh New Board for Others to Start