

Update on Dobbs Ferry - June 2016



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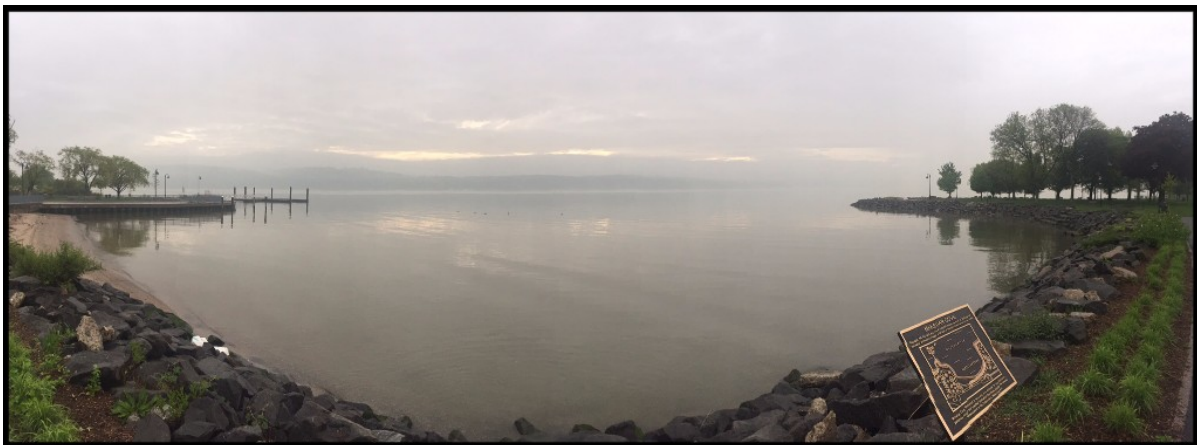
## Office of the Mayor

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# *Mayor's Newsletter*

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**June 12, 2016**



Dear Residents,

Here is a quick update on things going on in the village, new businesses, more Dobbs Ferry recognition, projects in process or under review, and some upcoming events to mark on the calendar.

This past Saturday, **The Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry** in cooperation the Village held a wonderful ceremony dedicating the new ***Blue Star Memorial Marker*** which is now placed at the Flag Plaza at Waterfront Park. What a great event it was! Especially to see so many residents and staff in attendance.



*The Blue Star Memorial Program honors men and women who have served, are serving or will serve in the armed services of the United States. At the close of World War II, National Garden Clubs were seeking a suitable means of honoring our service men and women. Their goal was to develop a program that would provide a living memorial to help beautify and preserve the country these men and women fought for rather than to provide a stone monument in*

*their honor. Today, The Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry has added to the "Ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state."*



*Liz Dreaper, Commander Florin, Charlene and 'Karma'*

***Congratulations*** to **The Garden Club** and all the members for initiating and completing such a meaningful project, which will be a great source of pride for the community. We would especially like to recognize residents **Susan Klosek** and **Merle Huebner**, Co-Chairs Blue Star Memorial Committee and Co-Presidents of the Garden Club; and **Madeline Byrne**, Co-President Garden Club of America. As leaders they did an amazing job getting this project completed, and with the other members of the Garden Club they help make Dobbs Ferry a more beautiful place too. Also *Thank You* to **Gary Gardner** and **all the DPW workers**. Gary found the impressive large stone that anchors the new memorial plaque; and the workers who helped to prepare the new memorial site for plantings, and who keep the waterfront park (and the rest of the village too!) looking so beautiful; and **Father Tim** for his beautiful Benediction, and the Honorable **Ron Tucci**, Director, Veterans Affairs Services and former NY State Assemblyman, who gave meaningful perspective on the importance of memorials for the dedicated men and women who serve in the armed services. **Chief Gelardi** represented the DFPD and **Chief McIlvain** in full dress represented Dobbs Ferry's all volunteer Fire Department. Also a big

'shout-out' to **Alexis Corona** who added so beautifully to the program singing the *Star Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America*. *What a great voice she has!*

... and *Thank You* to *all the residents* who came out to participate in this great community event!

*Come down to the waterfront park and check-out the new **Blue Stone Memorial Marker** and the beautiful new plantings around the flag plaza.*



Trustee Corrales, DPW Foreman Gary Gardner, DPW Worker Steve Trezza, Merle Huebner, Mayor Connnett, Madeline Byrne, Susan Klosek, and Trustee Cassell

**Blue Star Memorial Marker Ceremony - Waterfront Park, Dobbs Ferry**



# Dobbs Ferry

## Rated # 2 Best Small Town in the USA



2016

### 10 Best Small Towns

Small Towns



2 Dobbs Ferry, NY

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Residents enjoy an active lifestyle with access to a variety of neighborhood and waterfront parks and nature preserves. For example, Gould Park in the center of the town, features two swimming pools, a playground, basketball court and multi-sport ballfields. Thanks to a comprehensive public transportation system, which includes bus and commuter rail service, Dobbs Ferry boasts one of the shortest commutes to work of any of the towns on our list. In fact, about 10 percent of residents don't even own a car, preferring to walk, bike or take public transportation. The lowered emissions is one reason Dobbs Ferry is a certified Climate Smart Community and part of a network of communities dedicated to reducing greenhouse emissions and minimizing the risks of climate change.

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### **The 10 Most Affordable Places to Live (2016)**

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Dobbs Ferry offers families a diverse range of housing options – from condos and co-ops to quaint Victorian bungalows and multi-million-dollar mini mansions. Residents also appreciate the demographic diversity and the wide range of cultural opportunities that diversity brings. For example, the town's restaurant scene is an eclectic mix of Italian, American, Greek and Mediterranean eateries.

<http://www.livability.com/top-10/small-towns/10-best-small-towns/2016/ny/dobbs-ferry>

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## **New Businesses and Vitality ... Dobbs Ferry is the Place to Be**

Dobbs Ferry continues to attract new merchants and business owners who want to be in a community with a growing and vibrant downtown spirit.

**SCRIBBLE ART WORKSHOP** at 63 Main Street is a new developmentally-

based art program for young children and older adults. *'At this studio Everyone is an Artist!'* You can visit them downtown or find them on-line for more information - including summer camp programs.



Also coming soon on Cedar Street in the heart of Dobbs Ferry are two more exciting new additions:

**CAMPBELL MEATS**, a whole-animal butcher shop and charcuterie is scheduled to open in a few more weeks ... and **The Little Red** on 17 Cedar Street 'Playtime Classes for Happy Littles'



*Please support ALL of our local business merchants in Dobbs Ferry !*

*New businesses and investments are clear signs of a new energy and*

*vitality taking place in Dobbs Ferry.*

In 2010, the downtown business districts had a vacancy rate of almost 35%; key properties laid wasted and empty, re-investment and building upgrade was literally non-existent. Assessed valuations were deteriorating, and year-on-year tax rates were high. Contributing to this picture more than anything was a lack of growth and balanced redevelopment, which was unfortunately doing great harm to Dobbs Ferry's future.

However, since 2010 a *more positive and balanced philosophy towards re-development* has been in place, and the results are clear: *Dobbs Ferry's downtown district is thriving* with *new restaurants* and *foot traffic*; projects and proposals to *restore and upgrade* dilapidated, old and empty properties are moving forward, or before the village under careful review; *assessed property valuations have gone up* for the first time in many years, and year-on-year tax rates have been the lowest in the village's recent history, breaking the negative trends of prior years.

*Businesses, investors, and new homeowners are now choosing Dobbs Ferry as the place they want to be;* as tax payers we are much better off for that because it will make our community better, more affordable, and more sustainable into the future.

Re-development is also critical to generate the funds and resources needed to *improve key village buildings and infrastructure* - which for too many years fell into disrepair - and which now require a major overhaul. One-time development and permit fees (non tax payer \$ dollars) have helped the village's segregated recreation account reach record high amounts - which can now be re-deployed to achieve meaningful, long-term upgrades to village



buildings, and improvement to other assets helping to support a higher quality of life for all residents. Without re-development, nothing will ever be upgraded.

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## ***Slow Down Rivertowns***



The ***Slow Down Rivertowns*** initiative was formally rolled out with the 7 Westchester villages -including Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Elmsford, Hastings, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown - together announcing a coordinated initiative by Police Departments to promote traffic and pedestrian safety throughout the villages.

***Slow Down Rivertowns*** will work to raise community awareness and encourage safe driving through education and enforcement. Police Departments will coordinate efforts to discourage speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving and other New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law violations

that endanger the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other motorists.

Departments will also engage with local schools and institutions to promote educational and safety awareness.

In Dobbs Ferry this will also include cooperation and awareness/educational programming between the DFPD and the Dobbs Ferry School District, as well the large institutions in town such as Mercy College.

The Villages together want to encourage everyone to join this initiative by setting positive driving and pedestrian examples. Police action can't solve everything. It starts with drivers ... ***Slow Down Rivertowns***, it is not worth it to be in a hurry.

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## Speaking of Waterfront Park Events ...



*Hats Off'* To the **Dobbs Ferry School Foundation** who held their annual spring gala fundraiser event at waterfront park on the evening of May 20. The gala raises money for programs and resources supporting the Dobbs Ferry School District. It was the first big community event held at the waterfront since the new park has been re-opened, and what a great night it was. Seeing so many residents gathered together on a beautiful night for an important cause to support the community ... well, suffice to say it was an amazing night; and another reminder of how lucky we all are to live in a place like Dobbs Ferry - a beautiful village where so many people volunteer

their time and efforts to make it a better place.



As a reminder ... Don't Forget the **4th of July** **Fireworks** display will be returning to the waterfront (Monday night, July 4) and the *Thomas F. Cullen Memorial Picnic* for the first time since the new park has been re-opened. We really missed these great traditions while the park was under construction, and we are looking forward to a **loud** return!

*... More details to follow.*

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**New Municipal Parking Resources  
Created at Lower Cedar Street**

The Village has completed the work and striping for ~ 24 new municipal parking spaces at the west end of Cedar Street (near the old DPW facility). A new fence has been erected as well to enhance the area. These spaces are dedicated for Central Business District Parking. **Blue meters** will be installed at each space over the coming weeks.



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***UPDATE: Trustees says 75 Main Street proposed rear building is too big.***



At the BOT's most recent public hearing the trustees unanimously opined that the proposed project for 75 Main Street was simply too big to approve.

Quoting the Mayor:

***" If it does not fit, we must not accept it ".***

No vote was taken because the developer indicated it would propose a revised/smaller project. ***A strong majority of the board agreed it is in the best interests of the whole community to keep the process open to see if a smaller project could materialize for this important property and historical building.*** If/when a new plan is proposed, the board will reopen the Public Hearing and review process.

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## DOBBS FERRY SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

*! Returns to Waterfront Park !*



The Summer Music Series is returning to Dobbs Ferry's waterfront park for a great run of performances starting June 22nd through August 24.

Shows will begin at 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

For more information call 914-631-1000 or [www.jazzforumarts.org](http://www.jazzforumarts.org)

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The next BOT meeting is Tuesday, June 14 at 7:30 PM at Village Hall. The Agenda has been posted and it should be a productive night.

Well, that is about it for now. We trust everyone has been enjoying the great weather and getting out and around town to enjoy all the great stuff there is to do in Dobbs Ferry.

Take care everyone and please be safe ... and remember, it is always better to *slow down*.

Sincerely.



*Hartley*

Hartley Connett

Mayor, Village of Dobbs Ferry

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**Sunset Hues Over the Hudson River Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park**

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