

October 2016 Village Update



Office of the Mayor

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Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
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Mayor's Newsletter

Festa 'thank you' and Updates on a Few Things

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October 25, 2016



Morning Moon Over The Hudson Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park October
2016

Dear Residents,

Great Festa 2016 !

We want to give a big '***Thank You***' to Everyone who helped make the 2016 Ferry Festa a great success. We were again blessed with fantastic weather, and by all counts this year's downtown street festival attracted the most visitors ever.

The village wants to thank all of the **local merchants** who made the day so much fun; having their ware and fares presented on the street makes for a true festival;

also all of the outside vendors who came into the village for the day.

Thank you to the **village staff** who did an amazing job preparing for and organizing the event: From the Village Administrator through the Recreation Department, the Treasury Office and all the Administrative Staff - what a great job they did ... ***Thank You Charlene, Jeff, Jennifer, Meagan, and David.***

Thank You to the **Recreation Department**, especially former Recreation Head **Matt Arrone**, who made sure everything was in great shape before he left; and also ***Mike and Sandy*** who both do an excellent job *everyday* supporting the recreation programs.

Thank you to **Gary Gardner** and **all the staff of the Department of Public Works, Highway and Garbage Crews**. These guys have tough jobs everyday keeping our village clean and roadways clear; and we appreciate everything they do. For Festa it is amazing how quickly and thoroughly they clean the place up; If you had driven through downtown at night after the event, you would never have known there had been an all-day-night street fair with 20,000 visitors. *Amazing job, once again.*

Thank you to **Police Chief Betsy Gelardi** and **all the dedicated Police Officers of DFPD**. The Village and Department takes public safety very seriously, and Festa is no exception. No police incidences were reported the entire day. Given the size of this event, it is a huge testament to the leadership, quality and dedication of the Officers ... as well the culture of our community.

Thank you to the **Fire Chiefs** and **all the volunteer members of the DFFD**. Also to **the members of EMS and the Volunteer Ambulance Corps**. They are on call 24-7 every day to be there when we might need help the most; and they were ready on Festa day too.

Thank you to the **Mercy College staff** and **administrators** who coordinated closely with the village and were on hand all throughout the day providing a

positive example of the community and campus coming together in a big way.

Thank you to all the **community volunteers** and **members of the Chamber of Commerce** who helped out in many ways to make the event successful. Dobbs Ferry's downtown and business districts are bursting with positive energy these days; the local business community is organizing in ways to attract more visitors and promote greater economic activity for all the local merchants.

And last but not least ... *Thank You* to **Paddy Steinschneider**, who has spent countless hours organizing and helping the village prepare for this great event. He is no doubt already preparing for Festa 2017. Paddy, and everyone else involved, help make this event the best it can be.

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They say '*it takes a village*' ... and in every way we have so much to be thankful for in Dobbs Ferry. Dedicated workers, top-tier public safety departments, residents who give back positively, diverse institutions helping out like great neighbors do, a thriving local economy and a vibrant downtown ... all coming together helping to make Dobbs Ferry a very special place.

Ferry Festa 2016 was another amazing day in Dobbs Ferry ... *Thank you to everyone who helped, and Thank You to everyone who came out.*



A Few Scenes from Ferry Festa 2016



Dedication of Tennis Courts for Dobbs Ferry Residents

Mercy College Campus

A **Dedication Ceremony** was hosted on the campus last week by Mercy College to commemorate the official opening of **two newly refurbished tennis courts**

which are now available for the **exclusive use of Dobbs Ferry Residents**.

This project was initiated by and completed directly between the President's and Mayor's offices; it is an example of the strong relationship which has been built between the college and the village, working closely together as good neighbors to find ways in which we can mutually help each other. These new tennis courts are a direct result of this effort and shared vision.

We want to thank **Timothy Hall**, Mercy College President; **Thomas Simmonds**, Chief of Operations; and **Lisa Mills-Campbell**, Director of Community Programs, for hosting such a meaningful and fun dedication event; and for working with the village to complete this great initiative.

Resident court times will generally be from morning until dusk, all days of the week. Additional signage is to be installed shortly with clear rules and regulations. For any questions please call the Dobbs Ferry Recreation Department at 693-5505 and speak with Mike.

One of the major initiatives announced as an early priority of the current administration was to proactively reach out and improve relationships with the major tax-exempt institutions within our village. Specifically, to find ways in which the larger tax-exempt institutions can help the village to improve the quality of life for all residents of the village. The results of this policy have led to the creation of new state-of-the art recreational resources - like the **Masters School** track and the **Mercy College** tennis courts. Funding from these institutions - including **Children's Village** - has also supported projects and programs of the **Dobbs Ferry Historical Society**; including the historical kitchen, ongoing restoration of the **Little White Church Cemetery**, and other major upgrades and renovations to the **Meade House**. Also, significant funding has been provided to enhance the look of the Downtown Business District. Funding is also being proposed for major **public safety projects** including installation of the flashing light system across Broadway at Clinton Avenue.

The institutions mentioned, as well as **St Christopher's**, all play a big role in the

fabric and diversity of Dobbs Ferry; each helping to make this village a special community.

They are all great neighbors who look for ways to help, and we greatly appreciate their efforts and contributions.



Thomas Simmonds, President Timothy Hall, Mayor Connett and Student Leadership,
Village Administrator Charlene Indelicato, and Lisa Mills-Campbell

Mercy College Campus

Dobbs Ferry Fire Department

Inspection and Dinner 2016



Assistant Chief DeNike, Chief McIlvain, Mayor Connnett and Trustee Rosillo, Assistant Chief Marron, NY Assemblyman Tom Abinanti

Congratulations to all the Fire Companies - **Ogden Engine, Resolute Hook and Ladder**, and **Livingston Hose**; the Chief, Assistant Chiefs, and all the Volunteer Members of the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department for a **successful 2016 Inspection**. As a Mayor and Trustee, it is an honor to formally inspect the companies' apparatus and equipment so clean and polished for the event; and to walk the line of Chiefs and Members in their full dress uniforms. It is impressive, and it makes you feel so proud of the community.

We *thank* all the volunteers who serve as Chiefs and Members of the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department - and all their family members who support them - ready 24/7 to help us when we need help the most.

Thank you for your dedication and service.





Annual Trick or Treat Halloween Walk
October 31st

Downtown Cedar and Main Streets Dobbs Ferry



The annual *Trick or Treat Halloween Walk* will be held on
Monday, October 31st
from 4PM - 6PM

Cedar Street and Main Streets will be closed to vehicle traffic

We look forward to seeing Everyone looking Spooky Downtown



**DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE!**

Don't Forget to Vote on Monday, November 7th

Poles will be open in the Village from **6 AM - 9 PM**

A Special Note to those residents who vote at the Embassy Community Center:

Those residents who would usually vote at the Embassy Community Center will vote this year at the Dobbs Ferry High School.

School is out of session on election day so there should be plenty of parking available throughout the day and evening in the high school lots. The School District and the Dobbs Ferry Police Department have been in communication ... We don't expect any issues although police officers will be on hand to make sure everyone gets through safely and to help direct any traffic flows.

A few updates from the Board of Trustees Agenda ...

75 Main Street Proposed Redevelopment Projectt - *Public Hearing*

Closed



At the most recent regular meeting of the BOT on Tuesday, October 11, the Trustees voted (6-0; 1 absent) to close the Public Hearing on the site plan review for the restoration and redevelopment project proposed for **75 Main Streett (Oceana Building)**. As previously updated, a new and significantly smaller proposal has been presented by the Applicant for the restoration of the historical **Oceana Building**, as well the redevelopment of the rear portion of the building. The newer version of the proposal does not require the BOT to consider any waivers or variances on its own; the new design also meets all the height guidelines for the zoning district under the village code. The Planning Board had previously recommended approval for the initial /larger proposal originally presented by the Applicant in 2015; however, the BOT deemed this original proposal to be too large and bulky for the property, and did not approve it. Instead, given the historical and aesthetic importance of the property, a strong majority of the BOT encouraged the applicant to modify / make smaller the proposal, which could then be considered as more appropriate for the surrounding neighborhood; and balanced to achieve a fair economic return to the investor/applicant.

Over the course of several months and noticed public hearings, The BOT has heard and received a significant amount of input from residents and interested parties regarding the new / smaller proposal - those against, those in favor, and those with specific concerns and/or questions. The input, information, and reports received / or to be considered / will also include traffic, parking, potential impact on schools, increased tax assessment, impact on downtown

business community, potential one-time permit and recreation fund fees, and the historical significance and value of the restoration and preservation of the Oceana Building to the community as a whole. These and other impacts/factors now will be considered by the BOT in terms of a decision to approve (with conditions), or not, the new proposal. Any decision by the BOT on the site plan would also require approval of the AHRB regarding the architectural components and design of the buildings. **This item will be on the agenda for the next scheduled BOT meeting to be held on November 1st, at 7:30 PM at Village Hall.**

Village Board Votes to Adopt the Town Property Tax Assessment Role



Also at the most recent meeting, the BOT voted (6-0; 1 absent) to **adopt the newly reassessed Town Property Tax Role**. In taking this action, the board considered the following:

- The reassessment which was undertaken/completed by the Town of Greenburgh has now brought the village property tax assessments consistently into line with the legacy roles which had been maintained separately (for many, many years) by the Village of Dobbs Ferry on its own.
- Going forward, it will be easier for residents who wish to challenge their property tax assessments by only having to go to the Town Assessor; this will make it less costly and easier for residents to grieve school and property tax together as one challenge (instead of two separate processes, school and village).
- The village will save money due to less grievances (tax rolls are up-to-date)

and lower legal fees normally associated with the grievance process.

- The village does not give up its legal right to challenge the tax assessment of any properties within the village.
- The Village will cease to be a tax assessing entity and the Assessment Review Board has been abolished.

Residents who have any questions regarding their village property tax assessment should call the Town Assessor's Office at 914-989-1520; or visit the Town Tax Assessor's website at:

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=10&TPID=7841>

Well, that is about it for now.

We trust everyone is getting outside and enjoying the brisk fall air ... it is a great time of year in Dobbs Ferry. But please **be safe and make sure to take it slow ... *Slow Down Rivertowns*** ... you will still get to where you want to go, and you and your family will be safer.

Best regards,

Mayor Hartley Connett
Dobbs Ferry, New York

October 25, 2016

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www.dobbsferry.com

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