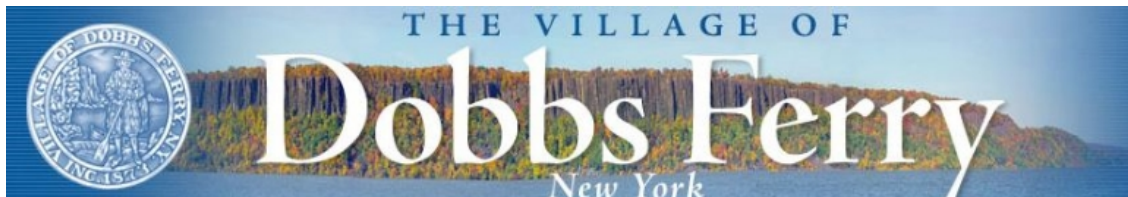


Happy Halloween 2017

Financial Reports on the Village

Groundbreaking Community Embassy Center



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## Office of the Mayor

112 Main Street

Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

914-231-8502

### ***Mayor's Newsletter***

*Halloween Walk, Excellent Financial Reports,  
an Important Groundbreaking, and recognition for some Special People.*

**October 30, 2017**

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**Halloween** Hudson   Shores of Dobbs Ferry   October 2017

Dear Residents,

We trust everyone is enjoying the change of the season and looking forward to a fun **Halloween**.

Here is a quick update on things going on in the village, projects, events, special recognition for a longtime worker, and some outstandingly positive (and hard earned) financial reports recently

issued on the Village of Dobbs Ferry.

## Reminder - Halloween in Dobbs Ferry



**! Come and join these great Halloween events in Dobbs Ferry !**

### **Tuesday, October 31**

#### **11:00am – 1:00pm Senior Halloween Party**

Be daring and wear a costume! Join us for lunch and music at the Dobbs Ferry Firehouse. For reservations call: #231 – 8529.

#### **4:00pm – 6:00pm Downtown Trick or Treating**

Join us on Cedar and Main Street for our Annual Halloween Trick or Treat event. Music will be provided by Rooney Tunes. Don't forget to stop by the Recreation Department table for your official trick or treat bag.



**For further information....**

**Contact the Recreation Department via email: [Kgarrison@dobbsferry.com](mailto:Kgarrison@dobbsferry.com)**



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## **FINANCIAL UPDATE** - Recent financial reports on Village of Dobbs Ferry

*Recently, the Village of Dobbs Ferry received several outstanding financial reports. Here are some of the important details. The full reports are available for review at Village Hall and on the Village's Website.*

[www.dobbsferry.com](http://www.dobbsferry.com)



# MOODY'S

The positive ratings report specifically cited the recent town-wide revaluation, the new Rivertowns Square project, along with strong new



revenue streams (taxes, fees, permits) directly attributable to the village's redevelopment activity over the past few years; property valuations grew by 15.7% to \$1.8 billion in fiscal 2017. Moody's also highlighted the village's **strong liquidity** and **cash reserves**, as well a **prudent policy** which maintains a reserve fund (the 'rainy day' fund) at 10-15 % of expenditures. The strong credit rating has allowed the village to issue \$7.5 million of new bonds at a low rate of 2.45%. These proceeds will now be invested in critical infrastructure projects and requirements, including the renovation and expansion of the Community Embassy Center (see ground breaking), upgrades to the Gould and Memorial Park pools and associated facilities, and the purchase of critical Public Safety/Fire equipment for end-of-life replacements.

These financial reports - along with 8 successive years of historically low village tax rates - **verify and support the financial initiatives undertaken by the current administration as a priority starting in 2009.** This included (1) a more serious and professional approach to the budgeting process, (2) setting of priorities, (3) short and long-term planning, and *importantly* (4) **an emphasis on increasing revenues** with an attitude encouraging a balanced redevelopment strategy; this also included the creation of the Dobbs Ferry Local Development Corporation (DFLDC) which has captured significant new revenues directly from the larger tax exempt institutions within our borders, and which funds are being re-invested back into the community to improve

the quality of life and help promote economic activity.

**A team of great people and volunteers** have contributed to this financial effort, including members of the Board of Trustees, the Village Administrator; an improved Treasury operation in particular the job done by Jeff Chuta; all the Village's Department Heads and Staff who have made strong contributions to finding ways to be more efficient; and an independent **Citizens Budget Committee** (Bob McLoughlin, Chair), volunteers who have been extremely proactive working with the board and staff to look at alternatives, or think differently, or to challenge the way of doing things; in a positive way, and helping to save a lot of money.

The overall budget strategy over the past 8 years has been a **huge success**, and has put the village on a more solid financial footing; it will provide future boards a strong base and financial platform from which to work, allowing for the completion of current initiatives and improvements that are in process, and also to address the future priorities of the community as a new board determines going forward.

The **bottom line** is Dobbs Ferry property owners (tax payers) can feel very good about their investment, and the future of the village.

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## Dobbs Ferry Fire Department Annual Inspection



Volunteer members of the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department in formal dress. Ax Brigade and Colors in front of the Village Hall Fire House on Main Street, Dobbs Ferry NY.

Congratulations were in order to **Fire Chief Chris Denike**, the **Assistant Chiefs**, and **all the volunteer members** of the **Dobbs Ferry Fire Companies** for the **successful Inspection and Dinner** held earlier this month. The equipment was presented in fantastic shape, and all the members looked sharp. During the inspection tour, the Mayor discussed with the Chief that the trustees had taken action and unanimously



approved passage of general/various purpose bonds (discussed earlier) which assured affordable funding was in place for the purchase of critical new equipment (ladder truck included) for end-of-life replacement. The board fully supports the essential needs and requirements of the department to do its job. As citizens, we are lucky to have so many people in our community who volunteer for fire department duty - as well as the families that support them. The village would otherwise not be able to afford the service. They are there 24/7 to help us when we need help the most.

**We Love them and we are Proud of them All.**

***Thank you to all the members - and the Families - of the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department.***





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## **Gary Gardner**

*Recognition for a life long Resident and Worker*



**Gary Gardner** has retired from the Village of Dobbs Ferry Department of Public Works. Gary was the former General Foreman of the DPW, having spent more the half his life working for the Village. He was born and raised in Dobbs Ferry. He began his career with the DPW in 1985 on the back of the garbage truck; then he moved to the Parks Department in 1987. Along the way, Gary learned every aspect of the DPW operations, becoming General Foreman and Head of the Department in 2012. Gary was familiar with everything about the

infrastructure of the village; from below ground sewer lines to high-tension power lines above, and everything in between; including fields, grass, weeds, trees, road surfaces, geese and goats. He was familiar with all of the utility companies and private contractors that work with the village. Gary was the 'Go-to-Guy' when there were problems, and Gary saw and experienced everything that could go wrong. Gary always got the job done. He was a great worker and helped so many residents when they had issues or problems. Gary also did a great job in preparing the department for this transition, and residents can be assured the DPW operations will run smoothly and at the highest level going forward. Gary helped make Dobbs Ferry a better place ... he will be missed, although we know he and the family will always be a big part of the village, which is their home. **We wish Gary and his family all the Best of Luck.**

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## **Groundbreaking - Embassy Community Center *Renovation and Expansion Project***







## **Community Center.**

Many residents - along with the board of trustees, state officials, village staff, and the engineers, designers and contractors involved came out to participate. As has been communicated, this is a priority project for the village to completely renovate and expand the community center building - which is the core facility supporting the village's recreational needs for all the residents - youth and adults. A well-thought financial strategy has been developed to fund the project in the most affordable way, to the benefit of taxpayers. This includes the use of non-taxpayer funds; the segregated recreation account, which is funded by developers; as well grant money which is being supported by our state representatives. On hand was New York State **Assemblyman Tom Abinanti** (whose office is working on providing additional grant funds), as well New York State Senator **Andrea-Stewart Cousins**, who is a great friend of Dobbs Ferry.

At the ceremony, the Senator of New York pointed out one of the best features of Dobbs Ferry over the past years has been a leadership style which has gotten things done in a non-partisan way; working across all party lines and with help from all levels of our State and County Government. It wasn't always this way. But we changed that, and its one of the reasons why things are getting done in Dobbs Ferry. Over the years of this administration, the village has received tremendous support from Congresswoman Stewart-Cousins,

Assemblyman Abinanti, as well **Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino** and his team. Of course, they are not members of the same political parties, but we worked with them all and they all help us, and we greatly appreciate their efforts and everything they have done to help make Dobbs Ferry a better place.

Moving forward, we will keep everyone posted and updated on the Embassy Community Center building project.

When finished, it will be something all of us can be really proud of.

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## A Great send-off to a Great Couple **Mary and Herbert Donovan**





Mary Donovan, with her husband Herbert after receiving a Proclamation from the Mayor.

**Mary Donovan** was given such a wonderful send-off by the Board and Members of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society in recognition of her many years of passionate involvement. Dobbs Ferry was so lucky when she and her husband, **Herbert**, moved to the village in 1996. Mary brought with her a rich history - from growing up in a small town in Wyoming, later schooling in California and Arkansas, and then back to Wyoming to raise her family. Her experiences also included

important missionary and humanitarian work in Africa. In deciding what she wanted to do in Dobbs Ferry, it really came down to **her love of history**. So, naturally she was drawn to the Society; becoming a member and then President in 2002. Mary did an amazing job helping to lead the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society - with all the archiving and activities involved to help us all appreciate - *and keep alive* - the important history of Dobbs Ferry.

**Mary and Herbert Donovan made Dobbs Ferry a better place.  
We wish them and their families all the best in the future.**

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Well that's about it for now ... we will be back with another update in a few weeks.

We hope everyone has a fun **Halloween** - and please stay safe.

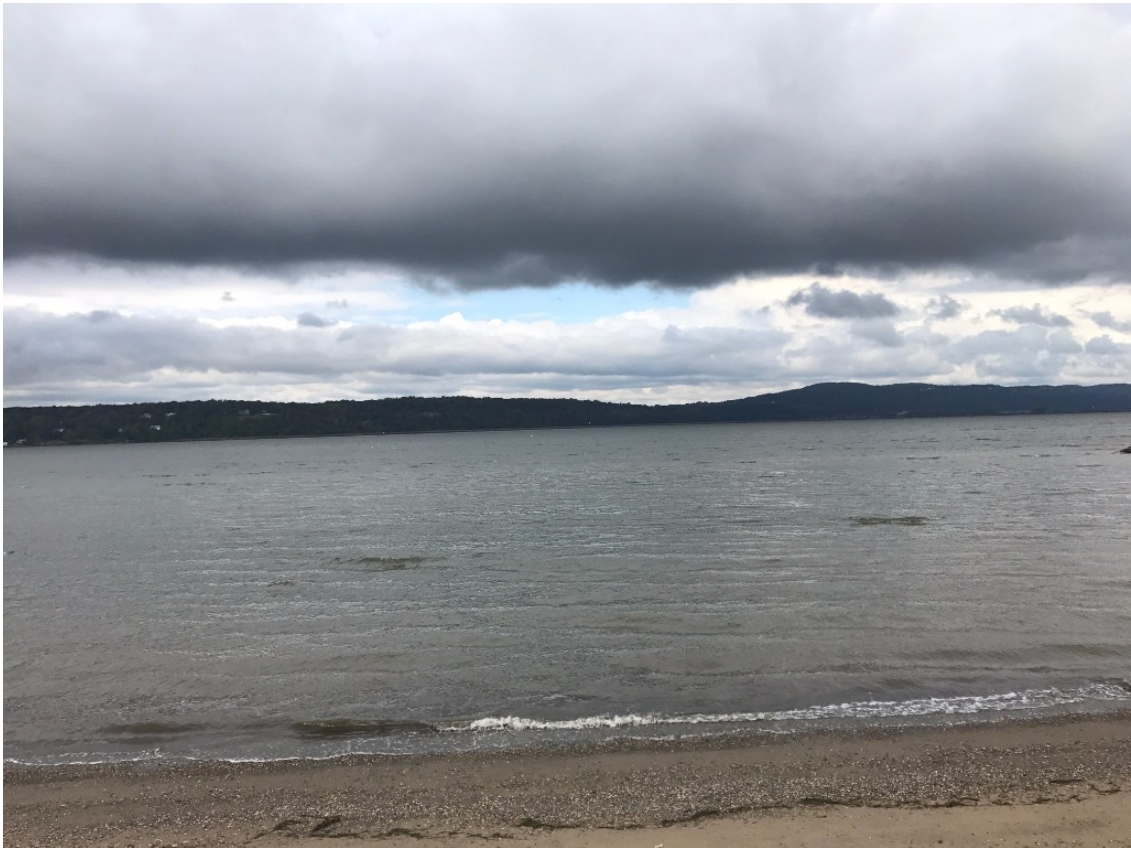


Sincerely,

Mayor Hartley Connett

October 30, 2017

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Spooky Clouds over the Hudson   Dobbs Ferry Shoreline   October 2017