

# Mayor's Newsletter - 10/3/2015

Congratulations to Everyone for Helping Make  
Ferry Festa 2015  
A Great Success!

The village would like to thank everyone who helped to make this year's festa a huge success. Thank you to **Matt Arone** and the **Recreation Department** and **Village Staff** and **Volunteers** who helped out before, during, and after wards. Festa is a big deal and without them none of this would happen. The village would especially like to recognize **Mr. Paddy Steinschneider**. Paddy has been at the center of the Festa's revival for many years; volunteering a huge amount of his time helping to lead and organize this major event. The village greatly appreciates and recognizes Paddy's contribution to the success of Festa.

Thanks to all of the **Local Business Merchants** who participated and worked with the departments to make this year's Festa the best yet; and all the **vendors** who came from places near and far. The local merchants go out of their way to enhance the street fair, and we as residents should do all we can to support them, all the time.

Also of course the **Dobbs Ferry Police Officers** who have a difficult job at events where so many people are in one place having a good time. They kept everyone safe in a small town way, which is not easy.

And a big '**Thank You**' to the village's **DPW Garbage and Highway Crews**. They once again did an incredible job preparing and cleaning up. They did such a great job that if you were downtown after the event later that night you would not have been able to tell there had been a giant street fair a few hours earlier. The village really appreciates the dedication of these workers.

*... and thank you to all the residents and visitors who came out last Saturday. **What a great time it was in Dobbs Ferry!***

**Dobbs Ferry Renewable Energy Initiative**





**Dobbs Ferry** has been recognized by the State of New York as a leading '***Climate Smart Community***' for the village's commitment and success implementing significant renewable and sustainable programs ***that work.***

**Dobbs Ferry** is now pleased to be participating in an exciting renewable energy program which will encourage and provide greater tools for resident and commercial owners to install efficient solar panel systems. **Dobbs Ferry** will be partnering with the Village of Hastings on this new program.

**SOLARIZE Westchester**, with the support of NYSERDA, starts by establishing solar-friendly permitting and zoning guidelines to help Westchester municipalities design and implement regulations in their communities that encourage residential and commercial installations of solar energy systems in a manner that is safe and consistent with local and state construction codes and zoning rules. (In fact, Dobbs Ferry was actually a step ahead having already instituted a new village zoning code some 6 years ago which has smartly incorporated solar-friendly zoning language).

Specifically, the ***Solarize Hastings - Dobbs Ferry*** program will be a unique discount buying program that uses a tiered-pricing structure, town-supported education and outreach and one competitively selected installer to dramatically reduce the cost of solar. The more residents sign up for Solarize, the more the cost comes down. You must sign a contract by February 29, 2016 to participate.

For more information on this program please come to the *Solarize Launch* which will be held in **Dobbs Ferry** on October 15 at 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm:

# Solarize Hastings-Dobbs Ferry!

Solar. Simple. Together.

## Come to our Solarize Launch!

**OCTOBER**  
**15**  
**THURSDAY**

**Dobbs Ferry Village Hall**

112 Main Street,  
Dobbs Ferry

**7:30-9:00 p.m.**



Please join us to learn more  
about this exciting time-limited  
opportunity to install solar energy  
on your home for less!



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**SOLARIZE**  
WESTCHESTER  
HASTINGS-DOBBS FERRY

[www.SolarizeWestchester.com/Hastings-DobbsFerry](http://www.SolarizeWestchester.com/Hastings-DobbsFerry)

This program and the success of Dobbs Ferry's ongoing sustainable initiatives would not be possible without the work and efforts of the village's **Energy Task Force**; dedicated residents who volunteer their time and who have helped the village to achieve significant energy savings for tax payers through investments in newer efficient energy systems and renewable cost-savings programs. In Dobbs Ferry we have coined the phrase '**what is good for the environment is good for village business**'.

... This solarize program could be good for *your* business too.

### **Here is an update on Parking Initiatives and Issues**

- **Waterfront Municipal Parking Lot**

The ad hoc waterfront parking committee met last weekend on the municipal lot parking permit policy; specifically to discuss (a) a short-term strategy that might allow some flexibility in the permit policy to accommodate non-resident visitors and (b) longer-term actions to improve the municipal lot's overall capacity to meet the growing needs of Dobbs Ferry's residents (tax payers) in particular growing commuter requirements. The Board of Trustees has also been discussing these issues as well listening to the concerns of residents and commuters.

**In the short-term, 20 spaces have been created for non resident weekend visitor parking:**

- Saturdays and Sundays only
- **Free** 4 hour maximum time limit
- Only in the designated location between the signage markings (installed)

Below is an ariel picture outlining the 20 spaces.





[north of the flag plaza on the western/waterfront side of lot]

The village will monitor the new weekend visitor parking arrangement to see how it works on a pilot basis. It will be reassessed in February, or as required in the short-term.

On a longer-term basis the board is focusing on the following factors:

***Increasing Demand*** - This fiscal year there was a *big* jump in demand for annual commuter parking permits. The higher demand appears to be a combination of better economic activity, increased interest in the new waterfront park, and clear data that more couples and families are moving into the area because they want to live here. *(Due to the spike in demand, the village was not able to meet those applications for commuter permits which were submitted late in the season well after the initial sales date. The village does not want to 'oversell' which would risk permit holders not finding a space in the morning).*

***Dobbs Ferry Residents & Commuters as a Priority*** - Whatever long-term actions the board deems appropriate in addressing parking availability and capacity - which will include community input - the needs

of Dobbs Ferry's commuters and residents will be the highest priority.

***Desire for a simplified and welcoming usage permit policy that reasonably balances revenue and maintenance/expense costs, without extra burden to village residents (tax payers)*** - I think this speaks for itself.

To address the issues the board is / will be / discussing and/or considering the following:

- *Re-allocation of Recreation Spaces which are going unused during the week.*
- *Reduction in traditional allocation of non-resident commuter permits sold each year.*
- *Limitation of annual commuter permits per household.*
- *Elimination / reduction of 1-day passes.*
- *Survey and engineering analysis to determine if there is adequate village property to the north of the lot (along the tracks) which might be usable to create additional new parking spaces. (it is too early and we don't know what the survey results will be yet; but we did want to let everyone know the village is looking at this)*

The village has also taken steps to consider a ***Kiosk System*** for the commuter parking lot. This type of parking system could simplify the non-commuter payment rates and process, enhance availability for all levels of parking requirements, while increasing revenues for the village. As a first-step, the Administrator is in process of issuing a formal RFP for a Kiosk System, which the village will then advance to determine if a Kiosk System might be the best long-term solution for Dobbs Ferry. The village will keep everyone posted on the waterfront parking lot issues.

#### • **Dobbs Ferry Residential Permit Parking System**

Good news. Last week the Governor finally signed the Albany Bill allowing the Dobbs Ferry's Home Rule request to implement by *local law* a pilot residential permit parking system which will create additional on-street parking for village residents living near the MTA station and close to the downtown area.

With this signing, the village's administration - working with residents closely involved in the draft plan, as well the Police Department - will now move to finalize the parking permit program.

As reported in the previous month's Newsletter, the specific requirements of the program include:

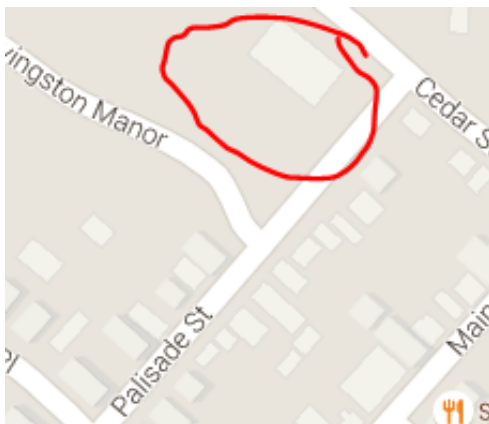
- At least 20% of the spaces within the permit area to be open to nonresidents.
- Providing for short-term parking of at least 60 minutes in the permit area.
- Requiring a public hearing to be held on the parking permit system.
- The pilot program would expire on January 1, 2018.
- The bill also states the area of the village to be covered: Oak street, from Broadway to Main street; Elm street, from Broadway to Main street; Chestnut street, from Broadway to Main street; Walnut street, from Broadway to Livingston avenue; Hatch terrace, from Broadway to Walnut street; Palisade street, from

Cedar street to Chestnut street; Riverside place; Cedar street, from Main street to a point 750 feet west of Palisade street; and the portion of Draper lane owned by the village of Dobbs Ferry.

- There are exceptions. No permit shall be required on those portions of streets where the adjacent properties are zoned for commercial, office and/or retail use. The parking system does not apply to any state highway maintained by the state.

The bottom line: This first-time pilot parking permit program is a positive step to improving the parking situation for residents of the village who live nearer the train station and the designated streets around the downtown area.

- **Palisade Street Issue**



The village is very much aware of the situation on Palisade Street concerning the use of the parking lots on the 145 Palisade property by Mercy College. The village board is also appreciative of those residents who came before the board Tuesday night (this week) and expressed their concerns in a respectful and legitimate manner. The board has listened to these concerns and we are working quickly and seriously with all parties involved to rectify and improve the situation. In doing so, the safety and quality of life of the residents on Palisade Street and the immediate area will be the top priority in dealing with this issue.

\* \* \*

The fall is a beautiful time of year in Dobbs Ferry. We hope you are all getting out to enjoy the new waterfront park, the Hudson River views, or walking the Aqueduct. Fall is also a great time for kids and the village recreation department has some fun things planned for **October**. Here is a list of some events:



**Saturday Oct 24**

**Halloween Picture Painting Contest**

*Pick-up paints at Community Center*

*10am - 12pm*

**Friday Oct 30**

**Great Pumpkin Party**

*4pm at Community Center*

**Fri Oct 30**

**Outdoor Scary Movie**

**'Hotel Transylvania'**

*7pm at Gould Park*

**Saturday Oct 31**

**Halloween Trick-or-Treat**

*Cedar and Main Streets 4pm - 6pm*

*Entertainment by 'The Great' Joe Rooney*



For more information about these events please call the Recreation Department at 693-0024  
We will keep in touch and report back on things a little later in October. In the meantime, enjoy our beautiful river town Dobbs Ferry!

Sincerely,

Mayor Hartley Connett  
Village of Dobbs Ferry, New York

October 3, 2015

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