

Mayor's Newsletter - July 4th Update

Dear Residents,

**The Village Wishes Everyone a
Happy and Safe
4th of July Weekend.**



While there is a little rain in the forecasts, it shouldn't get in the way of letting us enjoy the outside and celebrating our country's freedoms with family and friends.

As we have previously announced, due to the very recent reopening of Waterfront Park the annual fireworks program has been postponed until next year. The new sod, grass, plantings and landscaping needs a little more time to establish roots and to develop properly. This decision was not an easy one but it is in the best long-term interests of the park. We look forward to bringing the fireworks back next year ***bigger and better then ever!***

Although there will not be any bright streamers and loud booms, please still come down to enjoy the beautiful new waterfront park. There are new walkways to take a stroll and exercise apparatus to help get back in shape, or lots of new benches if you want to just sit and relax; picnic tables abound and the new playground has been a huge hit with families and the small kids. The new pier offers a fantastic spot to enjoy the views of the majestic Hudson River.

Please also remember that the floating dock is not yet open to the public. We will keep everyone posted once it is open.

One thing that ***is*** open this weekend is **all the local Dobbs Ferry merchants and restaurants**. At the waterfront, Half Moon Restaurant has recently opened its new outdoor eating and bar area.

PLEASE SUPPORT ALL THE LOCAL DOBBS FERRY RESTAURANTS AND MERCHANTS

In the June update there was a report on the re-dedication ceremony held June 13, and all the great people who were involved in the event and everyone who made the waterfront project such a big success. If you could not make it, you can watch a video of the event looping on the public access TV channels 46 (Verizon/Fios) or 77 (Cablevision/Optimum). Or, you can go to the Dobbs Ferry village website www.dobbsferry.com and find a link on the front page: Here are a few quick updates on the village, some actions recently taken by the board, and a few dates to mark on the calendar. **Dobbs Ferry wins approval for Local Permit Parking Program**

The village of Dobbs Ferry requested and was granted approval by the New York State Legislature under a Home Rule procedure which will allow it to design and create a system of permits in order to provide parking relief for Dobbs Ferry residents; particularly those who live near the train station and the downtown areas who have difficulty with on-street parking spaces.

Commenting on the bill's passage in a press release, Senator Stewart-Cousins said "*Dobbs Ferry is looking to protect the village's integrity as a place to live and do business, by making sure that commuters who do not live in the village, are not taking up precious street parking on residential streets.*"

The village thanks Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assemblyman Tom Abinanti for their support in the introduction and passage of this bill.

The bill will allow the village to establish a parking permit pilot program by institution of local law or ordinance. The streets to be covered under the permit program include:

Oak Street, Elm Street, and Chestnut Street - from Broadway to Main

Walnut Street - from Broadway to Livingston Avenue

Hatch Terrace - from Broadway to Walnut

Palisade Street - from Cedar Street to Chestnut Street

Riverside Place

Cedar Street - from Main Street to a point 750 feet west of Palisade Street

Bottom line is the permit program is intended to improve on-street parking for local residents. The Program will require a public hearing on the new system, which will be fully noticed and communicated ahead of time to all the residents.

In this effort we also want to recognize the work of **Police Chief** and **interim Village Administrator Betsy Gelardi**, who took the lead some time ago on this local parking permit initiative. The village is also being proactive in determining other strategies to improve and locate downtown parking initiatives including the recent parking management workshops hosted by the village along with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council and the Westchester County Department of Public Works and Transportation. The efforts to find parking solutions are also supported by the **village's Parking Committee**, and Liaison Donna Cassell.



Dobbs Ferry

At its' previous regular meeting, the board of trustees authorized the Mayor to execute a letter for Dobbs Ferry's support and participation in the **Solarize Westchester** Program. This programs is designed to increase the amount of solar installed in Westchester County; specifically to help support village's like Dobbs Ferry in the adoption of solar-friendly processes to help residents and businesses install solar more easily and at a lower cost. The program is supported by **NYSERDA** as well other important organizations - such as **Sustainable Westchester** - whom the village has partnered in the past on other energy efficiency and sustainable initiatives. Dobbs Ferry is well positioned to take advantage of this solar program: The village's code and permitting processes have been designed to specifically encourage the use of energy efficient technologies, including solar panels. Importantly, the village's **Energy Task Force**- led by **Nina Orville** - continues to help the village set a high bar in efforts to educate and improve energy efficiency, and to help the environment. We want to thank and recognize the work and commitment made by **all the members of the Energy Task Force**- and board liaison Jeff O'Donnell. We will keep everyone posted on this program and more information will be made available should Dobbs Ferry be chosen as a participant in the program.



Solid Waste Reduction Goal

In related environmental action, the board of trustees also passed a resolution committing the village to reduce its solid waste stream by 20% by the year 2020. This action is in line with New York State **Climate Smart** waste reduction initiatives and tools which are made available to educate homeowners and businesses on 'Best Practice' for reducing our solid waste volumes. It is also consistent with previous actions taken by the board to help the environment, which greatly improves the village's bottom line. The Task Force will help the village in providing the community additional information and education on how we can all reduce our solid waste stream - which will help reduce the village's waste removal 'tipping fees' (i.e. save tax dollars), and make for a cleaner world.

Expansion of LED installations

The board also passed a resolution authorizing further investment in the installation of more LED lighting. Dobbs Ferry took the lead on LED replacement several years ago and other municipalities (like the City of Yonkers) have taken advantage of this work to expand the program into far greater numbers. As such, prices are even more advantageous and investment payback periods are further enhanced. LED lights use less energy and have far less maintenance costs

... it was a busy meeting for Action on energy efficiency and a better environment.

In the area of energy efficiency and sustainability, **Dobbs Ferry** stands out. It is the reason why the village earned the highest award **ever** presented by New York State Climate Smart Communities ... and it is a reason why we say "***what is good for the environment is good for business***'.

New York State Legislatures Passes Local Hotel Tax Bill

This week the NY State Senate and Assembly passed bi-partisan legislation to allow the Town of Greenburgh - including the village of Dobbs Ferry - to impose a local hotel occupancy tax. The Governor has now signed the bill. This is a big deal for the village.

To begin, it is important to note the efforts of the **Village Officer Committee** (or 'VOC') - made up of the Mayors and Managers of the villages of Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Elmsford, Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, Hastings and Ardsley - as well representatives of the Greenburgh Town Council. This group had been pressing our state representatives for several years to support such a bill. The issue was foremost one of tax fairness as White Plains, New Rochelle, Rye, and 43 other counties had all previously been approved to impose such a tax (but not the Town of Greenburgh). This goes against the basic principal of tax fairness and representation. This is another example of the effectiveness of the VOC which has encouraged all the villages and town working together for the benefit and greater good of all tax payers.

For Dobbs Ferry, the passage of this bill is significant as it pertains to the hotel tenant proposed for the Rivertowns Square re-development project. It will represent **a potentially significant new source of revenue**; a critical need in the current tax-cap strapped environment, and particularly in lieu of the fact we operate a village where 40% of the property is tax exempt. *So this is big.*

Dobbs Ferry wants to thank our New Your State Representatives - **Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins** and **Assemblyman Tom Abinanti** - who worked hard to support the VOC and the passage of this important bill ... they are both great friends of Dobbs Ferry.

Dobbs Ferry Recreation Program

The summer recreation programs are getting off to a good start.



Pool Day was a big success as 35 new members signed-up last weekend. For pool memberships please go to Gould Park or the Community Center.

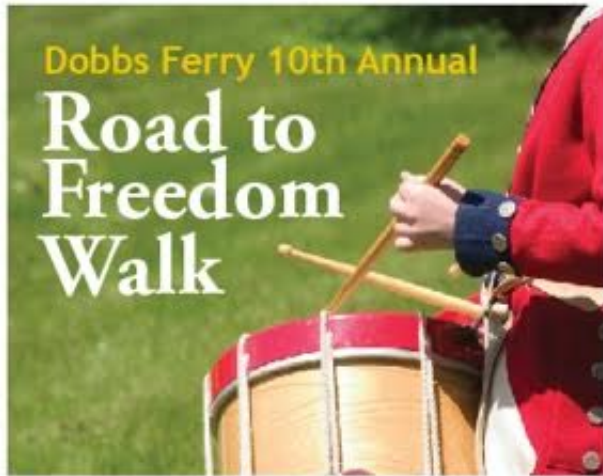
The **Summer Basketball League** is fully subscribed and play will start this coming Monday, July 6th at the Gould Park court.

The Recreation Department has about 25 extra tickets available for the **New York Yankees** game on Thursday, July 9th @ 1:05 PM (vs Athletics). Tickets are for face value (\$16). Please see Matt Arone at the Community Center if you are interested in buying tickets for the game.

For more information on camp programs or registration, please call the **Recreation Department** at 693-0024; for information on the **Seniors Program** call 693-7792

Early reminders

Dobbs Ferry Historical Society



Hear Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton, General George Washington, and French General Rochambeau live! Come for a stirring recreation of the happenings in the critical days before the departure of the American army from Dobbs Ferry to face Lord Cornwallis in Virginia.



Jonathan Kruk and Richard Bela, of the Hudson River Ramblers, will perform at the Mead House

Sunday, August 9

1:00 pm Gould Park

Join the Walk led by fife & drum and costumed reenactors as we follow along the route of the Continental Army as they departed Dobbs Ferry for Yorktown, Va. on August 19, 1781

2:00 pm Mead House 12 Elm Street

- ★ folk songs, story telling, fife & drum
- ★ costumed performers and presenters
- ★ dramatic performance of scenes from '1781 A Strategy for Victory'
- ★ display of everyday items used by soldiers
- ★ demonstration of 18th century makeup, hair, fashion, and tea practices

Event is free | Refreshments will be served

Visitors of all ages are cordially invited

Road to Freedom 2015 is a shared initiative of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society and the Village of Dobbs Ferry.

dobbsferryhistory.org | 674.1007



We are grateful for the generous support of Tensor Foundation and Half Moon restaurant, principal sponsors of Road to Freedom 2015

Please support the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society by becoming a member.

... Ferry Festa will be September 26, 2015



Well, that is about it for now.

Have a **great July 4th Everyone**, and we will be in touch a little later in the summer.

ENJOY!

Sincerely,

Mayor Hartley Connett