



THE TARRYTOWNER

Fall 2011

From the Desk of Mayor Drew Fixell



As has been widely reported, in late May, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to update and resubmit the lawsuit Tarrytown originally filed in 2007 that challenged Sleepy Hollow's approval of the proposed redevelopment of the Lighthouse Landing project at the General Motors site. Soon after that first filing, my column in the Tarrytowner outlined the Village's concerns and the reasoning behind the lawsuit. As there have been very few substantive changes in the project or the lawsuit since that time, it turns out that what I wrote nearly 4 years ago is as relevant and accurate today as it was then. It is reprinted in its entirety below:

As many Tarrytowners are already aware, on October 15th (2007) the Village filed a lawsuit in the State Supreme Court in White Plains challenging Sleepy Hollow's approval of the Lighthouse Landing project at the General Motors site. Though we had hoped to avoid taking this step, after much deliberation and discussion with our consultants and staff, and after attempting to negotiate a reasonable resolution, it became apparent that to protect the interests of Tarrytown residents, legal action was our only recourse.

Although the actual filing amounts to over 200 pages, the core of our argument is relatively straightforward: The approved project's adverse traffic impacts would be intolerable; the proposed mitigation measures would be ineffective, inappropriate and unacceptable; and Sleepy Hollow failed to properly consider

Photo of Drew Fixell by Dorothy Handelman

other mitigation measures that expert testimony shows would not only reduce traffic to reasonable levels but also would be economically viable.

Notably, both Sleepy Hollow and the developer recognize that the project's traffic impacts are not acceptable and should be mitigated. The stalemate arises from their proposed "cure" for the problems Lighthouse Landings will generate: Tarrytown would have to remove approximately 35 parking spaces along Broadway in order to create additional roadway capacity. As I wrote in my letter to Sleepy Hollow in April 2005 responding to the project's draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), the elimination of on-street parking (would) "harm local businesses and residences by exacerbating the existing parking shortage," "amplify the highway aspects of Broadway" and "severely negatively impact the small town, pedestrian-friendly character of our business district and Village." Moreover, we also pointed to expert analysis showing that this measure, even if implemented, would not adequately reduce traffic, and would leave numerous intersections and neighborhoods completely unimproved. Consequently, we made it clear in our letter that Tarrytown would not implement the DEIS' proposal.

In the two and one-half years since we informed Sleepy Hollow of that decision, there has been no change in our position. Unfortunately, during that time, the developer has failed to come up with any other effective traffic mitigation measures.

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From the Desk of Mayor Drew Fixell

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Perhaps it is not surprising that the developer has not suggested additional mitigation – as our consultants also showed, the one effective measure available would be to significantly reduce the density of the development in order to reduce the volume of traffic generated by it. With this in mind, we have repeatedly requested since April 2005 that the developer be required to study an alternative configuration which, by reducing residential and commercial space, would reduce traffic volume by about 50 percent when compared to the original plan proposed in the DEIS. Not only have we established that such a reduction would bring traffic impacts to acceptable levels, but we also demonstrated its economic feasibility. Further, considering such an alternative would be in keeping with the requirement of the state environmental law to “minimize adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.” Needless to say, we were sorely disappointed when the final findings of the Sleepy Hollow Board approved a plan providing for reductions of less than half the target we identified.

I want to emphasize that Tarrytown is neither asking for the elimination of any portion of the project nor trying to stop it from moving forward; rather, we are simply requesting that the developer carefully analyze an alternative that, by moderating residential and commercial density, will bring traffic impacts to tolerable levels. As it stands now, Lighthouse Landing’s density is nearly twice the level Tarrytown approved for the very similar Ferry Landings development on our waterfront. We believe the evidence is clear that our request is a reasonable one.

There are two final points I would like to make. First, this lawsuit is not, as has been suggested, some sort of “payback” for Sleepy Hollow’s lawsuit of several years ago challenging Tarrytown’s plan to move the asphalt plant closer to the village. In fact, the delay created by that suit was not unwelcome, as it provided my administration with the time to negotiate a new deal eliminating the asphalt plant entirely. Second, this lawsuit is in no way intended to disrupt the excellent relationship our two villages have established over the last several years. The lines of communication have been open and respectful throughout this process and will remain so, and together we will continue our cooperative efforts to find additional ways to improve the quality of life for all of our residents.

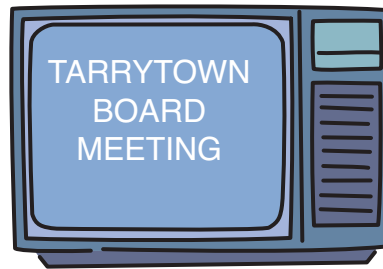


TARRYTOWNER QUOTE

We should not let our fears hold us back from pursuing our hopes.

- John F. Kennedy

Televising of Board Meetings and Planning Board Meetings



Residents who watch the Board of Trustees and Planning Board meetings on the government cable channels (Cablevision channel 78; Verizon channel 28) may notice that the meetings look a little different (*and better*). Utilizing Capital Funds provided by both Cablevision and Verizon pursuant to their franchise agreements with the Village, the Village is upgrading the equipment used to televise the meetings as well as the equipment used to convey the meetings to the cable subscribers. The Village televises the meetings using one videographer who had been using a *single camera* in the Boardroom. The new equipment incorporates *three cameras* that are operated remotely via a joystick. In addition, the playback of the meetings occurred via a DVD. With the new system, the televised meetings will be downloaded directly from the cameras into a computer which will store the material and play the meetings back at scheduled times. Instructions will be provided when available to allow residents to choose which Board meetings they would like to watch. The new system will provide a much better viewing experience for all of you who enjoy watching Board meetings.



Grant Update



The Village of Tarrytown recently was awarded the following grants:

- * The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services awarded a \$25,000 grant to the Village Police Department through the 2010/11 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Equipment Program toward the purchase of a new patrol vehicle.
- * The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded a \$413,811 grant to the Village Fire Department through the 2010 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program toward the purchase of equipment, protective gear, training and wellness activities.



From the Desk of Jim Hart, Village Treasurer

News Alert!

Notices for Tax Bills And Parking Permits



The Village of Tarrytown has just instituted an e-mail notification procedure for Tax Bill notices and Parking Permit notices. If you would like to be part of the e-mail list for both or one of these notices, you must first register your e-mail address

on our website as follows:

On the Home Page at www.tarrytowngov.com, under **ON OUR SITE**, click on **SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS**. Once there, follow instructions in **HOW TO SUBSCRIBE**, being sure to select the Notice(s) you wish to receive.

News Alert!

Commercial Vehicle Parking Permits

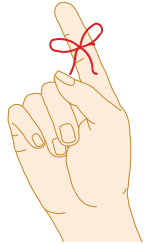
The Village of Tarrytown has just established a new parking permit system allowing certain types of commercial vehicles to park at the Resident Commuter Parking Lot on Depot Plaza and the Non-Resident Commuter Parking Lot on Green Street (the primary lot on the river side of the Metro-North tracks) between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., Monday through Friday and all day on Saturday or Sunday. The fees for annual permits are \$575 for residents and \$750 for non-residents. Certain types of oversized commercial vehicles may take up to two (2) full parking spaces for

the parking of the vehicle on Green Street. The oversized annual resident fee is \$840 and \$1,090 for non-residents. *However, parking permits shall not be issued for any trailers, semitrailers or tractors.* Permit applications are available online or at Village Hall and should be submitted to the Treasurer's Office. For detailed information visit our website at www.tarrytowngov.com and click on **Village Code, Section 291-49.A**. Commercial Vehicle permits, or call Village Hall at 631-7873.

REMINDERS

Second Half Village Taxes are due by December 31st to avoid any penalties.

Semi-Annual Parking Permits expire on November 30th and need to be renewed. Parking permits can be renewed on-line, at www.tarrytowngov.com and click on Village Parking or at Village Hall.



If you are planning to move from your Village residence, please make sure you call 631-7875 to schedule a final water reading.

If you pay bills to the Village via direct bill pay, please make sure you have our current address: Village of Tarrytown to One Depot Plaza, Tarrytown, New York 10591.

For assistance on this information, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 631-7873.

Solar Panels Installed at Village Hall and Senior Center

The Village of Tarrytown, utilizing grant funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), is installing solar panels on the Village Hall and the Senior Center. The federal stimulus funding for the project is being administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The project will cost \$340,868, with \$215,868 being paid from the grant.



The payback period for the Village's investment is expected to be between nine and ten years, with the initial annual savings from the project anticipated to range from \$12,500 to \$13,000. The solar panels will generate electricity at both the Village Hall and the Senior Center, and the savings will come from the value of that electricity being deducted from the Village's normal electricity bill.

From the Desk of Michael McGarvey, P.E., Village Engineer

How To Handle Leaves During the Fall

The BEST Solution to the Leaf Problem – Keep Them!

Leaves make terrific mulch. The easiest, best and least expensive solution to leaf removal is to just mow them right back into your lawn with a mulching lawn mower. Several studies (go to Tarrytowngov.com for links

to articles) have shown that this can actually result in healthier lawns with no negative effects. The studies have also shown that there's almost no limit on the amount of leaves that can be handled in this way. Other great ideas are to pack them around your perennials and on your flower beds as insulation against the cold winter weather, or spread them on top of your vegetable garden and rototill them into the soil to enrich it for next year's crop. Leaves are also a valuable addition to a well-maintained compost pile.



The Second Best Solution: Leaf Pick-Up in Biodegradable Paper Bags

If you are unable to mulch your leaves, the Village will collect leaves packed in biodegradable paper bags (NO PLASTIC BAGS) placed by the curb along with your regular trash. Biodegradable bag collection takes place throughout the year.

Leaf Vacuum Collection Program 10/11/2011 – 12/16/11

The Village will again offer its leaf vacuum collection program from **October 11, 2011 through December 16, 2011** (barring any large snow storms). It is extremely important that the leaves to be vacuumed are placed on the curb but **NOT IN THE STREET**. Leaves left in the street impede storm water flow to catch basins, restricts available parking, and can create driving hazards. Please remember that this program is designed for the removal of **leaves only**. Grass clippings, brush and other yard waste cannot be mixed with the loose leaves; such materials clog the equipment, slowing down the entire operation and contribute to equipment and labor downtime.

Help Prevent Flooding This Fall

When our storm water system is working properly, rainwater flows into storm drains and rapidly discharges into the Hudson River.

**Leaves don't
belong in the
stormdrain**



Dropping leaves or grass clippings (or any other objects or materials) into the storm drain will cause clogging and flooding, and will flush to the Hudson.



For a Beautiful Hudson River...

Gutters and Car Washing:

Collect roof runoff in rain barrels to use on your lawn, or direct water to grassy areas instead of down the driveway. Also car washing runoff should be directed to your lawn. Lawns cleanse the water of pollutants.

Pet Waste:

Flush it down the toilet or throw it in the trash. Animal waste contaminates waterways with pathogens and bacteria.



Recycling Has Just Become Easier **No more need to squint at those tiny little numbers!**

Starting in June, Westchester County changed its law and policy so that residents, businesses, schools and institutions are finally able (and required) to recycle virtually every type of plastic container (numbers 1 through 7). In July, the Village Board adopted local legislation reflecting that change.

How does the new law work?

Until now we only have been recycling #1 and # 2 plastics. Under the new law, recycling works exactly the same way, except that now all plastics with #1 through #7 “chasing arrow” symbols on the bottom must be recycled. Since there are no chasing arrows other than #1 through #7, this means that virtually all food, beverage, detergent, shampoo containers and bottles can be put in the recycling bin (containers should be rinsed clean before going in). Even some bottle caps can now be recycled. Just check that items have one of the following symbols:

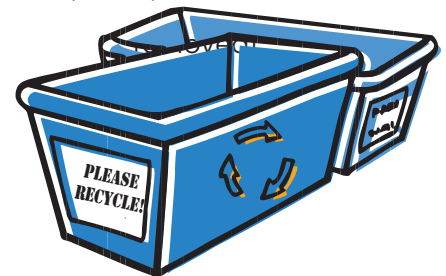


There are, however, still some plastic items that cannot be recycled, as follows:

- Plastic bags - return to retail stores
- Plastic film from dry cleaning bags or packaging materials
- Vinyl (e.g., tiles, records, CDs)
- Any plastic item without a chasing arrow symbol (e.g. toys, clothing hangers, utensils, furniture)
- Styrofoam -- please try not to buy items made from this environmentally harmful material
- Containers that held hazardous materials (e.g. motor oil, solvents, pesticides)
- Building materials (e.g., PVC piping, bathroom and kitchen fixtures)

*Other requirements of the recycling law have not been changed.
The following items continue to be collected during weekly pick-up:*

- White and colored office paper (staples do not need to be)
- Newspaper (including glossy inserts)
- Cardboard (corrugated and grey)
- Junk Mail
- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal food and beverage containers



Recyclables that are not collected curbside or require action by you.

The following items that must be recycled can be dropped off at DPW between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday or the 1st Saturday of each month between 9 a.m. and 12 noon (no appointment necessary).

- Electronic waste (i.e. computers, printers, televisions)
- Tires

Bulk metals can be picked curbside by appointment only. To schedule a pick-up, please call 631-0356.

- Bulk metals (i.e. large fixtures and appliances)

Recycling protects our natural resources and saves Tarrytown taxpayers \$100,000 annually

*****The More We Recycle The More We Save*****

Legislative Corner...

The following legislative actions were taken in recent months by the Board of Trustees. (Complete texts are available at the Village Clerk's Office (631-1652) or on-line at www.tarrytowngov.com.)

- **Storm Water Management** – This amendment updates the language of our Stormwater Management Code by establishing new development and planning standards for mitigating flooding and flood damage, reflecting State recommendations for all municipalities in Westchester County. (*Chapter 258; adopted 12/6/10*)

- **Filming** – This amendment to the Filming Code provides Village staff with additional tools to manage filming in the Village. The issues addressed include parking, application process, permitted hours for filming, instituting a security deposit, and changes to the requirements for the certificate of insurance. (*Chapter 157; adopted 12/20/10*)

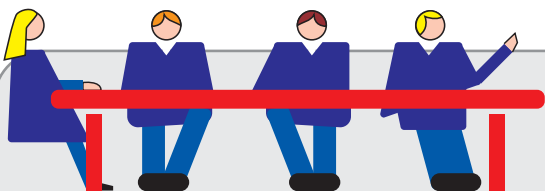
- **Peddling and Soliciting** – This amendment requires that peddlers and solicitors pay the cost of the required background checks and searches, except for those applicants engaged in religious, political or not-for-profit activities. (*Chapter 225; adopted 1/18/11*)

- **Streets and Sidewalks** – This amendment requires that the material known as K-crete be utilized for the backfilling of street openings. K-crete eliminates the settling that occurs when other materials are utilized, and therefore mitigates the negative impact such settling has on the vehicular traffic. (*Chapter 259; adopted 4/4/11*)

- **Parks and Recreation Areas** – This amendment establishes hours of operation for the Village watershed properties (the "Tarrytown Lakes") similar to the hours of operation of other areas in the Village designated as public parks, playgrounds and recreational areas. (*Chapter 221; adopted 5/2/11*)

- **Vehicle and Traffic / Permit Parking** – This amendment establishes a new parking permit system for certain types of commercial vehicles and designates specific parking lots within the Village where the commercial parking permits may be utilized. (*Chapter 291, Article VI; adopted 7/18/11*)

- **Recycling** – This amendment reflects the additional plastics that can be recycled and delivered to the Westchester County Material Recovery Facility. (*Chapter 237; adopted 7/18/11*)



Planning and Zoning Update from Kathy D'Eufemia

In recent months the Planning Board has taken the following action:

- Approved the construction of a new 6,200 sq. ft. single family home on Lot 9 in The Legends at Wilson Park subdivision.
- Approved the application of the JCC-on-the-Hudson, Inc. to expand and renovate the existing General Motors Training Center and the JCC buildings to become the new JCC-on-the-Hudson Community Center with a swimming pool, gymnasium, and early childhood center.
- Approved the construction of a new three-family house on a vacant lot adjacent to 17 Baylis Court.
- Approved a new hibachi restaurant at 124-134 Wildey Street.
- Approved an emergency generator and esplanade for the EF School, 100 Marymount Avenue.

Sewer Fee

Commencing with the water bills issued in June, water customers will see a Sewer Fee on the water bill. The new user fee was adopted by the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the development of the annual budget for the current fiscal year (June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012). In previous Village budgets, sewer repairs and maintenance as well as major sewer improvement projects were included in the General Fund and were funded through the property taxes paid by property owners. However, the Board of Trustees recognized that there was an inherent unfairness in such a system, since the costs of providing sewer service can be directly correlated with the amount of water consumed by user and is not connected to a property's assessment. Further, there are a number of proper-

ties which utilize the sewer system but are not subject to property taxes. Consequently, converting the funding for sewers to a user fee was determined to be a more equitable way to fund the Villages' sewer projects, with the fee based upon the amount of water used.

The user fee collected is deposited into a specially designated "Sewer Fund," with the monies segregated from other fees collected by the Village. These monies can only be used for sewer-related Capital projects or the maintenance and repair of sewers. In addition, in this year's budget process, the sewer-related costs originally included in the preliminary budget were removed from the General Fund and the tax rate was reduced accordingly.

Tarrytown Recreation Events / Fall 2011

Friday, September 16th – Third Friday, Main Street & Broadway 5:00–9:00 p.m., is brought to you by the Village of Tarrytown merchants, as well as many other generous sponsors. “Back to School” will be the theme throughout the evening.*

Week of September 19th – Exercise classes begin (12 sessions), for information call Tarrytown Recreation at 631-8347.

Saturday, September 24th – Village-Wide Tag Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Deadline to register your address is Friday, September 16th at Tarrytown Recreation. Call 631-8347 or e-mail ttrec@aol.com. (Rain date: Sunday, 9/25)



Saturday, October 15th – Scarecrow Making 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Patriots Park. With help from the community, we will be creating scarecrows to decorate the Village. Bring some old clothes, string and plenty of enthusiasm.

Wednesday, October 19th – Halloween Window Painting held in conjunction with the Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow Arts Council. With the support of local merchants, downtown Main Street and Broadway will be decorated. The event is held from 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Paint supplies and canvas provided. Registration required with the Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown Chamber of Commerce: 631-1705, or e-mail: info@sleepyhollowchamber.com.

Friday, October 21st – Third Friday, Main Street & Broadway, 5:00–9:00 p.m. A Halloween theme will be highlighted throughout the evening.*

Saturday, October 22nd – Rag-a-Muffin Halloween Sidewalk Parade. Assemble at Patriots Park at 1:30 p.m. Parade steps off at 2:00 p.m. and proceeds to the Main Street Firehouse for candy and musical entertainment.



Saturday, October 29th – The 10th Annual Village of Tarrytown Halloween Parade. Assemble at Patriots Park at 4:30 p.m.

The parade steps off at 5:30 p.m. and proceeds down Broadway to Main Street and ends at the Y.M.C.A. Floats are encouraged and welcomed as well as walkers. A block party with musical entertainment will be held after the parade on Main Street. Call to register floats & groups at 631-8347 or e-mail ttrec@aol.com.

Sunday, November 13th – Annual “Pilgrim Run.” This four-mile road race will start at the Hackley School, beginning at 12:00 noon. All runners should be registered by 11:30 a.m. on the morning of the race. A turkey will be awarded to the winner of each age group; refreshments are provided.

Friday, November 18th – Third Friday, Main Street & Broadway 5:00–9:00 p.m. “Thanksgiving” will be the theme throughout the evening.*

Saturday, December 3rd – The 12th Annual Holiday “Tree Lighting” will be held at Patriots Park at 5:00 p.m. A visit from Santa and refreshments offered at Warner Library follow the tree lighting.

Tarrytown Recreation Department
(914) 631-8347

*www.tarrytownthirdfriday.com



New Service for Job Seekers at the Warner Library

Warner Library is partnering with Westchester County's One Stop Employment Center to assist unemployed local residents. Anyone collecting unemployment insurance in either Sleepy Hollow or Tarrytown can utilize the career resources available at the library to fulfill their job search requirements. This gives local residents the convenience of searching for a job close to home rather than having to travel to White Plains. Activities such as applying for a job online, establishing an email address to apply for jobs or send resumes, working on a resume or taking job related tests all count toward the work search requirement.



Fall Events at the Warner Library

Thursday, September 8 at 7 PM / Come hear local author Caitlin Kelly discuss her bestselling book, *Malled*. Kelly tells the story about how at age 50 she was laid off as a journalist from The Daily News, and then took a job in an upscale store as a retail clerk in a local shopping mall. *Malled* takes you behind the scenes and describes how stores are designed to attract us in and keep us spending since shoppers still buy 90% of their goods face to face.

Saturday, September 17 at 2:30 PM / *A Song for All Seasons*, featuring sopranos Catherine Campbell Nesbit and Julie Majchrzyk with Sue Anderson on piano, plus a string quartet.

Saturday, October 1 from 10 AM-4 PM / AARP's popular course on Safe Driving returns to the Library. Registration required. Call the Reference Desk at 631-7734.

Monday, October 3 at 7 PM / Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Trustee Jim Logan presents *A Visual Tour of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery* – the final abode of many famous and infamous residents.

Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30 PM / Small Business Series Part I

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30 PM / Small Business Series Part II

Monday, October 17 at 7 PM / *Times and Dimes of the Rockefellers*. Local author Laura Bunt will discuss her personal remembrances of the Rockefeller family.

Sunday, October 23 at 2:30 PM / Jazz singer Marlene VerPlanck will perform great standards and new songs from America's finest composers.

Monday, October 27 at 7 PM / *America's Medici: the Rockefellers and Their Astonishing Cultural Legacy*. Author Suzanne Loebel will discuss her book.

Saturday, October 29 at 2:30 PM / Alan Sklar reads Edgar Allen Poe's terrifying suspense story, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, in celebration of Halloween.

Monday, November 7 at 7 PM / *Parentless Parents*. Author Allison Gilbert discusses how the loss of our mothers and fathers impacts the way we raise our children.

Thursday, November 10 at 7 PM / Washington Irving's *Alhambra* (film), followed by a discussion by filmmaker Karen Kelleher about the making of her documentary about Washington Irving's literary journey.



YMCA Summer Shakespeare at Patriots Park

The YMCA Summer Shakespeare Camp presented "The Tempest" by William Shakespeare on Thursday, July 28th. The play, which was presented in cooperation with the Tarrytown Parks & Recreation Department, was directed by Peter Royston and produced by Barbara Turk. Mayor Fixell played the unseen role of the narrator.



To join the fun next year, call Barbara Turk (YMCA) at 631-4807 with any questions.

Village Services Telephone Directory

Administrator/Mayor631-1885
Assessor631-7873
Building Department631-3668
Code Enforcement Officer ..631-3668
Court Clerk631-5215
Fax Machine909-1208

Fire/Emergency Calls911
Garbage Collection631-0356
Parking Permit631-7873
Parking Tickets631-5215
Planning & Zoning631-1487
Police Department
(Non-Emergency)631-5546

Public Library631-7734
Public Works Department ..631-0356
Recreation Department631-8347
Treasurers Department.....631-7873
Village Clerk631-1652
[Websitewww.tarrytowngov.com](http://www.tarrytowngov.com)