

Message from the Mayor: Consent Decree, Riverview Park, Bridge Fence, Help Flint

Fellow Residents;

A couple of upcoming meetings, some news and a charitable effort underway:

Demo Permit / Consent Decree

We had our Public Hearing regarding the demolition permit for Building 52. The Community Center was full – many residents were clearly engaged on this issue and we heard from over thirty people with a range of thoughtful views on the future of Building 52. There were enough speakers so that the entire evening was dedicated to the demolition permit and a second hearing on approval of the Consent Decree was put off to this coming Wednesday, February 10th. We will be meeting in the James Harmon Community Center at 7:30PM to hear public input on the proposed Consent Decree, (found [here](#)) and a physical copy available at the library. This agreement has been negotiated by the Village, Riverkeeper and BP Arco and is before the Board of Trustees for their approval (scheduled for March 1st) before it can be signed. You can read my summary of the core elements of that document [here](#). if you wish to be heard, please attend either session or submit your comments by email to board@hastingsgov.org or by letter to Board of Trustees, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, HoH, NY 10706. Most waterfront documents in the Village's possession can be found [here](#).

Riverview Park

Riverview Park, located on Warburton, is facing renovation this year. While originally envisioned as a mixed use park with a dog run, park use has been focused on local residents and their children after the dog run was suspended last year. Before we begin planning for renovations this year, the Board of Trustees will weigh in on the allowed uses for this park. We invite residents to provide input on those uses to the next meeting, February 16th, at 7:30 where we will reserve the first part of the meeting to hear your thoughts on what you would like to see at this park.

Bridge Fence Work Begins

The final phase of construction on Warburton Bridge is scheduled, weather permitting, for this coming week with the installation of fencing, starting on the eastern side. Rather than the one-inch-wide vinyl-clad chain link that the County has originally planned for the fence, the Village negotiated to instead mount a high-end steel mesh used on the High Line and elsewhere which will be less obstructive. Parking will be restricted while the fence construction is underway.

Flint Children

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With the bad news out of Flint, Michigan, Hastings residents rise to the occasion to help, focusing on providing the children in Flint who can't use their own water supplies anymore. By providing them with "shower packs" (ziplock bags of supplies), children who have to opportunistically rely on the kindness of family members and neighbors with safer water can bring along wash-up kits. Simple, practical, real. If you want to take direct action yourself, you can click on Family-to-Family's page [here](#) and follow instructions. The local high schools are cooperating on an effort to create and ship over packs as well: if you want to help subsidize the purchase and shipment of supplies, you can click [here](#).

The mild winter continues, Valentine's Day is coming upon us, and then March and... well, Spring is still a bit off, even if the occasional crocus or tulip mistakenly insist on sticking their heads up to check. As always, feel free to write with questions. I typically try to respond within 24 hours.

Peter Swiderski

Mayor

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