

Message from the Mayor: Waterfront Hearings, SCRIE, Deer, Elections

Fellow Residents,

The first significant winter snow has come and is heading toward gone, and thanks to the DPW for another storm handled so well. The streets were clear down to the blacktop by mid-day Sunday. Given the relentless nature of Saturday, that's a really nice job done.

Waterfront Public Hearings

Next Wednesday, February 4th, from 7:30PM onwards at the Community Center (venue has changed – this was originally the Orr room), the Village will be holding two back-to-back public hearings. The first is a public hearing to take public input on the demolition permit ([here](#) and a physical copy available in the library) that BP Arco has applied for to bring down the remaining structure, "Building 52", on the waterfront.~ The second is a public session where people can comment on the Consent Decree ([here](#) and a physical copy available at the library) which is an agreement that the Village, Riverkeeper and BP Arco have crafted that is before the Board of Trustees for their approval before it can be signed. Both these issues are important to the future of the waterfront and 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](#).

SCRIE

The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program essentially insulates qualified seniors from rent increases. If you're over 62 (or disabled), living in a rent-regulated apartment, have a total household income of less than \$50,000 and you are about to get or have seen your rent go up (or you know someone who might fulfill these criteria), please apply for "SCRIE" by going to Anne Russak at the Senior Outreach Desk at the Community Center.

Deer Immuno-contraception: Year Three begins

The third year of our ongoing immuno-contraception experiment has begun. (For those of you new to the community, we are engaged in a five-year, first-in-the-nation experiment to see if we can control our deer population through the use of immuno-contraception.) The feeding stations have been deployed at a number of locations, a house appears rented for the darting team, and the Humane Society professionals will be on-site by mid-February for a six-week stint where we continue our efforts to reduce deer numbers (and their impact on the community) by inoculating the deer with immuno-contraceptives. We've inoculated 27 does so far and hope to continue the effort this year with more added to this number, along with a re-immunization of the first 8 from two years ago. High school students may knock on your door (especially if you are near a feeding station) asking to put a small surveying flag on your lawn. This alerts the darting team that they can tag does found on your property. The teams follow rigorous safety protocols and we appreciate the broad cooperation we have gotten to date. (If you want to make it easy on us go to this [web address](#) and fill in the short form that should take no more than two minutes or send us an email to topermission@hastingsgov.org with the text reading "My name is ___ and I am the owner of ___ Avenue. Permission granted to dart deer on my property," and we will send someone over with a flag and a permission slip. If a previous year's flag is still in place on your property, please make sure it is highly visible since the recent blizzard likely buried it. We are also continuing to tally deer sightings and encourage residents to log their observations. For a logon to the reporting website, send a request to [Web Reporting](#). Thanks!

Finally, the Democratic and Republican local party caucuses have concluded and we have contested races for both the Board of Trustees and the Village Justice's position. Republican candidate David Jakowe and Democratic candidates Nicola Armacost and Walter Stugis are vying for the two open Trustee seats and Democratic candidate Joseph DiSalvo and Republican candidate Joseph Scarglato are competing for the Village Justice position. Election are Tuesday, March 15th.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Peter Swiderski, Mayor Mayor@hastingsgov.org

