

**Village of Irvington
Board of Trustees
Priorities for 2012-13**

The Board of Trustees hereby establishes five major priorities for the upcoming fiscal year (June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013). It is our primary focus to preserve and improve the **quality of life** in the Village, provide **affordable housing** options to our residents and the region, improve the **economic vitality of our downtown area**, deliver services to our residents efficiently while maintaining a **solid financial footing** for the Village, and become more **sustainable** as a community.

Quality of Life

One effort to improve the Quality of Life in the Village is through the opening of the new O'Hara Nature Center on Mountain Road. The Nature Center will provide our residents and visitors with a unique opportunity for enjoyment of a vast outdoor resource, as well as environmental education for adults and students. It will provide exposure to the natural resources available in our extensive trails network.

We will continue to vigorously pursue solutions to the flooding problem in various areas of our Village. We will provide local funding to key flood control projects while seeking outside sources of funding to augment the local budget impact.

We will also work to implement changes to the existing Industrial zoning and continue to involve residents in dialogue about our waterfront's future. We will restructure our Tree Preservation Code to better protect and preserve the natural resources that make our Village a special place to live.

We will strive to make our community more livable by implementing "Smart Growth" techniques and by making our community more walkable. We will also begin the planning necessary to review and update the 2003 Comprehensive Plan to help guide our future growth by ensuring that it is still relevant nearly a decade later.

Our village life is also enhanced and the Village government functions best, when most citizens are fully informed about village issues and many become involved in rewarding opportunities on Village committees. Citizens who serve can take on important leadership roles. We will redouble our efforts to reach out, inform and encourage new engagement in village life and support those who wish to be leaders in our Village through increased volunteerism.

Affordable Housing

Making housing available to seniors and moderate income individuals and families is crucial to making Irvington a diverse and vibrant community. The lack of available and affordable housing is a systemic problem in this County and throughout our region. We will encourage support for affordable housing from within our community and we will support these grassroots efforts by implementing robust legislation to promote meaningful development of affordable housing in the Village.

Downtown Economy

The Main Street area is the historic and economic heart of our Village. We will focus concerted effort to enhance and preserve Main Street's historic character while expanding its economic vitality. Last year, we formed a

committee of very capable local residents to finish the process of procuring historic district status from the State of New York. We will continue supporting the activities of the Committee and, at the appropriate time, we will carefully consider any recommendations made by the Committee.

While preserving the unique historic character of Irvington, we also wish to expand the economic vitality of the Main Street area. These two efforts are mutually supportive. We will publish a user-friendly guide for prospective new business owners who wish to call Irvington's Main Street a new home for their business. We will also modify the regulations governing signs to allow for consistent and tasteful use of signage in our commercial business zones. To further preserve the charm of Main Street, we will develop a unified "Streetscape" to establish a consistent design for such elements as sidewalks, signs, curbing, trees, flowers, tree wells, trash and recycling receptacles, benches, lighting and other features. Finally, we will continue the study of the exterior conditions of the signature Main Street building, the Irvington Town Hall and complete the Tiffany Reading Room Restoration, which will be a unique addition to the quality of life in the Village.

We will continue to work closely with the Rivertowns Tourism Board, Historic Hudson River Towns and our neighboring villages to develop focused, cost-effective efforts to bring more visitors to Historic Irvington.

Efficiency of Services and Financial Strength

The recent recession and ongoing global economic factors have stretched our residents' budgets along with the Village's resources. These economic pressures make it more important than ever to devote a significant proportion of our time to planning the course for the Village's financial future.

While our residents' budgets are stretched thin, the need for Village services remains high. One significant way to continue to deliver a high level of service to our residents while keeping taxes within the newly-implemented State property tax levy cap is to become more efficient at delivering those needed services. Simply put, our productivity must continue to increase. We will improve productivity by streamlining the building/renovation approval process, fostering an environment of cooperation between various Village Boards and Committees, and developing an automated building application process. Beyond improvements in the building/renovation process, we will undertake a Village-wide review of all processes to determine whether further efficiencies can be realized, especially through the investment in improved technology. Efficiencies will continue to be found in smart partnering with our neighboring villages.

Sustainability

We believe that for Irvington to remain financially strong and environmentally responsible, we must become more sustainable in our operations and in our residents' daily lives.

In 2008, the Irvington Climate Protection Task Force produced dozens of recommendations to make Irvington more sustainable. While the financial constraints of the Great Recession rendered some measures financially infeasible, there still remain numerous recommendations that can result in significant cost savings and environmental benefits. The leaf mulching program known as "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em" is the most recognizable effort yielding cost savings while producing environmental benefits. We will continue to implement such recommendations. We will also encourage our residents to become more energy efficient by supporting the use of green technologies such as solar energy, electric vehicles and green building techniques. We will continue to support intermunicipal and regional efforts, especially those that improve public outreach and education on topics of sustainability.