

# White Plains Beautification Plants 8,000 Yellow Daffodil Bulbs for Spring 2015

As White Plains experiences record-breaking low winter temperatures and snow and ice that have remained on the ground for weeks, spring holds the promise of 8,000 golden daffodil blooms to brighten up the city.

The all-volunteer White Plains Beautification Foundation is turning gardens into gold to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2015.

The blooming daffodils will be seen encircling trees in the long median along outer Mamaroneck Avenue through the Gedney and Rosedale area and in downtown Tibbets Park from north of The Westchester, as well as on the nearby hillside on Westchester Avenue at Franklin Avenue. At the north end of the city, the Reservoir Road lake will also be enhanced by early-blooming gold on its southern bank.

In order to plant 8,000 imported Dutch Master daffodil bulbs last fall, the organization had to organize a tremendous amount of community support. WPBF



The WPBF garden at White Plains City Hall.

was joined by adults and children, with a tremendous amount of assistance from the city's public works department. Working tirelessly were board members Sue Brennan, Mary Ann DeRosa, Mary Briante, Jean Bello, Blaine Levenson, Suzanne Edwards, Mary Merenda, Joanna Daddario, and foundation president Deborah Donahoe.

The bulb program was the first step in



White Plains City crew plants daffodil bulbs last fall.



WPBF Silverman garden at Tibbets Park.

a full one-year celebration. The nurseries that plant and care for the over 60 gardens in the city on behalf of the WPBF, which include Gedney Farms, Amodio's and Ridgeway Garden Center, will continue the gold theme by planting all public gardens with gold and yellow flowers.

"We're incredibly excited to see White Plains awash in gold this spring and summer," says WPBF President, Deb Donahoe, "and we hope it brings attention from residents, and local businesses to our good works."

White Plains schools also got involved through the WPBF daffodil garden competition, where the school with the best golden garden will win \$500. Almost

all of White Plain's public and private schools participated. The 16 participating schools received 100 daffodil bulbs donated by the WPBF. Gardens will be judged on design, creativity and aesthetics. Judging takes place in April and a winner will be announced on or around June 1. Judges will be comprised of Master Gardeners from the organization.

Battle Hill Neighborhood Association became the first neighborhood group to plant bulbs in honor of the 50th "golden year."

The foundation will also be commemorating its anniversary by

participating in the White Plains St. Patrick's Day and Memorial Day parades with flower-decked floats. Additionally, the organization will set up a table during the White Plains April Earth Day festival, something they've done for the last few years. The year culminates in its annual Gala, on October 8, at the CV Rich Mansion, with live music, open bar and dinner. Inquiries about tickets to this event should be made at [info@wpbf.org](mailto:info@wpbf.org)

The WPBF, which incorporated in August, 1965, after its start in 1952 as a small committee, is a not-for-profit organization, whose many projects include extensive tree-planting, establishing 60 gardens, building two fountains, a summerhouse, and a gazebo. The foundation has also provided two street clocks and over 90 teakwood benches throughout the city parks. It receives no government funding and relies solely on its donors. It also provides water and maintenance through its Adopt-a-Park program, supported by individuals and commercial enterprises. Its structure consists of a board of directors and a group of associate volunteers. Those wishing to attend monthly meetings and learn more, with the intent of becoming involved, are most welcome.

More information is available on the foundation's new website [www.wpbf.org](http://www.wpbf.org).



Crew preparing the garden at Martine and South Broadway.



Students planting at the Eastview School garden.



Planting at Mamaroneck Avenue Elementary School.