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*Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison*

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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## *Spring Has Sprung All Over White Plains*



ROLAND BARNES PHOTO

Kwansen cherry trees and tulips by the Civil War statue at Main Street and North Broadway, White Plains, have matured over the years since planting by the White Plains Beatification Foundation (WPBF). Originally planted to beautify the downtown, the work of WPBF has indeed turned White Plains into a "Blooming City."

# White Plains - This Blooming City Blooms

By Beth Wallace

Spring happened fast, announced by the finally blooming daffodils all over White Plains. Interrupted by weird recurring snowfalls in April, it seemed like it would never arrive. Then, miraculously, it did. Almost overnight. For Joanna D'Addario, daffodil chairman of the White Plains Beautification Foundation (WPBF), it was her reward for managing an ambitious project that has resulted in over 44,000 daffodil bulbs planted throughout the city. Hardly any green spots were overlooked.

In one of the sunniest spots in town, near the traffic light at Hillside Avenue and Ferris Avenue, a blast of yellow dazzled the eye with dozens and dozens of beautiful daffodils swaying in the breeze. Behind the flowers stood a fir tree, which glowed with lights over the holidays, a perfect backdrop. Soon a summer bloom of native plants will appear, in cooperation with the Ferris Avenue neighbors. Joanna will be quick to tell you that none of this could have been accomplished without the help of the Department of Public Works, which provided sweat, equity in

prep work and planting bulbs with her. The daffodil project began three years ago when the all-volunteer WPBF celebrated 50 years of incorporation. Thus their "Golden Year" began.

In 1965 the first project of WPBF was providing seating - bench planters - along Mamaroneck Avenue. Prior to that, before becoming a 501(C)3 corporation, it spent 13 years soliciting building owners for funding to plant 61 pin oak trees along the tree-less avenue. Little did they realize how that small committee would flourish and grow. Its original goal was to beautify the shopping district. The vice president of the WPBF, Commissioner of Parks Joseph E. Curtis, coined a phrase that stuck: the goal of the organization is to create "A City in the Park." And now, many years later, you can stroll downtown and enjoy the many things that have helped make that goal attainable.

Of special interest this week, not to be missed, is a drive out Mamaroneck Avenue, starting at WPBF's tall clock and garden where Bloomingdale Road

and the avenue meet. Drive toward Mamaroneck. No words can describe the sight of the medians filled with flowering trees, especially the Kwansen cherry trees surrounded with tulips. Spring is fleeting, as are the cherry blossoms, so don't miss

a nice walk-around, drive-around trip immediately! You won't be sorry.

For those interested in helping WPBF please consider attending their annual meeting Monday, June 11, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Church Street School.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEAN BELLO

Over 44,000 daffodil bulbs have been planted throughout the City of White Plains as part of an ambitious project to celebrate the city's Beautification Foundation's 50-year anniversary.

