SEPTEMBER 2025

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

"ENGAGE, EQUIP, ELEVATE TOWARD EXCELLENCE."

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Elmsford Community,

What an extraordinary start to the school year it has been!

We were delighted to welcome back our students, families, and staff—both returning and new—and immediately set the tone for an exciting year ahead with innovative learning initiatives, expanded course offerings at the high school, and a collective enthusiasm to make this year a memorable one.

With our students and staff now fully immersed in their learning routines, we also took time to celebrate those who have left a lasting mark on our school community. On September 6, Athletic Director Rob Pollok, with the AHHS Hall of Fame committee, hosted our Hall of Fame Weekend, during which several remarkable individuals and teams were honored for their outstanding achievements. Their contributions will continue to inspire future generations and will be proudly remembered on our Hall of Fame wall at Alexander Hamilton High School.

Looking ahead, I shared with the Board of Education on September 10 the district's strategic priorities for the coming years, which will guide our collective efforts:

Priority Area 1: Excel in Academic Achievement
This area focuses on enhancing student learning outcomes and preparing graduates for future success.

Priority Area 2: Engage Every Learner in Safe & Supportive Environments
This area emphasizes creating safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environments for all students..

Priority Area 3: Equip, Recruit, & Retain Highly Effective Educators and Staff
This area focuses on attracting, developing and retaining top talent within the district.

·***Priority Area 4: Elevate Effective, High-Quality, Cost-Efficient Operations***
This area addresses the optimization of operational functions to support the district's educational goals.



ensure resources directly support educational goals.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the families who joined us for our ENL and Back to School Nights. These gatherings provided valuable opportunities to learn more about teachers' plans for the year while fostering connections between families and educators. I am deeply grateful to the staff members who helped organize these events and to our families for their ongoing partnership and support.

Together, we have already set a strong foundation for what promises to be an exceptional school year.

Warm Regards,
Susan Yom
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will take place on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m., in the AHHS Auditorium.

Elmsford UFSD
Dedicated to Excellence

WELCOME BACK!

It was a busy and fun morning when our students arrived back at school on Sept. 2!
See more photos on page 2.







They're Back to School!

It was a lovely morning on September 2nd, when our students and staff returned for the start of a new year!















CELEBRATING STUDENT GENEROSITY

Congratulations to the Grady Student Leadership Council on being honored for their outstanding work in creating the "Blessing Bags" initiative!

The Elmsford Union Free School District has been recognized by the New York State School Boards Association for "the care and thoughtfulness of your students" through this initiative, as part of the NYSSBA Culture of Caring program, which celebrates meaningful acts that positively impact the community. Representatives from NYSSBA will present the district with a plaque at the Board of Education meeting on Oct. 8.

As part of this project, Council members wrote uplifting messages on bags that were then filled with essential items such as snacks, personal care products, and other necessities. These bags were distributed to individuals in need.

New York State School Boards Association

Culture of Caring

This NYSSBA recognition is presented to

ELMSFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

for the care and thoughtfulness shown by your students by

organizing and implementing the "Blessings Bags" initiative, bringing positive messages to individuals in need.

Your contribution to a positive district and community culture is to be commended and celebrated.

Sandra Ruffo
President
New York State School Boards Association

Robert S. Schneider, CPA, CAE
Executive Director
New York State School Boards Association





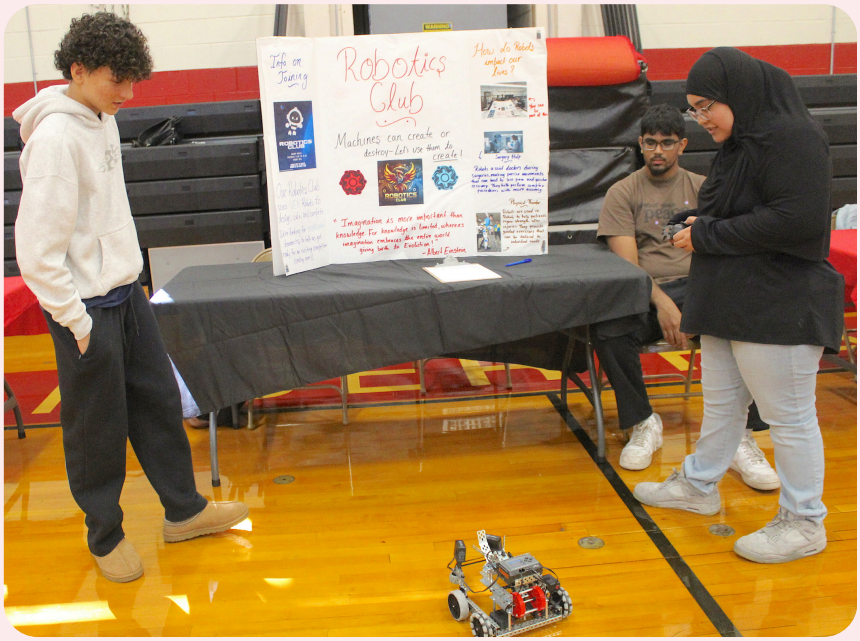


Members of the Grady Leadership Council work on putting together "Blessing Bags."

AHHS CLUB FAIR

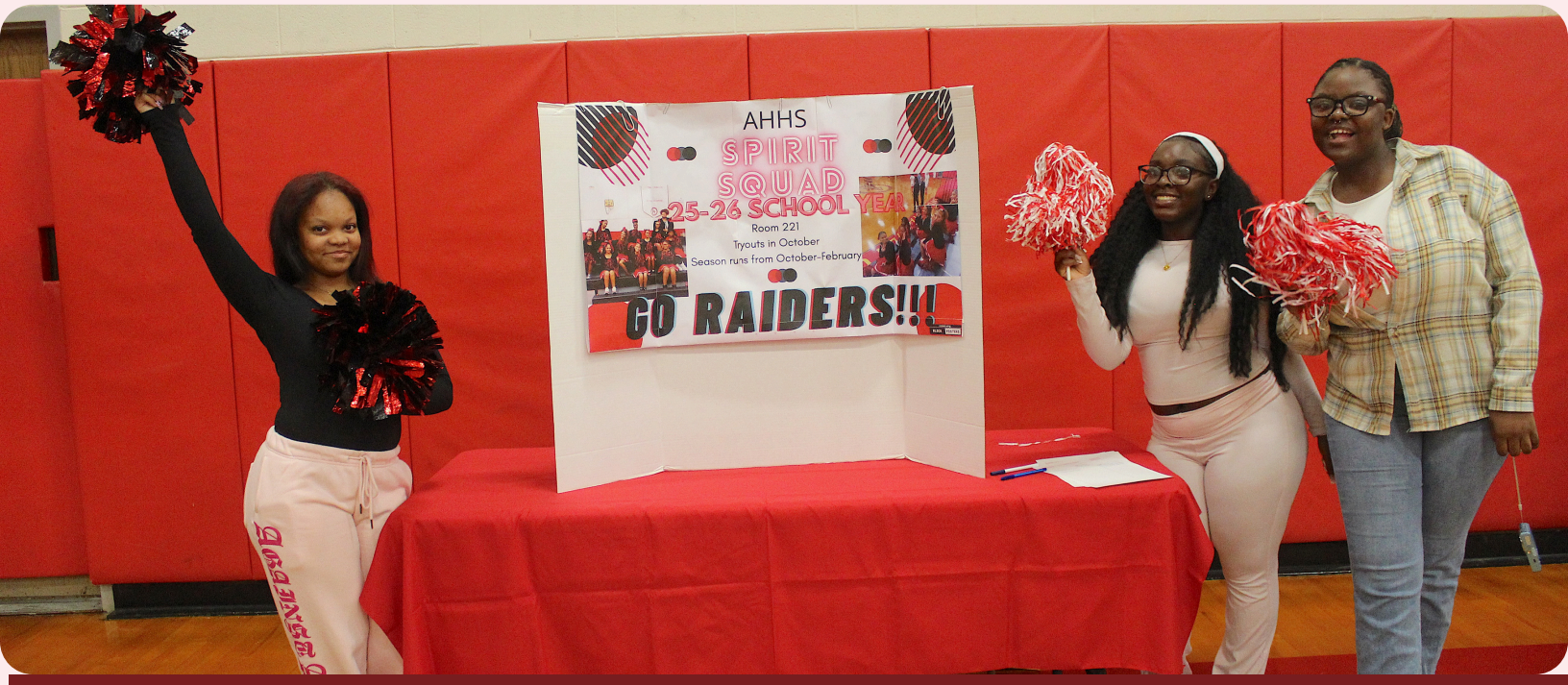
There was a little something for everyone at the AHHS Club Fair! Students had an opportunity to sign up to join a club. Got school spirit? Enjoy the spirit team! Like building things? The Science Olympiad or the Robotics Club might be just the thing! Enjoy helping others? Try the Red Cross Club! There were so many options!









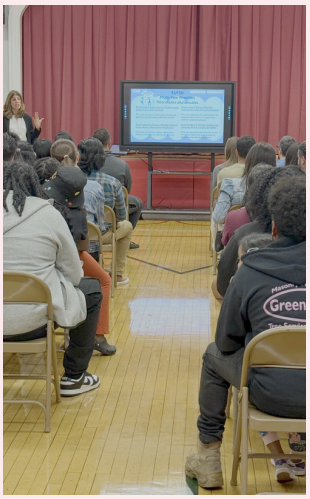


Thank you!

Thank you to all our families who came out and participated in the Back to School Nights! We appreciate your support and hope you had an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn more about what the school year will bring!

Dixson







Grady







AHHS







NEW PRINCIPAL AT DIXSON SETTLES RIGHT IN

Deborah Earle, the new principal at the Carl L. Dixson Primary School walked into a classroom and joined the students on the rug as they began their foundational learning for the day, all about the letter "T."

"I always had a love for kids," Ms. Earle said, adding her mother always told her children were drawn to her.

Becoming a teacher was a family tradition of service and helping others. Not only did Ms. Earle serve as an EMT for 10 years, but several family members were in the field too. When her elementary school unearthed a time capsule, a fourth-grade Ms. Earle had written that when she grew up, she wanted to be a teacher.

To that end, she spent 27 years teaching second, third, and fifth and sixth grades in the Garrison Union Free School District. For the past five years she has served as the director of the district's UPK program..

"I loved the fact that Elmsford is a small district, but has a big heart," she said as to what drew her to make a change. "They nurture relationships between the community and teachers; everyone seems happy to be here. Everyone truly has kid's best interest."

Ms. Earle described herself as an administrator as a "visionary leader." "I like to plan, have a vision," she said .

Among her goals at her school, are to increase literacy, get more parents involved and make kids feel seen, "feel they are part of the community," she said.

"Relationships to me are the number one priority, with everyone, parents, kids and teachers," she continued.

Only at her post a few weeks, Ms. Earle has determined that she is working with "the most dedicated and passionate staff I've had the privilege of working with."



She noted too how both parents and students are all happy to be here. The size of the school, with smaller class sizes makes the district unique.

When away from school, Ms. Earle keeps busy spending time with her family, her own three children and her two-year old grandson, along with reading and enjoying her four dogs.

"I appreciate how warm and welcoming the community has been so far, it makes me feel part of the community," she said.

AHHS ALUM JOINS STAFF AS NEW SRO

Police Officer Anthony Lopez stepped into the auditorium at Alexander Hamilton High School and was transported back to his time as a student there.

A few minutes later he was out in the hallway receiving a hug from Carrie Silva, his former English teacher and Melissa Williams, a building sub he knew from his time as a student.

Officer Lopez is a 2010 graduate of AHHS, and he is now back roaming the halls of his alma mater, as well as the other district schools, as the new School Resource Officer.

"A lot of people are really happy I am here, I did not expect a big welcome," Officer Lopez said on his first a day on the job. "That makes everything a lot easier."

Officer Lopez joins SRO Chris Bujarski, who has been with the district for year. The two have worked together before with the Elmsford Police Department.

"I couldn't ask for a better partner," Officer Bujarski said. "He'll bring it to the table; a lot more than I can do on my own."

The two will "divide and conquer," Officer Bujarski said, adding they will each be stationed at different schools to assist with morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups, continue to build relationships with students and staff throughout the district and keep the students and staff safe.

"Kids will have another face to see and a positive influence from the police department," Officer Bujarski said. "We can cover more ground."

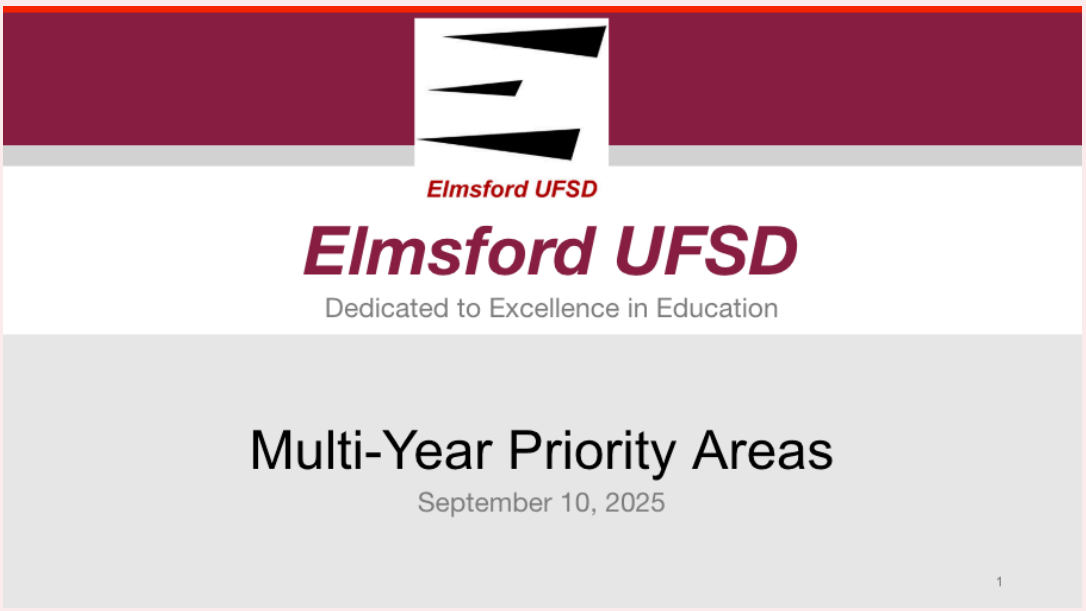
Following graduation from AHHS, Officer Lopez joined the U.S. Navy, where he discovered the discipline and structure suited him well. After serving six years, he returned home to Elmsford where he found police work suited him just as well.

"It was exactly what I wanted," he said, adding that his new role as SRO also allows him to give back to the younger generation.



"We are here to help them," Officer Lopez said. "We want to speak to them, help them learn communication skills and be another person they can talk to."

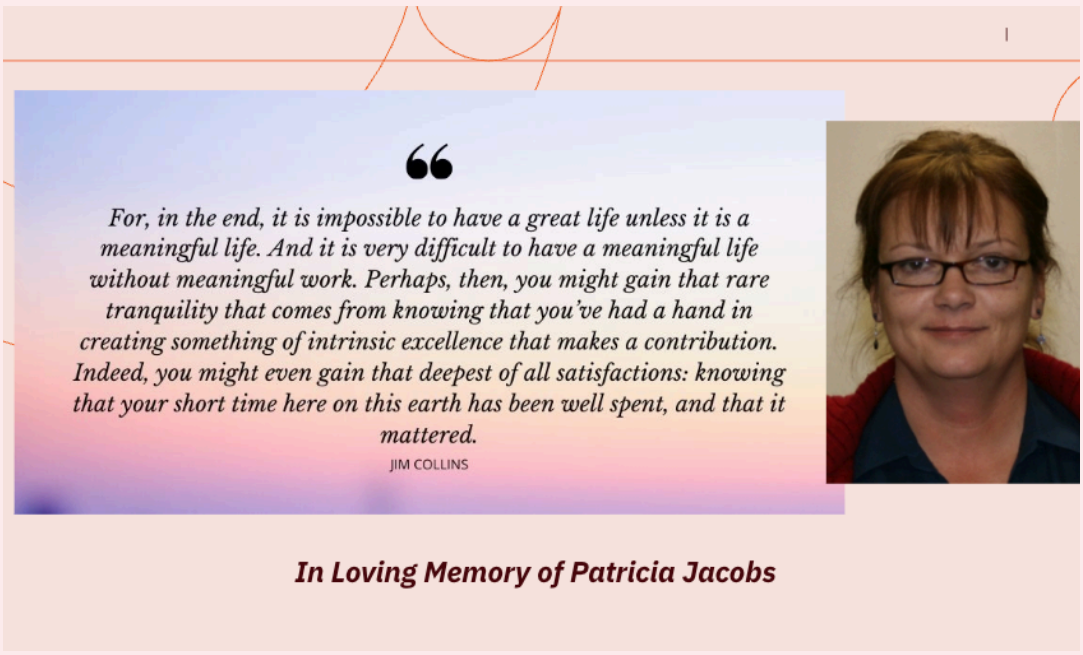
During the Sept. 10 Board of Education Meeting, Superintendent Susan Yom outlined the district's multi-year priorities. Click here to view.



In Memoriam

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Patricia Jacobs. Ms. Jacobs served as a Teaching Assistant at Alexander Hamilton High School and was with the district since 2008.

"Your contributions and greatness will not be forgotten," Superintendent of Schools Susan Yom said during a moment of silence in Ms. Jocobs honor at the start of the school year.



RAIDER REPORT: HALL OF FAME

What a weekend!

We had several former athletes inducted into the Class of 2024 and Class of 2025 Hall of Fame during a special ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6. And our Briarcliff-Hamilton Varsity Football team won their home game 21-6 vs. Albertus Magnus!

Congratulations to all of our Hall of Fame inductees!

Class of 2025 Inductees:
Mike "Chip" DelVal, Boys Basketball Coach
Benjamin Carter, Girls Basketball Coach
Richard Konsens, Class of 1976
Wayne Penn, Class of 1981
Brent Bass, Class of 1986
1993 Girls Varsity Softball Team
2004 Boys Varsity Basketball Team

Class of 2025 Inductees:
David Alan Rosenthal, Class of 1968
Sheldon "Len" Proctor, Class of 1981
1992 Girls Varsity Softball Team
1934 Boys Varsity Football Team
Ural Hogans, Class of 1986
Michael McDuffie, Class of 2004

















Upcoming Events

Oct. 2, Yom Kippur, Schools Closed

Oct. 4, Village of Elmsford Day, 1:30 p.m. Parade

Oct. 8, Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHHS Auditorium

Oct. 9, Financial Aid Night, 6:30 p.m., AHHS Library

Oct. 10, Emergency Dismissal Drill, Students will be released 15 minutes early

Oct. 13, Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day, Schools Closed

Oct. 24, Dixson Fitness Friday

Oct. 31, Dixson/Grady Halloween Parade, 1 p.m.

Nov. 4, Superintendent Conference Day, No Students

Nov. 5, Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHHS Auditorium

Nov. 11, Veteran's Day, Schools Closed

Nov. 12-14, Grady Book Fair

Nov. 20, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 6 p.m.

Nov. 21, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Half-Day for Students

Nov. 24-26, Dixson Book Fair

Nov. 26, Half-Day for Students

Nov. 27-28, Thanksgiving Break, Schools and District Office Closed

See the following page for some special upcoming Village Events!

Village Events

Elmsford Day

Saturday October 4, 2025
Rain Date Sunday October 5, 2025
At DeLuca Park (North Hillside Avenue)

Wrist Bands
$5.00 Each
Unlimited Rides
Purchased at Gazebo in Park

DJ
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM
FREE

For Tots 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Kiddie Ride – 3 Horse Carousel
(3) Kiddie Rides
Wrist Band Needed

Children & Teens
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Wrist Band Needed
5 in 1 Combo
Wacky World
Obstacle Course
Wrecking Ball
Mechanical Turbo Tubs
Mechanical Rock Wall
Dual 24 Foot Slide
Mini Golf

All Ages 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Performances By:
Dream Dance Studio in Elmsford
Owned by: Brandon Whyte
FREE

All Ages Hay Ride
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
FREE



5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Live Band - FREE
FREE
The Third String Band-Featuring
Anthony Venuti &
Robert Venuti
From Carmines Deli

Wrist Band Needed
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Face Painters

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Popcorn
Cotton Candy
(Donated by PCSB Bank)
FREE

Food Trucks 2:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Pay the Food Trucks Directly
Anthony's N.Y. Hotdogs
Jimmy's Soft Serve Ice Cream
LA HIJA DE LA FRITURA
A.W.E. Delights

At Swing Area & Gazebo
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Businesses & Organizations
PCSB Bank
Girl Scouts
Elmsford PTSA
Ardsley Library
Echoes Africa Initiatives
Mel's Sweet Treats
Mount Carmel Pastoral Center
Mount Carmel School

Fire Works
At Dusk - Approx. 7:15 PM
FREE



Thank you to those who sponsored the free items.
Para español, dale la vuelta a la hoja.

Dia de Elmsford

Sábado 4 de octubre de 2025
Día Alterno Si Llueve: Domingo 5 de octubre de 2025
En El Parque DeLuca (Avenida North Hillside)

Pulseras de muñeca
$5.00 Cada Uno
Paseo Ilimitado
Comprado en el Gazebo del Parque

Discómano
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM
FREE

Los Mas Pequeños 2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Atracciones Para Niños– Carrusel de 3 caballos
(3) Atracciones Infantiles
Pulsera de Muñeca Necesitado

Ninos y Adolescentes
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Pulsera de muñeca Necesitado
Combo 5 en 1
Mundo Excéntrico
Curso de Obstáculos
Bola de Demolición
Tinas Turísticas Mecánicas
Muro de Roca Mecánico
Tobogán dual de 24 pies
Minigolf

Todas las Edades 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Actuaciones de:
Estudio de Danza Sueno en Elmsford
Propiedad de: Brandon Whyte
FREE

Todas Edades: Paseo En Carro Heno
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
FREE



5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Banda En Vivo - Gratis
FREE
La Banda De Tercera Cuerda Presentando
Anthony Venuti y
Robert Venuti
De La Deli de Carmine

Pulsera de Muñeca Necesitado
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Pintores De Caras

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Palomitas De Maíz
Algodón de Azúcar
(Donado por PCSB Bank)
FREE

Camiones De Comida 2:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Paga Directamente a Los Camiones de Comida
Anthony's N.Y. Perros Calientes
Jimmy's Helados Suave
LA HIJA DE LA FRITURA
A.W.E. Delicias

En La Área De Columpios y Gazebo
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Negocios y Organizaciones
Banco PCSB
Guias Scout
Elmsford PTSA
Biblioteca de Ardsley
Iniciativa Ecos de África
Los Dulces de Mel
Centro Pastoral Monte Carmelo
Escuela Monte Carmelo

Fuegos Artificiales
Al Anochecer - Aproximadamente. 7:15 PM
FREE



Gracias a aquellos que patrocinaron los artículos gratis

For English, turn the page

The Village of Elmsford Is Having A Parade

We are Celebrating the
115th Anniversary of **The Village of Elmsford**

We will be Honoring
our Two Grand Marshal's
Sister Mary Stephen Healey
Recently retired after 60 years, as
Principal of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and
Sister Joanne Fallon
Recently retired after 65 years, as a
Teacher of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

Saturday October 4th
(Rain Date Sunday October 5th)

Parade Starts: At 1:30 P.M.

Parade Route: Starts at Legion Park on Main Street
Proceeds West on Main Street
Passes Reviewing Stand in front of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School/Church
Makes a Right and heads north on North Hillside Avenue



Parade Ends: At DeLuca Park



Para español, dale la vuelta a la hoja.

El Pueblo de Elmsford Está Teniendo un desfile

Estamos celebrando el
115th Aniversario del **Pueblo de Elmsford**

Estamos honrando a dos grandes mariscales
Hermana María Stephen Healey
Recientemente se retiró después de 60 años como directora
de la escuela Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo y
Hermana Joanne Fallon
Recientemente se retiró después de 65 años como
Maestra de la escuela Nuestra Señora del Carmelo

Sábado 4 de octubre
(fecha alternativa domingo 5 de octubre)

El desfile comienza: a la 1:30 P.M.

La ruta del desfile: Comienza en el Parque Legión en la Calle Main
Proseguir hacia el oeste por la Calle Main
Pasa el puesto de revisión frente a
Nuestra Señora del monte Carmelo Escuela/Iglesia
Gire a la derecha y diríjase al norte por la Avenida North Hillside



La parada termina: En el Parque DeLuca



Para español, dale la vuelta a la hoja.