

# PLEASANTVILLE POSTS



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE OF PLEASANTVILLE | EIGHTH EDITION | FALL 2021

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## FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Pleasantville Neighbors,

As fall moves steadily toward winter, it's been great to see residents of the Village of Pleasantville enjoying the beautiful weather. From the Farmers Market to the first-ever Oktoberfest Street Fair to the return of our beloved Ragamuffin parade, there have been many wonderful outdoor events for us to enjoy as a community.

One of the issues that has drawn residents' attention is that the recent legalization of marijuana in New York State presented every community with a decision about "opting out" of hosting retail dispensaries and/or consumption lounges. Based on our review of the issue—and feedback from the community—the Village proposed a local law to opt out and will hold the required public hearing on November 22. By State law, the "opt out" decision can be revisited at any point in the future.

Progress continues on several major projects across the Village. Our long-standing plan to improve pedestrian safety on Manville Road (supported by \$1.6 million in State grants) has been sent to bid. When bid results are received in December, the Board will review the costs and the Village share in the context of our overall capital program and will then decide whether to proceed. If we don't proceed, the State grants would expire. Our pool design team is also working on drawings and specifications for replacing our aging pool,

and we're hopeful that we can launch that project when the pool season ends in September 2022.

Unfortunately, several Pleasantville neighborhoods were flooded by the heavy rainfall from tropical storm Ida, including our pool facility. We're looking at options that could mitigate flood risks, but we, along with neighboring communities, are struggling with the capacity of the Saw Mill River. When the river is overwhelmed, there is no place to send stormwater, and local drainage systems back up. We continue to look for solutions and also encourage all residents to sign up for Code Red alerts that will be sent to you in the event of emergency situations.

As we approach the end of 2021, thanks are due to the many members of our community who volunteer, arts organizations and nonprofit groups. We are still in the midst of a global pandemic and while Pleasantville COVID numbers are much better than those we saw in August, we continue to see a steady stream of new cases. As we return to many aspects of our pre-pandemic life, please remember that the virus remains a risk in our community. Vaccinations, booster shots, and masks in crowded places are the best ways to protect all of us.

Amid the challenges of the past two years, I am regularly reminded that this resilient community is a great place to live, to bring up kids, and to visit and shop. Thanks to all.

Peter Scherer, Mayor

Residents can stay updated about village agendas and news by subscribing on the **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS** page: <https://www.pleasantville-ny.gov/subscribe>

## VILLAGE CELEBRATES NEW FALL EVENT & TIMELESS HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS

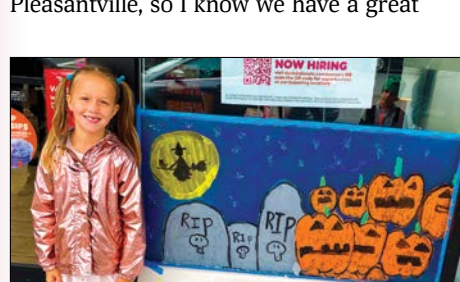
The sound of the Pleasantville Middle School band was heard once again as the Ragamuffin Parade returned after its cancellation last year due to COVID-19. This wasn't the only exciting event in town these past few weekends, as Pleasantville also hosted its second annual "Candy Crawl" as well as an Oktoberfest Street Fair.



All of these events were turned out for food, activities and seasonal fun.

The Oktoberfest Street Fair, hosted by the Village of Pleasantville and the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce, featured local food, live music and activities for all ages. Attendees were able to congregate safely with Wheeler Avenue closed from 2pm-10pm. Local businesses such as Wheeler's own Soul Brewery offered traditional German food and beer. Because the event was such a resounding success, the plan is for the Oktoberfest Fair to become an annual tradition.

"My family owns a business here in Pleasantville, so I know we have a great



community that really supports local businesses," said Paul Alvarez, a Village Trustee, Chamber of Commerce member and Oktoberfest Committee Chair. "A lot

of our businesses have been through difficult times due to the pandemic, which is why it was so important to bring them to Wheeler, the heart and soul of Pleasantville."

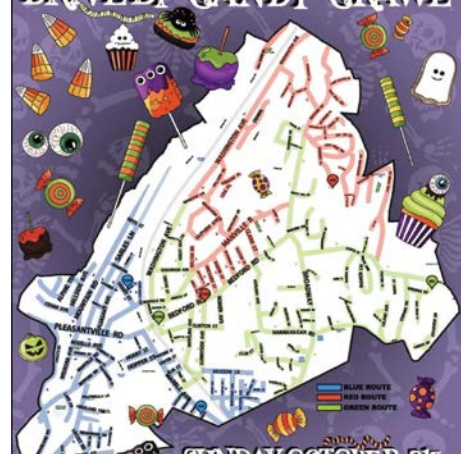
On Saturday, October 23rd, Pleasantville children participated in the annual Halloween window painting. As in years past, children came up with their own Halloween-themed designs to decorate the windows

of businesses throughout downtown Pleasantville. Business owners love the festivities, and it's also tons of fun for the kids!

"I'm grateful I got to paint on a window—it was pretty tricky!" said one second-grader. "The best part was seeing the window that my friends made."

The entire Village was thrilled to welcome back the Ragamuffin Parade, a longstanding Pleasantville tradition. The rain cleared just in time for the parade to begin as children in costume gathered behind the middle school band in front of Bedford Road School. The kids, along with parents (and in some cases pets!) walked down Bedford Road to Memorial Plaza. Many Village residents came out to watch the parade, and there was a celebratory attitude in the air!

The final event of the Pleasantville Halloween weekend celebration was the second annual Candy Crawl. This tradition was begun last year during the early months of COVID-19 and was extremely well received, so it was held again this year! Members of the school board and Village board, along with the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department, drove three different routes sharing candy with Pleasantville



families. The routes could be tracked via the Google Maps app, so children were prepared for the fanfare!



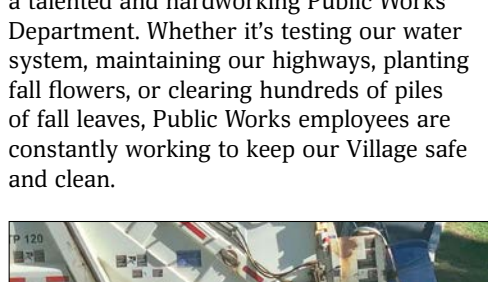
"Those people were the nicest people ever!" exclaimed one nine-year-old.

We would like to thank the volunteers who made the second annual Candy Crawl such a resounding success, as well as the many Village residents who participated in this event and all the others. Hallo-weekend was a ton of fun for everyone involved, and we can't wait for next year's festivities!

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## PLEASANTVILLE PUBLIC WORKS STAFF PREPARE FOR BUSY FALL SEASON

It has long been said that infrastructure is the backbone of society. In the Village of Pleasantville, we know this to be true, which is why we're incredibly thankful to have such a talented and hardworking Public Works Department. Whether it's testing our water system, maintaining our highways, planting fall flowers, or clearing hundreds of piles of fall leaves, Public Works employees are constantly working to keep our Village safe and clean.



The Public Works Department is overseen by Superintendent and Village Engineer Jeff Econom, who has held the position for the past 10 years. Jeff, who has an undergrad

degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Environmental Engineering, oversees 20 employees across 4 areas: sanitation, water, highways (which cover roads, curbs, drainage, sewers, signage and parking), and fleet maintenance, which includes DPW, sewer, sanitation, police, parks and senior center vehicles. In order to have the flexibility to move employees to wherever they are needed most, Public Works employees are cross-trained to handle all

four areas of maintenance. The fall is typically the busiest season for Public Works due to the huge quantity of fallen leaves. What many people don't realize, according to Jeff, is that dead leaves emit phosphorous as they decay, which can create an algae bloom in water supplies. This usually happens when leaf piles sit on the street near storm drains, so it's important for Village residents to bag their leaves for Public Works to pick up, which they strive to do daily.

In addition to the usual fall maintenance, another current Public Works project is the installation of electric vehicle charging stations to Memorial Plaza, which is also



undergoing other renovations. The Village currently has 2 electric vehicles in its fleet, and there are two charging stations at the Public Works Department building.

"Part of the job is having a vision for creating a safer, more environmentally sustainable Village," said Jeff.

Residents who have any questions are encouraged to visit the Public Works section of the Pleasantville website. Trash and recycling pick-up schedules, including those for holidays, are both on the website and mailed as hard copies to residents.

"Residents see many of our employees several days each week, so it's important to build a positive relationship with the community," said Jeff. "Everyone on the Public Works team are great guys and hard workers, and we're always happy to answer questions!"

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## KEEPING THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL AND GREEN WITH THE 50/50 TREE PROGRAM

The Village of Pleasantville, in cooperation with Pleasantville residents, has a program to ensure our Village remains naturally beautiful now and in the future. This is the 50/50 Tree Planting Program, under which residents will have the option of splitting the cost of a new tree with the Village.

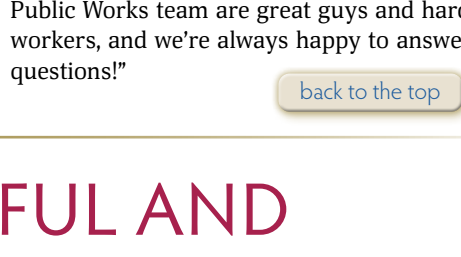
Residents participating in the 50/50 Tree Planting Program will fill out an application to have a tree of a species of their choosing planted in their front yard. Anyone who orders a tree through this program will pay just half of the grower's cost, and in addition to providing the other half, the Village will also provide a crew to furnish and plant the tree. In order to be eligible, residents' properties must have frontage on a Village street and also have adequate space for planting. All trees must be planted at least 15 feet from

the curb and away from structures, utilities and other trees.

Once trees are planted, they become the property owner's to enjoy and maintain, with the lone provision that they can't be removed without the Village's permission. The application can be found under the Parks and Recreation page on the Village's website ([pleasantville-ny.gov](https://www.pleasantville-ny.gov)). To apply, click on the "50/50 Tree Planting Program" button, fill out the pdf application and return it to the Pleasantville Parks and Recreation Department. The Village will obtain prices for the tree(s) and then contact applicants to discuss the cost as well as other relevant details.

We hope that many of our residents will participate in this wonderful program. With your help, we can enhance our aging street

tree stock and keep Pleasantville lovely and green!

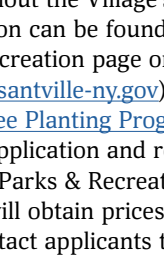


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## COMMUNICATION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP CREATED AS PART OF POLICE REFORM PLAN

The Village of Pleasantville Police Department, along with Mayor Scherer, submitted a police reform plan to New York State in March 2021. One of the key recommendations in that plan was the creation of a community communications and engagement advisory group to provide ideas and advice about improving police/community relations, as well as to consider ways to encourage and analyze feedback about interactions with police. We are pleased to announce that this six member task force has been formed and convened for an initial meeting in late October.

This first meeting of the Communication, Community Outreach and Engagement Advisory Group, which was held over Zoom, was attended by community members from all walks of life, including an ordained minister and a retired policeman. The



group introduced themselves to each other and spoke about their hopes for the task force moving forward. Pleasantville Police Chief Erik Grutzner will also play an active role with the task force moving forward.

Loretta Chiavetta, one of the members of the advisory group, had this to say about the formation of the task force:

"I joined this committee because when I was growing up in Hastings, the police had a presence in our community—they knew most of us by name, and I learned from a young age that the police were there to help us. I think our police should be out and about and get to know our children and community members to be present that is approachable."

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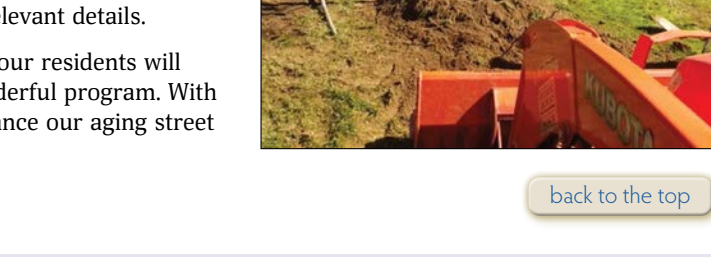
## UPDATE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE

Construction undertaken by private developers continues on several apartment buildings in the Village, with significant progress being made. Here's a look at the status of each project:

**70 MEMORIAL PLAZA**  
The 70 Memorial Plaza apartments are starting to take shape. The construction of the three-level underground parking garage is completed, with the HVAC system, sprinklers, plumbing and storm water systems soon to follow. The steel framing is fully operational, with the exterior and interior stud framing and window installation estimated to be completed within the next 4 to 6 months depending on the severity of the weather.

**52 DEPEW STREET**  
Demolition work, along with site remediation and platform foundation, has been completed for 52 Depew. The work of the building's upper levels and various other site work is currently underway.

**98 WASHINGTON AVENUE**  
This building will have 14 affordable units and is about 90% completed.



The Parks & Recreation Department recently purchased an Electric Mower. This battery-powered ZT mower has the tools needed to help us maintain our parks and green spaces with power and speed. It is also environmentally-friendly with lower decibel and emission levels.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**Nov. 22, 7:00pm** – Work Session

**Nov. 22, 8:00pm** – Public Hearing regarding the opt-out of licensing/establishing on-site cannabis dispensaries and adult-use on-site cannabis consumption establishments and to accept the dedication of Springfield Court.

**Dec. 1, 7:00pm**  
Community Sing-a-Long, Tree and Menorah Lighting

**Dec. 13, 7:00pm**  
Board Meeting with Youth Recognition Awards

**Nov. 25 & 26, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31**  
Village Hall closed

**December 1, 2021 and ending April 1, 2022**  
1:00am to 7:00am  
Street parking is restricted

**January 3, 2022**  
Village Taxes are due by close of business.

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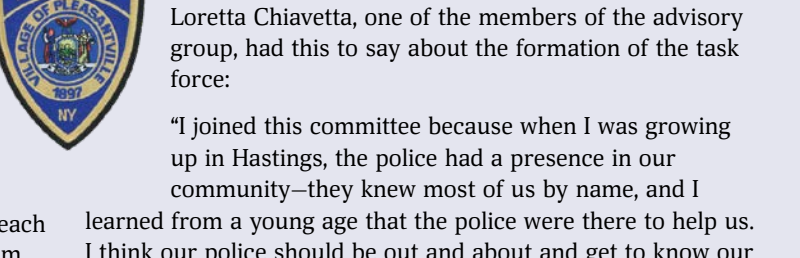


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## VILLAGE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

With the winter months approaching, it is critical to be prepared in the event of an emergency. By signing up for Code Red, residents will be notified by local emergency response teams in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. Please visit <https://www.pleasantville-ny.gov> and click CODE RED for more information.



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