



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Pleasantville Neighbors,

As 2020 came to a close, most of us were happy to close the books on a difficult year. We begin 2021 with hope that life will start—at some point—to return to normal.

We continue to be challenged by the spread of COVID-19. As you have likely seen, the rate of infections in Westchester has risen substantially. In recent weeks, the number active cases in Pleasantville spiked to more than 80 at several points. That's a record-breaking statistic for us, and it's far higher than the numbers we saw last spring. Some of our neighbors have recovered fairly easily—but others have been hit very, very hard. You can follow each community's COVID numbers at westchestergov.com (click at top "COVID Dashboard").

All of this makes clear the urgency of mask-wearing, distancing, and handwashing. Wide availability of the COVID vaccine is still some months in the future. Until that happens, please make it a priority to protect yourself and others.

The pandemic has not stopped progress on lots of Village projects, and we're working to keep you informed through this newsletter, our on-line resources at pleasantville-ny.gov, our Village Facebook page, and pctv76.org. Those interested in future plans for the Pleasantville pool can follow reports from our citizen pool committee. In early March, we'll invite your thoughts on draft recommendations that arise from our police reform process. We're considering some updates to our zoning code, and we're considering comments from many

residents about leaf blower restrictions (both for and against).

If these subjects (or any others) interest you, please make sure you have subscribed to our Village e-mail list (pleasantville-ny.gov, click "News and Announcements" in the left column).

Lastly, I remind folks that there is a Village election on Tuesday, March 16. Three positions (mayor and two trustees) are on the ballot. When the slate of candidates is confirmed by the Westchester County Board of Elections, we'll post that information.

As always, we appreciate the good spirit of our community. Amid many challenges, this place called Pleasantville lives up to its name.

Peter Scherer, Mayor

VILLAGE POLICE CONTINUE TO SEEK COMMUNITY INPUT FOR UPCOMING PLAN

In June of 2020, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order #203, the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. This Executive Order requires the following: each local government with a police agency to perform a comprehensive review of police policies, procedures and practices; and, develop a plan to improve such protocols for the purposes of addressing particular needs of the communities served by such policy agency.

In abiding with this state mandate, as well as to respond to the community's desire for discussion on this important topic, the Village of Pleasantville has been engaging with residents and community stakeholders to share information and hear ideas and feedback. This has included three public forums held in November, December and January. Topics have included the use of force and de-escalation, as well as police training and the complaint review process. Mayor Peter Scherer, Chief Grutzner and the Village Trustees encourage residents to participate in these timely and important discussions moving forward, as input is helping to shape the Village's reform plan that will be submitted to NY State.

Chief Erik Grutzner has led the public meetings and says that he values the information and questions he is receiving. "I believe that the discussions continue to be productive for the community and we

greatly appreciate the input that we've received to date. We want our Village to know we are always available to discuss police practices and our priority is the safety of this community," said Chief Grutzner.

The Village's plan (under the aforementioned Executive Order) must be finalized by April 1 in order to be eligible for future state funding. Public participation in this process will be ongoing with all information posted to the Village website in the coming months.

The next public meeting on communications and community policing is scheduled for Jan. 28 at 7:30pm. For more information on this process, or to view prior public forums, please visit: <https://www.pleasantville-ny.gov/police-reform-reinvention-collaborative>. Comments can be submitted to policereform@pleasantville-ny.gov



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

VILLAGE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021

Village Elections are held on the third Tuesday in March – this year on March 16, 2021. The last day to file an independent nominating petition is Tuesday, February 9. Elections are run by the Westchester Board of Elections and petition information can be found here: <https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/run-for-office>.

The Village Board is comprised of the Mayor and four Trustees. They are the elected representatives of the Village of Pleasantville who each serve three-year terms. The only other elected office is the Village Justice which has a four-year term (not up for re-election this year). There are no term limits in Pleasantville, nor are there any national political party affiliations.

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

The Westchester County Board of Elections (BOE) is responsible for the conduct of Village Board of Trustee Elections in Pleasantville. Residents interested in running for office should contact the BOE at 914-995-2000 or visit the BOE website at <http://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/> for information regarding running for office.



COMMUNITY INPUT GUIDES VILLAGE POOL TASK FORCE

Anyone who has lived in the Village of Pleasantville for a number of years knows how important the local pool is to our community. Ever since it was opened in 1930 as a swimming hole, and especially since its renovation in the 1970s, the pool has been a popular gathering place and a local fixture. This past summer, the Village made the difficult decision to keep the pool closed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Pleasantville looks toward the future and the end of this pandemic, a task force

has been formed to determine how to go about repairing and/or renovating the public pool.

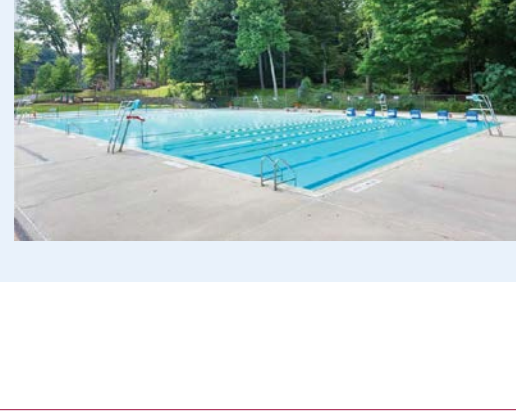
This Pool Task Force, which is made up of 13 members representing different segments of our community, focuses on three important aspects: community outreach, amenities and design, and finance. The first step this task force took was to publicly issue a survey with the intent to garner feedback from all segments of local stakeholders. The response has been overwhelming, with more than 900 completed surveys submitted, 60 percent of which are from current pool members. The task force expects to share a report with the Village in February.

"The volume of responses to the survey shows just how much of a priority the pool is to our community," said Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Matthew Trainor. "With so much valuable input, we'll be able to consider the wants and needs of the full spectrum of pool users."

As Superintendent Trainor suggests, the pool is used by residents of all ages. In addition to general access for members and their families, the pool is used by the Village's summer camp as well as the Pleasantville Swim Team. Senior citizen passes are also available.

Troy Tassier, the head of the Pool Task Force, had this to say about his motivations for volunteering for the lead role:

"Since our family moved to Pleasantville in 2010, the Village pool has been central to our social circle. It introduced us to the Village and allowed us to gain access into the local community, and it's important that it continues to serve that purpose for both current and future members."



The task force is considering a variety of possible solutions, which may include rehabilitating the current pool or a full reconstruction. While the survey is now closed, residents interested in giving feedback or asking questions can contact the task force via email to pool@pleasantville-ny.gov. Please be aware that emails are collected weekly so response times may vary.

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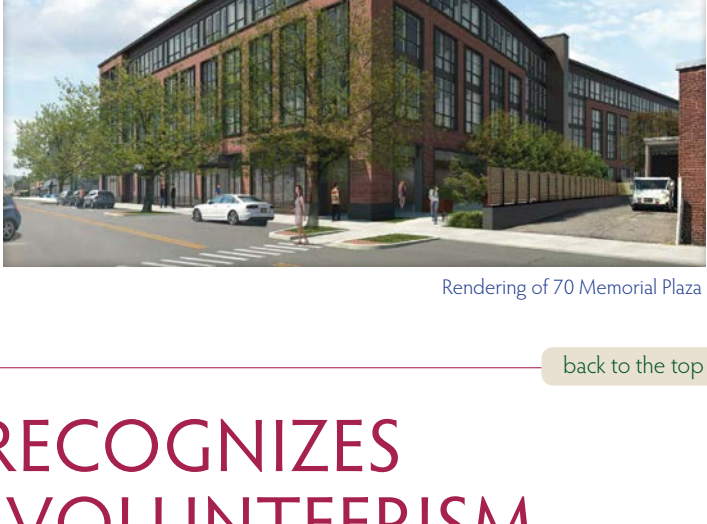
UPDATE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

70 Memorial Plaza – Foundation work is complete on this four-story building which will contain 79 apartments and street level retail space. The Village is discussing the temporary limit of through-traffic on Cooley Street for construction safety. Completion is expected in 24 – 30 months.

52 Depew Street – This planned 71-unit, three-story apartment structure was approved by the Planning Commission in March of 2020. Demolition work is ongoing with brownfield remediation to follow soon. Construction is expected to start within 6 months. This is dependent on the brownfield remediation work.

The project will include 10 studio apartments, 51 one-bedroom units and 10 two-bedroom units.

98 Washington Avenue – This building will have 14 affordable units and is about 90 percent completed.



Rendering of 70 Memorial Plaza

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THE VILLAGE OF PLEASANTVILLE RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY YOUTH VOLUNTEERISM

For more than a decade, the Village of Pleasantville has worked with Village organizations to recognize youth who are volunteering to make our community and country a better place. At a recent Village of Pleasantville Board meeting, 41 students were recognized by eight organizations:

- Emanuel Lutheran Church (Emanuel Ringers)
- Holy Innocents Church (Youth Group)
- Pleasantville Farmers Market
- Pleasantville Community Synagogue (Hebrew School)
- Pleasantville High School ECHO
- Pleasantville Presbyterian Church (Appalachia Service Project)
- Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department
- Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Those being honored were invited to join by Zoom and Mayor Scherer, along with the director of each program, recognized each volunteer by name. They also received a certificate and small token from the Village via mail.

Mayor Scherer expressed his thanks to those who led the volunteers in the work that they have done. The Mayor went on to say: "It is clear that the future is bright if it is emblematic of these young people."

Pleasantville High School senior Josh Zweibaum was one of those honored for his many hours assisting at the Pleasantville



Farmers Market. "In the eight youth recognition ceremonies that I have attended, I have never heard Steve (LAST NAME) give such a heartfelt message about an intern. I could not be more honored that I am right now. The Pleasantville Farmers Market has been a huge part of the community and my life, and I feel lucky to be a part of it," said Josh.

Kaitlyn Zaplet, Captain of the Pleasantville Ambulance Corps., recognized two

volunteers for their overwhelming 485.5 hours this year! She said: "Grant and Ethan are responsible for properly implementing medical equipment, keeping accurate documentation for reports, and overseeing the health and well-being of patients. They are professional and dedicated young men who have exceeded expectations, which includes their monthly hour requirement. I am extremely proud of them and appreciate all they have done for our team."

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PLEASANTVILLE STRONG RECEIVES NEW FIVE-YEAR GRANT, APPOINTS NEW LEADERSHIP

One of the Village of Pleasantville's most important student-centric programs is Pleasantville STRONG. STRONG, which stands for Safe Teens, Real Opportunities, New Goals, is a federally grant-funded coalition whose mission is to educate students and their parents about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and prevent teens from making destructive decisions. The Village is delighted to announce that this past December, Pleasantville STRONG received a new five-year grant extension, as the organization's initial grant concluded.

The Village of Pleasantville serves as the fiscal agent and works closely with the Pleasantville Union Free School District on this initiative.

Along with the new grant, which provides \$125,000 in funding per year, Pleasantville STRONG has announced the appointment of a new Steering Committee Chair, Shane McGaffey, as well as a new Coalition Coordinator, Laura Moore, EdD, CHES, CCLS. Laura will be taking over for Coalition Coordinator Nicole Malgarinos, who led the day-to-day operations of Pleasantville STRONG for the past five years. We are thrilled to welcome Laura and we want to thank Nicole for her hard work and dedication, and wish her luck in all future endeavors.

Another new addition with this grant is the appointment of Laurie Rogers-Smaley to the STRONG team. A Councilwoman for the Town of Mt. Pleasant, part of Ms. Rogers-Smaley's role with the team will be to help expand the reach of the program to families outside of the Village to the Town of Mt. Pleasant.

Since STRONG's inception there has been an overall 30% reduction in substance abuse in the Village, and as the organization looks ahead, it is determined to take the programs they already have in place and make them permanent and sustainable. Examples include the programs run by Student Assistance Counselor Mary Ann Flatley, who is employed by Student Assistance Services (a Westchester-based substance abuse prevention agency serving

schools and communities) paid for by Pleasantville STRONG and the Pleasantville School District, and assigned to the Pleasantville Middle and High Schools. Ms. Flatley is a trusted expert in her field who runs programs on topics such as vaping and substance abuse.

One key task will be to convert STRONG to an official not-for-profit status, an effort that Ms. Moore will be spearheading. Another is to provide more professional development for teachers regarding ways to discuss substance abuse in the classroom and provide parents with the tools to have these difficult conversations with their children at home.

"Continuing to expand the STRONG program is our biggest focus right now," said new Steering Committee Chair Shane McGaffey. "Doing so will depend on the strength of our community partnerships, including our invaluable partnerships with the Pleasantville Police and Fire Departments."

Another core tenet of Pleasantville STRONG is that students themselves should be established as leaders and mentors who can carry these messages to other students, especially younger students who may look up to their older peers. Because STRONG is ultimately focused on prevention, having these discussions with children while they are still young—before they are directly exposed to drug and alcohol usage—is paramount. This means moving the conversation into Bedford Road School in an age-appropriate way.

"The earlier we can have these conversations with our children, the better," said Laura Moore. "If parents wait until high school, it's already too late. These are difficult discussions and we fully appreciate the need to choose and tailor content for our elementary school students, but for the safety of our children, it's important that we get comfortable talking about the uncomfortable."

Parents or students interested in learning more can check out <http://pleasantvillestrong.org>.

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PUBLIC BUDGET MEETINGS

Monday February 22, 2021 – Court Budget & Building Department Discussion with BOT – Work Session

Monday March 1, 2021 – DPW Budget Discussion with BOT – Special Work Session

Tuesday March 2, 2021 – Police Budget Discussion with BOT – Special Work Session

Monday March 8, 2021 – Clinton Street Center Budget Discussion with BOT – Work Session

Monday March 15, 2021 – Parks & Rec Budget Discussion with BOT – Special Work Session

Monday March 22, 2021 – Follow-Up Budget Discussions – Work Session

Monday March 29, 2021 – Budget Presentation – Special Meeting

Monday April 12, 2021 – Public Hearing on Budget – BOT Regular Meeting

Monday April 26, 2021 – Budget Adoption – BOT Regular Meeting

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SNOW DAY FUN BRINGS CHEER TO THE VILLAGE



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Village of Pleasantville • 80 Wheeler Avenue • Pleasantville, NY 10570
 Phone: (914) 769-1900 • Fax: (914) 769-2127 • www.pleasantville-ny.gov

Peter Scherer, Mayor, pscherer@pleasantville-ny.gov
 Paul Alvarez, Trustee, palvarez@pleasantville-ny.gov
 Nicole Asquith, Trustee, nasquith@pleasantville-ny.gov
 Joseph Stargiotti, Trustee, jstargiotti@pleasantville-ny.gov
 David Vinjamuri, Trustee, dvinjamuri@pleasantville-ny.gov
 Eric Morrissey, Village Administrator, administrator@pleasantville-ny.gov
 Noreen Regan, Administrative Aide, nregan@pleasantville-ny.gov

