

PLEASANTVILLE POSTS



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NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE OF PLEASANTVILLE | FOURTH EDITION | FALL 2020

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Pleasantville Neighbors,

As the cold weather arrives, we're working hard on new programs and projects—but are also concerned about COVID risks to residents, businesses, and our school community.

Cases among Pleasantville residents remain fairly low, but we see new COVID-positive results nearly every week. The County-wide statistics have been edging upward, and spikes in our region are warning signs. In a time when so much is outside our control, there are simple steps to protect our community: wear a mask (over mouth and nose), sanitize your hands frequently, and avoid group settings. We know how challenging this is after all these months, but we need everybody to

re-double their focus to limit exposures.

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll see what so many resourceful P'ville people have done to celebrate Halloween in this crazy time. Although the Ragamuffin parade was not possible, their creative response to Halloween 2020 honors a great Village tradition. Over three decades of service in our Parks & Recreation Department, Debbie Nava helped nurture those traditions. The article on page three honors her as she retires.

In our summer newsletter (available at Pleasantville-ny.gov), we reported on Gov. Cuomo's executive order that asks all New York communities review their police policies. We invite your involvement now as we launch

this effort. Further information will be posted on our website. If this (or any other) subject is of interest to you, please make sure you have subscribed to our Village news e-mail list.

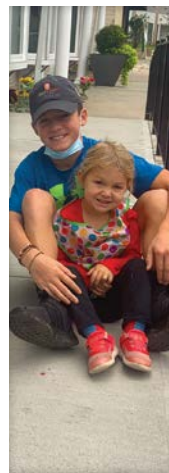
Lastly, I congratulate the two trustees sworn in after the COVID-delayed election ultimately held on September 15. Paul Alvarez joins the board for his first term, and Nicole Asquith begins her second. We send special thanks to Steve Lord—who planned to retire from Village service in April but served all of us for another six months.

I send my thanks to all for the good spirit of this community in challenging times.

Peter Scherer, Mayor

HALLOWEEN 2020— PLEASANTVILLE STYLE

Despite having to forego the annual Ragamuffin parade and other large-scale activities, the Village came up with many alternate ways for our little ghosts and goblins to enjoy Halloween this year. Our annual window painting took place with children decorating windows of businesses around the Village with staggered days and times to ensure social distancing. Also, the Recreation Dept. teamed up with PCTV for a virtual costume show. Tune in to see the scariest, silliest and most monstrous costumes. Finally, several Village Trustees and School Board members, along with the Ambulance Corps, led a drive-by candy crawl throughout the entire school district. Thank you to all who volunteered for, donated to and participated in these events!



HOPE NOT HANDCUFFS PROGRAM

Pleasantville Police Department is one of several forces in the Hudson Valley participating in Hope Not Handcuffs. The program is designed to bring law enforcement, community organizations and volunteers together to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help to reduce dependency with any substance including heroin, prescription drugs, and alcohol.

The program began in Orange County, NY in January of 2019 and since then has rapidly grown to include 31 police departments across 5 counties, incorporating approximately 900 police officers. The program has a volunteer force of over 500 "Angels".

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Anyone seeking help in the fight of drug or alcohol addiction may come to any of the

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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>

UPDATE VILLAGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND NAVIGATING THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

MANVILLE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Village Board of Trustees voted unanimously to postpone the Manville Road project until 2022 due to higher-than-anticipated construction costs coupled with the economic uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project consists of modifications to improve pedestrian circulation in downtown Pleasantville, including sidewalk improvements, signal enhancements, speed calming measures, pedestrian signals, medians, and other improvements. The initial estimate for the project was around \$2.25 million to be supported by a \$1.5 million grant from NY State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) with the Village funding the remaining expense of \$750,000. Recent professional construction estimates place the cost in the range of \$3.5 to \$4 million, which is a result of inflated construction costs

throughout the region. Due to the unique circumstances confronting the Village, and all local governments, the NYSDOT provided the Village the option to postpone the project with the grant intact. The Village now anticipates going out to bid for construction quotes by November 2021 with work beginning in Spring 2022. The final scope and details of the project will reflect a budget that the Village can responsibly finance.

MEMORIAL PLAZA CIVIC SPACE

The Memorial Plaza Civic Space project is separate from the Manville Road Corridor Improvement project. The proposed Civic Space has become an option for the Village to pursue due to the anticipated closure of the slip lane at the intersection of Memorial Plaza and Manville Road. The initial design was developed by the landscape architectural firm Wagner Hodgson with an estimated cost of \$2 million. A key element to the design is the potential of a

phased construction plan thus allowing the Village to responsibly budget for costs while adapting interior details of the space to the needs and wants of the community. The phasing plan calls for a temporary parking condition in the area of the slip lane until the Civic Space project can proceed. Since work to the Civic Space would not start until the Manville Road project has been completed, there is no timeline at this point.

52 DEPEW STREET

Construction is proceeding on the private development of a 71-unit apartment building at 52 Depew St., by Lighthouse Living LLC. Issues concerning soil contamination and the wetlands buffer have been addressed and, on September 14, 2020, the Village Board of Trustees accepted an agreement for a proposed stormwater management facility. Site clean-up and demolition of the existing structures is expected to begin soon.

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ASQUITH, ALVAREZ SWORN AS VILLAGE TRUSTEES



Nicole Asquith and W. Paul Alvarez were officially sworn in as Board Trustees following the Village's election on September 15th, delayed from its original date of March 18th due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outgoing Board Member Stephen Lord announced at the February 10, 2020 Village Board meeting that he would not be seeking another term, leaving a seat



open. Asquith was up for reelection at the end of her three-year term.

Alvarez collected 282 votes while Asquith picked up 169 votes in the election.

Asquith ran in 2017 and has been committed to sustainable measures in the Village. She was key to launching the Village's food scrap program and will continue to help with important sustainability efforts as liaison to Pleasantville Recycles, Climate Smart Community and the Conservation Advisory Council. Asquith also launched the Village Facebook page, which now boasts 1,569 followers and helped found the Pleasantville Pedestrian Committee. Asquith also initiated this very newsletter, Pleasantville Posts, which launched in the fall of 2019.

"The walkability of our Village makes it truly unique. I hope to continue to focus on building a place for our residents to enjoy and thrive," said Asquith. "I'm honored to be on the board for another term and look forward to working with my fellow trustees."

New Trustee W. Paul Alvarez immigrated with his family from Ecuador when he was 9-years-old and has lived in Pleasantville ever since. His family started their business, Alvarez Cleaning and Alvarez Home Services on Washington Avenue, which (Paul) Alvarez now helps his father run. "This Village is very important to me and my family," said Alvarez. As VP of the Chamber of Commerce, Alvarez knows how important small businesses are to the community. Alvarez is also the first Spanish-speaking trustee to sit on the Village Board. "I'm thrilled to be able to represent our Hispanic community here in Pleasantville and am excited to work with this incredible Board. As an immigration attorney, I have been blessed to help people live the American Dream just like my family and I have done here in Pleasantville."

HOPE NOT HANDCUFFS

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participating Police Departments and ask for the Hope Not Handcuffs program. They will be treated with compassion and respect. A call will be made to an "Angel" volunteer who will come to the Police Department. Through a program placement process, the "Angel" will actively seek out a treatment plan. Meeting at the Police Department provides a safe place for "Angels" and program participants to meet.

"The Program is a wonderful fit for our community, especially during these challenging times," said Chief Erik Grutner. "We will be actively looking for "Angel" volunteers in the coming months to help with this work and expect to roll the program out in early 2021."

For more information on Hope not Handcuffs, call 833-428-4673.

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BELOVED MEMBER OF RECREATION DEPARTMENT, DEBBIE NAVA, SET TO RETIRE

If you ask Pleasantville residents why they choose to live here, one answer is given repeatedly: the people. One of those very special people is Debbie Nava who, after working at the Village Recreation Department for nearly three decades and assisting thousands of families, just retired. Her last day in the office was October 30.

"Debbie has been the face, heart and soul of the Village Recreation Department for so long!" said Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Matthew Trainor. "It seems like virtually every family in this Village has worked with her at some point and they all respect and adore her. In an age of email, online registration and relative anonymity, Debbie really embodies the spirit of a time when Parks and Recreation was more personal, more hands-on, more about connection. We're such a better department because of her!"

While Debbie lives in a neighboring town, she says that Pleasantville is her adopted home and that she adores her colleagues and the community. "This is the kind of place where if someone is in need, everyone comes through," says Debbie. "I've made the closest friends here and have loved coming to work every day."

As Senior Office Assistant, Debbie helped plan and execute countless programs for some of the Village's youngest residents, whom she calls "her favorites." Reflecting on her tenure, she recalls art, cooking and music classes held at the old Recreation Center on Bedford Road and how families would line up at 6am to get a spot. Then, of course, there was the annual summer camp registration, which required planning that began in February, and pool registration that allowed her to see families when she took their pictures.

"There were some kids that we hired as lifeguards and then here I was taking pictures of them with their children as homeowners. That was always such a pleasure for me," said Debbie.



She always looked forward to the Easter Egg Hunt and Holiday Sing-a-Long, but Debbie says her favorite family event each year was the Ragamuffin Parade.

"If you ever wanted to see a community event, the Ragamuffin Parade was it. So many people in the Village would participate and line the sidewalks," said Debbie. "As the years went on, we did more at Memorial Plaza to make it even more special."

Another notable event was Mom's Bingo Night, which would regularly draw more than 100

people. "I loved running that event," said Debbie. "It was a lot of work to manage all the details and get the prizes, but it was so much fun!"

Long-time Pleasantville resident Loretta Chiavetta, who with her husband David has raised three children in the Village, reflects on the role that the Recreation Department's programs played in their lives. She explained that "back in the day, if you wanted to get your child into one of the more popular recreation classes, you had to get in line (not online!) at the Recreation Center at 5am. One of the things that got me through those early mornings was knowing that Debbie would be there to open the door and greet us with her big smile."

She continued: "Just as Debbie has watched my three children grow up, I have had the pleasure to watch her grow into her amazing roles here in Pleasantville. She always thought of our children and made sure they were safe. She will be sorely missed."

As much as Debbie knows that she is going to miss her job and interacting with the community every day, she says that she is ready for the next chapter of her life. She has purchased a home in Florida and looks forward to being with her boyfriend, who she met while working in Pleasantville. She is also eager to spend more time with her two sons and her 3-year-old grandson who, with his parents, has been staying at her home the past several months. "If there's been one good thing about this time during COVID it's that I've been able to spend so much time with my grandson," said Debbie.

VILLAGE OF PLEASANTVILLE ENGAGES PUBLIC ON USE OF LEAF BLOWERS

Like many municipalities in Westchester County, the Village of Pleasantville is hearing comments from the community about the use of leaf blowers. During a virtual public forum on October 15, Mayor Peter Scherer informed the many participants that there is not a proposed law being considered by the Village. Rather, the Village is continuing to research the issue and is taking public comment.

The Village has received a proposal for a local ordinance from its seven-member Conservation Advisory Council, which is under review. The proposal, which addresses issues including noise, environmental concerns and health impacts, can be viewed at the CAC info page on the Village website under Boards and Committees. The Village has also received numerous comments and suggestions from local businesses and homeowners.

"The use of leaf blowers has been a contentious topic for some time and, with people working at home and students learning remotely, it is now receiving even more attention," said Mayor Scherer. "We encourage citizens to continue sharing their comments with us as we analyze the many aspects and potential impacts of this issue."

Mayor Scherer says that he anticipates additional public hearings on this topic and that the community can also share their comments via email at leafblowers@Pleasantville-ny.gov.

https://www.pleasantville-ny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1076/f/uploads/village_of_pleasantville_leaf_blower_slides_201015.pdf

FARMER'S MARKET ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR OPERATIONS IN LATE FALL AND WINTER



The Pleasantville Farmer's Market, a hallmark of the Village since 2013 and voted the Best of Westchester for seven consecutive years, has consistently found ways to be responsive to its producers, shoppers and volunteers. This year, the coronavirus outbreak led to guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing, which often resulted in short lines to enter. But that wasn't a deterrent for patrons, who were incredibly respectful of the mandate.

Pleasantville resident Tara Albaum, a regular shopper at the farmer's market,

said that she appreciates that the market had rules to manage capacity.

"The Pleasantville Farmer's Market is one of the many great aspects of our Village and I get there as often as I can," said Tara. "I didn't mind that I had to wait a few minutes to get in; that's what we need to do right now. And I look forward to an online winter market."

The market will remain open until November 21. After that, the market will transition to an online operation, Pleasantville Farmer's

Market Online (PFM-O), as the schools cannot safely accommodate an indoor market this year. PFM-O actually debuted this summer to accommodate those who wanted to enjoy the benefits of the market but decided that a curbside pick-up was better for them.

Customers can preorder from 7pm on Tuesdays through 7pm on Thursdays at <https://pleasantvillefarmersmarket.localfoodmarketplace.com>. Pick-up will then be between 9 and 11:00 am.

VILLAGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE continued from page 2

70 MEMORIAL PLAZA

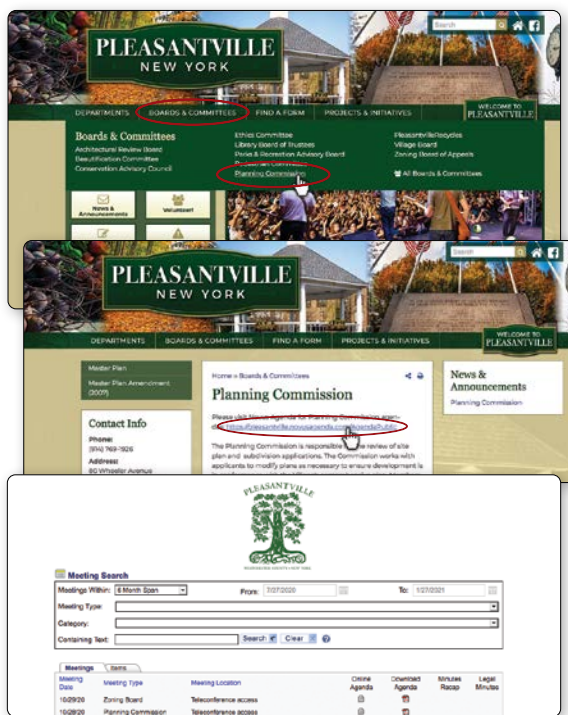
Construction is also proceeding on the private development at 70 Memorial Plaza with the underground parking garage and foundation work nearly complete. The building will have 79 apartments with retail space on the ground floor facing Memorial Plaza and 2 levels of underground parking.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND NAVIGATING THE VILLAGE OF PLEASANTVILLE WEBSITE

The Village Planning Commission is responsible for the review of site plan and subdivision applications, including the private development outlined in this article. Village residents seeking information about upcoming proposals on the agenda can refer to the Village of Pleasantville website and navigate to the Planning Commission section under the Boards & Committees tab. Should someone want to search about a project that was discussed at a past meeting, there is a search engine into which keywords can be entered. Any Village resident with questions about an ongoing project or considering a project at their private residence, can contact Building

Inspector Robert Hughes at 914-769-1926 or buildinginspector@pleasantville-ny.gov.

Also of note, at the September 29 Village Board meeting, the Village adopted a local law to consolidate the Architectural Review Board and Planning Commission.



COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PROGRAM



As a member of Westchester Power-Sustainable Westchester, the Village of Pleasantville is currently 1 of 28 Westchester municipalities participating in the Community Choice Aggregation Program (CCA). The CCA program is a community-based bulk energy purchasing program intended to control costs of electricity and increase the use of renewable energy in Westchester County. Westchester Power provides residents and small business electric customers a locally chosen alternative to the state-mandated utility Con Edison for energy supply. Westchester Power represents the best interests of consumers by providing choices for competitive, fixed prices and cleaner energy supply while maintaining Con Edison as the service provider.

All Village Con Edison electric customers currently opted into the CCA program will receive a mailing from Sustainable Westchester in mid-November with an update on electric rates and options for program participation. The mailing will also be identifiable by the Village of Pleasantville logo on the envelope. Please note that residents may opt-out of the program at any point by contacting Westchester Power.

Not sure if you are opted in or out of the CCA program or want to switch between the green and standard supply options? Then grab a copy of your most recent Con Edison electric bill and call the friendly staff at Westchester Power (914) 242-4725. They are available to assist you in understanding all the options in the CCA program.



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