

# Halloween 2016 promises a four-day celebration

By GIA MILLER

With Halloween arriving next Monday, residents are in for a four-day celebration this year. From parades and fairs to treasure hunts and haunted graveyards, there is something for everyone.

Here is a rundown of key events taking place in the hamlets around the town of Bedford.

Today, Friday, Oct. 28, the Bedford Hills Free Library kicks things off with trick-or-treating and story time for young children, infants through first grade. Co-sponsored by the Bedford Hills Chamber of Commerce, the event begins at 4 p.m. Children will walk through downtown Bedford to trick or treat at participating stores. Costumes are optional but encouraged. After filling their bags, children will return to the library for music and "not-so-scary" Halloween stories with Rachel Izes.

"The library's Halloween Walk

is an annual collaboration with downtown Bedford Hills businesses," said Mary Esbjornson, executive director of Bedford Hills Free Library. "Participating businesses include Furman M Printing, Pawfection Pet Grooming Boutique, Bedford House, MeMe's Treats Bakery, Preppy Turtle and Wayne Fazzinga. "We love that the event's focus is on our smallest children, some of them wearing their very first Halloween costume," said Ms. Esbjornson.

From 5 to 8 p.m., families can visit the Bedford Hills train station, where the Bedford Hills Historical Museum will host a kid-friendly haunted house for children up to 12 years old, complete with Halloween music and spiders of all sizes, including a giant one clinging to the ceiling. Costumes are encouraged but not required. There will be candy, stickers and pencils available for the children.



VICKI KRIEGESKOTTE PHOTO

Rachel Izes will read "not so scary" stories to kids at the Bedford Hills Free Library this afternoon, Friday. Above, a scene from last year's program.

"This is our second year hosting this event," said David Zapsky, vice president of the Bedford Hills Historical Museum. "We hope that the haunted house creates some awareness that there is actually a historical museum in Bedford Hills and also brings activity to the train station."

Tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 29, beginning at 10 a.m., the Katonah Chamber of Commerce will present Kandyland, its first trick-or-treating treasure hunt. Partnering with local businesses — Country Children's Center, Pop Katonah, & James and Edward Jones — the chamber has organized an event that will lead children around the main shopping street in the hamlet, with the aid of a map done in the style of a Candy Land game board.

"Everyone will start at the Reading Room where representatives  
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from CCC and the Reading Room will hand out bags and maps," explained Alan Eifert, the chamber copresident. "They will have about one hour to go down Katonah Avenue and find the 21 stores on the map." All participants will be entered into a raffle to win a Golden Ticket for a special prize.

In keeping with the event's "crib to college" theme, early education representatives from CCC will be at the first stop, and Jay Durante of Edward Jones will be at the last. Mr. Durante plans to dress in a cap and gown, ready to discuss college savings plans as he hands out piggy banks to the first 50 children that complete the map. Each piggy bank will have a silver dollar inside, symbolizing the importance of saving money for college.

As soon as Kandyland ends, the fun will continue at Katonah Elementary School's 37th annual Halloween Fair. From 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., families are invited to participate in fair activities, such as arts and crafts, face painting and tattoos, a food and bake sale, a raffle, an inflatable castle and pumpkin decorating. The fourth-grade haunted hallway will also return this year, along with the fifth-grade Dr. Boo-Boo's haunted hospital where "your wounds will be fixed with bloody bandages." Haunted hallway tickets are \$1.

Notable Halloween Fair events include a special guest appearance by Buddy the Bulldog at noon, a performance by the John Jay Treble Makers at 1 p.m., and a costume parade at 2 p.m. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

The following day, Sunday, Oct. 30, Katonah's annual Halloween parade, sponsored by the Katonah Village Improvement Society, will begin at 3 p.m. in front of Tazza Cafe. Katonah Avenue will be closed to traffic as residents parade down the street, loop around Peppino's, and return to the start where cider and donuts will be served. At the end of the route, Abby and the Roadsters, a middle school band that was a big hit last year, will perform.

Said Susan Williams of KVIS, "This event is a community favorite, and it's a chance for everyone to



PETER LINZ PHOTO

One of Katonah's iconic stops for trick-or-treaters is the house of "Creepy Pete," which belongs to Peter Linz, shown on the roof.

come out and see their neighbors." Every dog that comes in costume will receive a dog treat, courtesy of Petco.

Also on Sunday, a Halloween Bash at the Bedford Hills train station will be held to benefit the American Cancer Society. Sponsored by Marcie Manfredonia, owner of Custom Candle Co. and Nationwide Maintenance, from noon to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per family.

The event hopes to draw aware-

ness to men's breast cancer and will feature Ms. Manfredonia's husband, Nick Siciliano, who was selected as one of the 25 "Real Men of Westchester" by the American Cancer Society, a role that includes raising money for cancer treatment and prevention throughout the month of October.

The party will offer food, face painting, apple bobbing, a giant wooden pumpkin, a free candle, music by DJ Surge, ghost stands for pictures, a raffle and candlemaking.

A costume contest for children will be held at 3 p.m. and for adults at 5 p.m.; contestants need to be present to win. The raffle winner will be announced at 6 p.m.

On Halloween, Monday, Oct. 31, the Bedford Village Lion's Club will host its annual Halloween parade. Led by a fire engine, the parade will begin at 4 p.m. at the Bedford Presbyterian Church and end at Bedford Village Elementary School, where cider and doughnuts will be served.

"We have hosted this parade for over 15 years," explained Mark Boyland. "We hand out clip-on flashlights as it gets dark." Costumes are optional, but encouraged. The parade will end with a costume contest.

For the children who trick or treat in Katonah, a new highlight in the hamlet this year will be a concert by a group of John Jay High School students. Their band, called There's A Hole In My Boat, will perform on the Parkway across from the Katonah Village Library at 7 p.m.

To the delight of local children and adults, "Creepy Pete's" will return again on Terrace Heights. Katonah resident Peter Linz, who plays the role of the good-natured cemetery caretaker, and his partner in crime, Manhattan resident Laurent Linn, who is a former art director for Sesame Street, create a "silly scary" haunted front yard that draws crowds to Mr. Linz's home, located on the small road between The Terrace and Huntville Road.

"We close the road off to cars and it's just a sea of humanity on Halloween," Mr. Linz explained. His house at the top of the hill is theatrically lit with a huge monster face over the porch. The yard is overgrown with gnarly old trees and a graveyard. "To get up the front door and get the candy, you have to walk through the forest of trees, gravestones, jack-o'-lanterns and skeletons," he said.

Creepy Pete's graveyard is filled with handmade headstones, jack-o'-lantern zombies and other surprising treasures. This year, a local band composed of middle and high school students will play.

Creepy Pete's and the many other homes in the village of Katonah will begin opening their doors to trick-or-treaters at 6 p.m.