Fort Plain grad prepares for 3-year residency at Yale

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

With an understandable bit of unease, yet strengthened resolve in her chosen career path, Fort Plain Central School District graduate Maisie Orsillo is currently preparing for an upcoming move to New Haven, Conn., where she and her partner will begin a three-year internal medicine residency at Yale.

Of herself and her partner, currently living in Long Island, Orsillo stated, “We’re going into medicine right now at a very strange and stressful time.”

Following her graduation from FPCSd in 2011, Orsillo’s path to being certified as a doctor of osteopathy practicing internal medicine began with two years of undergraduate studies in Middle-town, N.Y. in the Hudson Valley. Following undergraduate studies was a four-year program at a relatively-small hospital facility in northwestern Connecticut.

The third and fourth years of Orsillo’s studies in Connecticut were more-clinical than the first two, with she and her similarly-educated peers seeing patients, diagnosing, reading labs and determining what medications to prescribe.

YALE — See page 2

The Easter Bunny (Janet Stanley of Lee’s Shops at Wagner Square) waves to the Clouthier family during a Friday delivery in Palatine Bridge.

Easter Bunny deliveries in high demand throughout local area

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

CANAJOHARIE — After Lee’s Shops at Wagner Square announced that they’d provide Easter Bunny deliveries at several price points, orders exploded, with Manager Janet Stanley having to add an extra day to the originally-planned three-day delivery schedule just to facilitate all requests.

“I honestly had no idea what to expect,” said Stanley of the Easter Bunny delivery promotion, explaining that once word got out, phone calls started pouring in from all over. One family even inquired about whether she’d deliver to Amsterdam. Though that was outside of the planned delivery area, Stanley informed the family that if they could get a couple more people in that area involved, she’d be happy to make a delivery there.

“The next thing you know, they had their friends calling me as well,” she commented, stating that Lee’s Shops at Wagner Square made about 125 deliveries altogether.

Fun, lime green Easter bags were delivered throughout a wide expanse encompassing several counties, from Amsterdam to St. Johnsville, and from Johnstown and Gloversville to Sharon Springs.

Stanley noted that while she was excited about the idea of making deliveries, she was a little concerned about the prices, but added, “I think there’s a lot of people that feel the same way.”

BUNNY — See page 3

Arrest rates rise in the village of Fort Plain

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

FORT PLAIN — The Fort Plain Police Department has seen crime rise significantly in the village lately, with officers making 13 arrests in the past four weeks compared to the average arrest rate of between four and 10 per month.

“We’re pretty steady,” in terms of recent arrests, said Fort Plain Police Chief Ryan Austin, explaining that while the department is already one of the busiest police departments among the three villages, in the westernmost end of Montgomery County, “lately, arrests have hit a higher number.”

Austin attributed the climbing arrest rate almost exclusively to the current COVID-19 crisis, noting that people have been stuck indoors, with some people around one another for large periods of time, and other separated.

He said, “I believe some type of boredom plays into” recent crimes. “And, unfortunately, I think alcohol along with being confined in close quarters” provokes a sense of restlessness.

The recent arrests have been primarily comprised of domestic disputes, neighbor disputes, disorderly conducts and assaults. Stated Austin of the Fort Plain Police Department, “As it progresses in the summer, we’re going to become busier and busier” as arrest rates always climb during each year’s warmer months.

Typically, the Fort Plain Police Department operates two vehicles in the village on a Friday and Saturday from June through August, but with the village arrest rate climbing, ARRESTS — See page 3
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status regarding a Yale residency. Several traditions associated with this process have already been upended by the spread of COVID-19, including the “Big Match Day,” when many schools have their students open their residency results together at noon. Some schools were forced to be creative, having students open results in parking lots while social distancing, or holding virtual happenings with students opening their email results together.

The alteration of the process by which those hard-earned results were received, said Orsillo, "was very disappointing for a lot of students."

"But," she added, "we’re all going into medicine, so we all understand what the unexpected changes were required.

Graduation ceremonies will now take place virtually, and Orsillo commending of this strange moment in time and the entire altered process. This is unprecedented, really.”

Orsillo’s May 19 graduation was scheduled to take place in Middletown, NY, at the Paramount Theater, the event aiming to be a full-circle one for many students, as Orsillo and her peers started their journey to this current moment in that very space, where the meaningful white-coat ceremony once took place.

Though graduations will now be held in a virtual space, the students will be provided with full regalia, so they can take photos in their caps and gowns for family members and loved ones.

This part of the process being curbed after working toward it for years — or if not for the better part of a lifetime — “is hard, because for me, going to college was a big event,” Orsillo pointing out that she was the first person in her immediate family to attend college.

She continued, “Getting through medical school and being able to say this was going to be my life-long career was going to be a very special moment for my family.”

While she, her parents and her sister in Fort Plain, are disappoint-
ed in the loss of so many important events and commemorative moments, Orsillo said that they all remain incredibly thankful.

"We have to be so grateful for our health every day," she said, noting that seeing colleagues and friends in the medical field currently sick and struggling “is really very hard.”

Orsillo, scheduled to begin her residency in June — which will require a move to another state during a time when social distancing measures are necessary — explained that understanding “I have some fear about starting."

The fear derives partially from the fact that much about COVID-19 remains unknown, including the potential for a second wave.

Luckily, where Orsillo and her partner are heading, protective measures are consistent and con-

In moving forward into a realm made unknown by modern un-
certainties and potential risks, Orsillo said she will continue to carry with her various lessons and values she acquired during her schooling in Fort Plain.

“I had a really wonderful education in Fort Plain, and I really learned what it is to have a sense of community,” she said, noting that even though her graduat-
ing class were all from different backgrounds, they still share the unique, unbreakable connection that was being raised in Fort Plain and the Mohawk Valley offered.

Orsillo explained that she had wonderful teachers at Fort Plain that consistently encouraged her to keep reading, asking questions and to stay motivated, even advoca-
cating for her during the college application process and constant-

reminding her that she had the capacity to accomplish even the most seemingly-boisy tasks.

Orsillo outlined one moment in high school where things real-
ly clicked for her in terms of the path she’d eventually follow. While visiting the Bodies exhibit in Man-
hattan on a field trip, her science teacher Lance Elliott — seeing her level of focus on various human organ displays — told her that she was “science minded,” excitedly encouraging her to follow a sci-
ence-related path.

To all of those who have sup-
ported her during her long path to this upcoming Yale residency — including teachers, loved ones, her peers at all stag-
es, the community and the Fort Plain Scholarship Association, which personally and financially supported her for years — she ex-

tends endless appreciation, stating that their ongoing and often “per-
senal” support continually served as ground beneath her feet during uncertain moments leading to this current, well-deserved accom-
plishment.