



## Brook Luce and Irene Basu Named Rotary Scholars of the Month for February

Rotary Club of the Pelhams recognized Pelham Memorial High School seniors Brooke Luce and Irene Basu as Marilyn Stiefvater scholars of the Month for February.

Brooke Luce, a National Merit Semifinalist, is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Social Studies, English, Mandarin and Science honor societies. Her science research has concentrated on micro-RNA therapeutic for glioblastomas using gelatin nanoparticles avoiding viral delivery systems. She also had an internship studying genetics. She is a member of the Mandarin Club and participates in Varsity track and field. She tutors students preparing for the SAT exam and works with children with special needs (organizing games and activities) and participates in science community outreach events.

Irene Basu, who has earned several science awards, has completed Advanced Placement courses in Statistics, World History, Chemistry, Physics 1 & 2, American History, English Language, Biology, Calculus AB and English Literature. She is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Social Studies, English and Science honor societies. She has participated in summer research programs on pancreatic cancer after thoracic radiation. Her extracurricular activities include Helping Hands for Hygiene Campaign, Worldwide Club, Medical Career Club, Animal Welfare Club and as the student representative to the school district's Wellness Committee. She plays clarinet and enjoys Indian Classical Dance.

The local Rotary Club also awards a \$15,000 scholarship to a graduating PMHS senior in June. Applications for the scholarship are available through the PMHS Guidance Department.



Left to right: Rotary President Kevin Falvey, Scholars of the Month Brooke Luce and Irene Basu, and Rotary member and PMHS Principal Mark Berkowitz

## FF Paul Fumo Retirement & FF Daniel Higgins Academy Graduation



The Pelham Manor Fire Department, along with Fire Commissioner Tim Case, gathered to celebrate Firefighter Paul Fumo's final walk from the Firehouse early this morning. FF Fumo is a graduate of Pelham High School and has served our community for more than thirty years. We thank him for his outstanding dedication and wish him well in retirement.

Congratulations to Firefighter Daniel Higgins who graduated last week from the Westchester County Career Chiefs Fire Academy (academy). In addition to the 20 weeks of training at the academy, FF Higgins will receive one more week of in-house training before going into shift.



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## Brokerage in Pelham by Sales Volume in 2023\*

\* Source: OKMLS, Pelham Schools, All Property Types, Sold 2023, Ranking by Firm by Sales Volume.





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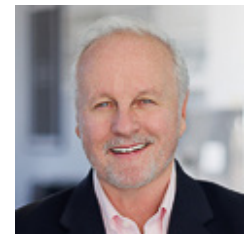
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# Jeffrey A. Monachino 1941-2024

Jeffrey A. Monachino, a former longtime resident of Pelham Manor, died tragically in a single car accident. He was 82.

Jeff was born in the Bronx to Dr. S.R. and Vera (nee Morrison) Monachino on September 20, 1941. He graduated from Pelham Memorial High School in 1959. Known affectionately as “Moose” by his many friends and classmates, Jeff played varsity football and was a varsity track standout.

Jeff received a B.A. in English from Dickinson College in 1963. He held the college’s record for the discus throw and enjoyed sitting under a tree and reading Chaucer. While rushing chairman for Dickinson’s chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, he met the delightful Annette Romaine Cowan on a blind date. The two never looked back and were married on November 27, 1965.

Following college, Jeff embarked on a successful career in sales and management, securing positions at Tuition Plan and the Control Data Corporation. In what he later referred to as one of the greatest developments in his career, Automatic Data Processing, Inc. acquired the Broadscope Division of First National City Bank while he was employed there. Jeff spent many years rising within ADP, later serving as Corporate Director of Sales Training. He worked professionally for several more years but decided to retire in order to spend more time with his family.

Throughout his life, Jeff’s greatest gift was his



ability to make others feel valued. An eternal optimist with a wry sense of humor, he could be seen hoisting his thumbs and replying, “Two thumbs up,” when anyone asked how he was. He was an active member of the New York Athletic Club tennis community for decades, an avid gardener in his beautiful backyard, and an accomplished cook. More than anything, Jeff loved to entertain family and friends. He regularly welcomed them into his home for professional-level meals prepared with care from start to finish, earning him the nickname “Chef Jeff.”

Jeff will be remembered as a dedicated friend and the most supportive husband, father, and grandfather. Indeed, his family was his greatest joy.

In addition to Annette, his loving wife of 58 years, Jeff is survived by his two devoted daughters, Jennifer Monachino Lapey of Pelham Manor and Lisa DeGirolami of Leesburg, Virginia; sons-in-law John (Ian) Lapey and Marc DeGirolami; and adoring grandchildren Paul and Catherine Lapey and Thomas DeGirolami. His brother Reginald Monachino of Cave Creek, Arizona also survives, along with countless friends, whom he considered to be family.

The family will receive visitors at the Pelham Funeral Home, 64 Lincoln Avenue, Pelham NY 10803 on Sunday, February 18 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Pelham Preservation and Garden Society.

# Pearlman and Shelton are Rotary Scholars of the Month

Pelham Memorial High School seniors Padraig Pearlman and Laura Shelton were recognized as Marilyn Stiefvater Scholars of the Month for January by Rotary Club of the Pelhams.

Padraig Pearlman, a Latin scholar and National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Math, Science, English and Social Studies honor societies. He completed Advanced Placement courses in European History, English Literature, Physics, Calculus BC, Psychology, U.S. History, Art History, Statistics, World History, and Computer Science Principles. He is the captain of the Varsity cross country team. His extracurricular activities have included the Pelham Mel student newspaper, Latin Club, Creative Writing Club. This past summer he attended the Creative Writing Master Class in Fiction at Columbia.

Laura Shelton, Vice President of the Student Association, is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Math, Science, English, World Language and Social Studies honor societies. She completed Advanced Placement courses in World History, Physics 1 & 2, Art History, U.S. History, English Language, Calculus BC, English Literature and Composition and U.S. Government and Politics. Her athletic achievements have been in soccer and track and field. Her extracurricular activities have included the Pelham Examiner student newspaper online, President of the Women’s Empowerment Club, Vice President of the Students for Refugees Club as well as the Do Something Club and Ocean Conservation Club.

In addition to recognizing PMHS Scholars of the Month during the school year, Rotary awards a \$15,000 scholarship to a graduating PMHS senior in June. Applications for the scholarship will be available through the PMHS Guidance Department in the spring.

For more information on Rotary Club of the Pelhams, visit pelhamrotary.com



Left to right: Rotary President Kevin Falvey, Scholars of the Month Padraig Pearlman and Laura Shelton and Rotary member and PMHS Principal Mark Berkowitz



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## Candidate Statement: **Kate Pringle**

I am honored to seek your support for election, together with Mark Cardwell, to the Pelham Manor Board of Trustees.

As an attorney, I have spent years advising major corporations on how to reduce risks, strengthen governance, implement best practices, and craft consensus. I have been able to use this experience in service on the boards of Huguenot Memorial Church and the Pelham Art Center, on Personnel Committees, and on the School District Advocacy Committee. I was also Board Chair of Bread for the World, a national, bi-partisan advocacy and policy organization working to prevent hunger.

I have worked with many of you on projects that bring our community together in generosity. I help run the annual Huguenot Charity Christmas Tree Sale. I ran the Huguenot Hoops kids' basketball program, have hosted Novel Night dinners, and join in regular food collections.

My husband, John McCormick, and I feel so fortunate to have raised our family here. Pelham Manor has supported us and instilled in our children a sense of community, responsibility, and pride.

I am excited to apply my experience in service of the community I love. As Trustee, I will focus on the following:

**Flooding:** Now is the time to solve our flooding problems. We need peer review of the existing study and a real plan to fix our problems. I will work with our elected officials to secure available funding. And I will plan for the future needs of our shoreline, parks, and infrastructure, to preserve our community and enhance our quality of life.

**Budgeting:** Our taxes are high and a significant burden. We can save money, while improving services, by coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions, modernizing our elections, and upgrading our practices. I will invite public review of every line of our budget and work to employ or reduce our oversized reserve.

**Safety and Walkability:** Years ago my son was hit by a car as he walked home from school – he was ok, but I will never forget how close our family came to tragedy. I will work to address aggressive driving, and ensure pedestrian and rider safety.

**Management:** With our new Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Village Administrator, we have an opportunity to move beyond past scandals and expensive lawsuits. We need to instill best practices to ensure that our employees and officers are strongly supported and deliver the highest professional services. I have worked on personnel issues for years, and I am eager to apply that expertise as a Trustee.

**Vibrancy:** Let's engage our community in dreaming bigger. We can make our parks more vibrant, preserve our history and architecture, attract exciting businesses, improve recreational spaces, and enhance stewardship of our air and water. We can do more to ensure that every member of our community is included and supported. Let's work together and achieve more for our community!

Please contact me at [Kate@ManorTogether.com](mailto:Kate@ManorTogether.com), I am interested in your ideas for our community.

I hope I can earn your vote.

Kate Pringle



Mark Cardwell and Kate Pringle

## Candidate Statement: **Mark Cardwell**

I am honored to be a candidate for the Village of Pelham Manor Board of Trustees with Kate Pringle.

I love our village, and I'm running because my experience qualifies me to help keep our community safe.

I have lived in the Manor with my wife Margaret and sons Jack and Sam for over 13 years. I have dived into roles in our community where I make a difference, volunteering as a firefighter in Pelham Manor and as an EMT with Mamaroneck EMS, serving on the frontlines throughout the height of the pandemic. I have also served as a Scout leader in Pelham Troop 1 and as a food rescue volunteer with County Harvest.

I am running for the Board to continue my work to improve public safety in our community, ensuring that everyone in the Manor is safe in their homes. I've been proud to play a part in bringing an ambulance to Pelham. But much more needs to be done to improve the safety of our families – from better pedestrian crossings to improved allocation of resources to ensure everyone is safe. And my EMS, fire, and law enforcement experience makes me uniquely qualified to ensure we have a safe village. When you call 911, you should get the help you need.

I will also focus on the increasing threat to our safety in our homes and streets as we confront the growing storms and flooding in our community. The Manor fire department was forced to rescue drivers from their cars this past

September, and this must not happen again. We must take real action to protect our families, maintain property values, and help our village flourish.

And finally, I'll work to stop the growth in village spending, ensuring that we get the best possible value for our tax dollars. Our village budget has ballooned to more than \$18 million annually, an increase of \$4 million in just the past eight years.

Meeting this defining moment will require a different approach to leadership--more listening, collaboration, and fiscal transparency:

- **Listening** – to understand and leverage our community  
Listening, and hearing, is a skill. I'm committed to respectfully listening to everyone more and talking less.
- **Collaboration** – to reduce taxes and meet our challenges  
I'll collaborate closely with Manor colleagues and staff, our sister village, our Town, our neighbors, and our county and state elected officials to ensure our voices are heard. Our village faces lawsuits and flooding work that will cost many millions – this issue requires skilled governance.
- **Transparency** – for financial accountability  
I will also leverage my professional experience to ensure our village is more transparent and pledge to stop the growth of the \$8 million sitting in village coffers.

To keep our families safe, homes dry, and taxes manageable, we must urgently work together to find solutions to our challenges while maintaining the unique character of the Manor.

With our clear record of commitment to the village, Kate and I are uniquely positioned to lead the Manor through these times.

I respectfully ask for your vote.

Mark Cardwell

# Three Ways for Pelham Manor Residents to Vote in Upcoming March 19 Election

Election season is here again for the residents of Pelham Manor. On March 19, 2024 Pelham Manor will hold an election for two Village Trustees. (The Village of Pelham holds its Trustee election in November.)

Changes in New York law mean that, for the first time, there are three ways for voters to participate in this election.

**\* In person:** You may vote in person on March 19, from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm, at the Pelham Manor Firehouse, 4 Penfield Place.

**\* By mail:** Under a new NY law, any registered Pelham Manor voter may apply for an early mail ballot. Application forms can be found on the Village of Pelham Manor website, <https://www.pelhammanor.org/257/Village-Election>. An early mail ballot allows you to vote by mail – even if you will be in the Manor on election day.

**\* By absentee ballot:** If you won't be here on election day, or have a temporary or permanent illness or disability (or meet certain other criteria), you may vote by absentee ballot. Application forms can be found on the Village of Pelham Manor website, <https://www.pelhammanor.org/257/Village-Election>.

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a resident of Pelham Manor for a minimum of 30 days preceding the election and be registered to vote. "Residence" means "that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home and to which he, wherever temporarily located, always intends to return." As explained in new guidance issued by the state:

"The crucial factor in determining if an individual is qualified to register and vote from a particular residence is whether he or she has

manifested an intent to adopt that residence as a permanent and principal home coupled by his or her physical presence there 'without any aura of sham.'"

Thus, for example, a voter who grew up in Pelham Manor but has now moved out and established a principal home elsewhere, is no longer a resident eligible to vote in Manor elections. On the other hand, college students and those serving in the military can still vote in the Manor. And a voter who lives in two places may under some circumstances choose one (but not both) as his voting residence (see 2023 Election Law Update from the New York State Board of Elections.)

Want to register to vote? Register by March 8 to participate in the March 19 Pelham Manor election. Go to <https://www.elections.ny.gov/OnlineVoterReg.html>.

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/OnlineVoterReg.html>.

Want to check your registration status? Go to <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>.

Mark your calendar now for all the important elections this year:

March 19, Village of Pelham Manor Trustee Election

April 2, Presidential Primary Election (early voting begins March 23)

May 21, Pelham School District Budget Vote and School Board Election

November 5, Presidential, State, Town, and Village of Pelham Elections (early voting begins October 26)

Check and bookmark our website, [pelhamnydemocrats.org](https://pelhamnydemocrats.org), for ongoing information on local candidates, issues, elections and events. Thank you for voting!

# Candidate Statement:

## Bridget A. (Breda) Bennett

I am honored to seek re-election as Village Trustee in Pelham Manor. A registered Independent, I have served as Trustee since 2018 and currently serve as Deputy Mayor and Police Commissioner. In my Village service, I work closely with our residents, the Pelham Manor Police Department and our administration.

Born in the Bronx, I am the daughter of Irish immigrants who taught me the value of community. My husband, Tom, and I moved to Pelham Manor in 1997 because we knew we had found our home. We raised six children here, all of whom attended Pelham Public Schools.

My extensive record of local community service includes tenures with PACT, Prospect Hill's Site-Based Council and the Girl Scouts. I have also held leadership positions with the Pelham Little League Board, rising to Treasurer and Vice President, and I served as a Town Recreation Commissioner for 14 years, with two years as Chair. My vision of a Recreational Basketball League is now a successful reality, boasting enrollment of over 500 children. Finally, I served on the Pelham Booster Club for 11 years, becoming Treasurer and Co-President.

I remain committed to providing premier local services in a fiscally responsible manner.

Pelham Manor continues to operate debt free, again earning an excellent fiscal stress score from the NYS Comptroller. We remain New York State Tax Cap compliant, as we have since the program's inception.

As Police Commissioner, I work to ensure that the PMPD is highly trained, extremely responsive and community based. Pedestrian and traffic safety remain priorities for me. Recently, when drag racers threatened pedestrian safety and created significant noise disturbances on our roads, the PMPD crafted a plan, resolving the issue quickly. Working with our NYS elected officials, Pelham Manor also successfully launched the first red light camera program in a Village throughout NYS. Notably, the PMPD has re-instituted the DARE program in our schools, following a COVID-19 hiatus. We have increased traffic monitoring and enforcement and added stop signs at key intersections. AAA again conferred the Bronze Award to the PMPD in its Community Traffic Safety Awards



Program.

In June, our outside engineers completed a comprehensive village-wide drainage infrastructure assessment, including in-depth mapping. The Village promptly implemented related interim mitigation measures, such as fixing and lining pipes, adding catch basins, repairing a manhole and adding pipes and drainage in acute areas. We are also working on long-term strategic projects. Fortunately, we have built productive relationships with municipal neighbors that control receiving systems downstream. Working cooperatively with jurisdictions that receive our water has helped Pelham Manor facilitate a regional approach to water management.

Through effective advocacy with New York State officials and agencies, Pelham Manor secured the complete repaving of Boston Post Road in our municipal boundaries. Importantly, the NYS DOT completed this effort with state funding, not Pelham Manor tax dollars.

I remain committed to environmental sustainability, regularly attending seminars and workshops. The Village boasts a robust, cost-effective recycling and reuse program, recycling approximately 73% of our trash. We also operate an industry-leading organic waste recycling program using a public-private partnership. Under this PPP, the Village supplies residents with free compost and will deliver it to residents. In 2022, we greatly reduced the days of week and hours of operation available for gasoline-powered leaf blowers, and in 2023, we again participated in the NYPA Tree Program. For each tree that we purchase through this program, the Power Authority provides us with another one at no charge! We have purchased native species and varieties that consume large quantities of water, using a creative approach to water remediation.

Accessibility is central to my approach to governance, and I enthusiastically support the Village's comprehensive communication platform. I am here for every resident.

I humbly ask you to vote for my running mate, Trustee Maurice Owen-Michaane, and me on March 19 so that we can continue our work.

Respectfully yours,  
Bridget A. (Breda) Bennett

# Candidate Statement:

## Maurice Owen-Michaane

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

I'm honored to announce my candidacy for re-election as your Pelham Manor Trustee. Over the past four years, I've served as your Trustee with dedication, guided by the values instilled in me as an Eagle Scout and as a parent of five. As we look ahead, there is still much important work to be done, work that demands the dedication and experience I am proud to offer.

Local experience matters. Through my Village service, I have helped maintain a fiscally responsible government without compromising on the quality of Village services you have come to expect, including responsive Police, Fire, and DPW. Our prudent financial management has allowed us to provide top-tier services such as twice-weekly trash pickup, while keeping taxes low and maintaining robust reserves.

If you're like me, you care about your tax bill. I will continue to be fiscally responsible. In the past four years I have worked to:

- Maintain 100% compliance with NYS Tax Cap (since program's inception)
- Ensure debt free status with strong reserves per NYS recommendation
- Fund infrastructure without borrowing or bonding
- Continue to earn impressive Fiscal Stress Score from NYS Comptroller (especially as compared to similar situated municipalities)

Here's why fiscal prudence is crucial: Throughout the pandemic, Pelham Manor not only upheld, but enhanced its services. Unlike many municipalities across the state, we never once cut or reduced services.

As your Trustee, I've worked to spearhead significant infrastructure improvements, boost-

ing our capacity and enhancing the resiliency of our stormwater system. Importantly, Pelham Manor completed an industry leading village-wide drainage infrastructure assessment in June 2023.

While working on long-term strategic initiatives, we also fast-tracked several interim mitigation projects in acute areas, including:

- Peace & Townsend
- Highbrook & Heywood
- Iden/Carol/Wolfs Area
- Monroe & Grant
- Roosevelt, Bolton & Mt. Tom Area



We also continue to work with our State and Federal partners on opportunities to secure funding outside of property tax revenue, such as grants and state aid. Pelham Manor performs an annual deep cleaning of each stormwater catch basin. We also clean and televise 20% of our sanitary sewer system on an annual basis (100% cleaning achieved in each 5 year cycle).

Healthy reserves enable swift municipal action when critical issues arise. For example, following a resident's outreach in 2023, I worked proactively with the Village Manager and outside engineers to address a pipe issue at Peace and Townsend. The Village promptly installed a larger catch basin and extended an underground pipe, ensuring a long-term solution, without delays or external financing.

Finally, Village Services like Police, Fire, and Sanitation are important to our residents. I am committed to maintaining and improving the high level of services you expect for your tax dollars. With the Village Board I have:

- Maintained twice-weekly garbage pickup while others reduced services
- Installed new crosswalk on Esplanade/Boston Post Rd with grant funding

- Worked to secure State Legislation for red-light camera at Boston Post Road/Pelhamdale
- Repaved Boston Post Road in 2023 with 100% state funding
- Extended crossing guard hours at Boston Post Road/Four Corners
- Installed new stop signs at Monroe/Clay/Hunter/Oak intersections

When you elected me as your Trustee in 2020, I promised to work hard to serve you and the Village of Pelham Manor. Since then, I have been honored to respond to your outreach and inquiries. I am here to serve and have earned a reputation for being accessible and responsive to concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing support. My running mate, Trustee Breda Bennett, and I, will continue to leverage our experience to tackle important issues for all of us. Your vote on March 19th for Breda and Maurice ensures experienced leadership for Pelham Manor's continued success. Experience does matter, as your essential Village services rely on it. Let's keep the focus local and continue working as one for a brighter, more sustainable future. I ask for your support and Vote on March 19th for Village Trustee.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Maurice Owen-Michaane  
Trustee & DPW Commissioner - Pelham Manor





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# Benjamin Moore Reinvents Regal® Select Interior Paint Enhanced Formula Designed to Withstand the Mess of Modern Life

Benjamin Moore, North America's favorite paint, color and coatings brand, has reinforced its Regal® Select Interior paint to stand up to the demands of everyday life like never before. The enhanced formulation features proprietary stain-release technology, increased scuff-resistance and washes clean without compromising color or sheen integrity.

Regal® Select is the paint that generations of painting professionals and homeowners have relied on for years to deliver the premium-quality results that Benjamin Moore is known for. Its smooth application and unbeatable flow and leveling allow painters to achieve professional results every time. The durable, washable finish enables easier clean-up of common household stains such as pencil, crayon, coffee and more, across all Benjamin Moore colors.

"For more than 60 years, Regal® Select has been the brand of time-tested premium interior paint that quality-minded professionals and homeowners trust," said Alyssa Scagnelli Figiel, Senior Product Manager at Benjamin Moore. "Our R&D and product development teams sought to make this tried-and-true interior paint even better by ensuring it delivers a flawless finish that is both beautiful and functional, resisting stains, scuffs and daily wear and tear."

To commemorate the launch, the brand has also developed a new creative campaign, entitled "Lovestruck Objects", that showcases a fresh take on what consumers think of when they think of Benjamin Moore. In two new creative spots, the brand features how much objects in the home love the durable qualities of Regal® Select; maybe even, a little more than

the homeowners themselves! The campaign was developed by independent creative agency, FIG.

Available in Flat, Matte, Eggshell, Satin/Pearl and Semi-Gloss finishes, Regal® Select Interior can be tinted in 3,500+ Benjamin Moore colors and is available exclusively at locally owned retailers throughout the US, Canada and international distributors. To learn more or to locate a retailer near you, visit [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com).



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The Berkowitz Marrone Team at Christie's International Real Estate Group is honored to be the 2024 Marquee Night Sponsors at the Picture Houses in Pelham and Bronxville and we applaud honorees Amy Kerrigan Cole and Natasha Caputo for their shared passion and tireless commitment to the forever beloved film industry. We look forward to many more years ahead enjoying popcorn, conversation and community.



**Left to right: Matthew Marrone, Carol Marrone, Owen Berkowitz, Susan Reddy, Michael Taraboulos, Julia Nelson**



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# 3 Tricks to Find the Right Home



For those beginning the process of home buying, there are many factors to consider. Keep these ideas in mind as you conduct your search - whether it's online or at a series of open houses.

### Consider Future Needs

Because life is always evolving, it's important to move into a home that has enough space for your family's anticipated changes. While features and space are always prime considerations, don't forget to, look into the area schools, day care options, parks and other kid-friendly amenities if you plan to grow your family in your next home.

### Look for Flexible Spaces

Seek homes that offer rooms with multiple functions. For example, an office area may be suitable for a small child's room, or a sunroom may be converted to a laundry area down the road. Unfinished basements are also blank canvases that can be customized to meet your family's wants and needs.

### Get to Know the Area

The purchase of a home goes well beyond the property line. Be sure to examine the neighborhood in which the house is situated. From the condition of the neighbors' houses to highway access and the proximity of necessities like grocery stores and gas stations, be sure to take every factor into account to help ensure you're selecting the right location.

Find more tips to aid you in your home search at [eLiving-today.com](http://eLiving-today.com).



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- ❖ Served on the Pelham Booster Club for 11 years including as Treasurer and Co-President
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### MAURICE OWEN-MICHAANE

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- ❖ Elected Pelham Manor Trustee in 2020, DPW Commissioner since 2023
- ❖ Siwanoy & Middle School Dad
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- ❖ Scout Pack 4 / Troop 1 Leader
- ❖ Member of Pelham Jewish Center
- ❖ Former Siwanoy Site-Based Council Member
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**Are your stairs in good shape or do they need repair?**

of your staircase may be, custom carpeting is available and affordable.

**If you already have an existing runner on your stairs, is there a defined area between the wood and the covering?** This will determine the width of your new runner.

**Precise dimensions of the staircase,** width of the steps, length of the risers and amount of steps is very important when ordering the correct amount of carpet.

**What is the appearance of the area along the stairs?** Wallpaper, paint, etc.? **Would the carpet pattern clash?** Consider the style of your existing flooring and the color of your walls and furniture.

**Will your choice of floor covering need to be determined by the traffic flow?**

**Do you want the runner carpet to continue in the hall?**

**Consider the style and aesthetic of your home when picking out the right floor covering.** The floor covering should complement and enhance the existing decor.

**Do your existing stairs have any curves, landings, etc.?** No matter how unique the shape

**Also consider how often the choice of flooring will need to be maintained.** Some materials may require more frequent cleaning and care than others.

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# WinterFest 2024 Entertained A Packed House

WinterFest was an amazing afternoon of talented musicians and chefs, and an enthusiastic crowd! The event filled the Daronco Townhouse with a vibe of 100% Togetherness. Master of Ceremonies, Kira Findikian, kept the evening moving along, throwing in some jokes to engage the crowd. Opening with Beastie Boys rap (WOW, Jack Cohen!), and closing with some Shake-down Street courtesy of The Dead 5, we rocked the night away to the talent of



so many amazing young Pelhamites! We are grateful to everyone who participated (see the lists of musicians and chefs below), all of the fabulous volunteers, and all our neighbors who joined us. A warm and bright moment during what can be a cold and grey time serves as an important reminder that these connections really matter.

We're thrilled to report that Vangie Ray was our One-Pot Cook Off Winner! Vangie's winning entry was a delicious Leche Flan from the Phillippines, which was a visual and tasting extravaganza. Vangie is an active member of the Pelham Seniors and was accompanied by her daughter. Families shared their favorite recipes, and Four Corners pizza had their specacular baked ziti. Special thanks also to our two judges, Rosa Polenzani and Suzanne Snyder, who generously tasted everything and crowned our winner.

Thank you to our sponsor, Westchester Music Academy and Chris Mongiello; we are so grateful for the support and your participation in the entire event! And special thanks to Girl Scout Troop #2286 who made the most delicious hot chocolate. It was lovely to share the evening with a few of our elected officials as well, County Legislator, Terry Clements, Town Supervisor, Dan McLaughlin, and VOP Mayor, Chance Mullen. Thank you for spending the time to celebrate with us! Looking forward to next year already!



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# Meditations II Opens at Pelham Art Center on March 7

Pelham Art Center announces the opening of Meditations II, on display from March 7-April 14, 2024. Curated by Susan Nathenson and Rosa Van Zandt, the exhibition brings together five artists working in painting and sculpture: Alex Hutton, Elaine Lorenz, Howard Nathenson, Melita Westerlund and Satish Joshi. Their work resonates with calming and healing practices as a form of meditation. Large-scale paintings, steel sculptures, and found object assemblage pieces come together to have a quiet conversation showing the expanse of artistic practices with both abstraction and representational works.

An opening reception will take place on Thursday, March 7 from 6-8pm. The exhibition

will remain on display during Pelham Art Center's regular hours through Sunday, April 14. On Saturday, April 13 from 1-3pm, a closing reception will feature a "Rock Garden" drop-in workshop led by PAC's Teen Artist Council.

Pelham Art Center is a non-profit educational and cultural institution committed to providing public access to see, study and experience the arts, foster lifelong arts appreciation and thereby strengthen the community. The Art Center was founded in 1970 and now serves more than 16,000 people each year. These events and programs are made possible, in part, by ArtsWestchester with funds from Westchester County Government with the sup-

port of County Executive George Latimer. Pelham Art Center also receives funding from: New York State Council on the Arts, A State Agency, and Pelham Community Members and Annual Fund Donors.

Visit [pelhamartcenter.org](http://pelhamartcenter.org)



"Mobile Four" by Alex Hutton

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## Pelham Manor Volunteer Fire Company Hosts Winter Dinner



Last month, the Pelham Manor Volunteer Fire Company (PMVFC) hosted their 2024 Winter Dinner. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather and connect with the volunteers, past and present, whom help keep our community safe. We strive to maintain our combination Fire department and encourage anyone interested in getting involved to reach out to Michael Greco, Chief of Department, for more information 914-738-8825. Any resident who is 18 years of age or older may become part of the volunteer company.

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# Flood Mitigation Update from Mayor Mullen

I write to share an update on the Village's flood mitigation efforts.

As you know, the Village has requested an easement from the Pelham school district to install a stormwater detention system below the blacktop and tennis courts on Fourth Avenue and place a pump station somewhere on the property (outside the playground area). We've offered \$600,000 that can be paid directly to the district or be used to upgrade Julianne's Playground, above and beyond the cost of restoring the property to its current condition. Unfortunately, the Village's offer has been rejected. We also expressed openness to a transfer or sale of the property if the school district could agree to at least a "failsafe" easement, only triggered in the event the district's voters do not approve the property transfer. This idea was also rejected. The school district has not yet provided a specific counteroffer they would find acceptable. They have only sought to set pre-conditions for what we're allowed to discuss. Their attorney has further stipulated that unless we withdraw our request for an easement and acknowledge that a voluntary easement will never be granted under any circumstance, there will be no discussion of potential options and no co-operation for the next phase of the project (geotechnical study and surveys).

There are many reasons that we believe an easement agreement (either upfront or as a "failsafe") is essential to protecting your interests. Since this has become a significant point of disagreement, I'd like to share a few of those

reasons directly with you.

First, we believe an easement agreement simply makes the most sense for this project. It's important to understand that the Village is not seeking to own Julianne's playground or change its use. We don't run recreation programs (those are run by the Town). We are not attempting to build offices or develop the site. We believe Julianne's playground should continue to be used as it has for the last century, and we are committed to protecting it. In fact, we are currently exploring designs that may avoid a reduction of the play area entirely. Our only goal is to install flood mitigation equipment on the site in a way that minimizes potential impact on the play area and maintains its current use.

Easements for utilities and other types of core infrastructure that do not change the fundamental use of a property are common for storm drains, sanitary sewer mains, natural gas lines, electrical power lines and telephone lines. When ConEd installs a new gas line, we don't try to sell them the road or ask the public to approve the work. No aspect of this project requires a transfer of ownership, and we have not yet heard any compelling rationale for why it's important to approach this endeavor differently than we would approach any other infrastructure project.

Read the entire update at [www.thepelham-post.com](http://www.thepelham-post.com)

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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We write to whole-heartedly endorse the re-election of Deputy Mayor and Police Commissioner Breda Bennett and Trustee and DPW Commissioner Maurice Owen-Michaane.

Like many couples, we are registered in different political parties; I am a life-long Democrat, and my husband Gary a registered Republican. It has meant some lively conversations around the dinner table over the years. But one thing we have always agreed on is that the Manor Village election is about local issues, not national politics –and that the two should not be confused. Our local elected officials should be selected based not on party affiliation, but whether the candidates have a record of demonstrated competency, applicable skills, trustworthiness and a detailed knowledge of the community. After all, we depend on our elected officials to look out for the best interests of our families on a wide variety of critical issues – financial, safety, environmental and local harmony.

These are the very reasons why it is important to both of us that we keep the current, proven team of leaders in place. Breda and Maurice are devoted to keeping Pelham Manor the special place we all know it to be. We know they are of the highest integrity, with an incredible depth of knowledge and skills on the issues that matter most to running a small village bordering one of the largest cities in the world. They lead with impressive competence, calm and seemingly endless energy -- and community spirit. The services in our Village are second to none, and it is because of the hard work of Breda and Maurice, along with Mayor Lapey and the other Board members, that we can say that.

Gary and I are taking the time to write this letter because we believe in the leadership of our current elected officials. Their proven record of responsible financial management of our tax dollars has maintained and enhanced the quality of life in our Village. Let's keep our Village government focused on our local issues, which Breda and Maurice do.

We fully support their re-election. Please join us in voting to re-elect Deputy Mayor and Police Commissioner Breda Bennett and Trustee and DPW Commissioner Maurice Owen-Michaane on March 19th.

Joan and Gary Friedman  
953 Peace Street

Dear Editor:

We are writing to support the re-election of Deputy Mayor and Police Commissioner Breda Bennett and Trustee and DPW Commissioner Maurice Owen Michaane. They are both tireless advocates for the residents of this Village, and we could not be in better hands.

Breda and Maurice have always proven themselves to be competent, efficient, caring and forward thinking. They are hard-working and really care about the quality of life in the Village. You just have to make a phone call to either one of them about an issue or a topic, and you will get answers—and much more importantly—you will get RESULTS.

Breda and Maurice have a vast knowledge of the Village and our local government. Their experience is worth its weight in gold. They have taken care of so many issues in a responsible manner. They get results, and they are well thought out results. They make sure they get all their information and consult with everyone necessary to put the best solution forward.

What we appreciate most of all about Breda and Maurice is that they are fiscally responsible

stewards of our village. While we enjoy the very best and responsive police, fire, DPW and administrative services, we are in excellent financial shape. We are so impressed with all the services we receive and all the work that gets done, such as the paving of Boston Post Road, and yet, we carry NO debt. This is a credit to their leadership.

We support Breda and Maurice for re-election and encourage you to do so also. They are hard-working individuals who really care for this Village.

They provide financially sound leadership while maintaining the top level of services.

Join us in voting for Breda and Maurice on March 19.

Regards,  
Mary and Joe Curto  
1014 Esplanade

Dear Editor,

As a concerned member of our community, and a registered Democrat, I feel compelled to express my support for the reelection of our current trustees who have consistently demonstrated exemplary dedication and service to our community, irrespective of political affiliation.

Breda and Maurice stand out for their steadfast commitment to serving the best interests of all residents.

Their focus on pragmatic solutions, fiscal responsibility, and community engagement has yielded tangible results that have positively impacted the lives of countless residents.

Furthermore, their track record of transparency and accountability speaks volumes about their commitment to upholding the principles of good governance. They have consistently welcomed input from residents, listened to their concerns, and worked tirelessly to address them in a fair and equitable manner.

In conclusion, I urge my fellow residents to join me in supporting the reelection of our trustees who have demonstrated time and again their dedication to serving our community with integrity and diligence. Our community continues to thrive under the leadership of Breda and Maurice, who have proven themselves worthy of our trust.

Sincerely,  
Sue Cirillo  
980 Peace Street  
Pelham Manor, NY 10803

Dear Editor,

As a proud member of our Pelham Manor community, I am thrilled to endorse two exceptional candidates for re-election as Village of Pelham Manor Trustees: Bridget “Breda” Bennett and Maurice Owen-Michaane. I’ve known and worked with both of them for many years and truly believe their dedication, experience, proven track record of accomplishments and delivering results make them the brilliant leaders to continue steering our village toward a prosperous future.

What truly sets Breda and Maurice apart is their unwavering commitment to our community and their proven ability to get things done. They have a total of 11 children between them and understand firsthand the importance of building a village where families can thrive.

Their involvement in countless community initiatives demonstrates their genuine passion for making our village a better place for everyone. I’ve had the pleasure of serving and working with both of them on various projects and community organizations. Breda is a cherished friend and neighbor. Her active involvement over the past 30 years in Pelham in various community organizations, such as Pelham PACT (parents and children together), Prospect Hill Site Based Council, Pelham Girl Scout Leader, Pelham Little League, Pelham Recreation and Pelham Booster Club as well as many others exemplify her commitment to supporting our Village. Maurice is a wonderful and dedicated father of 5 and has served as the Pelham Civics gala chair, Boy Scout leader, and truly embodies the spirit of service and community involvement.

When it comes to effectively managing our Village, experience is so important. Breda and Maurice bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise, ensuring that our Village remains fiscally sound while maintaining robust reserves. When it comes to village services a few of their many accomplishments include initiating a village wide drain assessment, navigating complex solutions for village drainage, and preserving our weekly two-day sanitation service. Breda and Maurice have consistently delivered results that directly benefit us all & we can count on their insights for both short-term and long-term needs.

Their personal connections and efforts to enhance the fabric of our community make them exemplary leaders, trusted neighbors and friends.

On March 19, 2024 I encourage you to cast your vote to Re-Elect Bridget “Breda” Bennett and Maurice Owen-Michaane for Village of Pelham Manor Trustee. Breda and Maurice have proven themselves to be exceptional leaders, dedicated to serving the best interests of our community and I believe their continued leadership will ensure a bright and prosperous future for the Pelham Manor community.

With Warm Regards,  
Stephanie Courtien Royce  
1016 Clay Avenue  
Pelham Manor, NY 10803

# Police Blotter

BY JOYCE FARRELL

## February 24, 2024 – HOT LINE

On the above date, a stolen gray Nissan with New York plates, wanted in connection with a homicide in Yonkers, was reported going westbound on Lincoln Avenue at First Avenue. A Pelham police sergeant stated that Lincoln Avenue was all clear and was advised that the Mount Vernon police had the car stopped and had detained its lone occupant.

## February 22, 2024 – FRAUD

A resident reported that she had been receiving letters from the Department of Labor regarding unemployment benefits, which requested that she confirm her identity. The resident stated that she has not been receiving such benefits and has not requested any. She has not responded to the requests, and is in contact with the Department of Labor about this matter.

## February 18, 2024 – LARCENY

A resident reported that a package had been stolen from his apartment building. His package had been delivered at 4:30 p.m. on February 17 with delivery confirmation attached. When he exited his apartment at 8:15 p.m. on the same date to retrieve the package, the package could not be found.

## February 17, 2024 – LARCENY/SHOPLIFTING

The police responded to a report from a market on Lincoln Avenue of a person shoplifting. The suspect was described as a light brown skinned male with short, braided hair described as dreadlocks and wearing a black and orange trucker hat and black pants. The store employee believed that the suspect was Hispanic and was on drugs due to his actions and his eyes being bloodshot. After speaking with one of the customers who was in line, who bought the suspect cigars and gave the suspect his phone number, the suspect stated that if he heard of any issues with that customer, he would come back and shoot the store employee. He did not brandish a firearm, but he did make a hand grabbing gesture toward his hip. The suspect then picked up a 12 pack of Corona Extra beer, saying that it was “on the house,” left the convenience store, and got in a black Kia Forte vehicle driven by someone else which then drove away. A car matching the description was caught on the LPR (License Plate Recognition) system leaving the scene. The matter has been referred to the detective division.

## February 12, 2024 – FRAUD

Complainant reported that when she tried to make an online purchase of medical marijuana on the above date from a store in Mount Vernon

for \$445.46, she received a text message which instructed her to visit another website to verify her identity. She went to that site, uploaded her NYS Driver’s License, and sent the payment as directed via Zelle. After sending the money, she was directed to send another \$499.00, which she was told would be returned upon delivery. She agreed and sent the money. When she receive a third-party request for money, she realized that she was being scammed and refused further requests for money. The filing of the police report was needed to aid her bank in trying to get her money back.

## February 11, 2024 – STOLEN PROPERTY

A white Lectric brand electric bicycle was stolen from Woodlawn Park. The owner of the bike rode it to the park to meet up with his friends, and upon arriving at the park, left the bicycle in an unsecured spot, leaning it against a fence near the entrance to the park at approximately 2:30 p.m. He and his friends then walked northbound on Wolf Lane to the train station, traveled southbound on NYAC Avenue, and returned to the park at approximately 3:00 p.m. When he returned to the park, his bike was missing. A detective will follow up with the gas stations on Wolfs Lane to see if their cameras recorded someone with the stolen bike.



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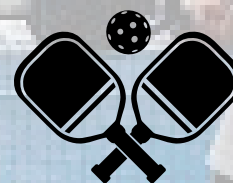
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## Mayor Lapey & Manager Luft Visit with Pelham Seniors



Mayor Jennifer Lapey and Village Manager Lindsey Luft were delighted to address the Pelham Seniors at their meeting and luncheon yesterday. Topics of discussion included Pelham Manor's fiscal discipline, local services and communication initiatives. Thank you to Pelham Seniors President Anna Perna and her colleagues for a wonderful event.

## Celebrate Marquee Night 2024 Honoring Amy Kerrigan Cole

The Picture House Regional Film Center's Marquee Night 2024 will honor Amy Kerrigan Cole of AOK Communications, presenting her with The Picture House Regional Film Center's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her dedication to and tremendous impact on the organization over the span of 12 years. Serving as Director of Communications and Consultant from 2011 to 2023, she played a pivotal role in shaping marketing and PR strategies, successfully increasing awareness of the film center and securing significant funds for the organization. In 2011, to revitalize the theater and attract new audiences, Amy conceived of and co-chaired the organization's annual fall fundraiser 'Picnic in the Park' which has sold out every year since and subsequently was named Best Event by Westchester Magazine. In addition to Picnic in the Park, Amy was instrumental in TPH's recognition in multiple Best of Westchester categories, including Best Popcorn, Best Virtual Film Club, Best Movie and Dinner and Best Arts Expansion. A Bronxville native, Amy was also an important part of the team that helped The Picture House expand to the Bronxville theater.

Sponsorships are still available as is the opportunity to CONGRATULATE AMY! To become a sponsor, email [kate@thepicturehouse.org](mailto:kate@thepicturehouse.org). For more information and tickets, visit <https://thepicturehouse.org/join-give/marquee-night/>



# Firefighters Migliarini and Senerchia Sworn In and NYCOM Seeks an Increase in AIM Funding



BY JOYCE FARRELL

At the beginning of Pelham Manor's Board of Trustee meeting on February 7, Mayor Jennifer Monachino Lapey congratulated Trustee Daniel (DJ) McLaughlin on the birth of his daughter, Teresa Rose. She then announced a personal loss, the passing of her father, Jeffrey Monachino, who died on February 2. He was a graduate of Pelham High School's class of 1959 and had been a fan of all things Pelham. She also mentioned that it was most fitting that the firefighters being sworn in and added to the Village "team" were from families that he held in the highest regard.

The first of the firefighters to be sworn in was Alfonso (AJ) Migliarini, whose family has been residents of Pelham Manor since 1970. During his senior year at the Valley Forge Military Academy,

he was selected to be the cadet battalion commander for his class. After graduating in 2019, he began working for his family's local construction company. While working there, he enrolled in Louisiana State University's online program to earn a degree in construction management from which he is scheduled to graduate next year. For six years, in his spare time, he has helped to raise more than \$10,000 for ALS research.

The second firefighter sworn in by Mayor Lapey was Nicholas Senerchia, whose family has resided in Pelham Manor for 50 years. He graduated from Pelham Memorial High School in 2020, where he was the captain of both the football and baseball teams and earned All-League honors in back-to-back years. During his free time, he volunteered and coached at various Pelham Recreation events and also worked at his fami-



ly's electrical company. He played four years of Division 1 football at Bryant University and will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in behavioral health sciences and a minor in business management.

During the Public Comment part of the meeting, a resident asked about the status of the flood remediation projects. According to Village Manager Lindsey Luft, the Village is working with engineers on the water mitigation projects, which are in various stages. Trustee Maurice Owen-Michaane, who is also the DPW Commissioner, mentioned that several ongoing parallel projects are going on at the same time. In Watershed 1, the State needs to dredge the Hutch, the Village has contacted the school district to get easier access to pipes, and regarding Watershed 3, the area around I-95, the New York City Parks

Department and the NYC Thruway Association, have work to do before the Village can have some of the work done that it needs to do.

Village Manager Luft also stated that the plans for flood remediation have not gone out for design yet as the Village is awaiting official word on the award determinations of some grants. If the Village were to start the engineering design phase and extend funds that could potentially be reimbursed without the awards having been announced, the Village would not be able to get those funds reimbursed. The Village Manager then reported that New York City is working on an analysis of the parks to have a better understanding of where all the water goes, and the DEP involved in that analysis. Also, the City of New Rochelle is very actively going after improvements for their Whitewood Avenue section, and she is in contact with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Hutchinson River. Trustee Owen-Michaane added that the Village has been working with other municipalities, working on interim mitigation efforts, and has been doing work constantly.

At the beginning of the Board of Trustees meeting on February 26, Mayor Lapey announced another sad passing, that of Mary Gallagher, a long-time Pelham resident, accomplished educator, and the wife of former Pelham Manor Mayor Brian Gallagher. She was involved in the community and active in not-for-profits, including the Manor Club.

Also, Project Community, Inc., a local not-for-profit organization headed by healthcare professionals which, for over 39 years, has provided programs to service children, teens, and adults, was granted permission by the Board to hold its Eighth Annual Color Run in Pelham Manor. The event, which will begin at Westward Lane and end at the Siwanoy Playground, will take place on May 19, beginning at 10:00 a.m., and last for approximately two hours.

Additionally, because there has not been an increase since 2012 in funding from the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) Program, which plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State, the Board approved the adoption of the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) resolution seeking an increase in AIM Funding. The resolution urges Governor Kathy Hochul to work with the New York State Senate and Assembly to increase AIM funding in the 2024-2025 adopted State Budget.

## As-built Site Plan Application Approved for 139 Fifth Avenue and an Increase in AIM Funding Sought

BY JOYCE FARRELL

At the Regular Meeting on February 13 of the Village of Pelham Board of Trustees, Mayor Chance Mullen mentioned that Deputy Mayor Mike Carpenter had joined him for the winter legislative meeting of NYCOM in Albany, which included a presentation by a firm that provided helpful insights into the grant writing process. He also informed the Board that there has been a lot of misinformation disseminated about the Village's negotiations with the School Board regarding the granting of an easement by the School Board to the Village for part of the Village's flood mitigation efforts. Unfortunately, the negotiations have not been very productive.

The main item at the meeting was the Board's resolution approving as-built to an approved site plan application for 139 Fifth Avenue. The modifications include the addition of an electrical room, the creation of a tandem parking space with no change to the parking count, the addition of two ramps at the front of the building, the elimination of fifth-floor pergolas and planters, a modification to the guardrail, and the addition of solar panels.

Finally, the Board approved the closing of Fifth Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Colonial, and Third Street from Fourth Avenue to Seventh Avenue on Saturday, April 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for the 2024 Pelham Little League Parade.



During the Regular Meeting of the Board on February 27, Trustee Theresa Mohan encouraged residents to follow the Fire Department's Instagram account, @villageofpelhamnydept, as it's an amazing resource to keep up on what the Fire Department is doing, and Mayor Mullen mentioned that the Fire Department has received rewards for its Instagram.

Mayor Mullen then congratulated the North Pelham Bar and Grill for their opening night on February 10. He also stated that he joined with the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) and some people from the Westchester Municipal Officials Association to call on New York State to increase Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) Funding, which hasn't been increased in the past fifteen years, though expenses have. Mayor Mullen also spoke of the discussions with the School Board regarding the easement sought by the Village and is hopeful for an amicable resolution.

The Board approved a resolution authorizing the execution of a memorandum of agreement with the Civil Service Employees Association, a contract representing the Village's public works employees. Mayor Mullen stated the Village's DPW has been absolutely incredible during a significant time of change for that department, the taking on of sanitation for the first time in many years, and they have "knocked it out of the park" while carrying on with their other responsibilities really well. He thanked all in the DPW for the service and for reaching an agreement with the Village for the next five years.

At the end of the meeting, Trustee Russell Solomon mentioned that next year, 2025, the Village of Pelham will be turning 50 and said that the Village should be celebrated and suggested working on something with perhaps the town historian and the arts council, among others, as it is something happen to celebrate.



## DEMOCRATS FOR MANOR TRUSTEES

# MARK CARDWELL      KATE PRINGLE

Working Together for a Safer, Stronger, More Fiscally Sound Pelham Manor



Mark, a nonprofit and government leader, has served as a volunteer firefighter in Pelham Manor, an EMT, and Scout leader. Kate is a skilled attorney, with experience on local and national boards, who gives her time as a community volunteer.

We want to use our skills and experience to serve the community we love. We will work for a Pelham Manor that is:

- **safer**, for our families, our pedestrians, and our homes
- **stronger**, with improved infrastructure and a real plan to end flooding
- **more fiscally sound**, with care for every dollar and a focus on lowering our tax burden
- **more vibrant**, with improved parks, services, and support for every member of our community

## VOTE MARCH 19

**Pelham Manor Firehouse**, 4 Penfield Place, 6am-9pm  
Or **Vote by Mail**, go to [Manortogether.org](https://manortogether.org) for more information

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