

Project Community Founder Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

The University of Virginia School of Nursing has noticed a few things about Dr. Anne Frost that Pelham has known for more than three decades: that she has been one of the most visionary, hard-working humanitarians who has had an enormous impact on generations of individuals and families throughout Pelham and beyond. It was no wonder they selected her as the recipient of their most prestigious award: The Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is presented to: "an alumna or alumnus who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of nursing in clinical nursing practice, teaching, research, and leadership."

As stated in their presentation: "A true leader and visionary humanitarian - Dr. Anne DuVal Frost has had an exemplary career applying her expertise and commitment to advancing innovative healthcare initiatives locally and nationally. These initiatives continue to advance the well-being of thousands of children, teenagers, and families."

Dr. Frost received her Bachelor of Science (BSN) from the University of Virginia and her



Dr. Anne DuVal Frost

M.A. and Ph.D. in nursing from New York University. Over the course of her career she has held leadership positions in acute care and for thirty years as a professor in nursing education. Dr. Frost was selected for three terms as "Distinguished Speaker" for the International Nursing Honor Society, Sigma Theta Tau. She provided over 30 presentations nationally and internationally. Many of these presentations focused on improving Nursing Image and "Media Mnemonics."

Pelham has been very fortunate to have experienced Dr. Frost's remarkable commitment first hand, beginning with her creation of Nurses Network of Pelham and evolving to the current leading, successful organization: Project Community. Through her vision, leadership, and tireless efforts, Project Community successfully brings together an exemplary model of nurses working in conjunction with the talent of community leaders in healthcare, business, education, and volunteerism. This community-based knowledge and programs have inspired and encouraged

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Pelham Principal Named NYS Elementary Principal of the Year

Farid Johnson, principal at Siwanoy Elementary School in the Pelham Union Free School District, has been selected as the 2024 New York State Elementary Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS). This award is given to a SAANYS member who is committed to excellence, has programs designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students, and has firm ties to parents and the community.

One of Johnson's most significant accomplishments as principal has been the Siwanoy CultureFEST. FEST is for Food, Entertainment, Stories, and Traditions. Mr. Johnson says, "the idea of CultureFEST was born out of the ideology of bringing everyone together to cultivate the idea that we are all different, and that is a beautiful thing!" He adds that "Cultural awareness, appreciation, and recognition are extremely important" to him as an educator and a father.

The Spring Festival is growing and brings together many individuals and families. Johnson explains that, "Siwanoy did not have a cultural



Farid Johnson

celebration to this magnitude before I became principal here, and if I ever leave, it is now a tradition that will always take place each spring. The impact on the community has been positive and overwhelmingly powerful." He adds that "Understanding how culture affects us as a society and school community is embedded in everything I do as an educator."

Best practices for Johnson include "visibility" and "building relationships to increase flexible thinking." He explains that a principal "should be seen throughout the school on a daily basis. Most of the time should be spent in classrooms. Spending time in classrooms with students helps you to build strong and positive relationships with the students and teachers alike."

Johnson further explains that flexible thinking is critical for a school principal, who should "be able to live in the gray area. My job is to prepare students for the real world, and the real world is not black and white. There are nuances and many experiences that will need to be

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Oscar Osorio Appointed Deputy Village Treasurer for the Village of Pelham and Public Hearing on Village's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 to be Held on April 9, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.

BY JOYCE FARRELL

At the March 26 Village of Pelham Board of Trustees meeting, Trustee Russell Solomon congratulated Mayor Chance Mullen on being the Grand Marshall of the Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade in Mamaroneck on March 24. Mayor Mullen thanked the organizers of the parade, thanked Trustee Solomon for being an aide, and said that they had a really good time.

Additionally, Mayor Mullen and Trustee Solomon thanked Village Administrator Chris Scelza for arranging a tour for the Board of the new site of the police and fire departments and of the Village Hall, which will hopefully be completed by September.

The Board then adopted Local Law 1 of 2024, repealing Chapter 28 of the Pelham Village Code entitled "Amusement Devices," which applied to required establishments with coin-operated arcade machines to get a permit from the mayor for such machines and pay \$750 per machine per year.

The Board also confirmed Mayor Mullen's appointment of Oscar Osorio of Baldwin, NY, to the position of Deputy Village Treasurer, effective Monday, April 8, 2024, with a one-year probationary period. Osorio replaces Kieya Glaze, who submitted her letter of resignation, effective February 23, by letter dated January 24, 2024.

A discussion about the feasibility of tree legislation then followed. It is hoped that such legislation would ensure that when trees are removed, new trees are planted to maintain the Village's tree canopy and to make sure that there are enough trees to absorb groundwater. Visit www.pelhamgov.com/AgendaCenter and click on the media icon next to March 26's Regular Meeting to listen to the complete discussion.

Trustee Kim McGreal noted at the beginning of the Board of Trustees meeting on March 12 that there will be a new art installation in the Village and that the yellow art sculpture was relocated to the Pelham Art Center. She thanked the DPW for meeting with the Village Pelham Council on the Arts, the artist, and the Art Center to make this happen. She also mentioned that the town is gearing up for Juneteenth. Anyone who wants to volunteer on the committee or on that day should contact the Village or the Arts Council. Additionally, a summer concert series is being planned with new ideas for this summer.

Trustee Theresa Mohan reported that the Fire Department had fifty-four calls in February, including four structural fires. She also passed



Village of Pelham Mayor
Chance Mullen

on a reminder from Fire Chief Robert Benkwitt, III to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and to make sure addresses are visible from the street. Additionally, Chief Benkwitt wanted to remind all businesses and multiple dwelling buildings that they must have a Knox Box on the premises. If they do not, they are urged to call the Fire Department. Finally, she reported that Chief Benkwitt had attended a virtual meeting of the Westchester County Stakeholders sponsored by the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management in February.

Village Administrator Scelza reported that the Village was not chosen for three grants but has other grants in progress, including the Westchester County Flood Mitigation Grant Program through the Westchester County Planning Department. Phase One of the grant is engineering and soft cost, while Phase Two is construction. Another grant given to the Village comes from the U.S. Congress Community Project Funding, which will be geared towards stormwater as well. Administrator Scelza also reminded residents that the DPW started Spring Leaf Collection on March 15 and will con-

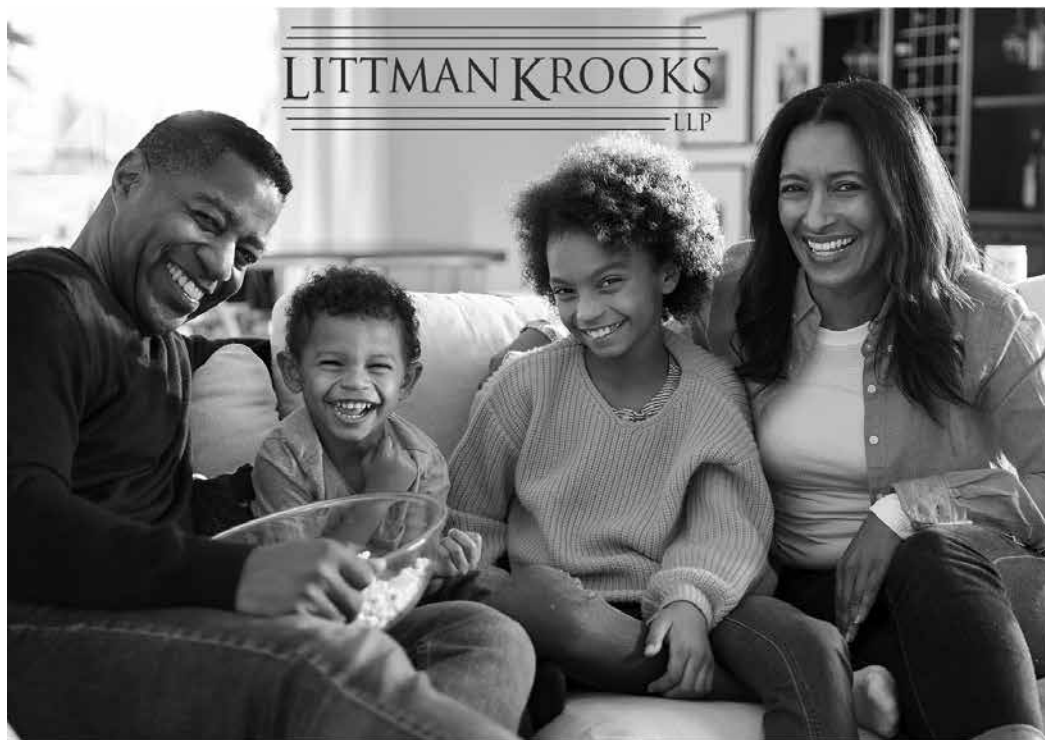
tinue it through April 30th. Loose leaves can be placed curbside while all other organics must be bagged. Regular organic collection begins on May 1st and ends on October 9.

Both Heart and Soul Hospitality Business, Inc., d/b/ The Rail House, and ESG Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Sergio's Restaurant requested special outdoor dining permits, which are subject to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The Board directed the Deputy Village Clerk to refer the permits to the Village of Pelham Architectural Review Board. Additionally, since there are no other involved agencies, the Board will serve as the lead agency for the SEQRA review.

Out of concern for public safety, the Board approved the prohibition of parking at any time on the west side of Nyac Avenue from Boulevard to Second Street East.

The Board also authorized a Bond Anticipation Note to finance the costs of difference between the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) grant of \$250,000.00 for the Village of Pelham and the total vehicle purchase price, which is estimated to be \$2,000,000.00, for the purchase of a replacement aerial ladder truck for the Village of Pelham Fire Department.

Finally, the Board scheduled a public hearing on the Village's tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 to be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.



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Public Hearing for Proposed Budget for Pelham Manor Set for April 8

BY JOYCE FARRELL

At the Board of Trustees meeting of the Village of Pelham Manor on March 25, Deputy Mayor Breda Bennett spoke about the Westchester Officials Association meeting hosted by the Town of Pelham and held at Sergio's Restaurant. Blanca Lopez, the Commissioner of the Planning Board, was the keynote speaker. She and members of her staff gave a comprehensive overview of Westchester County's planning programs and initiatives, including stormwater management, to which they're taking a regional approach, and all hazards planning.

Village Manager/Clerk Lindsey Luft reported that the storm on March 23 dropped 3.34 inches of rain in twenty-four hours. She then explained that the pipe obstruction in Watershed 1 that is mentioned in the Village-wide drainage infrastructure assessment involves a sanitary sewer pipe that goes through the stormwater pipe and conveys raw sewage from the Village of Pelham, the Village of Pelham Manor, and the City of New Rochelle to the County pump station. The obstruction is directly under Glover Field, which is school district property. The approach of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is that the property owner is responsible for the infrastructure of its property. Completely removing the problem would be a serious task, but the proposed project would minimize the effects. Since the area around Watershed 1 is the FEMA flood zone, however, even though the interference was completely removable, it would not be the fix-all to the flooding problem, which is why the Village is taking a regional approach, involving the DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers, and speaking with the School District to get a holistic look at the area.

Speaking about Watershed 3, Manager Luft reported that NYC Parks is making headway and has had very good results from their study and analysis. Unfortunately, the Village did not receive the grant for which it applied to assist with Watershed 5 due to a technicality, but the Village is moving ahead with improvements for Watershed 5, and New Rochelle is thoroughly working on their outfall.

Mayor Jennifer Monachino Lapey stated that DPW Foreman Michael DiBenedetto had attended a seminar about invasive species. Deputy Mayor Bennett informed the Board that it was about invasive species of plants and pests, was put on by Planting Westchester, and that the Village is looking forward to amping up its efforts on the invasives.

Police Chief Thomas Atkins reported that there were several incidents of shoplifting at ShopRite, many of which resulted in arrests. They also apprehended someone at CVS on whom there were several arrest warrants. Additionally, the Department's most recent hire, Officer Julio Rivas, foiled a burglary attempt by an organized auto theft ring.

The proposed budget for Pelham Manor, presented by Manager Luft, provides for a lot of reinvestment in the community and is tax-cap compliant. Manager Luft pointed out that about

\$1.8 million would be authorized for stormwater infrastructure. The public hearing date for the budget was set for the Board's next meeting on April 8. Visit www.vimeo.com/927334451 to listen to the full discussion about the budget or to all of the public commentary, which included complaints from residents about their flooding problems.

Another topic during the public commentary concerned voting. One resident asked what the Village's official policy on ballot harvesting is, and Manager Luft informed her that the Village follows NYS election law, and NYS does not regulate that. Village Attorney Albert Cornachio asserted that the Village always makes sure the elections are handled properly and fairly and asked her if she had seen Manager Luft's statement, a letter to residents, about the problem with the voting machines provided by the Westchester County Board of Elections (WCBOE) to process the Absentee/Early Mail Ballots, which could not be done because the machines were not properly programmed. Once this was discovered and Manager Luft communicated with the WCBOE, she made sure that the Absentee/Early Mail Ballots were secured and sealed and transferred to the custody of the Pelham Manor Police Department (PMPD). There were no Absentee/Early Mail Ballots counted on the night of March 19, and Manager Luft provided an update to the community as soon as was practicable.

After the WCBOE reprogrammed the machines the next day and advised Manager Luft of the time/location for casting the Absentee/Early Mail Ballots, she promptly notified the candidates and explained who was authorized to be present. The ballots remained in the custody of the PMPD until it was time for the packages to be opened and the ballots to be cast through the reprogrammed machines. All parties met and carried out the final procedures for casting the Absentee/Early Mail Ballots so authorized by the Pelham Manor Election Inspectors, and Manager Luft certified the final count and shared it with the public. Conversely, all of the ballots that were cast on March 19 were accepted by the voting machines as expected, and those numbers were finalized on the night of the election.

Results - General Village Election
Certified Results - General Village Election
2024 - From Village Clerk Lindsey M. Luft

Election for Two Trustee Positions
total votes cast 3695

Katherine L. Pringle: 896

Mark A. Cardwell: 827

Bridget A. Bennett: 999

Maurice Owen-Michaane: 973

There were **zero** write-in names cast.

Pelham Principal Named NYS Elementary Principal of the Year
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handled in a flexible manner. I believe building strong and positive relationships will help navigate the gray area when leading a school."

At his previous school, Stony Point Elementary School in Rockland County, Johnson looked for a solution for a school that had undergone changes resulting in a large number of students being sent to the principal. He says, "one of my first goals was to change how behaviors were handled, and the focus was also on changing the behaviors at the onset." Collaborating with his administrative team and a parent, he helped develop HEART (Honesty, Empathy, Attitude, Respect, Teamwork).

The team "developed a matrix to exemplify what HEART looked like in different areas such as hallways, lunch and recess, the school bus, the classroom, etc." The initiative was successful as "extreme behaviors began to dissipate, students were sent to the office far less, and the school community was actually coming together to rally behind this initiative. Our test scores went up as well because the level of instruction rose, and students were coming to school feeling safe to now only focus on their learning. The HEART initiative at my former school is still something they use as the fabric of everything they do. It's a huge legacy piece for me that they still use what I started."

Madeleine Mercer, Siwanoy PTA president-elect and parent, says, "Principal Johnson is an extremely creative, collaborative, and innovative principal. He is always willing to work with teachers, students, and parents to bring in exciting opportunities for students, and engage the entire school community."

Alice Bowman, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning of Pelham Public Schools, speaks highly of Farid Johnson, "I have had the privilege of working with Farid

for the past two years, and I can attest to his unwavering commitment to student wellbeing. He exemplifies a student-centered approach, demonstrating a genuine affinity for people and fostering an environment where students feel secure. Farid effectively engages with students and parents alike, building and nurturing strong relationships between home and school. His innovative mindset has led to the development of pertinent discussion topics for parents, offering insights into how they can support their children at home. Notably, Farid is known for his candidness and honesty, qualities highly regarded in our team. He prioritizes the well-being of students, holding staff to high standards while providing unwavering support. Furthermore, Farid's dedication to self-improvement is evident in his continual pursuit of knowledge and his commitment to becoming a better leader."

Johnson has been active in education in the state of New York since 2004. He received his bachelor of science and master of science from Manhattanville College, received a master of science from Bank Street College, and is currently pursuing a doctorate of education at St. John Fisher.

Johnson and fellow 2024 award winners will be recognized at SAANYS' annual awards celebration, taking place on May 3 at the Saratoga Hilton.

SAANYS represents nearly 22,000 school administrators, supervisors, and retiree leaders. As a professional association, SAANYS is committed to providing direction, service, and support to the membership in their efforts to improve the quality of education and leadership in New York State schools. SAANYS is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Maggie Solimine Helps Stage the Baldwin Wallace University and Playhouse Square Co-production of 'Ordinary Days'

Maggie Solimine of Pelham was part of the talented cast and crew in the Baldwin Wallace University and Playhouse Square collaborative production of "Ordinary Days" during the spring 2024 semester. Solimine, a graduate of Pelham Memorial High School majoring in music theatre, played the part of Claire in the production.

"Ordinary Days" follows the experiences of four young New Yorkers as they navigate the complexities of love, loss and self-discovery. The musical unfolds through interconnected stories, highlighting the simple yet profound moments that shape our lives. The characters grapple with personal challenges, relationships and the pursuit of meaning and love, creating a touching and relatable narrative. With a vibrant score that combines heartfelt melodies and insightful lyrics, "Ordinary Days" captures the essence of urban life and human connection.

For seventeen years, BW students have deepened their knowledge of the performing arts industry through a partnership between Play-

house Square and BW's Music Theatre and Arts Management & Entrepreneurship programs. In this multi-tiered partnership, BW Music Theatre students and seniors in the Arts Management & Entrepreneurship program work together with Playhouse Square to produce a show each spring. Students acquire practical experience through this unique and collaborative learning opportunity, which provides them with vital knowledge and connections for their professional careers.

"Ordinary Days" is one of an extensive number of performance experiences providing real-world opportunities for students in the Baldwin Wallace music theatre program. From lead roles on Broadway and London's West End to prime-time television, film and more, music theatre alumni have garnered top acclaim for more than 20 years. As a result, BW's program has earned accolades from leading agents, casting directors, critics and other industry professionals. For upcoming music theatre performances, visit <https://www.bw.edu/events>.

Mount Vernon Democrats Unanimously Unite Behind Latimer for U.S. Congress

On March 27, The Mount Vernon Democratic City Committee voted unanimously to endorse Democrat George Latimer for Congress for NY-16. Latimer continues to win overwhelming support from local Democrats and Democratic Committees across the 16th Congressional District. To date, Latimer's opponent has not been endorsed by any Democratic committees in NY-16.

"I am a proud son of Mount Vernon – this amazing city is where my family put down roots and thrived, which is why I am incredibly moved to earn the support of the Mount Vernon Democratic City Committee," said NY-16 Congressional Candidate George Latimer. "Our campaign keeps gaining momentum across this district because we're talking about delivering real results for every community. From creating jobs and investing in infrastructure to getting guns off our streets and protecting women's rights, my track record speaks for itself, and I'm running to take action on all these issues in Washington."

"George is a son of our great city and has a lifetime of history as part of – and delivering for – our community," said Mount Vernon Democratic City Committee Chair Mary L. Graves. "George knows our families and the challenges our city faces, and we've seen the results of his work – investing in our community, rescuing Memorial Field, getting guns off our streets and standing up for our rights and our quality of

life. I am proud to endorse George for Congress, and the Mount Vernon Democrats will be out in force to make sure he wins."

In addition to the Mount Vernon Democratic City Committee, Latimer has also been endorsed by:

- Mamaroneck Town Democratic Committee
- Harrison Democratic Committee
- Pelham Democratic Committee
- Scarsdale Democratic Committee
- Rye Town Democratic Committee
- White Plains Democratic Committee
- Rye City Democratic Committee
- Eastchester Democratic Committee
- CSEA
- Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr
- Westchester County Legislator Judah Holstein
- Westchester County Legislator Catherine Parker
- Westchester County Legislator David Tubiolo
- Westchester County Legislator Ben Boykin
- Mayor Sarah Bauer, Larchmont
- Mayor Luis Marino, Port Chester
- Supervisor Gary Zuckerman, Rye Town
- Ret. Congress Member Nita Lowey
- Ret. Congress Member Eliot Engel
- State Senator Shelley Mayer
- State Assembly Member Amy Paulin
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- Laborers International Union of North America
- Italian American Democrats
- Mason Tenders District Council

Experience Patterns in Nature at Lasdon Park

A unique and incredible exhibit that demonstrates the strong, fascinating connection between science and nature is at Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial through June 16.

Patterns in Nature help visitors learn with hands-on activities, videos, multi-colored imagery and more. Hundreds of beautiful specimen plants, flowers and shrubs demonstrate each topic in six rooms.

This vibrant journey features touch screens with interactive puzzle games that entertain children (suggested age 7+), while helping them understand pattern concepts. Lift boxes and an infinity "fun" room allow visitors to see how patterns relate to their everyday lives.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Lasdon is the perfect venue for Patterns in Nature. The park's 234 acres are dedicated to natural beauty and encourage visitors to explore Mother Nature in all of her glory, especially this time of year. This exhibit demonstrates the fascinating convergence of plant life and science."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said, "This inimitable exhibit is ideal for kids and adults. No matter what their ages, visitors will get a greater understanding of our natural surroundings and how they're connected to the world of science."

Tickets will be sold online only with scheduled viewing times; no tickets will be sold on-site.

Tickets are available through May 19. Admission prices: \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (62 and up), \$7 ages 2 through 12, and free for children under 24 months.

The exhibit is co-produced by Westchester County Parks and the Friends of Lasdon Park and Arboretum. Lasdon Park and Arboretum is a Westchester County Park on Route 35 in Somers. The GPS address is 2610 Amawalk Road, Katonah, NY 10536. For more information and to buy tickets, visit LasdonPark.org or call (914) 864-7268.



Police Blotter

BY JOYCE FARRELL

March 24, 2024 – Motor Vehicle Entered Illegally

On the above date, a Pelham resident reported that at 6:00 a.m. he returned to his vehicle, which he had parked in his driveway at 10:00 p.m., and discovered that its compartments in the car had been opened and his belongings were on the seats. He had left the car unlocked. He could not confirm if any of his property had been taken. He just wanted to document the incident.

March 21, 2024 – Suspicious Person

A suspicious person wearing a plaid jacket was reported walking northbound on Sixth Avenue. He was seen filming houses and vehicles. The complainant believed that he was casing the neighborhood. The police were unable to locate the unknown person and advised the complainant to inform the police if he saw him again.

March 19, 2024 – Counterfeited/ Forged Instrument

A female passenger exited a gray California-registered Toyota Camry, which had pulled into a No Stopping, No Standing, No Parking Zone, and crossed the street. The police activated their lights and pulled the vehicle over on Wolfs Lane and Franklin Place. The female driver was unable to produce her driver's license or vehicle information, claiming that she had run out of her residence. Upon checking, the police discovered that her license had been suspended on 3/05/24 and the vehicle's California plate was fake. The driver was charged with forgery, possession of a forged instrument, operating a vehicle without insurance, failure to produce registration, disobeying a traffic control device, improper plates, unregistered motor vehicle, and failure to produce a driver's license.

March 18, 2004 – Stolen Wooden Picnic Bench

The niece of the owner of Rockwell's called the police on his behalf to report that a picnic table had been stolen within the previous 48 hours from Wolfs Lane. The responding police officer took pictures of where the picnic table had been. The owners of the several video surveillance cameras in the area will check their footage and report their findings to the police.

March 13, 2024 – Forgery

A woman reported to the police department that she had mailed a check on 2/02/24 for \$706.00 from the Pelham Post Office to her insurance company. On March 13, she received an alert from her bank that there was a withdrawal of \$14,775.00. Her bank notified her that the check that she mailed to her insurance company had been altered. Both the amount and to whom the check was payable were changed.

March 5, 2024 – Fraud

On the above date, a woman reported to the police that she had been a victim of fraud. After corresponding with a man whom she met about a month ago on an online dating site, the two moved their correspondence to an encrypted chatting app. The man told her that he had been in Afghanistan for the past five years and needed to ship very valuable coins to his daughter in Texas. He claimed that because of the length of his stay in Afghanistan, all of his bank accounts had been frozen, and he needed \$7,000 to ship the coins. The complainant sent to the money an account that the man claimed belonged to the caretaker of his daughter. Realizing that she had been frauded, the woman deleted her online dating account and her encrypted chatting app. She subsequently received a text from the man asking for \$3,000 more. She did not send the money but reported to the police that she had already sent the man a picture of her license as "verification" for her to receive a package of the aforementioned coins. The detective division was notified, and although the complainant was not able to provide text messages or bank statements at the time of the police report, she advised that she gather all before speaking with a detective.

Project Community Founder Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

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aged the countless children and families who have benefitted from this initiative. The programs are unique, relevant and effective

as they weave teenage students through life's challenges, providing coping mechanisms that save lives. They deal head on with Binge Drinking, Sexual Assault, Anxiety and Self Awareness. The other significant programs - Project C.H.I.L.D.D (Community Help In Learning about Developmental Disabilities) and YOU&ME are

specifically designed for children, teens and young adults with special needs.

While serving as president of Project Community, Dr. Frost also operates a successful private practice in child/adolescent and adult psychotherapy.

We are so very proud of a true Pelhamite and neighbor who continues to enhance the lives of many throughout our community... and beyond.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrated by Pelham Seniors



Everyone in attendance was Irish during the St. Patrick's Day celebration. Delicious Shepard's Pie was served with all the fixings. Pelham Seniors are having a great time attending all the exciting events that are happening. On April 10, they go on a trip to Mohegan Sun Casino. Come join in the fun.

Pelham Medical Student Inducted into Honors Fraternity

Marlene Louro from Pelham is among the medical students from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine's (NYIT-COM) Class of 2025 who were recently inducted into the school's chapter of Sigma Sigma Phi.

Sigma Sigma Phi is the national osteopathic medicine honors fraternity for medical students training to become Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine. NYITCOM invites only a select number of students who rank at the top of their class to apply for Sigma Sigma Phi membership. Members are selected based on outstanding academic excellence, leadership qualities, and dedication to service.

New York Institute of Technology's six schools and colleges offer undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and other professional degree programs in in-demand disciplines including computer science, data science, and cybersecurity;

biology, health professions, and medicine; architecture and design; engineering; IT and digital technologies; management; and energy and sustainability. A nonprofit, independent, private, and nonsectarian institute of higher education founded in 1955, it welcomes nearly 8,000 students worldwide. The university has campuses in New York City and Long Island, New York; Jonesboro, Arkansas; and Vancouver, British Columbia, as well as programs around the world. More than 114,000 alumni are part of an engaged network of physicians, architects, scientists, engineers, business leaders, digital artists, and healthcare professionals. Together, the university's community of doers, makers, healers, and innovators empowers graduates to change the world, solve 21st-century challenges, and reinvent the future. For more information, visit nyit.edu.

Marcellino Named to Winter 2023-24 Heas of School Scholar Honors List at Pomfret School

Luigi Marcellino of Pelham, from the Class of 2024, was named to the Winter 2023-2024 Head of School Scholar Honors list at Pomfret School. To achieve this level of distinction, Luigi earned a grade point average of at least 4.00 and received no grade lower than an A-.

Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent coeducational college preparatory

boarding and day school for 350 students in grades 9 through 12 and postgraduates. Set on a stunning 500-acre campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret empowers students to pursue lives of purpose and meaning by inspiring the next generation of change makers and problem solvers.

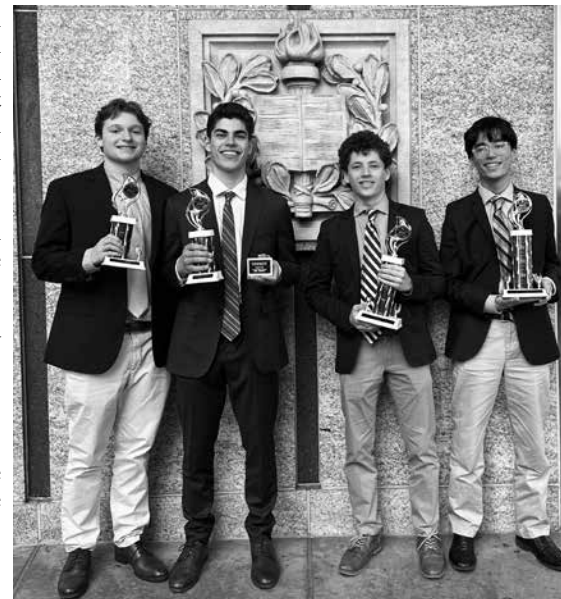
Learn more at www.pomfret.org.

PMHS Forensic Speech Team Continues Strong Season

The PMHS Forensic Speech Team continued its run of success in March with strong performances at the Hudson Valley NSDA National Qualifier District Tournament on March 2 and the Grand National Qualifier Tournament on March 16.

At the March 2 competition, Christopher O'Meara and Isaac Lief placed 1st and 2nd respectively in Congressional Debate while the team of Liam Ginsburg and Jeremy Tam placed first in Duo Interpretation. All four students will represent New York at the NSDA Tournament of Champions in Des Moines, Iowa in June.

At the March 16 competition, O'Meara and Lief placed 4th and 5th respectively in Congressional Debate while Ginsburg and Tam once again took home 1st place in Duo Interpretation. Their performance qualifies them to travel to Chicago over Memorial Day Weekend to represent New York City at the NCFL Grand National Championships.



Former New York Giant David Tyree Makes Special Guest Appearance at Iona Prep Father-Son Breakfast



Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle hosted former New York Giants wide receiver David Tyree at their annual Father-Son Breakfast on Sunday, March 10, inside the Willima J. Tully Gymnasium in New Rochelle. Speaking to more than 300 boys, dads, uncles, and grandfathers, Tyree spoke about what it was like to play for the NY hometown team, his personal journeys of faith and family in reaching the pinnacle of his profession, and of course, his iconic catch in the final two minutes of Super Bowl XLII in 2008 – the ball trapped inexplicably between his hands and his helmet – that led to the Giants hoisting the Lombardi Trophy.

The Father-Son Breakfast first began as a community builder some 60 years ago with former owner and Iona Prep parent Wellington T. Mara P'72,'75,'76,'78 getting Giants players to attend the breakfast when his four sons attended during the 1970s. Previous speakers have included Marcus McKethan and Elerson Smith (2023), Xavier McKinney (2022), Rhett Ellison (2019), Darian Thompson (2018), Will Tye (2017), Zak DeOssie (2016) and Devon Kennard (2015), of recent memory.

Mara famously used to sit with his friend, Michael A. Ward '51, P'78,'79,'81, GP'13, HOF'10, on "The Hill" between the field now bearing his name and the school, watching Gaels football.

For more information visit, IonaPrep.org

Photo Courtesy of Iona Prep

Spring Has Sprung and The Berkowitz Marrone Team Sales Are Heating Up!



Owen Berkowitz
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
M: 914.819.7622 O: 914.200.3931
OBerkowitz@christiesrealestategroup.com

Carol Marrone
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
M: 914.419.4000 O: 914.200.3931
CMarrone@christiesrealestategroup.com

Find Out Why More Homeowners List
with The Berkowitz Marrone Team.



DPW Attends Invasive Plant Management Workshop

Last month, DPW General Foreman Michael DiBenedetto and crew member Kian Gorgorian attended a free educational opportunity provided by Westchester County Government through their Planting Westchester initiative. The forum provided information on early detection and eradication of invasive plants, exposure to forest pests, and a number of other related topics. The pair of Pelham Manor representatives found the experience informative and look forward to utilizing the tips and tricks they learned.



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Black Lab Polly Newest Recruit at Children's Hospital at Montefiore

23-month-old Black Labrador Polly has joined the Child Life Team at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM), to support young patients during hospitalizations and medical appointments. Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS) assist children through medical play, helping them understand their illness, cope with procedures, and achieve their health goals. Polly is kicking off her new job at CHAM during Child Life Month, which is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the vital role of CCLS in supporting young patients.

"Child Life is a specialty that has evolved over the past 100 years and uses a variety of tools to educate and support children through some of the most trying times of their young lives," said Meghan D. Kelly, MSEd, CCLS., director of the Phoebe H. Stein Child Life Program at CHAM. "Polly is the newest tool our Child Life Specialists will employ to help young patients who are anxious, who are facing extended hospital stays and who need assistance getting through tough procedures. We are delighted to welcome Polly as the newest member of the CHAM Child Life team."

Polly spent the last six months in profes-



sional training with expert instructors at Canine Companions, who have provided facility dogs, animals highly trained to assist healthcare professionals with specific tasks, free of charge, since 1975.

Polly comes to CHAM thanks to funds raised by former New York Ranger and current Boston Bruins defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk, through his partnership with the Jam Kancer In The Kan Foundation.

continued on page 12

National Teacher of the Year Visits Pelham

On Friday, March 15 the Pelham Public Schools' faculty engaged in a variety of professional learning opportunities as part of Spring Superintendent's Conference Day. To kick-off the day, they had the honor of welcoming the 2023 National Teacher of the Year, Rebecka Peterson, who gave an inspiring keynote address.

Everyone was extremely grateful to Peterson for her incredible words and thankful to the Pelham Education Foundation for generously sponsoring the event.



For the remainder of the morning and afternoon, teachers participated in several professional learning sessions across all disciplines. These sessions were led by District administrators, outside consultants, and teachers themselves. Specific topics included:

- Branching Minds data monitoring tool (K-5)
- Responsive Classroom (K-5)
- Pathways to Literacy (Gr. 6-12 English & Social Studies Depts.)
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (Gr. 6-12 Math Dept.)
- Project-Based Learning (Gr. 6-12 Science/Math Depts.)
- Fitness Instruction (Physical Education)
- Narcan Training

Thanks goes out to the presenters, administrators, and staff for making the day a tremendous success.

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- Homemade Pizza
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Project Community to Hold the Annual Color Run May 19

BY JOE NUNZIATA

Project Community's ever-popular annual Color Run will return on May 19th from 10am – 2pm bringing families and friends all across local communities together for a fun 2.5 mile run. The course starting point will be 11 Westward Lane. All are welcome to participate and enjoy a day of fun, color, and community. This year's Color Run will help raise funds for ongoing local initiatives that support Pelham's youth, families, and members of the community through Project Community.

Details and registration information coming soon.



PMHS Alum Returns to Help Students Prepare for College...and Life



Julia Loughman is a Pelham resident who graduated from Pelham Memorial High School in 2019. After completing her bachelor's degree in Community Health at Tufts University, she is now working towards a Master's degree in Public Health (MPH) from the Tufts University School of Medicine. Julia will also attend medical school this fall, with an eye toward primary care and community-based interventions.

As part of her MPH practicum, Julia is working with Project Community, one of Pelham's leading non-profit organizations. She is helping to bring some of the group's valuable presentations about binge drinking and sexual assault to the high school. Julia hopes that her MPH coursework and previous experience as a student at PMHS will allow her to make an impact on the current student body. Julia also has a younger brother at PMHS, so youth prevention work is of personal and professional interest to her.

Everyone is extremely proud of Julia for embracing Project Community with her continued commitment to assist and guide the next generation of Pelham students, sharing with them the real life experiences of college life.

For more information on Project Community, and on how you can support its mission visit projectcommunity.us

PELHAM CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY AWARDS CALL FOR ENTRIES! DEADLINE: APRIL 15

\$28,000

in Community Awards!

- Vincent J. Lopardi Community Service Award
- Camillo J. D'Urso Charitable Support Award
- Joseph L. Nunziata Award for Creativity & Service
- Hilda Monaghan Porter, RN, PhD Support Award
- Anthony Senerchia Memorial Service Award
- Hon. Richard J. Daronco Civic Leadership Award
- Philip J. Colicchio Leadership Award

For applications:

www.pelhamcivics.org/community-awards/

All applications may be emailed to Pelham Civic Association Community Awards Chairman Darrell Walsh at communityawards@pelhamcivics.org. Also mailed or brought directly to: Darrell Walsh, 1110 Washington Avenue, Pelham Manor NY 10803; 914-522-4710.

The Pelham Civic Association is a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the IRS.



Calendar of Events



Hidden Faces: Covered Portraits of the Renaissance at The Met
The Met Fifth Avenue, Robert Lehman Wing, Gallery 964

Hidden Faces: Covered Portraits of the Renaissance is the first exhibition to examine an intriguing but largely unknown tradition of Renaissance painting: multisided portraits in which the sitter's likeness was concealed by a hinged or sliding cover, within a box, or by a dual-faced format. The covers and reverses of these small, private portraits were adorned with puzzle-like emblems, epigrams, allegories, and mythologies that celebrated the sitter's character, and they represent some of the most inventive and unique secular imagery of the Renaissance. The viewer decoded the meaning of the symbolic portrait before lifting, sliding, or turning the image over to unmask the face below. For details, visit <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/hidden-faces-covered-portraits-of-the-renaissance>

Pelham Larks
April 7 from 2:30 to 3:30pm
Grinton I. Will Library
1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers
Sponsored by the Friends of the YPL. Free concert, open to all.

Book Reading: Good Morning Clouds
April 6 from 1 to 3pm
Pelham Art Center
155 Fifth Avenue
Book reading and a coloring sheet activity by Linda Calabro and Sarada Marie. Event is free and open to the public. Suitable for ages 4 and over with a parent, guardian or older sibling. Visit pelhamartcenter.org for more information.



The Manor Club Theater presents
THE HEIRESS
April 11, 12, 13 at 7:30pm and April 14 at 2pm
General Admission: \$30, TMC Members: \$25
The Manor Club, 1023 Esplanade, Pelham Manor
By Ruth and Augustus Goetz, based on the Henry James novel, *Washington Square*. The Heiress, set in 1850 New York City follows the story of Catherine, a plain but exceedingly wealthy young woman. When she falls in love with a charming but penniless suitor, her father is immediately suspicious the man is after her inheritance. What follows is a gothic romance filled with mystery and drama. With Nicole Arcieri, Ruth Chiamulera, Mauro Contrastano, Justin Frison, Loretta Illustrato, Leslie Messina, Alba Ovalles, Kat Robertson and Bryce Smith. To order tickets: tmcofpelham.org/events. Group Sales Information call 914-738-1528.



Pelham Monthly Casino Trip
April 24, bus departs from Pelham Townhouse at 8:45am, 20 Fifth Avenue
Resorts World Catskills
\$40 per person, Free play \$25 and Lunch \$15
Adults 21+. Contact Sandra at 914-738-3371.

SAVE THE DATE
Pelham Civic Association's
Annual Benefit Golf Outing
on June 10, 2024 at the Pelham Country Club.
For more information:
Shaun Gurl..... shaungurl@pelhamcivics.org
Chris Pezone..... cpezone@commodorecc.com

Pelham Art Center Announces Changes in Leadership

The Pelham Art Center Board of Directors recently announced the appointment of Bridget Belke to the role of Managing Director, Finance and Operations, effective immediately. Belke has been an integral part of Pelham Art Center's staff for more than two decades. This new role acknowledges the strength of her leadership and commitment to the organization.

"Bridget has worked tirelessly for the past 20 years and especially during our time of transition since the passing of our beloved Executive Director," said Rosemary Maggiore, Board Chair of Pelham Art Center. "Thanks to Bridget, the Pelham Art Center continues to thrive. There's rarely a time when the doors are open and she is not there, making sure everything runs smoothly."

Alongside Belke's appointment, Pelham Art Center has initiated a search for a new Artistic and Development Director. This individual will be responsible for growing the organization's artistic vision & reputation, attracting new au-

diences, and providing excellent services to the community by helping to share its growth in development, exhibitions, programs for underserved communities, and other public events. The new ADD will also be in charge of seeking new grant funding and servicing the organization's existing agreements. Additional information about this position can be found at pelhamartcenter.org

The Artistic and Development Director will work closely with the Managing Director to lead Pelham Art Center into its 55th year as a vibrant, engaging arts space in the heart of downtown Pelham. The Pelham Art Center is governed by a Board of Directors, a dedicated group of area residents who love and support the arts and community-based organizations.

"I am looking forward to growing with the Pelham Art Center, and excited to follow through and strengthen our future plans to enrich our community with the arts for all," said Bridget Belke of her new position.



Bridget Belke

Iona University Receives \$10,000 Grant for Local Mental Health Workshops and Trainings in Bronxville

The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe has awarded Iona University a \$10,000 grant to conduct local workshops this spring that focus on managing stress, depression and anxiety.

"We are thrilled to partner with The Community Fund to provide these important workshops for local residents," said Kavita Dhanwada, Ph.D., founding dean of the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences. "This opportunity both aligns with Iona's mission of service to our local communities and gives our students the chance to gain real-world experience applying the lessons of the classroom into the world beyond."

Three one-hour workshops will take place this spring at Iona's Kelly Center for Health Sciences in Bronxville. Workshops include: Stress Management for Teenagers; Mental, Emotional and Relational Well-Being & Health; and Racism and Multicultural Awareness.

The grant will be implemented by graduate students from Iona University's Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling programs.

The goal is to help improve health outcomes based on the Community Fund's recent Community Needs Assessment, which identified a large gap surrounding mental health and well-being.

Amy Korb, executive director of The Community Fund, said the needs assessment, conducted in partnership with Pace University's Wilson Center for Social Entrepreneurship, provided important data to understand what services were most needed.

"Our staff, in partnership with our board, worked together to develop the mental health discretionary fund and find robust programs that provide tangible help to our community members," Korb said. "This isn't just about mental health awareness; it is about providing our community members with the services and tools to help them thrive."

To learn more, contact The Community Fund at info@thecommunityfund.org or 914-337-8808.



Annual Lyndhurst in Bloom Flower Show
Saturday, April 20 – Sunday, April 21
Lyndhurst in Bloom includes major floral art installations and an expanded slate of activities on Saturday, April 20th and Sunday, April 21st (with a members-only preview event on Friday, April 19th). Lyndhurst in Bloom offers a fresh twist on a traditional flower show, transforming the fabled Lyndhurst mansion and grounds into a contemporary celebration of all things floral. Visitors will experience a wonderland of color and texture as they walk through the mansion's three floors without a guided tour- perfect for all ages. For full details, see <https://lyndhurst.org/events/lyndhurst-flower-show/>.

Prom 914's Formal Wear Giveaway
April 26 - April 28
The Westchester County Center
198 Central Avenue, White Plains
Sponsored by Westchester Gov. *Free Bee-Line Bus Fare with HS ID to and from the Westchester County Center*
Friday, April 26th, 1pm-5pm – Free dresses and tuxedos for all HS Seniors with valid HS ID or transcript. Reservations required. Scan or visit: <https://forms.gle/XapMtfDed4WXDJaZ8>
JUST SHOW UP! Saturday, April 27th, 10am-3pm – Free dresses and tuxedos for all HS Seniors with

What's Happening at the Pelham Public Library

This month we have everything under the sun from an eclipse to a new recycling program. Children can learn strategies for babysitting, building videogames and enjoy activities at the Westchester Land Trust Pollinator Pop-Up tent. For all this and more, see below or check the event calendar at pelhamlibrary.org.

Adult Programs and News

Recycle at the Library

In celebration of Earth Day the Town of Pelham Public Library is pleased to announce an ongoing recycling program. Bring you single-use batteries and/or gently-used eyeglasses (both prescription and reading) to the Library for donation. A staff member at the circulation or reference desks will be happy to assist you.

Poem in Your Pocket

Through Tuesday, April 30

Stop by the Library during the month of April to celebrate National Poetry Month. Pick up a pocket sized poem to keep with you and even get a pin to match.



Breaking the Rules in Modern Art: 1900 to the 1960s

Monday, April 8 from 11am to noon

How and why did rules of painting and sculpture change radically throughout the 20th century? Take a deep dive as we explore how artists departed from traditional materials and subject matter while grappling with the modern world. Join us for this presentation from the National Gallery of Art. This program takes place on Zoom and registration is required. Visit <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/virtual-breaking-rules-modern-art-1900-1960s-73801> to register for this online program.

Eclipse Viewing Party and NASA Live Stream

April 8 from 3 to 4pm

A total solar eclipse will travel through the contiguous United States. A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. Weather permitting, we'll be able to view at least a partial solar eclipse from the Library's very own front yard! This phenomenon won't be viewable again until summer of 2044. Not the outdoorsy type? Watch NASA's live stream in our program room (starting early at 1pm) and learn more about the eclipse. Plus, join us for eclipse crafts: draw your own eclipse, color in animals wearing eclipse glasses, and use an Oreo to make your own edible eclipse. This program is for all ages and no registration is necessary. Eclipse Glasses will be available for Pelham cardholders at the Library starting on Monday, April 1st while supplies last. Limit of 2 per household please.

Food as Medicine with Dr. Kaushik

Tuesday, April 23, 7-8 pm

This series from Dr. Somesh N. Kaushik discusses the effect of food on the body and its healing abilities. With over 35 years' experience as an Ayurvedic physician, Dr. Kaushik is one of the most experienced Ayurvedic physicians in North America. Dr. Kaushik recently founded the Institute for the Advancement of Ayurvedic Sciences, a research and teaching institution. This program will take place on Zoom, and registration is required. Visit <https://calendly.com/pelhamlibrary/food-as-medicine-with-dr-kaushik-april/2024-04-23T19:00:00-04:00?month=2024-04&date=2024-04-23>. The Zoom link will be emailed to you before the presentation.



Lotus Flower Lantern Workshop

Thursday, April 25, 6:30-7:45 pm

Join us to get ready for Yeondeunghoe, or the Korean Lotus Lantern Festival! Learn more about Korean culture, and make your very own Lotus Flower Lantern. This program is for adults and children ages 10 and up. This program will take place in-person, and registration is required. To register, email Tasha at ngross@pelhamlibrary.org. Register soon, as space and supplies are limited!



Crafty Adults: Abstract Wreaths

Monday, April 15, 7:15-8:15 pm

Join our resident artist/instructor Sara Mallach as we turn simple twigs into beautiful shabby chic hanging decorations with twine, ribbons, and flowers. This event will take place in-person at the Library and separate registration is required for each attendee. Click [here](#) to register. Sign up early, as space and supplies are limited.

Adult Hybrid Book Clubs

The After-Dark Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 4 at 7:30 pm to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt and on Thursday, May 2 at 7:30 pm to discuss Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea. The 2nd-Friday Book Club will meet on Friday, April 12 at 10:30 am to discuss Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh and on Friday, May 10 at 10:30 am to discuss Horse by Geraldine Brooks. To join, email library@pelhamlibrary.org.



Mural Made by Siwanoy Second Graders

In Social Studies, Siwanoy's second graders studied communities. As a culmination activity for this unit, students worked with artist, Kim McCormack, to design and construct a three-dimensional community mural made completely from recycled material. This amazing project is on display at the Library by the Carol Place entrance. It is even better in person. The mural will be viewable during Library hours.

Children's News and Events



Community Craft Table: Paper Cherry Blossoms

Through Tuesday, April 30

Help us get ready for spring! Come to the community craft table to decorate a paper cherry blossom for our indoor "tree."

Intro to Babysitting

Saturday, April 6, 11 am-2 pm

Learn interviewing tips, communication skills, ages and stages of young babies and toddlers, safety and basic first aid tips, and how to feed and care for children. A simple test will be administered at the completion of the course and certificates will be distributed. Please bring a pencil or pen, a notebook and a snack. This program is for ages 11 and up. This event takes place in-person at the Library and registration is required. Please register early, as this class fills quickly. To register email Kathy at kpalovick@pelhamlibrary.org.



Tissue Paper Flowers

Wednesday, April 10, 3-4 pm

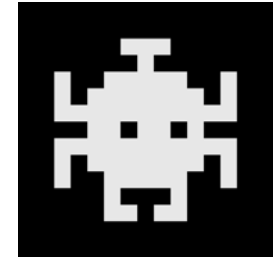
Come make big tissue paper blossoms to match the ones popping up outside! This program is for children ages six and up accompanied by an adult. No registration needed.



Pelham for Pollinators

Saturday, April 13, 12-3 pm

Have you heard about the Westchester Land Trust Pollinator Pop-Up? Well, come to the Library to see what all the buzz is about! Enjoy fun hands-on activities for all ages under the bright yellow tent, and learn more about the tiny workers that pollinate nearly one-third of the food we eat and the plants we enjoy. And don't forget to visit the Leave & Take Table to share and swap native seeds, plants and clippings. This event will be held indoors at the Library in case of rain. This program is presented in collaboration with EcoPel.



Build Your Own Video Game: Space Invaders

Saturday, April 20, 1:30-3 pm

Learn how to program with Python by building your own version of Space Invaders! This class will pick up where we left off with Part III, but newcomers are welcome. The instructor will help you catch up at the beginning of class. Attendees must bring their own fully charged laptop. This program is for children ages seven to 13 and takes place in-person at the Library. Registration is required. To register, email Tasha at ngross@pelhamlibrary.org with your name, your child's name, your child's age, and a phone number where you can be reached.

Outdoor Story Time

Join us for our popular Story Time for infants and toddlers outside on our front lawn. Story Time is designed to enhance early literacy skills and features diverse children's books in which all children can see themselves represented... plus we have a lot of fun! Please bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times. Story Time will be held outdoors throughout the year, but will be cancelled on days when the temperature is below 40°, or if it is raining. You may call the Library when we open at 10 am to inquire.

Visit pelhamlibrary.org

Etain Opens Its First Co-located Adult-use and Medical Dispensary in White Plains



On March 1, Etain hosted a historic grand opening celebration for its first co-located adult-use/medical dispensary. As New York's first women-founded medical cannabis brand Etain sells high-quality cannabis products from its premium Etain brand and other women-founded companies like House of Puff.

The grand opening was an opportunity to introduce Etain's gallery-inspired dispensary to the community and educate customers on the company's approach to education and product curation.

Thomas Roach, the mayor of White Plains; Chris Alexander, the executive director of the Office of Cannabis Management; and representatives from the White Plains Business Improvement District and the White Plains Common Council joined Etain's Founders and executives for the day-time ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Over 200 guests attended the evening celebration including Etain patients and customers and members of the White Plains and New York cannabis community. The event also supported other local White Plains businesses, which included lunch catering and party sweets by Iron Tomato and bites and mocktails by Little Drunken Chef.

"Westchester has been Etain's home for many years, and the significance of unveiling the first co-located dispensary in this community holds a profound meaning," said Hillary Peckham, Co-founder of Etain and VP of Marketing. "Since our founding in 2015, we have been ingrained in the cannabis community, consistently uplifting and empowering fellow women-led brands in the industry. We are ecstatic to introduce the Etain brand, featuring our exceptional cannabis products and fellow standout brands, to the White Plains community."

"Etain's commitment to New York and the creation of an inclusive, safe, and thriving market has never wavered. White Plains was selected as the first Adult-Use and Medical Dispensary for the Etain brand, and we are excited to

unveil a new, remodeled store layout to elevate the cannabis retail experience and embrace the unique needs of Etain's adult-use customers and medical patients alike," said Mike Totzke, COO and interim CEO of RIV Capital.

The White Plains dispensary's open floor plan welcomes visitors blending integrative wellness offerings, personal consultations, and premium products to create an inviting space for medical patients and adult-use consumers. The gallery-inspired space features a curated menu of Etain's branded adult-use and medical cannabis products, as well as a selection of cannabis brands showcasing women-founded and locally rooted New York brands.

Honoring Etain's female-founded roots, the centerpiece of the space is a bespoke mural by renowned street artist Claw Money. Inspired by her Etain Limited Edition Motif Vape Battery design and custom Balance Blend Pod, debuting exclusively at the dispensary's opening, the vibrant mural features Claw Money's distinctive claw insignia amidst sharp graphic lines, complemented by locally sourced plants and flowers.

Adjacent to the mural stands another notable feature - an innovative display featuring House of Puff. Customers are immersed in the captivating world of House of Puff, where they can explore their artist-inspired luxe accessories and a new Spritz cannabis product. This space will serve as a focal point to update with additional brands and showcase products and artists from New York.

For medical cannabis patients, a Very Important Patient (VIP) experience awaits, complete with priority access, a dedicated check-out line, and exclusive access to Etain's on-site pharmacist - ensuring continued access to premium medical cannabis products and maintaining the essence of a concierge medical experience. Etain's commitment to providing a unique and enriching environment sets the stage for a new era in cannabis retail.

For more information, visit www.Etain.com.

Pelham Civic Association Preparing for Annual Community Awards Applications Due April 15

Founded in 1939, The Pelham Civic Association, one of Westchester County's most active volunteer, charitable organizations - dedicated to assisting the youth/students, elderly, mentally & physically challenged and financially needy - will present seven Pelham Civic Community Awards totaling \$28,000 to exemplary Pelham students on June 4. Applications are due to the Pelham Civics by April 15th.

According to Pelham Civic Community Awards Chairman Darrell Walsh, "These awards recognize students who are committed to excel academically, and also, who have chosen to invest their time and talent in causes that enhance the lives of our community."

The awards and their namesakes are as follows:

Vincent Lopardi Community Service Award is presented to a graduating high school senior residing in Pelham, and who best exemplifies outstanding civic pride and community spirit. Recipient will demonstrate active participation in facing community real life problems and issues by offering his or her skills to the needs of the community.

Camillo D'Urso Charitable Support Award is presented to either a high school, college or graduate student who resides in Pelham, and who best exemplifies leadership and support in charitable work. Recipient will demonstrate generous actions, donation of time, money, service or help to persons less fortunate or organizations that provide for those in need.

Joseph L. Nunziata Award for Creativity and Service is presented to a graduating high school senior residing in Pelham who best represents her or his outstanding creative talents for the benefit of others. This may include creative disciplines such as writing, art, graphic design, photography, and creative and strategic concepts that enhance the lives of others.

Hilda Monaghan Porter, RN, PHD, FNB-BC Support Award is presented to a graduating high school senior residing in Pelham who desires to apply their talents to the study of disciplines within health and sciences. This may include medical care, nursing, medicine or dental studies wherein they would benefit others and give back to their community in the future.

Anthony Senerchia Memorial Service Award is presented to a graduating high school senior residing in Pelham who demonstrates strong community service by giving back to the community. Such actions would be best represented by helping the next generation of students reach their full potential whether through teaching/assisting younger students with after school programs, activities, or studies.

Hon. Richard J. Daronco Civic Leadership Award provides expense reimbursement to high school students who serve as Pelham representatives to the Model Congress of Model United Nations Program in Washington DC.

Philip J. Colicchio Leadership Award is presented each year to the incoming Pelham Memorial High School President of the Student Association, allows for the recipient to attend a leadership conference of their choice.

Since its launch in 1988, the Pelham Civics Community Awards Program has endorsed these students who have made significant contributions in volunteer time, actions, talents and dedication. **All applications must be submitted by April 15.**

You can complete the application at www.pelhamcivics.org/community-awards/

For more information contact Pelham Civics Program Chairman Darrell Walsh 914-522-4710; communityawards@pelhamcivics.org

Black Lab Polly Newest Recruit at Children's Hospital at Montefiore

continued from page 8

"I've seen first-hand just how important the Child Life Specialists are to a patient's treatment during my visits to CHAM," said Shattenkirk, who previously funded staffing which enabled a playroom at CHAM to be open and available for extended times during the day. "My wife Deanna and I jumped at the opportunity to add a four-legged member to the team. We believe Polly will have such a positive impact on every child she interacts with."

Polly will be available to "treat" patients in need of physical and emotional support, such as children who are recovering from surgery and need encouragement getting out of bed and

walking. She'll also assist children who need motivation to have open conversations about difficult and stressful topics, such as eating disorders. Polly will see around seven patients per day and will live with her own dedicated Certified Child Life Specialist, Katy Dessick.

"Polly is a unique member of our Child Life team," said Katy. "Few children's hospitals have facility dogs in-house to assist with patient needs. We are very grateful to Kevin Shattenkirk for making this possible, and to Canine Companions, who dedicate countless hours to training dogs like Polly to be crucial aids for people in need of extra support."

Estate Planning for the Family Home

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS,
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Retirement accounts and the family home are typically two of the largest (in terms of value) assets our clients hold. Last month, we wrote about estate planning for retirement accounts. This month, we will tackle the family home.

There are a number of ways to own your home, or other real property, including tenants by the entirety, joint tenants with right of survivorship, tenants in common, individual ownership, or in some other entity such as a trust, corporation, or partnership. Community property is another way to hold real estate but that does not apply in New York.

Tenancy by the Entirety: Tenancy by the entirety is unique to married couples. In fact, in New York when a married couple purchases a property, it is presumed that the property is held as tenants by the entirety, unless otherwise noted. Each spouse has an equal, undivided interest in the whole property and the right to use and occupy it. From an asset protection standpoint, this is generally good news since a creditor cannot force a partition (separation) of the tenancy by the entirety unless the debt is owed by both spouses. Upon the death of one spouse, the other surviving spouse

automatically becomes the sole owner of the entire property, avoiding probate, even if the deceased spouse's will says otherwise.

Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship: Joint tenants with right of survivorship (JT-WROS) is when two or more people hold title to real estate jointly, with equal rights to enjoy the property during their lives. The parties do not have to be married, or even related in order to hold property JT-WROS. Similar to a tenancy by the entirety, upon the death of one of the joint tenants, the property passes to the survivor, avoiding probate. However, unlike a tenancy by the entirety, a creditor of one of the joint tenants may be able to force a sale of the property to collect monies owed.

Tenancy in Common: Under a tenancy in common, each owner of the property has a certain interest in the property. While the shares may be equal, it is not uncommon for tenants in common to hold title to unequal shares. For example, you may own real estate as tenants in common with someone else where you own 60% and the other person owns 40%. Even in this scenario where the ownership interests differ, each tenant in common has the right to use and enjoy the entire property, not just their percentage of the property. However, unlike JT-WROS, there is no right of survivorship. If an owner dies, they have the right to transfer

their interest in the property to their family or friends under their last will and testament. If the tenant in common dies without a will, then their interest will pass in accordance with the laws of intestacy.

Individual Ownership: Plain and simple, you may own real property in your name alone and no one else's. The good news is that during your lifetime, you won't have to share it with anyone else. This can make things easier in the event you decide to sell or rent the property. You won't need anybody else's consent or input. On your death, your will controls who gets the property. In addition, your will may create trusts for beneficiaries who cannot manage real property or beneficiaries with other special needs. Setting up a trust in your will allows a third party to manage the home for the benefit of your beneficiaries without the home being titled in their name. If you wish, you can choose to transfer ownership of the residence to the beneficiary when they reach a particular age or meet some other condition.

Trust: If a trust owns real property, then the terms of the trust control who has the right to use and occupy the trust during your lifetime and who gets the property on your death.

As with individual ownership, you may decide to transfer the property outright or continue to hold it in trust for your beneficiaries, upon your death. Thus, you may give them the right to live in the property without actually owning it. Of course, you will need to decide who pays the ongoing expenses of the property, the trust, or your beneficiaries.

Conclusion: We hope this was helpful and not too much legal mumbo jumbo. The best way to own real property depends upon your individual circumstances and your own estate planning goals. One size does not fit all.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is a past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

Westchester County Launches Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams are joining together to announce the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce (WCGVPT). The taskforce, which will fall under the Office of the County Executive, will be aimed at unifying efforts across Westchester County to combat gun violence.

Latimer said: "Gun violence is not a major problem in Westchester County, but one death or injury due to gun violence is one too many and we are focused on getting to the root of the problem. The WCGVPT will serve as a critical platform to address the root causes of gun violence while advocating for effective prevention strategies."

Williams said: "Yonkers is a relatively safe city for its size, but gun violence is still an issue. A few years ago, there was a shooting in front of my building at Getty Square. This incident made me consider ways to address the problem holistically in my community. I am thrilled to partner with County Executive George Latimer and his team in this effort and look forward to working with stakeholders to identify solutions that will eliminate gun violence."

County Legislator James Nolan said: "As someone who lost their brother to illegal gun violence, I know what its impact on a family and a community looks like. I appreciate how proactive the County Executive is being by creating this task force. In 2021, the United States experienced record gun violence. It is high time for all of us to come together and find a solution to this issue. I look forward to doing anything I can to help make the task force successful."

The WCGVPT will work with organizations that are currently making strides in rooting out gun

violence and foster collaboration across these agencies leveraging each other's resources. The task force aims to identify and implement best practices to prevent and ultimately eliminate gun violence from Westchester County.

Latimer said: "The safety and well-being of every resident in Westchester is our top priority. Through the establishment of the Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, we are taking proactive steps to address this critical issue head-on. By bringing together diverse voices and expertise, we will develop comprehensive strategies to create safer communities for all."

The goals of the WCGVPT:

- Change the social conditions and address the influences that lead young people to resort to gun violence.
- Foster collaboration across all agencies and levels of government, including county, town, village, city and law enforcement agencies.
- Facilitate collaboration between nonprofit and for-profit businesses already engaged in this work.
- Engage the community in meaningful dialogue, including victims and perpetrators of gun violence.
- Develop prevention and intervention strategies tailored to eliminate gun violence.
- Advocate for the necessary resources to support these efforts.

The task force will consist of volunteers representing various backgrounds. For more information on the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, contact Deputy Director of Operations Emily Saltzman ESaltzman@WestchesterCountyNY.gov or (914) 995-2912.

ArtsWestchester Announces CEO Janet Langsam to Move on After 33 Years of Stalwart Leadership

After 33 years leading ArtsWestchester, nurturing artists and bolstering the county's cultural infrastructure, Janet Langsam will transition from CEO to CEO Emeritus effective June 30.

An American cultural advocate, artist and journalist with more than 50 years' experience as an arts administrator, Langsam is a former Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for New York City. A seasoned arts executive with an exceptional track record, Langsam's leadership has been transformative for ArtsWestchester since taking the helm in 1991. She guided the organization to unprecedented accomplishments, including the acquisition and adaptive reuse of the organization's neo-classical landmark headquarters, the launch of the ArtsMobile, the commissioning of more than 30 works of Public Art throughout Westchester County and the successful management of the organization's grants program and overall operations throughout the pandemic.

"Janet leaves an indelible mark on New York State. Over her career to date, she has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the arts as a tireless advocate for arts in our communities," said John Peckham, Chair of ArtsWestchester's Board of Directors. He continued, "We are grateful to Janet for her leadership and more than three decades of contributions that have kept the arts alive and vibrant in the Hudson Valley. But more importantly, Janet has fought tirelessly to support the key goals of diversity, equality and inclusion for decades - and that is her proudest legacy."

Throughout her tenure at ArtsWestches-

ter, Langsam spearheaded fundraising efforts that secured more than \$75 million for the arts, highlighting her unparalleled dedication to the cultural vibrancy of the region. The arts council flourished under Langsam's leadership, seeing its annual budget grow from \$1 million to nearly \$7 million. During the pandemic, she rallied for the broader arts community by securing \$10 million annually for upstate arts councils and \$1 million in state funds for ArtsWestchester's Restart the Arts Program.

A pivotal moment in Langsam's tenure came in 1998 when under her visionary leadership, ArtsWestchester acquired the historic 12-story bank building in White Plains, transforming it into an arts incubator with new offices, galleries, artist studios and spaces for creative businesses. The investment created a signature home for the organization as well as an income stream. Significantly, this bold vote of confidence in the city's future played a crucial role in fostering the revitalization of the city's downtown.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Janet Langsam leaves an extraordinary legacy of cultural enrichment in Westchester County. Her visionary leadership at ArtsWestchester built the leading cultural organization from the ground up and made it the beacon that it is today. She helped shape the cultural landscape of our region, and for decades has shown her tireless dedication to the arts."

A nationwide search for Langsam's successor is underway with a selection expected to be announced this spring.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut Where to Dine After the Spring Orchid Show

A beautiful technicolor harbinger of spring, the annual Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx runs through April 21st. I look forward to visiting NYBG, walking through the beautifully restored Enid Haupt Conservatory and beholding the seductive floral arrangements and dramatic plantings. This year's theme: 'Florals in Fashion'. (For additional info: www.nybg.org) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. Here are a few suggestions...

Dining At NYBG: There are themed Dining Pavilions throughout the park and near the Enid Haupt Pavilion: the casual Pine Tree Café and farm-to-table Hudson Garden Grill. Open daily. For info: 646-627-7711, or 718-817-8700. www.nybg.org/visit/dining/

This year visitors can also enjoy cocktails as well as walk the runway during 'Orchid Evenings' filled with entertainment and snacks. These special evening events will take place: April 5,6,12,13,19,20. Evening hours: 7-10 p.m. Reservations are suggested.

Good Brews at Bronx Beer Hall: Located inside the historic Arthur Ave. Retail Market, not far from Fordham University and NYBG, the Bronx Beer Hall is a good place to hang for locally-sourced craft beers and wines. Mike's Deli just down the aisle coordinates some of the food service with the bar, and it is good, hearty Italian. Good spot for mingling and networking.

Entertainment schedule. Closed Monday. Bronx Beer Hall, 2344 Arthur Ave., Bronx. 1-347-396-0555 www.bronxbeerhall.com

Bureks at Tony & Tina's Pizzeria: It is a pizzeria, for sure, but this Albanian/Mediterranean-themed eatery on the corner of 189th St. is all about their popular Bureks, flaky Balkan phyllo pies with your choice of fillings: pumpkin, spinach, ground meat, or cheese. Their homemade yogurt goes well as a dipping sauce. There is homemade Baklava for dessert. Open daily. Street parking. Tony & Tina's Pizzeria, 2483 Arthur Ave., Bronx. 718-733-8094 www.tonytinaspizzeria.com

Dining With a View at the Sea Shore: Just a short drive from NYBG. Jeffrey Weiner and his veteran crew on City Island serve abundant platters of seafood at this sprawling 94-year-old institution: Oysters Rockefeller, daily Raw Bar, Lobsters galore, Surf & Turf, Italian specialties, too. Check out all the dining areas. Daily happy hours. Multiple seating areas. Sea Shore Restaurant, 591 City Island Ave., City Island, Bronx. 718-885-0300 www.seashorerestaurant.com

(Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net)

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