

Siwanoy Stormwater Mitigation Garden Breaks Ground

Thanks to the innovation and efforts of the Outdoor Classroom and Sustainability Committees, a stormwater mitigation garden was planted last month by two 4th Grade classes at Siwanoy Elementary School.



The garden is designed to absorb excess stormwater using native plants like summersweet, witch-alder, sweet gale, red osier dogwood, pussy willow, groundsel tree, and winterberry. These shrubs were sourced from Dropseed Native Landscapes in Long Island and Weaver Gardens in Larchmont. Site prep labor was donated by Siwanoy alumni 6th graders, as well as Mario Bulfamante & Sons Landscaping. Design and plant selection was provided by Pelham-based landscape ecologist Dominique Biondi.

This kind of green infrastructure project captures rain where it lands to slow the flow of rainwater, which will reduce flooding and remove water pollution. Native plants require less maintenance because they have evolved to

thrive in the environment they are from.

With flooding issues in the Pelham area being a great concern to this and surrounding communities, Siwanoy Elementary School's PTA is proud to be addressing this issue in a meaningful, educational, and beautiful way.

"We are excited to involve our students in planting and learning hands-on so they may realize their agency to solve these environmental issues that affect their school and neighborhood," says Outdoor Classroom lead Anna Simonsen-Meehan. "And there is hope that by

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Pelham Rec. Boys Basketball Teams Win Two 2024 Westchester County Championships

Pelham Rec. Boys Basketball Teams captured two Westchester County Basketball championships at the Westchester County Center in March.

Pelham's 8th grade team defeated Eastchester by a score of 51-28 to win the County Championship. Team members included Drew Bier, Oliver Dannecker, Tyler James, Ian Rodriguez, Jared Slawsky, Jesiah Taylor, Will Kapplow, Jason Fabiani, Henry Feurstein, Justin Irani, Josiah Hewlett, and MVP Anthony Nilcastri who scored 17 points.

The Head Coach was Willie



Faulkner, and the Assistant Coach was Chris Russo.

In the County 5th-6th grade title game, Pelham 6th grade defeated Pelham 5th grade by a score of 43-32. Team members included Jack Barrett, Lincoln Hayes, Jack O'Halloran, Oscar Rowe, Brady Kahn, Jackson Koupal, Phil DeCandido, Ford Fainback, Dylan Gatchalian, and game MVP James Sheehy who scored 27 points.

The Head Coach was George Negrin and Assistant Coach was Frank Marsellino.

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Pelham Education Foundation Kicks Off 2024 Blue Ribbon Fundraising Campaign

Pelham Education Foundation kicked off its annual fundraising campaign to raise money to enhance the quality of public education for all Pelham students. For 29 years, the PEF has enriched learning opportunities for Pelham's children by awarding nearly \$3 million in grants across all schools for grades K-12. The theme of this year's campaign is "Planting the seeds of possibility," and donations of any amount (\$25 and above) will be recognized with PEF's signature blue ribbon on May 4.

"The PEF's annual blue ribbon fundraising campaign unites all of Pelham in support of enriching our incredible public schools," said Pelham Education Foundation President, Sarah McKee. "In an effort to return to pre-pandemic fundraising levels, this year the PEF re-introduced a business appeal campaign where we secured support from 25 local business sponsors in advance of our general fundraising effort. We have wonderful momentum heading into Blue Ribbon Day and we have every hope that 2024 will be a banner fundraising year."

PEF's Business Sponsors include the following:

Signature Blue Ribbon Sponsors: Ball Chain Manufacturing—Logotags, The Gallo Family, The Royce Family/J&S Mechanical, Inc., Meridian Risk Management & Meridian Realty Consultants, MG Martins Auto Inc., Rockwells Restaurant, DJ Ruben, Tri-State Elevator Co., Inc.

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"This year, PMHS junior Sophia Greco designed a fantastic Blue Ribbon Day graphic inspired by PEF's role in planting the seeds of possibility for all Pelham students," McKee added. "We hope this partnership establishes a new PEF tradition of honoring student



PEF's 2024 logo was designed by PMHS junior Sophia Greco

artwork and design through our annual Blue Ribbon Campaign."

Pelham Education Foundation grants have secured innovative programs and technology, provided supplemental resources and equipment, supported faculty training, helped fund facilities and championed the FPA, a designated fund for the performing arts.

2023-24 grants have included the purchase of new 1/8 sized bass instruments for all four elementary schools, a paint pouring activity allowing PMHS Foundations of Learning students to work with general education students and develop confidence, creativity, and social skills, and Kids for Positive Change, a multimedia, cross-curricular science program that empowers 4th and 5th grade students to take action on environmental problems.

On May 4th, PEF will host its inaugural Blue Ribbon Day Celebration from 1-3pm at the Pelham Town Gazebo. This community-wide event is open to all and will feature spotlights on Pelham Education Foundation-funded grants, live entertainment, and more.

To contribute to PEF's 2024 Blue Ribbon Campaign, visit pelhameducationfoundation.net before May 4th.

Pelham Rec. Boys Basketball Teams Win Two 2024 Westchester County Championships

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Pelham 5th grade team members included Jack Peltz, Lincoln Dannecker, Teddy Garry, Maddox Jaze, Sebastian Jaze, Luke Messina, Luis Jacob Casenas, Parker Simmons, John Bunyan, Sebastian Cooper, Gus Grubert, and Devin O'Sumvan.

The Head Coach was Jeremy Caimiguel and Assistant Coach was Vinny Salerno.

Congratulations to the two County Championship teams, the County runner up team, and all of our outstanding coaches. Also a special congrats and thank you to Recreation Supervisor Mike Iannuzzi and Basketball Director Pat Mancuso.

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BOE Candidate Statement: Ian V. Rowe



Ian V. Rowe and family

Dear Pelham Community,

My name is Ian Rowe and I am pleased to announce my candidacy for re-election to the Pelham Board of Education. My wife Sylvia and I have been residents of Pelham since 2012, and we have two school-age children, Oscar (12) and Camille (14).

Serving most recently as BOE Vice President, I was honored to work with my colleagues towards achieving the Pelham mission statement, "Inspiring a Standard of Excellence for All Students." Our team safely re-opened schools in 2021 for in-person instruction and when data showed pandemic learning loss, we worked with school administration to immediately add drop-in math tutoring and more interventionists.

During my term, I worked to establish annual District SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound) goals. To measure progress versus these goals, the district has taken real steps to implement a formative data dashboard, which uses new systems like Branching Minds and Dreambox to collect academic and behavioral data to effectively measure interim progress, replicate best practices and implement course corrections during the school year.

Like many residents, my wife and I moved our family to Pelham because of the great public schools and the high expectations its leadership holds for all students and faculty. After serving for three years, I am even more inspired to bring my professional experience to improving the lives of children.

For the last fifteen years, I have been CEO of non-profit NYC public charter schools. For the first ten years, I was CEO of a network of PreK-8 single-sex elementary and middle schools on five campuses with an annual budget of \$45 million that included the development of an innovative PreK program in partnership with Sesame Street and comprehensive special education co-teaching in all elementary grades (something I would like to see replicated in Pelham).

Since 2020, I have been CEO of Vertex

Partnership Academies, a virtues-based, International Baccalaureate (IB) public charter high school, grounded in the four cardinal virtues of Courage, Justice, Temperance and Wisdom. Vertex is one of the only public schools in the country that offers the IB Middle Years, Diploma and Careers Programmes. Through these world class offerings, students can choose multiple pathways to prepare them for their individual success, whether that be college, or real-world learning through work-study apprenticeships that can lead to industry credentials. I am hopeful Pelham creates more of these types of opportunities for our students.

The Board is now engaged in a five-year strategic planning process in which we are exploring exciting paths to strengthen our district, including upgrades to our facilities and making districtwide the accomplishments of PMS as a National School of Character and Colonial as a National Blue Ribbon School. We are also tackling roadblocks to the progress in our students' academic achievement and mental health issues by looking at district wide ways to curtail immediate access to cell phones and social media during school.

I humbly ask for your vote on May 21, 2024 to serve another three years on the Board of Education to preserve continuity in overseeing execution of the strategic plan.

Improving outcomes for all kids requires an understanding of the habits of excellence practiced by faculty, parents and students, and then replicating that for all students. For more information on me and my candidacy, I welcome you to reach out to me directly.

With gratitude,

Ian V. Rowe
623 Francis Street
917-881-6908
irowe59@gmail.com
<https://www.ianvroweforpelhamschoolboard.org>

Trustees Bennett and Owen-Michaane Re-elected and the 2024-25 Village Budget Approved



BY JOYCE FARRELL

On April 1 at the beginning of the Annual Meeting of the Pelham Manor Board of Trustees, Mayor Jennifer Monachino Lapey announced the passing of former firefighter Paul Sutorious after a courageous battle with 9/11-related cancer. Firefighter Paul Sutorious served for over 27 years. The Oath of Office was then administered by Town Justice John Gardner to both Bridget A. Bennett and Maurice Owen-Michaane, who were re-elected Village Trustees on March 19, 2024.

Additionally, the Board approved the appointments of Gregory Varone to serve as Chairman of the Board of Appeals and William F. Taubner to serve as Chairman of the Planning Board. Both appointments are until the first Monday in April 2025.

At the Meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 8, Mayor Monachino Lapey thanked all service departments for their work during weather that included very high winds and coastal flooding.

Trustee Maurice Owen-Micchane gave an update on the Village's review of Vehicle Traffic and Safety Laws working with outside traffic engineers and will soon report on the findings. Several Stop Signs have already been added.

Fire Commissioner Tim Case offered his condolences to Fire Chief Michael Greco on the passing of former firefighter Paul Sutorious, and Chief Greco also announced the retirement of Captain William Treacy, who served the Village for over 30 years.

Additionally, Chief Greco hosted a meeting with FDNY and the fire departments of the bordering communities of Mount Vernon, Yonkers, and Pelham. Since Pelham Manor is a bordering community and has an interoperability agreement with FDNY, the agreement is being used as a model to come up with other inter-municipal agreements.

Lastly, Chief Greco announced that probationary firefighters are doing well and are about

to start live-fire training. He also reminded residents not to block fire hydrants with garbage and brush piles as there needs to be a three-foot clearance all around the hydrants so that the department's work is not hampered.

Village Manager Lindsey Luft stated in the DPW report that about 80% of all material was recycled. That percentage was heavy due to leaf collection. Additionally, three streetlights were repaired, and the foreman and a crew member attended an Invasive Plant Management Workshop.

Manager Luft also attended a national coastal resilience webinar and had a meeting with FEMA, which Mayor Monachino Lapey stated was important as the coastal storms affect the entire region, and Westchester County is taking a regional approach towards the flooding problems in the area. Staying in touch on these resilience issues with the County and with FEMA is critical.

The 2024 budget and tax levy were approved. It includes an appropriation of about \$2 million from the fund balance, but 97% of this is for one-time capital investments and not for balancing the budget. Of the \$2 million, \$1.2 million is for stormwater investments, and of the total projects authorized, \$1.8 million is in stormwater.

During public commentary, a representative for the PTA Council's Pedestrian Safety Committee addressed the Board about safety concerns in light of an accident the previous week in which a Siwanoy Elementary School first grader was hit by a vehicle, the second such accident in the current school year. Several requests were made including the additions of speed bumps and Stop signs in various places and the decrease of the speed limit to 25 miles per hour. Mayor Lapey pointed out that several safety steps have already been taken and assured her that others are under review.

Visit www.pelhammanor.org/AgendaCenter to view the agendas, meetings, or minutes for more information on any of the Board meetings.

Two New Police Officers Hired and the Budget for the Next Fiscal Year Adopted

BY JOYCE FARRELL

At the Village of Pelham Board of Trustees on April 9, Trustee Theresa Mohan reported that Fire Chief Robert Benkwitt, III wanted to remind everyone not to go near live wires when they are down as well as not going past yellow tape when it is up. Not abiding by these safety precautions can cause issues for emergency services. Also, the fire department has a newly obtained Lucas compression device, which allows them to perform CPR automatically. Mohan also mentioned that the Chief attended a chiefs' meeting with Pelham Manor, Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and New York City fire departments to improve coordination. Finally, Trustee Mohan extended the fire department's condolences to the Pelham Manor Fire Department on the passing of retired fire-fighter Paul Sutorius from 9/11-related injuries.

In his report, Mayor Chance Mullen announced that the Village is now connected more directly with the Westchester County Department of Planning. A meeting has been scheduled for May 10 with their whole team to discuss the work the Village is trying to do, work that has also been prioritized by the County.

Mayor Mullen then praised the Pelham police officers who handled an altercation that occurred between themselves and an individual near Lincoln and Fifth Avenues. The mayor stated that the officers handled the situation calmly and professionally and thanked them for their service.

During public commentary, a representative



from the PTA Council's Pedestrian Safety Committee addressed the Board about safety concerns in light of an accident the previous week in which a Siwanoy Elementary School first grader was hit by a vehicle. Several requests were made including the additions of speed bumps and Stop signs and the decrease of the speed limit to 25 miles per hour. Trustee Russell Solomon and Administrator Christopher Scelza are working on implementing a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit but are unsure of how long it may take to accomplish it. To do so they need to engage the traffic engineer to conduct a village-wide study. Roads like the intersection at Lincoln Ave and Third Ave would remain at 15 miles per hour because it is a school zone. Trustee Solomon also offered his services in the public safety campaign and is planning on meeting with Police Chief Danny Green and Fire Chief Benkwitt and hopes to partner with the Board of Education for further discussion.

In response to a resident who voiced her concern and that of her neighbors about the de-

attention pumping system at Julianne's Playground lowering their property values, Mayor Mullen stated that not doing this project would guarantee that homes will continue to flood. Additionally, Village Trustee Mohan emphasized the importance of keeping communication open throughout this process. Mayor Mullen pointed out, moreover, that in two past work sessions, the Board received the information at the same time as the public, that transparency is important, but the public refraining from spreading misinformation is also important.

In place of Mayor Mullen who cannot attend, the Board approved Trustee Solomon to represent the Village at the annual meeting of the New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials ("NYCOM").

At the Board meeting on April 23, Trustee Solomon reported that he spoke with Chiefs Green and Benkwitt regarding the safety pedestrian concerns expressed at the April 9 Board meeting. The police department is looking at the zoning for school areas and other street laws, the Village is moving forward with a study looking at reducing the speed limits to 25 miles per hour, which will take about three to four weeks, and an educational campaign for pedestrian safety will be developed and implemented in September to coincide with the beginning of the school year.

Administrator Scelza reminded everyone that after April 30, there would be no more spring leaf collection and that the Village would be switching over to organic collection on Wednesdays village-wide until the fall.

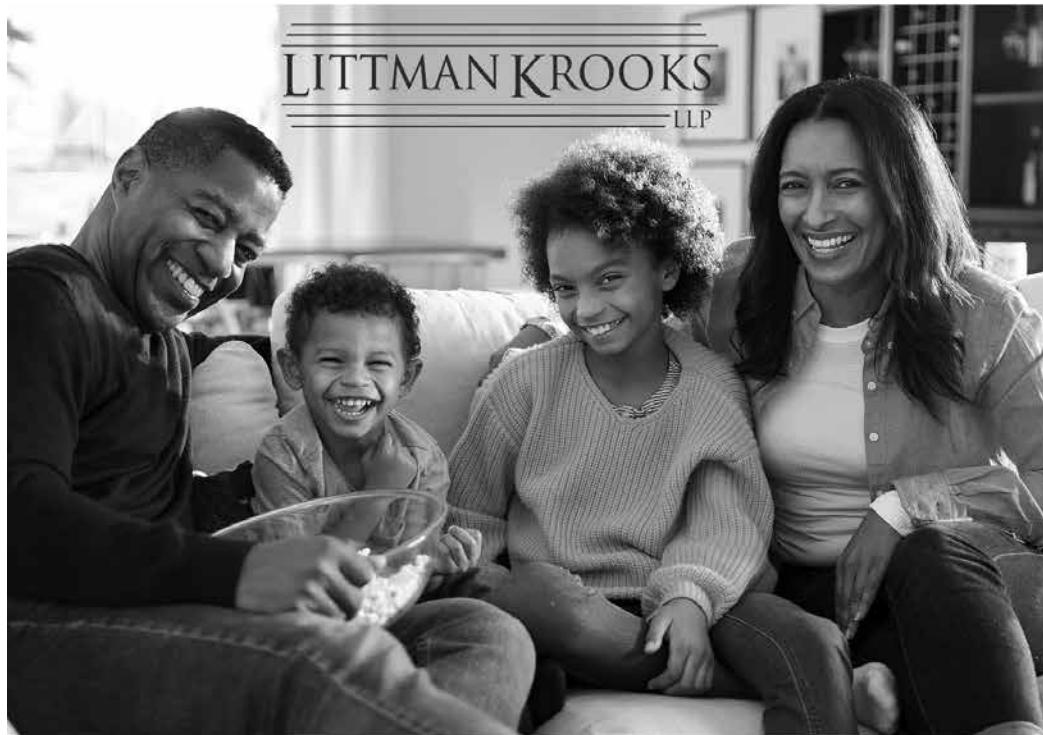
The Junior League of Pelham, which has applied for a \$250,000 grant and currently has \$100,000 at its disposal, presented its plan for updating and fixing Woodland Park. It includes new structures and swings for a bigger age range, music elements, a slide and climb tower, and a spider net. Additionally, they would also remove invasive plants and then plant native ones inside and outside the playground. They would also install a low-maintenance butterfly garden, which would involve planting perennial native flowers. In addition, they would also do fence maintenance and install mulching and may have an Eagle Scout help with the project.

The Board approved special use permits for outdoor dining for Heart and Soul Hospitality Group, Inc., (The Rail House) and for ESG Restaurant Enterprises, Inc., (Sergio's Ristorante).

Two new police officers, Luciano Morello, Jr. of Copiague, and Christian Barreto of Tuckahoe were appointed, effective May 6.

Finally, the Board approved the proposed budget for Fiscal Year June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025, and scheduled a public hearing for May 14 on a proposed local law to repeal and replace Chapter 5 of the Village's Code of Ethics.

Visit www.pelhamgov.com/agendacenter for more information about the meetings and for links to their agendas, videos, and minutes.



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Ceremonials: Magic, Myth & Mother Nature Opens at Pelham Art Center



"Persephone's Homecoming,"
by Thu-Nhi Nguyen-Petit

Pelham Art Center announces the opening of Ceremonials: Magic, Myth & Mother Nature, on display through May 12, 2024. Curated by Pelham Art Center's Teen Artist Council, the group's second annual pop-up exhibition showcases the work of 50 local and international artists.

An ode to all things magic, mythic, and "Mother Nature," the artwork featured in Ceremonials embodies themes of the whimsical elements of nature, folklore, mysticism, and the metaphysical.

Featured artwork was chosen from an open call to artists of all ages, and includes



"Fox and Flora" by Anya Peri

the work of the following: Aislinn Weidele, Alejandra Hernandez, Annette Back, Anya Peri, Audrey Cruz, Avery Goodman, Blake Lee, Caleb Booth, Caser Mallett, Celine Park, Chloe McGibbon, Corinne Basabe, Dorothy Johnson, Elinore Reed, Elizabeth Borgatti, Eve Pavlina, Fabiola Angeli, Fannie Miller-Beard, Fiona Agababian, Ghost Antelmi, Hayley Bidwell, Hilda Green Demsky, Jahyun Bae, Jaime Wright, James Stamboni, Julia Snarr, Kass Gray, Kathryn Kuznetsov, Kristin Moore-Gantz, Lauren Dehler, Lilliana Ferrante, Maxine Nodel, Mike & Lee Depasquale,

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An opening reception took place on April 25. The exhibition will remain on display during Pelham Art Center's regular hours through Sunday, May 12. The closing reception will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 2-4pm, and as always, these events are free of charge and open to the public.

The Teen Artist Council, who curated Ceremonials, is a group run by the Pelham Art Center to engage teens interested in art with leadership and curatorial opportunities. The group meets twice a month, and participants are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. Other initiatives include selecting candidates to speak on a Careers in the Arts panel series, and leading select public programs. To learn more, visit the Pelham Art Center's Teen Programs page on pelhamart-center.org and follow our Teen Instagram account: @PAC_teens.

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Maria Regina High School Vice Principal Wins Prestigious Education Award

Silvia Santo of Pelham, Vice Principal of Maria Regina High School, recently won The Michael Tomasetti Award from the Forum of Italian-American Educators. In winning the prestigious accolade, Santo was recognized for her long-standing dedication to her students and the school community.

To learn more about Maria Regina, the renowned all-girls Catholic high school based in Hartsdale, New York, visit www.MariaRegina.org.



Silvia Santo

The Picture House Regional Film Center Seats Two New Board Members

The Picture House Regional Film Center announced last month the addition of two new board members, whose leadership and experience will help guide the organization during its second century as a vital arts and community hub in Westchester.

Julie M. Murray is a partner in the Entertainment Group at Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, who specializes in representing clients in the television, documentary, digital, comedy, and branded content industries. She offers clients full service legal representation, handling all transactions from the development of a concept through delivery of the final cut, including the negotiation of network and financing agreements, distribution agreements, content licensing deals (domestic and international), development attachment agreements, talent agreements, employment and executive agreements, clearances, and advising clients on complex legal issues along the way. Murray was recently honored in Variety's Legal Impact Report and Women's Impact Report. The Legal 500 lists her in the 2021-23 editions as a "Next Generation Partner" in Media and Entertainment and Super Lawyers magazine lists her as a 2023 "Rising Star" in Entertainment and



Julie M. Murray

Executive Producer. In addition to welcoming new members of the board, other changes have been made to TPH's board leadership. Joe Marty will take on the role of Chair, Jeffay Chang will serve as Vice-Chair, and Peter Kohnstamm will assume the role of Secretary. The Picture House is looking forward to the expertise and perspectives these new board members will bring to the organization as well as the leadership that the shift in board roles brings. For more information about The Picture House, visit www.thepicturehouse.org, call (914) 738-7337, or email info@thepicturehouse.org.



Hyde Harper

Sports.

Hyde Harper is a New York City-based EP, Creative Producer & Director specializing in commercial, film & branded work in the sports, culture & lifestyle categories. He's produced and directed work across major networks & verticals such as ESPN, FOX, NBC, BBC, Conde Nast Entertainment and Hearst. His documentary *The Nationals*, premiered at Tribeca Film Festival in 2023. His passion resides in telling human stories through the lens of sport & culture. He currently runs the production department at FanDuel, Inc. as

Executive Producer. In addition to welcoming new members of the board, other changes have been made to TPH's board leadership. Joe Marty will take on the role of Chair, Jeffay Chang will serve as Vice-Chair, and Peter Kohnstamm will assume the role of Secretary. The Picture House is looking forward to the expertise and perspectives these new board members will bring to the organization as well as the leadership that the shift in board roles brings. For more information about The Picture House, visit www.thepicturehouse.org, call (914) 738-7337, or email info@thepicturehouse.org.

K-12 Books for Africa Being Collected by PMHS Interact Club

Books for young people in Africa in kindergarten through Grade 12 are being collected by the Pelham Memorial High School Interact Club, an affiliate of the Rotary Club of the Pelhams.

Donated books can be dropped off at PMHS during school hours until May 2. Alternatively, an email can be sent to

Interact President Prashaan Malwana (pmalwana00@gmail.com), who will arrange for the books to be picked up from a Pelham residence.

The book drive is being conducted through the Books for Africa organization (<https://www.booksforafrica.org/>).

Pelham Together Youth Council Visits Albany to Advocate for Youth Mental Health



Members of the Pelham Together Youth Council traveled to Albany for Mental Health Matters Day hosted by Mental Health Association of New York State (MHANYS) to advocate for resources and policy related to youth mental health. They heard from different state leaders and advocates from other schools and spoke individually with their elected officials, Senator Nathalia Fernandez and Assembly Member Amy Paulin. Some of the legislative priorities discussed were:

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: This hotline began in 2022 and is currently facing funding challenges. Students discussed the need for these services to truly be available 24/7/365, which requires a funding level commensurate with 911, and they shared personal experiences with being put on extended hold or told to call back due to insufficient coverage.

Teen Mental Health First Aid and Accompanying Teacher Training: Governor Hochul has invested in a program called Teen Mental Health First Aid which builds mental health literacy among 10-12th grade students using a peer-to-peer model. Pelham students applauded that investment, as well as the requirement that all schools K-12 include mental health literacy as part of the health curriculum. They encouraged lawmakers to support efforts to require mental health training for all school personnel in order to promote a comprehensive culture of wellness in every school.

Wellness In Pelham: In addition to the efforts currently underway in Pelham schools, students shared that they wished for an overall Wellness Plan in the high school that they would like to help shape. Some specifics included making existing services more obvious and accessible, elevating all those who play a role in supporting mental health in the school and the community so kids know who they can turn to and how to make it easier to take that first step to ask for help; setting up more connections between older and younger youth as a way to encourage supportive relationships across ages and schools; and other ideas aimed at reducing the stigma of asking for help with their mental health.

Not only was the sun shining that day in Albany, but so were these young leaders. There is so much hope for the future when youth speak and advocate for change. Pelham is a lucky community to have youth as committed as these young people to the wellness of their peers.

Pelham Together is a not-for-profit organization located in Pelham. Their mission is to support the physical, social, and mental wellbeing of all youth by creating as many opportunities as possible to build resilience and a sense of connectedness and belonging as part of the community. www.pelhamtogether.org

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Pelham's #1 Agent

**WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE
BEST AGENT 2023**

Status as Pelham's #1 Agent based on number of "Sold Transactions" for the Year of 2023 in Pelham as compiled from the OneKey MLS.

Hutchinson Students Participate in Engineering Clinic

Hutchinson 4th & 5th grade students are learning the fundamentals of engineering thanks to a partnership with the PMHS Science Honor Society. Led by senior Sienna Giuseppi, the school is piloting an afterschool engineering clinic. In a session held on March 21, Sienna and other high school students taught students the basics of aerodynamics and participants designed, created and tested paper airplanes trying to find models that flew in the air for the most amount of time and traveled the greatest distance. Many thanks goes to the high school students for bringing this incredible program to Hutchinson.



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2-Time Super Bowl Champ Zak DeOssie is Celebrity Auctioneer for Project Community's Color Run Kick-Off Party on May 11th

Get ready for May 11th - Project Community's 8th Annual Color Run Kick-Off Party & Fundraiser, taking place a week before Project Community's ever popular Color Run on May 19.

It's an exciting evening filled with fun, food, drink, live music, and an exciting live auction to bid on exclusive items at ridiculously low prices. All while supporting the visionary programs that are helping Pelham's teens. These programs provide knowledge that address today's challenges and prevent tragedies.

At the festive Party & Auction you'll meet the legendary New York Giant 2-Time Super Bowl Champion Zak DeOssie, who has been supporting Project Community for years. DeOssie will be the celebrity auctioneer for the entire evening which runs from 7 to 11pm at 15 Hillcrest Drive in Pelham.

The live auction will feature fabulous items at discount prices, such as a stay at a Montauk beach house, golf outings at some of Westchester's premier golf and country clubs, dining at exclusive restaurants, and much more. Throughout the evening you'll be enjoying live music from Dos Decadas, local bites from Pelham's popular restaurants, cocktails by R&D Liquors, desserts by Lady M Cakes, plus a Photo Booth by Le Image. All for just a simple donation of \$100 (tax deductible).

Purchase your tickets on-line at projectcommunity.us. All proceeds go toward Project Community.

Project Community is Pelham's only volunteer organization that is spearheaded



Zak DeOssie

by expert healthcare professionals. Creators of Pelham's popular Color Run, it is dedicated to support family life by providing insights and answers with six innovative and essential programs and workshops: For teens, the issues deal with Binge Drinking, Sexual Assault, Anxiety, and Self Awareness. For the mentally and physically challenged, there's Project CHILDD and YOU&ME. For more information on Project Community, and on how you can support its mission visit projectcommunity.us

Siwanoy Stormwater Mitigation Garden Breaks Ground
continued from page 1



spreading the word of this initiative, it may be replicated throughout our town as well as nearby communities."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on April 20th celebrating Earth Day and officially revealing the innovative effort.

Additional photos at www.thepelhampost.com

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PMHS Seniors Jake Milo and Sienna Giuseppi Named Rotary Scholars of the Month



Left to right: Rotary President Kevin Falvey, Scholars of the Month Jake Milo and Sienna Giuseppi and Eugene Farrell of the PMHS Guidance Department

Pelham Memorial High School seniors Jake Milo and Sienna Giuseppi were recognized as Marilyn Stiefvater Scholars of the Month for March by the Rotary Club of the Pelhams.

Jake Milo is a member of the National Honor Society as well as four subject honor societies. His extracurricular activities include the Breast Cancer Awareness Club, and his sports include wiffle ball, badminton, and golf. He plans to study computer science in college.

Sienna Giuseppi is Student Government Class President. She is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Science and Social Studies honor societies. She is also a science award winner as well as a forensic speech award winner. Her extracurricular activities include Ocean Conservation Club and Pelham Engineers Club and it is continuing as an after school program.

In addition to the Scholars of the Month program, the local Rotary club awards a \$15,000 scholarship to a graduating PMHS senior in June. Applications are available through the PMHS Guidance Department.

New Gallery on Wolfs Lane Brings Creativity and One-of-a-Kind Pieces to Downtown Pelham



It's interesting to ponder why thought-provoking art can sometimes be met with fear.

It's possible that the perspectives presented in such works can feel unfamiliar or uncomfortable.

However, there is something truly unique about Irrix Screen's creations. They have a way of enveloping one's mind with an intriguing enigma that opens doors we might otherwise keep shut.

Despite any initial discomfort, Irrix Screen's

art ultimately radiates positive energy and encourages the viewer to explore the brilliant light shining within themselves.

Experience this master artist ahead of his time, paving the way for a new era of thought-provoking and inspiring art.

Visit White Sky Gallery, located at One Wolfs Lane, Suite 307. Call 914-400-6258 and learn more about Irrix Screen and his collector's pieces at <https://www.whiteskygallery.com/>

Village of Pelham Manor Recognizes Maryalice Barnett's 20 Years of Service



At the Manor BOT meeting on April 24, the Pelham Manor Board of Trustees honored Deputy Clerk Maryalice Barnett, who has served the Village with distinction for 20 years. Former Mayor Tom Lavin, former Village Manager John Pierpont, former Fire Chief Joe Ruggiero, and current colleagues were in attendance as the Trustees presented Deputy Clerk Barnett with a proclamation.

Deputy Clerk Barnett grew up in Pelham Manor and carries on a long tradition of service in her family. Her mother also served as Deputy Clerk in Pelham Manor.

If you see Deputy Clerk Barnett in town or at Pelham Manor Village Hall, please congratulate her on this milestone.



FACT OR FICTION? SEXUAL ASSAULT

One in a series of Project Community articles to provide teens and families with information and programs they need before tragedy strikes.

Fact: "Sexual violence is common."

Over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes. One in 4 women and about 1 in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape. Additionally, 1 in 3 women and about 1 in 9 men experienced sexual harassment in a public place. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022)

Fiction: "Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers."

Most sexual assaults and rapes are committed by someone the victim knows. Among victims aged 18 to 29, two-thirds had a prior relationship with the offender. A study of sexual victimization of college women showed that most victims knew the person who sexually victimized them. For both completed and attempted rapes, about 9 in 10 offenders were known to the victim. Most often, a partner, ex, classmate, friend, ac-

quaintance, or co-worker was the perpetrator. Sexual assault can be committed within any type of relationship, including in marriage, in dating relationships, or by friends, acquaintances or co-workers. Sexual assault can occur in heterosexual or same-gender relationships. It does not matter whether there is a current or past relationship between the victim and offender; unwanted sexual activity is still sexual assault and is a serious crime. (The US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, 2000)

Angela Kang, PhD, is a licensed psychologist in New York and New Jersey with a private practice in Pelham.

Project Community Inc. is one of Pelham's leading charitable organizations that has the unique distinction of having expert professionals and volunteers providing visionary programs and solutions for children, teens and their families for a healthy community. Known for its ever-popular COLOR RUN (May 19), its programs and workshops tackle Binge Drinking, Sexual Assault, Anxiety, Self Awareness, and Project CHILDD along with YOU&ME for the mentally & physically challenged. projectcommunity.us

Police Blotter

BY JOYCE FARRELL

April 24, 2024 – Suspicious Person

While conducting a patrol, a police officer observed a Black male wearing a camouflage jacket standing with his eyes closed near the northeast corner of Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue. The officer continued to observe the party who then stopped for a prolonged time on the public sidewalk opposite an address on Sixth Street. The officer advised another police officer who observed the same party stop on the southwest corner of Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street. The first police officer then observed the suspicious person stop again for a prolonged time with his eyes closed, this time near the driveway of the Sixth Street entrance to Julianne's Playground. The two police officers approached the man who identified himself and stated that he had been drinking, which he why he continuously stopped. He refused to provide any further identifying information, refused further assistance, and was sent on his way.

April 23, 2024 – Personal Welfare

On the above date, a Pelham reported a possibly disoriented male in the area of Julianne's Playground. He was described as a white male in his later 60s to early 70s, wearing a black tracksuit with white stripes down the jacket and pants. The complainant stated that he had walked into the playground but had not been fully aware of where he was. When the complainant asked him if he was okay, he just stared at her, walked away, and went southbound on Fourth Avenue. The police were dispatched, were able to identify

the male, reported that all was in order, and sent him on his way.

April 23, 2024 – Fraud

A woman reported that she had logged into her Fifth Avenue business's bank account and noticed several charges that neither she nor her husband had made. She contacted Chase Bank about the charges, closed out the account, and created a new one. She stated that she had not received any strange emails or phone calls, and they were not missing any cards. She did not know how an unknown party had accessed the account. She provided a printout of the charge descriptions, which were three separate charges, two for slightly over \$3,000 and one for almost \$2,000, totaling just over \$8,000. The complainant did not recognize the purchaser's name, and there was no other information about what was purchased. The complainant had already made a claim to Chase Bank regarding the fraudulent charges and wanted the incident documented. A police detective has been notified.

April 22, 2024 – Aided Case

The police responded to an incident involving an injury from a fall. A man's neighbor who was exiting his home heard the victim yelling. The victim stated that he had been in his front yard and had lost his footing, which caused him to fall and injure his right leg. He had been lying there for about one hour before the neighbor heard his yelling. Pelham EMS transported him to Lawrence Hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

Guardianship Can Be Expensive



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS,
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

With the recent news concerning several high-profile individuals being subjects of guardianship, we thought it would be a good idea to discuss how expensive guardianship can be and what you can do to avoid it.

If there is someone who you care about who is having difficulty managing their personal or financial affairs, they may need a guardian. Guardianship in New York is supposed to be the least restrictive form of intervention for a person who cannot manage their own affairs. However, the least restrictive does not necessarily mean that it is not expensive.

Here's a summary of the expected costs:

1. When you file for guardianship for someone else, the legal papers you and your attorney draft must be filed with the court and served on the person you are seeking guardianship for. The court filing fees and process server fees can run several hundred dollars.

2. Your lawyer's fees will be several thousand dollars, and up, especially if you hire an experienced guardianship law firm to represent you. However, if your case is contested then the fees will be much higher. For example, if you file a guardianship petition seeking guardianship of your mother and your brother hires an attorney to contest the guardianship in any way, then all bets are off as to what the guardianship will cost. Among other things, your brother may claim that mom does not need a guardian, or he may disagree with you as to who the guardian should be. This is called a contested guardianship, and there is no way to predict the total costs involved. Suffice it to say that it will cost much more than an uncontested guardianship proceeding. Your legal fees will be your responsibility regardless of how the proceeding turns out. In some cases, your legal fees can (subject to court approval) be reimbursed from the incapacitated person's resources if you are successful in obtaining guardianship. However, most lawyers will expect to be paid out of your funds while they are working on the case, and not wait until someone has been appointed guardian who has access to the incapacitated person's funds to pay certain expenses, including legal fees.

3. In addition to your own lawyer's

fees, the court may appoint an attorney for the person you are seeking guardianship for. These fees can be several thousand dollars. Fortunately, in most uncontested cases, there usually is no need for a court-appointed lawyer.

4. The court evaluator is someone else who is appointed by the court to be the eyes and ears of the court and who files a report with the court describing your family member's circumstances. In most cases, this person is a lawyer despite the fact that this person does not necessarily perform a legal function. The cost for that investigation and report is frequently in the range of a couple to a few thousand dollars.

5. If someone is appointed guardian of the property, they are typically required to obtain a bond. The premium for this insurance policy can be paid from your family member's assets. The cost of the bond varies by the size of the estate being managed.

As you can see, the fees can add up pretty quickly. Moreover, if the guardian needs legal assistance after the appointment, there could be additional fees incurred, depending on the complexity of the guardianship.

If you and your family are interested in taking the necessary steps to try to avoid guardianship, make sure you and your loved ones have executed advanced health care and financial directives such as a health care proxy, living will, and durable power of attorney. In addition, you should discuss your wishes with the people you appoint as your agents under these documents. By taking these steps you will reduce the likelihood that guardianship will ever become necessary. Nevertheless, sometimes guardianship becomes necessary even if you have taken care of your estate planning in advance. For example, if the person you appoint as power of attorney is not doing their job properly, someone may commence a guardianship to try and have the power of attorney revoked.

While guardianship can be expensive, there are things you can do to minimize the likelihood that your family will go through this process. As part of your overall estate plan, make sure you take the time to think about who you would want to manage your affairs if you can no longer manage them yourself. This can go a long way towards saving your family a lot of money and heartache.

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.

The Picture House Announces Spring Film Club Season in Pelham

The Picture House Regional Film Center (TPH) has announced that its highly-popular Film Club will kick off its spring season on Wednesday, May 1st at the Pelham theater. TPH's Film Club offers movie-lovers the opportunity to see upcoming films in advance of their release date. Each season includes six films, which are followed by a discussion with the critic-in-residence Stephen Witty and special guest speakers from the industry. Spring 2024 Film Club dates in Pelham are May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and June 5. Subscriptions to Film Club are open to members of The Picture House.

"The TPH Film Club serves as a cornerstone of our organization's dedication to cultivating a sense of community through the art of film," said Clayton Bushong, Executive Director of The Picture House Regional Film Center. "This upcoming season promises a captivating lineup of thought-provoking films and guest speakers, offering a great backdrop for discussion and analysis."

TPH is excited to welcome Stephen Witty back for a fourth season as Pelham's Film Club Host. Whitty was a critic at The Star-Ledger for nearly two decades. He has also written for Entertainment Weekly, The New York Daily News, Cosmopolitan, Stanford Magazine, and The Minetta Review, among many others. He has profiled some of cinema's most influential figures including Steven Spielberg, Peter O'Toole, and Judi Dench. Whitty is also the writer of the book *The Alfred Hitchcock Encyclopedia*.

To learn more about Fall Film Club please visit <https://thepicturehouse.org/tph-film-club/>



Stephen Witty

From the Pelham Board of Education

As you may know, Julianne's Playground has been owned by the Pelham Public Schools for approximately 100 years.

Recently, the Village of Pelham proposed building a three-million-gallon stormwater retention tank and approximately six above ground diesel pumps with diesel fuel storage at Julianne's Playground.

In an effort to assist residents affected by flooding, the Board of Education authorized representatives to negotiate in good faith with the Village of Pelham regarding Julianne's Playground.

As part of this negotiation, the Board of Education made a fair and reasonable offer to transfer ownership of Julianne's Playground to the Village of Pelham in return for another parcel of land subject to a District-wide vote. We regret that the Village of Pelham has rejected

this offer and we remain hopeful that the Village will reconsider.

In keeping with its fiduciary responsibility to the Pelham School District, the Board is now engaging special counsel with expertise in condemnation and land use matters to vigorously defend the District's property rights and taxpayers in preparation for a possible attempt by the Village of Pelham to condemn and seize part or all of Julianne's Playground as part of an eminent domain action.

Members of the community who have further questions should contact their elected officials from the Village of Pelham and Westchester County.

Thank you for your continued support of the Pelham Public Schools.

Sincerely,
The Pelham Board of Education

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



56th Annual Salute to Seniors

Westchester County Center
May 30 from 9:30am to 1:30pm
Attendees will have an opportunity to connect with companies and organizations such as recreational groups, residential and health care facilities, government offices, wellness activities, hospitals, assisted living centers, financial providers, social service resources and more. In addition to exhibitors, there will be demonstrations, workshops, and live entertainment to enjoy.
For information, contact Amanda Seebeck at (914) 218-3968 or via email at AmandaS@EventsRemember.com.



Yoga with Dani Fundraiser for Open Door Family Medical Center

May 15 at 9am
Ossining Waterfront
Bring your mats, props and water bottles to Ossining's scenic Riverfront at Henry Gourdine Park for "Yoga with Dani". To register, visit <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E354282&id=40>. For questions, contact Tara Scarduzio at tscarduzio@odfmc.org. For over 50 years, Open Door has provided accessible, high-quality health care and wellness services, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Open Door offers family medicine, dental services, behavioral health care, women's health including obstetrics, vision services, insurance enrollment assistance, and much more. Open Door operates health centers in Ossining, Brewster, Mamaroneck, Mount Kisco, Sleepy Hollow, and Port Chester, and a dental site in Saugerties. Additionally, Open Door runs a mobile dental van and nine School-Based Health Centers in the Ossining, Port Chester, and Webutuck school districts.

Open Call Exhibition

ArtsWestchester
31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains
Through May 26
Featuring 22 area artists representing a thriving art scene. Open Call is sponsored by Etain and Westchester Magazine. For more information, visit artsw.org

Historical and Nature Walking Tour

Kensico Cemetery
Throughout May from 5:30 to 7:00pm
These engaging evening tours will provide participants with a unique opportunity to discover the rich history and natural beauty of the cemetery grounds. While all tours are free of charge, reservations are required. Interested individuals can reserve their spot by using the RSVP function on the event page at <https://www.kensico.org/events/>. Confirmation emails will include directions and additional details.

New Rochelle Opera presents Pagliacci

Saturday, June 22 at 8pm
Sunday, June 23 at 3pm
Ursuline Theater, 1354 North Avenue, New Rochelle
For tickets, call 914-235-8414
Visit www.nropera.org

Hospice of Westchester 22nd Annual Golf Invitational

Westchester Hills Golf Club, 401 Ridgeway, White Plains
June 4: 10am registration and brunch/lunch, 12:30pm shotgun start with scramble format, and 4:30pm: cocktail reception, dinner and awards.
The community is invited to participate in the Invitational honoring Bill and Debbie Flocks of Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. for their steadfast commitment to the organization. Individual and foursome registrations, journal ads and sponsorships are now available. For more information, contact Holly Benedict, 914-682-1484, ext. 122 or hbenedict@hospiceofwestchester.com. Visit www.hospiceofwestchester.org

Project Community 8th Annual Color Run

May 19 from 10am to 1pm
Pelham (course starts at 11 Westward Lane)
The Color Run brings families and friends of all ages across our local communities together for a fun 2.5 mile run/walk! The course culminates in a block party featuring music, food and more. All are welcome to participate and enjoy a day of fun, color and community. Project Community is a nearly 40 year old organization that supports children with disabilities and their families and provides educational programming for pre-teens and teens about important health issues. Registration is available here: <https://projectcommunity.us/color-run-2024/>

Tag NR Community Wide Tag Sale

May 4 from noon to 5pm
Surrounding City Hall, North Ave, New Rochelle
Residents and others can register as an official vendor to sell items such as clothing, electronics, furniture, household items, etc. in a city-wide tag sale event. For vendor registration, rules, and regulations visit www.newrochelleny.com/TagNR

New Rochelle's 11th Annual Kite Day

May 4 from noon to 2pm
Davenport Park, 300 Davenport Ave, New Rochelle
Residents are invited to bring kites from home or make their own kites to take flight at Davenport Park. Enjoy light refreshments, music, and an arts and crafts table to decorate kites. To register and for more information visit www.newrochelleny.com/KiteDay

Pelham Art Center presents ART IS...GALA

May 17 from 7 to 11pm
Split Rock, Bronx, NY
Features dinner and dancing, plus an auction of original artwork, weekend getaways, and more, all to benefit the Pelham Art Center. Tickets and event information are at PACArtsGala.givesmart.com



First Grit Ninja Games

Croton Point Park, 1A Croton Point Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson
Saturday, May 18 from 9am to 5pm
Children and young adults ages nine and up can compete in various tournaments in divisions based on age. Celebrity ninjas from American Ninja Warrior and American Ninja Warrior Jr. including Daniel Gil, Vance Walker, Isaiah Thomas, and Isabella Wakeham will be available for meet and greets. The entire day will be fun for the whole family as there will be local food trucks, beginner ninja obstacles suitable for all ages, raffles, and a professional ninja racing competition for everyone to watch. Rain date is Sunday, May 19. Registration is open.

Free Rabies Vaccines

May 5 from 10am to 2pm
Stamen Animal Hospital, 61 Quaker Ridge Road, New Rochelle
Westchester County residents can bring their dogs, cats and ferrets in for free rabies vaccinations. No appointments are needed, but residents are advised to bring proof of prior rabies vaccinations for their pets. An adult must supervise all pets. Cats and ferrets must be in carriers and dogs must be on a leash. Aggressive dogs must be muzzled. No examinations will be given. Call 914-632-1269 for more information.



Westchester Craft Crawl

June 1 and 2 from 10am to 5pm
The annual outdoor artist-organized craft tour

will feature 40+ regional professional craft artists along 3 tour stops between Ossining and Croton with each stop hosting 12 or more artists working in clay, wood, fiber, metal, jewelry, gourmet food, beverages, and more. This event is co-organized by three Ossining artists who are also participants in the crawl: Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Alexandra FitzGerald and Loren Maron. For more information, visit www.westchestercraftcrawl.com, visit the Facebook Event (Westchester Craft Crawl) or follow them on Instagram (@westchestercraftcrawl) or Facebook (Westchester Craft Crawl). For more information or inquiries, email team@westchestercraftcrawl.com. Google Tour Map: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1gjPN97aO6gdCL-mu2IZLiqA_ktcxWK4&ll=41.1614567000003%2C-73.8637296999998&z=14

Blood Drive

May 18 from 9am to 1:30pm
Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville
Join in to give back to the community in a truly life changing way since each donation collected can save up to three lives. Contact Kim Zwisdak at 914-337-0207, ext. 1040 or email kzwisdak@thechapelschool.org. To sign up, visit https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/314100

Pelham Art Center's Teen Artist Council presents Ceremonials: Magic, Myth, & Mother Nature

155 Fifth Avenue, Pelham
Through June 1 (closing reception on May 11 from 2 to 4pm)
Ceremonials is the second annual pop-up exhibition curated by our Teen Artist Council, with works selected from an open call for all ages. Visit pelhamartcenter.org

2024 Cultural Heritage Celebrations

All celebrations are held from noon to 6pm at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
May 19 -- 45th Annual Polish Heritage Day
June 1 -- Asian-American Heritage Day
June 2 -- Albanian Heritage Day
June 23 -- African-American Heritage Day
July 7 -- Hispanic Heritage Day
July 14 -- Irish-American Heritage Day, **Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale
July 21 -- Italian Heritage Day
August 4 -- India Heritage Day
August 18 -- Jewish Heritage Day
August 25 -- Muslim Heritage Day
Kensico Dam Plaza is located at the north end of the Bronx River Parkway, in Valhalla. Ridge Road Park is located at 287 Ridge Road, Hartsdale.

Bicycle Sundays

Bronx River Parkway between Scarsdale Road and the Westchester County Center, White Plains
May 19, June 2 and June 23 from 10am to 2pm
July 7, 14 and 21 from 8am to noon
The park can be accessed via Route 22, from the north or south. Go to parks.westchestergov.com or call 914-231-4500.



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- ▶ **Proven Leadership Laser-Focused on Education:** As your current School Board President over the last 2 years, and a member of the board for the last 3 years, I have provided stable and effective leadership, guiding our district through key decisions and initiatives to improve education in Pelham.
- ▶ **Commitment to Academic Excellence:** I am deeply committed to high academic achievement for EVERY student. My vision is to deliver individualized teaching so each student can make continued progress toward their unique academic, athletic, artistic, and extracurricular goals. I have consistently voted in favor of fully funding every student's IEP and 504 plan.
- ▶ **Promoting Health and Social-Emotional Wellness Backed by Science:** As a physician, I strongly support the promotion of healthy habits for all students, including nutrition, physical activity, sleep, and strong relationships with peers and family. I support raising awareness and implementing the U.S. Surgeon General's recommendations to keep our kids safe from the dangers of social media.
- ▶ **Empowering Parents:** Students learn best when parents are engaged and connected. I have and always will listen to parents and speak up when our district can do better.
- ▶ **Strong Advocate for Athletics & Extracurricular Activities:** I have been a strong supporter of student athletic programs and extracurricular activities, including the arts, recognizing their crucial role in promoting not only personal development but also physical health and wellness among our students.
- ▶ **Continuity Matters:** We are currently mid-way through our district-wide strategic plan review, which occurs every five years. My re-election will ensure continuity and stability, crucial for carrying out long-term plans that will benefit our entire district.

RE-ELECT DR. MICHAEL OWEN-MICHAANE
Pelham Board of Education

TUESDAY • MAY 21, 2024

Pelham Middle School Gym • 28 Franklin Place • 7 AM - 9 PM



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