

# The PelhamPost

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## The Danny Fund’s Third Annual “Danny Fun Day”

On Friday, September 12th, The Danny Fund hosted its third annual Danny Fun Day, a free event for all Pelham families as a way to say thank you to the community for its continued support of its efforts.

Hundreds of children and adults alike gathered at the Gazebo to enjoy hours of music, snacks, games, bounce houses, and more. The bounce houses were a huge hit as always, provided by Dave’s Cast of Characters, who has con-

sistently supported the Danny Fund and its events. The lawn games gave families a chance to play and spend quality time together, and the hair braiding (Paula Cardona, Simply Braided) and face painting (Angela, Westchester County Kids Entertainment) stations brought an extra special touch to the afternoon fun. We were also graced once again by our local



Girl Scout royalty – princesses pictured below from left to right: Amelia Deighton, Liz Gammon, Gianna Otero, Stella Celen-tano, Isabella Colon, Evelyn Laio, and Jean English) and The Amazing Spider-Man (Vinny



Castagnozzi) took adorable photos with their tiny fans! The Danny Fund, a non-profit profit organization, was founded approximately 30 years ago to support families coping with children facing catastrophic illnesses. Since its inception, the Board has

offered financial and emotional support directly to families as they navigate such a stressful and unpredictable time. The support from the Pelham Community has directly funded these efforts, changing lives and bringing families together in the time of greatest need, and for that, The Danny Fund is forever grateful! For more information, please visit <https://www.thedannyfund.org>.



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**17 The Hamlet | \$1,125,000**  
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**4 Bay View Drive W. | \$1,070,000**  
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\*Co-list with Jennifer Meyer, Licensed Real Estate Salesperson | \*\* Co-list with Gregg Goldshall, Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Source: OKMLS, Office Exclusives Sales, 2024-2025 Sold, properties represented by Jennifer Gilchrist in the past 12 months. Jennifer Gilchrist is a licensed associate real estate broker affiliated with Compass. Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.



# Fall Family Picnic 2025

Hearts & Homes for Refugees celebrated Welcoming Week at our sixth annual Fall Family Picnic earlier this month! The rainy afternoon brought together over 250 new neighbors, volunteers, elected officials and supporters to celebrate the theme of Stories We Share. Thank you to everyone who stopped by, brought food to share and welcomed our new families!

It was heartwarming to see the continued support of the welcoming movement

within our growing community. Refugees from all over the world – including Afghanistan, the Gambia, Ukraine and Venezuela – connected with volunteers and fellow new arrivals over a potluck lunch and games and activities.

Special thanks to our partners:

- Peace Play for handing out toys, backpacks, books and more
- La Casa Bronxville for donating food to the picnic

- The Kind Ice for giving out shaved iced cups

- Kate Bodian for distributing feminine hygiene kits

- Impact100 Westchester for their support of our dental table

- Upper Westchester Muslim Society for their food pantry donation

- Student volunteers from Bronxville High School, Hackley School, Pelham Memorial High School and Sarah Lawrence College

We are also grateful to Congressman George Latimer, his District Director Ellen

Hendrickx and NYS Senator Shelley Mayer for joining us to show their support of refugee resettlement in Westchester. We hope to see everyone again next year!



## Bob Rendon Installed As Rotary Club President



Left to right: New officers Donna Shirreffs, secretary; Bob Dawson, vice president; Rotary Area District Governor Garrett Capobianco; Andy Johnson, treasure; and Bob Rendon, president

Rotary Area District Governor Garrett Capobianco swore in Bob Rendon as the new president of Rotary Club of the Pelhams at a recent club luncheon.

Also sworn in were the other officers: Bob Dawson, vice president; Donna Shirreffs, secretary; and Andy Johnson, treasurer.

This is Mr. Rendon's second term as president of the club. He is also treasurer of Pelham Rotary Charities Fund.

Mr. Rendon works in the entertainment industry as an audio expert and his company does the audio for the Lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree and other major events. In Pelham he volunteers his audio expertise for the Huguenot Cabaret as well as Pelham Picture House events.

Rotary Club of the Pelhams welcomes new members. The club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and has speakers on various topics. For more information on the club and membership, visit [pelhamrotary.com](http://pelhamrotary.com)

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# NYS Senator Fernandez Appears at Pelham Town Council Meeting

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Town Supervisor Daniel McLaughlin opened the September 8th Council meeting, beginning with the Emergency Medical Services Report (EMS) by Councilwoman/Deputy Supervisor Rae Szymanski.

“For the month of August we had 83 calls, 35 in the Town of Pelham, 40 in the Village of Pelham Manor. The response time was six minutes; on scene time, 16 minutes, 5 seconds; transport time, 14 minutes, 5 seconds; turnaround time, 29 minutes, 6 seconds,” Szymanski began.

“The Certificate of Need (CON) status: I would like to thank Mark Baumblatt, EMS/Paramedic Director who did 99% of the applications. We received over 40 letters of support,” Szymanski continued. CON specifically relates to authorization for a municipal ambulance service.

In attendance was NYS Senator Nathalia Fernandez stating that the Senate, “passed a lot of investments in education, mainly school meals for all. Breakfast and lunch are now free for all



students. The schools do not have to apply. The cell phone ban in schools is now in effect, except for those students having glucose monitors attached to their phones. For environmental concerns, the State did put an additional \$500 million for clean water upgrades and \$1 billion for climate funding including zero emissions.”

Fernandez mentioned that the

Senate passed a Bill exempting veteran homeowners from property taxes; unfortunately, the Assembly did not. “One thing that did pass in the Budget was awards to allow a transfer of unused benefits to spouses, survivors, and children of veterans.

“For first responders and public safety, we deemed EMS an essential service to ensure reliable funding for EMS

services in New York State,” Fernandez concluded.

In the Recreation Report, Councilwoman Kara McLoughlin stated that a Recreation has a new email, recreation@pelhamrecreation.com.

In the Court/Legal Report, Councilwoman Kristen Burke mentioned that the Village can only transport two prisoners at a time which is not enough.

# Fire Chief Greco Notes October is Fire Prevention Month, Stresses Care of Lithium-Ion Batteries

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Manor Jennifer Monachino Lapey opened the September 15th Board meeting, stating that she attended the Town of Pelham 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial on Harmon Place.

Trustee/Fire Commissioner Timothy M. Case noted that September is National Preparedness Month. “Back in 2004 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) launched National Preparedness Month to educate and empower Americans to prepare for all types of emergencies,” Case said. “They have created an app in order to help prepare your family for emergencies like home fires, power outages and severe weather. We encourage you to visit our Facebook page and download the FEMA app.”

Citing a recent dryer fire, Fire Chief Michael Greco reminded residents to clean their lint traps on a regular basis. Greco mentioned that October is Fire Prevention Month, the theme being lithium-ion batteries in the home, how to store, properly charge and dispose of such batteries ([www.nfpa.org/events/](http://www.nfpa.org/events/)



fire-prevention-week).

Village Manager Lindsey Luft remarked that the Fund Balance was approximately \$18 million at end of August. “We did receive some significant revenue amounting to \$403,449 from Westchester County for our portion of the 2025 second quarter sales tax. This puts us in line

to exceed our Budget expectations for the previous Fiscal Year and 99% of real tax revenues for the current Fiscal Year have been collected.”

Regarding Local Law #4, Driveway Aprons, the homeowner is permitted to use materials other than concrete and is responsible for maintenance of their

driveway, but if a municipal or utility project happens to disturb the driveway apron the Village will replace it with concrete.

A Public Hearing for Local Law #4 was set for September 29th.

Resolution to adopt 2025 Base Proportions was approved, using Homestead-Based Proportions.

During Public Comment, David Montilla, Communication Director for NYS Senator Nathalia Fernandez advocated awarding tax credits to small businesses that improved their security plus giving consumers a 45-day notice before utility rate hikes.

Montilla concluded by stating that free breakfast and lunch will be provided to schools, 1,000 back packs as well as no-cost asthma inhalers, speech therapy for stutterers and \$22 million for Should Never Use Guns (SNUG), Office of Gun Violence Prevention.



# Hearts & Homes for Refugees Awarded United Way Community Impact Grant

Hearts & Homes for Refugees is proud to announce that it has been awarded an \$8,250 Community Impact Grant from the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. The funding will support the expansion of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programming and the development of new initiatives for refugee children and teens in Westchester County.

The United Way Community Impact Fund supports local nonprofits that serve under-resourced populations, including ALICE households (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). Hearts & Homes for Refugees was selected following a highly competitive process that drew more than 150 applicants.

“We are grateful to UWWP for recognizing the importance of investing in the future of refugee families in our community,” said Kathie O’Callaghan, President and Founder of Hearts & Homes for Refugees. “This grant allows us to expand our specialized ESOL programs for Afghan newcomers and launch new opportunities to support refugee youth as they adjust academically, socially, and emotionally to life in a new country.”

The ESOL initiative includes a virtual evening program designed specifically for Afghan adults, taught by an Afghan educator to foster trust and accelerate learning. The child and teen initiative will provide tutoring, mentorship, summer and afterschool activities, and community-building outings that nurture emotional well-being and promote school success. A key component of the program will include outings and culturally enriching activities, planned in collaboration with volunteers from Students for Refugees.

United Way’s support will enable Hearts & Homes to continue creating pathways for refugees to rebuild their lives with hope, dignity, and belonging.

For more information, visit [www.heartsandhomesforrefugees.org](http://www.heartsandhomesforrefugees.org).

# Schools Are Open - Drive Carefully!

All drivers should be aware of the reopening of our local schools. The Village of Pelham Police Department will be monitoring vehicular traffic and pedestrians around the high school, middle school, and each of our elementary schools. We will be enforcing all vehicle and traffic laws, including parking regulations, during Drop Off and Dismissal times.

Drivers must:

- Slow Down and obey all posted speed limit signs and flashing school signs.
- \*\*\*\*\*NEW 25MPH VILLAGE WIDE SPEED LIMIT\*\*\*\*\*
- Stay Alert for all --pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Be mindful of designated drop-off zones. Use these areas for drop-off purposes only and vacate the zone safely once your child has exited the vehicle and is on the sidewalk or school property. This will allow for other parents following you to do the same and not remain in the roadway behind you.
- Do not block or park on any crosswalk. Do not block or park on any sidewalks/driveways.
- Do not park, stop, or stand in non-designated areas. Do not leave your vehicle unattended illegally to drop your child

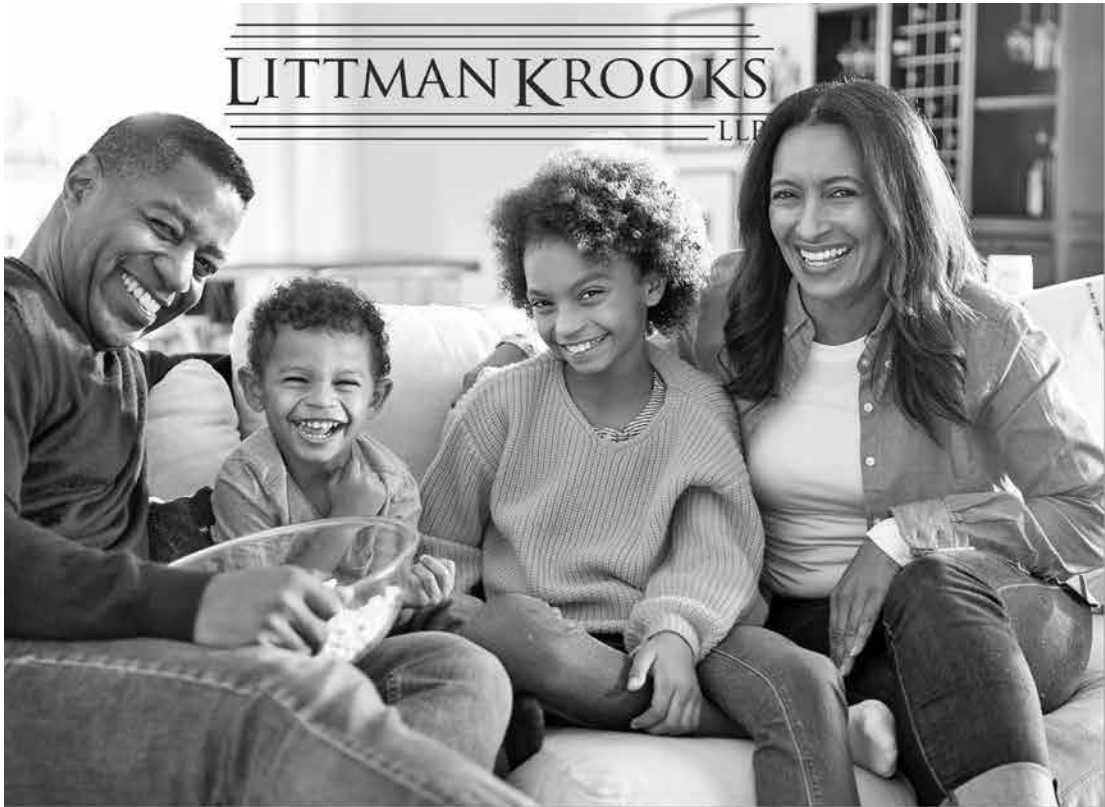
off at any school. Feel free to park legally and walk your child to the building.

- Obey all directions given by any designated crossing guard or police officer.
- School Bus lights and signals must be strictly obeyed at any location in the Village.
- Refrain from using any and all mobile devices while driving.
- Expect slow-moving traffic and delays; do not honk your horn unless there is an emergency.
- Be cautious of inexperienced child cyclists, maintaining a safe passing distance
- Discuss safe driving practices with teenage drivers

Pedestrians and bicyclists should:

- Be familiar with your surroundings and designated crossing points.
- Stay alert at all times. Avoid using mobile devices while walking and crossing. Use of headphones may hinder a pedestrian’s ability to hear an approaching danger or an important direction from a crossing guard.
- Always obey all directions provided by any designated crossing guard or police officer.

*continued on page 6*



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# County Executive Ken Jenkins Dedicates Plaque at the Healing Garden at Ridge Road Park



As part of Westchester County's recognition of the month of September as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, County Executive Ken Jenkins held a plaque dedication ceremony at the Healing Garden at Ridge Road Park. The plaque, which was provided through a partnership between the County Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH), the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, the Parks Foundation and NAMI Westchester, was unveiled as a way to honor the memory of individuals who died as a result of suicide. The solemn ceremony brought together individuals from the mental health community, with family and friends of people who completed suicide.

Jenkins said: "We gather this September not just to place a plaque at the grounds of the Healing Garden, but also to remember those who died this year as a result of suicide. When we created the Healing Garden, it was designed as a tranquil place for reflection for family and friends to reflect on those they lost, and to help address the stigma that is often attached to suicide – a key message of Suicide Awareness Month. With the addition of this plaque, we hope that those family and friends who have lost someone to suicide will continue to seek comfort and solace in these grounds, and rekindle happy memories while they are here."

Ground was broken on the Healing Garden in September 2022 after a planning committee was appointed to recommend a design for the park. The committee consisted of survivors, advocates and leadership from Westchester County Departments. DCMH worked closely with Parks, Recreation and Conservation, NAMI Westchester, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to finalize plans, and the Healing Garden opened.

DCMH Commissioner Michael Orth said: "Today the Healing Garden stands as a testament to the efforts of our County, and the commitment of County Executive Jenkins to ensure that anyone who needs to find a place to reflect and remember a loved one has that opportunity. Each year, the Healing Garden grows and the opportunity to place this plaque on the main rock at the site is another way to honor those we have lost. Westchester lost 63 individuals to suicide last year, down from a high of 79 in 2022. Educating people about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and letting them know there is help, goes a long way to giving people hope."

Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "The Healing Garden has provided family and friends a quiet respite in a beautiful natural setting in Ridge Road park. We are thankful to all our donors as well as to the park staff that helped to build the Garden and continue to maintain it."

Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators Vedat Gashi said: "This garden reflects our unwavering commitment to breaking the silence around mental health challenges. This special plaque will serve as a permanent reminder that no one walks this difficult path alone. Our community stands ready to offer support, resources, and hope to anyone who needs it."

Legislator Nancy Barr said: "According to the CDC, 49,316 Americans died by suicide in 2023, the equivalent of 1 death every 11 minutes. Equally shocking is that there were 1.5 million attempts. Too many families have experienced the pain of losing a loved one to suicide, but many others may be able to prevent it in the future if they have the right tools. If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, call or text 988 – the Suicide

and Crisis Lifeline - for help and hope."

Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Westchester and Co-Chair of the Westchester County Suicide Prevention Coalition Marie Con-sidine said: "During Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, we empathize with those who have taken their lives and their families who lost their loved ones to suicide, as well as those first responders who are impacted by this trauma — and we rededicate ourselves to supporting, educating and advocating for mental health and suicide prevention strategies and collaborative initiatives to provide help and hope with a goal of no one going

through such terrible pain. Every person should have the mental health education to equip them to face life's challenges, and know when and where to get help for themselves or someone else in need."

Area Director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Hudson Valley/ Westchester Chapter Maria Idoni said: "Each of the 63 butterflies in the Westchester Healing Garden carries the memory of a life lost to suicide. This Suicide Prevention Month, I invite you to join me in turning remembrance into action. Find a training, learn how to have a conversation that could save a life, and help bring hope to our community."

## Schools Are Open - Drive Carefully!

*continued from page 5*

- Stop at the edge of the curb and look in all directions, ensuring it is clear for you to cross. Use crosswalks and make sure the driver of any vehicle clearly sees you and comes to a stop before you enter the roadway as a pedestrian.

These tips/rules are intended to keep all pedestrians and drivers safe. The police department is aware that many drivers drop off their children at one of our schools and may have other commit-

ments, such as work. However, it must be done in a safe manner. Be mindful of your local family, friends, neighbors, and visitors who are also trying to do the same thing.

As we all know, there will be times when a police officer cannot be present on every corner due to various obligations or other emergencies in the Village. The entire community should make every effort to obey our laws, stay safe, and drive carefully.

## Nigerian Girl Returns to Westchester for Follow-Up Surgery Sponsored by Rotary District 7230 Gift of Life

Bright Etame, a 13 year old girl from Nigeria, returned to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY for successful follow-up heart surgery on September 11th, thanks to Gift of Life Metro NY Chapter and the Rotary Club of Rye.

"The surgery lasted for 9 1/2 hours and Bright's heart is now fixed" said JT McFadden, Chairman Gift of Life Metro NY and President of the Elmsford Rotary Club. Gift of Life identifies children in third world countries, who are in need of lifesaving heart surgeries and provides its services at no charge to the families.

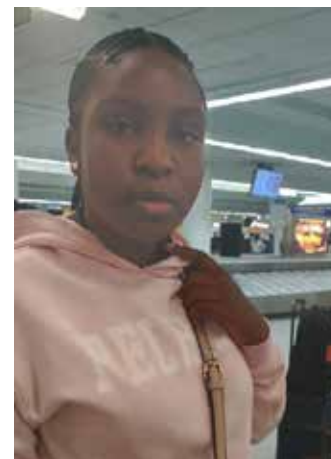
The Rotary Club of the Pelhams raised funds in 2016 for Bright's first surgery when she was hosted by a Pelham family. For this stay, Bright was able to stay with a Nigerian Family from Elmsford, NY.

Mr. McFadden said Bright has been recovering nicely and may be able to return to her family in Nigeria next week. "We would like to thank the nurses, doctors and support staff at Westchester Medical Center for all they have done for Bright," he said.

This year marks a milestone for GOL International, celebrating 50 years of providing lifesaving cardiac care to children in the developing world. Since its founding in 1975, its network has expanded to 84 affiliated programs in 80 countries across five continents, collectively saving the lives of 62,000 children with heart disease. Today, a child receives care through Gift of Life worldwide every 99 minutes. A Gala, Conference, and Golf Event celebrating this anniversary and raising funds for GOL programs was held on September 13th-15th on Long Island.

The Rotary Club of the Pelhams over the last 16 years has raised \$340,000 for Gift of Life Programs through its Wine and Restaurant Tasting Events. Gift of Life Metro NY Chapter has saved 2500 children over the last 25 years.

To donate or to learn more about Gift of Life Metro NY visit <https://giftoflifemetrony.org>







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# Pelham Art Center Student Exhibition On View Through October 19



*Joy Bird, Minoan Sea Creatures, Gouache on Paper, 60" x 40"*

Pelham Art Center is pleased to announce its Student Exhibition, on view through October 19, 2025.

This Student Exhibition encompasses artworks by students at the Pelham Art Center across all visual arts disciplines, from painting and printmaking to ceramics and collage. These talented students of all ages created their work under the guidance of the Art Center’s seasoned teaching artists, who are dedicated to imparting valuable artistic skills and knowledge in semester-long classes, shorter workshops, and school break camps of all kinds. Student work draws inspiration from an array of subjects and sources including personal experiences, nature, current events, and art history and is grounded in the technical skills and creative practices learned throughout their classes.

Artwork in a wide range of comprehensive media created by PAC’s talented students between Summer 2024 - Spring 2025 is on display. The list of participating artists of all ages includes:

Valerie Becerra, Ilene Bellovin, Joy Bird, Leslie Boden, Pamela Bovyer, Isabel Brown, Rita Calandresa, Lucy Carney, Alma Carr, Cherie Corso, Fiona d’Alessandro, Genevieve DeLisi, Kim Derespina, Laura Dower, Marlene Furtick, Lorraine Furtick, Joy Garcia, Ioanna Giannopoulos, Harriet Goldberg, Theo Karlsson Gregory, LJ Guglielmo, Livia Gus, Sylvia Gutierrez, Sophia Hellen, Alex Hellen, Lynn Honeysett, Ellie Horten, Josephine Kain, Theodore Keenan-Huang, Rebecca Kirby, Kieran Kraft, Sally Lake, Felix Lambert, Naveen Leon-Kelly, Jojo Mattina, Ingrid Martinez Acuña, Nancy Mazzei, Paula McKeever, Kristin Moore-Gantz, Ellen Moskowitz, Carleen Murdock, Laura Platt, Anna Ralph, Teagan Reen, Sarah Reynolds, Donna Rose Ross, Ari Rueda, Charlotte Santo, Amy Shaw, Deborah Sherman, Inez Sieben, Barbara Sterling, Surleen Dhamoon, Barbara Tinoco, Jackie Vigil, Beryl Watson, Ada Weishaupl, Alfred Weishaupl, Tara Weishaupl

The gallery is open to visitors Monday - Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm.

Pelham Art Center is a non-profit educational and cultural institution committed to providing public access to see, study and experience the arts, foster lifelong arts appreciation and thereby strengthen the community. The Art Center was founded in 1970 and now serves more than 16,000 people each year. These events and programs are made possible, in part, by ArtsWestchester with funds from Westchester County Government with the support of County Executive George Latimer. Pelham Art Center also receives funding from: New York State Council on the Arts, A State Agency, and Pelham Community Members and Annual Fund Donors.



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6AM - 9PM @ Daronco Town House for Pelham

Vote on independent Neighborhood Party or Republican Line



# Corporate Partners Are Stepping Up to Join with Feeding Westchester in the Fight Against Hunger

With rising cost-of-living, higher grocery prices, and federal funding cuts, the mission of Feeding Westchester and the critical role its corporate partners play in fighting hunger in our community have never been more important. More than 55 million US households—a staggering 42%—are at risk of hunger\*.

Westchester County is home to some of the nation’s most affluent towns, but is also several of New York’s largest cities, including Yonkers, New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, and White Plains. In Westchester, 39% of households—more than one in three in our community—are at risk of hunger\*. That number has increased 15% in just two years.

More than 300 corporate partners actively join Feeding Westchester in the fight against hunger. They help ensure that nutritious food and vital resources reach neighbors who need them the most through team-building projects, employee volunteer days, corporate donations, event sponsorships, and other community-driven initiatives. Together, these partnerships strengthen our county-wide hunger-relief network and bring hope to thousands of local families.

An excellent representative of Feeding Westchester’s generous corporate partnerships is Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts

(‘Empire City’). Empire City’s ongoing focus to combat food insecurity remains paramount as the number of New Yorkers in need continues to rise.

Since MGM Resorts acquired Empire City Casino in 2019, it has made significant financial contributions to area nonprofit organizations to address food insecurity, including Feeding Westchester. MGM Resorts Foundation grants to Feeding Westchester in recent years have supported local food pantries and distributions, along with a range of programs including Retail Recovery and Kids in the Kitchen.

Feeding Westchester’s Retail Recovery program diverts millions of pounds of healthy food that would have previously gone to waste, to families in need across Westchester County. Last year, the program prevented over five million pounds of good food from ending up in landfills. Kids in the Kitchen, a partnership that originated with the Mount Vernon City School District and has since expanded to other districts, empowers young children and their families to educate themselves around healthy cooking and balanced nutrition.

“Empire City is a valued partner joining in our mission to nourish neighbors across

Westchester,” said Tami Wilson, Chief Operating Officer of Feeding Westchester. “These partnerships are critical to ensuring that families in our community have access to nutritious food. With deep cuts to SNAP ahead, we’re incredibly concerned for Westchester residents—including single parents, veterans, working families, and seniors—who will be left with even fewer options to put food on the table. The role of the private sector is more important than ever, and we are calling on all partners—new and long-standing—to step up in unprecedented ways to meet this growing need.”

In addition, many Empire City employees volunteer their time at Feeding Westchester events to help hand out food to those in need across the community in which they live from Yonkers to Mount Vernon and across the region.

Several Empire City employees participated in Feeding Westchester’s Golden Scoop competition, a spirited corporate competition to see who could pack the most food in the least amount of time for local families in need. This year’s competition resulted in 2,100 bags of produce—more than 14,000 meals—packed for distribution to Westchester seniors.

In line with its philanthropic mission,

Empire City employees have dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to food insecurity, part of MGM Resorts’ broader commitment to exceed more than one million volunteer hours companywide by 2025, a milestone the company has already achieved this year.

“As more of our neighbors face food insecurity, the resources local organizations need is increasing, and MGM Resorts is incredibly honored to be able to support initiatives to address food insecurity through our nonprofit partners, including Feeding Westchester,” said Taryn Duffy, spokesperson for Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts.

Food insecurity will be a growing concern for the foreseeable future with additional federal program cuts looming large and grocery prices rising every year. For more information on Feeding Westchester Corporate Partnerships, please visit <https://feedingwestchester.org/get-involved/corporate-partnership-volunteer-opportunities>

\*SOURCE:

National = ALICE United 2023, United Way Westchester = ALICE in Westchester 2023, United Way of Westchester and Putnam Surveys are completed with a 2-year data lag

## Simone Development Companies, Montefiore Einstein Hospital, and Yondr Honored by the Center for Educational Innovation

Simone Development Companies, a full-service real estate investment company specializing in the acquisition and development of healthcare, mixed-use, office, industrial, retail and residential properties, was recently honored by the Center for Educational Innovation (CEI) at their annual gala at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan.

Joe Simone, president of Simone Development Companies, accepted the award on behalf of the organization for the company’s ongoing efforts to expand access to education and create opportunities for students in the Bronx.

“I’m deeply honored to accept this recognition from CEI on behalf of Simone Development Companies. We are proud to continue our support of initiatives that strengthen STEAM education and healthcare-focused programs in the Bronx and beyond, preparing the next generation for future success,” said Mr. Simone. “Thank you to CEI for this meaningful recognition and for your continued commitment to ensuring every child has access to a quality education.”

In addition to Simone Development, Montefiore Einstein Hospital was also recognized with awards presented to former Assemblyman Marcos A. Crespo, now continuing his advocacy for public health and quality of life as Senior Vice President of Community Affairs at Montefiore Einstein, and former Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., now Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the hospital.



*Pictured left to right are: Allan McLennan, Board Member, CEI; Dr. Michael Kohlhausen, President/CEO, CEI; Joe Simone, president of Simone Development Companies; Judy Roth Berkowitz, Chair Emerita, CEI; Patrick Duff, Chairman, Board of Directors, CEI; Gail Badillo, Board Member, CEI; and Dr. Meisha Porter, Visiting Senior Fellow, CEI. Photo by Don Pollard*

Rounding out the honorees was Graham Dugoni, founder and CEO of Yondr, a pioneer in creating phone-free spaces. Yondr has partnered with thousands of schools across New York State to transform the school day experience and with venues worldwide to create phone-free concerts and events.

CEI is a nonprofit education organization located in New York City and a recognized leader in advancing meaningful reforms in public education. CEI’s mission is to make the school the center and driving force of public education reform and innovation, working directly with teachers, school leaders, and the community to create the schools their children need to succeed. CEI’s vision is to help build a public education system where every child has access to an excellent school.

Simone Development Companies is a full-service real estate investment company specializing in the acquisition and development of healthcare, mixed-use, office, industrial, retail and residential properties. Headquartered at the

Hutchinson Metro Center, it boasts a portfolio of over 7 million square feet throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Long Island, Westchester County, Orange and Fairfield Counties and New Jersey. With expertise spanning acquisition, development, construction, finance, asset management, accounting, leasing and property management, Simone Development Companies is set apart by its vertically integrated management team, long-term asset ownership and its pursuit of visionary development.

# The Pros and Cons of Co-Fiduciaries in Estate Planning



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED  
ELDER LAW ATTORNEY  
SPECIAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR: JOEL  
KROOKS, ESQ.

In estate planning, a fiduciary is someone entrusted with managing another person's assets and affairs, often serving as an executor, trustee, or power of attorney. Many individuals consider appointing co-fiduciaries—two or more people sharing fiduciary responsibility—to ensure a balance of perspectives and safeguard decision-making. Many

clients express a desire to treat all of their children equally, which often leads them to consider naming all of them as co-fiduciaries. While co-fiduciaries can offer several advantages, there are also important drawbacks to consider.

## Pros of Appointing Co-Fiduciaries

**Checks and Balances:** One of the most common reasons for appointing co-fiduciaries is to create a system of checks and balances. When more than one person is involved, the risk of mismanagement, fraud, or favoritism is reduced. This can be particularly important in high-value estates.

**Shared Workload:** Estate or Trust administration can be time-consuming and complex. Co-fiduciaries can divide responsibilities, such as communicating with beneficiaries, managing assets, filing taxes, and handling legal matters. This shared workload can reduce stress and ensure that no single fiduciary is over-

whelmed. Co-fiduciaries can also bring complementary skills to the table. For example, one fiduciary might be financially savvy, while the other has strong interpersonal skills for dealing with family dynamics. This can lead to more well-rounded decision-making.

**Family Representation:** In blended families or when children from multiple marriages are involved, appointing co-fiduciaries from different branches of the family can help maintain neutrality and foster trust among heirs.

## Cons of Appointing Co-Fiduciaries

**Risk of Disagreement:** Co-fiduciaries must make decisions together, and disagreements can delay important actions or lead to legal disputes. If the co-fiduciaries have conflicting personalities or values, the process can become contentious, causing friction among heirs and potentially increasing legal costs. If the co-fiduciaries are family members, it

can also lead to conflicts among family members and strain or even damage relationships. While the intention may be fairness, asking children to manage an estate together can place emotional stress on them—especially during a time of grief. The pressure to make joint decisions under emotional strain can deepen rifts rather than promote unity.

**Slower Decision-Making:** Requiring the agreement of multiple parties often slows down decision-making, especially if the fiduciaries are located in different cities or states. In urgent situations, such delays can be problematic. If co-fiduciaries are evenly split on a decision and there's no mechanism in the estate plan to resolve a deadlock, administration can stall entirely. This might require court intervention to break the tie, further complicating the process.

**Unequal Participation:** In practice, one co-fiduciary may end up doing the bulk of the work while the other remains passive. This can breed resentment or lead to inefficiencies, particularly if compensation is shared equally.

**Difficulty in Financial Institutions and Courts:** Some banks, brokerage firms, or courts prefer working with a single decision-maker. They may impose stricter requirements when multiple fiduciaries are involved—such as needing all signatures for every transaction—leading to delays and frustration.

## Conclusion

Appointing co-fiduciaries in an estate plan can provide balance, accountability, and shared responsibility—but it can also introduce the risk of conflict, inefficiency, and delays. When considering co-fiduciaries, it's important to choose individuals who communicate well, share mutual respect, and are capable of working together under pressure. Consulting with an estate planning attorney can help you weigh these factors and structure your fiduciary appointments to best serve your estate's goals.

*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 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](http://www.littmankrooks.com).*

## Table Hopping with Morris Gut

### Enjoy the Sights, Sounds and Flavors of India During Diwali

Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, is a major holiday throughout India and the rest of the globe. It is a fine time to enjoy the vibrant flavors of Indian cuisine. It lasts five days, this year peaking on October 20. It is marked by rituals, parades, and plenty of good food. Here are some local spots to take in those exotic flavors. Dine in or take out:

**Mumbai Katta**, 227 Westchester Ave., Port Chester. 516-953-3265 Anita and Jayant Gawde have opened a vibrant ode to flavorful regional Indian street food. They will mark the traditional five-day festival of Diwali. Anita is a dynamo in front and back of the house. [www.mumbaikatta.com](http://www.mumbaikatta.com)

**Neha Palace**, 27 Meyer Ave., Yonkers at Cross County Shopping Center. 914-476-5900 Diya Ramchandani's big, elegant restaurant and catering venue serves Halal cuisine. [www.nehapalaceyonkers.com](http://www.nehapalaceyonkers.com)

**Marigold Cuisine**, 434 White Plains Road, Eastchester. 914-202-9455 Michelin recognized chef Hermant Mathur, who was personal chef to the Prime Minister of India, offers a creative modern take on Indian cuisine. [www.ordermarigoldrestaurant.com](http://www.ordermarigoldrestaurant.com)

**Tandoori Taste of India**, 223 Westchester Ave., Port Chester 914-937-2727 Bharat Patel, pioneer proprietor of long running Tandoori Taste of India, will be marking Diwali with a grand buffet and specialties at lunch and dinner. [www.tandooritasteofindia.com](http://www.tandooritasteofindia.com)



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**Indi Q Indian Bistro & BBQ**, 61 Old Route 22, Armonk. 914-273-5931 Lovely setting operated by the owners of Tandoori. [www.indiqarmonk.com](http://www.indiqarmonk.com)

**Jaipore Royal Indian Cuisine**, 280 Route 22, Brewster. 845-277-3549 A lot of local history coming out of this historic mansion. [www.jaiporenyc.com](http://www.jaiporenyc.com)

**Chutney Masala**, 76 Main St., Irvington. 914-591-5500 Chef Navjot Arora runs a creative kitchen as recognized by the Michelin Restaurant Guide. [www.chutneymasala.com](http://www.chutneymasala.com)

**Coromandel Cuisine of India**, 464 North Ave., New Rochelle. 914-235-8390 The best Indian take-out in the Queen City. You may remember them from their former Division Street location. [www.coromandeltogo.com](http://www.coromandeltogo.com)

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**Coriander-Modern Indian**, 154 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 914-235-1306 Proprietor Shawn Nagpal and his team offer a modern touch to their regional Indian cuisine. [www.corianderny.com](http://www.corianderny.com)

**Spice Village**, 8 Columbus Ave., Tuckahoe. 914-562-9466 Serving the public in southern Westchester for years. Try the lamb chops. [www.spicevillageny.com](http://www.spicevillageny.com)  
**Mughal Palace**, 16 Broadway, Valhalla. 914-997-6090 Alam and staff are consistently accommodating. [www.mughalpalace.com](http://www.mughalpalace.com)

**RaaSa Fine Indian Cuisine**, 145 E. Main St., Elmsford. 914-347-7890 A solid kitchen and front of the house team recognized by the Michelin Restaurant Guide. [www.raasany.com](http://www.raasany.com)

**Ambadi Kebab & Grill**, 141 E. Post Road, White Plains. 914-686-2014 Indian and halal cuisine by the owner of Mughal Palace. [www.ambadiusa.com](http://www.ambadiusa.com)

**Royal Palace**, 77 Knollwood Road, Hartsdale/White Plains. 914-289-1988 Owner Jagdish Mitter has been operating this sprawling Indian eatery for more than 20 years. [www.royalpalacecuisines.com](http://www.royalpalacecuisines.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 more than 30 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. Email: [gutreactions@optonline.net](mailto:gutreactions@optonline.net)*



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# First Responders Recognized at PPS Football Game

At the Pelham Public Schools (PPS) varsity football game last month, our local first responders were recognized. These individuals dedicate their lives to protecting our community. We are so grateful for the productive collaboration between the local emergency service departments. Representatives from the Pelham Manor Fire Department, Pelham Manor Police Department, Pelham Fire Department, Pelham Police Department, and Town of Pelham EMS were all in attendance. Thank you to Pelham Manor Fire Chief Michael Greco, Police Chief Gregory Sancho, Police Lieutenant Andrew Leal, and all other service department members that took the time to attend this PPS football game and for everything you do to support the safety of our community.





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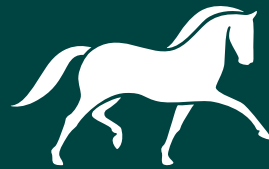
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