

The PelhamPost



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...WW Magazine Winter 2025!

Pelham Girl Scouts Honor Veterans Through Service and Community



Throughout November, Pelham Girl Scouts of all levels joined together to celebrate and honor local veterans as part of the beloved “Thank-A-Vet” program—now in its 16th year!

This year’s activities began when Junior Girl Scout Troop 1661 from Siwanoy Elementary School attended a meeting of the American Legion Post #50. Led by Joe Durnin, the girls interviewed veterans, learned about their military service, and practiced how to properly fold an American flag—skills they would soon

share with fellow scouts!

On Saturday, November 1, Troop 1661 hosted a special program for all Pelham Girl Scouts at the Daronco Townhouse. More than

90 scouts and parents attended a panel discussion featuring three female veterans: Dr. Linda Franks, Sergeant Laura King, and Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Mondido. The panelists answered questions such as what Veterans Day means to them, what their experience was like during training, and how serving in the military has positively impacted them. The event also included a demonstration on flag etiquette and a Veterans Day trivia game. Troop 1661 is proudly working



toward their Bronze Award by educating others about the importance of Veterans Day and honoring those who served.

Following the program, scouts assembled and decorated nearly 200 goody bags for Pelham veterans filled with handwritten thank-you notes and Girl Scout cookies donated by Operation Cookie Drop-Heart of the Hudson. The inspiring effort reflected a strong

spirit of gratitude and community building. Originally started by Gold Award recipient, Kayla Cartelli, the “Thank-A-Vet” project is continuing and expanding!

Over Veterans Day weekend, scouts delivered the bags directly to veterans throughout Pelham and Pelham Manor, greeting each recipient with smiles and heartfelt choruses of “Thank you for your service!” The deliveries were met with warm appreciation—many veterans shared that they look forward to this visit every year.

In addition, Senior Troop 2834 continued their longstanding tradition of hand-delivering treats to veterans at The

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Warm wishes for a happy holiday season.

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Consortium Challenges ConEd Rate Increase

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Village of Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen called the November 12th Board of Trustees Meeting to order, with Trustee Krystal Howell thanking the men and women who served, regarding Veterans Day.

Trustee Theresa Mohan stated that she was working with the Sustainability Advisory Board, Allison Anderson will be coming onto the Board in December. “We will review the National Resources Inventory (NRI) and think about the next steps. One of the next steps that I would like to see occur is to introduce tree legislation, based on the recommendations in the NRI.

“I will be sending out materials before our next meeting for the Board to review,” Mohan said.

Trustee Russell Solomon remarked that he had a conversation with Legislator Terry Clements, regarding pedestrian safety; they are coming to a closer to a positive Resolution.

Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen congratulated Mohan on her election win; she will be the next Town Supervisor. “I have some good news to share,” Mullen continued. “We joined with our Westchester partners, forming a consortium to challenge the Con Edison rate increase. Their original proposal of a 13.4% electric rate increase was reduced to 2.8%; on the gas side, the original proposed 19% increase was reduced to 2%. The agreement spans January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028.

“ConEd is also conducting an analysis comparing costs of its underground network system, which is in New York City with its overhead radial system that we have in Westchester County.

“Finally, we have recently received word that the Westchester Power renewable energy program will be discontinued at the end of the year.”

There were two Resolutions authorizing the appointment of School Crossing Guards; one for Timothy Persaud, Mount Vernon, the other Jamie Doria, Yonkers.

Westchester County Celebrates Albanian Heritage Month with Annual Flag-Raising

Westchester County marked Albanian Heritage Month with its annual flag-raising ceremony outside of the Michaelian Office Building in White Plains. The event brought together residents and County officials to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Westchester’s Albanian American community.



Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Albanian Heritage Month allows us to recognize the strength and resilience of a community that has become an essential part of Westchester’s identity. This flag-raising is a moment to honor that impact and to reaffirm our appreciation for a heritage that continues to strengthen the very core of our County.”

Deputy County Executive Richard Wishnie said: “Westchester is made stronger by the cultures that flourish here, and the Albanian American community is a clear example of that. Their contributions in business, civic life and cultural leadership have shaped this County in meaningful ways. Today’s ceremony reflects our gratitude for the history and vitality they bring to Westchester.”

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi said: This flag raising holds deep personal meaning for me. As an Albanian American, I am proud of

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Site Plan Amendment for 5 Canal Road to be Sent to Planning Board for Approval

Supervisor McLaughlin Reports Passing of Three Significant Citizens



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Manor Mayor Jennifer Monachino Lapey called the November 10th Board meeting to order, noting that Veterans Day is on Tuesday, November 11th, thanking those who served our country.

Trustee Tim Case announced the passing of former Judge Anthony Pasquantonio, who passed away on Saturday, November 8th, just short of his 95th birthday. Mr. Pasquantonio was a Town Justice for 40 years.

Trustee/Public Works Commissioner Maurice Owen-Michaane expressed pride in Village Manager Lindsey Luft, her staff and the Board, “for really focusing on, implementing and executing stormwater management litigation projects, whether in Highbrook, Pelhamdale by Manor Lane and Monroe.”

Luft noted that a leaf-collection survey is being distributed and Trustee Daniel McLaughlin pointed out that leaf collection in compostable brown paper bags, not plastic is being considered.

Fire Chief Michael Greco reported a couple of brush fires and fires near BJ’s Shopping Center, highways and not on residential streets. “We had one automatic aid call to the High School for a gas leak. We conducted our Fire Prevention Month and distributed 800 bags of safety information to the public schools.

“A few safety tips for the holiday season: try not to block fire hydrants with leaf piles; do not park over leaf piles. Keep candles away from draperies and do not overload extension cords.”

Regarding consideration of Site Plan Amendment to 5 Canal Road, architect Benjamin Schaffer said that this will be sent to Planning Board for approval. “This is an existing building zoned for industrial use. The intent is to use it for warehouse space. There is no variance. Parking requires one car for 3000 square feet; the owners want to occupy three cars at 9000 square feet. The space has to be left open at all times,” Schaffer concluded.



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Town Supervisor Daniel J. McLaughlin convened the November 10th Board Meeting with a Public Hearing regarding Local Law Number 1, 2025, Override Tax Cap, due to significant increases in Health Insurance, Liability Insurance, Retirements and necessary Capital Improvements.

McLaughlin then called the Legislative Meeting to order, mentioning the passing of 27-year Pelham Manor firefighter Paul Sutorius, who succumbed to cancer after participating in the 9/11 cleanup; “Billy Wise” Wineblatt, 63, proprietor of Wise Hardware, Pelham and Anthony Pasquantonio, 95, who served as Pelham Town Justice for 40 years.

Regarding Committee Reports, Deputy Trustee/Councilwoman Rae Szymanski recounted 98 October ambulance/flycar calls, 41 in Village of Pelham; 49, Pelham Manor; 3 in Eastchester; four on the Hutch and one on I-95. “They will take you to the hospital of your choice if it is within reason.

“Response time was 5 minutes, 6 seconds; on scene time, 17 minutes; transport time, 14 minutes, 7 seconds; turnaround time, 30 minutes,” Szymanski concluded. McLaughlin said that he received a call from a doctor who said that a patient went in glycemic shock; if EMS had not gotten there in two to three minutes the woman would not have lived.

In the Recreation Report, Councilwoman Kara McLoughlin remarked that the senior citizens had a very active month in October. The Pelham Civics hosted a luncheon; Recreation Department hosted a Halloween luncheon. There were October birthdays, arts and crafts and trip to Westchester Community College where the seniors received lunch from WCC culinary school students. The exercise program with yoga and walking club is moving along. Card playing and bingo continues. There will be a Thanksgiving celebration, next month a holiday celebration.

Basketball registration has opened and the season will begin after Thanksgiving. Registration for after school programs is open. Holiday Special Needs Program will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd.

Pelham Girl Scouts Honor Veterans Through Service and Community

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Wartburg Home in Mount Vernon. This year, they expanded their outreach by visiting Willow Gardens Memory Care for the first time.

The weekend concluded with Girl Scouts leading the Pledge of Allegiance and participating in the Town of Pelham Veterans Day Ceremony at Memorial Park, hosted by American Legion Post

#50.

Jamie Porco Guglielmo and Diane Lanaro, co-leaders of the Siwanoy 5th-grade troop, have organized the Pelham Girl Scouts’ Veterans Day efforts for the past four years. If you know a veteran who would enjoy receiving a goody bag next year, please reach out to them at gsdaisyleaders@gmail.com.

Westchester County Celebrates Albanian Heritage Month with Annual Flag-Raising

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my heritage and forever grateful to this country—and to American democracy—for embracing my family and me years ago. The Albanian American community in Westchester is close-knit, bound together by shared stories of hardship and triumph. As we raise this flag, we celebrate not only where we came from but also the many ways our community contributes to Westchester County and beyond.”

Westchester County Legislator Emiljana Ulaj said “It’s an honor to represent the Albanian community on the Westchester County Board of Legislators. The story of our community’s success

in Westchester offers important lessons for all of us. Albanians have been able to thrive because we lift each other up, fiercely value family & community, and refuse to let our differences divide us or make us turn away from the obligations to those we care about.”

Albanian Heritage Month is celebrated each November as communities around the world mark Albania’s Declaration of Independence on November 28, 1912. Westchester County’s observance underscores the importance of cultural recognition and the value of celebrating traditions that connect residents across generations.

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Westchester Municipal Consortium Achieves Major Accomplishments in Con Edison Rate Case Settlement

The Westchester Municipal Consortium (WMC) — an unprecedented coalition of 40 local municipalities that joined forces to become a party to Con Edison’s 2025 electric and gas rate case filings before the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) announced that a three-year settlement agreement (known as a Joint Proposal) has been formally reached between Con Edison, the PSC staff, and other parties.

The terms of the filed agreement are now public and represent significant progress for Westchester residents and businesses in ensuring fairer and more transparent utility practices.

The Joint Proposal substantially reduces Con Edison’s original rate requests and includes several key provisions advanced by the Westchester Municipal Consortium. Because these provisions were successfully incorporated into the three-year settlement, the Consortium will not oppose the agreement.

The Joint Proposal itself states: “The Westchester Municipal Consortium will also not oppose this negotiated Proposal, which substantially reduces the Company’s initial rate proposals and includes provisions sought by the Westchester Municipal Consortium.”

Settlement Included Major Reductions

in Originally Proposed Rates: Con Edison’s original proposed electric rate increase of 13.4% has been reduced to 2.8% on the total customer bill under the settlement. On the gas side, the original propose 19% increase has been reduced to 2% on the total customer bill. The agreement spans January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028, with similar annual increases of approximately 2.8% (electric) and 2.0% (gas) in the second and third years.

Key Westchester-Specific Provisions Secured: The Joint Proposal includes several items specifically negotiated by the Westchester Municipal Consortium to address longstanding disparities and improve communication and transparency:

- Annual Westchester Capital Investment Meetings
- Con Edison leadership — including senior engineering and operations staff — will meet annually with Westchester municipalities to review capital project plans and compare investment levels in Westchester versus New York City. The meetings will also address storm preparedness, double-pole removal, street-lighting, and the impact of data centers on the local grid.
- Underground vs. Overhead Cost Analysis

Responding to WMC’s request, Con Edison agreed to conduct an informational analysis comparing the relative costs of its underground network system (predominant in New York City) and its overhead radial system (predominant in Westchester County and Staten Island). This study will help determine whether any cross-subsidization exists between regions and will be shared prior to the Company’s next rate filing.

“While the reductions do not go as far as we had proposed, they are a substantial move in the name of affordability, and the requirements for more disclosure and transparency on capital projects and the costs of overhead vs. underground systems are major gains for our County,” said Joel Dichter, Counsel for the Westchester Municipal Consortium. “This outcome reflects how much can be accomplished when Westchester’s municipalities stand together for a common goal.”

Next Steps and PSC Review: The Westchester Municipal Consortium will prepare and submit formal comments on the Joint Proposal to the Public Service Commission. The PSC will then conduct an evidentiary hearing to evaluate the settlement’s terms before issuing a final decision.

“There is no doubt that Westchester’s municipalities banding together had a substantial impact on the results,” said Hastings-on-Hudson Mayor Nicola Armacost who is also President of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association. “This collaboration ensured our communities were heard at the state level and will continue to give us a voice in how utility investments are made in Westchester.”

About the Westchester Municipal Consortium: The Westchester Municipal Consortium (WMC) is composed of 40 unified municipalities throughout Westchester County that are served by Con Edison and came together to work collaboratively to ensure fair utility practices, equitable infrastructure investments, and transparent communication between local governments, the utility, and state regulators.

“I’m proud of the work we put into this, and I’m particularly proud that each of Pelham’s municipal entities stood united in this fight. My sincerest thanks to Pelham Manor Mayor Lapey, Town Supervisor McLaughlin, and each of our respective boards for committing to this effort in such a unified way. This is an excellent outcome for our residents.” said Village of Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen.

Senator Nathalia Fernandez Secures \$250,000 for New Rochelle YMCA Upgrades

New York State Senator Nathalia Fernandez announced \$250,000 in state funding to support vital upgrades to the New Rochelle YMCA’s pool and aquatics facility. The investment will fund the installation of a new dehumidifier system to improve air quality, preserve the pool infrastructure, and ensure the YMCA can continue providing life-saving aquatic programs to families across New Rochelle, Pelham, Mount Vernon, Larchmont, and surrounding communities.

The New Rochelle YMCA’s pool is one of the few remaining accessible community pools in Westchester County, offering swim lessons, lifeguard training, water exercise, and recreational programs for residents of all ages. The new dehumidification system will create a safer, more sustainable environment and support the Y’s mission to promote wellness and inclusion throughout the region.

“I am proud to deliver this funding to



the New Rochelle YMCA, a cornerstone of health, safety, and community for families across Westchester. For generations, this pool has taught children how to swim, provided life-saving training, and offered neighbors a place to gather and grow stronger together. Investing in upgrades ensures the YMCA can continue to serve our community for decades to come. I look forward to seeing the pos-

itive impact this project will have on local families for years ahead,” said Senator Nathalia Fernandez. “This grant is a tremendous investment in the health and future of our communities and we appreciate the hard work Senator Fernandez and her staff did to secure this funding,” said Jennifer Ryan Safsel, CEO of the New Rochelle YMCA. “Our pool is one of only a few YMCA pools still open and affordable which allows us the ability to—teach children how to be safe in the water, gives families a place to connect, and supports wellness for people of all ages. Thanks to the CREST program and the leadership of Senator Fernandez,

we are able to create a safe, sustainable, and welcoming environment for everyone who walks through our doors.”

“As the Chief Volunteer Officer and Board Chair we are so grateful and thrilled to accept this check from Senator Fernandez to fix the dehumidification system over our pool. With the state’s help, We have come so far in bringing our pool- a critical resource for our community- into tip top shape and look forward to continuing to work with New York State and Senator Fernandez for years to come,” said Martha Solinger.

This \$250,000 grant was secured through the Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology (CREST) Program, a state initiative that invests in local infrastructure and community development projects.

For more information about the New Rochelle YMCA and its programs, visit nrymca.org

What's Happening at the Pelham Public Library

Trustee News

The Town of Pelham Public Library board of Trustees is pleased to welcome Diane Gutch as their newest member. Diane is a long-time Pelham resident. She is a health care professional, an avid library user, and an active volunteer in the Pelham community. To learn more about Diane visit <https://www.pelhamlibrary.org/welcome-new-board-member-diane-gutch/>.

Eating in Harmony with Nature with Dr. Kaushik

Tuesday, December 9, 7-8 pm
This series from Dr. Somesh N. Kaushik discusses the effects of food on the body and its healing abilities. With over 35 years' experience as an Ayurvedic physician, Dr. Kaushik is one of the most experienced Ayurvedic physicians in North America. Dr. Kaushik recently founded the Institute for the Advancement of Ayurvedic Sciences, a research and teaching institution. This program will take place on Zoom, and registration is required. Click here to register. The Zoom link will be emailed to you before the presentation.



Party Hearty in the Middle Ages
Get in a festive mood by joining us for this entertaining online event! Despite sometimes being referred to as the Dark Ages during the Middle Ages people often enjoyed good times especially at the table. Through art and archaeology learn about medieval foods and their preparation (including a recipe for roast unicorn!) as well as the rules and ceremonies under which these sumptuous foods were presented and the types of entertainment guests might enjoy. Works from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Met's Cloisters Museum will highlight this talk. Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6Z6caz-Onap6TSG6D1Tv5pBkd8VhnGUfPFxuWnlsEH_ZhDtQ/viewform

Becoming Jane Austen
Wednesday, Dec 17, 7-8 pm
Jane Austen is turning 250! Join us to celebrate the author's birthday. Becoming Jane Austen in the late 18th Century required



considerable imagination and resilience. And while she remains the preeminent female author of her time, she also read other women writers. In the book *Jane Austen's Bookshelf*, by Rebecca Romney, the reader comes to know some of the voices that echoed in Austen's mind. Please join us in a discussion of Jane Austen's life and some of her lively contemporaries. Led by Diane Proctor, a former administrator and teacher at Milton Academy, The Hotchkiss School, and Middlesex School. This program takes place on Zoom and registration is required. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/vtLvDis5RoyubAixS-ZtvQ#/registration>.

Tai Chi at the Library
Tuesdays in December, 11:30 am to 12:25 pm
Join Master Yao-Wah Chan for beginning Tai Chi. He has over 40 years of experience teaching throughout New York City and Westchester, and

is trained in multiple Chinese disciplines. Tai Chi is a series of slow, gentle, and meditative body movements that can help you reduce pain, increase flexibility, improve balance, and cope with stress. These classes are walk-ins that do not require preregistration.

Fiber Fridays
Every Friday, 1-3:30 pm
Love to knit or crochet? Gather your needles, hooks, and yarn, and join us every Friday afternoon for an informal needlework group for adults and teens. Knitters, crocheters, and needle point enthusiasts of all abilities are welcome, but please note that no instructors will be present.



NOON Year's Eve Countdown
Wednesday, December 31, 11 am-12:30 pm
Welcome the new year with the entire family. We'll have coloring and other activities for kids. And, for those of us who won't be staying up until midnight, we'll have a countdown at twelve o'clock noon complete with noisemakers and silly hats. This event will take place indoors.

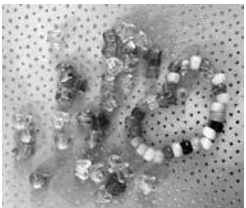
Crafty Families: Special Winter Break Edition
Join our resident artist/instructor Sara Mallach from Crafty Adults for special Winter Break crafts for the whole family. This program is for adults and children five and up. Registration is required.



• Monday, December 22, 6:45-7:45 pm-Polish Jezyki Paper Stars. Register at <https://calendly.com/pelhamlibrary/crafty-adults-december-paper-stars/2025-12-22T18:45:00-05:00?month=2025-12&date=2025-12-22>



• Monday, December 29, 6:30- 7:30 pm-"Knitted" Miniature Pom-pom Hats. Register at <https://calendly.com/pelhamlibrary/crafty-families-knitted-hats/2025-12-29T18:45:00-05:00?month=2025-12&date=2025-12-29>



Kids Craft: Bracelets
Tuesday, December 30, 3:30-4:30 pm
We're making sparkly bangles and bracelets to celebrate the New Year in style! This program is for children ages four and up and no registration is required.



Musical Adventures at the Library with Concordia Conservatory
Thursday, December 11, 10:30-11 am
Join storytellers and musicians from Concordia Conservatory for this special Thursday Morning Story Time! This event is made possible by the sponsorship of the Conservatory Music Outreach Fund. Registration is not required, but this is a popular program and spaces fill up quickly.



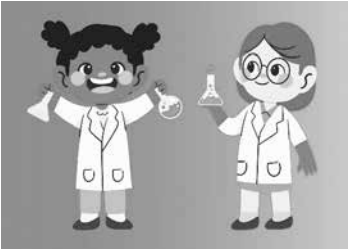
Lego Club!
Wednesdays in December with a special holiday break edition on Friday, Dec 26, 3:30-4:30 pm
Join us for an hour of open Lego play at the Library! This program is for children ages six and up, and will take place in-person at the Library. Registration is not required but an adult must accompany the child.



Canine Story Time
Join Lisa and her furry friend Freckle from The Good Dog Foundation for a special kind of Story Time. This time, it won't be adults reading to kids: it will be kids reading to dogs! Young readers ages six and up can sign up for 10-minute sessions, during which they will be able to read

to Freckle, Lisa's adorable canine companion. This will give kids a safe space to become comfortable reading out loud. To reserve a spot, join us at the Library on the day of the program, and see the librarian at the reference desk to sign up for your 10-minute session. We will start accepting reservations in person at 3 pm (not earlier!). First come, first served.

Homework Help
Thursdays in December, 3:30-4:30 pm
Pelham Memorial High School students will be available to provide children in grades K-6 with help completing their homework. Participants should bring their own study materials. This is a drop-in program. First come, first served.



STEM Story Time by Pelham High School Student
Join us for a special STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Story Time and craft! This program is for children ages five and up. Registration is not required, but please arrive on time: first come, first served.

Outdoor Story Time
Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30-11 am
Join us for our popular Story Time for infants and toddlers outside on our front lawn. Story Time is designed to enhance early literacy skills and features diverse children's books in which all children can see themselves represented... plus we have a lot of fun! Please bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times. Story Time will be held outdoors throughout the year, but will be cancelled on days when the temperature is extreme, or if it is raining. You may call the Library when we open at 10 am to inquire.

Save The Date: Christmas Tree Sale to Support Local Charitable Causes

Huguenot Memorial Church's Annual Charitable Christmas Tree Sale will be Saturday, December 6 starting at 8:00am.

For sale: Fraser fir trees in all sizes, decorated and undecorated wreaths, poinsettias, swag, and pine roping. Visit with Santa in the library, shop the holiday market, and warm up with some hot chocolate and coffee! Checks, cash, and credit cards accepted.

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 8am – while supplies last
Huguenot Memorial Church
901 Pelhamdale Ave
Pelham, NY 10803
Phone: (914) 738-3488

Proceed recipients will include Hope Community Services in New Rochelle, The Midnight Run, and Family Services of Westchester. Come catch the holiday spirit and help support these local causes.

Ex-Officio Board Member

PMHS senior Nick DeGennaro was recently sworn-in as the newest ex-officio student representative on the School Board. Nick joins junior Emerson Jerabek in providing an important student voice at Board of Education meetings. During the student board member report, Emerson spoke about several recent activities at the high school, including halloween activities, the administration of the PSAT, a 9th grade team-building event and the science research program. Thank you to Nick and Emerson for volunteering to serve in this important role.



The Junior League of Pelham Launches “Love Pelham” Homesick Candle Collection

The Junior League of Pelham (JLP) proudly announces the launch of its Love Pelham 2025 campaign, a celebration of community spirit designed to bring neighbors together while raising funds to support local initiatives.



Rosemary, Marine, Jasmine, Sandalwood, and Sea Moss.

Beautifully packaged and locally inspired, these candles make the perfect holiday gift for hosts, teachers, friends, and neighbors.

When you donate to Love Pelham,

The Love Pelham initiative honors the heart of the town, the people, places, and spirit that make Pelham special. Each year, JLP unites residents through projects and fundraisers that reflect what the community values most: generosity, belonging, and shared purpose. Funds raised directly support Junior League programs and partnerships that enrich life in and around Pelham, including the Woodland Park Playground, Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle, and many others

Introducing the Love Pelham Candle Collection: Your hometown, your scent. For the first time ever, the Junior League of Pelham has partnered with Homesick to create two exclusive, custom-made candles inspired by the community. Available as a gift with a \$50 donation, each candle captures the essence of Pelham life. For a \$90 donation, donors will receive both scents.

Love Pelham Candle: Fresh & Cozy Scent: A welcoming blend that captures the warmth of home, think neighborhood strolls, cozy gatherings, and that unmistakable Pelham charm. Scent notes include Fresh Air, Water Lilies, Amber, Cinnamon, Patchouli, and Vanilla.

10803 Candle: Calm & Coastal Scent
A serene, breezy fragrance inspired by Pelham’s shoreline, parks, and tree-lined streets, the perfect way to bring calm to your home or gift to someone special. Scent notes include Lavender,

you’re not just buying a candle, you’re investing in your community. Every dollar raised helps fund local programs, support youth development, and empower the next generation of community leaders. Together, we’re building a stronger, more connected Pelham for all.

Donate to the Love Pelham campaign today: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/junior-league-of-pelham-love-pelham>

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Ellis O. Moore Jr. Awarded Third Paul Harris Fellow by Pelham Rotary

Rotary Club of the Pelhams presented a third Paul Harris award to Ellis O. Moore Jr., a member of the club since 1981, at a luncheon meeting on Nov. 5.

This award recognized his many years of support and work to raise funds for the annual \$20,000 Rotary Scholarship presented to a graduating PMHS senior in June. His two other Paul Harris Fellow awards were for other work

“Service Above Self,” the mission of members of Rotary International.


Mr. Moore was president of the local Rotary Club from 1984-85. He grew up in Pelham and was a football star at Princeton University. His business career has been with The Westchester Group at Morgan Stanley.

The Paul Harris Fellow award continues the legacy of Rotary’s founder, Paul Harris, and recognizes individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.



Left to right: Rotary Scholarship Committee Chairman Kevin Falvey, Rotarian Ellis Moore and Pelham Rotary President Bob Rendon

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Pelham’s Own Carolina Gengo and Antonio Ciacco Trio Bring “A Swinging Christmas” to NYC

Pelham residents and renowned jazz performers Carolina Gengo and the Antonio Ciacco Trio are set to ring in the holiday season with a special performance, “A Swinging Christmas,” at the iconic New York City venue, Don’t Tell Mama.

The show, featuring Gengo’s festive vocals and Ciacco’s acclaimed jazz arrangements, promises to be an evening of holiday cheer and superb music. Local fans are encouraged to make the trip into the city to support the talented Pelham artists.

Event Details

- Who: Carolina Gengo with the Antonio Ciacco Trio
 - What: “A Swinging Christmas” performance
 - When: Saturday, December 20th at 7:00 PM
 - Where: Don’t Tell Mama, 343 W 46th St, New York, NY
- Ticket and Venue Information**
- Doors Open: 6:15 PM
 - Admission: \$25 per person
 - Minimum: \$20 (Must include 2 drinks) per person
 - Payment: CASH ONLY
 - Dining: Food Menu Available
 - Reservations: Recommended and can be made at donttellmamanyc.com

Pelham continues to be a home for world-class artists, and “A Swinging Christmas” is an excellent opportunity for the community to see their neighbors shine on the New York stage.



Samantha Bonanno, Kiran Schwaderer and Julia Powers Named Rotary Scholars of the Month



left to right: Rotary President Bob Rendon, Scholars of the Month Kiran Schwaderer, Samantha Bonanno, and Julia Powers and PMHS Assistant Principal Dr. Kerri Titone

Rotary Club of the Pelhams recognized PMHS seniors Samantha Bonanno, Kiran Schwaderer and Julia Powers as Marilyn Stiefer Scholars of the Month at a luncheon meeting on Nov. 5.

The four students were introduced by PMHS Assistant Principal Dr. Kerri Titone as follows:

Samantha Bonanno—udentis active in Science Research, theater, and music. In our Science Research program, she has completed internships at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine including research in the Biochemistry Department and Departments of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Samantha is also a founding member of the band 7th Avenue, performing vocals and bass, and a member of a number of musical theater companies, including Sock ‘n’ Buskin, Artistree, Sandbox, and SOOP - having performed in 19 productions over the past five years. She is a member of National Honor Society and the Science, English, and Math Honor Societies, and is founder and co-president of the PMHS Philosophy Club. Samatha has also been chosen as an alternate for two years running for NYSSMA All State Chorus.

Kiran Schwaderer- is Vice President of the National Honor Society and member of five additional academic honor societies. Kiran is Vice President of Pelham’s chapter of HOSA, which is the Health Occupations Students of America, and is active in the Biology Club, Interact Club, and No Place for Hate. She has also played on the varsity softball team. Kiran served as a research assistant at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She is Executive Editor for the Pelham Examiner, teaches flute, is a Spanish tutor and is active in the Reformed Church of Bronxville, participating in Youth Group, singing in the choir, and volunteering. She also plays the harp.

Julia Powers- is a member of the National Honor Society as well as five additional academic honor societies. Julia is an accomplished student of Italian, earning a gold medal in the National Italian Exam and serving as president of the Italian Club. Julia is also active in the Do Something Club, the DIY Club, the Culinary Club, and Peer Leadership. Julia has been awarded the Yale Book Award and the Smith College Book Award, and she has been named as PMHS Student of the Month two separate times. Julia plays both basketball and soccer, and she is captain of the varsity soccer team. She also works with children, including at Tig & Me, Dani Lee’s, and for Pelham Recreation.

In addition to its Scholar of the Month program, the local Rotary club will award a \$20,000 scholarship in June. All PMHS seniors are eligible for the scholarship. Applications will be available through the PMHS Guidance Department.

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

Junior League of Pelham Unveils New Native Butterfly Garden outside of Woodland Park Playground, Fostering Community and Climate Resilience



as an outdoor learning space for residents, especially children, to understand the importance of native ecosystems and environmental sustainability. The JLP will be installing educational signage about the garden and initiating other forthcoming projects in the park, including a bioswale, in 2026.

The JLP invites all residents to visit and enjoy this beautiful new community resource, but asks that they refrain from walking on the garden bed as the plants are growing.



Pelham is now home to a native butterfly garden that will add vibrant color and beauty to the park throughout the seasons.

This new community resource, located outside of the Woodland Park Playground, is a part of the Junior League of Pelham's (JLP) larger initiative, which included revitalizing and modernizing the playground equipment earlier this year. The project, led by the JLP in collaboration with the Village of Pelham, aims to enhance the village's environmental sustainability and climate resilience while also promoting community well-being.

"Seeing this garden come to life was a truly rewarding and community-building experience," said Allison Anderson, Chair of JLP's Sustainability Project. "This garden is a beautiful testament to what we can achieve when we work together to support local biodiversity and create public spaces that benefit all residents."

The garden was realized through a fun, collaborative, and educational effort that brought together volunteers and organizations from across the community. This significant collaboration included local partners such as the Village of Pelham Sustainability Advisory Board, the Environmental Coalition of the Pelhams (EcoPel), and the Pelham Girl Scouts and Pelham Boy Scouts.

The garden was professionally designed with native plants and the installation was supervised by Dominique Biondi, a local habitat restoration ecologist and sustainable landscape specialist. The native plants support the park's ecosystem by providing an essential habitat and nectar sources for native pollinators, including monarch and swallowtail butterflies. Furthermore, their deep root systems help prevent soil erosion and manage stormwater runoff. Because they are adapted to the local climate, native plants require less water and fewer fertilizers and pesticides, making them a more sustainable and cost-effective choice for park maintenance and contributing to the park's climate resilience.

The butterfly garden will also serve

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how they are the foundation for all future growth. When food is lacking, adapt, and thrive is compromised before preschool even begins. Hungry toddlers who struggle with language acquisition, in children who are slow to learn, the setbacks are not only measurable in studies, they are visible in classrooms. The link between early food insecurity and later outcomes is not coincidental. Children may struggle to regulate emotions, may have more difficulty forming relationships. These early disruptions ripple outward across their lives, affecting their relationships, and their long-term potential. A toddler who does not learn to learn the way their peers do. A preschooler who grows up in poverty but from the stress and confusion of living with instability, unable to explain what they feel or the strategies to cope with the signals of deeper struggles tied to unmet needs. A child too young to speak is already being shaped by the environment. In a place like Westchester, the presence of such early food insecurity, and in food pantry lines or speak out about their struggles, the vulnerability is greatest, because the consequences are compounded. A child who enters kindergarten already behind begins to fall further behind. A child who learns in their earliest years to cope with stress into every new experience. And as the National Association of Public Health Association Network show, these outcomes are strongly associated with cognitive and socio-emotional development. It is not just about the environment — it is about shaping the trajectory of a child's life. The consequences fall on children who are most vulnerable, and rely entirely on the adults and systems that support them. The damage of early food insecurity is inevitable. The damage of early food insecurity is support they need when it matters most. Resilience is not just about food; it provides more than calories; it provides the foundation for healthy development. A well-fed toddler is more emotionally, more engaged in play, and more resilient. A baby whose parents do not have access to food and formula or groceries grows up in a state of food insecurity. A child can flourish. Each meal provided to a child in their earliest years, in emotional health, and in the promise of a bright future. The impact of these earliest years has an outsized impact because it is the foundation for all future growth. The impact of these earliest years is therefore not just about the child's own lifelong disadvantages before they are born, but the ones extend outward across families and communities. Parents are relieved of one of their greatest fears, bonding, and building stable households. A child is ready to learn, reducing the gaps that can be filled. Communities commit to protecting the youngest from hunger, actively creating healthier, more resilient generations. The delays, behavioral problems, and diminished potential, what it really means is lost potential, untapped potential, and the places that can be changed. So while it is painful to see the children most at risk from food insecurity, it is equally important to act. These outcomes are not written in stone; they can be changed. Food insecurity may create delays, but it can be overcome. Resilience, but nourishment builds resilience. Every bag of groceries aimed at families with the youngest children is an investment in a brighter future tomorrow. By choosing to act, we can ensure that no parent has to watch a baby cry from hunger, that no child is seen as solvable as food insecurity. And we can prove, once and for all, that every child deserves the greatest protection, the strongest support, and the best future. The Association Network's 2021 study makes clear what families and communities face: food insecurity is not simply a hardship of the present, it is a predictor of later outcomes. Food insecurity before the age of three were substantially more likely to experience delays in school, and poorer socio-emotional development as they grew up. Food insecurity, and maternal depression, which means the presence of food insecurity in diminished outcomes. In other words, hunger is not just one factor fully explains away. Teachers often see the impact of food insecurity in language, struggling with focus, and in social skills. They note higher stress responses, developmental delays, and challenges. Parents themselves often feel that their children fall behind or wrestle with the challenges of food insecurity. These findings show that food insecurity is just one problem

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CHILDREN WHO BEFORE AGE 5 COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND IMPAIRMENT

A close-up portrait of a young child with dark, curly hair and large, expressive eyes, looking directly at the camera. The child has a slight smile and is wearing a white garment. The image is a high-quality, professional photograph with soft lighting, emphasizing the child's features.



Each, it is a disruption to the entire process of growth. It slows emotional development that is shaped by stress instead of security, where the littlest ones carry the silent cost of unmet needs, direct and undeniable. Young children who do not get enough attachments, and may exhibit behavioral challenges as a result, not only their readiness for school but also their health. A child who receives enough consistent nourishment cannot focus on learning in a household where food is scarce may act out out of frustration and anxiety. And unlike older children, they do not yet have the words to explain it. Their cries, their tantrums, their quiet withdrawal. Behind every one of these moments is the knowledge that, by circumstances outside of their control, their basic need for hunger is often hidden. Infants and toddlers who experience food struggles, so their needs are less visible. Yet the ripple effects of food insecurity at this stage extend far beyond the immediate cause of nutritional deficits may never be fully understood. That home is marked by scarcity may be evident. Studies from the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics are consistent: food insecurity brings about delays, behavioral challenges, and cognitive deficits. It is simply about being hungry in a household where stress is an entire childhood. The tragedy is that the child is too young to advocate for themselves, and so they wait around them for protection. And yet, the damage to their security can be prevented if families are able to ensure reliable access to food during the first three years of life. The stability and security that are essential for a child is not only healthier physically but also emotionally better able to form strong attachments. Parents who have to worry constantly about food in their household where stress is lower, the child is a young child is an investment in brain development of a stronger future. Every intervention that we can cause this is when the brain is most plastic and is being laid. Ensuring food security for a child, from meeting immediate needs, it is about the ripple effects begin. The ripple effects of supporting the child's communities. When young children are exposed to anxieties, allowing them to focus more on their own. When toddlers grow up secure, they are less likely to widen into lifelong inequities. And when a child experiences hunger, they are not only preventing harm to themselves but generations. A statistic like "more likely to show lower socio-emotional outcomes" may sound like a distant promise, and childhoods forever altered by circumstances. We acknowledge that children under three are at the most important to remember that this harm can be prevented. They are shaped by whether or not communities ensure food security creates opportunity. Hunger may be a daily struggle of groceries, every stocked pantry, every support system investment not only in preventing hunger today but also in ensuring that no child's earliest years are defined by lack. No toddler enters preschool already behind because of food, and for all, that the littlest ones — the most vulnerable at the full measure of our care. The Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics have observed for years: food insecurity in the home predicts worse future outcomes. The research found that children who are most likely to show measurable cognitive delays, more behavioral challenges, and more. These associations persisted even after controlling for income. Food insecurity itself, independent of other struggles, was a dominant factor. During the first three years leaves a unique and damaging imprint on a child. Evidence firsthand: young children entering preschool with food insecurity having more difficulty managing emotions. Peer-reviewed research shows developmental delays, and early markers of behavioral challenges. We feel the weight most acutely, watching as our children face challenges that should never have been there. It matters because they strip away the stability that matters, among many and prove it is a simple truth that demands urgent intervention. Food insecurity is not only about whether a child has enough to eat today but about whether they have enough tomorrow. And they need leaders who understand that children, those who are most vulnerable, must be the first to receive the most. Addressing hunger. By ensuring that every child has nutrition during the first three years of life, we are not only ensuring their physical health, we are also building blocks of their emotional, behavioral, and cognitive growth that will last a lifetime. It is the most powerful course of action we can take to ensure a brighter future for all.

FOOD INSECURITY CAN SHOW BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS, COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT



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Calendar of Events

Holiday Lights at Crawford Park
December 6, 2025 at 3:30pm - 6:30pm.
Come enjoy the family-friendly warmth and holiday cheer you've come to expect from this joyful community event. Tree lighting at 5:00pm. Selfies with Santa, great food and holiday snacks, craft activities and amazing live holiday music are just a few reasons why you don't want to miss out.

West Harrison 20th Annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration
Friday, December 5, 2025 at 7pm.
West Harrison Village Green
Refreshments will be served and enjoy holiday entertainment. Visit with Santa and Frosty.

Winter Coat Drive for Hope Community Services
Through December 5, 9am - 2pm
The Manor Club & Knights of Columbus Pelham Council 4413 are organizing a Coat Drive for Hope Community Services in New Rochelle. Donate coats of all sizes, in clean and good condition, for men, women, and children (kids' coats especially needed). Drop off donations at The Manor Club, 1023 Esplanade, Pelham. 914-738-1528 email: themanorclubofpelham@gmail.com

The Met's Christmas Tree and Neapolitan Baroque Crèche—a beloved holiday tradition—is on view in the Medieval Sculpture Hall (Gallery 305) through January 6, 2026. The towering 20-foot blue spruce is adorned with a host of cherubs and angels. More than 70 additional figures at the base represent the three elements of Nativity scenes that were traditional to 18th-century Naples: adoring shepherds and their flocks, the procession of the three Magi, and spirited peasants and townspeople. Enhancing the display are nearly 50 charming animals and background elements—such as the ruins of a Roman temple, several quaint houses, and a typical Italian fountain—that create a dramatic setting for the Nativity.

In honor of Hanukkah, a magnificent silver menorah made in 1866–72 is on view in The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Galleries (Floor 1, European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Gallery 556) through January 6, 2026. Created for the Great Synagogue in Lviv (present-day Ukraine), the ceremonial lamp—which is cast, chased, and engraved with elaborate motifs—is one of the largest silver Hanukkah lamps known. The menorah is on loan from The Moldovan Family Collection. The eight-branched Hanukkah menorah commemorates an important moment in Jewish history: the triumphant Maccabean revolt against the oppressing Seleucid Empire and the reconsecration of the Jewish Holy Temple in 165 BC. The lamp's eight branches refer to the miracle in which the last vessel of oil, which should have lasted only one day, kept the temple menorah lit for eight days to allow for the Temple's reconsecration.
The Met Fifth Avenue, 1000 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/>

The magic of the holidays returns as Lumina – A Magical Light Experience once again transforms Harvest Moon Farm & Orchard into a dazzling winter wonderland. Now celebrating its fifth season, Lumina features over half a million glowing lights in an immersive, walk-through display where families can continue the cherished tradition of returning year after year to celebrate the spirit of the season. More information and ticket information can be found here www.luminahm.com Guests can indulge in seasonal favorites including fresh apple cider donuts, toasty s'mores, hot cider, and festive holiday drinks and treats while taking in the sights and sounds of this one-of-a-kind experience, perfect for family outings, date nights, and holiday celebrations alike. Lumina – A Magical Light Experience runs through December 30, welcoming guests from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM on weekends and select weekday evenings. Tickets are available online at luminahm.com

St. Paul's Church National Historic Site
897 South Columbus Avenue, Mt. Vernon
914-667-4116 www.nps.gov/sapa
(These are live programs at the site, and we welcome and encourage in-person attendance, but some of them will also be offered as livestreams through shared platforms. Please register for the livestream through the website, under Calendar. No reservations required for in-person attendance at the site. Attendance is free.)
Sat., Dec. 6, 1 PM. Daniel Conant, and associate, perform an hour of classical guitar music, including seasonal selections.
Sat., Dec. 13, 12 Noon. Join us for the annual Wreaths Across America event, honoring service members buried at St. Paul's, part of the nationwide commemoration.
2:30 PM. Enjoy an hour of holiday music, and other selections, performed by Pamela Sklar on flute and Joyce Balint on mandolin.
Sat., Dec. 20, 1 PM. Acclaimed organist Kathryn Jones continues a great St. Paul's tradition with a holiday performance on the historic Erben pipe organ, accompanied by outstanding soprano singers.
Sat., Dec. 27, 1 PM. A Bronx-based, community church acapella group performs songs in honor of the holiday season and the approaching New Year. Schedule is Subject to Change.

ModernMedieval Voices
A Midwinter Feast: An Enchanting Journey Through Eight Centuries of Holiday Music
Thursday, December 18, 2025, 7:30 pm
Church of St. Luke in the Fields,
487 Hudson Street, NY, NY
A program promising to be a moving and luminous holiday experience — a perfect antidote to the winter doldrums and a cherished tradition for lovers of early and new music alike. Tickets purchase online: <https://gemsny.org/event/modernmedieval-voices/>. A holiday program of music from the British Isles, featuring beloved English medieval and Renaissance carols, including Angelus ad Virginum, Good People All, and Green Groweth the Holly. Also included are new arrangements of some traditional favorites including In the Bleak Midwinter, The Coventry Carol, and The Holly and the Ivy. More info at www.modernmedieval.org.

New Rochelle YMCA and Mount Vernon Resource Adult Center Announce New Partnership to Support Senior Wellness



The New Rochelle YMCA (NRYMCA) and the Mount Vernon Resource Adult Center (MVRAC) are proud to announce a new partnership dedicated to enhancing the health, wellness, and quality of life of Mount Vernon's senior community.

"We are thrilled to announce such a meaningful partnership between the Mount Vernon Adult Resource Center and the New Rochelle YMCA. This collaboration represents a shared commitment to uplifting and empowering the senior community of Mount Vernon. Through this alliance, our seniors will gain greater access to enriching programs designed to support their physical, emotional, and social well-being—ensuring they live life to its fullest potential," said New Rochelle YMCA CEO Jennifer Ryan Safsel.

This collaboration will bring YMCA-led fitness, wellness, and educational programs directly to the Resource Center, offering seniors greater access to opportunities that promote active living, social connection, and overall well-being. The partnership will also help participants determine whether they qualify for free YMCA membership through their health insurance plans, such as Silver Sneakers® and Renew Active®.

The programming will include low-impact fitness classes, such as stretch and movement sessions, Zumba Gold, and the evidence-based "Walk with Ease"

program, along with ongoing wellness and social engagement opportunities. It is truly inspiring to witness organizations come together with purpose and compassion.

"The New Rochelle YMCA brings a wealth of experience and heart to this partnership, and we are proud to stand alongside them in service of our elders. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant future for Mount Vernon's senior residents," stated Serapher Conn Halevi, Director of the Mount Vernon Adult Resource Center.

"The partnership between the New Rochelle YMCA and the Mount Vernon Armory Community (MVARC) reflects the very best of what our communities can achieve together. As someone who has spent a lifetime advocating for Mount Vernon families, I am proud to see organizations joining forces to expand opportunity, strengthen wellness, and uplift the people we serve. This collaboration is not just a program partnership—it is a commitment to building a healthier, more connected future for all," stressed Ruth Hassell-Thompson, New Rochelle YMCA Board Member and Former New York State Senator, Mount Vernon.

The next NRYMCA-led fitness event at MVRAC will be on Thursday, December 11 with Angela Hultberg for Zumba® Gold. Hope you will join us. For more information, visit nrymca.org or give us a call at 914-632-1818.

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Estate Planning for Tangible Property



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

When people think about estate planning, they often focus on major assets like real estate, investment accounts, and life insurance policies. However, tangible personal property—items such as jewelry, artwork, collectibles, furniture, vehicles, and family heirlooms—can carry both emotional and financial value. Planning for how these possessions will be distributed after death is an important yet often overlooked part of a comprehensive estate plan.

These items may or may not have high monetary value, but they frequently hold deep sentimental significance. Disputes over tangible items are common among heirs because personal meaning can outweigh market worth. A grandmother's wedding ring, for instance, might cause more tension than a bank account because of its emotional connection.

One way to handle tangible assets is through a personal property memorandum. This document, referenced in your will or trust, allows you to list specific items and designate who should receive them. Unlike a will, which typically requires formal execution to make changes, a memorandum can usually be updated more easily without legal formalities. This flexibility makes it ideal for items that may change hands, be sold, or be newly acquired over time. However, it is important to note that in New York a personal property memorandum is not legally binding, and it simply shows the Decedent's wishes regarding their tangible personal property.

Another option is to distribute tangible personal property through specific bequests in a will or trust. A specific bequest names a particular item and the individual who should receive it. For example:

"I give my diamond engagement ring to my daughter, Jane Doe."

"I give my antique piano to my nephew, John Doe."

By including language like this, you remove ambiguity and give your executor clear legal instructions. These specific bequests are binding and enforceable under your will or trust, ensuring that your wishes are carried out as you intend.

It's important to describe each item clearly to prevent confusion or disputes. Include identifying details—such as brand names, serial numbers, or distinguishing features—especially for valuable or similar-looking property. If you later sell or give away an item that you've listed in your will, your estate plan should be updated to reflect that change. Photographs are another excellent way to clearly illustrate which tangible personal property you are describing.

Tangible personal property should be coordinated with the rest of your estate plan. For example, if valuable items are part of a trust, ownership may need to be formally transferred to the trust to avoid probate. Additionally, specific items left in a will should align with the terms of any trust or beneficiary designations to prevent contradictions. Items with significant value—such as rare collectibles—should be documented carefully for estate valuation purposes.

Tangible personal property estate planning is more than just deciding who gets what—it's about preserving family relationships and honoring sentimental ties. By creating a detailed memorandum, communicating clearly with loved ones, and integrating personal property decisions into your estate plan, you can reduce the risk of disputes and ensure your possessions end up exactly where you intend.

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.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Sparkling Holiday Dining & Events

The 5th annual New Rochelle Holiday Market 2025 at New Roc City, 29 LeCount Place, will run Nov. 28 through Dec. 14th., 4-8 pm weekdays, and 12-8 pm weekends. There are holiday vendors and fun for all. For info: www.newrochelleny.gov/1842/NRNY-Holiday-Market

The White Plains Holiday Market brought to us by White Plains BID, returns December 6th through the 17th with 40 regional craft and food vendors. It takes place on Court St. between Main & Martine St. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday; to 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. For info: <https://wp-bid.com/events/holiday-market/>

If all this makes you hungry, here are some nearby dining suggestions for everyone in the family...

ALEX'S BAR & GRILLE, NORTH WHITE PLAINS

The handsome dining room is split into cozy sections with Mediterranean clay-colored banquets and plush beige curtained windows. Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj offers big cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/Continental fare. Check out such specialties as: Pan Fried Calamari with hot cherry peppers, Linguini alle Vongole, a delicious fresh Branzino prepared tableside, classic Veal Parmigiana, grilled Filet Mignon, NY Sirloin Steak, a hefty Rib Eye, or the Pork Chops. Alex's Bar & Grille, 577 N. Broadway, N. White Plains. 914-358-1444 www.alex577.com

BEECHMONT TAVERN, NEW ROCHELLE

I like vintage pubs and taverns. I recently got back to the Beechmont Tavern, across from IONA University in New Rochelle. It has been around since 1928, they say, and proprietor Rob Hayes keeps the place warm and buzzing. We ordered their popular traditional chicken wings, a Gael burger and fries, and a summery goat cheese and pear salad. We shared. All were great. A special shout out to the staff. They were friendly and on the spot. We will be back. Beechmont Tavern, 750 North Ave., New Rochelle. Open 7 days. 914-636-9533 www.beechmonttavern.com

TRATTORIA VIVOLO, HARRISON

Cited by Forbes Magazine, Chef-owner and personable host Dean Vivolo serves his robust regional Italian cuisine out of a vintage diner just across from Harrison's Metro-North station. Sit at the counter, tuck into a booth, or take a table in the rear greenhouse and enjoy the surprising contemporary and traditional flavors emanating from his kitchen: tasty thin-crust pizza; Crostino di Polenta topped with wild mushrooms, gorgonzola, and tomato sauce; Linguini Nere with

bay scallops; Grilled Lamb Chops; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; and wonderful Spaghetti alla Vongole. Fine wine list. Sparkling lights in the evenings. Seasonal outdoor patio. Free parking. Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-835-6199 www.trattoriavivolo.com



JACK'S BAR & RESTAURANT, EASTCHESTER

Owner Shane Clifford and his friendly crew serve delicious finger foods and generously plated specialties. Chef/partner Brandan Donohoe's modern Irish American kitchen come great burgers, decadent Short Rib Mac N' Cheese, crusty pizzas out of their wood-fired oven; freshly made salads; Buttermilk Chicken Sandwich; Berkshire Pork Chops; Jack's Lamb Shank. Their full Irish Breakfast at brunch is a winner. Sticky Toffee Pudding for dessert is a must! The same group own Jill's in Mamaroneck. Jack's Bar, 219 Main St., Eastchester. 914-652-7650 www.jackseastchester.com

TORCELLO RISTORANTE, LARCHMONT

Imer Raci and his veteran team reimagined the former La Riserva into a lovely setting for the Italian classics. Named after an island off the coast of Venice, this kitchen turns out such winning dishes as: colorful Mozzarella Caprice; Risotto Di Funghi with porcini; Linguine alle Vongole; Veal Chop Parmigiana; classic Rack of Lamb; and delicious Pollo Torcello, topped with applewood bacon and melted fresh mozzarella in a light bourbon mushroom sauce. Raci had spent years working for the former Giambelli in Manhattan, and Valbella in Old Greenwich, CT. Open 7 days for dinner starting at 3:30 p.m. Bar/cocktails. Happy hours Wed. through Fri. 3:30-6 pm. Outdoor patio. Free parking. Torcello, 2382 Boston Post Road, Larchmont. 914-833-1118 www.torcellolarchmont.com

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

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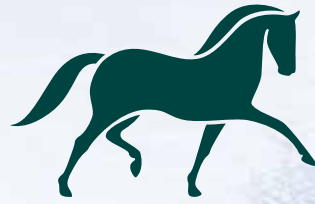
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