

The Pelham Post



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Tentative Budget Discussed at Pelham Manor Board Meeting



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Manor Mayor Jennifer Monachino Lapey opened the March 9th Board of Trustees meeting, mentioning that a public education campaign by American Automobile Association (AAA) Northeast Community Outreach Program was initiated in Village Hall, "Road Safety Starts with You."

"We are also visited Siwanoy and Prospect Hill schools to speak to the children about pedestrian safety, crossing streets properly, especially bicycle safety," Lapey added.

Fire Chief Michael Greco stated that Westchester County Association of Fire Chiefs, coordinating with NYS Fire, FDNY and Westchester County Department of Emergency Services are planning to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States on July

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Comprehensive Reports Presented at Town Board Meeting



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Town Supervisor Theresa Mohan opened the March 2nd Town Board Meeting, beginning with February 2026 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Report by Councilmember/Deputy Supervisor Maura Curtin.

According to Curtin: EMS calls totaled 98; Average Response Time, 6.1 minutes; On Scene Time, 17 minutes; Transport Time, 13 minutes; Turn Around Time, 29 minutes. Call Volume by Municipality: Pelham, 40; Pelham Manor, 38; Eastchester, 11; and seven in Tuckahoe.

"We are still taking residents to hospitals that they request, primarily New Rochelle, Westchester, NewYork Presbyterian Westchester; White Plains Hospital; Jacobi; Mount Vernon and Einstein. A resident with a heart condition was taken to Mount Sinai, NYC and there were four calls on I-95," Curtin concluded.

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Pelham Art Center Announces Heart of Gold Spring Fundraising Gala

Pelham Art Center is pleased to announce its annual Spring fundraiser, Heart of Gold Gala, will take place on Friday, May 15th from 7-11pm at Split Rock Golf Club in the Bronx, NY. All proceeds from the event's auctions will directly support Pelham Art Center's art education



for all ages, exhibitions, public programming, scholarships, and operations. Passed hors d'oeuvres followed by a fancy dessert and dancing will go hand in hand with live and silent auctions offering noteworthy packages and experiences, along with high-spirited, artful entertainment throughout the evening. This year, Pelham Art Center is proud to honor Sona Davidian and Dr. Anne Frost at the Heart of Gold Annual Gala.

Sona Davidian is a pillar of the Pelham Art Center – in a community of devoted supporters, she stands out for her exceptional service. The freshly renovated and revitalized Pelham Art Center we know today is a direct result of her efforts. She served two six-year terms on the Pelham Art Center Board, one in the 1990s and more recently 2018-2024. She led the board as Chairwoman and was an active committee member of the recent Capital Campaign that enabled major improvements to the building in 2024 and one undertaken in the 1990s. As the head of the Pelham office of Compass, the top real estate firm in Pelham, Sona has sponsored a number of Pelham Art Center programs, including this year's We Are Family event. Her dedication to Pelham Art Center's Board and activities, along with her consistent leadership and guidance, has greatly benefited the organization and helped advance its mission.

A veteran real estate agent, Sona has twice broken the record for listing and selling the highest-priced home ever brokered in Pelham. Sona's contributions extend far beyond her professional achievements. She was recognized as a "Woman of Distinction" by Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and County Legislator Jim Maisano, and in 2025 she was honored as "Person of the Year" by The Danny Fund for her contributions to the charity, which provides financial, emotional, and advocacy support for children with catastrophic illness or injury.

continued on page 4

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Comprehensive Reports Presented at Town Board Meeting

continued from page 1

Councilmember Kristen Burke said that the Court received a Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) \$7400 grant approval for security cameras and they are still trying to obtain a grant for bullet-proof glass.

Councilmember Michael Jenks noted that the Library Outside Story Time for children is on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and on Friday mornings, weather permitting.

Tai Chi is on Tuesday mornings; and Mah Jongg is held on Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 p.m. LEGO Club is on Wednesday afternoons along with Homework Help, Thursday afternoons.

Ukulele for beginners is on Thursday

evenings. Fiber Fridays encompass knitting and crochet.

Jenks added that the library will hold “Wild and Crazy Facts about Mushrooms” on Saturday, April 4th at 11:00 a.m. and stressed that NYS Budget Deadline is Wednesday, April 1st, urging citizens to advocate more library funding.

Councilmember Kara McLoughlin said that senior activities include weekly yoga, exercise, bingo and card games. Pickleball activities are being held at Level Fitness.

Finally, Supervisor Mohan disseminated the Financial Report. Total Appropriations: \$7,835,504; Amount to be Raised by Taxes: \$3,896,526; and Appropriated Reserves, \$350,000.

Tentative Budget Discussed at Pelham Manor Board Meeting

continued from page 1

4th.

The Fire Department also participated in “Read Across America” at the Prospect Hill School, with firefighters Santino Esposito, Alfonso Migliarini and Nicholas Senerchia.

According to Village Manager Lindsey Luft, the Department of Public Works (DPW) was quite active in February with two significant snowstorms. “We repaired four streetlights, repaired a traffic light and patched some potholes. We also attended a Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council meeting.” The Board adopted the Fire and DPW Reports.

Luft reviewed the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27: the Allow-

able Tax Levy Increase, 2.86%, \$430,308; Proposed Tentative Tax Levy Increase, 2.85%, \$430,030; Homestead Tax Levy, \$12,424,590; Change from FY 25-26, \$642,609, 5.45%; Non-Homestead Tax Levy, \$3,069,792; and Change from FY 25-26, \$163,788, 5.64%.

“We replaced a fire engine in 2023. Solar panels have been added to Village Hall, plus sanitary sewer upgrades. We are strategically replacing our light vehicles, including our police vehicles and hotbox. Our Catch Basin Cleaner will be arriving next month.

Luft concluded that \$80,000 was allotted for paving as well as \$26,000 for Cyber Security.

Village Mayor, Board of Trustees Present Updates



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Village of Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen called the March 10th Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to order, beginning with Trustee Allison Anderson listing new Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) members Divya Bendre, Adam Levenson, Brian Papa, Liza Schaeffer and Carole Upshur to be sworn in at the next Board meeting. “As the sustainability liaison on the Board of Trustees, I will be Chair of the SAB,” Anderson noted.

Trustee Krystal Howell presented an update on the PTA Council, regarding pedestrian safety, working with Pelham Manor Deputy Mayor/Police Commissioner Breda Bennett to get bicycle helmets through a County-wide initiative. Howell reached out to Legislator Terry Clements to obtain funding. Howell also pointed to ID Badges to help track missing children.

Regarding the Pelham Fire Department, Howell said that there was a fire in a vehicle parked in a driveway outside a home and a house fire. She noted that the Fire Department stressed that smoke alarms should be in every home.

Howell then mentioned that the Council on the Arts will be showing collected artwork and is inviting the public to submit artwork, to be displayed in Village Hall.

Trustee Don Otondi is looking forward to meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and will report on the results at the next meeting.

Administrator Chris Scelza said that Department of Public Works (DPW) will collect leaves through April 30th. “Residents are asked to place only leaves curbside; all other organics must be bagged,” Scelza stated.

In the Mayor’s Report, Mullen remarked that the DPW is addressing potholes, starting with the main roads. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PHP Partners regarding the new owners of the Picture House and 163 Wolfs Lane was terminated; it was nonbinding. There is no role for the Village to play.

Following the Mayor’s Report, the appointment of Kenneth Shirreffs to the Planning Board was approved, term expiring in December 2031.

Pelham Art Center Announces Heart of Gold Spring Fundraising Gala

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Pelham Art Center also proudly honors Dr. Anne Frost for her exceptional support of and commitment to Pelham Art Center’s core mission of “Art for All.” As founder and President of Project Community, one of Pelham’s longest-standing nonprofit organizations, Anne has personally championed numerous collaborative programs between Project Community and Pelham Art Center, such as Be the Influence and HomeTalks: Secrets Behind the Tech, that have engaged local youth through innovative art-based expression and creative and social-emotional learning. Her dedication reflects the values at the heart of Pelham Art Center’s mission and exemplifies how, by working together, we can expand opportunities for many and make an even greater impact on our community.

Over the course of her illustrious career, Dr. Frost’s work through Project Community — a cornerstone of Pelham’s social and emotional wellness network — has positively impacted the well-being of thousands of children, teenagers, families and schools for more than four decades.

At this year’s gala, live and silent auctions will offer an opportunity to purchase anything from original artwork to gift certificates galore – including special weekend getaways, world-class museum experiences, entertaining theater tickets, and more. Not only do auction winners get to enjoy the best our community has to offer, but local businesses and artisans have an opportunity to expand their reach to an engaged audience of arts lovers by contributing items that exemplify their business or brand.

The spring gala’s annual tradition of having local artists, designers, and creators interpret the theme of the event will

continue, with inventive tablescapes reflecting the Heart of Gold theme. A new gala event format will feature passed hors d’oeuvres followed by a fancy dessert amidst these inspirational tablescapes. Party-goers are invited to round out the night dancing and mingling under the stars at Split Rock’s outside terrace. Special entertainment for the night will include energetic tunes spun by award-winning DJ Stephen Byfield.

Interim Executive Director at Pelham Art Center Nancy Mazzei offered: “Our theme, ‘Heart of Gold’ for this year’s gala is a dedication to our 2 honoree’s Sona Dividian & Anne Frost. While public funding and individual giving have become highly unpredictable, Anne and Sona instead pushed for more workshops, camps and program partnerships with Pelham Art Center. Sona and Anne’s understanding of utilizing art as a tool to inspire and help people has added a dimension to what the art center does while supporting us in turbulent times. Both these fantastic women truly have “Hearts of Gold” that reach far beyond giving. I cannot wait to honor them both.”

In addition to co-chairs Board President Christopher Dlutowski and Jaime Wright, this year’s host committee includes Board Chair Julia Fuller, Michelle Acosta, Fred Gallo, Carly Glick, Sonika Gupta, Gilyana Jones, Nancy Mazzei, Kristin Moore-Gantz, Michele Westrick, Alison Wiesenmaier.

Help Pelham Art Center nurture and celebrate the innumerable “Hearts of Gold” in our community by buying your tickets, sponsoring or donating today! To do so, visit the following link: GAPAC2026.givesmart.com.

New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert Convenes Westchester County Mayors to Champion SEQRA Reform in State Budget

Westchester County mayors convened in New Rochelle last week to call for the inclusion of Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed modernization of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in the enacted FY27 New York State Budget. The proposal is currently a central component of Governor Hochul's "Let Them Build" agenda to accelerate development of housing and other critical categories like clean-energy production in order to deliver affordability across the State.

Mayor Ramos-Herbert was joined by Mayor Justin C. Brasch of White Plains, Mayor Chance Mullen of the Village of Pelham, Mayor Vivian McKenzie of Peekskill, and Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard of Mount Vernon, all of whom underscored their commitment to increasing housing affordability for their communities and supporting a strengthened, thriving future for their municipalities. The mayors urged the need for SEQRA modernization to remove unnecessary delays for projects that have been proven to have no significant environmental impact, enabling municipalities across the state from urban hubs to rural towns to deliver efficiently while minimizing taxpayer cost.

"In New Rochelle, we've spent the last decade realizing our vision for this city and community: that is, a city where longtime families can stay, build a life for themselves and their families, and access spaces that inspire," said



From left to right: Mayor Chance Mullen (Village of Pelham), Mayor Vivian C. McKenzie (Peekskill), Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert (New Rochelle), Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard (Mount Vernon), Mayor Justin C. Brasch (White Plains)

New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert. "To accomplish this vision, we led with our New Rochelle Model, which streamlines approvals, offers targeted incentives, and outlines a form-based code that expedites projects, all to deliver tangible impact. However, we cannot do this work alone. For far too long, electeds have been committed and eager to deliver the changes that drastically improve lives, but are held back by unnecessary bureaucracy and slow restrictions. With the Governor's proposal for a modernized SEQRA, we're cutting that red tape so we can deliver the housing New Yorkers need"

bert pointed to New Rochelle's streamlined housing processes as a model of success. Over the past decade, the City has greenlit more 11,000 new housing units—a 37 percent increase in its apartment stock from a decade prior—helping to stabilize rent prices. Mayor Ramos-Herbert noted this progress demonstrates what is possible when municipalities are empowered to provide for their communities instead of spending resources on unnecessary, lengthy procedures.

"When SEQRA was first created, it was done for all the right reasons," said Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen. "Government should

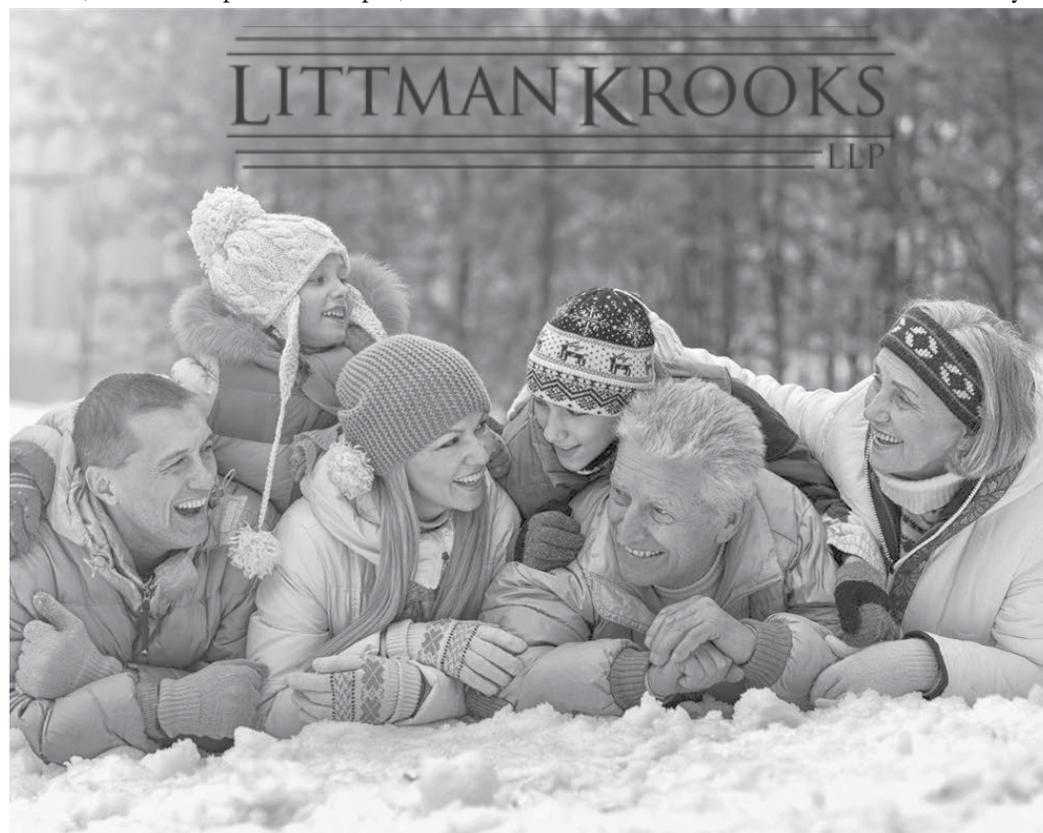
Earlier this year, the Governor unveiled SEQRA reform as a critical piece of her "Let Them Build" agenda, focused on expediting categories of projects that do not have adverse environmental impacts, including infill housing, transit-oriented development, and green-infrastructure projects.

As part of the day's convening, Mayor Ramos-Herbert

always be thoughtful, and careful to avoid causing harm. The environment should be protected. Impact should be mitigated. Progress must be planned. Over the years, though, what began as a framework for protecting people from harm has often become a framework for protecting the status quo. In far too many cases, SEQRA has become a defensive and duplicative exercise, where even public projects that are obviously positive get subjected to unnecessary costs and delays that ultimately get passed on to all of us as consumers and taxpayers. Reform is essential to meeting the needs of the people we serve, and we cannot continue to protect the status quo. I commend Governor Hochul for pursuing smart reforms."

The Governor's proposal is currently under consideration as part of ongoing state budget negotiations. While the Executive Budget includes a broad framework for SEQRA modernization, the recent 2026 One-House Budget Resolution has applied narrower criteria and additional procedural requirements that stands in contrast to Governor Hochul's version. Local leaders are urging state lawmakers to adopt a more comprehensive version to ensure communities across New York can benefit from reduced cost and thoughtful growth as those in New Rochelle have.

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The Danny Fund Annual Gala

The Danny Fund held its annual gala on February 7, 2026 at the Surf Club in New Rochelle. Despite the record-breaking cold weather, a crowd of 250 people came out to celebrate the evening's honorees, Michael J. Volpe and Phillip Kiamie, both Pelham residents and long-time supporters of The Danny Fund. Proclamations were presented to the honorees by Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, County Legislator Terry Clements, Town Supervisor, Theresa Mohan, Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen and Pelham Manor Trustee Breda Bennett. Congressman George Latimer also attended and shared a video of his address to the US Congress on January 9, 2026 regarding The Danny Fund.

The theme of the evening was "Game Night" and guests enjoyed music, a silent auction and music and dancing with DJ Ryan (fill in this plank). CBS-New York Correspondent, Tony Aiello was the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

For thirty-two years The Danny Fund has helped children and families facing catastrophic illness. They continue to be grateful for all of the support it receives, particularly from the Pelham community.



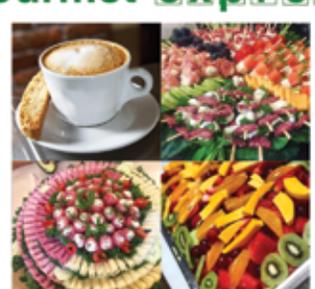
Honoree Phil Kiamie (right), his wife Annette and Phillip, Jr. (left)



Honoree Michael Volpe

The Danny Fund adoptee Lucas and his family with board member and liaison Jessica Hynes and John Hynes.

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The Danny Fund co-presidents Maureen and Anthony Borsella with Congressman Latimer.

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2026 SPRING HOME & GARDEN IMPROVEMENT

Start Planning Now for a Thriving Spring Garden

(Family Features) While winter weather puts outdoor gardening on pause in most parts of the country, the colder months offer a perfect opportunity to begin preparing for a lush garden come springtime.

With a little creativity, and some extra time spent creating a plan, you can set yourself on a path toward success before the growing season even begins.

Assess Your Space and Research Ideas

Evaluate your current garden, taking note of what worked well last season and where improvements can be made. Use this downtime to sketch an updated layout, research companion plants and decide which fruits, vegetables or flowers you want to grow next based on what did (or didn't) work last spring.

Build an Updated Blueprint

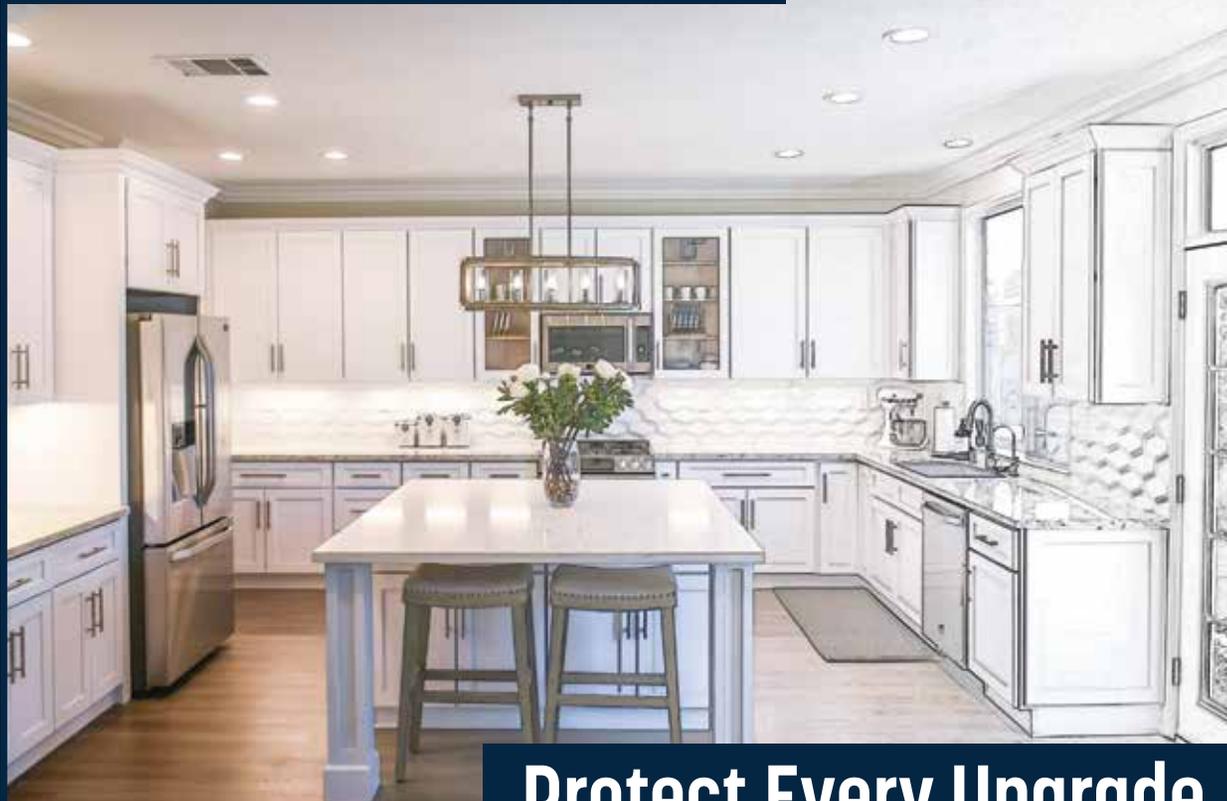
Winter is the ideal time to upgrade your garden design and make tweaks for efficiency. Use the offseason to consider crop rotation patterns for optimal soil health as well as ways to maximize your space such as raised beds, trellises or containers. You can also make a list of materials needed for any new features you may be adding, such as an irrigation system, and map out their placement so you're ready to build as soon as the weather allows.

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prepare your garden beds by adding compost, leaves or organic matter in late winter, ensuring nutrients are available when spring arrives. Also remember to test your soil's pH level now, which can help guide your fertilization plan.

Start Seeds Indoors

If you're eager to get your hands dirty, consider starting your seeds indoors. Early seed starting gives plants a head start, allowing you to transplant stronger seedlings outdoors when temperatures warm.

Get Organized

Use the slower pace of winter to clean and sharpen your garden tools, sort through leftover seeds and make a supply checklist so you're ready to dig in when warmer days arrive.

Find more advice to get your garden ready to burst to life in spring at eLivingtoday.com. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Create a Cozy Outdoor Space with a Backyard Firepit

(Family Features) A firepit can serve as a warm and inviting backyard retreat, perfect for roasting marshmallows for s'mores or stargazing while wrapped in cozy blankets. Before you can share time around the firepit with loved ones, however, consider these tips to elevate your outdoor space.

Choosing the Right Design

When it comes to building a DIY firepit, the design you choose can significantly impact the aesthetics and functionality. From classic stone pits to modern metal designs, the options are nearly endless. Think about the size and shape as well. Circular designs are traditional and encourage conversation while square or rectangular pits offer a more contemporary look.

Gathering Materials and Tools

Essential materials include bricks, stones or metal parts for the structure, as well as gravel or sand for the base. Fireproof materials are a must to ensure safety and longevity. You'll also need tools such as a shovel for digging the base, a level to ensure even construction and adhesive or mortar for binding materials together. Depending on your design, you may require a metal fire ring, grill grate or mesh cover.

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Create a Cozy Outdoor Space with a Backyard Firepit

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Keeping Safety in Mind

Safety should be your top priority when building and using a backyard firepit. Always place your firepit at least 10 feet away from any structures, trees or flammable materials. Make sure the area is clear of dry leaves and other debris that could catch fire. Consider installing a spark screen to prevent embers from escaping and always keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby.



Enhancing Ambiance with Seating and Lighting

Creating a cozy atmosphere around your firepit involves more than just the fire itself. Comfortable seating is essential for making your outdoor space inviting. Choose weather-resistant chairs, benches or DIY log stools arranged in a circle to foster conversation. Ambient lighting from string lights, lanterns or solar-powered path lights can elevate the mood and extend the usability of your firepit into the evening. Consider adding citronella candles or torches to keep insects at bay while enhancing the ambiance.

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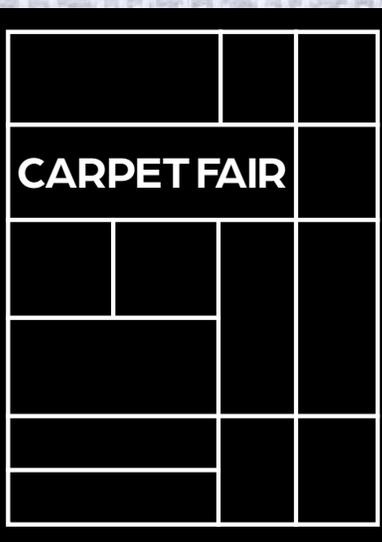
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Simone Development Companies Announces Young Perspectives: Art by Students from the Five Boroughs Exhibit at The Gallery of ARTful Medicine

Simone Development Companies announces that The Fine Art Program and Collection at Montefiore Einstein, in partnership with Studio in a School, presents Young Perspectives: Art by Students from the Five Boroughs, the new exhibit at The Gallery of ARTful Medicine. The gallery is located in the lobby of Simone Development's Hutchinson Metro Center's Tower One at 1250 Waters Place in the Bronx.

"We are very proud to host this latest exhibit at The Gallery of ARTful Medicine," Joe Simone, president of Simone Development Companies. "The Fine Art Program and Collection at Montefiore Einstein and Studio in a School have once again joined forces to create a wonderful exhibition showcasing the talent and creativity of young students from across New York City."

Young Perspectives showcases dynamic works of art created by New York City students from all five boroughs. During the 2024-25 school year, the young student-artists, whose works are displayed in this exhibition, participated in Studio in a School's visual arts programs, where they learned to express themselves through the language of art. "Celebrating the Bronx," a unique portion of the exhibit, features a mural created by Bronx students that now permanently hangs in Montefiore's Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Audiology.

"Montefiore Einstein is happy to share that we are continuing our partnership with Studio in a School. Our two organizations have benefited from working with each other," said Jodi Moise, Director of The Fine Art Program and Collection at Montefiore Einstein. "Through the art that students have created, we and our patients are consistently reminded that art is more than just a visual medium, and that it can bring a smile to your face, inspire and aid in our patients' healing process."

Young Perspectives: Art by Students from the Five Boroughs illustrates the progression of children's artistic development from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. The works on view demonstrate that students throughout New York City can produce high quality artwork when they are afforded access to high quality instructors and materials.

Simone Development Companies is a privately owned, full-service real estate investment firm specializing in the acquisition, development, and management of healthcare, mixed-use, retail, office, industrial, and residential properties. The company's reach extends across New York City and its suburbs including Long

Island, Westchester County, Orange and Fairfield Counties and New Jersey.

Over nearly five decades, this third-generation, family-owned business has built a portfolio exceeding 7 million square feet. The organization's vertically integrated team manages every stage of the project lifecycle, from finance and construction to leasing and property management. Simone Development Com-

panies is set apart by this comprehensive approach, a commitment to long-term asset ownership, and a proven track record of transforming vacant and underutilized sites into vibrant developments that elevate communities.

Learn more at <https://simonedev.com/>



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- Hilda Monaghan Porter, RN, PhD Support Award
- Anthony Senerchia Memorial Service Award
- Judge Richard Daronco Civic Leadership Award
- Philip J. Colicchio Leadership Award

For applications:

pelhamcivics.org/community-awards



All Pelham student applications must be submitted via the Pelham Civic Association Community Awards webpage. For more information, please visit the detailed FAQ section at pelhamcivics.org/community-awards

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



Events at the Pelham Public Library



Wild and Crazy Facts About Wild Mushrooms
 Saturday, April 4, 11 am-12 pm
 Explore the diverse and captivating world of wild mushrooms! This all-ages presentation, led by experienced mycophile Lisa Solomon, will delve into the surprising variety of colors, shapes, sizes, and even smells found in fungi, challenging common myths along the way. Participants will learn to identify major mushroom types and their defining characteristics, discover essential gear for forest foraging, and review safety rules for collecting and cooking edible varieties. The session will also cover emerging frontiers in mycology: how fungi can help save the world, and will provide connections to local amateur clubs, field guides, mobile apps, and on-line identification communities. This program is open to adults and families. Registration is suggested. Click here to register.



The Battle of Pelham with Town Historian Arthur Scinta
 Monday, April 13, 7-8 pm
 Join us for a lecture by Pelham Town Historian Art Scinta and view our new exhibit: "The Pells in the Revolution: A Family Divided." The lecture will be held on April 13 at 7 pm You may stop by anytime after April 13 to view the exhibit, which includes a cannonball fired during the Battle of Pelham!

Crafty Adults: Embossed Foil Bookmarks
 Monday, April 20, 7-8 pm
 Join our resident artist/instructor Sara Mallach this month as we make stunning embossed foil bookmarks. Using simple techniques that date back to ancient civilizations across the continents, we'll create pieces that are practical and beautiful. A perfect reminder of our shared history

and cultural connections over the ages. This event will take place in-person at the Library and separate registration is required for each attendee. Click here to register. Sign up early, as space and supplies are limited. Please note the time change. Class now begins at 7 pm. Please arrive on time as late arrivals disrupt the class.



Lotus Flower Lantern Workshop
 Monday, April 27, 6:30-8 pm
 Join us to get ready for Yeondeunghoe, or the Korean Lotus Lantern Festival! Learn more about Korean culture, and make your very own Lotus Flower Lantern during this extremely popular program. This program is for adults and teens ages 10 and up. It will take place in-person, and registration is required. To register, email Tash at ngross@pelhamlibrary.org. Register soon, as space and supplies are limited!



Musical Adventures for Children
 Join storytellers and musicians from Concordia Conservatory for this special Thursday Morning Story Time for children ages three and up. 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.

Registration is not required, but this is a popular program and spaces fill up quickly.



Legos
 Wednesday, April 11, 7-8 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.

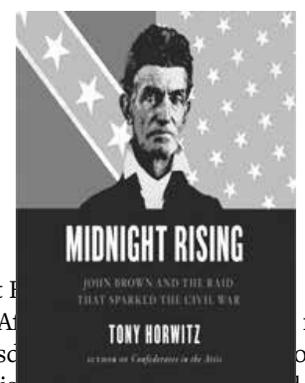


The Good Dog Foundation for a special kind of Story Time. This time, it won't be adults reading to kids: it will be kids reading to dogs! Young readers ages six and up can sign up for 10-minute sessions, during which they will be able to read to Freckle, Lisa's adorable canine companion. This will give 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 at 3 pm (not earlier!). First come, first served.

STEM Story Time by Pelham High School Student
 Saturday, April 18, 11 am-12 pm
 Join us for a special STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Story Time and craft with Pelham High School senior Aanika Roy. This program is for children ages five and up. Registration is not required, but please arrive on time: first come, first served.



Friday Evening
 April 4, 2-3:30 pm
 Love to knit or crochet? We have something for everyone. 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 bring your own materials and note that no instructors will be present. We also meet the first Saturday of the month for Stitching Saturdays where we work on our crochet community banner celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the Battle of Pell. If you are new to crocheting and would like to learn, please email Tash (ngross@pelhamlibrary.org) to make sure he is available to get you started with a mini-lesson.



Adult Book Club
 The Adult Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 pm to discuss Midnight Rising, John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War by Tony Horwitz and on Thursday, May 7 at 7:30 pm to discuss Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng. The 2nd-Friday Book Club will meet on Friday, April 10 at 10:30 am to discuss The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald and on Friday, May 8 at 10:30 am to discuss Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks. To join, email library@pelhamlibrary.org.

Standalone Trusts vs. Sub-Trusts



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

If you're having your estate planning prepared and want to create a trust for a child or family member, should you set up a standalone trust, or include trust provisions within your existing estate plan?

A standalone trust is a separate trust document created as its own standalone document. It is distinct from your main estate plan but can be referenced in your will or revocable living trust.

For example, your revocable trust might say that when you pass away, your assets should go into the "John Doe 2026 Trust," which was set up under a separate agreement on March 3, 2026. This separate document is called a standalone trust because it exists on its own, separate from your revocable trust.

The other option is a sub-trust, which is a trust that is written directly into your main will or revocable trust. This type of trust is not created until after you pass away. If it is created through a will, it only takes effect after the estate goes through probate, meaning it cannot avoid the probate process.

The purpose of the trust often drives whether you use a standalone trust or a sub-trust. Is it a special needs trust to protect a beneficiary who receives public benefits? Is it a descendants separate trust for one of your children? Do you want other beneficiaries to be able to see the terms of the trust?

Standalone trusts tend to be more ex-

pansive and complex, but they offer several benefits outlined below.

- Simplified Administration – Trustees may avoid showing the full estate plan to banks or financial institutions.
- Avoids Probate – Unlike testamentary trusts under a Will, a standalone trust can operate immediately upon funding without probate delays.
- Flexible Amendments – Changes can target the standalone trust without affecting your main trust.
- Facilitates Gifts from Others – Family members can contribute directly to the standalone trust.
- Comprehensive Coverage – Standalone trusts can address more contingencies than a sub-trust, without overloading the primary trust document.

A standalone trust often offers stronger protection, more flexibility, and can sometimes be easier to manage. However, whether it makes sense to create a separate trust depends on your situation, the size of your estate, and whether you ex-

pect to make changes in the near future.

If the trust's purpose is straightforward, funding is minimal, or the trust ends at a certain age then embedding trust provisions in your revocable trust or will may suffice. This keeps the plan simpler, especially if you don't anticipate major changes in the near future.

Discuss your goals with an estate planning attorney. Together, you can weigh the cost/benefit trade-offs and determine the most practical solution for your family.

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). (914-684-2100) www.littmankrooks.com

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Where to Dine After the Spring Orchid Show at NYBG!

The annual Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx runs through April 26TH. This year's colorful theme: 'Mr. Flower Fantastic's Concrete Jungle'. (For additional info: www.nybg.org) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. Here are a few great stops on the way back to Westchester...

BASILICO: This lovely dining room and bar opened 6 months ago by hospitality veterans Nick Demaliaj and Jetmir Arifaj. It is a global mix of Mediterranean/Italian/American specialties. Chef Leonardo Pavia offers such dishes as Spaghetti Bolognese, Squid Ink Linguine, Braised Short Ribs, Zuppa di Pesce, a surprising Coq au Vin, even a big juicy Wagyu Truffle Burger. Nick & Jetmir had worked previously worked at the iconic Russian Tea Room in Manhattan. Open 7 days for lunch, dinner, weekend brunch. Prix fixe lunches available. Basilico Restaurant, 142 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 914-740-5900 www.basilicopelham.com

PELHAM PIZZERIA: Pelham Pizzeria & Ristorante has been marking over 45 years in Pelham with a classic Italian American menu and first-rate pizza specialties. The display case beckons with its fresh baked pizzas by the slice: Sausage Pie with signature lumps of tasty sausage; Spinach

Pie, White Pizza, and Chicken Cutlet Pie. Many of the classic Italian American red-sauce favorites are here: Veal, Chicken, Shrimp or Eggplant Parmigiana; Homemade Lasagna; Baked Manicotti; Veal or Chicken Francese; Shrimp Scampi; Veal Marsala; and hearty Grilled Chicken with Broccoli Rabe and Potatoes. Portions are generous. Pelham Pizzeria & Ristorante, 113 Fifth Ave., Pelham. Phone: 914-738-3554. www.pelhampizzeria.com

ONE RARE STEAKHOUSE: Veteran restaurateur Harry Sinanaj of Ben & Jack's Steakhouse in Manhattan has opened Westchester's newest upscale bastion of beef at the former Zachy's Wine Shop space right in the Village of Scarsdale. The team at this handsomely designed 120-seat restaurant with sparkling bar will lavish you. From Chef Admir's kitchen come such specialties as: a daily selection of East or West Coast Oysters, Wedge Salad, Pappardelle with short ribs, classic Surf & Turf, Porterhouse for 2 or more, and Tomahawk Steak. The bar is already a hot spot. Opens at 4 p.m.; weekends from 11:30 a.m. One Rare Italian Steakhouse, 16 East Parkway, Scarsdale. 914-330-8488 www.oneraresteakhouse.com

CAFÉ DEUX: Sisters Carrie and Charlotte Denoyer premiered Café

Deux in Harrison last year, an all-day café and restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Highlights include a decadent bowl of soft scrambled eggs melded with gruyere and chives served with crusty sourdough bread. Classic French bistro fair: fresh pastries, sandwiches, entrees, and sweets including their signature 'cupped desserts' as complement their daily selection of curated coffees and teas. Cocktails, too. Jean Denoyer, their father, opened the original La Goulue in Manhattan over 50 years ago. Café Deux, 307 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-920-4110 www.cafedeuxny.com

TORCELLO: Imer Rraci and his veteran team reimaged 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. Rraci 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. E-mail: gut-reactions@optonline.net)

Feeding Westchester's "An Evening in Good Taste" Returns April 16

Feeding Westchester will host An Evening in Good Taste, its premier tasting event and largest fundraiser of the year, on Thursday, April 16, 2026. The evening will bring together the region's culinary community and hunger-relief supporters to raise critical funds for Feeding Westchester's mission to provide healthy, nutritious food to the 39% of Westchester households at risk of hunger.

Guests will enjoy food and drink from nearly 40 Westchester-based restaurants and beverage partners, showcasing the best of the county's vibrant dining scene. Proceeds from the event help Feeding Westchester source and distribute over 20 million pounds of food each year through a network of 175 partner agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, community centers, and schools across Westchester County.

The event will again take place at Savor Food Hall at The Westchester, located at 125 Westchester Avenue in White Plains. In addition to tastings from top local chefs and restaurants, the evening will feature opportunities to bid on exclusive auction items, including sports outings, travel experiences, and private dining packages.

"An Evening in Good Taste is Feeding Westchester's largest annual fundraiser and a wonderful showcase of a community that cares," said Kristine Borok, President and CEO of Feeding Westchester. "At a time when many families are struggling with the rising cost of living and increasing food prices, we are proud to celebrate great food with Westchester's culinary community, generous supporters, and the collective effort to ensure our neighbors have the nutritious food they need."

Tickets for An Evening in Good Taste are available at <https://www.classy.org/event/an-evening-in-good-taste-2026/e762678>. Early Access ticket holders may enter the event beginning at 6:00 p.m., while Patron ticket holders will be admitted starting at 7:00 p.m.

The event is produced by Feeding Westchester's Event Committee in collaboration with The Westchester, ESP Creative, and Abigail Kirsch.

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