

The Pelham Post



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NYS DOT to Adjust Signage at Boston Post Road/Esplanade Intersection

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Manor Mayor Jennifer Monachino Lapey convened the Monday, April 13th Board meeting, thanking Village Manager Lindsey Luft, “for her incredible Newsletter. We received tremendous feedback.”

Lapey noted that many Board members went to a Retirement Dinner for former Deputy Clerk Maryalice Barnett in January. Shira Davis is the new Deputy Clerk.

Deputy Mayor Breda A. Bennett attended the Pelham Little League Parade (PLL) with PLL President John Nesi. There are over 580 children playing softball and baseball this year.

Luft said that the NYS Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) will be adjusting the signage at the intersection of Boston Post Road and Esplanade. The intersection has been evaluated by NYSDOT, who will place two “Stop Here on Red”

signs on Boston Post Road, one on both approaches to Esplanade. They will also be replacing the existing sign that says “Do Not Block Intersection” with the regulation sign that commands “State Law Do Not Block Road” and will be adding reflective strips to the post to increase sign visibility.



Village Manager
Lindsey Luft

In the Fire Report, Trustee/Fire Commissioner Timothy Case noted during a recent house fire, so-called student “Fire Adjuster” tried to compel a resident to sign a form while smoke was still coming out of her home. “Do not sign anything under pressure,” Case warned.

Next, was a Resolution Declaring Home Rule Request to Extend the Village’s Red-Light Camera Program, set to expire December 1, 2026. Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (A.10722) and NYS Senator Nathalia Fernandez (S.9639) introduced bills that will extend the program to December 1, 2031. The motion carried.

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Bollin Outlines Plans for Sale of Community Church of the Pelhams

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Town Supervisor Theresa K. Mohan called the April 6th Town Board meeting to order, beginning with Public Comment by Dan Bollin, 44 Clifford Avenue, Pelham who stated that he represents Pelhamwood residents as President of the Pelhamwood Association.

“I would like to make a public comment, regarding the Community Church of the Pelhams, 448 Washington Avenue and voice our support for what we believe is a rare opportunity for our community. As many of you know, church leadership previously explored the sale of the church in 2022 and engaged a development group organized by former Village of Pelham Mayor Michael Volpe.

“The initial plan focused on pursuing a zoning change, remediating the church

and constructing a large apartment complex adjacent to the existing church structure on the current parking lot.

At that time, I led a group of concerned residents in opposition to that

plan. Our concern was not with the church, nor with the idea of a different use of the property. Rather, we believed the proposal lacked meaningful community engagement and that its scale, approximately 60 apartment units, was not appropriate for neighbors.

“We believe that vision should include mixed-use community space, something Pelham desperately needs. Ide-

ally, such an approach would preserve a place of worship, protect a local landmark, create a valuable share space for the broader community and ensure that any

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Pelham Town Supervisor
Theresa K. Mohan



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COMPASS

Pelham Education Foundation Celebrates Blue Ribbon Day and Thanks Community for Overwhelming Support

The Pelham Education Foundation (PEF) extends its deepest gratitude to the Pelham community following another successful Blue Ribbon Day on May 2nd, a cherished annual tradition that celebrates and supports the district's public schools.

This year's event once again transformed neighborhoods across Pelham, as blue ribbons adorned the homes of donors—serving as a visible and powerful symbol of the community's shared commitment to education. Each ribbon tied represented not just a contribution, but a collective investment in the future of Pelham's students.

"Blue Ribbon Day is a reflection of what makes Pelham so special," said Heena Jain, President of the Pelham Education Foundation. "We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our community and the pride our neighbors take in supporting our schools. Every ribbon tells a story of belief in our students, our educators, and the future we are building together."

Driving Impact Across Pelham Schools: Thanks to this extraordinary support, PEF continues to fund innovative programs that enhance learning experiences across all grade levels. This school year's grants include:

- **Sound System for Prospect Hill and Hutchinson:** Upgrades to aging sound systems and integration of new technology to improve accessibility and usability for school events and daily activities.
- **Clear Voices, Strong Foundations:** FM Systems: Installation of classroom audio systems ensuring all students—regardless of seating position or hearing ability—can clearly hear instruction.
- **Lunar New Year Arts Experience:** A dynamic cultural program bringing live performances and interactive learning to middle and high school students.
- **Engineering Development:** Laser Cutter: Expansion of STEM opportunities through advanced fabrication tools to support hands-on learning and innovation.
- **Making Learning Visible:** Instructional Visuals in Elementary Classrooms: Enhancing classrooms with visual tools that promote engagement, comprehension, and independence for young learners.

A Community Effort: PEF is led by a dedicated board of up to 30 members, supported by an advisory panel of faculty, administrators, Board of Education members, and student representatives—reflecting a true partnership across the Pelham

community.

"We are so grateful for the Pelham Education Foundation's continued support of our schools and are in awe of our community's incredible generosity," said Dr. Cheryl Champ, Superintendent of Schools. "Pelham's investment in our educational program is what truly sets our district apart and we look forward to collaborating with the PEF on new and engaging opportunities for our students in the years to come."

Thank You to Our Sponsors: PEF extends sincere appreciation to the many sponsors whose support helps make Blue Ribbon Day and its impact possible.

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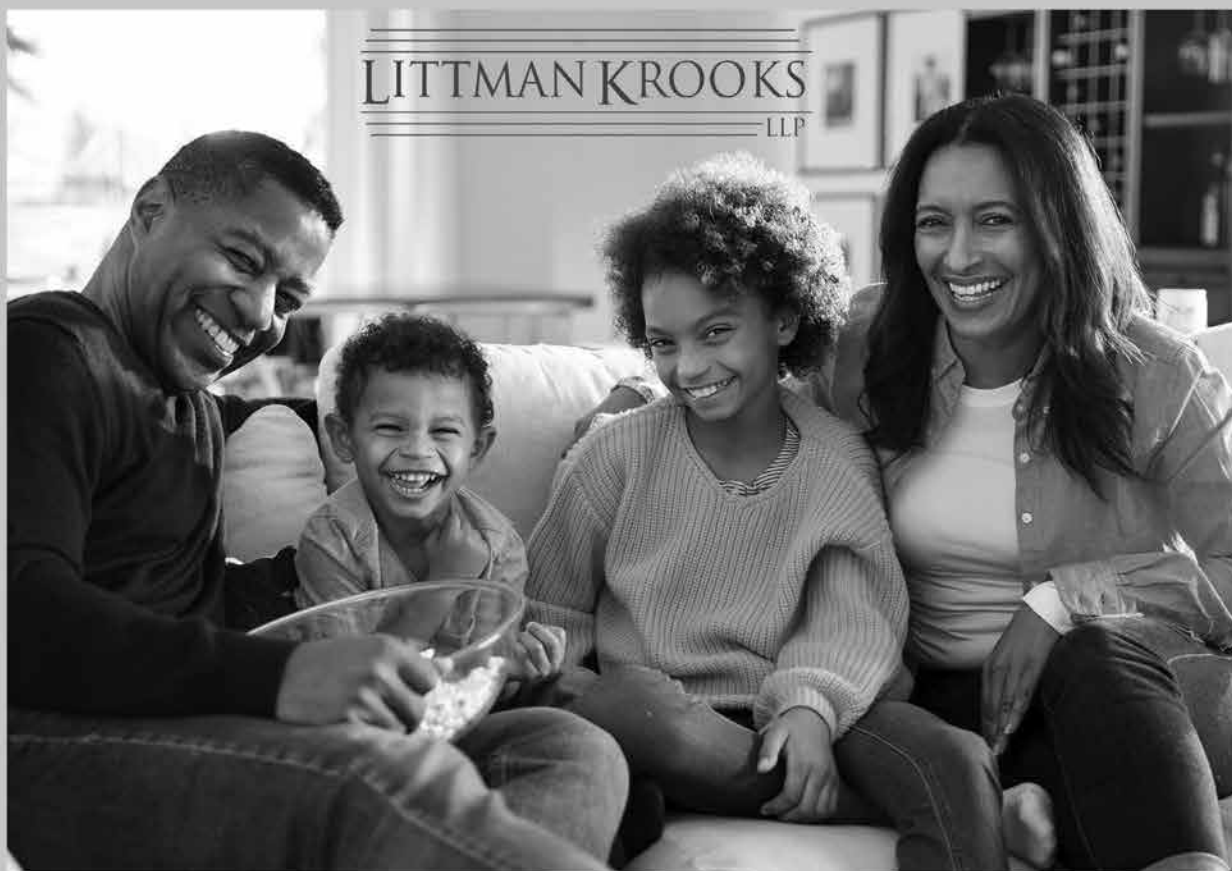
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 Jennifer Meyer, Compass Real Estate
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 Symmetry Physical Therapy
 Pelham Children's Center
 Prisco Orthodontics
 Pelham Palace
 Villaggio Ristorante & Pizzeria
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 Artistic Manner Flower Shop
 Sergios Ristorante

Continuing the Momentum: While Blue Ribbon Day marks a special moment of celebration, its impact continues throughout the year. PEF remains committed to funding innovative programs that enrich the educational experience for all Pelham students.

For more information or to support future initiatives: <https://pelhameducationfoundation.net/>

Follow @pelhamedufoundation10803 on Instagram



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Pelham250 Fall Gala: Stars, Stripes and a Revolutionary Night — A Salute to the Spirit of Pelham

The Pelham Civic Association and the Junior League of Pelham are proud to announce *Pelham250: Stars, Stripes and a Revolutionary Night — A Salute to the Spirit of Pelham*, a festive community gala celebrating Pelham's rich history of patriotism and volunteerism in the community.

The event will take place on Saturday, October 17 at the New York Athletic Club - Travers Island, and is part of the Pelham250 commemoration, marking the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Pelham, a significant Revolutionary War engagement fought on October 18, 1776, in what is now Pelham Bay Park. The battle is remembered as an important moment of resistance that slowed British forces and demonstrated the resolve of the

Continental Army.

Guests can expect a festive atmosphere with premium entertainment—including a firework display—celebrating the Town's history while supporting two of Pelham's most active volunteer, charitable organizations.

"The Junior League of Pelham is honored to partner with the Pelham Civic Association for the Pelham250. Pelham is a civic- and service-minded town with a deep reverence for the arts, culture and history. We couldn't let this milestone year pass without a proper celebration," said Ali Cheyne-Cavallaro, President of the Junior League of Pelham. "For 85 years, we've been proud to serve this community through initiatives that create lasting impact. This event is a chance

to come together, celebrate Pelham's remarkable history, and strengthen the connections that carry our community forward."

According to Pelham Civic Association President Tim Case, "This year, the Pelham Civics complete its 87th year of serving the Pelham community. I'm extremely proud of our hard-working volunteer membership who continue to work diligently year after year to raise money to support our four distinct areas of focus: the youth, the elderly, the mentally and physically challenged, and the financially needy. The Battle of Pelham

is a defining moment in our town's history and an important chapter in the story of the American Revolution. As we approach its 250th anniversary, the Pelham Civic Association is proud to partner with the Junior League of Pelham to celebrate that legacy and bring the community together. This event honors not only the history of Pelham, but also the strong civic and volunteer spirit that continue to shape our town today—we see this as the perfect culmination of Pelham's semi-quintennial festivities."

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Welcome Building Inspector Andrew Torres

Pelham Manor has experienced a transition in their Building Department as the previous employee accepted a position in a new location. They are excited to share that Andrew Torres has joined the team as their building inspector. In addition to being a certified NYS Code Enforcement Official, Mr. Torres studied mechanical and construction engineering at New York Institute of Technology and holds a plumbing license. He worked as a plumber for many years before coming to the public sector.

Mr. Torres has previously worked in the Building Department for two other municipalities in the lower hudson valley region as an assistant building inspector and a senior code enforcement officer/plumbing inspector. His knowledge in construction regulation and local zoning ordinances is strong. He is also conversant in Spanish.

Residents are encouraged to welcome Mr. Torres, and reach out to him with applications, questions, or concerns related to the Building Department. He can be reached at 914-738-8820 or buildinginspector@pelhammanor.gov.



NYS DOT to Adjust Signage at Boston Post Road/Esplanade Intersection

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It was announced that shredding will be available at the Highway Garage, 100 Sprain Road on Monday, May 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Then Pelham Board of Education member Steven Shekane said that he met with Trustee Deborah Winstead and Bronx Park Commissioner Jessenia Aponte to discuss the issue of flooding along the Bronx and Pelham border.

Shekane went on to say that advantages of planting trees on private property include roots not interfering with underground utilities, overhead branches not contacting power lines and branches not blocking roads. He suggested that Ecopel and Girl Scouts fund raise to plant 175 trees on residential property.

Bollin Outlines Plans for Sale of Community Church of the Pelhams

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evolution of the space and property is guided by a broad and inclusive set of stakeholders," Bollin concluded.

Next, Megan Garufi discussed the possibility of building an ambulance garage on the grassy area next to the Post Office. The parcel is owned by Westchester County and is zoned A3 Residential by the Village of Pelham.

In other business, a Resolution authorized the establishment of a 250th Anniversary Celebration Fund, allocating \$2000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States on July 4, 2026.

Tentative FY 2026-27 Budget Outlined



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Mayor Chance Mullen called the April 14th Board meeting to order, beginning with Trustee Allison Anderson reporting that the DPW finished filling potholes, using over 28.5 tons of blacktop and is cleaning leaves on the streets through end of the month.

Trustee Krystal Howell stated that the Fire Department recommends having fire extinguishers in homes, especially during grilling season. She mentioned that "fire adjusters" may show up during a fire and try to get homeowners to sign paperwork. "Please do not sign anything," Howell stressed.

The Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is \$20,373,083, an increase of \$1,755,414 or 9.43% over the Adopted Budget. To support the Budget, the Village tax rate for Homestead Parcels will increase by 0.33 or 3.62%. A homeowner whose home is assessed at the average Village-wide assessed value of \$1,092,441 would pay roughly \$7,386 in Village taxes in FY 2026-27, representing a \$1,040 year-to-year increase. Village government taxes represent 25% of a Pelham homeowner's property tax bill.

The Budget has two main components—revenues and expenditures. The amount to be raised by taxes, or the tax

levy, results from budgeted expenditures minus non-property tax revenues (including estimates of delinquent taxes and interest from prior years, State grant revenue and amount to be raised by tax revenue). Village tax rates are then calculated using the Grand List to distribute the tax burden.

The Village of Pelham's revenue budget is divided into eleven major service areas. Changes in the Budget from the FY2025-26 Adopted Budget for those areas of service are as follows: Real Property Tax increase, Non-Property Tax Revenue: 21.91% increase, Departmental Income: 1.46% increase, Charges: 3.33% increase, Use of Money and Property: no change, Licenses and Permits: -1.54%. Forfeitures: no change, Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss: -4.27% decrease, Miscellaneous: flat and Federal Aid: flat.

The Village's expenditure budget is divided into nine major service areas, Change in the 2026-27 Tentative Budget from the FY2025-26 Adopted Budget for those areas of service are as follows: Support: 20.43% increase, Special Items: 49.79% increase, Public Safety: -33% decrease, Transportation, -12% increase, Culture and Recreation: -93% decrease, Home and Community Services: 1.45% increase, Employee Benefits, 14.14% increase, Debt Service: 40.53% increase and Inter-Fund Transfers remain unchanged.

FY2026-27 Budget Adopted by Village



Dear neighbors,

Last month, the Village Board adopted its FY2026-27 Budget. Thank you to everyone who reached out to share priorities and concerns. This year's budget process has been particularly challenging, as we've worked to navigate rising non-discretionary expenses while continuing to invest in important village priorities. Over the last month, we held four public work sessions to go line-by-line through the tentative budget, a public hearing in early April, and we met with each department head to discuss costs, priorities, and tradeoffs. I'm writing to share the outcome of those discussions.

The Village's budget will increase by approximately 10.1% this year. Fortunately, we've seen another strong year of growth in our property values, particularly in the commercial corridor, and the home-stead tax rate will increase by just 6.18%.

Village taxes represent approximately 25% of your overall property tax bill. Your individual increase depends on a range of factors, including how your home's assessed value has changed relative to the overall tax base. The median homeowner, with an assessed property value that increased to \$981,500 this year, will see a Village tax increase of approximately \$53/month or \$641 for the year.

What's Driving the Increase

Given the complexity of this year's budget, it's important to the Village Board that residents have a clear picture of what's in it and why.

The bulk of this year's increase is driven by obligations that are not discre-

tionary. Rising pension contributions that are mandated by the state and employee health insurance costs are putting significant pressure on municipal budgets across the region. We're simultaneously absorbing the cost of a replacement ladder truck, street sweeper and other essential vehicles that were needed to replace equipment that has reached the end of its useful life, as well as the final cost of repairs and remediation of the parking lot behind the municipal center. Combined, these non-discretionary items constitute approximately 58% of this year's increase.

As outlined in the flood mitigation update I shared in March, this budget also includes a significant investment in our stormwater project (almost 30% of this year's increase). Protecting our community from flooding is one of the board's most important long-term responsibilities, and now that the project has reached the 60% design phase, this investment positions us to prepare confidently for the construction phase.

There are two additional drivers of this year's increase that reflect choices made by the Village Board during the budget review process in response to priorities raised by residents:

First, we've increased our road paving budget by approximately \$200,000 (roughly 11% of this year's increase). Combined with funds we receive from New York State each year, this brings us up to approximately \$500,000 annually. A few years ago, we directed surplus funds toward additional paving and saw firsthand how much of a difference that level of investment makes. Unlike that one-time allocation, this is now a permanent annual commitment — one that matches the funding levels recommended in the Pavement Management Report we commissioned in 2023. While this is technically "discretionary," I believe that after this past winter, the need for increased annual investment is especially clear. Maintaining our roads isn't glamorous, but it's one of the most visible ways we invest in the quality and character of the village.

The second addition to the budget includes funding for a dedicated traffic enforcement position within the police department. Residents have consistently raised concerns about reckless driving and its potential impact on students, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers — an issue that seems to have gotten worse. Increased enforcement is a long-standing request from residents, but because our police department is minimally staffed, sustained enforcement has been difficult

to achieve without incurring overtime or pulling officers from other patrol duties. This position changes that, and will allow us to increase police presence around our schools during drop-off and pickup, address downtown violations like u-turns and double-parking, and better monitor "hot zones" where residents report recurring problems. We can't be everywhere at once, but this is a meaningful step toward making our streets safer for all of us.

With the exception of the added traffic enforcement position, each department's headcount has remained flat or been cut. No other discretionary items were added to this year's budget.

In Closing

On a personal note: this is my tenth budget since first joining the board in 2017, and it is, by far, the most challenging.

As fellow taxpayers, all of us on the Village Board are acutely aware that ris-

ing costs are straining household budgets across our community. Inflation, gas prices, healthcare, everyday expenses — we're feeling it too. Municipal budgets are not immune to those same pressures, and this year's budget reflects that reality in ways that are frustrating even for those of us who put it together.

But we also believe we have an obligation to maintain and invest in the things that make Pelham such a remarkable place to live, even in difficult years like this one. Protecting our homes and streets from flooding, keeping our roads in good condition, and making it safer to walk through our village are all investments we believe are worth making.

I hope this letter helps explain our thinking. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Best,
Mayor Chance Mullen

Muscoot Farm Celebrates Mother's Day with Sheep Shearing Festival and Farmers Market Opening

This Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, families are invited to spend the day at Muscoot Farm in Katonah, where two favorite annual traditions return for a lively spring celebration: the first Farmers Market of the season and the Sheep Shearing Festival. With activities for all interests — from food lovers to animal enthusiasts — it's an ideal way to mark the occasion together.

The Sheep Shearing Festival will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., giving visitors a chance to watch Muscoot's sheep get their yearly trim in preparation for the warmer season. Guests can also enjoy spinning demonstrations, hands-on children's activities like a wool-processing station, and an informative workshop at 2 p.m. All of the farm's animals will be in their pastures and pens throughout the day.

Hayrides begin at 11 a.m. (weather permitting), with a special treat for moms, who ride free with the purchase of a child's ticket. Tickets are \$5 per person (cash, credit card or Venmo), and children ages 2 and under ride free. Visitors can also grab a bite at the concession stand, offering a variety of favorites including burgers, hot dogs, salads, ice cream and candy.

Muscoot's popular Farmers Market also kicks off its season that day, operating from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Sunday through Nov. 15. Featuring more than 20 vendors each week, the market highlights fresh produce, baked goods, handcrafted items and more, supporting local agriculture and small businesses while offering something for everyone.

Live music will round out the festivities at the Barnyard Beets stage, where Jack Grace brings his signature blend of humor and eclectic sounds, ranging from classic country and western to blues and southwestern-inspired tunes.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "There's no better way to celebrate Mother's Day than by enjoying everything Muscoot has to offer. Watching the sheep being shorn and browsing the farmers market make for a fun and memorable day for the whole family."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "Muscoot is a wonderful destination year-round, but it really shines during special events like this. It's the perfect place to celebrate Mother's Day with a mix of farm experiences and local charm."

The event is free and will be held rain or shine. Restrooms will be available on site.

Alfred B. DelBello Muscoot Farm is on NY Route 100 in Katonah. Open daily, it's a 777-acre interpretive farm dating back to the early 1900s and operated by Westchester County Parks. It offers a wide range of educational and recreational programs throughout the year. For more information, visit MuscootFarm.org or call (914) 864-7282.

NewYork-Presbyterian Mini-Grants 2026

NewYork-Presbyterian is committed to supporting local organizations that make a meaningful difference in the health and well-being of our communities. Through our Mini-Grants program, we aim to invest in small, grassroots community-based organizations (CBOs) that often work with limited resources to create lasting impact. Mini-Grants are a renewable, three-year funding opportunity, awarding \$7,500 in Year 1, and eligible for renewal of up to \$10,000 in Year 2 and up to \$12,500 in Year 3, for a maximum total award of \$30,000. Renewal of funding is contingent upon the awardee's successful fulfillment of all grant requirements.

We invite CBOs whose programming supports health and wellness for communities across NewYork-Presbyterian's catchment areas to apply, specifically: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Westchester County. Grant funds are intended to support direct program operations. This may include relevant staffing, supplies, stipends, facilities rental, and other programmatic costs. Funds may not be used for general administration, strategic planning, or travel unrelated to the program.

For more information about the grant, eligibility criteria, and grant requirements, please refer back to the NewYork-Presbyterian Mini-Grants RFP here.

We are seeking proposals from CBOs that are:

- Focused on health and wellness
- Serving under-resourced communities in NYC or Westchester County
- Committed to program sustainability and organization growth

Mini-Grants can support either new initiatives or strength existing programs. Programs must be available and open to all eligible individuals, in compliance with federal law, and not discriminate against, exclude or deny services to any group or individual on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion or other protected characteristics.

Eligibility Criteria

- Have a total annual operating budget under \$500,000
- Be a registered 501(c)(3) or operate under a fiscal sponsor
- Serve communities in Brooklyn, Queens, Lower Manhattan, Northern Manhattan, or Westchester County
- Be independent of NewYork-Presbyterian (not a hospital department, affiliate, or subsidiary).

For More Details: <https://nypcommunityaffairs.my.site.com/minigrant/s/>

Westchester County Office for Women Hosts Empower Hour

The Westchester County Office for Women (OFW) held its second webinar of the Empower Hour series featuring OFW Acting Director Catherine Borgia and guest, Patti Reyes D'Agostino, Chief of Development and Community Relations of Hope's Door. They shared a candid and, at times, deeply personal discussion about how to best support someone close to you who the victim of domestic violence or in a dangerous relationship. The conversation touched on different approaches based on whether the victim has disclosed the abuse, as well as how the closeness of the supporter's relationship with the victim impacts the approach. The dialog also focused on how to spot the warning signs that indicate someone is in trouble, and concluded with a two-part Q & A, responding to many pertinent questions from the attendees.

Borgia said: "Thank you so much to Patti D'Agostino for both sharing her experiences and for providing such useful and complete information about how to support a friend who might be a victim of domestic abuse. This conversation was both compelling and informative. We want everyone to know how to help someone you know, and the resources to access help should you need it. Remember, you are not alone. We are here to assist with compassion and confidentiality."

D'Agostino said: "There is only one person who has something to gain from silence and that's the abuser. Sharing stories and conversations, like the one today, make us aware that domestic violence knows no economic, social or racial boundaries. Its very existence changes not only those directly affected by it like children and other family members, but every member of the community."

For resources and to reach the Office for Women, call: White Plains Office weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (914) 995-5972, in Spanish, (914) 995-6581, after hours and weekends, (914) 995-2099 or go to www.WestchesterCountyNY.gov/women

Empower Hour is presented by the Westchester County Office for Women as part of our commitment to supporting, educating and uplifting women across Westchester County.

Watch the Webinar Here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA-arKV-iGM>

Hilltop Hanover Farm Kicks Off 2026 Farm Stand Season on May 7

The 2026 season at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center begins Thursday, May 7, with the opening of its farm stand and annual vegetable plant sale. Gardeners and food lovers alike can shop a diverse selection of vegetable starts – young plants ready for transplanting – available while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visitors can browse a range of seasonal offerings, including tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash, leafy greens and more. Explore what's currently available at the stand, including a full list of plant varieties.

The farm stand will operate Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., continuing through Thanksgiving.

County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "There's nothing quite like purchasing fresh produce directly from the farm where it's grown. It offers exceptional flavor and quality, while also supporting local agriculture and the hardworking farmers behind it. When residents support places like Hilltop Hanover Farm, they're investing in the hardworking farmers who keep Westchester's agricultural heritage alive and ensuring that fresh, locally grown food remains accessible for years to come."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "The farming at Hilltop Hanover Farm is exceptional, and the staff and volunteers work tirelessly year-round to ensure the highest quality produce is grown and harvested. I encourage visitors to stop by the farm stand and take the opportunity to explore everything the farm has to offer while they're here."

The farm stand accepts SNAP, FMNP, cash, credit cards and Apple Pay. Customers using SNAP, WIC, FreshConnect or FMNP benefits receive a 50 percent discount on produce and 30 percent off sourced goods.

Registration is now open for Hilltop Hanover's 2026 Farm Membership Program, a reimagined CSA. Visitors can also sign up in person during farm stand hours. Enrollment will remain open until seasonal capacity is reached. Learn more about membership options and benefits here.

For more information, contact the farm stand at (914) 862-5034 during operating hours, or email farmstand@hilltophanoverfarm.org.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center is located at 1271 Hanover Street in Yorktown Heights.

DA Cacace Inaugurates Pinwheel Garden for Victims of Child Abuse

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced the inauguration of a pinwheel garden at the Westchester County courthouse to raise awareness about child abuse, in commemoration of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

According to the National Children's Alliance, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience sexual abuse during their childhoods. In 2021, 1,820 children in the U.S. died of abuse or neglect, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Every Monday in April, members of DA Cacace's staff sold pinwheels in the lobby of the courthouse, with the aim of selling at least 407 pinwheels by the end of the month, representing the number of child abuse cases the office prosecuted in 2025.

The proceeds were donated to the Sharing Shelf of Port Chester, which provides clothes, backpacks and other necessities to low-income children in the community.

DA Cacace said: "The common observation that children are resilient overlooks the deep scars left behind by child abuse, scars that often last for the rest of their lives. Child abuse extracts a toll from its victims over extended periods of time, affecting a child's growth, cognitive development and behavioral characteristics well into adulthood. That's why it is imperative to detect and intervene in child abuse cases at the earliest possible moment, to allow child victims to restore the sense of normalcy that had been robbed from them.

"My office works 24/7 to combat the scourge of child abuse and to bring abusers to justice. In 2025, our team reviewed and investigated 6,246 reports from Child Protective Services and scheduled 151 forensic interviews at our Child Advocacy Center, which was re-accredited as a Tier 1 facility in October. We also launched a new era of cooperation with our school districts, encouraging better communication between law enforcement and mandated reporters. We will never stop in our pursuit of keeping the children of Westchester safe from harm."



COMPASS



Storybook Living, Thoughtfully Reimagined

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A storybook English cottage on one of Pelham Manor’s most coveted streets, just moments from Siwanoy Elementary School, blends charm and thoughtful design. A sunlit foyer opens to an enclosed porch, ideal as a home office or sitting room. The living room with a wood-burning fireplace flows into a formal dining room, while the kitchen offers a built-in banquette, stainless steel appliances, and an island for everyday living. The lower level features a spacious family room with a custom bar, media center, and access to a back patio. Four bedrooms and three full baths provide comfort and flexibility, with timeless details throughout, where classic style meets modern living.



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Top 1% Agent Source: OKMLS, Westchester County, Sold 2022-2025 Ranking by Agent by Volume; Top 1.5% Nationwide Source: 2022-2025 Real Trends America's Best Real Estate Professionals Ranking Individual Agent by Sales volume. Based on 2021-2024 Sales Volume; Five Star Rated Zillow Agent Source: Zillow Profile Laura Clemente current reviews are 5 stars; Laura Clemente is a licensed Real Estate Salesperson affiliated with Compass. Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.

Junior League Marks Earth Month with Hands-On Projects and Community Partnerships in Pelham

The Junior League of Pelham celebrated Earth Month with a series of hands-on, community-driven events aimed at promoting sustainability, environmental stewardship, and community connection.

On Earth Day, April 22, JLP members gathered at Woodland Park for an interactive evening focused on the local ecosystem. Participants toured the native pollinator garden created last fall, observing how native plants support pollinators and contribute to a healthier, more resilient environment.

The group also visited the future site of an upcoming Junior League project—a bioswale and rain garden planned for later this year to help manage stormwater and reduce localized flooding. Attendees learned practical ways to bring sustainable practices into their own yards, from planting native species to improving soil and water management.

The evening concluded with a volunteer service project led by EcoPel's VineSquad. Volunteers worked together to remove mugwort, a non-native invasive plant species, and plant native milkweed and red chokeberry, helping restore the



natural habitat around Woodland Park Playground.

Earlier in the month, on April 10, the Junior League partnered with a local Girl Scout Daisy troop for a youth-focused Earth Month initiative at Woodland Park Playground. League members led first- and second-grader in installing solar-powered lighting along the playground perimeter to improve safety and accessibility. The project included an interactive lesson on solar energy, giving daisies the

opportunity to learn about renewable energy before working together to complete the installation. The solar lights were donated by the local Daisy troop.

In conjunction with these efforts, the Junior League of Pelham has also launched a new "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" Community Guide, offering practical tips and local resources to help residents make more sustainable choices in their

daily lives. The guide is available at <https://pelham.jl.org/community/projects/sustainability-resources/pelham-community-recycling-guide/>.

Through these initiatives, the Junior League of Pelham promotes civic leadership through hands-on service and community partnerships, helping to build a more sustainable future in Pelham.

The Junior League of Pelham is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

Hunter K9-03 Village of Pelham Police Department

It is with deep sadness that the Village of Pelham Police Department announces the passing of Hunter, K9-03 officer, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on April 8, 2026 of natural causes. Hunter would have turned 12 years old in December 2026. He is already greatly missed by the members of his department, the community he served and especially his handler, retired Sgt. Anthony Borsella and the Borsella family.

The Pelham Police Department's K9 unit was established in 1997 with the Village's first K9-01 officer, Jocky, from Romania. Jocky served with distinction until 2004, when he passed away from a 9/11 related illness while still active in the line of duty.

Dutch, K9-02, was from the Netherlands, and served honorably from 2005 until 2015 and passed away of natural causes while still on active duty.

Hunter, K9-03 was from Budapest, and proudly served the department from 2016-2024. All three K9 officers, Jocky, Dutch and Hunter served with Sgt Anthony Borsella and were New York State certified K9 teams; trained in patrol operations, tracking, obedience, agility, criminal apprehension, and narcotics detection.

Throughout his career, Hunter worked alongside numerous local police departments, as well as New York State and Federal law enforcement agencies. Shortly after completing the academy, Hunter assisted the New York State police on Interstate 95 in his first narcotics investigation. During that operation, he successfully located 14 kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in a hidden compartment on a tractor trailer car carrier. This marked the first of many successful narcotic detections, tracking operations, and evidence recoveries during his distinguished eight-year career.

In addition to his law enforcement duties, Hunter was a valued member of the Pelham Community. He regularly participated in the Pelham Recreation Tiny Tots programs, Huguenot Vehicle Fairs and many other community events, where he demonstrated the critical role of K9 officers and helped to educate the residents—especially children about their work and capabilities.

Hunter retired alongside Sgt. Borsella on May 19, 2024 after a dedicated and accomplished career. During his retirement he enjoyed time with his family and especially loved trips to the Jersey shore, where he was able to relax and enjoy two well-earned years.

The Pelham Police Department is proud to have had Hunter serve within its ranks, and honors the legacy of all its K9 officers; Jocky, Dutch and Hunter who worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to keep the residents of Pelham safe.

Please join us in remembering K9 Officer Hunter for his loyal service, dedication and unwavering commitment to duty. We extend our condolences to Sgt. Borsella and his family.

Rest in peace, K9 Hunter.



JOIN US!

MAY 17

Project Community's COLOR RUN

Join us for a fun event to support Project Community's ongoing community and health programs. Supporting children with special needs and guiding teens through crucial decisions.

Sunday May 17, 10am - 1pm

Register now! ProjectCommunity.us

The Color Run is Back: Project Community to Host 10th Annual Run on May 17



Project Community is proud to announce the return of the Color Run, a vibrant, family-friendly event that invites residents of all ages to run, walk and connect at a culminating celebration.

Set to take place on Sunday, May 17, the race kicks off at 10am at the corner of the Esplanade and Boston Post Road in Pelham Manor. Participants will make their way through a 2.5 mile course while being doused in bursts of colorful powder along the route.

The event will feature:

- A color-filled run/walk suitable for all ages and fitness levels
- Music and food vendors at the

culminating block party at Siwanoy Elementary

- Opportunities to connect with local organizations and volunteers

Project Community is Pelham's only volunteer organization spearheaded by healthcare professionals—celebrating over 40 years of service in Pelham and beyond. The Color Run is Project Community's biggest annual event, raising critical funds that fuel the organization's ongoing community programming in support of children with special needs and teens.

Registration and sponsorship information is available here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6e->


Spring Tag Sale

The Spring Tag Sale hosted by The Manor Club at 1023 Esplanade, Pelham, NY, will be held Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, 2026, from 10 am to 4 pm each day. Entry is free. For \$5, you may enjoy early access at 9:30 am.

Shop at the indoor event for new and gently used items (no clothing). In addition to the tag sale, you will have access to a variety of vendors. If you would like to participate as a vendor, you may reserve an 8-ft table for \$50 or 2 8-ft tables for \$75.

The Manor Club is accepting community merchandise donations by appointment. All proceeds will benefit The Manor Club, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Call 914.738.1528 for table reservations or to schedule a donation drop-off.

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914-738-6569 or 738-6156
Fax: 738-6800

044ae6-04fd-4a09-a7e8-1b2a8cb7d806

Whether running, walking, or cheering from the sidelines, the Pelham community is invited to join in this exciting celebration of color, connection and impactful service.

Founded in 1985 by Dr. Anne Frost – the current President & CEO – Project Community's first program, Project C.H.I.L.D.D. (Community Help In Learning About Developmental Disabilities), has evolved into one of Westchester County's most significant

initiatives in assisting children, teens, and young adults with special needs. Its YOU&ME program also assists underserved populations by collaborating with the Pelham and Pelham Manor Police Departments to help keep young adults with special needs safe in the community. The organization's four visionary programs that provide teens with key knowledge focus on Sexual Assault, Binge Drinking, Anxiety, and Self-Awareness. You can learn more about Project Community by visiting projectcommunity.us.

thepelhampost.com

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Events at the Pelham Public Library



Crafty Adults: Polymer Clay Chickens
Monday, May 18, 7-8 pm
Flock to Crafty Adults with our resident artist-instructor, Sara Mallach, this month as we make whimsical miniature chickens out of polymer clay. This event will take place in-person at the Library and each attendee must register separately. Click here to register. Sign up early, as space and supplies are limited. Class begins at 7 pm. Please arrive on time as late arrivals disrupt the class.



Tai Chi at the Library
Tuesdays in May, 10:30-11:30 am
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, but space is limited.



Adult Hybrid Book Clubs
The After-Dark Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 7, at 7:30 pm to discuss *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng and on Thursday, June 4, at 7:30 pm to discuss *This is How it Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. The 2nd-Friday Book Club will meet on Friday, May 8, at 10:30 am to discuss *Memorial Days* by Geraldine Brooks and on Friday, June 12, at 10:30 am to discuss *Time of the Child* by Niall Williams. To join, email library@pelhamlibrary.org.

Fiber Fridays and Stitching Saturdays
Every Friday, 1-3:30 pm and Saturday, May 2, 2-3:30 pm
Love to knit or crochet? We have something for everyone.

Join us every Friday afternoon for an informal needlepoint group for adults and teens. Knitters, crocheters, and needlepoint enthusiasts of all abilities are wel-



come, but please bring your own materials and note that no instructors will be present. We also meet on the first Saturday of each 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 crochet and would like to learn, email Tash (ngross@pelhamlibrary.org) to make sure he is available to get you started with a mini-lesson.



Calling All Avid Readers: Battle of the Books
Will you be in 4th-12th grade in September 2026? If so, join us for Battle of the Books—a book-based trivia tournament for Westchester youth. The Pelham Library plans to have two teams: one for 4th-6th graders and one for 7th-12th graders. We'll compete against other teams from Westchester libraries in a Jeopardy-style format, with questions based on the five books assigned to your age bracket. Interested in joining? For the 4th-6th grade team, contact Erin at emaloney@pelhamlibrary.org; for the 7th-12th grade team, contact Kathy at kpalovick@pelhamlibrary.org. You can

also call us at 914-738-1234. Practices occur in August, September, and October with the Battle taking place on Saturday, October 24, 2026



Crafty Families: Paper Tulip Garlands
Saturday, May 9, 10:30-11:30 am
Join our resident artist-instructor, Sara Mallach, for a special

Mother's Day craft for the whole family. We'll make paper tulip garlands to decorate our homes or give as gifts to the maternal figures and nurturers in our lives. Registration is required for this in-person program! All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To register: <https://calendly.com/pelham-library/crafty-families-tulip-garlands-for-mother-s-day/2026-05-09T10:30:00-04:00?month=2026-05&date=2026-05-09>.

Save the Species
Saturday, May 9, 1-2 pm
Join us for a presentation by Girl Scout Mia Sakran about endangered animals. We'll learn about endangered species here in our own community. This program is for children in grades K-8.



continued on page 11

**Dear Pelham,
May flowers are here!
Roof leaks shouldn't be.**



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Musical Adventures at the Library with Concordia Conservatory

Thursday, May 14, 10:30-11 am

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.



The Art of Oral Storytelling: Keeping the Stories of America's Veterans Alive with Julie Sakhrani

Saturdays, May 16 and 23, 1-2 pm

Join Pelham Girl Scout Julie Sakhrani to learn about our local veterans, how to support them, and why collecting their stories is important. On May 16, learn to collect oral stories from veterans, why it's important and support the Purple Heart Project by making cards. On May 23, learn how to support our local veterans and write letters to home-bound veterans. These programs are for children in grades K-8.



Beyond the Game: Tackling Bullying in Sports with Paz Marrero

Saturdays, May 16 and 23, 2-3 pm

Come play with us! Join Pelham Girl Scout Paz Marrero to learn about playing fair and treating others with respect in sports. This program is for children in grades K-8. Girl Scouts can earn Free Play and Fun with Movement badges by attending.



Lego Club!

Wednesdays in May, 3:30-4:30 pm

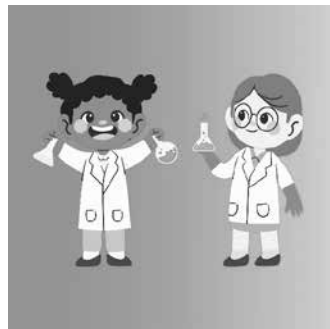
Join us for an hour of open Lego play at the Library! This program is for children ages six and up, and will take place in-person at the Library. Registration is not required but an adult must accompany the child.



Canine Story Time

Thursdays in May, 3:30-4:30 pm

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 register for your 10-minute session, email Tash at ngross@pelhamlibrary.org. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is strongly suggested.



STEM Story Time by Pelham High School Student

Saturday, May 16 and 30, 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 arrive on time: first come, first served.

Westchester County Recertified as a Bronze Climate Smart Community

Westchester County has once again been recognized as a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community by New York State, acknowledging ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Climate Smart Communities program, local governments are evaluated on actions that promote sustainability, improve energy use and strengthen resilience. Westchester County's recertification reflects continued progress in implementing initiatives that support both environmental goals and the long-term needs of residents.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "This recognition reflects the work we are doing every day to make Westchester a more sustainable and resilient place to live. These efforts are about protecting our environment while also ensuring our communities are prepared and our infrastructure is built to last."

Westchester County Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability Peter McCartt said: "This is the result of steady work across the County and strong partnerships at the local level. We are focused on making practical improvements that reduce emissions and help communities adapt, while continuing to look for new opportunities to build on that progress."

The County's sustainability efforts include improving energy efficiency in public facilities, supporting renewable energy projects, and advancing planning efforts that address climate risks such as flooding and extreme weather. By continuing to invest in these areas, Westchester County is working to reduce long-term costs and improve environmental outcomes.

Organic Yard Waste Collections Begins May 6th

The Department of Public Works will begin Organic Yard Waste Collection on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 (Village-Wide), running through October 7, 2026. Residents are reminded that to be collected, organic yard waste must be placed at the CURB in either biodegradable paper bags or an open 30-35 gallon container by 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled collection day or after 7:00 p.m. on the night before. Please observe the following guidelines:

Brush and branches:

No longer than 4 feet long with a diameter of no more

than 3 inches, tied in bundles. DO NOT tie with nylon line, tape, or metal wire.

Grass, twigs, leaves, and other loose yard waste: Place in open 30-35 gallon containers or biodegradable paper bags.

Logs, stumps, stones, dirt, fruit, seaweed, clumps of grass, treated wood chips, root balls, acorns, and other large debris WILL NOT BE COLLECTED and must be disposed of by the homeowner.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers: The Village prohibits the use of gas-powered leaf blowers from May 1st to October 14th and from December 16th to March 14th. Violations by a property owner or your lawn maintenance provider can result in enforcement action against the property owner, including a \$250.00 fine, by Village Police. Please use the attached flyer to distribute to property owners or lawn maintenance providers.



Calendar of Events

The 47th Annual Polish Heritage Festival will kick off this summer's series of heritage festivals on Sunday, May 31, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. The festivals are all from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for sitting on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free.*

This year's schedule of cultural heritage celebrations are:

- Asian-American, Saturday, June 6, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 - Albanian, Sunday, June 7, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 - Irish, Saturday, June 27, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale
- *Admission: \$5 adults; free for ages 14 and under
- African-American, Sunday, June 28, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 - Hispanic, Sunday, July 12, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 - Italian, Sunday, July 26, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 - Heritage of India, Sunday, Aug. 2, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 - Jewish, Sunday, Aug. 16, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 - Muslim Heritage, Sunday, Aug. 23, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 - Arab-American, Sunday, Sept. 13, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale

Kensico Dam Plaza is located at the north end of the Bronx River Parkway, in Valhalla. Ridge Road Park is located at 287 Ridge Road, Hartsdale

On May 31, the Bronx River Parkway will be closed for Bicycle Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. between Scarsdale Road in Yonkers and the Westchester County Center in White Plains. On June 7 and 28, July 12 and 26 the parkway will be closed from 8 a.m. to noon. On Sept. 13 the parkway will be closed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The park can be accessed via Route 22, from the north or south.

2026 State of the County Address

Wednesday, May 6

Doors Open at 6 p.m.

Speech Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Michaelian Office Building

Board of Legislators Chambers

148 Martine Ave

White Plains, NY

Watch the event live:

[WestchesterCountyNY.gov](https://www.westchesterny.gov) or [Facebook.com/Westchestergov](https://www.facebook.com/Westchestergov)

The Bach Virtuosi Festival

Three Events: May 12, May 15, May 19

Bach Virtuosi Festival Brings World-Class Performances to New York City.

Featuring The Goldberg Variations, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, the "Coffee Cantata," Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, and much more...

All events at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Tickets: \$50; free admission for students with student ID

Tickets are available in advance from Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS).

www.gemsny.org/events/bach-virtuosi-festival or call (212) 866-0468.

OR at the door.

The 2026 season at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center begins Thursday, May 7, with the opening of its farm stand and annual vegetable plant sale. Gardeners and food lovers alike can shop a diverse selection of vegetable starts – young plants ready for transplanting – available while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis. Visitors can browse a range of seasonal offerings, including tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash, leafy greens and more. Explore what's currently available at the stand, including a full list of plant varieties. The farm stand will operate Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., continuing through Thanksgiving. For more information, contact the farm stand at (914) 862-5034 during operating hours, or email farmstand@hilltophanoverfarm.org. Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center is located at 1271 Hanover Street in Yorktown Heights.

Women's History of Yonkers Walking Tour at Philipse Manor Hall



Join in for the debut of our Women's History of Yonkers Walking Tour on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.. This urban hike takes a circular route of approximately 2 miles and departs from and returns to Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site (located at 29 Warburton Ave., Yonkers).

In honor of Mother's Day weekend, we present a brand-new walking tour of downtown Yonkers focused on women's history from its earliest days to the present. We'll explore matrilineal Indigenous societies, enslavement, and Dutch women's rights, women during the American Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and into the 20th century when women's influence in public life and politics grew. See historic buildings, monuments, and the Yonkers waterfront on this engaging history hike.

The hike includes some inclines on paved walkways and lasts approximately 2 hours. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen or a hat. Tour departs promptly at 10:30 a.m., museum opens at 10:00 a.m. Museum accessible via Hudson line train, car, or bus. You can find directions, transportation, and parking information here.

Tickets are \$10/person, pay at the door. Tickets include museum admission. Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. To register, call 914-965-4027 or email philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov. If heavy rain, storms, or road closures occur, this walk will be cancelled.

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, located at 29 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY, 10701, is open for tours Wednesdays through Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Dating back to the 1680s, Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site sits near the confluence of the Nepperhan (Saw Mill) and Hudson Rivers, the site of a Munsee Lunaape village. Used by four generations of the Philipse family and worked by the people they enslaved as well as European tenant farmers, the Philipse Manor was once over 200,000 acres and helped make the Philipse family the richest in New York. Loyalists during the American Revolution, they fled to England and the Hall was owned by several individuals before becoming the Yonkers Village Hall and later Yonkers City Hall. When a new City Hall was built in the early 20th century, the house was preserved through the generosity of Eva Smith Cochran and donated to New York State to serve as a historic site. Today, Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site provides visitors with a balanced approach to interpreting the lives of Indigenous, European, and African people to understand the complex relationships that took place at the Manor from the earliest days of the Dutch Colony of New Netherland to the American Revolution and beyond. Learn more at Philipse Manor Hall's Virtual Wing at www.philipsemanorhall.com.

thepelhampost.com

Planning for Emergency Hospitalizations: An Estate Planning Perspective

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED
ELDER LAW ATTORNEY
SPECIAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR:
AMY C. O'HARA, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW
ATTORNEY

No one expects to be hospitalized suddenly. Yet accidents, unexpected illnesses, or medical crises can happen at any time. While we cannot control when emergencies occur, we can prepare for them. From an estate planning perspective, thoughtful preparation for an emergency hospitalization can reduce stress, protect your wishes, and ensure that your loved ones are able to help when you need them most.

Emergency planning is not just for older adults or those with chronic illness. Every adult should have a plan in place that allows trusted individuals to step in quickly if they become unable to communicate or manage their affairs.

Health Care Directives: Your Voice When You Cannot Speak: At the core of emergency planning are health care directives. These documents allow you to legally appoint someone to make medical decisions for you if you cannot make them yourself and provide guidance about your wishes.

A Health Care Proxy designates a trusted person to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to do so. This person should understand your values and be willing to advocate for your wishes, even in stressful situations. It is recommended to name at least one alternate agent in case your primary agent is unavailable.

A Living Will expresses your preferences regarding life-sustaining treatment, such as resuscitation, artificial nutrition and hydration, and mechanical ventilation. While not every situation can be anticipated, providing written guidance helps your health care agent know your wishes.

A HIPAA authorization should also be included. This document allows medical providers to share your health information with the individuals you designate. Without it, even close family members may have difficulty obtaining updates from doctors or hospitals.

Power of Attorney: Managing Financial and Legal Matters: An unexpected hospitalization can also interrupt your ability to manage finances or legal matters. A **Power of Attorney** allows a trusted agent to handle financial tasks such as paying bills, managing accounts, communicating with insurance companies, or handling real estate matters if you are incapacitated.

Without this document, your family may need to pursue a court-appointed guardianship to manage your affairs, which can be time-consuming, costly, and emotionally draining. A properly drafted power of attorney allows someone to step in immediately and keep your financial life running smoothly.

Create an Emergency Information Packet: In addition to legal documents, it is important to assemble a practical emergency

information packet. This packet should be easy to access and shared with key individuals. Consider including the following:

Emergency Contact List: Prepare a list of people who should be contacted in an emergency, including family members, close friends, and professional advisors. Include phone numbers, email addresses, and the order in which they should be contacted. Make sure your designated health care agent is clearly identified.

Medication List: Maintain a current list of all medications you take, including dosages, prescribing physicians, and any allergies. In an emergency, having accurate medication information can be critical to safe treatment. Update this list regularly and keep a copy in your wallet or phone.

Doctor and Medical Provider List: Include contact information for your primary care physician, specialists, therapists, and pharmacy. This helps hospital staff quickly obtain medical history and coordinate care.

Insurance Information: Keep copies of your health insurance cards, Medicare or Medicaid information, and any supplemental policies. Knowing your coverage can help your loved ones navigate billing and coverage issues more easily.

Care for Dependents and Pets: Emer-

gency planning should also address the needs of those who rely on you.

If you care for minor children, older relatives, or individuals with disabilities, create written instructions about their daily routines, medications, and key contacts. Identify who will step in temporarily to provide care if you are hospitalized. While formal legal arrangements may be necessary for long-term care, even short-term planning is invaluable during an emergency.

Do not forget about pets. Identify a trusted friend, neighbor, or family member who can take responsibility for them on short notice. Provide information about feeding schedules, veterinary contacts, medications, and any special needs. Some people include a small emergency fund or written authorization to allow a designated person to obtain veterinary care if needed.

Where to Store and Share Information: Having documents and information prepared is only helpful if they can be located quickly. Store originals of your estate planning documents in a secure but accessible location. Inform your agents and trusted family members where to find them. Consider providing copies to your health care agent and keeping digital versions in a secure, shared folder.

Many people also carry a wallet card not-

ing that they have a health care proxy and listing an emergency contact. Some smartphones allow you to display emergency contacts and medical information on the lock screen.

Review and Update Regularly: Emergency planning is not a one-time task. Review your documents and information at least every few years, or after major life events such as marriage, divorce, relocation, or changes in health. Ensure that the individuals you have chosen as agents are still willing and able to serve.

Preparing for emergency hospitalizations may feel uncomfortable, but it is one of the most thoughtful gifts you can give your loved ones. By putting clear legal documents and practical plans in place, you reduce uncertainty and ensure that your wishes are honored.

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: Outdoor Farmers Markets Reopen

Get ready for some delicious spring/summer foraging...

THE PELHAM MARKET Opens May 10th. Sundays 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Harmon Ave. & Fifth Ave. Go to Facebook, or www.pelhammarket.org

LARCHMONT FARMERS MARKET, Metro North Station at Chatsworth Ave./Myrtle Blvd., Larchmont. Saturdays, Year round. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

SCARSDALE FARMERS MARKET Sundays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spencer Place at Chase Road, near Metro-North station. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

RYE FARMERS MARKET, operates Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Rye parking lot, Theo Fremd Ave. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

WHITE PLAINS FARMERS MARKET, the popular outdoor White Plains Farmers Market is in full swing on Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It takes place on Court Street between Martine and Main Streets. www.cityofwhiteplains.com

MUSCOOT FARMERS MARKET Starts May 10. Muscoot Farmers Market, part of Muscoot Farm on Rt. 100 in Ka-

tonah, has reopened for the season. The market operates every Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. thru November. Free admission. For further info: 914-864-7283, or www.muscotfarm.org

IRVINGTON FARMERS MARKET Year Round. Main Street School Lot, 110 Main St., Irvington. Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org

PLEASANTVILLE FARMERS MARKET It will continue to operate at 10 Memorial Place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parking at the Metro-North parking lot. www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org

MOUNT KISCO FARMERS & MAKERS MARKET Every Sunday starting May 17th thru November. Kirby Plaza near Metro North. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. www.mkfarmersmarket.com

COLD SPRING FARMERS MARKET NOW AT BOSCOBEL The popular Cold Spring Farmers Market has moved to the historic Boscobel Estate Museum in Garrison. A lovely setting. It takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.coldspringfarmersmarket.org

FARMERS MARKET AT JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD John Jay under construc-

tion. The farmer's market will continue to run every Saturday thru November, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lot 2, 190 Katonah Ave., Katonah Village. First pick for members. www.johnjayhomestead.org

OSSINING FARMERS MARKET 'Down to Earth' Farmers' Market, corner of Main & Spring Streets, Ossining. Year round, Saturdays, 8:30 to 1 p.m. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

PEEKSKILL FARMERS MARKET, 1 Bank Street, Peekskill. (914-737-2780) The 2023 season will kick off on Saturday, June 6th, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. <https://discoverpeekskill.com>

CHAPPAQUA FARMERS MARKET at the Metro-North Station. Starting Saturday, May 9th. www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org

HUDSON VALLEY FARMERS MARKET, 15 Mount Ebo Road South, Brewster. Year round: Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Pelham250 Fall Gala: Stars, Stripes and a Revolutionary Night — A Salute to the Spirit of Pelham

continued from page 4

Proceeds from the event will support community-focused programs and initiatives led by both organizations, continuing their shared commitment to civic engagement and community impact.

Key Pelham Civic Association projects include the Good Neighbor Program- each holiday season, more than 150 dinners and gifts are delivered to families and children in need. Year-round they quietly provide advice, support, and economic assistance to those with economic hardship. The Help a Child, Change a Life Program assists Pelham's Elementary Schools, Middle School and High School students from financially struggling families with learning tools, skill enhancement and social support programs. For the younger children in the community, we run the annual Pelham Civics Olympics and for the high school students, we give away \$38,000 annually in scholarships to outstanding students who volunteer their time and effort for the community, in addition to running Career Workshops for juniors and seniors. For the Pelham Senior Club, they provide social programs, such as trips to see shows, and lunches throughout the year. They also support the Mentally & Physically Challenged with Special Needs through various programs. Other successful and impactful programs, projects and events include the 10K/Half Marathon, the Toonerville Music Festival, the Memorial Day Parade, a Fall Gala to honor exemplary volunteers, and a Benefit Golf Outing.

The Junior League of Pelham's current signature project is the restoration and expansion of Woodland Park on Wolfs Lane in the Village of Pelham. The first phase of the project included the restoration of existing play structures; the installation of new equipment, including more ADA accessible play options; and, the creation of a butterfly garden. The League has also committed to installing ADA accessible pathways, creating a gathering space geared towards middle- and high school-aged children and expanding sustainability features. Additional programs include the League's longstanding Ending Hunger project, which focuses on addressing food insecurity in Pelham and its surrounding communities in partnership with local nonprofits and food banks; the Sustainability Project, which works with local organizations on sustainability initiatives and works within the League to ensure eco-friendly practices; and, the League's annual Community Grant program, which awards thousands of dollars each year to deserving organizations and students in Pelham and delivers enrichment programming to PMHS students. The League also convenes an annual Community Roundtable event that brings together leaders and community members on pressing issues from a hyper-local lens.

Additional event details, including ticketing information, will be announced in the coming months.

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