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New Firefighters Graduate from The Westchester County Career Fire Chiefs Firefighters Academy

Thirty-five recruits from 12 fire departments in Westchester and beyond graduated last month from the Westchester County Career Fire Chiefs Firefighters Academy.

The new firefighters are going to work for nine departments in Westchester, two in Dutchess, and one in Orange. They were awarded their certificates before a packed house at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center in New Castle.

Deputy County Executive Joan McDonald congratulated the graduates for successfully completing the rigorous academic and physical demands of their Academy training. She noted that firefighters need a broad range of skills to handle incidents ranging from building fires to hazardous materials to rescue and recovery efforts following severe storms.

McDonald said, "To Class 01-2026, best of luck to you as you make your way in this demanding, rewarding and noble profession you have chosen. On behalf of County Executive Jenkins, I wish all of you long, safe and successful careers."

She also thanked the career chiefs, Academy commanding officers, Academy instructors, and staff from the Department of Emergency Services for preparing the new firefighters for the challenges ahead.

Other speakers who lauded the graduates were DES Commissioner Susan Spear; Fairview Fire Chief Howard Reiss and Eastchester Fire Department Lt. Dominick DiRienzo, who served as one of the Academy's commanding officers.

The local graduates and their departments are: Eastchester: Kevin Lee; New Rochelle: Michael Acocella, Rameek Boyd, Lonnie Jones, Anthony Petrone; Pelham: Anthony Romano; and Scarsdale.



County Launches Green Initiatives Repository to Help Municipalities Advance Climate Action

Westchester County has launched the Westchester County Green Initiatives Repository, a new online resource designed to help municipalities share ideas, collaborate and accelerate local sustainability efforts. The repository brings together approximately 70 environmentally focused initiatives from communities across Westchester County, creating a centralized directory of proven programs, best practices and municipal contacts to support local climate action.

Developed through a partnership between Westchester County and The Climate Reality Project – Westchester County Chapter, the repository allows users to search initiatives by category, program and municipality. The site includes key contacts for each initiative, making it easier for local governments and community organizations to connect with one another and replicate successful environmental programs.

The repository currently features initiatives across 11 categories, including electric transportation, solar, energy efficiency, clean energy, waste reduction, nature-based solutions, building and zoning codes, workforce development, clean and equitable environment campaigns, non-residential sustainability efforts and other municipally managed programs.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Westchester County has long been a leader in sustainability, and this new repository reflects our commitment to helping every municipality build on that success. Communities shouldn't have to start from scratch when developing environmental initiatives. By bringing together successful programs from across the County, we're making it easier for municipalities to learn from one another and accelerate climate action that benefits all of our residents."

Westchester County Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability Peter L. McCartt said: "The Green Initiatives Repository is a practical tool that showcases the innovative work already happening throughout Westchester County. Whether a municipality is interested in expanding electric vehicle infrastructure, reducing waste, improving energy efficiency or launching a new sustainability program, this resource provides real-world examples and direct connections to the communities leading those efforts. Collaboration is one of the most effective ways to advance sustainability, and

continued on page 5



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Village Averts Flood Damage, Suffers Tree Damage

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Pelham Manor Mayor Jennifer Monachino Lapey opened the July 20th Board of Trustees meeting, noting, “two rather large summer storms, the most recent one resulted in flooding in a lot of municipalities outside of Pelham Manor, so we are incredibly thankful to our team here and our infrastructure water mitigation efforts.

“We did experience in the more recent storm a very disheartening event, succumbing to tree damage. When the tree canopy is in full bloom, they can become waterlogged and heavy.”

Village Manager Lindsey Luft mentioned that a healthy tree did come down. “ConEd has identified a tree next to the tree that came down as a hazardous tree; they have requested it to come down as well,” Luft stated.

“This involves ConEd’s Tree and Wire Teams and they make the determination,” Lapey added. “The utilities are responsible for alerting their customers, but we try to make sure that our residents have the information as we receive it,” Lapey stressed.

Trustee Maurice Owen-Michaane remarked that as DPW Commissioner, “Pelham Manor continues to invest in the professional development of our staff. Our Village Manager and DPW Foreman Michael DiBenedetto recently participated in the New York ReLeaf Conference which strengthens our in-house knowledge of tree care, preservation and responsible forestry practices.

The ongoing training helps us protect and manage one of our Village’s most prized assets.”

Fire Chief Michael Greco mentioned that they had a brush fire, plus 27 motor vehicle accidents.

In addition, the Fire Department is acquiring a Tower Ladder truck.

Next, Luft presented the DPW Highlight of Monthly Activities for June 2026 including:

- Annual deep cleaning of the stormwater catch basins began
- Street Sweeper came
- Repaired 6 streetlights and 20 sidewalks
- Pothole repairs utilizing 2 tons of black top

Additionally, Annual Village paving efforts have begun.

Village Purchases Electric Vehicles and Riding Mower with NYSERDA Grant

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Village of Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen called the July 14th Board Meeting to order, beginning with Trustee Allison Anderson giving an update from Department of Public Works (DPW) which has been focused on storm cleanup from recent severe weather, along with street sweeping and sidewalk replacements, and improving pedestrian safety.

“I would like to recognize New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and DPW on an important milestone. Last year, the Village was awarded \$200,000 for a Clean Energy Communities grant from NYSERDA to purchase electric vehicles and equipment for the Police Department and DPW.

“The Village has taken delivery of two electric refuse haulers. Along with the refuse haulers we have an electric riding mower and two electric Parking Enforcement Vehicles already in service.

“I also have a couple updates from the Sustainability Advisory Board. I am excited to announce that many residents saw over Facebook, the Pelham Liberty Tree

Initiative, launched on Independence Day, a collaborative effort from the Village of Pelham, Pelham Manor, Town of Pelham, School District and EcoPel to commemorate America’s 250th Anniversary. Inspired by the Liberty Tree of the American Revolution, we will be coordinating tree plantings across our community this October, improving our tree canopy.

“We are working with ConEd to offer free seedlings in April to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. Finally, due to the extreme heat, please consider pre-cooling your home, reducing your electricity from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.” Anderson concluded.

The 9/11 Memorial Service will be held at the Town Monument on Friday, September 11th at 8:30 a.m., marking the 25th Anniversary of 9/11.

With the resignation of Deputy Village Treasurer Oscar Osorio, dated April 21st, the Board confirmed the Roll Call Vote appointment by the mayor, of Arlene Morel, effective August 10th. Also confirmed by Roll Call Vote, a Resolution confirmed the appointment of Sofia Pizutiello as a Part-Time Summer Intern.

Pelham Civic Association Hosts 2026 Pelham Olympics

continued from page 1

with the Pelham Civic Association to bring Play It Forward to the Pelham Olympics,” said Alex Elegudin, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Wheeling Forward. “Our mission is to help people with disabilities experience life to the fullest and see possibilities where others may see obstacles. Watching these young athletes participate alongside their peers, build friendships, and share in the excitement of the day is exactly what inclusion should look like. We hope this partnership serves as a model for creating more opportunities where every child feels welcomed, supported, and empowered to participate.”

Supporting the 332 student athletes were dozens of middle and high school volunteers, many of whom previously participated in the Olympics themselves, along with parent volunteers and members of the Pelham Civic Association. Together, they helped coordinate activities, guide teams, and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Families and friends filled the stands throughout the morning, cheering on

competitors and celebrating accomplishments both big and small. Every participant received a commemorative medal, while top performers in the running competitions earned special awards.

“This is one of those community-wide events that is fun for fun’s sake,” said Carl Pannuti, Pelham Civic and event committee member, who once again supervised the start of the popular 100-meter dash. “Whether a child is competing for the first time, returning after years of participation, or joining us through a new inclusive program, the smiles and excitement are what everyone remembers long after the races are over.”

The Pelham Civic Association extends its gratitude to the many volunteers, families, community organizations, and local businesses that contributed to the success of the 2026 Pelham Olympics, including Wheeling Forward, T&L Trophies, Ball and Chain/Logo Tags, Pelham Boosters, Pelham Together, Pelham Recreation, Pelham Public Schools, and numerous additional supporters.

Town Recognizes Girl Scout Gold Awardee; Voluntary Contributions to Fund Animal Shelter

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Town of Pelham Supervisor Theresa K. Mohan called the July 13th Board meeting to order, beginning with Councilmember Maura Curtin reporting that Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responded to 104 calls, averaging 3.5 calls per day; 88% within Pelham Manor and 12 Mutual Aid Calls in June, involving Tuckahoe, Eastchester and Bronxville; average response time 6.1 minutes.

Then Mark Baumblatt, Eastchester EMS Executive Leader stated that Gene Iannuzzi, RN, MPA, CEN, EMT-P, EMS, Nursing Educator and Consultant was recognized by Westchester County as Educator of the Year.

“I wanted to recognize an outstanding example of teamwork and professionalism that occurred on June 12th at BJ’s Wholesale on Pelham Parkway,” Baumblatt added. “Our EMS crew responded to a reported cardiac arrest involving an adult female who collapsed inside the store.

“By the time the crew arrived, hands only CPR was initiated. The Pelham Manor Police Department arrived, delivering a defibrillator shock and assisted with airway management using an airbag mask,” Baumblatt concluded.

Curtin then updated a grant applied for in February. “I received an email from the Department of State,” Curtin noted. “They had 76 applicants and were only able to fund one-third; we were not selected. They encouraged us to apply in the fall.”

In other business, the Town recognized and thanked Julie Sakhrani for the extraordinary work she completed as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Julie interviewed Pelham veterans and preserved their personal oral histories, providing the Town Historian Collection with recordings of these interviews on an external hard drive, together with written transcripts.

NYS Agricultural and Markets Law, Section 109, amended December 2025, requires that municipalities include in dog license applications an option for voluntary contributions to support an animal shelter. The Town currently contracts with the Humane Society of Westchester, New Rochelle to provide such services, 100% of funds collected pursuant to this program shall be sent to the Humane Society of Westchester, New Rochelle no less than annually and may be remitted on a more frequent basis as determined appropriate by the Town’s financial officers.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Tasty Summer Drives

Hit the road this summer with a good food destination in mind...



Alex's Bar & Grille: I have been enjoying Alex's Bar and Grille, 577 North Broadway, White Plains, for more than a decade. Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj has matured this restaurant beautifully. You can sit in the warm dining room with its cozy nooks and crannies or take a seat in the bustling bar/lounge. The classic Italian American fare coming out of this strong kitchen are hearty and pleasing. Check out the Oysters Rockefeller, delicious fresh Halibut with seafood, an awesome **Osso Bucco** the size of Mt. Vesuvius. Steaks and chops here rival the very best. There is a big juicy burger on the menu, too. The smooth house made cheesecake is a must for dessert. www.alex577.com

Mumbai Katta: Anita Gawde is a dynamo! The owner of Mumbai Katta Indian Restaurant, 227 Westchester Avenue, Port Chester, is always on the move. At one moment, she greets guests at the door, the next she disappears into her kitchen, the next she is on the dining room floor touting her dishes. It is her heartfelt tribute to the tasty street foods of regional India. Anita and her husband Jayant have been marking a second anniversary with a newly expanded menu that now includes Tandoori and regional Kebabs. The dishes are loaded with flavor. Reserve ahead for a traditional Thali banquet. www.mumbaikatta.com

Tesoro D'Italia: I first met Peter Lucaj when he was managing Ciao in Eastchester. Just over a dozen years ago, he and his brothers Mark and Don took over Tesoro d'Italia, 160 Marble Avenue, Pleasantville. I have enjoyed watching them evolve this expansive multi-faceted restaurant into a destination for fine regional Italian cuisine and full service catering. You can sit along the handsome wine wall. Lovely private rooms are available for groups. Dive into such specialties as Chicken Payard, Black Linguine Pescatore, Chicken Scarpariello, Broiled Veal Chop, or Grilled Pork Chops with the works. Happy hours in the bar/lounge are most inviting starting at 3 PM weekdays. There is a weekday luncheon special: \$24.95, noon to 3 PM. www.tesoroditaliany.com

Squire's: Squire's, 94 North State Road, is approaching a milestone 60 years in Briarcliff Manor. Kudos to owner Kurt Knox and his team. You may have heard about their classic Burgers and massive Prime Rib (served on weekends). They offer a big menu filled with delightful tavern specialties. There is literally something for everyone in your group from tasty finger foods and sandwiches to a giant portion of Fish & Chips. All reasonably priced. www.squiresofbriarcliff.com

Las Mananitas: This Mexican restaurant on top of Route 684 in Brewster offers dramatic views of the East Branch Reservoir and a multi-tiered outdoor patio for relaxing and picture taking. There are plenty of window seats and a fireplace room for comfort, too. They often host Mariachis, DJ and drink specials at their big bar. Look for such kitchen specialties as: El Aquacate, avocado stuffed with crabmeat and shrimp; Carnitas, three soft pork tacos; Sizzling Fajitas; and Sinaloa, jumbo shrimp wrapped in bacon stuffed with Manchego cheese. Ample free parking. www.lasmananitasrestaurant.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 gutreactions@optonline.net.

County Launches Green Initiatives Repository to Help Municipalities Advance Climate Action

continued from page 3

this repository helps make that possible."

As municipalities continue to develop innovative environmental programs, the repository will grow alongside them, serving as a living resource that supports collaboration and continuous improvement. Westchester County encourages municipal officials, community organizations and residents to explore the Green Initia-

tives Repository and learn more about the sustainability initiatives shaping communities across the County.

The Westchester County Green Initiatives Repository is available online residing on the Office of Energy Conservation and Sustainability's page at: <https://wccss.westchestergov.com/wccss/search>

PLEASE READ AT ONCE

AN OPEN LETTER TO PELHAM'S LITTLEST RESIDENTS

Dear littlest residents of Pelham,

We understand you have a very full fall ahead of you.

There are towers to build. Songs to sing. Paint to put on paper — and possibly your elbows. Balls to chase. Recipes to stir. Robots to bring to life. Superpowers to discover. New friends to meet. Birthdays to celebrate. And approximately four thousand very important questions to ask before lunchtime.

This is serious work.

So, we made a place for it.

A place to make music, create art, tumble, cook, explore, imagine and move. A place where you can **come for a class and stay for the day**. Where play isn't rushed, curiosity is always welcome and there is plenty of room for your next very good idea.

You can join our **Enrichment Academy** and find your first little community. Become an **open-play member** and make TIG + ME your playroom away from home — ready whenever the house feels small, the weather is uncooperative or there is simply more playing to be done. You can even **celebrate your birthday** here, surrounded by your favorite people and the kind of fun your grown-ups will still be talking about when you're in college.

There are no time limits on open play. No flashing arcade machines. No need to hurry on to the next thing. Just thoughtful spaces, wonderful teachers, imaginative play, familiar faces — and plenty of room to be little.

Fall is coming.

Your important work is waiting.

We think you're going to be very busy here.

With love,

TIG + me

Your playroom away from home.



P.S. For the grown-ups:

Fall Classes · Enrichment Academy ·
Unlimited Open-Play Memberships ·
Private Pods · Birthday Parties

Explore fall at tigandme.com

Pelham · Rye

P.P.S. Yes, you can stay after class.

Yes, we have open play all day.

Yes, we make naptime better.



*↑ for grown-ups with
their phones already
out*

Pelham Residents Lead the Way in Food Scrap Recycling as Sustainability Advisory Board Launches New Community Outreach Campaign

The Village of Pelham Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) is celebrating the success of Pelham's Food Scrap Recycling Program and inviting residents to learn how easy it is to compost at home or participate in Pelham's free food scrap drop-off program.

New data from the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities shows that Pelham continues to be one of the County's leaders in food scrap recycling. In 2025 alone, Pelham residents diverted 72.6 tons of food scraps through the Food Scrap Recycling Program. Since the program began in 2021, residents have diverted nearly 330 tons—more than 650,000 pounds—of food scraps from the waste stream to be composted. According to Westches-

ter County, Pelham has consistently ranked among the top-performing municipalities participating in the County's Residential Food Scrap Transportation and Disposal Program. In 2025, only two participating municipalities collected more food scraps than Pelham.

"This is truly a community success story," said Allison Anderson, Village Trustee and Chair of the Sustainability Advisory Board. "Hundreds of Pelham residents from the Village of Pelham and Pelham Manor are helping turn food scraps into a valuable resource instead of throwing them away. We're proud of what our community has accomplished and excited to help even more residents participate." The County-supported program allows residents to recycle

food scraps—including fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy, bread, coffee grounds, and other food waste—at Pelham's Food Scrap Drop-Off Site located in Lot 7 in the Village of Pelham. Collected materials are transported to Westchester County's composting facility, where they are transformed into compost rather than disposed of as trash. Because the County subsidizes most of the collection and composting costs, the program not only diverts waste from the trash stream but also costs the municipalities less per ton than disposing of the same material as regular garbage.

To celebrate the program and encourage broader participation, the Sustainability Advisory Board has launched a new outreach campaign, "Pelham Composts: Many Homes, Many Methods."

The campaign highlights the many ways Pelham residents compost, from backyard compost bins and tumblers to simple in-bed composting systems and the Village's convenient food scrap drop-off site.

Residents are invited to visit the

Pelham Composts: Many homes, many methods

Less waste, lower municipal disposal costs, healthier soil

Methods of Home Composting

 In-Bed Composting DIY wire-mesh baskets allow food scraps to decompose directly in the feeding nearby plants.	 Backyard Compost Bins Food scraps, leaves, and yard waste are transformed into nutrient-rich compost for garden beds.	 Simple DIY Solution A repurposed perforated container creates an easy in-bed composter for produce scraps.
 Natural Composting Creating simple layers of food scraps and leaves allows natural processes to do the work.	 Compost Tumbler & Leaf Bin A rotating tumbler paired with a dedicated leaf bin speeds decomposition and simplifies mixing.	 Countertop Composting Electric countertop devices, like a Lomi, efficiently process food scraps into dry, garden-ready material.

Don't compost at home?

Pelham's Food Scrap Drop-Off Site: (195 Sparks Ave, Village Lot 7) accepts meat, dairy, bread, fruits, vegetables, and more.

The Freezer Method
Some residents store scraps in the freezer until it's time for a trip to the Pelham Food Scrap Drop-Off Site





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- Homemade Pizza
- Espresso, Cappuccino & Herbal Teas
- Fine Catering

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Fax: 738-6800

SAB table at the Pelham Market this Sunday and throughout the summer to:

- Learn about different composting methods used by Pelham residents.
- Find the composting approach that works best for their household.
- Learn what materials are accepted at the Village's Food Scrap Drop-Off Site.
- Ask questions and share their own composting experiences.

The SAB's outreach campaign is part of the Village's broader Climate Smart Communities initiative, which seeks to reduce waste, strengthen community sustainability, and encourage practical actions residents can take to improve Pelham's environment.

About the Village of Pelham Sustainability Advisory Board: The Sustainability Advisory Board advises the Village Board of Trustees on sustainability initiatives that advance environmental stewardship, community well-being, and economic vitality. The Board also serves as the Village's Climate Smart Communities Task Force and works to expand resident engagement through education, partnerships, and community programs.

Calendar of Events



Historic Hudson Valley Summer Saturdays Series

Philipsburg Manor, Sleepy Hollow
The weekly family-friendly series featuring hands-on crafts, live demonstrations and interactive family activities through September 5 with programming that connects regional colonial history with hands-on learning and fun through themed activities, art projects, and self-guided tours of the Na-

tional Historic Landmark.

August 8 – Clay & Creation: Participants can create pinch pots and paint tiles inspired by Dutch Delftware. The event features a one-day-only exhibition of original ceramics by Thomas Commeraw, a free Black potter active in colonial New York.

August 15 – The Big Play Date: Features 18th-century recreational activities, including ninepins, stilts, and hoop-and-stick. Workshops include historic toy making and a percussion session led by KoSankofa.

August 22 – Seeds & Sprouts: Focusing on botany, horticulture, and historic medicine, the day’s programming includes guided garden tours, marigold potting, and the assembly of traditional herbal remedies.

August 29 – Preserves & Pickles: Exploring historic food preservation methods, visitors will learn about drying, canning, and smoking while pickling radishes and making sachets.

September 5 – Global Grains: The day features cooking demonstrations of grain-based dishes from around the world with chefs Rene Leon and Voila Afrique. Kids can create their own grain collage, paint with flour paste, and hear stories about bread from around the world.

Visit <https://hudsonvalley.org/events/summer-saturdays-at-philipsburg-manor/> for tickets.

Hospice of Westchester

“In Celebration” Gala Cocktail Reception

September 17, 2026, 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Westchester Country Club, 99 Biltmore Avenue, Rye

In support of The Anna & Louis H. Shereff Caregiver, Complementary Care and Bereavement Programs. This year’s event will honor Susan Fox, President & CEO, White Plains Hospital and Regional Senior Vice President, Hudson Valley, Montefiore Einstein. The event will also feature a Celebration of Life for James P. O’Toole, a steadfast supporter, former Board Chair, and cherished member of the Hospice of Westchester family. A special recognition will be given to longtime supporter and Grand Sponsor of the event, Rochelle E. Shereff. Individual tickets (\$400), journal ads, and sponsorships are available. The evening will feature a vast array of culinary delights, an open bar, and entertainment. For more information, contact Holly Benedict at hbenedict@hospiceof-westchester.com or 914-682-1484, ext. 122.



The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze

New York’s most highly anticipated fall tradition is back and bigger than ever. The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze® returns to Van Cortlandt Manor with its longest trail of illuminated pumpkin displays in event history. At The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze, running for 44 nights in Croton-on-Hudson from September 18 through November 8, the expanded path features exciting new

attractions. The Creature Feature Forest pays tribute to Van Cortlandt Manor’s history as home to a drive-in movie theater in the mid 20th-Century, inviting visitors to meet a cast of classic movie monsters carved entirely from pumpkins. Nearby, Literary Lane reimagines familiar fables, giving classic children’s tales a whole new glow. On the lawn of the site’s regal manor house, visitors are invited to an interactive dance party. As part of its 2026 expansion, Blaze is more accessible than ever, with expanded value pricing of just \$24 on select evenings. The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze is presented by Con Edison. Contributing Sponsors include JPMorgan Chase and Northwell Phelps Hospital.

Hospitality Partners are Windrose on Hudson and Tarrytown House Estate. Beverage Sponsors include Captain Lawrence and Hudson North Cider Co. Media Sponsors are WHUD and The Peak. All events have limited capacity and regularly sell out; advance ticket purchase is required. Tickets went for all the activities went on sale on July 30 at www.hudsonvalley.org. Presales began July 27 for Historic Hudson Valley members, followed by app users on July 28, and social media fans and past ticket buyers on July 29. (Download at hudsonvalley.org/app to access the app presale).

Pelham Art Center

August Figure Drawing

August 7, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Enjoy a relaxed evening of creativity and artistic exploration. Artists of all experience levels are welcome in this supportive, low-pressure space. A nude figure model will provide a range of timed poses for two hours. Please bring your own art supplies; all mediums are encouraged.

Cost: \$20 | Tickets available at <https://pelhamartcenter.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F41793>

Junk Journal Night

August 14, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Turn scraps and keepsakes into unique collaged pages. We encourage participants to bring their own journal and collage materials, though additional supplies will be available if needed. This event is free and open to the public.

Visit pelhamartcenter.org for further details.

Westchester County Parks and Share Creative present

The Robison Summr Concert Series

Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, 7 to 9pm



August 13 -- **Captain Jack** (Billy Joel Tribute)

August 21 -- Uncaged (Zac Brown Tribute)

August 27 -- Damn the Torpedoes (Tom Petty Concert Experience)

Free admisstion and parking. Visit parks.westchestercountyny.gov

Liberty Tree Commemorating America 250

In celebration of America’s 250th anniversary, the Village of Pelham Manor, Village of Pelham, Town of Pelham, Pelham Public Schools, and community organizations are announcing a community-wide Liberty Tree Initiative to honor our shared history while investing in our shared future.

Inspired by the historic Liberty Trees of the American Revolution, these native, climate-resilient trees will serve as living symbols of civic engagement and community stewardship while strengthening Pelham’s tree canopy, supporting biodiversity, reducing urban heat, and improving climate resilience.

This October, coordinated Liberty Tree plantings will take place across the Pelhams, coinciding with Pelham Public Schools’ commemoration of the Battle of Pell’s Point and America’s 250th anniversary.

The Liberty Tree Initiative is intended to continue the broader community effort to expand Pelham’s tree canopy. In April 2027, that effort will continue with a community Earth Month tree seedling giveaway in partnership with ConEdison, giving residents the opportunity to plant free trees in their own yards and neighborhoods.

Together, these efforts will create a living legacy that honors our history, strengthens our environment, and benefits future generations.

Stay tuned for additional information as planning continues.

What's Happening at the Pelham Public Library

Adults: Read Books, Win a Prize

Now through Tuesday, September 8

Reading contests for children have been a staple of the Library's Summer Reading program for years. But why let the kids have all the fun? Adults and teens in 9th grade and up can play our Reading BINGO game and enter a raffle to win a brand-new Kindle! Download a BINGO board with instructions by clicking here, or stop by the Library reference desk to pick up a form.



Krochet Kritters with Kathy

Tuesdays August 11, 18, and 25, 3:30-4:30 pm

Join us on Tuesday afternoons to crochet an amigurumi. "Amigurumi" means a crocheted or knitted stuffed toy in Japanese. We'll work on a new critter each month. All supplies (yarn, crochet hooks, and stitch markers) will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. This month we'll be making a triceratops. This drop-in program is for ages 13 and up, and no registration is required. Attendees should have basic crochet skills. No instructor will be present.

George Washington Carver: Beyond "The Peanut Man"

Thursday, August 6, 11 am-12 pm

Renowned agricultural scientist, educator, and humanitarian, George Washington Carver was far more than just "the Peanut Man!" Born in Missouri to enslaved parents just two weeks before the Civil War ended, Carver was one of the most prominent Black scientists of the 20th century. He developed farming techniques to prevent soil depletion, encouraged poor farmers to grow peanuts and sweet potatoes to improve their quality of life, and was an early promoter of environmentalism. Join us to celebrate the life and achievements of this incredible Black scientist! This program takes place on Zoom, and registration is required. Register at https://uso2web.zoom.us/join/register/IKdpdE-gcSkqlQbBAW_WhMw#/registration



Crafty Adults: Wire-Wrapped Roses

Monday, August 17, 7-8 pm

Join our resident artist/instructor Sara Mallach this month as we make whimsical Wire-Wrapped Roses. These sweet roses are the perfect way to use up the last drops of nail polish from summer pedicures for a stained glass effect, and they bloom all year long. Put them on display in a bud vase, nestled in the leaves of a houseplant, or tucked between the pages of a book to mark your place. This event will take place in-person at the Library, and each attendee must register separately. Register at <https://calendly.com/pelhamlibrary/crafty-adults-august-2026/2026-08-17T19:00:00-04:00?month=2026-08&date=2026-08-17>. Sign up early, as space and supplies are limited.



New York State Scavenger Hunt

Through Monday, August 31

Did you know that New York has a state bird and a state butterfly? There are ten state symbols hidden around the Library. Can you find them all? Visit the reference desk to pick up your scavenger hunt sheet any time during the months of July and August. Once you've found all the state symbols in the Library, return your sheet to the reference desk for a prize.



K-Day is Coming!

Saturday, September 19, 10 am-2 pm

The Pelham Public Library's K-Day is an annual event when Pelham children entering kindergarten can get their first library cards. This year, it will be held on Saturday, September 19. To save time, please pre-register for your kindergartener's library card and visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwOD6u-8BRH0wyuMwYeFJJVdgQjiD78VAXFK10o9Ts3V-S1Izw/viewform> to fill out the form so the card will be ready as soon as you arrive.



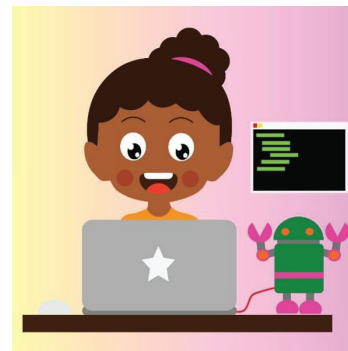
Music and Crafts with Shay

Monday, 10, 4-5 pm

Thursdays, August 6 and 13, 4-5 pm

Saturdays, August 1 and 15, 11 am-12 pm

Music and art aren't just fun: they can help kids to develop speech and language skills, reduce stress, and cope with all sorts of daily challenges. Join Shay Armand for crafts, sing-alongs, and more fun activities this summer! This program is open to all kids ages 5 and up, but we would like to especially welcome neurodiverse and intellectually disabled kids.



Coding for Kids

Tuesdays, August 11, 18, and 25, 3:30-4:30 pm

Learn the basics of coding and explore your creativity through Scratch in this four-session introductory course designed for middle school students. Across four one-hour classes, participants will build interactive projects while learning core programming concepts such as sequences, conditionals, variables, and problem-solving through creative design, culminating in a final project at the end of the program. No prior coding experience is required—beginners are encouraged to join, and activities will build progressively

from session to session, so attending all four classes is recommended. This program takes place in-person at the Library, and registration is required. To register, please email Tash at ngross@pelhamlibrary.org. This program is for children in or entering 6th-8th grade. Students should create a free Scratch account before the first class using this link: <https://scratch.mit.edu/join>. The class will use the browser version of Scratch. Fully charged laptops are required. Recommended operating systems include Windows 10 (1709+) or macOS 10.13+; tablets should run iOS 10+ or Android 8.0+ with an up-to-date supported browser.



Pelham Poets

Thursday, August 27, 3-4 pm

Are you a poet and didn't know it? Calling all of Pelham's Poets ages 5 to 12. Come and learn how to write your own haiku. All supplies are included.

STEM Story Time by Pelham High School Student

Saturday, August 8, 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.

Do You Need to File a New York Estate Tax Return? Understanding the 2026 Rules, the Tax Cliff, and Common Filing Confusion

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS,
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JOEL KROOKS, ESQ.

Does an Estate Need to File a New York Estate Tax Return?

When a person dies, one of the first tax questions an Executor or Administrator must consider is whether the estate must file an estate tax return. In New York, the answer depends on the size of the estate, the decedent's residency, certain lifetime gifts, and whether the estate owns New York property.

Importantly, the requirement to file a New York estate tax return is separate from whether estate tax is actually owed.

The 2026 New York Estate Tax Exclusion – For individuals dying in 2026, New York's basic estate tax exclusion amount is \$7,350,000. Generally, a New York resident's estate must file a New York State estate tax return if the decedent's federal gross estate, plus certain includible taxable gifts, exceeds that amount. The exclusion is adjusted over time based on the decedent's date of death. For comparison, the exclusion was \$7,160,000 for deaths in 2025.

The federal gross estate generally includes all property in which the decedent had an interest at death, including real estate, bank and brokerage accounts, retirement accounts, business interests, tangible personal property, certain trust interests, and life insurance owned by the decedent or payable to the estate.

This is a gross value test. The estate must first consider the total value of assets before deductions are applied to determine whether tax is ultimately owed.

Lifetime Gifts and the Filing Threshold – New York also requires estates to consider certain taxable gifts made during the decedent's lifetime. These gifts may need to be added back when determining whether the estate exceeds the New York filing threshold.

As a result, making large gifts shortly before death does not necessarily eliminate a New York estate tax filing requirement or potential estate tax liability.

Nonresidents Who Own New York Property – A nonresident's estate may also be required to file a New York estate tax return if the decedent owned real property or tangible personal property located in New York and the federal gross estate, together with certain includible gifts, exceeds the New York basic exclusion amount.

For example, if a Florida resident dies owning a New York cooperative apartment, house, or other New York real property, the estate may have a New York filing obligation even though the decedent was not domiciled in New York.

What Form Is Filed and When Is It Due?

When a New York estate tax return is required, the estate files Form ET-706, New York State Estate Tax Return. The return is generally due nine months after the decedent's date of death, and any tax due is generally payable within that same period.

An estate may request an extension of time to file and/or pay when additional time is needed. However, interest may apply if tax is paid late.

When Is New York Estate Tax Actually Owed?

Whether estate tax is actually owed depends on the taxable estate after allowable deductions and credits are applied. Common deductions may include funeral and administration expenses, debts, mortgages, certain charitable transfers, and the marital deduction for qualifying transfers to a surviving spouse.

Therefore, an estate may be large enough to require a New York estate tax filing but still owe no New York estate tax after deductions are applied.

The New York Estate Tax "Cliff" – One of the most important features of New York's estate tax is the so-called "cliff." If the taxable estate is at or below the basic exclusion amount, no New York estate tax is owed. If the taxable estate is slightly above the exclusion amount, some tax may be owed. However, once the taxable estate exceeds 105 percent of the basic exclusion amount, the estate loses the benefit of the New York exclusion entirely.

For 2026, 105 percent of the \$7,350,000 exclusion is \$7,717,500. Once the taxable estate exceeds that amount, the estate may be taxed from the first dollar rather than only on the amount above the exclusion.

This rule can produce a significant tax liability from a relatively modest increase in the taxable estate. Careful planning is particularly important for New York residents whose estates are near or above the exclusion amount.

Estate Tax Rates and Portability – New York's graduated estate tax rates can reach 16 percent. New York also does not provide por-

tability between spouses. This means that if the first spouse to die does not use his or her New York estate tax exclusion through proper planning, the unused exclusion is not automatically transferred to the surviving spouse.

This is an important consideration for married couples whose combined estates may exceed the New York exemption amount.

Form 706 vs. Form 1041 – Executors and beneficiaries often confuse Form 706 and Form 1041, but they address different taxes.

Form 706 is an estate tax return. It reports the value of the decedent's assets at death, applies allowable deductions, and determines whether estate tax is owed. For New York estate tax purposes, Form ET-706 serves a similar function.

Form 1041, by contrast, is an income tax return for an estate or trust. It reports income earned after death during the administration of the estate, such as interest, dividends, capital gains, rental income, or other taxable income.

For example, a brokerage account may be reported on Form 706 at its date-of-death value, while dividends or capital gains earned by that account after death may later be reported on Form 1041.

An estate may need one form but not the other. A smaller estate may have no estate tax filing obligation but may still need to file Form 1041 if it earns sufficient income during administration. Conversely, a larger estate may need to file Form 706 or New York Form ET-706 even if it earns little or no post-death income.

Conclusion – Determining whether a New York estate tax return is required can be complex. Each estate must be reviewed based on its assets, debts, deductions, residency, New York property, lifetime gifts, and post-death income.

Proper estate planning may help individuals and married couples reduce or avoid unnecessary estate tax, preserve available exemptions, and simplify administration. Executors and Administrators should work with an experienced estate attorney and coordinate with the estate's accountant to determine which filings are required, identify available deductions, meet deadlines, and address probate, creditor claims, taxes, and distributions.

Because relying on general assumptions can lead to costly mistakes, professional guidance can help ensure that the proper filings are made and the estate is administered as efficiently and properly as possible.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named the 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. Krooks may be reached at 914-684-2100 or through the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

Westchester County Departments of Senior Programs and Services and Parks, Recreation and Conservation to Host Senior Dance Party

The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) and Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation are hosting a Senior Dance Party on Wednesday, August 19 from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Glen Island Park, located at Weyman Avenue in New Rochelle. This year's event is open to all seniors, who are encouraged to come out and enjoy a dance-filled day.

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services Mae Carpenter said: "The best dance partners are laughter, friendship and great music. A little music, a little movement, and good company can turn strangers into friends."

Attendees will enjoy a day that includes a live DJ, dance lessons and a complimentary lunch. The Senior Dance Party is free to attend, but reservations are required. Complimentary parking at Glen Island Park will be made available.

To attend this year's Senior Dance Party, please call Events To Remember at (914) 218-3968 and make your reservation by Wednesday, August 5. For information about the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, call (914) 813-6300.



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