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Town of Pelham Board Update
April 2023

Dear Pelham Friends and Neighbors:

Happy Spring! Seeing the Town of Pelham in full bloom is one of our favorite times of the year. And, seeing our friends and neighbors out and about, participating in all of our Town's events and activities, brings the Town Board tremendous pride. In fact, right now, the Town is serving more community members in our programs than ever before, as described in the Recreation Report below.

On a more serious note, the Town has been evaluating its options relating to its ambulance services. As you may or may not be aware, the Town has an in-house Fly-Car—which serves as an advanced life support unit, essentially like an emergency room on wheels, and can stabilize patients in distress. The Fly-Car is currently operated by Empress, and the response times for this service has been satisfactory. Unfortunately, the Fly-Car is not capable of transporting patients in need to a hospital. As such, we are the whim of the availability of other ambulance services, which has meant delays in some cases in transporting Town of Pelham residents to hospitals. ***For further details explaining the Fly-Car, please see the addendum to this report.***

To address the delays with hospital transports, the Town issued an RFP for emergency services to ascertain whether it would be feasible to bring an ambulance in-house, in addition to the Fly-Car. There were two proposals submitted, with similar prices, which would cost the Town an additional approximately \$1.5 million annually. This would mean a tax impact of approximately \$350 per \$1 million home (essentially doubling the Town tax rate). The Town Board will be soliciting feedback from the community regarding these proposals, and to assist the Board in assessing the viability of these proposals. More to come on this topic in the coming months.

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Town Updates

On May 22, 2023, the Red Cross is coming to the senior citizen meeting to discuss home-fire prevention and safety tips. Senior citizens who are in need of a new smoke alarm can schedule an installation at no cost to them. For more information, contact Carolyn Veith, Senior Advocate, at Recreation@pelhamrecreation.com.

For the month of May, Pelham Together will be displaying student-created artistic wraps which will be placed around the trees in the Town's Gazebo Park. Please look for them when you come down for the Farmer's Market, which will recommence on Sundays in May.

Recreation: Spring and Summer 2023

Events:

- On April 2nd, we celebrated Spring at Gazebo Park, with over 6,000 stuffed eggs, a visit from the Spring Bunny, arts, crafts, face painting, refreshments and music by Zev!
- On Monday April 17th, the Recreation Commission had a pizza party for the winners of the girls' and boys' recreation basketball league. Both teams are from Colonial Elementary School, and Principal Garcia was there to accept a plaque in their honor.
- Pelham Recreation is offering Hoop Night for 4th & 5th grade kids at Hutchinson Gym on Friday April 28th from 6-8pm. Enjoy a fun 2 hours of Basketball at Hutch Gym. Registration is live on the Pelham Recreation website under youth programs/basketball/hoop night.

Spring break camps: Were successful, with all sports that over 100 kids at over kids at Prospect Hill, and several other clinics that had 30-40 children enrolled.

Summer Camps: There are still openings in Big Tots and Tiny Tots. Please see the [recreation website](#) and sign up quickly, as spaces are filling up quickly. Day camp is currently full.

Youth and Adult Recreation Programs:

Spring programming is in full swing, which includes ballroom dance, basketball, chess, dance, karate, ninja warrior, tennis, rugby, soccer, theatre arts, tiny tiger and football.

Sign-ups for Summer Clinics is available now [online](#).

Senior Citizens Activities

The Senior Citizens Club continues to meet weekly, with a full list of activities, including exercise classes, yoga, arts and crafts, bingo and cards. Club membership is free.

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Trip transportation is sponsored by the Recreation Department. Last month, the senior van transported seniors on 37 roundtrips to doctors and other important appointments.

- **Senior Citizen Club Meeting (Main Room)**

Monday / 1:00PM - 4:00PM

- **Senior Exercise (Main Room)**

Tuesdays and Thursdays / 10:00AM - 11:00AM

This type of class consists of various forms of stretching, random motion, isometric and low impact aerobics. All levels welcome/sit or stand.

- **Senior Cards (Main Room)**

Wednesdays and Fridays / 1:00PM - 4:00PM

Come socialize and enjoy playing various card games, bridge, poker, Mahjong. Coffee and Tea served.

- **Yoga (Main Room)**

Friday: 10:00AM - 11:00AM

This class consists of various forms of yoga exercises designed for Seniors.

Town of Pelham Library

The Town Board will be swearing in new Library Trustee Nadira Boodhoo at the next Board meeting on May 1, 2023. Nadira, with her impressive background in banking, will be a tremendous asset for the Library Board in monitoring the Library's financials.

The Friends of the Pelham Library are organizing this year's signature fundraiser - Novel Night, which will be held on September 30th. They are in need of hosts! To get in touch about hosting a Novel Night dinner please email friendsofpelhamlibrary@gmail.com.

Programming

The Town of Pelham Public Library continues its robust programming, with outdoor story time, author talks, book clubs, JLP story time and crafts, and coding for tweens. Please check out the website and calendar of events at <https://www.pelhamlibrary.org/>

Events

- Pelham Library is thrilled to participate in *Battle of the Books* again this year- it's a book-based trivia tournament for Westchester Youth. The Pelham Library will have a 4th-7th grade team and a 6th-12th grade team. We will compete against teams from other Westchester libraries. The competition format is similar to Jeopardy and questions are based on the 5 books for each age bracket. Register by May 19th- more details can be found [here](#).

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- The library had an Earth Day event on April 15th by Pelham eliminates plastics. A group of High School and Middle School students presented story time as part of their community service project.
- On April 29, 2023, 1-2 pm, the Library will be hosting an event: *The Bronx, the Way it Was*. Details can be found [online](#).

Master Planning Process

The Town of Pelham Public Library Board of Trustees has initiated a **master planning process** to prepare for a new chapter in the Library's service to the community. The planning process will consider the evolving composition and needs of the Town of Pelham and offer suggested options for improvements to the Library's facilities to help shape this essential community asset for a generation to come. The Board has engaged the services of HMA2 + Plan A Advisors, architecture and planning firms, to facilitate the process and develop a Master Plan. The study is being funded by generous donations from patrons and is expected to be completed by early summer.

Courts

The Town would like to welcome the newest Court Clerk, Stefania Rocco, a long-time Pelham resident. She is expected to begin on May 8th.

The Town of Pelham Justice Courts are fully open, hearing Vehicle and Traffic cases on Wednesday mornings and criminal cases Thursday evenings. Last month, the court had their first jury trial in three years. In addition, the New York State Court of Office Administration issued a guide regarding using LGBTQ+ inclusive language and pronouns in court.

The court will be closed on May 4, 2023 due to staff training.

Pelham Fly Car Statistics

For the month of March 2023, the average response time for the units backing up the fly car was 10:18. 49% of the calls were answered in 6 minutes or less.

Calls in Village of Pelham: 41

Calls in Village of Pelham Manor: 38

Calls on Hutchinson River Parkway: 5

Calls on I-95: 1

Supervisor's Report

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Supervisor McLaughlin was proud to report that on April 1st, he awarded an Eagle Scout proclamation to Pelham student, Matthew Michailoff, whose brother Alexander was awarded last month, also by Supervisor McLaughlin. Matthew re-created a pollinator at the Library that was destroyed during Hurricane Ida.

Town Historian

Pelham Town Historian Art Scinta provided an update at the last Town Board meeting on the digitizing project of the Town Historian collection. In particular, the Pelham Sun from 1998-2005 have never been microfilmed and they take up a lot of space so we are digitizing these historical newspapers. Once we know the cost, we will also start digitizing prior issues that are on microfilm. Historian Scinta has been able to secure space in a database with the Westchester Historical Society, and therefore once the digitization project is complete, we will be able to store them in Elmsford. Once that's finished, we will look into digitizing the Pelham Weekly that has never been microfilmed, then the Pelham Weekly that have been microfilmed. Historian Scinta was able to take the hard copies of the Pelham Sun (from 1998-2005) down to their storage location in North Carolina, while enroute to a wedding of a former Pelhamite!

Clerk's Office

Some of the services available at the Clerk's Office include:

- **Disabled parking permits**, available for Village of Pelham residents.
- **Dog Licenses**, available for Village of Pelham residents.

Further information, including applications for disabled parking and dog licenses, can be found on the Clerk's [website](#). **Village of Pelham Manor residents** must go to Village of Pelham Manor Village Clerk at 4 Penfield Place to acquire a Disabled permit and Dog license.

Next Town Board Meeting

Our next Town Board meeting will take place on Monday May 1, 2023 at 7pm at Town Hall. Please see our Town [website](#) for all updates.

Sincerely,

Dan McLaughlin, Supervisor
Rae Szymanski, Deputy Supervisor
Kristen Burke, Councilwoman
Maura Curtin, Councilwoman
Kara McLoughlin, Councilwoman

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For Immediate Release:
Town of Pelham, NY

As part of the many municipal services provided to Pelham residents, the Town of Pelham has taken the responsibility of providing the First Response Vehicle, known as the Fly Car. The Fly-Car works with the Fire Department in the Village of Pelham and in Pelham Manor it works with the Manor Police Department for a first response in emergency situations. In the Village of Pelham all responding Fire Department employees are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's).

Prior to 2004 the Town of Pelham residents had no dedicated Emergency Services. Each village depended on the structure of their police and fire departments for first responders. The patient then waited for an ambulance from New Rochelle as we were tagged on to their contract for Emergency Responses.

The Town Board decided to explore alternatives to improve the care provided to our citizens. After careful review and assessment, the Town obtained our first Advanced Life Fly Car and entered into an agreement with Empress Ambulance to staff the 24/7 vehicle with Certified Paramedics. Empress also provided the backup transportation to the hospital if needed. That agreement is still in effect at this time. The Fly Car has been updated and replaced several times over the years.

The Town of Pelham's Fly-Car is driven and operated by a trained full time Certified Paramedic, (Paramedics are more highly trained EMT's capable of more advanced medical procedures, such as intravenous medication, monitoring EKG's and performing intubations). Basically, the Fly Car operates as an **Emergency Room on wheels!!**

The Paramedic is employed and supervised by Empress Ambulance Company. The Town supplies the vehicle, the equipment and the materials - such as AED devices, medicines, and splints - to stabilize a patient in distress while waiting for an ambulance, if needed. The Town of Pelham contracts with Empress EMS services for back up ambulance transport services.

The Fly-Car is a non-transport vehicle. A non-transporting EMS vehicle ensures emergency organizations use their resources more efficiently, assessing the severity of an incident, similar to triage in an emergency room at a hospital. The Paramedic can treat the patient at the scene and release them or call in an ambulance for transport to a hospital emergency room if required. This saves resources on several levels, as most non-transporting vehicles cost much less than full-size ambulances, and because they may be staffed by a single person. Ambulances require a minimum of two crew members. With the current shortage of Paramedics, optimizing how they are deployed saves lives.

Non-transporting vehicles can also be used to improve response times. In areas such as busy roads, smaller non transporting vehicles are able to move through traffic faster than full size ambulances can. Some non-transporting vehicles may also have off-road capabilities, giving them access to areas that traditional ambulances have difficulty reaching.

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In case of emergency, call 914-738-1000 in Pelham Manor and 914-738-2000 in the Village of Pelham.

*A 2022 American Ambulance Association nation-wide study of employee turnover found that voluntary and overall turnover increased for 2022, with the turnover rate being in the 20 to 36 percent range for EMTs and Paramedics, a 6% increase over the prior year. Meaning that EMS agencies are experiencing a full turnover of all staff every 3-4 years. Greater than one third of all new hires turnover within their first year of employment. Not surprisingly, this converted into a relatively high rate of currently open positions, especially for EMTs and Paramedics at EMS agencies around the country. Reportedly, 39% of part-time EMT and 55% of part-time paramedic positions went unfilled because of a lack of qualified candidates.