

March 2021 Town Board Update

It's hard to believe that a year ago last week, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus a worldwide pandemic. The Town of Pelham, like the rest of the world, was forced to shut down. Our thoughts are with the many people in Pelham and neighboring communities who have experienced illness, death of a friend or loved one, hardship and suffering over this deadly virus. So much has changed about the world we know since that time; but we have also learned how resilient the human spirit is, and how communities, like Pelham, can come together to support one another in the darkest of hours.

With news that enough vaccines may be available for all Americans by May, the end certainly seems near. But we are not there yet, and we caution our Pelham neighbors to remain vigilant by continuing mask-wearing and social distancing, and we hope everyone continues to remain safe and healthy.

- **#SpeakUpWestchester**

The Town of Pelham denounces the recent deadly and heinous hate crimes against our Asian American friends and neighbors throughout the country, including in our own backyard when an elderly Asian woman was attacked while walking along the sidewalk in White Plains last week. Since the start of the pandemic, hate crimes and bias incidents targeting Asian Americans have been on the rise and many of our neighbors have quietly endured this harassment and discrimination.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Westchester District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah have launched #SpeakUpWestchester, to fight back against these racist attacks. While hate incidents do not always violate the law, they should always be reported by those targeted and bystanders. Please help us spread the word about the resources available to Westchester residents, and that hate has no home here in Pelham:

#SpeakUpWestchester

- Emergency assistance call 911
- Violent attack call local police department
- Bias or prejudice, call the Westchester County Human Rights Commission (914) 995-7710 or email HumanRights@westchestergov.com or visit www.westchestergov.com/biasreporting to report anonymously
- Hate crime or bias incident call Westchester County District Attorney at (914) 995-TIPS or visit www.WestchesterDA.net

Here is what is currently going on in the Town of Pelham:

- **Town of Pelham's new webpage!** <https://townofpelham.com/>

The new Town webpage is up and running! We have information on all Town departments, news alerts, forms and permits, a link for online tax payments, and information on the Town government.

Please visit our page to sign up for Town updates. Please also visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/TownOfPelham> for regular updates.

- **Pelham's New Town Historian!**

The Town Board is pleased to welcome longtime Pelham resident Arthur Scinta as our new Historian. Art is hard at work in organizing Pelham's historical documents. He has a new webpage: <https://pelham-town-historian.gator.site/>, and has stories for the celebration of Women's History Month.

- **Recreation Department**

The Recreation Department is as busy as ever! While it continues to offer its regular youth programming, such as basketball, rugby, tennis and karate, please check out the website for some of the new spring programs, such as Wednesday half-day soccer tournaments among the elementary schools, pre-travel soccer training with Malcolm, running club, children's yoga, and the ever-popular ninja warrior is back! Please also check out the spring break clinics, and information about our summer camps as well: <https://www.pelhamrecreation.com/> For any questions, please contact: recreation@pelhamrecreation.com.

- **Senior Advocate**

Pelham's senior advocate has been hard at work assisting Pelham community members in making appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. Please contact Carolyn Veith at recreation@pelhamrecreation.com for assistance, or visit our website for more information about vaccines: <https://townofpelham.com/2021/01/11/updated-information-on-receiving-the-covid-19-vaccine-courtesy-of-state-senator-alessandra-biaggi-county-executive-george-latimer/>

Please also check out the Recreation page <https://www.pelhamrecreation.com/Default.aspx?id=12> for information on the **Resident Emergency Assistance List (R.E.A.L) program**, which is a list of senior citizens and residents with special needs who reside in the Village of Pelham and Pelham

Manor, providing the Town with important contact information so that the Town and both Village police departments can access in the event of adverse weather or power emergencies.

- **Library**

The Town of Pelham Public Library is now fully open, and also continues to offer [curbside services](#). Please check out our website for upcoming events and updates: <https://www.pelhamlibrary.org/>. Due to pandemic-related social distancing guidelines, a limited number of visitors are allowed to browse the collections for 20 minutes and check out materials. The library is continuing contactless curbside pickup.

Here is how to use the curbside program: place a hold for the materials on our online catalog and you will get notified when your items are available to pick up. Call 914-738-1234 to arrange a convenient pick up time; call again from outside the building and items will be brought out. If you have any problems with your library card, or you need to get a new card, please email pelhamlibrary@wlsmail.org.

- **Courts**

The Pelham Town court is now fully open, though with limited capacity due to Office of Court Administration Guidelines (currently it is the lesser of 20 people or 25% of the court room). Please see our webpage for further updates and details: <https://townofpelham.com/courts/>.

In addition, the Court has been awarded two grants from the NYS Office of Court Administration (\$10,335.73 and \$7,366.00) for security upgrades to Daronco Townhouse. We are in the process of making those upgrades.

- **Pelham Town Empress Fly Car**

For the Month of February 2021, there were 40 calls in the Village of Pelham; 26 calls in Pelham Manor; and 4 calls on the Hutchinson River Parkway. The average response time for the BLS units backing up the medic fly car was 8:38.

- **Other Town Operations**

The Town of Pelham government is open, which includes the areas of: **The Town Clerk**, the **Comptroller**, the **Tax Assessor**, the **Recreation Department**, **Court Personnel** and the **Library**.

The Town kindly still requests that meetings with any of these departments be scheduled in advance, so as to ensure appropriate social distancing in Town Hall.

- **Energy Smart Pelham**

The Environmental Coalition of the Pelhams (EcoPel) and Sustainable Westchester has launched. Discover customized clean heating and cooling solutions for your home, understand how energy efficiency can save you money, and learn about financial incentives and rebates offered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and your utility by visiting: <https://sustainablewestchester.org/> or calling (914) 242-4725 ext. 122.

- **Thank You**

As we take steps closer and closer to what finally feels like the old normal, the Board of the Town of Pelham would like to thank all of its Town's employees who spent the past year working tirelessly to provide essential services to the Pelham community. We would also like to thank the entire Pelham community for the support you have shown for your local businesses, who have continued to thrive under these difficult economic times. We are so grateful to be a part of a community that cares so much for others around them.

Our next Town Board meeting is Monday April 5, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom. Please visit the website or our Facebook page for the link. We hope to be back in-person in the coming months.

Dan McLaughlin, Supervisor

Rae Szymanski, Deputy Supervisor

Kristen Burke, Councilwoman

Timothy Case, Councilman

Maura Curtin, Councilwoman