



The Pelham Slate

www.townofpelham.org

FALL 2022

Select Board News & Updates

FALL TOWN MEETING & SPEED REDUCTION ARTICLE

Fall Special Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022 beginning at 9am, opening at the Old Town Hall building then moved down to the Elementary School field under a tent. We hope to see all of you. There will be a total of two articles on the warrant. The Select Board have put forth an article on the warrant to authorize the Select Board to reduce the speed limit to 25mph along thickly settled roads in town. Right now, that would apply to Amherst Road in the Village Center. This is made possible by a provision in state law MGL c.90, §17C, that gives municipalities authority to govern certain speed limits in their towns. Town Meeting must authorize the Select Board to take such an action. This is yet another action we are undertaking to improve safety in the Village Center.

SEWER EXTENSION

Some residents living on Cadwell Street, Jones Road and lower South Valley Road expressed an interest in extending the sewer line that runs down Amherst Road so they can connect to it. Amherst supports the extension and the Select Board is collaborating with Amherst to design a project that will make these connections possible.

Right now we are waiting for Amherst to submit a Memorandum of Understanding for the project. In the meantime, Amherst DPW has secured a surveyor to complete a survey and design for the sewer extension down Jones Road, Cadwell Street, and lower South Valley from the Jones Road intersection to Amherst Road. Pelham's American Res-

cue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be used for costs incurred for the design. When the project is "shovel ready" there is potential funding available through the State's Community One Stop for Growth program for construction. This aligns with the Select Board's desire to use ARPA funds to leverage state funding for needed projects.



SIDEWALK PROJECT

The Town is working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and Berkshire Design Group to design a sidewalk, safe crosswalks, and if possible, a bicycle lane on Amherst Road in the Village Center from the Amherst town line to the Pelham Elementary School. The first step for the project is to establish a legal right of way from the Amherst town line to South Valley Road. Once that is complete, Berkshire Design Group in conjunction with PVPC, will work on a design with input from Amherst Road residents and the Planning Board. Once again, ARPA funds will be used to complete the design work and get the project "shovel ready" so that we can apply for state funding for construction.

NEW FIRE CHIEF HIRED

On May 5, 2022, Dennis Nazzaro was unanimously approved by the Select Board as the new Fire Chief replacing Chief Raymond Murphy, Jr. who retired after 18 1/2 years of service. Chief Nazzaro was recommended by the search committee which consisted of Select Board Member Tara Loomis, Finance Committee Chair John Trickey, Firefighter Peter Clough, and Pelham resident/Assistant Fire Chief for the Town of Amherst Lindsay Stromgren.

Dennis joined the Pelham Fire Department in May of 2021 when he and his family moved from Huntington, MA to Pelham. He is currently in his 18th year of service with the Northampton Fire Department. Prior to becoming Chief, Dennis also served as an instructor at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Springfield

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Sustainability Working Group Community Event

In May, the Sustainability Working Group enjoyed collaborating with the Pelham Democratic Town Committee in hosting another very successful SWAP Day, and with that, inaugurated our first edition of the "What to Do With Our Stuff" manual. People came with items they no longer needed and took away newly found treasures. It was great fun, in spite of the heat.



Now that we have **our manual, which is found on the town website (townofpelham.org) under Announcements, with hard copies at the Pelham Library**, you know what to do! Get yourself a copy and see the various resources found in our area, for recycling, repurposing and reducing waste. Take note, especially, of the resource page on the back which has national websites that highlight how to recycle items that are not currently taken in our area. Think of no longer useful CD's/cases, resources on products that have reduced or recyclable packaging, ways to head towards "zero waste". Our next project will be to expand on the idea of zero waste.

For the upcoming fall, we plan to hold a **COMMUNITY TAG SALE on Oct. 8. (Rain date Oct. 9) at the Pelham Elementary School from 9 am to 1 pm. (set up starts at 8 am)**. Pelham residents can bring a table or blanket and items to sell, and keep the profits. At the end, we will hold a final "free" hour, where anyone can come and take, swap or hold onto treasures. Leftover items will need to be returned home, donated or recycled by their owners. This is a great chance to use the manual information and copies of the manual will be on hand.

So, save the date of October 8 (rain date Oct. 9) and we hope to have a great community gathering in the fall! Share stories, visit with friends we haven't seen over the summer, and have some fun!

To learn about registration and spaces available contact: Abbie Jenks, gandhi0324@gmail.com

Community Garden Seeking New Members

As Summer is ending, the Pelham Community Garden will have completed its seventh growing season. And what a season it has been! The drought has been challenging for the plants and the gardeners. Thanks to our wonderful Pelham Fire Department members gardeners had the water they needed to grow an abundance of food despite the dry weather. One good thing about the dry weather was the infrequent need to mow the garden area. Thanks again to Rick Adamcek and the Highway Department for supplying and servicing the mower for our use.



The Pelham Community Garden project began in 2015. The first planting season took place in the Spring of 2016. Much has been accomplished since the garden's inception. Plots were mapped out and rototilled, compost areas created, and

water tanks installed. Once the deer found the garden, fencing was erected. At this point the garden pretty much runs itself. Work days are held periodically to keep up with weeding of the pollinator garden and fencing repair. This work is done by the five folks on the Pelham Community Garden Committee as well as assistance by the gardeners themselves.

The Garden Committee is seeking new members to share the future of the garden as we continue to offer a space for folks to grow food and flowers. The Garden Committee meets once a month from Winter through Spring and early Summer as necessary. Since Covid we have been meeting via Zoom. There are also work day events two or three times per year when Committee members are required to pitch in for garden maintenance including some weeding, trimming and possible light fence repair.

If you are interested in becoming a member please email, pelhamn2n@gmail.com.

Housing Committee Welcomes a New Neighbor!



A preschool teacher and her two daughters are moving into Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity's 50th home. This is the first of two articles welcoming two of Pelham's newest residents. Re-printed with permission of Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity and by new Pelham resident, Tiffani Ely.

"Today's the day we're gonna get our house!" Tiffani's daughter said happily when she woke up on the morning of the lottery for two homes Pioneer Valley Habitat would be building with two families in Pelham. After Tiffani had put in her application for one of the homes several weeks earlier, she and her daughter had driven by the lot to look at it again and again, imagining what if that's where our home someday is? Tiffani's eternal optimism had rubbed off on her daughter, all those times she had said, "you get out what you put into something. If you surround something with positive energy, you will have a positive outcome." Her daughter had taken those words to heart.

It turned out that she was right. That was the day Tiffani found out that she indeed would be embarking on the construction of a Habitat home for herself and her two daughters. Her name had been selected from among the eligible applicants.

Tiffani, a preschool teacher, was just about to sit down with her young students at circle time when the call came that day. "When I heard that it was [PVHH Executive Director] Megan on the phone, my heart seemed to stop. And then when she told me my name had been chosen, I started sobbing," Tiffani remembers.

While she is grateful for the roof over her head, there are things about where she and her girls have been living that she wishes she could change but they are out of her control. For a hardworking mom who has had a challenging living situation for years, looking ahead to owning a home she built with Habitat volunteers is a future she can embrace fully. What Tiffani wants for her children is a place that will be their "forever home," and she says that being selected to be a Habitat homeowner was the first step toward their "forever."

What does she look forward to? "I want to get up, sit on my back porch, drink my coffee, watch my kids play in the yard," she says. And even after the reality of months of long (sometimes brutally cold) days on the construction site, Tiffani says "sometimes I still feel like I'm living in a dream..."

New Housing Committee Member - Linda Spink

Linda Spink was a world traveler before becoming a Pelham homeowner in 2015. She had lived in Georgia, Spain, Texas, Nebraska, and California before attending the University of Hawaii; then she served in the Peace Corps in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

After settling in Washington D.C., Linda built a career in international management and training that allowed her to travel to over 60 countries to work with government officials, diplomats, scientists, health workers, farmers, and environmentalists.

After 31 years in the District of Columbia, Linda moved to Massachusetts, to serve as the Executive Director of Insight Meditation Society in Barre, MA. When she and her wife built their house in Pelham in

2015, they were struck by how few buildable lots there were in town and how lucky they were to find one.

Prior to joining the Housing Committee this year, Linda served on Pelham's Cultural Council, Democratic Town Committee, and the Planning Board. Linda joined the HC because she feels the mission of the committee – "to find ways to increase the diversity, availability, and affordability of housing options in Pelham, particularly for young families and seniors" – is crucial for the future of Pelham, and she wants to contribute to this important endeavor.



Pelham Seniors: FREE Lock Boxes Available

A lock box is a small secure box with a combination that holds your house key. The location and combination will be on file with the Pelham Police Department and the Dispatch Center.

How it works:

When an emergency call comes in, the dispatcher will inform the responding officer or paramedic of the lock box location and combination via a secure format. This allows the officer quick entry to offer assistance. **A Deputy Sheriff and Pelham's Chief of Police will install the boxes free of charge.**



This program is a collaboration of the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office, the Pelham Police Department, and the Pelham Council on Aging.

If you would like to request a lock box, contact Sally Kaufmann, Pelham Council on Aging Outreach Worker, at (413) 530-3759.

Another Successful Summer Reading Program!

Happy Fall and welcome back, students and travelers! While many of you have been vacationing, we've had a busy and exciting summer at the library. Though the pandemic isn't over it feels nearly normal around here. **Nearly 100 children and a dozen teens signed up for our Summer Reading Program, "Read Beyond the Beaten Path"**, and we had programming ranging from a visit from Julie Ann Collier of Wingmasters, who delighted us with her live birds of prey and Dan Butterworth from the Hitchcock Center who taught us about animals and engineering to performances by Jonathan Keezing of Caravan Puppets and a fairy house workshop with Mary Jo Maichack. This summer marked the return of Pelham Players, too, with a young company performance of "It's a Jungle Out There" led by Cindy Naughton and a scenes festival for our older actors led by Solomon Goldstein-Rose. They performed during our Summer Reading Party on an evening so hot that we had to move the festivities indoors. A splendid time was had by all. It was wonderful to have live theater at the library again, and the kids had so much fun that Solomon is hoping to run a fall production as well. If you have a child or teen who might be interested in joining please get in touch!

We bid a sad farewell to our Early Childhood Playgroup leader, Margaret White, at the end of May, then welcomed Dana Mengwasser, who will be taking her place. Playgroup and storytime will move to Friday mornings at 10:30 in September. Drop-ins are welcome. Music for Little Ones with Wendy Plummer will

return on Monday mornings at 10. Bring your babies & preschoolers, it'll be so much fun!

We're sorry to announce that after 10 years Alyse Bynum has decided to take a break from teaching yoga. We may have a new yoga instructor soon, but Alyse isn't really replaceable. We're so glad that she's decided to serve on our library's Board of Trustees, though. She, along with new Trustee Abigail Jenks, will be welcome additions to the Board. We will continue to offer Qigong with Rema Boscov this fall, though. Her class will be moving to Thursday evenings. Get in touch if you'd like to join.

SENIORS: Are you unable to get to the library or know someone who is and who would love to receive home delivery? The Pelham Council on Aging is now providing this service, and will deliver and pick up on Friday mornings. If you're interested, please get in touch with us.

Are you taking advantage of all our fantastic electronic offerings from Wowbrary to Libby to Kanopy to Hoopla? Visit our web page, www.pelham-library.net to learn more.

There's lots more in the works for this fall, including CONCERTS, BOOK GROUPS, and a NEW TEEN PROGRAM. As always, if there is something you'd like to see us doing please let us know. We're here to help and we can't wait to see you!
-Jodi Levine, Director

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for 9 years. Additionally, he is a member of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, Special Operations Division. Chief Nazzaro and the entire crew have been busy testing and updating the department's equipment. Dennis brings a renewed emphasis on training and safety to the department and is eagerly recruiting new members.

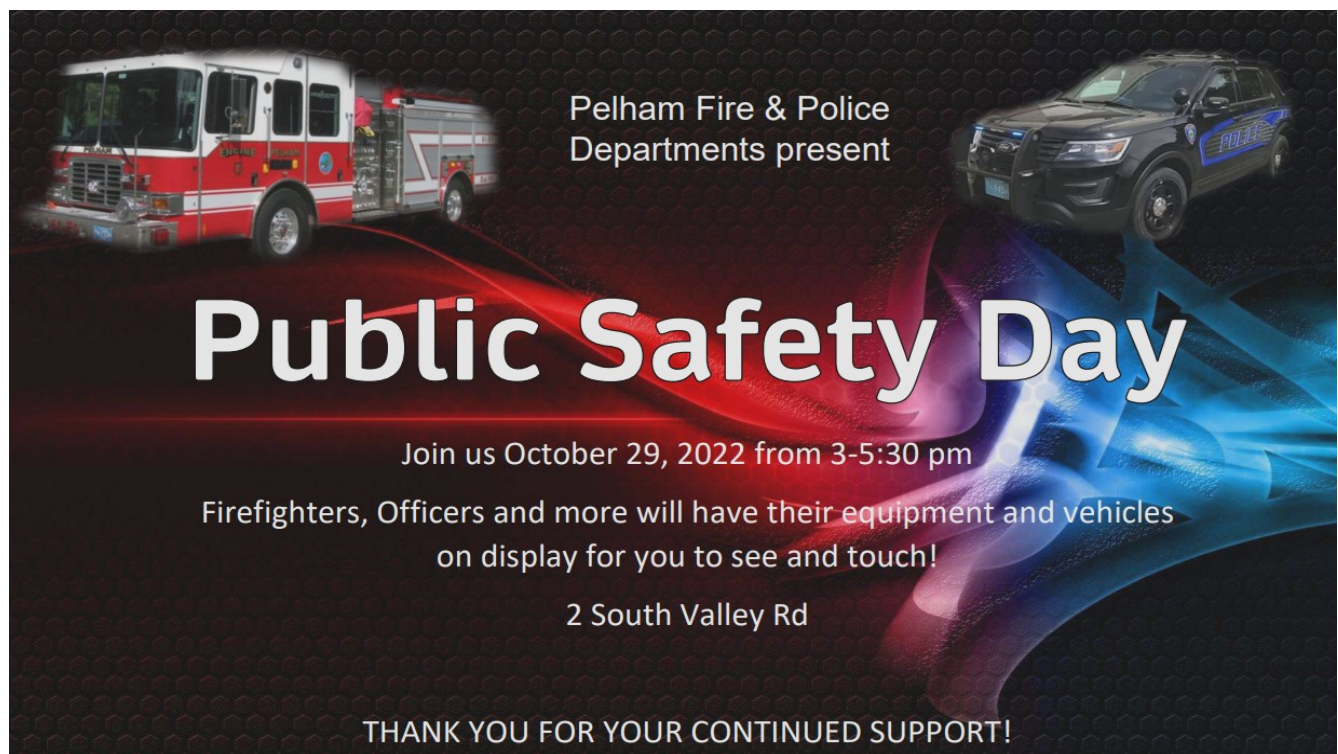
For more information on the department please visit their new website at <https://pelhamfd.com> and/or the departments Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PelhamFireDepartment>.

PLAYGROUND & PAVILION PROJECT

A very exciting and unique project that will serve our School and the Pelham Community is underway. David Shanabrook, Select Board Vice-Chair, Venuta Carulli of the PTO Playground Committee, and Tom Fanning of the Community Preservation Committee are working together to create a space that will have multiple benefits. By building a pavilion over the renovated and resurfaced basketball court adjacent to the proposed school playground, we will gain a sheltered meeting place for the community and the school children. The playground will be ADA compliant and have improved accessibility. The pavilion could be used by Pelham School teachers as an outdoor classroom space, as well as a weather covered basketball court. It could also be used by the community as a valuable meeting space outside of school hours, including Town Meetings. Leveraging these important functions provides a cost-effective way of creating a beautiful new town space. The project is in the preliminary planning stage. A design proposal will be provided by local Architect, Nicholas Cichanowski.

PELHAM SELECT BOARD

Robert Agoglia, Chair 2024 David Shanabrook, Vice-Chair 2025 Tara Loomis, Clerk 2023

OPEN HOUSE AT THE FIRE/POLICE STATIONA promotional poster for 'Public Safety Day' featuring a red and white fire truck on the left and a black police SUV on the right. The background is dark with red and blue wavy lines. The text is white and centered.

Pelham Fire & Police
Departments present

Public Safety Day

Join us October 29, 2022 from 3-5:30 pm

Firefighters, Officers and more will have their equipment and vehicles
on display for you to see and touch!

2 South Valley Rd

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- **FALL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: OCTOBER 15**
Opens at Old Town Hall 9:00AM, 376 Amherst Rd, then continues at Pelham Elementary
- **NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY: OCTOBER 29**
@ the Police Station, 2 South Valley Rd, 10AM-2PM, For more details: NorthwesternDA.org
- **PUBLIC SAFETY DAY/OPEN HOUSE: OCTOBER 29**
@ the Fire/Police Station, 2 South Valley Rd, 3PM-5:30PM, More details on page 5.
- **TRUNK OR TREAT: OCTOBER 29**
@ Pelham Elementary School, 45 Amherst Rd, 5:00PM-6:30PM
- **TAXES DUE: NOVEMBER 1**
Questions? Call Tax Collector, (413) 253-2267
- **MASSACHUSETTS GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 8**
@ Pelham Library in Ramsdell Room, 2 South Valley Rd
- **HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 15**
@ Pelham Library in Ramsdell Room, 2 South Valley Rd, 6:30PM, Followed by a program on Pelham Poultry Farms
- **DOG LICENSES FOR 2022**
License(s): Neutered or Spayed - **\$6.00/dog** Male or Female: - **\$10.00/dog**
 ***Proof of rabies vaccination must be provided at time of licensing*
Late fees apply after May 1, 2022 — Questions? Town Clerk, (413) 253-0512

MEETINGS & MINUTES DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX

1. Go to WWW.TOWNOFPELHAM.ORG
2. Click on the [CALENDAR ICON](#) (left side of page) to be taken to the MyTownGovernment homepage.
3. [SELECT A BOARD/COMMITTEE](#) from the drop down list (left side).
4. Click on ["SUBSCRIBE TO EMAIL ALERTS FOR THIS BOARD"](#) link, then enter your email address.



Town Office Schedules & Contact Information

**Assessor's
Assistant**
Lori Turati
(413) 253-0734
Wednesdays
9am-12pm
& by appointment

**Tax Collector/
Treasurer**
June Masee
(413) 253-2267
Mon-Thurs.
8am-3:30pm

Town Clerk
Sandra Burgess
(413) 253-0512
Tues. 10am-2pm
Wed. 10am-2pm
Thurs. 10am-1pm

**Select Board
Administrative
Assistant**
Susannah Carey
(413) 253-7129
Mon-Thurs.
8:30am-2:30pm

State Representatives

Representative, Mindy Domb
3rd Hampshire
(413) 461-2060
DISTRICT OFFICE, Springfield
(617) 722-2400
STATE HOUSE
MINDY.DOMB@MAHOUSE.GOV

State Senator, Jo Comerford
(617) 722-1532
STATE HOUSE
COMERFORD@MASENATE.GOV

Stay Informed!

Go to Townofpelham.org
click on the **CodeRED** icon to be noti-
fied by your local emergency re-
sponse team in the event of emer-
gency situations
or critical community alerts.

SIGN UP ONLINE:
pelhampolicema.com.



Board/Committee Meeting Schedules

REGULAR MEETINGS

Assessors, Board of
3rd Tuesday
7:30 PM
Rhodes Building,
351 Amherst Rd

Cemetery Commission
2nd Tuesday
7:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Conservation Commission
2nd and last Thursdays
7:00 PM
Rhodes Building,
351 Amherst Rd

**Community Preservation
Committee**
3rd Thursday
7:00 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Council on Aging
2nd Wednesday
3:00 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Energy Committee
1st Tuesday & as needed
7:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Health, Board of
2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM
Rhodes Building,
351 Amherst Rd

Historical Commission
3rd Tuesday
7:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Housing Committee
1st Tuesday
4:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Library Trustees
2nd Wednesday
7:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Planning Board
2nd Tuesday
7:00 PM
Rhodes Building & Library

School Committee
1st Thursday & as needed
6:00 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Select Board
1st & 3rd Mondays
& as needed, 7:00PM
Rhodes Building,
351 Amherst Rd

Public Bodies that meet AS NEEDED:

- Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
- Cable Advisory Committee
- Capital Planning Committee
- Community Garden Committee
- Community Hall Committee
- Community Hall Accessibility Committee
- Cultural Council
- Finance Committee
- IT Advisory Committee
- Regional School District Planning Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Please note that these are
only anticipated meeting
times and locations:

By law, definitive meeting
information is posted 48
hours in advance on

[https://
mytowngovern-
ment.org/01002](https://mytowngovernment.org/01002)

Town of Pelham
Rhodes Building
351 Amherst Road
Pelham, MA 01002

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PELHAM SLATE Fall Edition
*Town Meeting Warrant Inside