THE PELHAM SLATE

Welcome Autumn! Fall Edition 2018

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
Public Safety Complex
2 South Valley Road, Pelham, MA
Sunday, October 14, 2018
12:00pm - 3:00pm
Refreshments - Displays - Demonstrations
Fun for the whole family!

TASK FORCE MEMBERS NEEDED
If you or someone you know would like to join the Resilient Communications Task Force and share your ideas for improving town engagement and communications as part of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action grant, please call the Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant, Susannah Carey, at (413) 253-7129.

FALL TOWN MEETING
Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 7:00PM in Old Town Hall at the corner of Amherst Road and Route 202. The Fall Town Meeting warrant is available online, at the Rhodes Building/Town Offices and is enclosed in this mailing. Please come to learn about and vote on important issues going on in Town.

COME CELEBRATE: PELHAM’S 275TH
Saturday, October 13, 2018
Time: 11:00am-2:00pm
Location: Old Town Hall and other Town Buildings
Join the Town-wide celebration of Pelham. Several sites in town will exhibit aspects of life in Pelham and host demonstrations by craftspeople representing life during different eras; blacksmith, lacemaker, spinner, & hatmaker. Note when you and your family arrived in Pelham on the timeline display planned for the Library.
*Check out page 9 of this edition for more information!

SELECTMEN’S OFFICE
The Town of Pelham was the recipient of 2 grants in 2018: the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant (MVP) for $137,250 awarded in June, and the Green Communities Division Competitive Grant for $31,059 awarded in July. Read more online at townofpelham.org by looking at Grants under ‘About Pelham.’

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PELHAM LIBRARY

It’s been a busy summer at the Pelham Library! We celebrated this year’s summer reading theme, “Libraries Rock!”, with instrument making from recycled materials, rock painting, a model ROCKetry workshop with Ed the Wizard, a dance class with Miss Charlotte of Pineapple Dance, a puppet show by Anna Sobel’s Talking Hands Theater, and of course, our Grand Finale Party with prizes, treats and water balloons! We were worried that the annual water fight would be rained out, but the skies cleared just in time, and the kids had almost as much fun doing a scavenger hunt to gather up the broken balloon pieces as they did tossing the squishy things at each other. Over 90 children registered this year and a splendid time was had by all.

Pelham Players, our resident summer theater, had a big transition this year, with Cindy Naughton stepping back from her role as director and Solomon Goldstein-Rose coming forward to take the helm. The kids and teens put on a fantastic production of Gilbert & Sullivan’s “The Pirates of Penzance” in July and we look forward to many more years of great, free community children’s theater. It’s fabulous being the de facto community center as well as the place to come for books, movies, audiobooks, puzzles, games, puppets and more. Special thanks to the Amherst Garden Club for their donation towards our gardening collection and the Collaborative for Educational Services for their donation towards early childhood and STEM programming.

You may have heard by now that the Friends of the Pelham Library unexpectedly received a large windfall, a bequest from the estate of beloved former Pelham resident Virginia Davis. We’re all adjusting to our changed financial situation and dreaming up exciting things to do with the money. In light of our changed financial circumstances, we voted last month to become a fine-free library! We hope you'll still return your items on time, but if you can't make it in for whatever reason and forget to call there’s no need to worry, we won’t be charging you a late fee (though of course, replacement fees for lost and damaged items will still apply). We’re also considering options such as purchasing more comfortable seating for concerts and hiring someone to take care of our gardens. Meanwhile the money will be invested with the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. If you’d like to get involved and help plan future events, they can always use more people. Interested? Contact Emily Marriott at emarriott@gmail.com

September is going to be a busy month, with the school year starting and fall programming gearing up again, including yoga, Music for Little Ones and our early childhood play group. We’ll also be hosting some yoga story times and a qigong series. We also have some exciting exhibits coming up in the Ramsdell Room as well, including a memorial exhibit in honor of former Pelham resident Carl Schmaltz in September, with an opening reception on Saturday, September 8. In October we’ll be honoring Pelham’s 275th anniversary with a special exhibit during the month (details to follow). Have an idea for a program or an exhibit? Let us know!

Finally, a reminder that though we are lucky to have a wonderful, talented and dedicated staff, volunteers are crucial to the functioning of any public library. If you have an hour or two to spare each month (or more!) please consider volunteering. We can always use a hand with shelving, organizing, watering the plants and general tidying up. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Jodi Levine, Director

2018 RECYCLING NOTES

Items that can be recycled* may be brought to the Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road on the 1st Saturday of each month, from 9:00am - 12:00pm. If the first Saturday falls on a holiday or Town election, then the recycling date will be delayed by one week.

Upcoming dates:
October 13, November 3, December 1

*Items that can be recycled:
Paper - newspaper, magazines, catalogs, white paper, cereal type boxes, corrugated cardboard, junk mail, & brown paper bags;
Containers - glass bottles, metal & aluminum cans, foil, plastics #1 - #6, wax-coated juice / milk cartons, & drink boxes.
Please do not use plastic bags for any recycling.
Thank you!

Pamela Levine, Director

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM

Celebrate 275 Years of Pelham*
Saturday October 13, 2018
11 a.m - 2 p.m.
Old Town Hall & other locations

Join the Town-wide celebration of Pelham. Several sites in town will exhibit aspects of life in Pelham and/or host demonstrations by craftspeople representing life during different eras. Note when you and your family arrived in Pelham on the timeline display planned for the Library. Get involved in planning this event sponsored by PHS in partnership with the Library, the Elementary School and the Select Board by contacting, pelham275@pelhamhistory.org or Cynthia Weigel, 413-256-4606.

* Program co-sponsored with the Pelham Library

Annual meeting at 7 p.m.
Followed by Presentation at 7:30 pm on New England Vegetables: 275 Years *

Tuesday November 13, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Pelham Library Ramsdell Room

Learn about the varieties of vegetables grown in New England since 1743 when Pelham was incorporated, many of which might be unfamiliar to you today. Ruth DiBuono, Coordinator of Horticulture at Old Sturbridge Village, will explain how vegetables have changed over the years both in how they were valued and preserved as well as in the actual varieties used. You are invited to bring your favorite vegetable seeds to share and exchange with other participants. For more information, contact Cynthia Weigel, 413-256-4606.

Holiday Tea and Program *
Saturday December 15, 2018
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Pelham Library

We will again co-host this popular event with the Pelham Library by providing treats for the Tea. For more information, contact Bruce Klotz, 413-695-1797.

*Program co-sponsored with the Pelham Library

The Pelham Cultural Council invites proposals/applications from organizations, schools, and individuals for 2019 grants supporting arts, humanities, and science programs benefiting the residents of Pelham and Pelham School students and families. Proposals are due to the Pelham Cultural Council—via the online application portal accessible via www.mass-culture.org—before close-of-business on Monday, October 15.

The grants—drawn from Pelham’s 2019 allocation of $4,500 from the state and traditionally ranging in size from $50 to $750—may support a variety of cultural projects and activities in Pelham, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, screenings, workshops, lectures, or performances.

The Pelham Cultural Council's general funding priorities include: • arts programs in the schools (K-12) • projects celebrating Pelham’s history, culture, and environment • programs featuring Pelham visual and performing artists, writers, musicians, scientists, historians, or other subject area experts • programs which feature global perspectives. Up to 3 pages (total) of supporting documents may be uploaded with proposals / applications. Letters of support from venues where programs are proposed to take place are strongly encouraged, as are resumes, promotional materials, and/or reviews of previous programs.

The Pelham Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

For more information about the Local Cultural Council Program and to access the application form, visit www.mass-culture.org. For more information about the Pelham Cultural Council, contact Council Member Nora Maroulis at nora@wunderarts.com.

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CULTURAL COUNCIL NEWS

Council Mailing Address: Pelham Cultural Council Rhodes Building / Town Offices 351 Amherst Road Pelham, MA 01002-9779

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**TOWN CLERK NEWS**

Hi everyone, I hope you all had a chance to check out the new town website as Susannah and I have been hard at work on this project. If not, please take a few minutes to look around the website (Town of Pelham.org). There is a “find it fast” place to search for certain things, but it really has a whole lot more information, so please do not stop at the front page or the calendar. We have been diligently trying to learn more and update the official town information for you.

Since the last Slate edition, we held Annual Town Meeting, Local Elections, and most recently, the State Primary. The September 4th Primary was a very busy day, as about 47% of our 1068 registered voters came to the polls. And because of the number of write in votes, the counting time was longer than usual. And, we had a number of observers and campaigners out as well. All the current and previous election workers have my thanks and praise for jobs well done. They have been through at least one poll worker training class. There is room for more poll workers, should you choose to help out. For now, I will not be working at the November State Election and actually at least through May, as beginning October 1, I will be on medical leave for knee surgeries. For the future, please remember you need to fill out your Census forms when they are sent in the beginning of 2019, and to license your dogs before April 1, 2019.

For now, the Select Board has appointed Sandra Burgess as our interim Town Clerk. Sandra was the Town Clerk here previously, and then worked in Amherst. She recently retired from Amherst and has agreed to fill in during my leave. Her hours and some other information will be different than mine, and it will be posted on the town web site to help provide a smooth transition. She will be taking over all my duties, so if you attend Fall Town meeting she will be there, and she will be in charge of the November Election, and be working at Annual Town Meeting in May. Early voting will be available for November and those dates will be provided soon, and of course, you can request an absentee ballot for all elections as well. You must be present at Town Meetings to vote. I feel you will be in good hands in my absence.

Sincerely,
Kathy Martell

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**COUNCIL ON AGING**

Hello everyone. Your current COA members are Kathy Martell, Grace Dane and Isabel Ryavec. We are still short two members and two associate members. We also still need an Outreach Worker, though we have started interviewing for the position. It would be so wonderful if we could have a full roster of members, as there are many services that Pelham Seniors could benefit from, but which are very hard to manage with only three members. If one of us is out, we cannot even have a regular meeting as we do not make the quorum of three. We have been working on a number of projects. We have an ongoing birthday card program thanks to the Grace Dane, as she faithfully sends them out. We are looking into a future foot care program for seniors, and have hopes that we can get the med ride program up and running as it is sorely needed by a number of seniors. In August we held our second annual Summer Potluck picnic with the assistance of the Lions Club, and our Flu Clinic on Sept 25th as the current recommendations are for the flu shot to be given early. Kathy will be having surgery. If you can help out, please step up. *Almost half of the town residents are seniors!* Keep looking for our updates, as we often send cards and letters through the mail as not all seniors have computers/email. We do update the web site with information too.

Sincerely, Kathy Martell

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**COLLECTOR/TREASURER NOTES**

The next payment for Real Estate taxes is due **November 1, 2018**. If you need a copy of your tax bill or need to learn the amount due please call the Collector/Treasurer, June Massee, at (413) 253-2267.

The Collector’s **office hours are Monday –Thursdays, 8:00AM-4:00PM** at the Rhodes Building Town Offices, 351 Amherst Road.
The mission of the Pelham Housing Committee (PHC), now in its 3rd year, is to increase the diversity, availability, and affordability of housing options in Pelham, particularly for young families and seniors.

These needs were identified on page one of the 2014 Housing Needs Study, prepared by consultants to Pelham’s Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Shortly afterwards, the PHC was established by the Select Board to address these issues. It is a mission we have worked toward diligently ever since.

In 2016, the PHC received town funding to hire independent, professional land use and planning experts to analyze and develop the Pelham Land Inventory and Assessment (PLIA) © 2017. This study, distributed to all town Boards and the Pelham Library - and linked to our town website - has become a cornerstone of our work. With its vast array of detailed maps, the PLIA shows which (few) parcels of land in Pelham may be considered suitable for development, once you subtract “physical and regulatory constraints” such as wetlands, slope, permanently protected habitats, MA law (Chpt 61) and current zoning. It also provides examples of how other towns have met similar housing challenges and offers recommendations.

The PHC supported, and was heartened by, the passage (at this spring’s Town Meeting) of the new Pelham Town Center by-laws, which we feel will not only protect the character of our town, but also provides additional housing opportunities and services for newcomers and seniors. To this end, our committee is studying the feasibility of other minor zoning changes.

To further our mission, the PHC has received valuable information from Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, Pelham’s Council on Aging, and PHC’s Realtor member Jim Lumley regarding our town’s past and current real estate market. To broaden our vision, we have discussed Northampton’s Big Enough program, and Goshen’s Senior Housing project, among other initiatives. Two of our members attended a day-long conference on Land Trusts, which many towns use to expedite property acquisitions.

This fall, the PDC will ask Town Meeting to approve a First-Time Homeowners program that will assist eligible homebuyers with down payment and closing cost expenses. This initiative has been endorsed by the Pelham CPC and would be professionally administered by the non-profit Valley Community Development Corporation (VCDC), which has had great success in helping provide affordable, more diverse housing opportunities in our region. We believe the program is a win-win for both newcomers to Pelham and the continued growth and vitality of our town.

The PHC welcomes any and all information and new ideas related to our mission. Our meetings are open to the public, usually held the first Tuesday of the month at 4:30PM in the Pelham Town Library, and always posted on Pelham’s website.

MEET THE HOUSING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

TILMAN LUKAS, Chair, Harkness Road
I have spent nearly 40 years assisting non-profits and for-profit organizations developing multi-family affordable housing projects. I believe the Housing Committee provides a great opportunity to use my skills and experience to help the town create some much-needed affordable housing. As Chair of the Committee I look forward to working with the Committee’s enthusiastic members and town boards to develop affordable homeownership opportunities and rental housing to make Pelham a more diverse community.

RUTH ELCAN, Harkness Road
Ruth is on the Housing Committee as a “concerned citizen” and a wholehearted supporter of its mission. Because her Pelham home has been a deep source of joy and stability in her life for forty-five years, she hopes to make owning a home in Pelham affordable nowadays for others. In previous years, Ruth served on Pelham’s Planning Board and on the Zoning Board of Appeals.
GAIL KENNY, Harkness Road

As an architect, I hope I will be able to contribute to the Housing Committee effort to bring affordable housing to Pelham. I have lived in Pelham for 46 years and would like to stay here as I age, but that is getting harder to do due to increasing taxes. A larger housing base would help reduce taxes.

BARBARA COOPER, South Valley Road

Barbara Cooper has been a Pelham homeowner since 1980 and raised her two children here. After working as a Realtor for 14 years, she became a First-Time Homebuyer Counselor and an independent real estate and mortgage consultant. She has written numerous articles about buying, selling and owning real estate for the Daily Hampshire Gazette, and other publications. Barbara joined the Pelham Housing Committee in 2016. “I felt my experience would be a good fit.”

JIM LUMLEY, Harkness Road

Jim Lumley’s family home was moved to Pelham from the Prescott Peninsula in the 1930s with the creation of the Quabbin. A decade or so later, the Lumleys planted 100+ rare varieties of mature lilacs on their property and welcomed the public to Lilac Land, which still hosts thousands of visitors annually. Jim is also well-known as a lifelong real estate professional, artist, public servant, and author of nearly a dozen books on a variety of business topics. His paintings have been displayed in dozens of East Coast galleries and he taught at the Cape Cod School of Art for several years. Locally, Jim has served on Pelham’s Planning Board and is a member of the Community Preservation Committee. He is also a founder of Craig’s Doors homeless shelter, a Board Member and Treasurer of the Interfaith Housing Corp., which supports affordable housing initiatives, and a member of Amherst’s Historic District Commission. His interests and vast experience led him to be appointed chair of Pelham’s Housing Committee at its inception in 2015.

AMY SPALDING-FECHER, North Valley Road

As a relative newcomer to Pelham, I am excited about the vitality of our town. In 2013 ours was one of the only houses to be sold in Pelham. Increasing the availability and affordability of housing would create a more vibrant housing market and improve the tax base. As an architect, I understand the need for sustainable and affordable housing to keep Pelham thriving. As a parent with children who have gone to ARHS, I bring a concern for the schooling system and for the resources that support an excellent local school.

PELHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Pelham School staff and students are very appreciative of the support of the town to bring technology upgrades to our classrooms. The town select board allocated funds at the 2018 May town meeting to purchase several Chrome Book carts. Teachers are very excited to begin using them with students. We have a busy fall ahead of us! With the Pelham 275th celebration, staff and students will be working on projects to celebrate this special event. The community is also invited to join us in our Trunk or Treat event at the end of October. Please feel free to join any of the school events posted to the website or outside the school. I am very interested in fostering more Pelham town connections with the school community. If you have any interest in visiting, volunteering, or have an idea to propose, please feel free to call me at (413)362-1101.

Given the challenges of ensuring viability and visibility as a small school in financially challenging times, Pelham School participated in an Innovative Small Schools Working Group that met throughout the past school year. We are very committed to articulating and marketing our strengths to the broader community, in addition to considering areas that we can grow and develop to make the school more attractive, and enhance the richness of the learning experience for our students. Through the course of the group’s work, we were able to determine that the school community, including staff and families, is interested in the following areas: project-based learning, social justice, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), and civic engagement. Over the course of this year, we will be in the planning stages of envisioning what we would like to see for our school and determining next steps. I enthusiastically welcome any members of the town of Pelham to join us in this exciting journey! I hope you enjoy the copy of the very first edition of the student-led Pelham Paws Prints newspaper included in the back of this edition. It’s sure to bring a chuckle or two! Happy Fall!

-Lisa Desjarlais, Principal
Here’s what you should know.

**What are "regional" schools?**
A Regional School District is one school district shared by two or more towns. Towns share school services and buildings, and have one budget with one school committee.

**Don’t Amherst and Pelham already share a school region?**
Amherst and Pelham are part of a regional school district for grades 7-12, but have our own districts for preK-6. Our two preK-6 districts do share a superintendent, curriculum and central office staff, but we don’t get any additional state funding that regional school districts receive.

**Why would Amherst and Pelham consider doing this?**
To promote the long-term financial health of our schools and preserve more services through cost savings, and increase options for students. For example, the state reimburses transportation costs, and increases reimbursement on building projects for regional school districts.

**What kinds of things are being studied?**
A detailed cost-saving analysis, options for the composition of a shared school committee, rules for a shared funding agreement and rules for shared buildings and enrollments are some examples.

**What’s the potential timeline for making this decision?**
- 2018 - Summer/Fall: Actively study the questions, conduct financial analyses
- 2018 - Fall/Winter: Begin ongoing public input and feedback
- 2019 - Spring: The Regional School District Planning Board makes a recommendation
- 2019 - Spring/Summer: If Yes, the Board and School Committees create a Regional Agreement
- 2019 - Fall: Pelham Town Meeting and Amherst town-wide vote
- 2020 - Winter/Spring: If Yes, transition to new region, to begin July 2020

**I have more questions. Where can I get more info?**
The Regional School District Planning Board web page at [bit.ly/APRegion](http://bit.ly/APRegion) is the central location for the most updated information. You can also contact the Board directly at [RSDPB@arps.org](mailto:RSDPB@arps.org).

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!
The Regional School District Planning Board was formed to study this idea, inform the public and gather input and feedback. We want to hear from you! Consider sending a short message to [RSDPB@arps.org](mailto:RSDPB@arps.org). Let us know:

*What questions, concerns or input do you have about regionalization?*

ABOUT THE BOARD
The Regional School District Planning Board is a joint Board of the Towns of Amherst And Pelham, proposed by the Amherst and Pelham School Committees, approved by the Amherst and Pelham Town Meetings and appointed by the Amherst and Pelham Town Moderators. The Board members are:

Amherst
- Peter Demling (Chair; school committee representative)
- Joan Temkin
- Marylou Theilman

Pelham
- Emily Marriott (Vice-Chair)
- Cara Castenson (Secretary-Treasurer; school committee representative)
- Tom Fanning

The Board hold regular open meetings in Amherst and Pelham.
Contact the Board at [RSDPB@arps.org](mailto:RSDPB@arps.org), or visit our web page at [bit.ly/APRegion](http://bit.ly/APRegion).
3rd ANNUAL COFFEE WITH A COP DAY

Please join Police Chief Gary Thomann at the Pelham Police Station at 10:00AM on October 3, 2018.

Building relationships. One cup at a time.

Visit https://coffeewithacop.com/ for additional information and tips on this great event!

Coffee with a Cop brings police officers and community members they serve together-over coffee-to discuss issues and learn more about each other.

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TOWN OFFICES, SCHEDULE & CONTACTS

Assessor (413) 253-7734
Tuesday & Thursday 8am-12pm

Collector/Treasurer (413) 253-2267
Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm

Selectmen’s Office (413) 253-7129
Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm

Town Clerk (413) 253-0512
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10am-2pm
*Temporary Town Clerk, Sandra Burgess

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MEETING SCHEDULE

REGULAR
Board of Assessors
3rd Tuesday at 7:30 PM
Rhodes Building, 351 Amherst Road

Board of Health
2nd Tuesdays at 7 PM
Rhodes Building, 351 Amherst Road

Board of Selectmen
1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

Cemetery Commission
2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM
Rhodes Building, 351 Amherst Road

Conservation Commission
2nd & last Thursdays at 7 PM
Rhodes Building, 351 Amherst Road

Community Preservation Committee
3rd Thursdays at 7 PM
Pelham Library, Ramsdell Room
2 South Valley Road

Energy Committee
1st Tuesdays and as needed 7:30 PM
See Town website for details.

Historical Commission
3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 PM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

Library Trustees
3rd Wednesdays at 7 PM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

Planning Board
2nd Mondays at 7 PM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

School Committee
1st Wednesday at 6 PM
Pelham Library, Ramsdell Room
2 South Valley Road

Public Bodies that also meet as needed:
The Capital Planning Committee, Community Hall Committee, Cultural Council, Garden Committee, Housing Committee, Regional School District Planning Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals.

VARIABLE
Council on Aging
As needed, please see posting.
Pelham Library, Ramsdell Room
2 South Valley Road

Finance Committee
As needed at 6 PM, see posting.
Rhodes Building, 351 Amherst Road

Please note that these are only anticipated meeting times and locations:
By law, definitive meeting information is posted 48 hours in advance 24/7 on the TownofPelham.org website and outside the Rhodes Building at 351 Amherst Rd.
Celebrate Pelham’s 275th!

Saturday, October 13, 2018
11am-2pm

AT PELHAM HISTORIC COMPLEX
- Visit with period artisans including blacksmith Ted Hinman, hatmaker Bill Stroud and fiber spinner Jenny Atkins and her rabbit.
- Museum will be open. Come see the new interactive Conkey Tavern exhibit!
  376 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002

AT COMMUNITY HALL
- Discover Pelham's past! View historic photographs from Pelham.
- Learn about Pelham's Campbell’s Bakery & the history of Community Hall.
- Visit lacemaker Linda Sheff!
  40 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002

AT TOWN LIBRARY
- Interactive timeline of Pelham’s history- with space for you to add your own history and dates!
  2 South Valley Road, Pelham, MA 01002

AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- See Children’s work on display and more!
  45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002

TOURS OF THE PELHAM HISTORIC COMPLEX
WILL BE OFFERED AT 11:30AM AND 1:00PM
The Pelham Student Council
By Indigo Halasz

Hello! Many of you may not be familiar with the Student Council. Well, the student council is made up of 5th and 6th graders who are interested in helping to make decisions for the school. This year, the seven members of the student council are: Tyler Block, Indigo Halasz, Senna Zephr, Zoya Canova, Ava Zimmermann, Tycho Tsuchikawa-Coffeshalber, and Nouri Dayaratne. Each year, different members are elected. Everyone interested creates a presentation and presents for the 5th and 6th grade classes. Continued on page 4.

Potato Chips Break Old Technology
By Vlad Konyo

“Never say ‘potato chips’ into an old device made before 1997, because it will break. Let me explain, so what happened is my YouTube partner, Evan Scott, was over at my YouTube recording studio, and we were trying to play a Nintendo 64, and it was not working. We kept fiddling with the TV cords, and restarting the video upscaler, hoping it would display on the TV. Finally it started working and we could see everything on the TV. But then, Evan picked up the microphone and put it into the upscaler and said ‘Potato Chips’ into the microphone. A second later, the TV screamed ‘POTATO CRIPS!!!’ Then the game crashed, so the TV goes blank.

We tried doing the same thing again to get the Nintendo to work, but it failed. So we went outside for a while. When we came back into the house an hour later, we turned it on, and it was doing everything perfectly. We finally got to play Mario Kart 64.”

For Foodies
By Cristina Hayes-Mendez

All you Foodies out there. The school lunch has never been our strongsuit at Pelham.” 6th grader, Kaya Walker, says. “I’m not saying it’s bad, it’s just not amazing.”

Kaya gets school lunch once a week, on pizza day, also known as Friday. At our Pelham School, we have lunch, but I have interviewed people and when I asked them about the food, it has consistently come down to where the food comes from, especially the pizza.

Evan Scott, a student of the Pelham School 6th grade, says that our food comes from quote, “A nuclear power plant disaster.” He says he was kidding, but we want to know where the school lunch really comes from. Before Ms. Walker knew where the lunch came from, she commented, “The food is coming from China, to Fort River, back to China, then to a nuclear power plant disaster, then to us.” Now, to reveal where the lunch really comes from, our principal, Lisa Desjardins, informed me that the school lunch comes from the Fort River School.

The school lunch consists of many options. Indigo Halasz, a fifth grader at the Pelham Elementary School, says, “The best lunch is the rock hard pancakes, like they are made of rubber.” The lunch is not the same thing every week, except for the pizza. Another favorite food is the hotdogs, says Vlad Konyo. “They are fun because they bounce.” But every week, on Friday, we are served pizza. But, for example, our lunch can have hamburgers, sandwiches, nachos, Fun Lunch. Any way, we occasionally have Breakfast for Lunch. This means we are served pancakes or french toast.

We have many tasty options as our school lunch. Or, if nothing on the menu interests you, you can just bring your own lunch. Very recently, we had a Lasagna Dinner on May 18, 2018 in the school gymnasium, and we had a bake sale during the Pelham Town Meeting on May 12, 2018. These events were fundraisers for the sixth graders to go on a field trip to Camp Massasoit at Springfield College, for team building and races, and activities. The trip cost about $500, and we raised $655.05 from the Lasagna Dinner, and an additional $166 from the bake sale, for a total amount raised of $822.05!!!

Eat, eat, eat!!

What’s New?
By Kaya Walker

At Pelham, we have a lot of musical activities for students to engage in. There’s a orchestra, a chorus, and a band. They perform at school assemblies twice a year, and the chorus often performs in the Pelham Library near Christmas time. But Pelham’s musical groups are starting to branch out to performing outside of school instead of only school assemblies. Our band also performed at the UMass Renaissance Fair on May 6th. As a member of the band, I can tell you that we have been working very hard for a while now and would love if you could come and watch us play, and enjoy a day of festivities! Our conductor, Bob Castellano, or as we refer to him: Mr. Castellano, encourages everyone to come and watch. “Come and support your band!” Mr. Castellano urges Pelham families.

Speaking of instruments, calling out all trumpet players! We need you! Our little band consists of only 13 people, and the numbers are getting lower. But, as small as it is, we still manage to work, and have fun. Juliette Blair, horn player says, “In hand, we talk about ice cream flavors, and stalking Mr. Castellano at his performances!” Oh, and I can assure you that we play music too.

Mr. Shaw Retires This Year
By Claire Lloyd

Mr. Shaw, the fourth grade teacher at Pelham Elementary School, attended Medfield Elementary School. He also attended Amherst Middle and High School. He went to UMass. Mr. Shaw grew up in Massachusetts and lived in New York for 4 years. His hobbies are biking, hiking, running, being outside, and technology. He asked him: “What inspired you to become a teacher?” He said: “I really enjoyed my days as a student and I wanted to recreate that feeling.” Mr. Shaw plans on doing part-time jobs with students after he retires this year.

Recess
By Ariana Hall-Rivera

On reasons I think recess should be longer, I got perspectives from Pelham 4th grade students Lily Gabri, Alyssa Kenney, myself, and Dillon Reid, and parents like Marie Hall. My first reason comes from Lily: “What I like about recess is that I can do what I want to do and I don’t get bored.” My second reason comes from Dillon Reid and she said: “Why I like recess is because people can scream with friends.” Another reason is from Alyssa. She said: “My favorite thing about recess is playing soccer outside with friends.” Another person to say what they like about recess is me, and I said: “I get why people don’t like recess because they don’t like some of the drama and they get bored.” The last reason is from a parent’s point of view and Marie said, “Kids need to get exercise and interact with friends and other people helps them to think more and better clear their minds.”

Those are all the reasons why I think we should have more recess. A final quote from Lily sums it up:

“Don’t let the ball stand in your way!”

Chief Editors: Marit Gabri, Craig Horne, Evan Scott, and Toby York
Never Be in a Boat in a Storm...

By: Tyler Black

I always wanted to discover some far away land.

I wouldn't recommend going out. A storm is blowing.

Hey, Sir can I row over that boat?

I don't care!

I can discover a island now!

Oooww!!

Never be in a boat in a storm...

Why I Love Rafters

By Dillon Reid

I love Rafters because of their good food, fun games, and most of all, because of their nice waiters, waitresses, and staff. My first reason why I like Rafters is because of their good food. I don't really like fries but these are to die for, and my mom loves the salads with tuna (optional) and the chicken wings. I also love Rafters because of their fun games. My favorite games are the claw machines and the jukebox. In the claw machines there are prizes and to win them you have to grab them with the claw, and at the jukebox you can play your favorite song, and pinball you have to hit targets. Finally, why I love Rafters is because of their really nice waiters, waitresses, and staff. My top three people there are probably Tara, Nicole, and Gina. The reason I picked them is because they're usually there when we're there, and they're always so nice to us. In conclusion: I love Rafters because of their good food, fun games, and most of all, because of their nice waiters, waitresses, and staff.

About Orchestra

By Alex Robb

For the first Arts column Ms. O'Mara shares her thoughts about the Pelham Orchestra.

"I started teaching instrument lessons and orchestra at Pelham Elementary in 2012. Most students start taking stringed instrument lessons in third grade, but some start outside of school even earlier than that. I usually invite students to join the Pelham Orchestra during their second year of instrument lessons, so for most students this would be fourth grade," said Ms. O'Mara. "I like orchestra because when you learn an instrument, you actually end up learning a number of very important skills that do not only apply to music. When learning an instrument, you have to learn to manage your time outside of school to make sure you have enough time to practice every day. Everyone is so busy, so finding that little bit of time to work on your instrument each day takes a lot of dedication. When playing in an orchestra, you have to learn how to work together in a group to produce a beautiful piece of music, which can be difficult at first. Most importantly, you're learning an instrument you have to learn to be patient with yourself, and you have to be willing to put in the work to improve your skills - it doesn't happen overnight!"

The Pelham Student Council, cont'd.

The winners are selected by the other students. Every 5th or 6th grade student votes for multiple candidates, and the top 6 win. This year, there are 7 members because there was a tie for 6th place. One of our current projects is the "Pawlet Change Fundraiser for Rainbow Rescues, a nonprofit organization in Glocester," we are also working on the "Kids Sunshine Club," which definitely needs some work! The goal of the "Kids Sunshine Club" is to cheer up upset kids in the school. We will try to keep you posted and tell you a lot more about these projects as they move along.

D & D Opening at Pelham Library

By Holden Castenson

Imagine you're in a long hallway and there's a locked door you need to get through. Is one of the members of your group a rogue? Why not ask them to help lockpick it? Or is there an armed dragonborn swinging his tail at you? Would you dodge or do a backflip over his head to avoid it? This is the kind of decision you make in the world of Dungeons & Dragons (D&D).

I started playing D&D in a comic store called Modern Myths in Northampton. The bad news is it's closing for good so you won't be able to go there. The good news is D&D will be happening in the Pelham Library and you should do it when it does. You can bring your old character. If you have one, or there's always the option to make a new one for first times. The dungeon master will explain how. Anyone can play, even if you haven't played before. There are a lot of rules, although you don't use them all at the same time. The dungeon master will explain when you need to use them.

I think that it's a great opportunity and you should do it if it happens, because if you learn how to play you can teach your friends and get a lifelong enjoyment from it. That's a really good thing in my opinion. Another great thing about joining is that you can have something to look forward to after school. If you're interested in doing it share a document with castensonh@aps.org and I'll keep you posted.
*Fall Town Meeting Warrant & 275th Anniversary Celebration Flyer Enclosed

Pelham Slate

*Fall Edition 2018*

WHAT’S INSIDE:

- COME CELEBRATE: Pelham’s 275TH
  October 13, 11am-2pm
- Fire Prevention Week Event at Fire
  Department October 14
- Pelham Paw Prints-Student Newspaper
- Fall Town Meeting October 15
- Meet the Committee Feature: Housing