WHAT'S INSIDE:

• Annual Town Meeting May 12
• Celebrate 275 Years of Pelham
• Path to Energy Independence: CCE
• Meet the Committee: Planning Board
• Meet Your Moderator: Dan Robb
• Annual Town Meeting May 12
• T

DEBATE & VOTE: Without you, there is no democracy. SAVE THE DATE
**PELHAM SLATE**

**Never been?** You are not going to want to miss TOWN MEETING on May 12, 2018 beginning at 9 AM at the Pelham Elementary School.

**It's your money, come decide.** Without you, there’s no democracy.

**Don't throw it away:** At Town Meeting you have the opportunity to make big decisions for Pelham. But you need to be there. Take a look at the town warrant included here, and you will see a lot is at stake:

As Dan describes for us on page 2, **there are many decisions for you to make, some routine, some which may generate lively debate.** Read the included warrant carefully and decide for yourself what excites you.

Town Meeting celebrates our democracy- but only if voters attend.

As you can read in the 2017 Town Report, available at the Library and Rhodes Building, last spring 125 voters attended and last fall 42 came and made decisions affecting Pelham’s 1300 residents. Together we decide which services we value and these decisions affect tax rates. That is a lot of **power in your hands.** Come hold them up high and say yea and nay.

So see you May 12. Put down your rakes, change your Saturday plans, bring your favorite kids so they can see democracy in action. **You don’t want to miss this opportunity.**

---

**SOLARIZE HOT WATER**

Low Cost, Low Carbon: 80% Savings

Would you like to save money and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by heating your water with the Sun? You can.

**For a limited time** the Solarize Hot Water Western Massachusetts program offers the opportunity to install solar hot water on your home with incentives covering 80% of the cost for an after-incentive cost of $2,000 or less.

To learn more, come **meet installer Spartan Giordano** on May 8, at 6:30 PM in the Library Ramsdell Room to schedule a free home visit and be sure to check out: hcg-ma.org/solar-hot-water

This program is supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) in partnership with the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCG), Spartan Solar of Greenfield, and the Pelham Energy Committee.

**Questions?**

Contact EC Chair: stanswiercz@comcast.net

---

**PELHAM CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**ART, HISTORY, AND CULTURE IS ALIVE IN PELHAM**

Pelham Cultural Council Announces 2018 Grant Recipients

The Pelham Cultural Council is pleased to announce that its most recent funding cycle resulted in 31 proposal submissions, of which **22 were selected to receive support from the Council’s 2018 state allocation of $4,400.** Grants awarded ranged from $50 for a cultural awareness program that serves the Upper Valley, to $750 for support of arts and culture field trips at the Pelham School.

A concerted effort on the part of the Council to generate more proposals from Pelham residents themselves had the desired effect; 13 of the grants-including one for a new ‘Conkey’s Tavern’ installation at the Historical Museum and another for support of the upcoming Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail—were awarded to individuals, programs, and events in town and/or presented by town organizations or residents. **For a full list of 2018 grant recipients, visit www.townofpelham.org/cultural-council.**

The Pelham Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. 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 submitting a proposal to the Pelham Cultural Council, or to learn more about serving as a member of the Cultural Council, **contact Council Member Nora Maroulis at nora@wunderarts.com.**
which I would recommend to anyone interested in (what I regard as) the genius of the Town Meeting decision-making process.

The genius of any Town Meeting lies in this: that, although somewhat messy and wordy, it truly allows the people of a town to govern openly and fairly. They (you) really do make the decisions that drive the town, particularly if everyone takes the time to research the articles on the warrant. My role as Moderator is to ensure (as much as is in my power) that all voters in the meeting understand the questions before them, have the equal chance to rise to speak to these questions, and when it comes time to vote, that everyone (everyone) feels that she or he has had their questions answered, and that their vote has been counted fairly and correctly. It is also my role to ensure that no question of propriety hovers over any vote, and that the meeting is conducted in an atmosphere of comity and goodwill, even when strong opinions are freely expressed. In this, a well-run Town Meeting serves as a model for governance even at the highest level.

Indeed, there are no Democrats or Republicans in a Town Meeting. Rather, we are once again simply people, voting together as a community of equals.

I come originally from a much larger town on Cape Cod where the Town Meeting is "representative" (with elected Town Meeting members), rather than "open," like ours. I am only too glad to be part of our open Town Meeting, and I regard our Town Meeting as an expression of the essential liberty and justice upon which our nation was founded. E pluribus unum is an aphorism which, in my estimation, sits amiables beside any Town Meeting member.

I understand that I am just one in a long line of town moderators in Pelham, that many have come before me, and that many will succeed me. I regard it as a great privilege to serve the town in this way.

-Daniel Robb
One of the many duties of a Planning Board is to prepare a comprehensive master plan. After nearly 10 years of discussion and planning by a succession of town officials, the Planning Board is pleased to announce that we are ready to bring the proposed Town Center zoning bylaws to Spring Town Meeting! By concentrating development in West Pelham, we can provide more affordable housing and mixed-use possibilities without compromising or sacrificing vital open space and habitat in town. With the advent of the sewer line on Amherst Road allowing for hookups within the designated area, the vision for a viable, compact town center is finally achievable. If this passes, we will then concentrate on creating walk and bikeways, traffic calming on Amherst Road, storm water management and sewer extensions in the designated area.

ABBIE JENKS, Chair, Jones Rd.
To be an active participant is in my makeup and I have been one regularly throughout my life. In Pelham, I previously served on the School Committee, the School Council and the Arts Council and as a long time resident, now retired, I wanted to re-engage in town affairs to affect positive change. Currently, as chair of the Planning Board, I find how much my values of engaging in democratic principles, preserving a sustainable world and building community influence this work. Although planning is not in my background (I am a former social worker and teacher), I find the boards’ current work of creating new zoning for a West Pelham village center is inspiring. By concentrating development in West Pelham, we can provide more affordable housing and mixed-use possibilities without compromising or sacrificing vital open space and habitat in town. I love Pelham and I want our town to become a vibrant and welcoming community that holds onto its rural New England character while providing a place where a diversity of people can live and gather.

LEXI DEWEY, Buffam Rd.
I have been living in Pelham for 26 years and love this area. Serving on the Planning Board gives me an opportunity to serve the town and work with a great group of people. I have the opportunity to draw on my background as a planner and use some of the knowledge from my current position as the director of the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee to the MA Water Resources Authority. Working on the proposed zoning for the West Pelham Village Center is an exciting and challenging task. I’m looking forward to continuing this process and helping to find the balance that best meets the needs of our community.

JUDY EISEMAN, Arnold Rd.
Having Chaired both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board in the past, and then going on to state and regional non-profit environmental, planning and governance work, I returned to the Planning Board after chairing Pelham’s Growth Study Committee a few years ago. I was pleased to discover that creating a true village center is now a shared and actively promoted goal of other town folk. The zoning changes we are bringing to town meeting after three years of effort will honor the community’s desire to protect Pelham’s rural character while at the same time allow creative community building and innovative design in the town center. I serve on the Planning Board because I truly believe in government and the people’s ability to solve problems together. Town meeting was a revelation when I arrived and saw it in action nearly 50 years ago. The opportunity to make a difference by taking seriously the responsibility of being a citizen and a voter remains irresistible.

LESLE LAURIE, Packardville Rd.
Pelham has been my home for almost 40 years. I have loved living in the woods of Packardville Road. The beauty and quiet has sustained me. When my daughter was 6 she was concerned about one tree slated to be cut, despite being surrounded by the woods. After appearing before a town committee the tree was saved. I was then recruited for the Planning Board.

Becca is now 31. I’m back on the Planning Board as I want to ensure the rural beauty of our town and also its financial viability. The town is at an exciting point with the advent of the change in zoning to create a new town center, that intends to both preserve that rural beauty while setting the stage for more financial support.

PETE WILSON, Buffam Rd.
As a longtime, 6th generation resident of Pelham, I care about the town and want others to enjoy what I have been able to enjoy. I am thankful for the trust placed in me to serve on the Planning Board. I feel that this service is one way of giving back to my community through volunteering. I feel that my skills, talents, experience and energy are an asset and strength the Board. My approach in life is to be a voice of common sense and reason; I apply these same principles to the work I do on the Planning Board, with a goal to provide our citizens with local government that has its residents best interests at heart. I want to serve the people of the town and provide the citizens a voice in our town government.

WELCOME TO PELHAM
NEW COLLECTOR/TREASURER

Please join us in welcoming June Massee, joining us from Blandford, MA.
When Massachusetts deregulated and restructured its electricity industry in 1997, a provision of the law allowed any town or city to “aggregate the electrical load of interested electricity consumers within its boundaries” and “implement demand side management programs and renewable energy programs”. Municipal aggregation, or Community Choice Energy (CCE) as it is now called, represents an opportunity for Pelham to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, acquire more green renewable electricity, provide better energy efficiency services, develop local renewable energy resources, enhance community resilience, strengthen the local economy, and reduce energy costs over time.

The Board of Selectmen and the Energy Committee are asking the citizens of Pelham, through a Warrant Article, to support Community Choice Energy with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reversing climate change. The warrant article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to join with other communities, currently Northampton and Amherst, to explore the potential of Community Choice Energy. For this purpose, an inter-municipal committee would be formed, with members appointed by each municipal government selectboard. Should this committee decide that joining other towns to manage our electric supply would be beneficial, the committee would develop a plan to form an inter-municipal Community Choice Energy organization. This plan would need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen with citizen review and then by the Department of Public Utilities. Only with these approvals may the Community Choice Energy organization begin operating.

The Community Choice Energy organization would only arrange electricity supply. The utility, Eversource for most Pelham residents, would continue to maintain the electricity grid, deliver electricity, and handle billing. Once operating, the Community Choice Energy organization will procure electricity on behalf of all residents who currently receive basic service from their utility. Any resident can choose to keep their utility as their electricity supplier. Residents who have already chosen another supplier can join the Community Choice Energy organization when their contract with their supplier expires.

After startup, the Community Choice Energy organization would be funded through the sale of electricity. Funds that currently go to the utility or other supplier stay within the community. Some of these funds pay to operate the Community Choice Energy organization, but surplus funds can be used to provide energy efficiency services and develop local renewable generating capacity. In addition, the Community Choice Energy organization can use energy efficiency funds collected from electricity ratepayers to fund its own energy efficiency programs.

More than 100 Massachusetts municipalities have formed municipal aggregations to provide electricity for their residents, but only one, Cape Light Compact, has developed the full potential of Community Choice Energy. Since 1998, Cape Light Compact has supplied its 21 member towns on Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard with renewable competitive electricity supply matched 100% with Renewable Energy Credits, provided energy efficiency services that have created $635 million in lifetime consumer benefits, and developed 28.5 MW of local renewable energy generating capacity and offers grants for low-income solar energy ownership. We aspire to emulate and expand on these achievements in the Pioneer Valley.

For more information see: https://wmacce.wordpress.com/

---

**PELHAM COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Did you know Pelham has a Community Garden? It is located at the Buffam Falls Conservation area on Meetinghouse Road.

We will be enjoying our 3rd season at the Garden site. Plots are 10’ x 20’ and are available for a $10 donation. Water is provided by the Pelham Fire Dept. and is on site.

Grow your own food and flowers in good soil with plenty of sunlight. Come and check out our Pollinator Garden. Registration forms available at the Pelham Library or available online at the Town of Pelham website...townofpelham.org.

Questions? Call Cyd 256-8491
CHILD FIND NOTIFICATION
Pelham School is obligated by regulations to engage in special education and Section 504 "Child Find" efforts for those students attending private schools, at parent expense, who may be eligible for special education services or accommodations and supports under Section 504.

If you believe your child has a disability and requires accommodations, related services, auxiliary aids and devices and/or assistive technology; in order to fully participate in the programs offered by the Pelham or Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, you may refer your child for an evaluation under Section 504 by contacting the Student Services Office at (413)362-1833 or Pelham School at (413)362-1100.

If you believe your child has a disability and may be eligible for special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP), you may refer him/her for an evaluation by contacting either the Student Services Office or the applicable local public school based upon the physical address of your residence. Please note that your child must be a preschool or elementary aged student residing in the town of Pelham.

Once the consent for evaluation has been signed and received, the evaluation will be conducted to assess areas of suspected disability. Upon completion of the evaluation, school staff will meet with you to discuss eligibility, and if your child is eligible, an IEP or 504 Plan will be provided.

Lisa Desjarlais
Principal

KINDERTergarten REGISTRATION for the 2018–2019 school year has now begun. The registration process for kindergarten is no longer completed at the Pelham Elementary School main office. Parents/guardians are asked to go to the district registrar at the ARMS district office- Side Entrance. Yahira Torres is the contact person for all Pelham School registrations and can be reached at Torressy@arps.org or (413)362-1810. If you have any school specific questions, please contact us at (413)362-1100 for more information.

Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2018 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the fall. There are no exceptions to this requirement. An original birth certificate, proof of immunization, proof of residency in the district and a current physical examination are required for admission. The original birth certificate, proof of residency, and immunization record should be brought to registration. A physical examination can be performed up to the start of school and forms for a physician to fill out will be available at registration. If parents/guardians have questions concerning student eligibility, they are requested to direct their questions to the appropriate building principal.

PRESCHOOL NEWS
We are now accepting applications for the Pelham Preschool for the 2018-2019 school year. Please contact the school at (413)362-1100 for more information or visit the school website at: http://pe.arps.org/

SCHOOL CHOICE
We are currently accepting applications for School Choice for the 2018-2019 school year. Please contact the school at (413)362-1100 for more information or visit the school website at: http://pe.arps.org/

COME CELEBRATE

The Town of Pelham is celebrating its 275th anniversary this year. Pelham, which was officially established on January 15, 1743, has played an important role over the past 275 years far beyond its small size. Learn about and celebrate Pelham's past and present during this 275th anniversary year. The Pelham Historical Society, Library, School and Select Board are all participating in program planning this year to celebrate Pelham's 275th.

In addition to its regular monthly programming the Pelham Historical Society (“PHS”) will hold two major events in honor of Pelham's 275th; the school and library are partnering with PHS on the second event and we encourage you to become involved as well. Stay tuned for the details but here is a taste of the celebrations to come.

On Saturday, June 2, 2018 respected Daniel Shays’ expert Leonard L. Richards will give a presentation in the historic Old Town Hall about Shays’ Rebellion, a revolution that gave rise to modern American democracy. Did you know that Daniel Shays was a Pelham resident, drilled his troops on the area in front of the old Town Hall and some of his troops camped on the site after their failure to capture the federal armory at Springfield? The June 2 presentation will be followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Old Town Complex to inaugurate PHS Museum’s new Conkey Tavern interactive exhibit. Visitors to this exhibit can role play the Tavern discussions which led to Shays Rebellion and other important events as well as life in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The second major event will be a town-wide celebration of 275 years of Pelham on Saturday, October 13, 2018. Different town buildings will feature portions of a timeline, information corresponding to that time period and a craftperson demonstrating a craft practiced during that timeframe. The Pelham Library is partnering with PHS for this event and hopes to display the work of current Pelham artists as well as a timeline in which each of you can note when your family came to Pelham. The school also hopes to be involved in this event and is partnering with PHS to plan other programs for the elementary children.

Stay tuned for more details on both events as well as PHS’s regular programming. PHS, the Library and the School invite you to join us in the planning of the 275th celebrations.

If you would like to help, please call Cynthia Weigel, PHS President at (413)256-4606, Jodi Levine, Pelham Library Director at (413)253-0657, or Lisa Desjarlais, Pelham School Principal, at (413)362-1101, or email us at pelham275@pelhamhistory.org.
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 6:30 PM
Rhodes Building, 351 Amherst 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

PELHAM SLATE

SPRING NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

I am looking forward to Annual Town Meeting May 12, 2018 and Local Elections on May 15, 2018. The deadline to register to vote in these events was Saturday April 21, 2018 from 2-4 PM and 7-8 PM. Information is posted on the website about all of these events. And, just a reminder, your Voter Registration does not move with you, even if you move within Pelham. If you know anyone that has moved in, around or out of Pelham, please encourage him or her to update his or her voter registration. And if you have changed your mailing address, maybe you now get your mail at a PO Box, it is important to make that change as well. It can be done at any RMV office or the Town Clerk’s office or online on the Mass.gov website. There is a link on the TownofPelham.org website as well. Also make sure that you have sent in your Census form. Either first or second mailing if you got one is fine. Without a current Census form, you will be made inactive and have to provide documentation in order to vote. It is important to keep our records updated. If you haven’t filled one out for four years, you can be removed from the voting list.

Also this is a reminder to make sure you have licensed your dog/s. Late fees begin June 1, 2018.

Your dog must have a current rabies certificate in order to be licensed. A spay or neuter certificate is also required for licensing. Currently, there are a lot of unlicensed dogs in Pelham. The Dog Officer and Police Department will be working together to deal with this problem.

Looking forward, the State Primary will be September 4, 2018 the day after Labor Day and State Elections will be coming up November 6, 2018. Early voting will be available for the November State Elections, but not for the State Primary. And if you want to join the Pelham Election Team, we are always looking for more Poll Workers. Simply contact the Town Clerk and you can be provided with the necessary training. Hope you have a great Summer.

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.

Hi everyone. The Council on Aging invites all seniors to our meetings to share their thoughts and ideas. They are posted on the TownofPelham.org website, in the posting book in the Town Clerk’s Office and outside the Rhodes Building. Also, if you are in the Library you can look at the calendar that tells you what groups have the meeting rooms are scheduled, and you will see the meetings listed there as well.

Some things we have done are: hold an annual FLU Clinic, hosted a Winter Music event presented by the Pelham Elementary School Chorus, and held a Summer picnic for Seniors with the help of the Lions Club, and met with the Pelham Housing Committee to work together on ideas to help Pelham Seniors. Currently we are discussing possible candidates to replace Eli Kwartler as our Outreach Worker. We are still in discussion of the Med Ride Program, and the possibility of a Footcare program. We are continuing our Seniors Birthday Card program, as we have had good response from seniors that received cards. We are looking forward to having another Senior Picnic in July which is penciled in for Saturday the 28th. There are currently openings on the Board both Member and Associate members and would love to have you join us. Our Current members include Grace Dane, Isabel Ryavec, Judy Rudolph and Kathy Martell.

For Information Contact Kathy Martell 413-253-0512 or stop by a meeting.

CLIMATE CHANGE: MVP

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS

If you haven’t done so yet, please fill out the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Survey (MVP).

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HZ5GJTK
TOWN OFFICES, SCHEDULES & CONTACTS

Assessor’s Office
Lori Turati, 253-0734
PelhamAssessor@comcast.net
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 AM–12 PM
Board of Assessors has a current vacancy.
If interested, please call the office.

Collector/Treasurer
June Massee, 253-2267
PelhamCollector@comcast.net
Monday–Thursday 8 AM–4 PM

Town Clerk
Kathy Martell, 253-0512
PelhamTownClerk@comcast.net
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday,
10:30 AM–1:30 PM. Check TownofPelham.org for hours, as they may vary.

PELHAM LOCAL ELECTION BALLOT FOR MAY 15, 2018

Board of Selectmen three-year term: Candidate Robert V. Agoglia
One member Board of Assessors three-year term: Candidate for Re-election Gwendolyn Ann Hubler
One member Board of Assessors two-year term no candidates
One member Board of Health three-year term: Candidate for Re-election William E. Pula

Two members School Committee three-year term no candidates
Two members Library Trustees three-year term: Candidate for Re-election Rosemary A. Agoglia,
and Candidate for Re-election Gregory H. Wardlaw
One member Planning Board five-year term: Candidate for Re-election Alexandra F. Dewey

One Moderator one year term: Candidate for Re-election Daniel E. Robb
One Town Auditor one year term no candidates
One member Cemetery Commission three-year term Candidate for Re-election Cleon B. Booth
One Tree Warden three-year term: Candidate for Re-election David C. Hawkins

FROM THE ASSESSOR

MOTOR VEHICLE ABATEMENTS

WHAT IS NEEDED TO PROCESS AN ABATEMENT?
You will need proof of what happened to the vehicle and what happened to the plates. Once this information is produced, we can then adjust the excise bill.

- If you sell or donate your car, a bill of sale and plate return receipt or new registration are required.
- If you move out of state, a plate return receipt and copy of your new registration are required.
- If your car is in an accident, a letter from your insurance company identifying the car and the date it was declared a total loss plus the plate return receipt/new registration are required.
- You must inform the Registry if you change your address prior to January 1st. Make sure they change your place of garaging.
- If cancelling your plates, they must be cancelled by you. Your insurance company doesn’t necessarily cancel your plates for you, they merely cancel your insurance.
- If you have any questions about what to do, please contact the assessor’s office. 413-253-0734

Filing an abatement application does not stay the collection of your excise bill. Please pay when it is due. A full or partial refund will be sent after the abatement is granted.

REAL ESTATE TAXES
The next payment is due May 1, 2018.
If you need a copy of your tax bill or need to learn the amount due please call the Collector, June Massey, at (413) 253-2267.

HOLIDAY HOURS 2018
The Rhodes Building Town Offices will be closed on the following dates: May 28, July 4, September 3, October 8, November 12 and 22, and December 25

2018 RECYCLING DATES

ITEMS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED may be brought to Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road on the 1st Saturday of each month, from 9 AM–12 PM

If the first Saturday falls on a holiday or Town election, then the recycling date will be delayed by one week. Please check dates on the notice board at TownofPelham.org.

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.

Photo courtesy of Michael Candito: “Cairn”
Site-Specific Installation at Buffam Falls