



The Pelham Slate

WWW.PELHAMMA.GOV

FALL 2026

FROM THE SELECT BOARD

You may have noticed construction equipment and activity on Jones Road, Cadwell Street, and a portion of South Valley Road. The sewer extension project began in September and should be completed by June 2027. This project is funded by a grant that Pelham and Amherst received from the State HousingWorks Infrastructure Program. The Town of Amherst will also be replacing their water lines. Residents in this area will have the ability to connect to the Town of Amherst sewer lines. Questions about connection can be directed to the Amherst DPW, (413) 259-3050.

Also in September, Chip Sealing paving was completed on North Valley Road as well as townwide line painting.

Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 beginning at 5:00pm in the Old Town Hall, 376 Amherst Road. The warrant has

been posted to the town website, <https://pelhamma.gov/p/135/>. If you would like a hard copy, please visit the Town Offices at 351 Amherst Road, or the Library at 2 South Valley Road.

Sincerely,

Robert Agoglia, Chair '27, Tara Loomis, Vice-Chair '29, Jessica Barr, Clerk '28



COLLECTOR TREASURER NEWS

Reminder about important changes. The Town has entered an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Amherst to provide Collector Treasurer services beginning July 1, 2026.

Contacting the office will not change. The address (351 Amherst Road), phone number (413-253-7129, extension 3), and email (collectortreasurer@pelhamma.gov) remain the same.

New office hours:

- Pelham's office hours will be Mondays 2:30pm-4:30pm and Wednesdays 8:00am-10:00am
- Amherst's Central Services Counter in the Amherst Town Hall, 4 Boltwood Avenue, is open Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm, for payments. Office phone, (413) 259-3020.

The staff working in Pelham and Amherst have been providing efficient, timely, and reliable service during this transition.

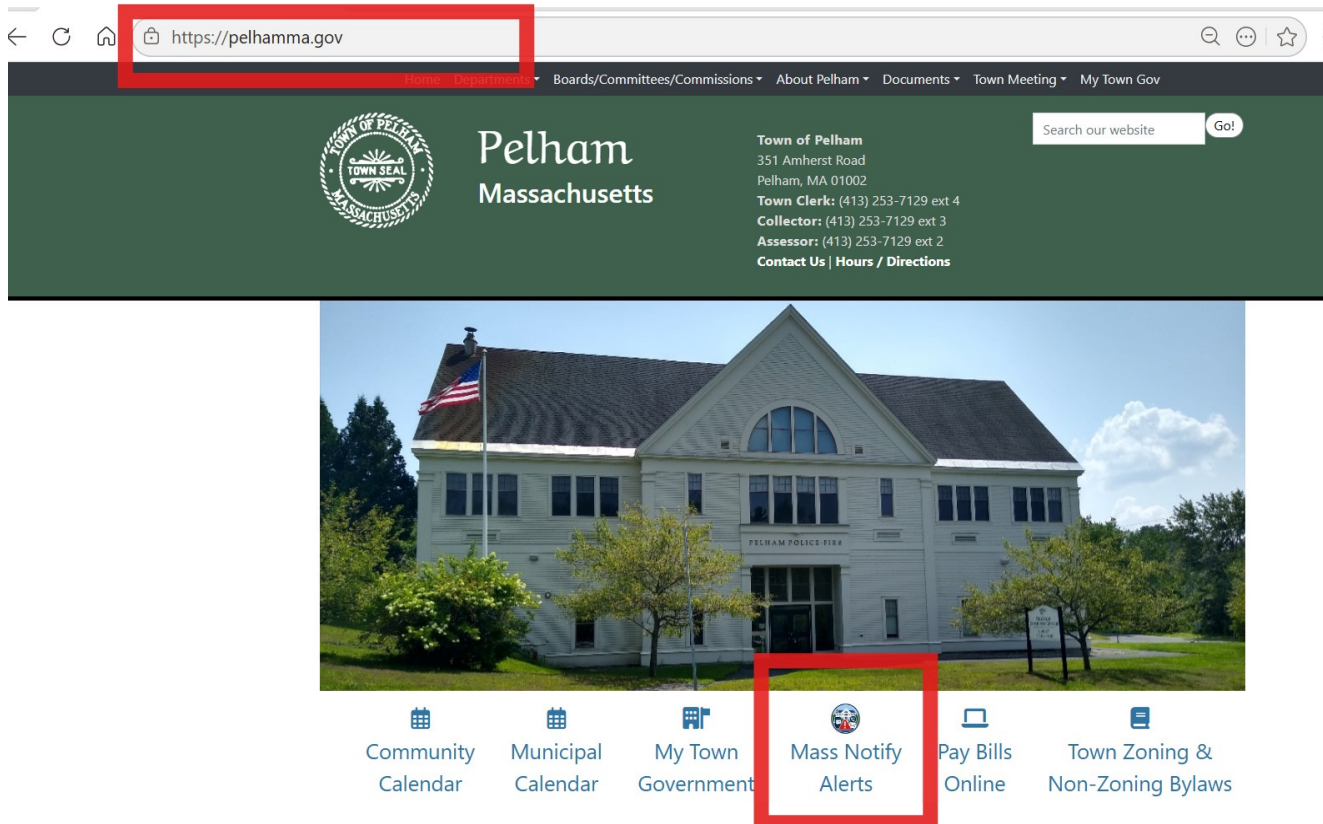
Taxes Due

Real Estate taxes due Monday, November 2, 2026.

INSIDE

Emergency Notification.....	2
Quabbin Legislation.....	3
Board of Health News.....	3
Planning Board.....	4
Upcoming Event.....	5
Sustainability Updates.....	5
Library Notes.....	6
Contact Information.....	7

Pelham Launches New Emergency Notification System – Sign Up Today!



Stay Informed. Stay Safe. Sign Up Today!

The Emergency Managements Department is pleased to announce our new Mass Notify Alerts Emergency Notification System. Residents can receive important town and emergency notifications directly by phone call, text message, and/or email. This service is provided **free of charge** and is an important tool to help residents stay informed during emergencies and other critical events affecting the Town of Pelham.

How to Register

1. Visit www.pelhamma.gov
2. Click the "Mass Notify Alerts" icon on the Town website homepage.

3. Create your notification preferences and choose how you would like to receive alerts.

What Types of Notifications Will Be Sent?

- Emergency alerts
- Public safety information
- Severe weather notifications
- Road closures and traffic advisories

Sender Information

Please add these contacts to your address book and phone contacts to help ensure messages are not blocked or identified as spam.

Email: policeadmin@pelhamma.gov

Phone: 413-468-7775



UPDATES FROM THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Pelham residents and residents from 12 other Quabbin watershed communities are working with Senator Comerford and Representative Saunders on legislation that could increase compensation for watershed communities that help protect Quabbin water quality, and provide a voice in the management of the Quabbin Watershed with a seat on the MWRA Board of Directors. Currently, the board does not include a single representative from Quabbin watershed towns.

When the Quabbin Reservoir was created, Pelham lost one-third of its land, including the town center. For nearly 50 years, Pelham has worked to protect our own water supply and that of adjacent towns through good planning and enforcement of environmental laws. In return, we receive Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) equivalent to the property taxes on approximately 35 homes. That amount is determined by the Department of Revenue in an arcane, outdated formula that has not kept pace with inflation.

The proposed Quabbin legislation is now in committee. Please reach out to the conference committee members now and let them know why this matters. A short letter highlighting the bullets below will show

the legislators your support for this legislation.

We are pushing for the following to be included in the final version of the bill:

- Establishing the Quabbin Host Community Trust Fund to support access to potable water and public services within the Quabbin watershed;
- Expanding representation on the MWRA BOD by adding a member from a Quabbin watershed community to represent land and water resource protection and host community interests; and,
- Requiring the MWRA to pay \$200,000 to each of the Quabbin watershed towns in Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028. (REMEMBER this is a two-year downpayment on addressing inequities while the Commission working to redo the state's payment in lieu of taxes on state-owned land (SOL PILOT) completes its work.)

The Chairs of the conference committee are:

Senator Julian Cyr
(617) 722-1570
julian.cyr@masenate.gov

Representative Michael Finn
(617) 722-2014

Michael.Finn@mahouse.gov



The Board of Health has been working on improving our filing system and has been able to digitize the majority of our records, including all of our septic system and well records.

We are currently cleaning up the files by removing duplicate records and plans for systems that were replaced or never constructed. Once this work is complete, the records will be available online in a searchable format through the Town of Pelham or Quabbin Health District websites.

If you don't already know, Pelham receives its professional public health services, along with Belchertown and Ware, through the Quabbin Health District. If you have a public health question, want to schedule a perc test, or need to report a public health nuisance, you can contact the District through its website: <https://quabbinhealthdistrict.com>.

Planning Board Updates

The Pelham Planning Board is having an eventful 2026, including changes in membership, public hearings, and our first application for a large-scale solar installation.

Board Membership

We marked the end of an era in May, which was Judy Eiseman's final meeting as Chair of our Planning Board. For the occasion we delayed formal proceedings long enough for a small surprise gathering to celebrate her decades of dedicated public service to the Town of Pelham, and beyond. At our June meeting, I was elected Chair and we welcomed Nat Woodruff as our newest member.

Accessory Dwelling Units

In 2025 Town Meeting approved an article to update our zoning bylaw regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), which are small homes built on the same lot as a single-family home. ADU's can be used for various purposes, including: affordable housing and multigenerational living, allowing family members to age in place, provide housing for caregivers, or generate rental income. Pelham updated its zoning bylaw to comply with a new state law requiring municipalities to permit ADUs by right.

To consider possible amendments to our ADU bylaw, in April the Planning Board held a hearing but nothing was decided prior to the May Town Meeting. Since then, we held our first public hearing to grant an ADU site plan approval, which our bylaw requires for ADUs located more than 50 feet from the primary residence. We plan to continue discussing this important topic in col-

laboration with the Housing Committee, and we appreciate hearing from anyone who shares our interest in this matter.

The Village Center Future

As discussed in a previous *Pelham Slate*, the Board is working to define a scope of work for a "Village Center Priorities Committee," which would be charged with recommending priorities for the future of the three Village Center districts. Town Meeting adopted Village Center zoning in 2018 to allow denser housing and increase small business opportunities in this part of town, clustering development and preserving Pelham's rural environment. This year, Town Meeting passed a resolution directing the Planning Board to study possible amendments to the zoning bylaw to clarify dimensional standards and site density expectations within the Village Center Districts. The Board is intending to incorporate this recent directive into the broader Village Center committee that we'd been shaping to address the future of the Village Center.

Proposed Tower Road Solar Project in Cadwell Forest

In late August the Board received a Special Permit application for a large-scale ground-mounted solar project, which, if approved, would be located on a 64-acre private lot that is located along Tower Road, within the Cadwell Forest. The proposal came from PureSky, who the Board invited to our July public meeting for a pre-application presentation and discussion about the proposed project. The application is now under review. The Board

will evaluate it through a public permitting process that includes public hearings, review by independent peer experts where appropriate, coordination with other town boards and committees, and consideration of all applicable zoning requirements before making a decision.

The Planning Board encourages residents to attend our meetings, participate in public hearings, and stay engaged as we work through these important issues affecting the future of our community. If you might be interested in getting more involved, let us know! No experience is expected, just an interest in collaboratively working through multifaceted matters for the good of Pelham.

Learn More

Bylaws: The Planning Board's scope of work is largely defined by the town's Zoning bylaw (Chapter 125), which incorporates a broad scope of interests and purposes. If you are interested in learning more, the bylaws are available online: <https://pelhamma.gov/f/0/51/Zoning--Non-Zoning-Bylaws>.

Public meetings: Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings and hearings, which are generally held at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Find updates (and subscribe) here: <https://mytowngovernment.org/01002>
Inquiries: If you have questions, please reach out at the following email address: planning@pelhamma.gov.

James Bradbury, Chair

Historical Society Upcoming Events: November & December

Become more involved, contact PHS President Cynthia Weigel, 413-256-4606!

Tuesday, November 17 @ 6:30 pm

Pelham Library Ramsdell Room

Annual Meeting at 6:30 pm, Presentation at 7 pm

Crystal Products of the Frost King: Ice Harvesting & the Natural Ice Industry in New England *

Historian Dennis Picard will describe and demonstrate the ice harvesting trade which by the 1890s was the 9th largest industry in the United States. He will share the tale of this once massive enterprise,

including Pelham's participation. Antique tools of that trade will be displayed. *Contact Cynthia Weigel at 413-256-4606.*

Tuesday, December 15 @ 6:00 pm

Community Hall, 40 Amherst Road

Continuing a 100-Plus Year Tradition: Holiday Potluck Supper

Early in the last century Eugene Bartlett, CEO of the Pelham Fishrod Factory, funded an annual December celebration. Join us with a social hour and sit-down potluck dinner. *Contact David Boyden at 860-653-4140.*

News from the Sustainability Committee

Thank you to all who participated in the 2026 "Pelham Picks Up", cosponsored by our committee and the Pelham Library. Our roadsides are cleaner, more attractive and safer for wildlife. Please consider participating in this event next April. It is fun to do this together, and helpful to our community as a whole. Picture on page 6.

We are happy to say that our guide "What to Do With Your Stuff" is in process and new information will be entered on the town [website](#) by late September. You will find it under Boards and Committees: Sustainability Committee. We are grateful to Jenn Weeber for her work in entering the new data. She has also posted helpful information about what items are recyclable.

Earlier this year, the Sustainability Committee decided to focus on the issue of how the use of plastic affects us here in Pelham and in the wider world. It is easy for us, in a town that uses the

landfills of other towns and has no plastic related industry, to be unaware of the far-reaching effects of the use plastics in daily life. As more and more information comes out, we, as a committee, have realized that there is a need to become better educated about how plastic, plastic production and plastic pollution affect health, the environment, and the climate. We have begun to educate ourselves about the unnecessary use of plastic as well as ways we can contribute to solutions that work to ameliorate its harmful effects, by watching the documentary "Plastic Detox", which is available on Netflix and reading the book [The Problem with Plastic](#) by Judith Enck, who founded the organization Beyond Plastics (www.beyondplastics.org), an organization that relies on scientific research and grassroots organizing to work toward ending plastic pollution everywhere.

We hope to share our efforts and to make more resources

available to you in the coming months so that we can work together towards realistic and effective solutions to this problem. To that end, here are 5 simple ways you can begin to reduce the use of single-use plastics.

- Carry a steel or glass water bottle instead of buying bottled water
- Use cloth bags for all shopping trips.
- Store food in glass or metal containers instead of plastic wrap or plastic containers.
- Carry your own utensils to avoid using plastic ones
- Bring your own coffee mug to avoid Styrofoam cups and plastic lids

Please consider joining a meeting of the Sustainability Committee if you are interested in this issue. Check the mytown-government website for detailed information about our meeting times and agendas, <https://mytowngovernment.org/01002>

For the Committee, Jane Porter



Pelham Picks Up Event Participants

REAL ESTATE TAXES DUE NOVEMBER 2, 2026

PELHAM OFFICE HOURS

MONDAYS 2:30PM-4:30PM

WEDNESDAYS 8:00AM-10:00AM

351 Amherst Road

(413) 253-7129 extension 3

AMHERST OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—FRIDAY

8:00AM-4:30PM

4 Boltwood Avenue

(413) 259-3020

Happy Fall from the Pelham Library

We've been hearing about the supposed death of reading a lot lately, and I have to say that the obituary is very premature. We've finished compiling our stats for our big annual state report which breaks down circulation and library use into about a zillion categories and in nearly every category and across all age groups our numbers were level with or up from the past 5 years. We circulated over 24,200 physical items in FY26 and an additional 3,700 electronic items. Pelham loves its library and continues to raise readers and we are grateful!

Congratulations to the over 75 children and families who participated in this year's Summer Reading Program, "Plant a Seed: Read!" Also, huge congratulations also to the cast and crew of "Into the Woods Jr." and its director and assistant directors, Cindy Naughton, Solomon Goldstein-Rose, Virginia Wardlaw and Amanda Strout. Pelham Players is still going strong after more than 20 years. Two of our directors started as actors when they were young and this year we even had a second generation performer!

Our Library is full of new books, movies, Library of Things offerings (recently added items include a spotting scope, an electronic microscope, a CD Walkman, a label maker and a pickleball set), electronic resources and fabulous programming! Be sure to sign up for our email events list and for Wowbrary to be the first to know about all the great stuff. 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



Town Offices
351 Amherst Rd

Call Ahead to
Verify We Are In:
(413) 253-7129

**Assessor's
Clerk**
Extension 2
Lori Turati
Wednesdays
9:00am-12:00pm
& by appointment

**Collector/
Treasurer**
Extension 3
Jenn LaFountain
Mondays
2:30pm-4:30pm
& Wednesdays
8:00am-10:00am

Town Clerk
Extension 4
Melissa Hibbard
Monday-
Wednesday
7:00am-3:00pm

Select Board
**Executive
Assistant**
Extension 1
Susannah Martin
Monday-Thursday

State Representatives

Representative, Aaron Saunders

7th Hampden District

(617) 722-2425 x7300

STATE HOUSE

AARON.SAUNDERS@MAHOUSE.GOV

State Senator, Jo Comerford

(617) 722-1532

STATE HOUSE

COMERFORD@MASENATE.GOV



Community Hall, 40 Amherst Rd

Board/Committee Meeting Schedules

Assessors, Board of
3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Cemetery Commission
1st Thursday, 6:00 PM
Community Center,
2 South Valley Rd

Conservation Commission
2nd and last Thursdays
7:00 PM
Community Center,
2 South Valley Rd

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

Council on Aging
2nd Wednesday, 2:00 PM
Community Center,
2 South Valley Rd

Energy Committee
As needed, 7:30 PM
Community Center,
2 South Valley Rd

Health, Board of
2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Community Center,
2 South Valley Rd

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

Housing Committee
2nd Monday, 4:30 PM
Community Hall,
40 Amherst Rd

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

Planning Board
2nd Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Community Center,
2 South Valley Rd

School Committee
1st Tuesday &
as needed, 5:30 PM
Community Center,
2 South Valley Rd

Select Board
1st & 3rd Mondays
& as needed, 7:00PM

**Please Note, Only anticipated Meeting Times
& locations:** By law, definitive meeting infor-
mation is posted 48 hours in advance on
<http://mytowngovement.org/01002>

Public Bodies that meet

AS NEEDED:

- Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
- Cable Advisory Comm.
- Capital Planning Comm.
- Community Garden Committee
- Community Hall Com-
- mittee
- Cultural Council
- Finance Committee
- IT Advisory Group
- School Futures Comm
- Sustainability Committee
- Town Revenue Comm
- Zoning Board of Appeals

OTHER DEPARTMENTS:

Police Department
Non-Emergency, Station
(413) 253-0484

Fire Department
Non-Emergency, Station
(413) 253-3311

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AMHERST, MA
PERMIT NO. 31



PELHAM SLATE

Fall
Edition

Photo:
Old Town Hall, 1743
*Courtesy of Susannah
Martin*

