

PHILIPSE MANOR

Keeping you up to date on neighborhood goings on.



Welcome Spring!

It's Spring and what a long, long winter it has been.

The flowers have bloomed, the temperatures are warmer and our favorite trees are showing their beauty. Enjoy!

Membership Update

We currently have 234 members within our neighborhood of 337 households. If you are not a member, please consider joining. If you haven't renewed your annual membership, now's the time.

We are a local neighborhood group and we count on you! You can count on PMIA to help keep you informed; provide train station parking privileges; and to notify you of news and events by e-blasts, through quarterly newsletters, and on Facebook.

Check out our website at <https://www.philipsemanor.org/> for info on mail-in and online registration.



Devries Park Upgrade

Devries Park at the end of Devries Avenue west of Munroe Avenue provides us with easily accessible places to play and enjoy the outdoors. Through the years one softball field became two; a modest playground, picnic area and gazebo were added; and two widely popular paddle tennis courts were built.

The Village of Sleepy Hollow is finalizing plans for new improvements to Devries Park and expects to begin work during the year. This is being planned in conjunction with an adjacent 30-acre park development project dubbed Sleepy Hollow Common, formerly known as the East Parcel that was the parking lot for the former General Motors Assembly Plant. The Common will connect to Devries Park, to Barnhart Park, to Beekman Avenue, to Edge-on-Hudson and to Continental Street. (See www.sleepyhollowny.gov/local-development-corporation)

The enhancements to Devries Park will feature new connections to the Pocantico River waterfront, a boardwalk, new kayak launch, woodland trails and important ecology restoration along the shoreline.

A key element to this project is the rehabilitation of the Pocantico River, which includes removing invasive plant species and restoring the shoreline with native plants and as a habitat for birds and wildlife.



Arbor Day Tree Dedication

On April 30th, an American Sweetgum tree along the Riverside Drive walkway at Harwood Avenue was dedicated as a memorial for COVID-19 victims.

A dedication ceremony included poems, a proclamation, music and the unveiling of a plaque. Participating in the festivities were members of Girl Scout Troop #2875 of Sleepy Hollow, Shelley and Nicholas Robinson, Margo and Donald Stever (Hudson Valley Writers Center), Susanne Jones, Kathleen Deuel (Philipse Manor Garden Club), and many others including Sleepy Hollow Mayor Ken Wray and NY State Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti.



This park will link walkways from the Hudson to the Old Croton Aqueduct and the Rockefeller Preserve and will take several years to complete. It will also link the community's historical and cultural sites.

Features specific to Devries Park, according to preliminary schematic drawing presented to the Village Board this past winter, include ballfield enlargements, construction of a 1-mile loop trail path, upgrades to the playground and picnic areas and an osprey pole (which is particularly anticipated by local bird watchers).

The grand total for the restoration of Devries Park is estimated at \$250,133 with funding from State Aid to Municipalities Grant.

Park updates are discussed at Village Board meetings. Residents can keep track of the plans and construction timing through the village website at <https://www.sleepyhollowny.gov/>

Thank You Harry Ledley, Our Vaccine Whisperer!



During this COVID-19 pandemic, Harry Ledley helped out by sharing his computer skills and compassion to help people find vaccination appointments. He quickly became a local resource scheduling more than 2,500 shot dates.

Ledley moved from Brooklyn to Philipse Manor in August with his wife, Becca and 3-year-old dog Luna. The couple then welcomed their first child Parker.

We spoke with him about moving to the Manor and vaccine scheduling:

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Please feel free to contact any board member about any ideas you might have.

How To Reach Us

We'd love to hear from you! If you're interested in becoming a board member or just want to make us aware of something, email us at:

philipsemanor@gmail.com

PMIA: You've stepped up to do such a great service by helping first seniors, then others, register for the vaccine. How did this project begin?

Harry: I started by helping my parents. They were struggling to find appointments and I learned everyone was. And being someone who is good with computers and is a software engineer by trade, I figured I could help! After that, the inbound requests came rolling in. My parents' friends, my friends' parents, my parents' friends' friends. The degrees of connections away from me grew pretty quickly. I continued tweaking my process so that helping an additional person took less time, and with that, I realized I could help more people.... People say they heard about me from friends, family, and even their doctors these days.

PMIA: What is so peculiar, or difficult, about this online registration procedure?

Harry: Massive demand, little supply and the quickest one wins. We shouldn't expect our citizens to need to spend hours, or days, sitting at their computer refreshing the page and trying to click "Select Visit Time" before someone else does -- especially when the initial group of eligible people were 65+. In the beginning of the scheduling wars everyone I knew that got an appointment got it because their grandson helped, or their neighbor helped. If we expected to vaccinate the older half of our population first why did we not make it easy for them to get an appointment? What about those who are not fortunate enough to have someone to help them? What about those with limited access to computers? The system wasn't set up for fair and equal access.

PMIA: We thank you, Harry, for stepping up to share your talent and skill. And Welcome to you, Becca, Luna and Parker!

Harry: All the neighbors have been incredibly welcoming even during these crazy times. Although Broadway is so close, as soon as you turn into the manor you can definitely feel you're in your own little community within Sleepy Hollow. Wide streets, short walk to the Hudson and Kingsland Point Park. It feels like a really great place to raise a family.

Also, a thank you to all first responders and emergency professionals, healthcare providers and essential workers for caring and helping us!

Upcoming Events

Memorial Day - throughout the summer: The Philipse Manor Beach Club opens for its summer season for club members only. All residents of Philipse Manor are eligible to join. Go to <http://pmbcsleepyhollow.org/>

June 19 - The Great Hudson River Revival festival will be virtual this year. For information and details, go to www.Clearwaterfestival.org

July 4 - Annual Fourth of July Picnic at Peabody Field, sponsored by PMIA and the Sleepy Hollow Manor Association.

Ongoing - The 90-acre grounds of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery are open to visitors daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Maps are available for short, self-guided tours to 8 major figures in the cemetery at the office or the south gate adjacent to the Old Dutch Church. Go to <http://sleepyhollowcemetery.org/>

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