

# PHILIPSE MANOR

Keeping you up to date on neighborhood goings on.

## The Best Ragamuffin Parade



Every year the Ragamuffin Parade & Block Party seems to top the last one. The Ragamuffin tradition goes back so many decades that even longtimers can't recall when this event began. But we think so many elements converged to make 2023 a stand-out year. So, while many weeks have passed, it seems appropriate to acknowledge our neighbors and this celebration that personifies our Manor and kicks off the Fall-Winter holiday season in Sleepy Hollow.



Here are glimpses into the day:

- The weather was superb – not too cold or hot, and dry!
- The popular Headless Horseman had two additional riders! Thank you to the Corinthian Equestrian Center of Warwick, NY and to our local police for assistance.
- By all accounts this was one of the most well-attended Ragamuffin events!
- Halloween House decorations were exceptionally creative even drawing local media!

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“It’s great seeing everyone come out together – parents and kids,” said Jes Creedon, a Manor resident since 2015 with three children. Her 5-year-old son was splendid as a green Ninja.

“This is part of the neighborhood culture,” added Kristy Yacovone Farbman. Her children, 14 and 11, really got into decorating their house.

Former PMIA board member Bob Pease says this is a “must-attend” event. “We are all so busy with our day-to-day lives, but this draws us out. It’s the best holiday.”

The Hunter Avenue Block Party hosts put together great events and food. There were games of chance for candy prizes, a pumpkin-themed tic-tac-toe challenge, donuts on a string, and craft tables.



Event Chairwoman Lauren Sullivan thanked all the volunteers including her PMIA colleagues Jaap Ritzen and Saavan Gatfield.

## Save the Date – January 21, 2024!

The annual membership meeting of the Philipse Manor Improvement Association has been rescheduled from early December to January 21 at the Hudson Valley Writers Center. The meeting will begin at 4pm and will involve a review of our standing as a community, celebrate our accomplishments, plan next steps, vote on our annual budgets, elect our board of directors, and hear from our elected Village Mayor. Check your email, facebook and Instagram for a full agenda in the coming weeks.

If you are interested in effecting change to help improve our community, please email us to submit your nomination to join the PMIA Board. There is room for all skills and all interests on our PMIA Board of Directors. Please join us!

## Safe Street Grant

Our village, along with Tarrytown and the school district, is one of four municipal groups that received a New York state grant to create a Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan. The program is part of a federal initiative.

The study will analyze our streets and traffic, along with our current policies and then make recommendations to improve safety, especially for pedestrians. The discussions are expected to begin in 2024. For more information, the village suggests community members to go to this site: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/announcement>

## 2023 PMIA Board

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## How to Reach Us

Contact any board member to get involved, share ideas, or make us aware of any neighborhood happenings: [philipsemanor@gmail.com](mailto:philipsemanor@gmail.com)

## Garden Club Gets us Holiday Ready

The Philipse Manor Garden Club continues its festive holiday tradition. On December 5 club volunteers decorated 12 holiday wreaths which were then donated to the Warner Library, Farrington House, the Galgano Senior Center, the Hudson Valley Writer's Center and, of course, the north and south entrances to Philipse Manor.

"This is a very important and fun endeavor," explained co-president Kathleen Deuel in calling for volunteers. Co-president Carina Erikson Hennas was on hand at the wreath-making program and helped Susanne Jones to hang the wreaths and trim surrounding bushes.



*(Group photo courtesy of Sunny McLean)*

The PMGC, founded in 1926, is dedicated to the beautification of our community, but its leaders stress that it is so much more than an organization of those who like to garden. The group focuses on community service projects and hosts educational speakers and social events.

The group is always looking to reach out to new members from longtime neighbors to newcomers. To find out more, contact [philipsemanorgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:philipsemanorgardenclub@gmail.com) or its Facebook page. We thank the organization for its efforts this season and always.

## Ben Hunter: A Literacy Volunteer

Learning to speak English can be quite a daunting experience for those moving to the U.S. To help, the Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns provides volunteer tutors to provide a bridge so students can learn to better communicate in English-speaking situations such as shopping, working, medical visits, emergencies and child advocacy. This allows some to continue learning in more formal classroom settings. This year, 41 tutoring pairs have been working through LVT at the Warner Library or on Zoom, providing 1,248 tutoring hours. The goal is for volunteers to tutor 4 hours a week. The organization was founded in 1974.

Ben Hunter, a Manor resident since 1985, began his volunteer work with LVT in 2011 and became vice president in 2020. He retired from the finance department at McKinsey in 2014 and welcomed the chance to get more involved locally.

"Our learners are adults with families and are working hard in their jobs," Hunter said. "They want to learn and it is very rewarding to help them. As a native speaker, we have a wonderful skill. With some training, we can share this skill, and it can really help people in a meaningful way."



The tutors don't need to be former teachers or English majors. Anyone who has helped a child with math or history homework, for example, has experienced tutoring. The tutors are trained and matched with a student. The idea, Hunter said, is to guide the learners to speak more confidently and to improve their grammar skills and vocabulary.

His first student was a local Korean business owner who wanted to speak better and more confidently with his customers. His next student is a carpet installer from Ecuador. He said they progressed to reading children's books to help him to also learn to read English. And his student now enjoys reading the books to his young sons.

An important aspect of the partnership, said Hunter, is to connect with one's student by finding topics of interest to talk about such as family, work and local traditions.

For more information on LVT go to [www.lvtarrytown.org](http://www.lvtarrytown.org). There is a waiting list of students so more tutors are welcome. Training consists of an online course and an in-person orientation.

## Upcoming Events

- **January 11:** New York State & Financial Aid for College, 7 to 8pm, Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway, Tarrytown. No charge but register through Warner Library website: <https://warnerlib.librarycalendar.com/event/new-york-state-financial-aid-college-1285>.
- **January 16:** Martin Luther King Day, Village offices and public works closed.
- **January 21:** PMIA Annual Membership Meeting at Hudson Valley Writers Center. Starting at 4:00pm
- **January 22:** 8 - 10am. Small group birding at Rockefeller State Park Preserve hosted by Saw Mill River Audubon. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/small-group-birding-mon-jan-22-800-am-rockefeller-state-park-preserve-tickets-763594360287>.
- **February 3:** Teatown Hudson River EagleFest, 9am to 4pm. All day celebration with live bird shows, educational displays, crafts and games, food truck. Teatown Nature Preserve, 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining. More information: <https://www.teatown.org/events/eaglefest/>
- **February 10:** Mardi Gras Concert noon- 3pm at Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway, Tarrytown.
- **February 10:** Eagle Watch at Lyndhurst. Watch for eagles and other birds with the Saw Mill River Audubon. Come and leave anytime from 1 to 4pm. Registration required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eagle-watch-sat-feb-10-100-pm-lyndhurst-tickets-682247519697>
- **February 20:** Presidents' Day. Village offices and public works closed.

# PMIA