

## Downtown Building Owners Seek to Repair Cliff Without Taking Buildings Down

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was dated Feb. 14 should also be viewed as a positive development for the property owners and store owners as far as their insurance claims. He pointed to the determination by the engineers that the rock cut is unstable and should be stabilized, but also to a section that read:

"...many blocks, but not all such blocks, created by foliation are susceptible to failure by toppling. We believe that the rock fall at Lot 1 was predominantly this type of failure, based on our field observations of the rock blocks after failure. Specifically, the Lot 1 incident has occurred from rock blocks falling from the upper portion of the rock cut, leaving the bottom more or less intact. We did not see any evidence of mass land movement or a landslide type failure.

"We also checked the USGS (United States Geological Survey) and Lamont Doherty Observatory websites for information about seismic activity on December 20, 2005. There were no reported seismic events on that date in New York."

Mr. Russo suggested that store owners who have had their "business loss" insurance claims rejected should re-submit them pointing out this determination that there was no earth movement on Dec. 20.

Some business owners are also investigating the availability of Small Business Association loans that are expected to be available once the Dec. 20 incident is formally labeled an Economic Injury by Gov. Pataki.

Check [www.pelhamgov.com](http://www.pelhamgov.com) (the Village of Pelham web site) for the full report from Mueser Rutledge, a memo from Tectonic Engineering and a memo from the New York State Geological Survey.

## Lt. Joseph G. Leavey Foundation Formed for Education Projects

The Lt. Joseph G. Leavey Foundation, created to manage the distribution of funds raised at the annual Leavey softball tournaments, announced this week that its board recently voted to bestow the first foundation gift in the amount of \$10,000 to benefit the new Pelham Middle School Library.

The funds will be used to purchase books in memory of Lt. Leavey, a longtime Pelham resident and member of the Fire Department of New York City who died in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

The Leavey Foundation's objectives are to raise money to enhance educational opportunities in the community. Its officers, elected last October, are: Carole Leavey and Brian Leavey, co-presidents; Joseph Gioia and Peter Reynolds, co-vice presidents; Janis Viola, treasurer; and Mary Lou Coronios, secretary. Members of the Board are: Ciro Greco, Joseph Longobardi, Debora Marsden, Michael Mattesi, Deborah Jones and Rita Martell.

Pelham Fire Department firefighters Joseph Gioia and Peter Reynolds, along with Michael "Moose" Mattesi, organized the first Leavey softball tournament in August 2002. The tournament has since become an annual event to honor the memory of Lt. Leavey.

Lt. Leavey died at the age of 46. He served at Engine 23, Ladder 4 and in 2001 was a lieutenant at Ladder 15 on South Street.

On Nov. 13, 2001, hundreds of mourners filled St. Catharine's Church for funeral services on what would have been Joe's 47th birthday. Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, in his eulogy

reminded people that Joe had a civil engineering degree and was someone who knew an encyclopedia of facts and figures regarding New York City architecture. "He had a knowledge of almost every building design in this city. He was a student of the buildings of New York. The World Trade Center had a special place in his heart. He thought of it as an engineering marvel," the mayor said.

As a graduate of the Manhattan College School of Engineering, Lt. Leavey was fascinated by the World Trade Center as an architectural landmark and took his family to pose for pictures in front of the massive structures on more than one occasion.

Lt. Leavey was the cherished son of Mary and Joseph Leavey and was raised in the Inwood section of New York City. His father, a retired New York City Transit Police Officer, died in 2004. Lt. Leavey's wife, Carole, and their children, Caitlin and Brian, are still Pelham residents today. Caitlin is a freshman at Pelham Memorial High School, and Brian is completing his third year at New York University. Joe and Carole's daughter, Kerri Kelly, lives with her husband, Chris, in California.



Lt. Joseph G. Leavey