

Dateline: June 26, 2012

Town of Kirkland, New York -- Today marked the one year anniversary of the opening of Pound Manor, the \$25 million recreation and living center located on the banks of the Oriskany Creek midway between Hamilton College and the nearby Village of Clinton. A celebration was held in front of the hotel in the area that serves as an outdoor skating facility during winter months.

A multifunctional mini-campus, the Pound Center features the Kennedy Welcome Center, the Westin Hotel & Conference Center, the Goering Community Center and forty retirement/condominium units. It is connected to the College via walking trail and tramway and to the Village by way of a bridge over the creek and various walking trails. As a taxable enterprise, the development pays roughly \$1 million in real estate taxes into local Town, Village and School coffers and generates that much or more in related sales taxes and spin-off economic benefits for local merchants who have seen tremendous growth in their business over the past year.

The idea for the development was the brainchild of years of intense collaborative planning and study by the Town of Kirkland and Hamilton College who worked together to simultaneously improve both the quality of life for college students and local residents while boosting the area's economic vitality. The effort was in response to stagnant local economic growth which had resulted in the unfortunate scenario of increased property taxes, cuts in public services and a declining school census in the early 2000's.

Town Supervisor Robert J. Meelan commented, "Kirkland has been home to over twenty five schools and academies over the last 200 years, Hamilton being the most successful. Our community is fortunate to have a world class liberal arts institution like Hamilton in our midst and we are proud to be working with them to assure that the next 200 years are even better for all of us." Hamilton President, Joan H. Stewart added, "we are enormously pleased with what Pound Manor has meant for our students, their parents and all those who visit this beautiful place for whatever reason. In fact, our admissions staff feels strongly that the fact that our admission rates are improving as more prospective students and their families spend quality time here when looking at the school. How fitting that we mark our 200th year as an institution in such an important way."

The Pound Center marks the completion of Phase One of the Town's strategicCommunity Development Plan which next envisions both a hockey and arts museum downtown and the attraction of a for-profit teaching institution and other light commercial enterprises to the nearby Clark Mills Business Park.