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Putnam  
County

# TIMES

# FREE

PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025



The Putnam County Youth Bureau hosted its annual youth-led remembrance ceremony on the morning of Sept. 11, to honor those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

## Putnam Remembers Sept. 11



The Mahopac Fire Department was one of many agencies across the county – and the country – to host ceremonies to honor and remember not only the lives lost as a result of the terrorist attacks almost a quarter-century ago, but the heroes who emerged that day. Provided photos.

## Sheriff Candidate Touts Experience

*Larry Burke Running as an Independent*

By Rob Sample

A lifelong background in law enforcement coupled with a commitment to building strong ties to the community characterizes Larry Burke's candidacy for Putnam County sheriff. He is running as an independent.



Larry Burke

Burke began his law enforcement career 39 years ago as an officer for the New York Transit Police, transferring soon thereafter to a post as a patrolman in the Bronx – the borough in which he grew up. He later spent seven years as commanding officer for the Village of Cold Spring Police Department, and is currently assistant director of corporate security for Manhattan-based Turner Construction – one of the biggest global construction firms.

"I've been doing this for a long time," said Burke. "This is my life's work. I've also been a Putnam County resident for the past 21 years. Between dealing with narcotics and drug cartels, I have a wealth of experience to bring to the job."

One thing that Burke says sets him apart is that he is steadfastly nonpartisan.

"In law enforcement, we go in to serve the people – it doesn't matter whether you have an R, D, or an I before your name," he said. "The job has nothing to do with party affiliation. And given the atmosphere of the last couple of years, we have to work even harder to show that

independence."

Burke said most people he has met view his nonpartisan stance as a positive attribute.

"To get on the ballot I got signatures from both sides of the aisle, and knocking on doors gave me an opportunity to hear from people about what they felt

the important issues were in this county," he said. "Regardless of political affiliation, people viewed my campaign positively. And they told me they wanted integrity, accountability, and accessibility in their sheriff's office."

In his years with the Transit Authority and the NYPD, Burke was well grounded in community policing – a concept in which officers take time to get to know people in their territories and what concerns them the most.

"We walked around and talked to people every day... even sharing a cup of coffee... to find out what they thought," he said. "That experience molded me and even in a small village such as Cold Spring, such an approach is important."

Should he be elected, Burke plans to implement some form of community policing at the sheriff's office. Simple measures such as attendance at town board meetings can help people from those communities get to know an officer, and give the officer a clue to the

*Continued on Page 10*

## Voters Shoot Down Plan for New Brewster Firehouse

By Holly Crocco

Brewster residents last week voted down a proposal by the Brewster Fire Department and Brewster/Southeast Joint Fire District to erect a new firehouse.

The vote failed 377 to 477.

"We want to thank everyone who came out to support us," the department stated on its social media page. "The board of fire commissioner are going to go back to the drawing board and will try and come up with a plan that meets the needs of public safety that would be agreeable to the residents. The fact remains that the current building needs to be replaced."

Residents' responses following the vote were mixed.

"\$38 MILLION dollars is the proposed price tag for a new firehouse. For a volunteer fire

department," wrote one resident. "With that kind of money, taxpayers should be getting a full-time, career fire department, not just a building... Other towns have built safe, modern, and fully functional firehouses for a fraction of this cost."

"I hope those who voted 'no' to an additional \$40-\$50/month out of their family budget believe that such shortsighted choice is worth the sacrifice if and when they should ever need fire or EMS services," wrote another resident. "This project has been in the planning stages for several years, was well publicized as plans came to fruition, and the BFD made their plans known with several presentations offered to the public."

Yet another resident wrote: "This has nothing to do with not

*Continued on Page 15*



Vehicles bays that are hardly large enough to fit today's apparatus are just one of the reasons the Brewster Fire Department is looking to build a new firehouse.





# Kent Book Warriors Take 4th Place Reading Contest

Kent Public Library’s Battle of the Books team – the Kent Book Warriors – brought home fourth place (out of 11 teams) in the regional competition. The Mid-Hudson Battle of the Books is a county-wide reading contest where teams of teens read a set list of books, then face off in a quiz-show style competition to test their knowledge. It’s fast-paced, fun, and all about teamwork and a love of reading.

# Burglary & Drug Arrests

A Bronx man was arrested earlier this month after allegedly burglarizing a home and a business in Putnam County.

At about 10:30 p.m. Sept. 3, Putnam County sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to assist the Brewster Police Department with a burglary call at a residence in the village. The homeowner, who was away at the time, had called 911 after seeing someone inside the home through a Ring camera.

Officers and deputies searched the house and were unable to locate a suspect, but found evidence that confirmed a break-in.

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Kent Library

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Lake Carmel Pharmacy

Approximately an hour later, deputies were dispatched to an automobile dealership in the Town of Southeast for an alarm activation. While checking the business, a Carmel Police Department K-9 officer who had been requested for assistance with a search located a suspect nearby and that person was taken into custody.

It was determined that the suspect, Brewster Rosado, 30, of the Bronx, was reportedly responsible for breaking into the home and the business. He was charged with second- and third-degree burglary, third-degree criminal mischief, fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, and third-degree attempted grand larceny, all felonies; and misdemeanor possession of burglar’s tools.

Rosado was arraigned in Southeast Town Court and remanded to the Putnam County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$2,500 cash bail or \$5,000 bond.

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At about 5:30 p.m. Sept. 3, a deputy was dispatched to a motel in the Town of Philipstown for an unattended death of a 40-year-old subject.

Investigation revealed that the person died of a possible drug overdose, and the case was turned over to members of the sheriff’s Narcotics Enforcement Unit, which was able to quickly develop suspects and in less than 24 hours made an arrest of individuals involved in the case.

McKinley Humes, 33, of Poughkeepsie, was charged with felony fourth-degree conspiracy; and Gary Dorsey, 34, also of Poughkeepsie – who possessed Fentanyl – was charged with felony third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance.

Both men were arraigned in Kent Town Court, and Humes was remanded to the Putnam County Correctional Facility due to prior felony convictions. Dorsey was released on his own recognizance with probation check-ins and a future court appearance.

# Obituary

## James Patrick Sheehy

James (Jim) Patrick Sheehy, 82, of Carmel, passed away July 29, 2025, after a long illness.

Jim was born Aug. 7, 1942, in New Rochelle, to Catherine A. and James J. Sheehy. He attended Iona Preparatory High School and graduated from Iona College. Jim built a successful career as a paper salesman with International Paper, where he worked for many years.

James (Jim) Patrick Sheehy

In 1972, Jim married Patricia Twohill in Yonkers. Together, they grew a loving family and a life filled with laughter, devotion, and strong values.

Jim will be remembered for his quick Irish wit, sharp storytelling, and generous ear – he was an exceptional listener and always had a comment that left you laughing. A devoted reader, he often could be found with a Michael Connelly or James Patterson novel in hand, and he remained a lifelong fan of James Bond and Jimmy Buffett.

Deeply rooted in his faith and community, Jim was a longtime parishioner of St. James the Apostle Church in Carmel. He was a dedicated supporter of his daughters’

and granddaughters’ activities, spending many hours at dance recitals, gymnastics lessons, basketball games, and lacrosse games.

Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia Sheehy (née Twohill), his daughters Monica Hans (Matthew) and Maureen Piazza (Brian), and his greatest joys – his granddaughters Audrey Hans, Fiona Piazza, and Camilla Piazza.

He was preceded in death by his parents James J. and Catherine A. Sheehy, and his sister Mary Sheehy.

A Catholic Mass of Remembrance will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 27 at St. James the Apostle Catholic Church, 14 Glenaida Ave., Carmel, followed by a Celebration of Life at 12:30 p.m., at Putnam County Golf Course, 187 Hill St., Mahopac.

In lieu of flowers, consider donating to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Jim’s family is forever grateful for the advancements in medicine at Sloan that gave them many more cherished years with him after his initial diagnosis.

## Senior Resource Fairs

For the third year, Assemblyman Matt Slater is hosting senior resource fairs in Putnam and Westchester counties, designed to help constituents connect with valuable resources for older adults, including elder-care attorneys, Medicare specialists, assisted living facilities, telehealth services, Alzheimer’s and memory care organizations, and state and county services for seniors.

All seniors, caregivers, and family members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, receive personalized guidance, and learn about programs specifically designed to meet the needs of older adults in the community.

The Putnam County Senior Resource Fair is scheduled Tuesday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon

at the Patterson Recreation Center, 65 Front St.

The Westchester County Senior Resource Fair is scheduled Friday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at Jefferson Village Community Center, 3500 Hill Blvd., Yorktown Heights. Prescription medication drop-off will be available at this location – bring unused or expired medication in a Ziploc bag for safe disposal.

“Connecting our seniors to essential services has been a great success over the past two years and we are excited to continue this tradition,” said Slater. “Many seniors and their families are not aware of the resources available to them, which is why these fairs are so important. We look forward to another successful year and expect these events to keep growing each year.”

## We Will Miss

**Brewster**  
**John Francis O’Brien**, 83, September 2. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

**Cold Spring**  
**Thomas J. Hynes**, 94, September 4. Clinton Inc Funeral Homes, Cold Spring, (845) 265-3333.

**Lora Hegsted Best**, 68, September 5. Clinton Inc Funeral Homes, Cold Spring, (845) 265-3333.

**Carmel**  
**Gloria L. DeSouza**, 96, August 29. Cargain Funeral Homes

Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

**Victor Rigia**, 72, September 2. Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

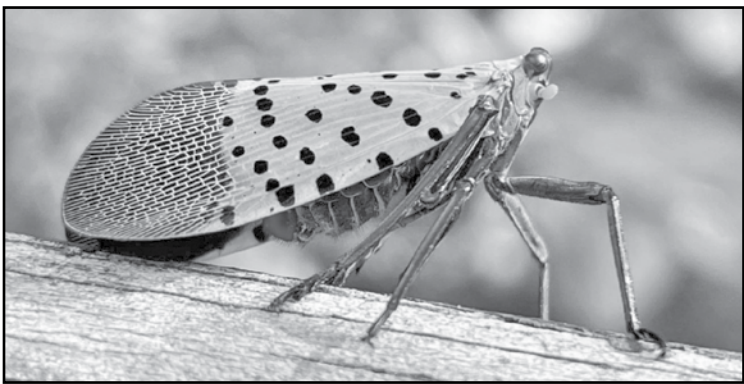
**Helena M. Sinnott**, 81, September 4. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

**Mahopac**  
**Soterios Kamvosoulis**, 88, September 3. Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

**Putnam Valley**  
**Filippo G. Scuderi**, 72, September 2. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

**Louis “Lou” Loprinzo**, 94, September 3. Yorktown Funeral Home, Shrub Oak, (914) 962-0700.





The spotted lanternfly is a real pest. Provided photo.

# Byrne Calls on DEC to Swat Harmful Invasive Species

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne sent a letter Aug. 27 to state Agriculture & Markets Commissioner Richard Ball requesting that the department immediately release detailed answers related to the spotted lanternfly, an invasive species that first arrived in New York State in 2020.

You’ve probably seen it – the inch-long bug with brown forewings adorned with black spots and red band at the rear. The nuisance pest has spent the past few years invading the U.S., with its numbers increase exponentially year after year.

According to an article in “USA Today,” the spotted lanternfly is native to Asia and was first detected in North America in 2014. It has been known to feed on the invasive tree of heaven plant, as well as local grapevines, which the insect can destroy by causing fungal diseases through its waste deposits.

Tree of heaven is itself an invasive species that grows in unmanaged areas such as rights-of-way along railroad tracks, highways, and alleys in urban neighborhoods.

While spotted lanternflies are considered docile and harmless to humans, it is widely recommended that they be killed – either by squishing them, brushing them into a pail of soapy water to be disposed of, or through the use of pesticides

According to “USA Today,” there is one generation of SLF per

year, with eggs laid in the fall from September through December and hatching in the spring. Egg masses are laid on vertical surfaces such as trees, utility poles, vehicles, outdoor equipment, fence posts, sheds, decks, and outdoor furniture, and are protected with a mud-like covering.

Each egg mass can contain up to 35 individual eggs, so it is recommended that they be removed and disposed of with household trash.

Byrne described the ostensible increase in the local spotted lanternfly population as “alarming” and called on the Ag Department to articulate a plan to curb their numbers.

He is seeking information regarding the spotted lanternfly population in Putnam County and how it compares to neighboring counties, how the population has fluctuated since 2020, what mitigation steps are being taken including the option of biocontrol and how it would be funded, and how egg masses can be reduced in Putnam – particularly in the hardwood-dense sections of the Great Swamp in Patterson.

“Spotted lanternflies can currently be found in 29 counties of New York State, with no sign of their spread slowing in the short and medium terms,” said Byrne. “Clearly, mitigation efforts have stalled or failed.”

To view the “USA Today” articles cited in this story, visit [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com).

# Meet Mahopac’s Youngest Learners



Mahopac Central School District’s universal pre-kindergarten program is off and running. Students have been busy exploring, learning, and making new friends as they begin their educational journey. Provided photos.



# Putnam Falls for Dance

The Putnam County Dance Project presents its annual “Putnam Falls for Dance, In-NOVA-tion” on Arts on the Lake’s outdoor stage aside Lake Carmel in Kent, at 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21, for two performances featuring professional dancers in the Hudson Valley.

On Saturday, AotL’s company in residence – PCDP – presents new works and repertory, including Isadora Duncan’s.

Sunday features area choreographers in an open stage performance and discussion of their new

works. This dance performance showcases new and in-progress works by a variety of choreographers. Join the fun as they test out raw work followed by lively and insightful discussion about the dances.

An afterparty fundraiser follows the Saturday performance. Join dancers and choreographers for a light reception in the lower gallery of AotL between 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for AotL members, and \$30 for non-members. More information and tickets are available at [www.artsonthelake.org](http://www.artsonthelake.org).

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## Great Catch!

Putnam County co-sponsored a free “I Fish Putnam” event Sept. 6 at Veterans Memorial Park, coinciding with the third semi-annual Councilman Kearns Fishing Clinic which is held in collaboration with the Oasis Club and Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs. The event drew a large crowd, including both novice and experienced anglers. Rods, tackle, and tackle boxes were provided to the first 50 participants. Provided photo.

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## Nutrition Corner

By Allison J. Stowell  
MS, RD, CDN



## Easy Family Meals: Frozen Foods

For families, September brings the need for nutritious yet simple family dinners that ease the return of sports, homework, and busy schedules. Families need uncomplicated, effortless meals made with convenient ingredients like frozen foods. If you think only high sodium, less nutritious options are available in the frozen food aisle, it's time to revisit it. Then lean on Guiding Stars rated recipes (like the one below) to make your frozen food haul go further.

Frozen produce: Frozen produce is just as nutritious as fresh, and often more affordable. With frozen foods, you can also find off season or harder to find produce (like dragon fruit or wild blueberries). I highly recommend keeping “steam-in-bag” vegetables on hand to quickly create a balanced meal or to add to a soup or stew. Frozen fruit is perfect for smoothies, batters, and more. You will also find convenient options like diced avocado, riced cauliflower, spiralized veggie noodles, artichokes, and pearled onions to help you round out meals, salads, sides, and more. Look for simple options and avoid those with salty seasonings or added sugar.

Frozen grains and starches: There are many healthful starches available in the frozen food aisle. Look for starchy vegetables including potatoes, sweet potatoes, and diced butternut squash, along with grain blends, whole grain waffles, and more. Avoid seasonings and other ingredients that may add salt, saturated fat or sugar to a product. Look for interesting options that you may not typically prepare such as roasted root vegetable “fries”.

Frozen proteins: Go beyond chicken tenders and use the frozen food aisle to find fish filets, shrimp, chicken or turkey meatballs, and plant-based options including edamame. While fresh proteins may be preferred, these convenient options will ensure a balanced meal is available when life gets busy.

Allison J Stowell MS RD CDN serves as the online dietitian for Hannaford Supermarket. To learn

about FREE, virtual nutrition classes and more, visit [Hannaford.com/dietitians](http://Hannaford.com/dietitians). For more on the Guiding Stars nutrition guidance program, visit [GuidingStars.com](http://GuidingStars.com).

**Sheet Pan Vegetarian Omelet  
Breakfast Sandwiches  
(2 Guiding Stars)  
[www.Hannaford.com](http://www.Hannaford.com)  
Serves: 12**

Making breakfast for a crowd or just prepping for the week ahead? This easy sheet pan omelet freezes and reheats well for a grab-and-go weekday breakfast.

Ingredients:  
Cooking spray  
12 large eggs  
3/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
1 1/2 cups various shredded cheeses (mozzarella, Cheddar, Monterey Jack, etc.), divided  
2 cups frozen vegetables (chopped broccoli, chopped spinach, and/or peppers), thawed and patted very dry  
3 links plant-based Italian sausage, diced  
24 slices whole-grain bread, toasted

Directions:  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a 9x13” sheet pan with parchment. Coat parchment and sides of pan with cooking spray.

In a large bowl, whisk eggs, salt, garlic powder and 3/4 cup cheese until well combined. Season with pepper. Place sheet pan on oven rack and carefully pour eggs into pan. Sprinkle top with vegetables, sausage and remaining 3/4 cup cheese. Bake until eggs are set in center, 20 to 22 minutes.

Cut into 12 pieces; serve on the bread immediately, or cool completely, wrap individually and freeze for up to 2 weeks. Thaw in refrigerator before reheating in microwave or toaster oven.

Tip: Customize each area of the sheet pan with different toppings before baking. To please meat eaters, add diced ham or cooked bacon instead of the plant-based sausage.

## Zucchini Chicken Bake

(Family Features)  
**Zucchini Chicken Bake**

**Ingredients:**  
2 medium zucchinis  
2-3 tomatoes  
2 chicken breasts  
1 tablespoon minced onion  
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning  
2 teaspoons smoked paprika  
avocado oil

1-1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese  
1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

**Directions:**  
Heat oven to 375 F.  
Cut zucchinis, tomatoes and chicken into bite-sized pieces. Place in 9-by-13-inch baking dish.



Sprinkle with minced onion, Italian seasoning and paprika then drizzle with avocado oil. Mix well with spoon.

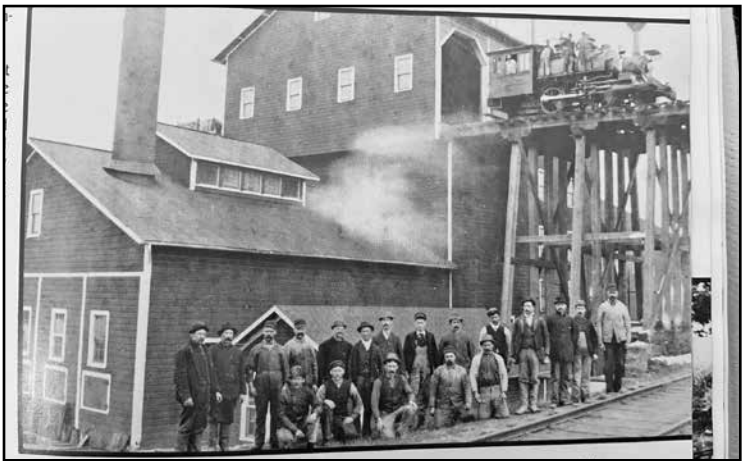
Cover with mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil and bake 40 minutes.

Servings: 4-6  
Source: [Culinary.net](http://Culinary.net)

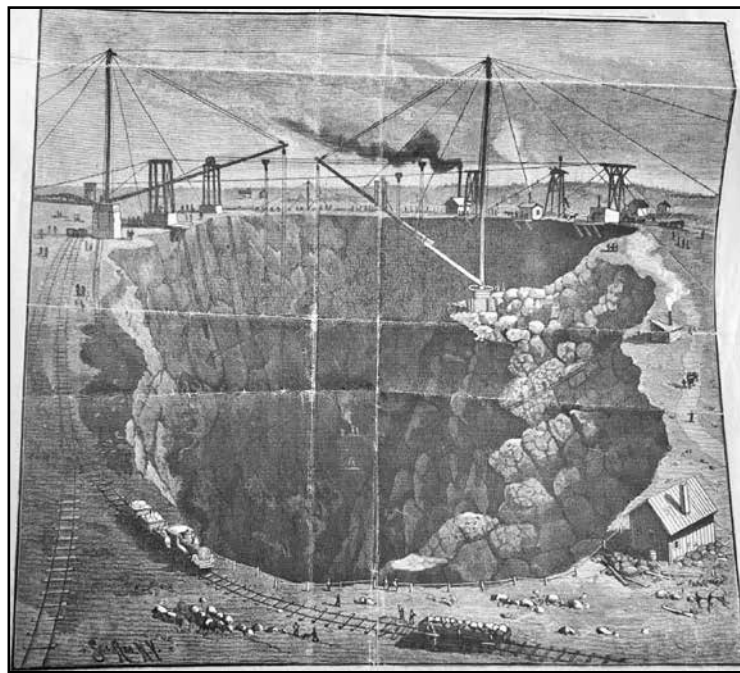


## History Column

### Jack Alcott, Southeast Historian



While the miners all started out as local men, the workforce grew to include many immigrants, including Cornishmen, Swedes, the Irish, Hungarians, and Italians.



This photo of the Tilly Foster Mine is from Suzanne Truran and John Dunford's "Southeast, 1788 – 1988," available at the Brewster Public Library. The original copyright is 1889, "Scientific American."

# Tilly Foster Mine & the Disaster of 1895

Southeast is home to the Tilly Foster Mine – one of the 19th century's most advanced iron mining operations. Its immense water-filled crater remains today not far from the intersection of routes 6 and 312, off Old Mine Road and the present-day Empire State rail trail.

A monument to the nation's Industrial Revolution, it stands as testament to the era's innovation, ingenuity, and brutality.

Using coal-burning steam engines, dynamite, draught animals, and men (mostly immigrants) armed with pick and shovel, the mine's Gilded Age owners gouged out one of the largest man-made craters on Earth. In a time before meaningful safety regulations, it was dangerous, backbreaking work and not without tragedy.

"Thirteen Miners Crushed To Atoms" screamed one newspaper headline after the famous Tilly Foster mine collapse of Nov. 29, 1895.

"The Tilly Foster Horror," another newspaper called the accident and avalanche that spilled about 100 tons of rock on miners 50 stories below, at the bottom of the great pit.

Many of the pulverized miners were Irish and Italian immigrants whose mangled bodies were initially identified only by the numbers the company had assigned them; their names remained unknown until the coroner's report the following January.

While the mine is best known for that deadly accident, it's history really began in the early 1800s.

High-grade iron ore was excavated as early as 1810 on the farm of Herman King, which was later bought by Tillingham Foster in 1830 – and from whom the Tilly Foster Mine takes its name. Foster sold his mineral rights to the Harvey Steel Company in 1853, one of a series of owners, and that company began digging.

The magnetite ore – some of the purest in the world – was shipped west by wagon to the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring where it was cast into cannon and munitions for the Civil War. It's probable that many a Brewster cannonball dropped down on the heads of Johnny Reb.

Tilly Foster reached its peak production about 1879, when the Lackawanna Iron & Coal Co., of Scranton, bought the mine. It was soon churning out about 7,000 tons of ore a month and had shafts going down 600 feet.

Roughly 300 workers – many Italian, Irish, Welsh, and Swedish immigrants – were employed in the

mines, along with mules, horses, and a small steam locomotive on a narrow-gauge railway used to carry the ore to the Brewster depot, where it was shipped out.

Miners were lowered the 50 stories into the Tilly Foster pit in giant open buckets suspended on cables from an overhanging crane. Other cranes and buckets lifted the ore to the surface. Some of the cranes' concrete-and-stone abutments are still visible at the crater's rim today.

The ore was transported away from the mine by narrow-gauge rail locomotives right from the edge of the pit.

The Machine Age mine was one of the most technologically advanced of the 19th century and Tilly Foster was a hive of workers and industrial activity. One of the first telephones in New York – and the world – was first installed deep in the mine tunnels in 1876 just months after Alexander Graham Bell invented the contraption. It was a way for managers above ground to keep in touch with the men underground, especially in the event of a cave-in.

The Lackawanna Iron & Coal Company also played a major part in the development of the American railroad, using its iron ore to become the first company to mass produce steel rails in the U.S.

Lackawanna, like many companies in the 19th century before better government regulation, appears to have harshly exploited its workers with dismal pay and brutish conditions. It created a settlement called "Shack Village" near the mine (now under the Middlebranch Reservoir) composed of 40 or so cottages for American-born miners, and boarding houses for the separate-and-not-equal immigrant workers.

There was also a hotel, bank, nearby Tilly Foster schoolhouse, and rail station. A company store on the site offered pretty much everything the miners needed, and they likely bought on credit – sending a good portion of their meager wages back to Lackawanna. The store sold boots, shoes, flannel, coffee, tea, canned goods, crockery, coal, oil, furniture, provisions, and "powder, fuse, caps, picks and shovels," among many other items, according to newspaper ads of the day.

Shortly after Lackawanna took over the mine in 1879, the company wound up in a dispute with contractors who had cut a deal with the previous owner to take out ore. In its attempt to break the contract,

Lackawanna's owner, M.W. Scranton (the city of Scranton is named after him) and six shotgun-toting Pinkerton detectives hired by the company climbed down ladders 200 feet into the mine to confront the workers.

When Lackawanna's enforcers got to the bottom of their climb, a miner lying in wait set off a dynamite charge that blew shattered stones like shrapnel in their direction. Another miner with a fistful of dynamite then met the armed Pinkertons and threatened to blow them all to hell – even as the company goons aimed their guns while shouting they were going to shoot to kill.

It was a classic standoff that somehow ended peaceably.

The Putnam County sheriff arrested Scranton and his hired guns, along with the dynamite-wielding miner and the contractors.

By the 1880s, as it became more difficult to excavate Tilly Foster's ore via mine shafts, the company decided to turn it into an open pit. An illustration on the cover of the June 15, 1889, Scientific American magazine highlighted the conversion of the mine into a vast, gaping crater and cited the mine as one of the most modern in the world.

Despite its up-to-date Steam Age technology, death and injury were never far away and workers were killed or died from various consequences related to mining.

The deadly mine collapse of 1895 and growing concerns about safety, along with the nearby flooding of the area for NYC reservoirs, conspired to end mining at Tilly Foster in 1897. The opening of Minnesota's vast Mesabi Range of iron ore fields in the latter 1800s also

*Continued on Page 11*

## GoFundMe Set up For Miners' Memorial

The Putnam County Italian American Social Club would like the public's help to right a wrong in local history.

On Nov. 29, 1895, tragedy struck outside the Village of Brewster when the Tilly Foster Mine disaster claimed the lives of a group of hardworking immigrant miners – many of them Italian – who came to this country in search of opportunity but instead met an untimely death under difficult and dangerous working conditions.

The disaster made world-wide headlines, yet the men themselves were never given a proper burial or memorial. Historical records suggest that at least seven of these Italian miners were laid to rest at St. Lawrence O'Toole Cemetery in Brewster.

The Putnam County Italian American Social Club is committed to ensuring that, by the 130th anniversary of the disaster in 2025, these men finally receive the honor and recognition they deserve. Its goal is to raise funds for a permanent memorial at St. Lawrence O'Toole Cemetery as a lasting tribute to their sacrifice and a way to restore their humanity to history.

A GoFundMe account has been set up, with a \$6,500 goal. To donate, visit [www.gofundme.com/f/italian-miners-who-lost-their-lives-on-november-29-1895](http://www.gofundme.com/f/italian-miners-who-lost-their-lives-on-november-29-1895).



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# Burglars Convicted After Lengthy Investigation

Three out-of-county residents recently pled guilty to committing a 2024 burglary in Southeast, and now face jail time as felony offenders.

According to Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy, on April 22, 2024, Putnam County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a garage being broken into and all-terrain vehicles and a motorcycle being stolen from inside.

Investigator Benjamin Levine spearheaded a monthslong investigation into the burglary, which was difficult since there was no identifying information on any of the perpetrators involved because the individuals wore face coverings and gloves. However, reviewing surveillance videos and deploying other investigative tools helped identify a target vehicle.

Once that was was identi-

fied, the investigation continued in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office and Assistant D.A. Melissa Lynch, in which search warrants and subpoenas were used to obtain and analyze cell phone and GPS data to identify the perpetrators of the burglary.

The investigation culminated in search warrants that were conducted in Nassau and Suffolk counties at the residences of Roodler Pierre Louis and Donovan Slater, with evidentiary items being recovered, according to Tendy.

Investigator John Hyla conducted forensic examinations of cell phones recovered, further tying the defendants to the burglary, he said.

Defendants Slater and Pierre Louis were arrested in July 2024, and an arrest warrant was issued for Percy Dickinson of Nassau

County. He was arrested in January by PCSO.

All three pled guilty to second-degree attempted burglary, a violent felony, in Putnam County Court in front of the Hon. Joseph Spofford. Slater and Pierre Louis face three years in state prison and two years post-release supervision, while Dickinson faces the equivalent of two years of local jail time.

"The Putnam County Sheriff's Office, particularly John Hyla, and ADA Lynch, did fantastic work on this investigation," said Tendy. "These defendants were professional burglars and they were apprehended by professional law enforcement agents. Great job."

The District Attorney's Office also thanked the victims of the burglary for their cooperation during the investigation and prosecution of this case.



Elder Law Advice  
*Alan D. Feller, Esq.*

## Avoid Long-Term Care Planning Mistakes

1.) I am allowed to gift \$19,000 to each of my children this year without filing a gift tax return under the IRS's annual exclusion.

Yes, the IRS allows you to gift \$19,000 per person without filing a gift tax return, but the IRS will not be reviewing your Medicaid application if you get sick. Your local county Department of Social Services reviews Medicaid applications including nursing home applications with the dreaded five-year lookback.

DSS is looking for gifts and uncompensated transfers that will create a penalty period based on the amount gifted and the regional nursing home rate for your county. The higher the gift totals, the more months you will have to pay the nursing home out of your pocket.

Monthly nursing home bills run \$16,000 to \$20,000.

2.) We want to get a divorce to protect our assets from Medicaid.

State law favors marital relationships when one spouse becomes ill and requires Medicaid services. Spousal refusal, spousal exemptions, and spousal impoverishment rules ensure that the healthier spouse will not be financially compromised or penalized because an ill spouse requires serious long-term care paid for by Medicaid.

Divorced spouses are considered strangers under Medicaid law, and rushed and poorly planned separation agreements could lead to penalizable transfers from one ex-spouse to another.

3.) He has to go to a nursing home because he needs 24-hour care.

Community Medicaid Home Care includes an option that provides up to 24 hours of nursing home care each day in your home. It is called the Nursing Home Transition & Diversion waiver and allows a person who would have most likely ended up in a nursing home to remain home with extended care.

4.) We have a long-term care insurance policy but do not think it is any good.

If you have a New York Partnership Plan (most likely purchased early in the 2000s), then you have a long-term insurance plan that would cover a high percentage of your care needs for the short term and allow you to save most or all of your assets from Medicaid. These dual protection insurance plans carried higher premiums, but they avoided any reliance on an emergency Medicaid plan with potential penalties.

Even if you do not have a NY Partnership Plan, check out your plan's lifetime maximum, daily rates, and riders – you may have a good plan and not even know it.

5.) We are way too young to set-up Medicaid planning.

If you have an adult child who is trustworthy and instills confidence in you with their decision-making, then it is never too early. Even if you only protect your primary residence with a Medicaid Asset Protection Irrevocable Trust and name your adult child as trustee, you start the clock. Nursing Home Medicaid has a five-year lookback and NYS has a regulation yet to be enforced that would create a two-and-a-half-year lookback on Home Care Medicaid.

Will we see both lookbacks in the near future? We are watching. With possible big Medicaid changes on the horizon, the earlier your assets are protected, the better. If your child is too young, you can choose a trusted sibling to be trustee. You should still maintain control over the bulk of your financial assets, but allow the trust to protect your home and any other owned real estate.

Real estate is the hardest thing to shield from creditors or protect from Medicaid if proper planning and professional Medicaid guidance is not followed

*Alan D. Feller, Esq., is managing partner of The Feller Group, located at 572 Route 6, Suite 103, Mahopac. He can be reached at [alandfeller@thefellergroup.com](mailto:alandfeller@thefellergroup.com).*

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# Putnam County Community Events

## Christian Education Classes

First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac is offering Sunday School to kids age 4 to 12. Participating children attend the 10 a.m. worship service and after the children’s sermon are led to class. Confirmation Class, for eighth-graders and older, is Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Christian Education building on Secor Road. After class, students attend the 10 a.m. worship service with their families. [www.mahopachchurch.org](http://www.mahopachchurch.org).

## Brewster Library Seeks New Director

Brewster Public Library Executive Director Gina Loprinzo recently announced her retirement, effective Dec. 31, after 12 years of leadership. The library’s board of trustees has already begun its search for a new leader. Anyone interested and qualified may submit a letter of interest and resume Kathleen Sakowitz, president of the board, at [trustees@brewster-library.org](mailto:trustees@brewster-library.org).

## Al-Alon Meetings

Al-Alon meetings take place Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2103 Route 6, Brewster. Enter from the Husted Road double-white door.

## Women’s GOP Club

The Putnam County Republican Women’s Club meets every third Thursday of the month. Consider joining in discussion about Republican programs, policies, and issues affecting the county. Email the president at [utnamwomensgop@gmail.com](mailto:utnamwomensgop@gmail.com) for more information, including time and location.

## Tuesday, Sept. 16

### Kent Town Board

The Kent Town Board will meet the following Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Town Hall: Sept. 16, Oct. 7 and 21, Nov. 18 and 25, and Dec. 2 and 16.

### IDA Meeting

The Putnam County Industrial Development Agency will meet Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m., at 2 Route 164, Patterson. View the meeting at [www.facebook.com/putnamida.com](http://www.facebook.com/putnamida.com) as soon as possible after the meeting has been adjourned.

### Roaming Readers

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel presents Roaming Readers, a friendly walking group, at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays through November, weather permitting. Meet at the library and enjoy a walk through Carmel. All fitness levels. Registration required at [carmellibrary.org/calendar](http://carmellibrary.org/calendar).

### Art Series

Artist Sharon Nakazato invites the public to explore a variety of mediums in a welcoming, unstructured environment Tuesdays, Sept. 16, 23 and 30 at 10:30 a.m., at Patterson Library. Learn new skills and techniques, and leave each session with artwork that reflects your creative journey. Adults 18 and older. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org).

### Library Meetings

The **Kent Public Library** Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. in the library on the following

Tuesdays: Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16.  
The **Patterson Library** Board of Trustees will meet Sept. 16 and Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

### Woodstock

Reed Memorial Library of Carmel will present “Woodstock, 1969: A story of Peace, Love, and Music” on Sept. 16 at 5 p.m. Join musician and historian Alex Prizgintas as he takes you on a journey through this legendary event, blending live electric cello performances of iconic Woodstock-era songs with fascinating historical context about the region and the festival that defined a generation. Registration is required at [carmellibrary.org/calendar](http://carmellibrary.org/calendar).

## Wednesday, Sept. 17

### Carmel Town Board

The Carmel Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. the following Wednesdays at Town Hall: Sept. 17; Oct. 1, 8 and 15; Nov. 5, 12 and 19; and Dec. 3 and 10.

## Thursday, Sept. 18

### Women’s GOP Club

The Putnam County Republican Women’s Club meets every third Thursday of the month. Consider joining in discussion about Republican programs, policies, and issues affecting the county. Email the president at [utnamwomensgop@gmail.com](mailto:utnamwomensgop@gmail.com) for more information, including time and location.

## Friday, Sept. 19

### Film Night for Adults

Mahopac Public Library will host a movie night for adults Friday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. It could be an old Hollywood classic, an international film, a modern trailblazer, or something completely different. Register at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

## Saturday, Sept. 20

### ‘Violin Odyssey’

Music at St. Mary’s will continue Sept. 20 at 2 p.m., at St. Mary’s Church, 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring. Violinist Daisy Jopling and pianist Matt Herskowitz present a magical musical journey. Free concert for all ages. Donations accepted.

### Documentary Screening

A special screening of “Paint Me a Road Out of Here” will take place at the Philipstown Depot Theater on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m., at 10 Garrison’s Landing. After the screening there will be a question-and-answer session with GAC alum Arielle Amsalem, the film’s editor and producer, who will share insights into the documentary’s creation and the ongoing work it inspires. Tickets for the screening are \$50 and available at [www.garrisonartcenter.org/fallfundraiser](http://www.garrisonartcenter.org/fallfundraiser).

### Antique Appraisal

An Antique Appraisal Day & Buying Event hosted by the Brewster Elks Lodge and Astor Galleries is scheduled Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Brewster Elks Lodge, 1430 Route 22. \$10 per item, or three items for \$25. Limit of six items per person. No appointments are necessary. In addition to appraisals, Astor Galleries will be making offers

on the spot metals, timepieces, sterling silver such as tea sets, bowls, flatware – and more. Food and beverage will be sold.

### Book Sale

The annual Patterson book sale is returning for its seventh year, thanks to the Patterson Volunteer Fire Department. The first day of the event is Saturday, Sept. 20, and it will run through Sunday, Sept. 28. Hours are Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Monday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. The sale will be held – rain or shine – in the pavilion and under two giant tents on the grounds of the fire department, 13 Burdick Road, across from the Patterson Library on Route 311.

### Kids’ Day

Kids’ Day, a popular community celebration at Putnam Hospital, will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, on the hospital campus at 670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel. Interactive health and safety exhibits, kids’ crafts, child identification program, a teddy bear clinic, demonstrations on car seat safety, proper bicycle helmet use, and heart monitoring, as well as fire truck and ambulance tours. A variety of games, inflatable bouncy attractions, hayrides, food trucks, and a meet-and-greet with costumed characters.

### Guided Hike

Join CCE-Putnam County Master Gardener volunteers on a guided hike Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Mount Nimham (rain date Sept. 21). This is a 4-mile, up and back hike through the woods to a paved trail leading to the Mount Nimham Fire Tower. Along the way, discuss the tower and its namesake, stone chambers, and the area’s history. Register at [cceputnamcounty.org](http://cceputnamcounty.org).

### Medicare Seminar

Join John Bousquet from the Medicare Resource Group for an introduction to Medicare presentation Saturday, Sept. 20 at 10 a.m., at Kent Public Library. Register at [kentpl.librarycalendar.com](http://kentpl.librarycalendar.com).

### ‘Putnam Falls for Dance’

Putnam County Dance Project will present its third annual dance festival “Putnam Falls for Dance 2025, In-NOVA-tion” on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 2 at 4 p.m., at Arts on the Lake, 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes. It will feature two performances of professional dancers in the Hudson Valley.

## Sunday, Sept. 21

### Chicken BBQ

A grab’n go chicken BBQ fundraiser to support outreach ministries is scheduled Sunday, Sept. 21 from noon to 3 p.m., at Patterson Community Church, 1062 Route 311. \$15 per person. For information, contact 845-878-3961 or [pattersoncommunitychurch.org](http://pattersoncommunitychurch.org).

### Bingo

The Knights of Columbus 6318 Ladies Auxiliary will host cash bingo Sunday, Sept. 21 at 10 Fair St., Carmel. Doors open at 1 p.m., first game at 2 p.m. \$40 at the door or \$35 at <https://SeptemberCashBingo.eventbrite.com>. Full card \$500. Proceeds go to

Make-a-Wish. 18 and older only. Concessions, bell jar, raffles.

## ‘Concert Around the Corner’

Inspired by Brazil will perform jazz, samba, baiao and choro on Sept. 21 at 2 p.m., at Old Town Hall, 67 Main St., Brewster. \$20, or free for students. A talk will follow. RSVP online.

### Fullmetal Arts & Crafts

Anime/Manga and video game fans are invited to Mahopac Public Library on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m., to make a craft – a video game, keychain, bookmark, or button pin. Register at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

## Monday, Sept. 22

### Square Dancing

Friendly Squares Dance Club will host free square dancing nights Mondays, Sept. 22 and Sept. 29 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Katonah Methodist Church Parish Hall, 44 Edgemont Road. The attire is casual and no experience is necessary. [www.friendlysquares.org](http://www.friendlysquares.org).

### Make Library Cards

Kids age 4 to 6 are invited to join Brewster Public Library for a creative program to design their own library card cover Monday, Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. Kids can color, decorate, and make their library card one-of-a-kind. At 5:15 p.m., tweens age 9 to 15 are invited to create their own digital library card design. Using templates and design tools, craft a unique look to decorate a card. Registration is recommended at [brewsterlibrary.org](http://brewsterlibrary.org).

### Astronomy Presentation

Join Dr. Michael Zeilnhofer on Monday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m., at Kent Public Library for an astronomy presentation, “Soaring into the Unknown: NASA’s Dragonfly Mission and the Search for Life on Titan.” This talk will be presented in person and via Zoom. Register at [kentpl.librarycalendar.com](http://kentpl.librarycalendar.com).

## Tuesday, Sept. 23

### Drawing Flowers

Keith Mueller will begin a series of six classes focusing on drawing flowers and other living plants Sept. 23 at 11 a.m., at Reed Memorial Library of Carmel. Emphasis will be on working from actual living subjects. After several classes it will move outside to work directly from nature. Students are encouraged to bring their own sketchbooks, pencils, erasers, and a living flower or other plant to each class, as well as provide their own portable chairs for working outside. Registration is required at [carmellibrary.org/calendar](http://carmellibrary.org/calendar).

### ‘Peekskill Riots’

Mahopac Public Library will present “Peekskill Riots Part 4: ‘A Long Ways From Home’” on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. On Sept. 4, 1949, roughly 30,000 people were attacked after attending a Paul Robeson concert. A similar concert was prevented from happening the previous week by a racist and anti-Semitic mob. These attacks had thrown the small upstate community into a national controversy. Register at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

### Paper Sunflowers

Kids age 4 to 6 may celebrate the beauty of fall with a hands-on craft Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 4:30 p.m., at Brewster Public Library. Registration is required at [brewsterlibrary.org](http://brewsterlibrary.org).

## Standardize Testing Information

Reed Memorial Library of Carmel will present “Testing, Testing! The SAT, ACT, and Your College Application” on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m., via Zoom. Are you a high school student or the parent of one who is overwhelmed by the entire idea of standardized testing? Join Mollie Reznick of The College Connection and Michal Goldstein of the tutoring team at Collegewise to get all of your questions answered about standardized testing. Registration is required at [carmellibrary.org/calendar](http://carmellibrary.org/calendar).

### Affirmation Station

Kids age 7 to 12 can kick off the school year with creativity and confidence at Brewster Public Library on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 4:45 p.m. Design colorful affirmation stickers filled with positive words and fun designs to jazz up your notebooks, binders, or water bottles. Registration is required at [brewsterlibrary.org](http://brewsterlibrary.org).

## Wednesday, Sept. 24

## ‘How to Train Your Dragon’

On Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. Mahopac Public Library will screen “How to Train Your Dragon” (2025 Live Action). Explore the mythical world of Berk, a place where Vikings and dragons fight for their lives every day. Open to kids in kindergarten through grade five. No registration necessary.

## Thursday, Sept. 25

### Southeast Town Board

The Southeast Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. the following Thursdays at Town Hall: Sept. 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 6 and 20, and Dec. 4 and 18.

## Friday, Sept. 26

### Short Plays

The Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition’s Old Town Hall Theatricals will present “Little Local Dramas,” short plays by local authors, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27, at 8 p.m., with a half-price matinee Sunday, Sept. 28 at 2 p.m., at 67 Main St., Brewster. \$25, \$20 for students and seniors. Visit [culturalartsco.com](http://culturalartsco.com).

## Send Us Your Community Events

Let everyone in Putnam County know about your upcoming Community Events and Events Online

Send info to  
**Editorial@putnampresstimes.com.**  
Please allow two weeks notice.



# Putnam Comes Alive for Feast of San Gennaro



The Putnam County Feast of San Gennaro took place Sept. 4 to 7 at Veterans Memorial Park in Carmel/Kent, where people ate, sang, danced, and celebrated the Patron Saint of Naples. Provided photos.





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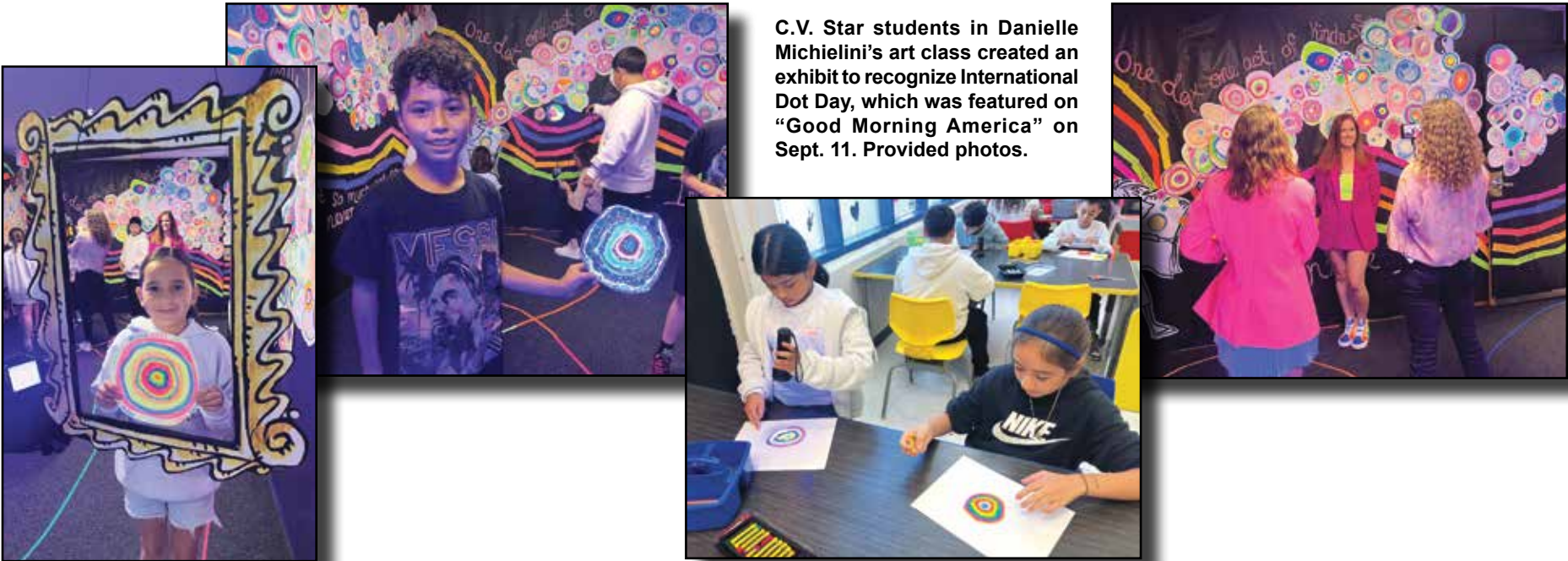


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# Brewster School Featured on ‘Good Morning America’



Many Brewster families were excited to catch a segment on “Good Morning America” last Thursday that featured one of their local schools.

When C.V. Starr Intermediate School art teacher Danielle Michielini was contacted by a producer from GMA about a segment for International Dot Day, she was up for the challenge. In a matter of hours – with the help of fellow art teacher Megan Naclerio – she had a vision that fit in with her theme: neon ripple effect.

International Dot Day is celebrated by millions of people worldwide. It’s based upon a book by Peter Reynolds, titled – aptly – “The Dot.” The message of the book combines collaborative art with kindness, encouraging every person to “make their mark” on their community.

The core idea is simple yet profound: one small act like a single dot or a kind word can create a powerful chain reaction that spreads and grows.

Class of 2015 Brewster grad Kiersten Hecht put GMA in touch with the district. Hecht is a music teacher in Boston and is connected with Reynolds through her work in children’s media, as she has a puppet show program for neuro-divergent children called Lilypad Academy.

When Reynolds and GMA were looking for a school district to showcase Dot Day, she immediately thought of her alma mater.

Within two days, every student at C.V. Starr created their own dot using neon pastels, neon oil pencils, and neon tempura cakes for the installation. Some dots were big, some were small, some swirled, others were in the shape of a flower, many looked like a vortex, and one looked like an eyeball.

The great thing about a dot is its simplicity, said Michielini.

“A dot can be anything from a single point to a swirl of color or a collection of smaller marks,” she told students. “There is no right way to make a dot.”

She urged students to remember the positive message of the book when creating their dots. “Try to think about a simple act of kindness – even a smile will cause someone else to feel good and smile back,” said Michielini. “Make your mark.”

Students also wrote out neon kindness strips that began, “I will make a ripple of kindness by...” and completed the sentence with: “helping my teacher clean up the classroom,” “holding the door for people,” “saying thank you,” “giving a compliment,” “including

others on the playground,” and “smiling in the hallway,” among other statements.

The result was a total sensory immersion, as a temporary hallway due to building renovations was transformed into a glow show. Students walked into the space lit up with black lights, one by one, using a simple adhesive to add their creation to the collaborative mural. The result was waves of dots and

ribbons of kindness streaming from large-scale pictures from the book.

As students walked through, they used black light flashlights for added effect.

The glowing installation will be visited and experienced by each class as a way of experiencing the ripple effect, and seeing how the collective creativity and kindness of the school community can make something beautiful.

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Join PCEDC for a morning of meaningful networking and valuable insights into Putnam County's economic opportunities, featuring keynote speaker Ryan M. Silva, the Executive Director of the New York State Economic Development Council, and a panel of business experts.

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<https://putnamedc.org/breakfast-symposium/>



# Mahopac Youth Enjoy ‘Playground with Principals’



Provided photos.

Lakeview Elementary School welcomed Mahopac students and families back to campus with its third annual “Playground with Principals” event on the school’s playground.

The afternoon gathering brought together Principal Elizabeth Blessing, Assistant Principal Leigh Galione, students, and families for a chance to reconnect before the first day of school. The event featured plenty of laughter, hugs, and smiles, giving students a relaxed and fun way to ease the transition into the new school year.

“This event is one of my favorite traditions because it allows us to connect with students and families in a casual, welcom-

ing setting,” said Blessing. “It’s wonderful to see the excitement on the students’ faces as they play with their friends and meet their teachers again. It truly sets a positive tone for the year ahead.”

Acting Superintendent of Schools Frank Miele also attended the event and praised the sense of community it fostered.

“The excitement I saw from parents and students was evident throughout the afternoon,” he said. “The camaraderie among students is what Playground with Principals is all about. It was also great to see the connections parents were making with one another. All in all, it was a tremendous day to be a Lakeview Bulldog.”



# You are Not Alone!

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS**

SHARING HEARTS

This group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Open to Adults 18+ Location: Meeting Room at Cornerstone Park Building 1 Fair Street, Carmel

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## Sheriff Candidate Touts Experience

Continued from Page 1

important issues in the community, he said.

Burke said the same quality is important in a leader’s approach to managing people on his or her team. “You have to listen more than you speak and never ask somebody to do something you’re not willing or able to do yourself,” he said.

Burke’s said his current role at Turner Construction, while not involving police work per se, has acquainted him with some issues likely to face the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office. Those include computer crimes and cyber security, as well as physical security for an organization’s infrastructure.

“These elements are especially relevant now, given the horrible killings that have taken place over the past few months,” said Burke.

Both private security people and police officers must also contend with criminal elements that operate on what’s become known as the “dark web.” This part of the internet requires special software and dedicated browsers to reach. Burke pointed out that his police and private security background have given him a strong familiarity with such technological challenges.

Burke noted that the late Sheriff Kevin McConville also started out on the Cold Spring police force. There, the two became colleagues and friends. “I can’t speak highly enough of his law enforcement

career, and my prayers go out to his family,” he said.

Burke said he is a strong believer in fiscal responsibility. Within this milieu he praised McConville’s smart choices in navigating federal and state grant processes.

“Kevin did a great deal to secure grant funding for the sheriff’s department through state and federal grants,” he said. “He also helped the department obtain important accreditations from law enforcement agencies.”

These moves, he pointed out, made the sheriff’s department eligible for grant funding it might otherwise not have received. This reduced the department’s own financial obligation for certain initiatives – a financial burden that might otherwise have been borne by local taxpayers.

“Kevin’s approach was akin to what New York Police Commissioner Bratton began back when I was younger,” said Burke, noting that accreditations are commonsense. For instance, safety accreditation is vital from a variety of perspectives in addition to bottom-line concerns. That includes protecting the public.

Burke said he would build on that, with an emphasis on community partnership. Each community is different, he noted, and what might be important to residents of Putnam Valley would differ from a community on the opposite end of the county.

“Working with the schools, school resource officers, and businesses is key,” he said. “If you know the community and the issues and problems it faces, you can create an environment of safety. And this plays a key role in preventing small issues from becoming large problems.”



# State Calls on Insurers to Cover Vaccine Costs

In light of what Gov. Kathy Hochul called “continued attacks on science and health care from the federal government,” she last week announced new action to protect vaccine access across New York State.

The NYS Department of Financial Services is issuing guidance to insurers encouraging them to continue covering all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which has long been responsible for issuing recommendations on vaccine use to control disease in the U.S.

Insurers typically provide coverage of vaccines based on ACIP recommendations.

In addition, the guidance urges insurers to encourage employers and other entities who provide self-funded health care coverage to continue covering the cost of vaccines.

Last week’s action builds upon Hochul’s executive order allowing

pharmacists to administer COVID vaccines to ensure New Yorkers can receive the updated 2025-26 COVID shot.

“In 2024, we lost 2,775 New Yorkers related to COVID – that is enough to fill seven jumbo jets,” said State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald. “By safeguarding coverage and availability, we can prevent illness, save lives, and keep our communities healthy as we head into the colder months.”

New York is also working in coordination with – and helping to lead – a regional multi-state public health collaboration among Northeast states, which brings together public health leaders across the region to develop evidence-based recommendations and approaches on vaccination, disease surveillance, and emergency preparedness.

The collaborative also supports state public health laboratories in sharing resources and expertise to strengthen regional readiness.



## House Fire in Lake Peekskill

**At about 12:15 a.m. Sept. 1, the Putnam Valley Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire in Lake Peekskill. Due to its rapid response and coordinated attack, firefighters were able to quickly contain and extinguish the main body of the fire, then continued to work on isolated hot spots and overhaul operations. Mutual aid assistance was provided by surrounding entities, and at about 4:30 a.m., all units were back in service.**

### Tilly Foster Mine & the Disaster of 1895

*Continued from Page 5*

played a role, eventually eclipsing iron mining in New York and the northeast.

The remnant of the mine exists

today near routes 6 and 312 as a huge, water-filled moon crater with sheer cliffs falling 50 or 60 feet into the water. The original mine shafts had drilled down about 50 stories below the surface, and the open pit itself is at least 400 feet deep and 200 yards across.

Because of the depth of the water-filled crater, the U.S. Navy built a steel platform on one end of the crater lake to test and train scuba divers, starting in WWII. The training reportedly included the use

of a deep-sea bathysphere. While the Navy no longer uses the site, recreational divers have explored the underwater mine.

Unfortunately, in 2017, a New Jersey diver exploring the mine became entangled in wires and cables deep underwater and drown in the pit.

*Jack Alcott is the Town of Southeast historian and a Brewster history enthusiast. See more on Facebook, at “Southeast, NY – Historian.”*



### Don't Forget...

You can view our paper wherever you are on your smartphone, tablet or computer at [www.putnampresstimes.com](http://www.putnampresstimes.com)

# 5 Things You May Not Know About Kidney Disease



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

**FAMILY FEATURES**

**Y**our kidneys – the bean-shaped organs located near the middle of your back on either side of your spine – play a vital role in your overall health. While many people don’t think about them unless there’s an issue, they filter waste from your blood, which is released as urine, and do other jobs, such as helping control blood pressure, keeping bones healthy, managing vitamin D levels, regulating electrolytes and making red blood cells.

However, 1 in 7 Americans is living with kidney disease, which occurs when the kidneys are damaged and can’t filter blood as well as they should. Additionally, 9 out of 10 people with kidney disease are unaware they have it because symptoms often don’t appear until the kidneys are badly damaged.

A survey of the public awareness of kidney disease conducted by YouGov on behalf of the American Kidney Fund shows common misconceptions related to kidney disease. Consider these facts from “Know Your Kidneys” as a roadmap toward a better understanding of kidney disease and steps to improve health.

- 1. Kidney disease impacts all communities.**

Kidney disease does not discriminate; it can affect individuals from all walks of life, regardless of age, race or socioeconomic status. Among those with some form of kidney disease, 6% are 18-29 years old, 19% are 30-44, 34% are 45-64 and 41% are 65 or older. While certain demographics may have higher prevalence rates due to genetic or environmental factors, no community is immune.
- 2. Dialysis can be done at home.**

Many people are unaware that dialysis, a life-saving treatment for those suffering from kidney failure, can be performed at home. In fact, less than half (45%) who are aware of dialysis believe it can be done at home, according to the survey. Home dialysis offers greater flexibility and can improve quality of life, allowing patients to maintain a more regular lifestyle by reducing required clinic visits.

There are two main types of home dialysis: peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis. Both methods require training, but home dialysis can empower patients to take control of their treatment and manage their condition more effectively.
- 3. Diabetes is the most common cause.**

Though only 33% of people surveyed identified the most common cause of kidney disease, diabetes accounts for nearly half of all cases of kidney failure (47%), according to the American Kidney Fund.

High blood sugar levels can damage the blood vessels in the kidneys over time, leading to a gradual decline in kidney function. Managing blood sugar levels through diet, exercise and medication may help prevent kidney damage. Additionally, undergoing regular check-ups with a health care provider can be useful in monitoring kidney function and catching early signs of kidney disease.
- 4. Medications can help manage kidney disease.**

While 19% of people surveyed believe diet and exercise are the only ways to manage kidney disease, various medications can, in fact, help manage the condition, stop or slow its progression and help prevent complications. These include medications to lower blood pressure, control blood sugar levels and treat anemia and bone disease associated with kidney disease.

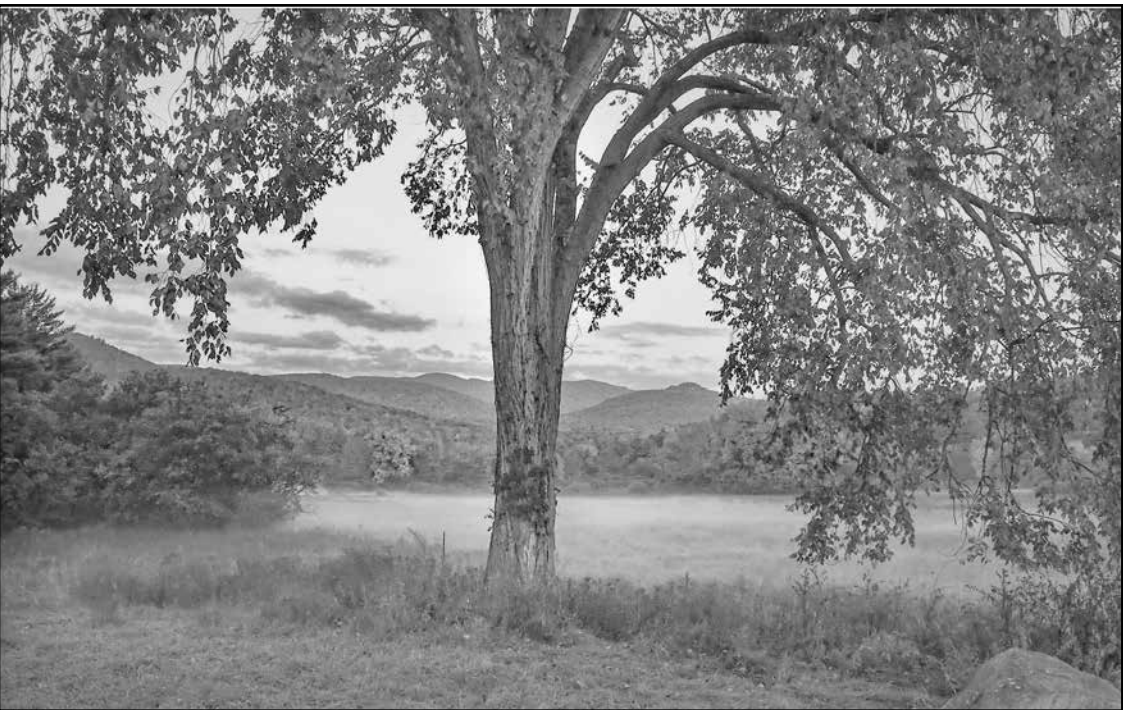
Patients should work closely with their health care providers to develop a treatment plan tailored to their specific needs. Taking medicines as prescribed and making lifestyle changes, such as managing weight, maintaining a balanced diet, staying active and avoiding smoking can improve outcomes and enhance quality of life.
- 5. Specific tests can assess kidney function.**

There are several tests available to assess kidney function and detect abnormalities early on. However, only a minority of survey respondents recognized all the tests recommended to assess kidney function and knew whether they’d taken the tests. The most common tests include blood tests to measure creatinine levels and urine tests to check for protein or blood, which can be indicators of kidney problems. Talk to your doctor about these tests and whether they’re right for you.

Regular screening, especially for those at higher risk of kidney disease, including individuals with diabetes or high blood pressure, can lead to earlier diagnosis and intervention.

Learn how to take care of your kidney health, including taking kidney health quizzes to assess your risk, at [KnowYourKidneys.org](http://KnowYourKidneys.org).





Abigail Bernard was the 2025 Arbor Day poster contest winner.

# DEC Launches Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s annual Arbor Day poster contest has launched, and photographers and artists of all ages are encouraged to submit images that capture the power and beauty of New York’s trees.

The winner poster is released annually by DEC’s Urban & Community Forestry Program to celebrate and recognize the benefits of trees to people, nature, and the environment.

“Trees are powerful allies in building resilient communities, ecosystems, and a healthier future,” said DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. “As we work together toward our goal of planting 25 million trees by 2033, this poster competition is a chance for New Yorkers to share their vision of the beauty and benefits of trees and to inspire others to celebrate, plant, and protect them.”

Submissions should reflect this year’s theme, “Trees for the Future,” expressing through original photos or artwork the connections between people and trees, the importance of planting trees for future generations, and the role of trees in providing resilience in a changing climate.

DEC will accept submissions on behalf of the NYS Arbor Day Committee through Nov. 30.

The winning image will be featured on the 2026 Arbor Day poster, which is distributed across the state for Arbor Day celebrations, as well as at the New York State Fair, schools, libraries, and local conservation councils.

To enter the contest, read the complete contest rules, and submit entries using the online submission form, visit <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/urban-and-community-forestry/arbor-day>.



Photo courtesy of the Long Island Junior Soccer League.

# Soccer Refs Needed

**By Randy Vogt**  
**Director of Public Relations, ENYYSA**

The growth of the membership and programs of the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association has created a continuous need for more soccer referees and assistant refs, and the organization is asking anyone interested to be consider becoming certified. There are certification classes held throughout eastern New York as the fall season kicks off.

If you want to earn money, learn to manage people, know more about the game, stay or become fit, expand yourself by leaving your comfort zone, and meet new people, consider becoming a ref.

ENYYSA is seeking new referees to be in the middle and/or on the line as assistant referees in youth soccer games throughout the state. The minimum age is 14 years old to become certified.

The certification class consists of both online and classroom learning.

For more information, visit <https://enysreferee.org/how-to-become-a-referee> or e-mail [questions@enysreferee.org](mailto:questions@enysreferee.org).

With more than 100,000 youth soccer players – both boys and girls – and more than 25,000 volunteers, the nonprofit Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association stretches from Long Island to the Canadian border. Members are affiliated with 10 leagues throughout the association, which covers the entire state of New York east of Route 81.

ENYYSA exists to promote and enhance the game of soccer for children and teenagers between the ages of 5 and 19, and to encourage the healthy development of youth players, coaches, referees, and administrators. All levels of soccer are offered – from intramural, travel team, and premier as well as a program for children with special needs.

For more information, visit [www.enysoccer.com](http://www.enysoccer.com).

# Downtown Revitalization Funding Available

A total of \$200 million in funding is available through the state’s two signature downtown revitalization and economic development programs – \$100 million each for Round 9 of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and Round 4 of the NY Forward program, which focuses on revitalizing smaller and rural downtowns.

Together, the two programs have awarded \$1.2 billion in funding to 151 communities across every region of the state.

Applications are now available through the state’s Consolidated Funding Application Portal. The deadline to apply is Nov. 7.

In the 2025 state budget, Gov. Kathy Hochul made the “Pro-Housing Community” designation a requirement for cities, towns, and villages to access state discretionary programs, including the DRI and NY Forward. Certified localities have exclusive access to up to \$750 million in state funding, including a \$100 million Pro-Housing Supply fund created to assist with critical infrastructure projects necessary to create new housing, such as sewer and water infrastructure upgrades.

To date, more than 350 municipalities across the state have become Pro-Housing certified.

The Downtown Revitalization Initiative was launched in 2016 to accelerate and bolster the revitalization of downtowns and neighborhoods in all 10 regions of the state to serve as centers of activity and catalysts for increased local investments. Led by the Department of State, DRI communities benefit from partnerships with and coordinated technical assistance provided by the Department of Housing & Community Renewal, Empire State Development, and the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority.

The DRI represents an unprecedented and innovative “plan-then-act” strategy that couples strategic planning with immediate and ongoing implementation. For DRI Round 9, joint applications of two to three contiguous communities in the same REDC region with a single unified vision will be accepted.

To date, DRI has awarded a total of \$900 million to 91 communities in its first eight rounds and invested in the creation of more than 4,500 new housing units. It is estimated that every dollar invested in DRI generates \$3 in additional investments as the revitalization accelerates and projects are completed.

First announced as part of the 2022 budget, the NY Forward program builds on the momentum created by DRI. The program, which is funded at \$100 million in this year’s state budget, supports a more equitable downtown recovery for New York’s smaller and rural communities with a focus on hamlets and villages.

# SEE SOMETHING? SEND SOMETHING.

We’ve made reporting animal cruelty quicker and easier!

## JOIN PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA’S ANIMAL CRUELTY WATCH AND HELP PROTECT ANIMALS IN OUR COMMUNITY FROM ALL FORMS OF CRUELTY.

1

### DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

Visit [SaferWatchApp.com/download](https://SaferWatchApp.com/download) to get the SaferWatch App for your iPhone or Android, or simply search “SaferWatch” in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

2

### JOIN PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA

Create your free SaferWatch account and join Putnam County SPCA.

3

### REPORT A TIP

Report a tip by uploading text, photos, videos, or audio—with the option to remain anonymous.

Scan the QR code and download SaferWatch

24 Hour Hotline: 845-520-6915

[spcaputnam.org](https://spcaputnam.org)



# PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

To Place Legal Notices, Email (legals@putnampresstimes.com) or Call 845-628-8400

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Putnam County of Putnam Local Law #6 of 2025

#### LOCAL LAW #6 – TO AMEND CHAPTER 220, ARTICLE X, ENTITLED “EXEMPTION FOR QUALI- FIED MEMBERS OF VOLUN- TEER FIRE DEPART- MENTS AND AMBULANCE CORPS”

Amending the Code of the County of Putnam, as approved and adopted by the Putnam County Legislature on July 7, 2025 by resolution #177, by amending Chapter 220 of the Code, entitled “EXEMPTION FOR QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND AMBULANCE CORPS.” Pursuant to NYS RPTL § 466-1, the property tax exemption granted by this Chapter has been expanded to volunteers who provide qualified emergency services to a neighboring city, village, or town. Further, the period of service required for eligibility to receive the exemption has been reduced to two (2) years, while maintaining continual eligibility for the exemption.

Copies of the Local Law are available at the Office of the Putnam County Legislature, Room 321, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, New York 10512 and also on the Putnam County Legislature’s webpage.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provision of the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended, a Public Hearing will be conducted by the Putnam County Office for Senior Resources on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 @ 10:30 a.m. The Public Hearing will be held at:

Putnam County Office for Senior Resources  
William Koehler Memorial Senior Center  
180 Route 6, Mahopac, New York

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the 2025-26 annual update of the 2024-28

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Four-Year Plan of the Older Americans Act, the New York State Community Services for the Elderly and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Discussion regarding Adult Day Services, Nutrition Programs, Medical Insurance, Legal Services, Caregivers Programs, Transportation and other issues which affect the quality of life for the elderly in Putnam County will follow the hearing.

Interested parties will be given the opportunity to speak at the Public Hearing. Testimony will be limited to 10 minutes per speaker and will be scheduled in the order in

which they are received. Anyone wishing to speak may contact Marlene Barrett, OSR Director at 808-1700, ext. 47121.

A written copy of your testimony must be presented prior to the hearing to be submitted by close of business 9/26/25 to sherrie.gilmore@putnamcountyny.gov.

An abstract of the plan will be available for public review prior to the hearing.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability and in accordance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), OSR has made its facility available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to the public hearing.

Should any accommodation be needed, please contact OSR by 9/24/25 at 845-808-1700.

For additional information, contact the Office for Senior Resources @ 845-808-1700.

2025

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### COUNTY OF PUTNAM NOTICE FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Director of Purchasing of Putnam County for the following commodities and/or service:

## PUBLIC NOTICE

#### RFP 09-2025 – WORK- ERS’ COMPENSATION & NYSGML 207-C CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION

Detailed specifications may be secured at the office of the Director of Purchasing, Putnam County Office Building, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Room 105, Carmel, New York 10512 between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday or you may download from the Empire State Bid System’s website [www.empirestatebidsystem.com](http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com). Sealed proposals must be filed in the above office on or before **1:00 P.M., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025.**

**dated: Carmel, New York  
September 10, 2025  
Sgd/John Tully, Purchasing  
Director  
Putnam County Purchasing  
Department**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### COUNTY OF PUTNAM NOTICE FOR BID NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Director of Purchasing of Putnam County for the following commodities and/or service:

#### RFB 24-25 – CONSTRU- TION MATERIALS (FEMA & ARPA COMPLIANT)

Detailed specifications may be secured at the office of the Director of Purchasing, Putnam County Office Building, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Room 105, Carmel, New York 10512 between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday or you may download from the Empire State Bid System’s website [www.empirestatebidsystem.com](http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com).

Sealed bids must be filed in the above office on or before **1:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025.**

**dated: Carmel, New York  
September 8, 2025  
Sgd/John Tully, Purchasing  
Director  
Putnam County Purchasing  
Department**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Southeast PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

that the Town Board of the Town of Southeast shall hold a public hearing at Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, on September 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as interested parties may be heard, to hear public comment on a proposed local law which would repeal and replace Chapter 108 of the Town Code entitled “Rental Housing, Registration of” to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for the rental residential housing within the Town, including defining various types or rental occupancies including “short term occupancies”, establishing requirements for rental occupancy permits, requiring periodic inspections of rental properties to ensure code compliance, requiring written leases for rental occupancies of more than 30 days, providing standards for review of applications, providing that rental occupancy permits may be revoked for violations of code or permit conditions, provide limitations on the length of rental occupancy permits, provide procedures for revocation of permits and appeals of such revocations, establish a register of rental permits, provide for interim inspections whenever deemed necessary and procedures for obtaining search warrants where access for inspection is denied, establishing fees for permits and penalties for violations of provisions of the Chapter. The proposed local law would also amend Chapter 138 (“Zoning”), Attachment “3”, Column “C” to establish short term rental as a Planning Board conditional use permit; to amend Chapter 138 (“Zoning”), Article I, to redefine the terms “Bed and Breakfast”, “Family”, “Hotel” and add a definition for “Short-Term Rental”; to amend Chapter 138 (“Zoning”), Article III, to provide that short-term rentals are a conditional use permit in any legal dwelling unit; to amend Chapter 138 (“Zoning”), Article X (“Special Permit and Conditional Uses” by adding a new section 138-56.4 entitled “Short-Term Rentals” establishing permitting requirements for short term rentals, standards for short term rentals to include minimum parking requirements, maximum occupancy limitations and prohibitions on purposes for uses of short-term rental occupancies, and requiring adherence to health and noise codes; to amend Chapter 138 (“Zoning”), Article X (“Special Permit and Conditional Uses”) to amend section 138-63.2 entitled “Senior Housing” to provide

## PUBLIC NOTICE

special permit conditions, limitations and restrictions on location of senior or age restricted housing and to provide required amenities in senior housing complexes. Copies of the proposed local law may be obtained from the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Anyone interested in the subject matter of the proposed local law will be given an opportunity to be heard at this time.

By Order of the Town Board  
Hon. Kathleen Chiudina,  
Town Clerk

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Reed Memorial Library

#### LEGAL NOTICE

#### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE REED MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Chapter 299 of the Laws of 2013 of the State of New York, to all voters qualified to vote in a general election and resident within the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam, State of New York (except that portion of the Town located within the Mahopac Central School District), that an election for Trustees of the Reed Memorial Public Library District will be held on Monday, October 6, 2025, between the hours of 12 noon and 6:00 P.M. at the Gilead Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, New York, at which time the polls will be opened to vote upon:

1. The election of four (4) trustees of the Reed Memorial Public Library District, three (3) for a three-year term, and one (1) for a two (2) year term due to a resignation.
2. The following proposition: Shall the sum of \$420,660 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Reed Memorial Library District for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Reed Memorial Library?

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the following individuals are running for the four (4) available trustee positions of the Reed Memorial Public Library District: Diana Behan, Kimberley Chukwuemeka, Stephanie Cunningham.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that application for absentee ballots for the Vote may be applied for at the Reed Memorial Library during its regular hours. Such application must be received at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. The Board of Trustees shall make a list of all persons to whom absentee voter ballots have been issued, and have it available at the Library during regular office hours until the day of election. Such list will be posted at the polling place during the election. No absentee voter ballot shall be canvassed unless it is received no later than 6:00 P.M. on the day of the Election. Dated: Carmel, New York September 3, 2025 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REED MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

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## PUBLIC NOTICE


### Supreme Court NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC

JOHN MAXWELL  
*Chairman*

SILVIO BALZANO  
*Vice-Chairman*

**TOWN OF CARMEL**  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS



60 McAlpin Avenue  
Mahopac, New York 10541  
Tel. (845) 628-1500 – Ext 187  
[www.townofcarmelny.gov](http://www.townofcarmelny.gov)

MICHAEL CARNAZZA  
*Director of Code Enforcement*

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
ROSE FABIANO  
CLAUDINE MCDERMOTT  
JULIE MCKEON  
WILLIAM SANTINI  
JOHN STARACE

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
  
**By the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Carmel pursuant to Section 267 Town Law, notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held on:**  
  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 – 7:30 P.M.**  
  
**To hear the following applications:**  
  
**NEW APPLICATIONS:**  
  
1. Application of **MARC ANTHONY** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a use variance to permit three residential apartments in single family zone. The property is located at 592 Long Pond Road, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #53.15-1-15.  

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
1-Family	2-Family w/ garage & apartment over.	Applicant seeks Use Variance to legalize 3 living units: 2-family use in main house with garage apartment.

  
2. Application of **MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH-CEMETERY** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking an area variance for permission to allow encroachment from neighboring property. The property is located at 91 Route 52, Carmel NY and is known as Tax Map #44.14-1-7.  

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
5' side	0'	5'
5' side	0'	5'

  
3. Application of **FERNANDO MEDINA** for a Variation of Section 156-19A(1)(a) seeking to keep 6' fence in front of house. The property is located at 44 Kelly Road, Carmel NY and is known as Tax Map #55.15-1-19.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
4' front	6'	2' fence front

4. Application of **FOTANICKI STEFANOU** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking an area variance for permission to construct garage. The property is located at 25 Kelly Ridge Road, Carmel NY and is known as Tax Map #44.15-2-29.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
15' Side	5'	10'

5. Application of **FERDINAND TRASHAJ** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking an area variance for permission to add shed. The property is located at 19 McMillan Ave, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #87.6-1-52.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
Rear Yard – 10'	6'	4'

6. Application of **RAYMOND HILL CEMETERY INC.** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking an area variance for permission to add addition onto existing garage. The property is located at 165 Route 52, Carmel NY and is known as Tax Map #44.9-1-17.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
Front Yard/Dykeman Rd. = 40 ft.	13.1 ft.	26.9 ft.

7. Application of **FYB PROPERTIES LLC (LINDA VERDE)** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking to obtain multiple area variances. The property is located at 11-15 Battista Drive, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #75.16-1-19.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
Rear Yard – 40 ft.	.03 ft.	39.97 ft.
Lot Width – 150 ft.	130 ft.	20 ft.

By order of the Chairman, John Maxwell







# Harckham Applauds Hunting Bill

## Use of Crossbows Now Allowed in Big Game

Legislation legalizing the use of crossbows for big game hunting has been signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul. The new law allows crossbows to be used anywhere longbows are permitted, reforms equipment regulations, and establishes safety buffer zones to protect public safety.

“This is great news for bow hunters and conservationists alike,” said State Sen. Pete Harckham, D-Peekskill, who sponsored the bill. “The new law expands access to hunting while helping control New York’s overgrown deer population, which has reached unsustainable levels in many areas.”

The bill was co-sponsored by Assemblymember Carrie Woerner, D-Saratoga.

It received broad support from both the hunting and environmental communities. For hunters, it expands access, particularly for those who may be physically unable to use a traditional longbow.

For conservationists, the law represents an important tool in managing the state’s growing deer population, which has increased in recent years due to mild winters and abundant food sources.

“Half of New York’s 19 million acres of forest are struggling to grow the next generation of trees due to the state’s overabundant deer herd,” said Bill Cooke, policy advisor to the Nature Conservancy. “This law is an important step forward in protecting New York’s forests and the many benefits they provide.”

Unchecked deer populations have led to a surge in car accidents, crop and property damage, and significant habitat degradation, according to Harckham’s office. Environmental advocates have praised the legislation for addressing this pressing ecological issue.

Prior to the bill’s passage,

crossbow use in big game hunting was heavily restricted and limited to the final days of archery season. By updating the legal definition of “long bow” to include crossbows, the law now permits their use throughout the entire archery season, in any area where longbows are allowed.

The legislation also modernizes equipment standards by removing overly rigid and outdated specifications, such as bolt length, limb width, and bow length, and replacing them with a clear, functional standard: a minimum draw weight of 100 pounds and a maximum draw weight of 200 pounds.

To protect public safety, some counties have adopted restrictions. For example, the discharge of crossbows within 500 feet of homes, farm structures, schools, playgrounds, churches, factories, or other occupied buildings in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.

Other counties may adopt these restrictions by passing local laws.

The law took effect immediately upon the governor’s signature Aug. 26 and will be in place for the upcoming hunting season.

“Crossbows are one of the most accessible tools we have to bring new folks into the field,” said Brandon Dale, Region 2 representative and a member of the NYS Conservation Fund Advisory Board. “They’re intuitive, safe, and effective. They allow us to offer mentorship hunts in areas where firearms aren’t permitted and traditional archery presents too steep a learning curve for first-time participants. If we want hunting to continue as both a conservation tool and a cultural practice, we must remove barriers – not reinforce them. That’s why I support this bill.”

# Voters Shoot Down Plan for New Brewster Firehouse

## Continued from Page 1

wanting the best resources for the great rescuers/volunteers of the community. It has more to do with squeezing more out of residents that have nothing left to squeeze. Come up with more creative financing than having the community fund the entire project.”

“I wish there had been an alternate plan proposed with a lesser expense so that the entire thing wouldn’t have to be thrown out!” commented another resident. “I think those who voted against the firehouse plans wish the same. I’d think that most of the ‘no’ votes don’t disagree that a firehouse is needed!”

The original firehouse was built in 1941 and, according to Russell Davidson of KG+D Architects of Mount Kisco, the current bays

are too short to house modern apparatus.

In addition, the floor under the original apparatus bay is shored up with temporary steel, there is a lack of mechanical ventilation throughout the building, the fire alarm system needs replacement, and there’s no separation of contaminated and clean areas, a lack of training space, no support rooms for emergency medical professionals, and inadequate parking.

During an April Southeast Town Board meeting, Davidson presented the proposal for a new two-story, split-level (due to sloping property) structure with apparatus bays that could handle the larger firetrucks made today, on property that is part of Markel Park – located adjacent to the current firehouse.

Plans for the new state-of-the-art building included eight properly sized apparatus bays, safe separation of hot zones for contaminated personal protective equipment, warm zones for cleaned equipment, and cold zones for support areas. It also included a training space for bailout drills and fitness drills, and classrooms.

Plans also included a room for turnout gear, a space for dispatch and radio operators, support facilities, a “day room” where firefighters and EMS await calls, a lobby, meeting room, classrooms, and an assembly space about same size as what currently exists.

Upstairs, classrooms and offices were drawn into the plans, as well as a place for firefighters to sleep, a fitness center, IT space, and a commissioner’s room.

Davidson said the proposed tax impact would equate to \$270 to \$310 per year for a home valued at \$500,000.

He explained that architects and engineers first looked into renovating and expanding the current firehouse, which they determined would be difficult and would cost three-fourths of the total price to build new, and require more financing.

“A new building can be financed over 30 years, but a renovation can only be financed over 15 years,” he said. “So even though the costs are lower... the finance costs would have a greater impact to renovate and expand.”

# CLASSIFIEDS

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**HEBREW CONGREGATION OF SOMERS** welcomes you to join us on the High Holidays in our inclusive community. For tickets, email: [questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org](mailto:questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org) or call 914-248-9532. 9/17

**REGISTRATION OPEN FOR HEBREW CONGREGATION OF SOMERS HEBREW SCHOOL** - Open House on Sunday, September 7th, 2025 for Grades K-7. Email : [questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org](mailto:questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org) or Call 914-248-9532. 9/17

**WANTED**

**SEEKING SENIOR ACCOUNTANT** – Update & analyze financial data for fine foods purveyor. Requires a bachelor’s degree in business administration, accounting or finance, including at least one year of experience with Excel, including creating VLOOKUP, pivot tables & spreadsheets with

complex formulas linked to other spreadsheets. \$72,000-90,080. Send resume to Ace Endico, Attn: HR, 80 International Blvd, Brewster, NY, 10509. No calls or emails. 9/24

**SPORTING, TOYS, FOUNTAIN PENS, WESTERN** And More. Please Call Frank 914-763-8766. 10/31

**WANTED** – Private collector buying firemen’s helmets, fishing, hunting items, rods, reels, lures, all types old or new, paintings of fishing, hunting, wildlife art, bows and arrows, no compound bows. Call 845-878-3665 or 845-661-9059. 11/30

# PUTNAM COUNTY PERSONNEL ISSUES CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Exam Title & No: Supervisor of School Bus Drivers & School Bus Aides 89-523-010  
Exam Date: 11/15/2025  
Salary: \$65,000-\$75,000 (Carmel Central School District); salary varies by school district  
Last Filing Date: 9/27/2025  
Exam Filing Fee: \$45

To apply and for information about minimum requirements, job duties, and subject of the exam, as well as the exam announcement, please visit: <https://putnam.munisselfservice.com/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> or call Putnam County Personnel Department (845) 808-1650 X46105. EEO/AA 9/17, 9/24

# PUTNAM COUNTY PERSONNEL ISSUES CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Exam Title & No: Dispatcher (School) 60-031-430  
Exam Date: 11/15/2025  
Salary: \$43,515-\$57,271 (Carmel Central School District)  
\$64,405 (Mahopac Central School District)  
\$50,662-\$73,411 (Putnam Valley Central School District)  
\$51,836-\$62,171 (Brewster Central School District)  
\$49, 836.80-\$68,078.40 (Haldane Central School District);  
salary varies by school district  
Last Filing Date: 9/27/2025  
Exam Filing Fee: \$35

To apply and for information about minimum requirements, job duties, and subject of the exam, as well as the exam announcement, please visit: <https://putnam.munisselfservice.com/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> or call Putnam County Personnel Department (845) 808-1650 X46105. EEO/AA 9/17, 9/24

# PUTNAM COUNTY PERSONNEL ISSUES CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Exam Title & No: Library Aide 25-604  
Exam Date: 10/28/2025  
Salary: \$31,407 - \$34,351 (Mahopac Central School District)  
Last Filing Date: 9/30/2025  
Exam Filing Fee: \$25

To apply and for information about minimum requirements, job duties, and subject of the exam, as well as the exam announcement, please visit: <https://putnam.munisselfservice.com/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> or call Putnam County Personnel Department (845) 808-1650 X46105. EEO/AA 9/17, 9/24

# CLASSIFIED ADS

PRINT CLEARLY your AD on the form below and send it to: PUTNAM COUNTY PRESS, P.O. BOX 608, MAHOPAC, NEW YORK 10541 by theWEDNESDAY before publication, or email your ad to [advertising@putnampresstimes.com](mailto:advertising@putnampresstimes.com). We will run your ad for four (4) weeks. If after that time you wish to renew for another four weeks, resubmit your AD on the form. The price for classified advertising is \$17.50 for 25 words. Please include a check with your submission.

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# Carmel Church Makes Religious Education Fun




Photos by Luis Gonzalez, Lisa Piccolino, and Victoria Velez.

2025 - 2026


SPECIAL EDITION

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REVOLUTIONARY  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
NEW YORK  
250

PUTNAM COUNTY AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
ON VIEW



**AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
EXPERIENCE TRAVELING  
EXHIBIT**  
*Collaborative project of the  
American Battlefield Trust and the  
Daughters of the American  
Revolution. Presented in Putnam  
County by the Enoch Crosby Chapter  
of NSDAR.*  
**September 6-27, 2025**  
Southeast Museum  
67 Main Street, Brewster, NY  
[www.southeastmuseum.org](http://www.southeastmuseum.org)



**GENERAL PUTNAM: BEHIND  
THE COUNTY'S  
REVOLUTIONARY  
NAMESAKE**  
*Traveling exhibition featuring prints  
and artifacts from the collection of  
George Whipple.*  
**Opening Reception**  
**September 26, 2025**  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY  
[www.putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://www.putnamhistorymuseum.org)

REVOLUTIONARY  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
COMMITTEE

HON. GEORGE PATAKI - CO- CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE C. WHIPPLE III - CO- CHAIRMAN  
HON. KEVIN BYRNE - COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
AMY SAYEGH - CHAIR, PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
JENNIFER CASSIDY - COUNTY HISTORIAN  
TARA KEEGAN - DIRECTOR OF TOURISM

Ad sponsored by the Whipple Family Foundation for the Preservation of Putnam County

<https://putnamcountyny.gov/rev250>



Mount Carmel Bible Church hosted Vacation Bible School from Aug. 18 to 22, where youngsters enjoyed song, games, and fellowship as part of their religious education.

“We are grateful for all of our volunteers and all the children who were part of our Vacation Bible School this year,” said Pastor Andrew Columbia.

The theme for the week was “Wonder Junction.”

“The children sang two songs at the following Sunday service with great enthusiasm and heart,” added Columbia. “It was a wonderful time for everyone.”

For more information, visit [mcbchurch.online](http://mcbchurch.online).

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