



The
Putnam
County

TIMES FREE

PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

This paper publishes official notices for Putnam County, Carmel, Kent, Southeast, Brewster, Patterson

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

Cold Doesn't Deter from 'ICE Out' Rally



People across the country participated in a national shutdown Jan. 30 to protest against the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration & Customs Enforcement operations. The day called for "no work, no school, no shopping" to pressure the federal government to withdraw ICE agents from the streets. A day prior, Philipstown Democrats braved the 7-degree weather to join hundreds of residents and activists gathered in Chester to oppose a plan to convert a massive warehouse into a federal detention facility. Philipstown Democratic Committee members Liz Corio and Sonia Ryzy-Ryski, Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, and other Democrats joined in sharing the message: "no child is illegal, protect our communities, and bring back humanity."

California Dreamin'? More than a Foot of Snow Blankets Putnam



Whether you had to put on your, boots, hats, and gloves and brave the storm to shovel snow or head out to a job you couldn't phone-in for, or if you stayed in your PJs and slippers and sipped cocoa while watching the snow fall from the great indoors, there was not a person in Putnam County who could avoid the dose of winter weather the region saw Jan. 25. Here, St. John the Evangelist Church in Mahopac is cleared during the height of the storm.

A state of emergency was declared across the state, the county, and in many individual towns and villages from Saturday night to Monday mid-day, asking people to stay off the roads to allow highway department crews to clear them, and to keep out of the way of first responders who may be called out. Brewster firefighters put chains on the wheels of their trucks so they could respond to calls safely. Snowfall rates hit up to 3 inches per hour, with totals between 12 and 18 inches reported from Cold Spring to Brewster. Provided photos.



Southeast Supervisor To Step Down

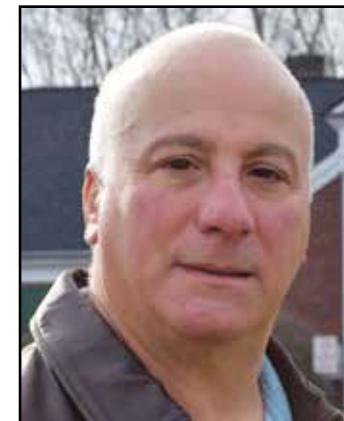
By Holly Crocco

During an emotional testimony at the Jan. 22 Southeast Town Board meeting, Supervisor Nick Durante informed the public that he will be resigning from his post.

"After many long and thoughtful conversations, along with a great deal of personal reflection, I've decided to step down and resign from my position as town supervisor," he announced. "I'll remain on for as long as needed to help my replacement move forward."

While Durante said the decision to step down was a "difficult and painful one," he said he hopes to continue to serve the town in a different capacity in the future.

"I've always gone after what I wanted, sometimes almost to a



**Southeast Town Supervisor
Nick Durante**

fault," he said. "I've always given my best and in the end, knowing I put everything into it and pushed beyond my comfort zone, I was at peace with myself... One of the wisest things I've learned from those experiences is I have certain limitations."

The board is expected to appoint someone to fill the seat until a special election can be held in November. According to Councilman Eric Cyrus, the winner of that election will immediately enter office (not wait until January) and will have to run again in 2027, since that's when Durante's term would have expired.

"I've heard of a couple of people interested, but nobody has officially reached out to the Town Board to seek the posi-

Continued on Page 12

Carmel Votes Down Crisis Stabilization Center

By Holly Crocco

The Carmel Planning Board voted unanimously Jan. 28 to deny an application by People USA to develop a crisis stabilization center in the hamlet.

"We spent several months analyzing data, challenging People USA with a lot of questions, listing to the public quite a bit," said Chairman Anthony Giannico prior to the 6-0 vote.

While some audience members applauded the outcome, after the vote, the applicant simply packed up and left the meeting.

Throughout the past several months, residents have spoken at various planning board meetings to either support or decry the potential placement of a Putnam County crisis stabilization center at 1071 Stoneleigh Ave., which would have provided walk-in services to people facing a mental health or substance abuse issue.

While some implored the

board to allow the center to come to fruition, others begged it to consider how it will affect neighboring properties and businesses.

The day after the vote, County Executive Kevin Byrne – who has been championing the initiative – said he respects and accepts the board's decision and appreciates the thoughtful public process that allowed community voices to be heard.

"Local decision-making matters and community support is important for the success of any project," he said. "Putnam County remains deeply aware of the mental health challenges facing our residents and families. We will continue working with providers, community partners, and municipal leaders to increase public safety and expand access to care through evidence-based approaches, including but not limited to mobile crisis response

Continued on Page 12

Letters to the Editor

ICE vs. Police

Dear Editor:

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said at a press conference, "Our demand today is for those federal agencies that are operating in our city to do so with the same discipline, humanity, and integrity that effective law enforcement in this country demands."

So here are a few differences between our local police and the ICE police:

1. The local police are dressed in a uniform and display a badge with a unique five-digit code, rank, and the phrase "police department." The ICE officer wears a battle fatigue and a mask, does not wear a badge, and on the back of their jacket is the word "police."

2. After a shooting resulting in a fatality, the local police officer is relieved of their duty temporarily for 30 days pending an investigation by the local police department and by an independent agency such as a state or federal agency. ICE agents are not subject to any accountability by regulation. Vice President J.D. Vance announced that ICE agents have absolute immunity.

3. Local police require a warrant to enter a private residence except in several well-defined circumstances. ICE agents do not need a warrant despite the Fourth Amendment to our Constitution. ICE agents are covered by a secret

memo allowing unwarranted entry with probable cause.

George Baum
Kent Lakes

A Fancy Word for Slavery

Dear Editor:

My fellow citizens, please ask yourself some questions starting with: When did fascism become fashionable again?

America's soul is anti-fascist. We fought WW2 as proof. It's important in these times to read Thoreau's essay on "Civil Disobedience." Gandhi, MLK, and Mandela all found it useful. They asked: What's next? What can I do? When do I stop just reacting?

America's struggle against fascism is not yet over. It goes way back in our history to our foundation, long before the invention of the word. It is the sociopolitical and economic struggle between the interests of abolitionists and slavers.

Slavery has a sordid history within democratic societies. It was a contradiction at the creation of democracy in Athens. In our history, slavery was a cultural conflict requiring convoluted compromises just to ratify our Constitution and is found at the core of why our country fought its most costly and deadly conflict, our Civil War.

What are the best ways to unite our nation again?

Can we unite before we tear ourselves asunder?

Is it possible to do so before our adversaries take the opportunity they've long cultivated for exploiting our internal chaos?

We need to work together to find a practical balance between coalition building and confrontation. Lest we ever forget; fascism favors the politics of power and making vassals of those too weak to oppose them. We the People still believe in freedom, and we free people deny slavery.

Fascism is just another word for slavery.

Kenneth Sills
Putnam Valley

Impeach DHS Secretary Noam

Dear Editor:

Two innocent U.S. citizens have been shot to death by ICE with total immunity and no accountability.

ICE agents are motivated to cause fear and pain rather than to professionally apprehend illegal immigrants who committed serious crimes. ICE is acting like masked thugs on a nationwide basis with zero oversight. This is not my America.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Noam must be impeached and ICE completely overhauled. We have twice been asked to believe their lies rather than our own eyes looking at multiple videos. I spoke personally with Congressman Lawler who told me that he wanted a full and fair investigation of Renee Good's shooting.

Not only did DHS not investigate, but they inhibited investigation by local law enforcement. Where is our congressman's oversight and outrage?

I call on Congressman Lawler to publicly call for Noem's impeachment and his vote to do so.

Jeff Feldman
Granite Springs

Are We Still a Democracy?

Dear Editor:

Mark Kelly is being investigated by Republicans for telling servicemen they don't have to obey illegal orders, while we heard Secretary Hegseth 10 years ago say the exact same thing. I have not heard any veterans or active military personnel rebuke the secretary. Why is that?

I hear "back the blue" every day. When President Trump pardoned all the insurrectionists for Jan. 6, 2021, including the men or women who attacked capitol police and injured more than 140 officers, where was the outcry?

Where is the outrage from retired and active duty police officers?

Where is the outcry when masked men murder an innocent American citizen for filming the crimes of officers with immunity to do whatever they want?

Where is the outcry when Secretary Noem lies to you and calls a murdered person a domestic terrorist? Noem says he brandished a gun and physically attacked the officers. Show us the video.

Where is the outcry when you heard Greg Bovino on video tell the exact same lies that Noem told you? We seem to live in a dystopian world where someone says up is down, left is right, what you saw is a lie – and people agree!

I am curious why there is

such silence on these unbelievable egregious actions by our border and ICE police, and Republican politicians.

Why did Trump say that Alex Patti should not have had a gun at the protest? I remember Trump congratulating Kyle Rittenhouse, who was at a protest running around with guns and murdered people. Trump didn't complain then.

Bill Pope
Carmel

Vote Out Lawler

Dear Editor:

Congressman Mike Lawler and his Republican Congress supporters just voted for a budget that increases health care insurance premiums while billionaires get a tax break.

Congressman Lawler and his fellow Republicans need to be voted out of office, as well as House Speaker Johnson in the mid-term election this November.

Former President Obama has stated that there's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter.

Joseph Cariddo
Mahopac

ing that Mahopac sees no problem with this, but millions of people around this country are fighting back against ICE's reign of terror and will see a problem with it. Ten years from now, when you will be embarrassed and perhaps even liable for your actions and blind support of this organization, we will have it all on video and you won't be able to deny it.

So, I'm disgusted as usual, but also satisfied. Thank you for putting your hate on record.

Eileen McDermott
Brewster

An Open Letter to the Mahopac School Board

Shame on you.

Last night's (Jan. 22) board of education meeting showed the public exactly what I have long known to be true: this district continues to tolerate and protect racism and bigotry.

As a black woman, I sat in discomfort and disbelief while the board allowed community members to make openly racist remarks and mock Spanish speakers. That behavior was not only offensive, it was disgraceful. Your silence signaled agreement.

I also want to be very clear about another serious matter: On Sunday, Jan. 11, I personally witnessed Mr. Harrigan unlawfully detain a man without a warrant. He and his coworkers refused to allow the gentleman to speak to us or provide any information. In addition to unlawfully terrorizing Brewster residents, he tailgated vehicles, endangered people on the road, and verbally threatened community members. These actions were recorded on video.

While last night (Jan. 22) may have been framed as a "win" for this district, it was also a win for us because it exposed to Putnam County and surrounding counties exactly who supports kidnapping, intimidation, and the breaking up of families.

Legislator Erin Crowley, you made your position unmistakably clear. Your constituents now know exactly where you stand.

County Executive Kevin Byrne, shame on you. You represent a county made up of many races, religions, and cultures, yet you stood proudly and made it clear that the concerns of the black and brown community do not matter to you. I am not surprised but I am glad the public now sees this plainly.

The Mahopac School Board and superintendent should be deeply ashamed. You serve students and families who are black, brown, and immigrant, and last night (Jan. 22) you failed them. You allowed some of the most vile and dehumanizing rhetoric to be spoken without challenge. Then you wonder why not a single person of color feels safe enough to come to these meetings and speak.

Every individual who spoke in support of this inhumane behavior has never had to fear for their life simply because of the color of their skin. Ask yourselves honestly: why would someone who looks like me feel safe speaking in that environment?

You do not speak for my community. You do not represent our values. And shame on every one of you for allowing hatred, intimidation, and racism to take root in a space that is supposed to serve all families.

Abigail
Kent

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Kent Library
Kent Liquors - 1078 Rte. 52
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Lake Carmel F.D. Swears In Officers

Lake Carmel Fire Department recently held its installation dinner, when the following members were sworn into office: Chief Justyn Lewis; Asst. Chief Robert Benson Sr.; Fire Lts. Robert Benson Jr., James Launzinger, and Ryan Norcini; Fire Police Lt. PJ Ryan; Board President William Forbes; Vice President Michael Bishop; Treasurer William Walters; and Board of Directors members Nicole Wahlers, Thomas Sullivan, and Dave Hammond.

Carmel Schools Increase Veteran Tax Exemption

Veterans who live within the Carmel Central School District are now eligible for an increased property tax exemption, thanks to a vote by the board of education.

"This tax exemption expansion is one meaningful way the Carmel School Board can say thank you to those who have worn the uniform of our country and defended our great nation," said Board Vice President John Curzio II, who introduced the resolution at the Jan. 13 meeting.

"Providing targeted tax relief helps ease the burdens and supports our national treasures – our veterans – and helps them remain right here in the community they

know and love," he said.

The board's vote revised the current veteran's exemption from 15 percent of a maximum of \$80,000 in assessments, or \$12,000, to 15 percent of a maximum of \$360,000 in assessments, or \$54,000 in exemption.

This includes what is known as an alternative veteran's exemption for those not serving during a war, as well as those serving in a war but not in a combat zone.

Veterans who served in a combat zone are entitled to an additional 10 percent exemption, raising the total exemption to 25 percent, up to the maximum of \$360,000 in assessments.

Veterans with a wartime disability can receive an additional 25 percent exemption, raising the savings to 50 percent of the assessment up to \$360,000, or \$180,000 in exemptions.

The tax break applies to all veterans.

Trustee Jim Wise noted that since the Vietnam war, the U.S. has had an all-volunteer military. "They chose to go," he said. "There was no draft. It is a valid and worthy thing for us to give thanks for that."

To receive the CCSD property tax exemption, veterans must apply with the assessor in the town where they live.



Carmel firefighters at the scene of a fire Jan. 22 on Seminary Hill Road.

Firefighters Battle Two Alarm Fire in Carmel

More than \$42,000 has been raised (as of Jan. 29) for a Carmel family that was devastated by a recent house.

Shortly after 9 p.m. Jan. 22, the Carmel Fire Department, along with the Carmel Police Department and Carmel Volunteer Ambulance Corps, were dispatched to a structure fire at the home of Police Officer Anthony Bambach and Savanah Catucci on Seminary Hill Road.

Officers who first arrived on scene confirmed an active structure fire with heavy flames. Upon arrival, CFD's incident commander requested a second alarm, bringing mutual aid resources to the scene from the Mahopac, Kent, Lake Carmel, Brewster, Croton Falls, and Yorktown fire departments.

Due to the rural location, no fire hydrants were available, which meant firefighters had to establish a tanker shuttle operation to supply water to the blaze.

Sub-freezing temperatures created additional challenges, impacting water supply and incident conditions.

Firefighters operated on the scene for about three hours before the fire was brought under control and units were able to clear and return to service.

The cause of the fire was determined to be accidental.

To support Bambach, Catucci, and their children, donations may be made at www.gofundme.com. All funds will help with immediate needs, losses, and displacement as a result of the fire.

Tech Upgrade at DMV

The Putnam County Department of Motor Vehicles in Brewster, along with all DMV offices in New York, will undergo a large-scale system upgrade next month that will require the office to be closed, and potentially alter business hours.

In February, the New York State DMV is implementing the initial phase of a multi-year project to replace and modernize its aging technology systems. To bring the first part of the new system online, the state is ceasing all DMV operations including online and the phone system at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. On that day, the Putnam County

DMV will be closing at 12:30 p.m.

The office is already scheduled to be closed Monday, Feb. 16 in observance of President's Day, and will remain closed Tuesday, Feb. 17.

During this time, the state DMV will migrate about 30 million records to the new system and complete the transition to bring the first phase of the upgrade online. No DMV transactions will be able to be completed during this period, including through the state DMV website, and phone calls will not be answered.

The implementation timeline calls for offices to be operational and open for customer transactions

beginning Wednesday, Feb. 18. It is anticipated that the Brewster office will reopen at 8:30 a.m., provided it receives approval from the state. Any changes to this timeline will be posted at www.putnamcountyny.gov/dmv and on the Putnam County Clerk's Office Facebook page.

"It is our hope that this new technology upgrade will improve the DMV experience for our customers and staff alike," said Putnam County Clerk Michael Bartolotti. "While we realize these closures may result in temporary inconvenience for our customers, we hope we can count on your patience, and we believe it will be worth it."

Community Artisanal Hamantash Bake

Chabad of Putnam County invites the public to join in a "community artisanal hamantash bake" Sunday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m., at the Carmel VFW, 32 Gleneida Ave. This program is for beginner and expert bakers alike.

The traditional hamantash is the beloved triangular-shaped treat enjoyed on Purim, most often filled with fruit jams or classic poppy seed. At the upcoming event, participants will craft classic hamantaschen – then take them up a notch with creative, flavorful twists such as lemon poppy, s'mores, Funfetti, apricot-orange, and sesame-delight halva.

Roll, fill, pinch, and bake alongside the community and dis-

cover the deeper meaning behind these iconic Purim cookies.

The cost is \$25 per family

and spots are limited. RSVP at www.PutnamChabad.org/Bake or call 845-225-4770.

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A Patriotic Black History Lesson at Garrison Library

During a Jan. 19 discussion at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, historian Dr. Aaron Mair held a large audience galvanized as he recounted the critical contributions of the black troops in the 1st Rhode Island Regiment during the American Revolution. From the Battle of Red Bank, where they defeated a much larger Hessian force, to the capture of Redoubt 10 at the Battle of Yorktown, the valor of black soldiers was outstanding – if largely forgotten and in some cases deliberately erased. From left are (front row) Desmond-Fish Library President Anita Prentice, Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg, (back row) novelist Owen Pataki, Mair, and library Trustee Erik Brown.



Police Chase Ends in Arrests

On Jan. 28, the Westchester County Police Department's Westchester/Putnam Real Time Crime Center notified Carmel Police Department of a vehicle that fled a traffic stop from Yorktown officers on Route 6 in Shrub Oak.

With the chase continuing eastbound on Route 6 into Putnam County, Carmel P.D. and the

Putnam County Sheriff's Office coordinated a response with the New York State Police-Somers Barracks to mitigate the pursuit safely.

Carmel detectives set up a tire deflation device to stop the vehicle. Attempting to avoid this as they approached Union Valley Road, the fleeing suspects drove into the Route 6 Mart gas station

where they got stuck behind another vehicle.

One suspect was taken into custody at the scene and the other was apprehended by Carmel P.D. officers on Buckshollow Road after a short foot chase.

The two suspects were turned over to Yorktown P.D. without further incident for additional investigation and charges.

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Nutrition Corner

By Allison J. Stowell
MS, RD, CDN



Game Food Hacks

Beef and Refried Bean Gordita Crunch

Hannaford.com

(1 Guiding Stars)

Tacos get a protein-packed upgrade with this easy dinner. Using both soft tortillas and crunchy taco shells gives this kid-friendly recipe the best of both worlds.

Ingredients:

1 lb 93% lean ground beef
1 (1 oz) packet low sodium taco seasoning mix
1 (16 oz) can low sodium refried beans
1 ½ cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
1 (8.2 oz) pkg flour tortillas
10 hard shell tacos

For Serving:

Shredded lettuce
Chopped tomatoes
Sour cream
Hot sauce

Steps:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. In a 10-inch nonstick skillet on medium-high, cook the ground beef 6–7 min. Drain and return to skillet. Add ⅔ cup water and the seasoning mix and stir until combined. Cook 3–4 min., until sauce is thickened. Transfer beef mixture to a bowl.

2. Transfer the refried beans to a microwave-safe bowl. Combine with ⅔ cup cheese. Microwave 1–1½ min., until warm. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment. Place a flour tortilla on a cutting board. Spread on a thin layer of the refried bean mixture (about 2 tbsp). Top with a hard shell. Fold tortilla up around shell. Fill shell with some of the beef and remaining cheese, being careful not to overfill. Place on prepared baking sheet. Repeat with remaining tortillas.

3. Bake gorditas 5 min., until cheese is melted. To serve, top with lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, and hot sauce, if desired. Serve immediately.

Allison Stowell MS, RD, CDN is a registered dietitian for Hannaford Supermarket. For more information about free, virtual nutrition classes and more, visit Hannaford.com/dietitians. To learn more about the Guiding Stars nutrition guidance program, visit GuidingStars.com.

Air Fryer Veggie Rice Bites

(Family Features)
Air Fryer Veggie Rice Bites

Ingredients:

1 Minute Butter & Sea Salt
Jasmine Rice Cup
1/4 cup frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
1 egg
1/4 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
barbecue sauce or ranch dressing (optional)



egg, cheddar cheese, garlic powder and salt. Freeze 5 minutes to slightly firm up.

Divide rice mixture into four portions and hand form into mounds.

Air-fry 8 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve with barbecue sauce or ranch dressing for dipping, if desired.

Directions:
Preheat air fryer to 390 F. Heat rice according to package directions.
In blender, roughly chop vegetables.
In bowl, combine vegetables,

Source: Minute Rice



Students create sound in their music performance and technology class at Brewster High School.

Brewster Students Explore the World of Sound Effects

You all know the sounds... The T-rex roar in "Jurassic Park," Darth Vader's breathing in "Star Wars," the bullwhip snap from "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

Great sound effects make a difference in your movie-watching experience by creating mood, tension, realism, and enhancing the storytelling. Students in Richard Grasso's music performance and technology class at Brewster High School are creating original sounds for videos just like the professionals.

In this new hands-on class, which is open to all and is a year-long elective, students explore lighting and sound design production in the BHS Performing Arts Center, as well as technical music and theatre terminology and skills used in performances and productions such as plays, musicals, concerts, and other events.

Students spend units exploring live recording, as well, including podcasts and creating original electronic music.

"This is our demo workshop or inspiration day," Grasso recently told students. "You are going to come up with your own sound effects to lay over a video of your choice. Look around the room and ask yourself, what can I use to make a sound? You don't need \$1 million. You can record your shoes walking across the floor, crinkle paper, pour water from a bottle, blow into the microphone for wind... Be original."

The class then watched a clip of "Back to the Future III" without any sound, guessing what sound

effects were in the scene. The clip featured Michael J. Fox at the wheel of the infamous DeLorean time machine and Doc Brown using a steam train to push the car to the required speed of 88 miles per hour.

Train chugging, horse running, explosion, scream, car revving up, typing in codes, and wind blowing were just a few of the effects mentioned.

Using a Behringer high-tech microphone, which is much more powerful than your standard iPhone microphone, and Behringer mixer and Logic Pro software, students got to work creating their own sound effects.

Erin Milby waved her sheet music next to the microphone to create wind, then tapped the microphone with a blue folder for thunder.

The software is user-friendly, especially for someone who has experience. "I use Logic Pro at home when I record myself playing ukulele," said Erin. "It's not hard."

A group of three students were creating the sound of typing on a keyboard by tapping on an electronic keyboard, while another group that has selected their own video from "The Amazing World of Gumball" planned to tap two metal rods together for a fight scene.

"We get to experiment with different equipment, which is cool," said Justin Pesantez. "We created a podcast and worked with stage lighting. It's been a unique experience."

Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

Carmel

Gail L. Gallo, 76, January 15. Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Charles Graham, 80, January 19. Balsamo-Cordovano Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-2144.

Mahopac

Ralph Santalis, 90, January 19. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

Patterson

Kenneth M. Evans, 72, January 20. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.



U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer with Boscobel House & Gardens Executive Director and Curator Jennifer Carlquist at the historic home last month.

Boscobel to Receive \$500K in Federal Funds *Rehab Needed After Library Roof Collapse*

A month after visiting Boscobel House & Gardens and calling for federal funding for repairs, U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer last week announced \$500,000 in federal funding to help restore the beloved historic site in Putnam County.

The house's plaster ceiling collapsed in April 2024, risking the more-than-200-year-old collection and causing extreme damage to multiple rooms that require extensive renovation. However, one of the Hudson Valley's most beautiful libraries will now have the support it needs to preserve it for the next generation.

"Boscobel House & Gardens is a key part of the Hudson Valley's rich cultural heritage," said Schumer. "I was proud to visit the iconic historical building last month and was heartbroken to see damage from the historic library's ceiling collapsing. I'm proud to announce that, following my personal push, I have just helped pass \$500,000 in federal funding into law to help Boscobel rebuild stronger than before

and preserve this American treasure for the next generation."

The senator said this boost will give Boscobel the resources it needs to ensure the historic house can continue telling the story of the Hudson Valley and the nation's history.

Boscobel Executive Director and Curator Jennifer Carlquist said the funding underscores the essential role public investment plays in sustaining cultural and historic institutions across the country and ensures Boscobel can continue to serve as a center of history, learning, and inspiration as well as a regional economic engine.

"Sen. Schumer immediately understood the urgency and importance of our situation, and how this funding enables us to come back from collapse stronger than ever and welcome broader audiences to engage with the great American story," she said. "The senator has secured this critical funding at a pivotal moment, allowing us to move forward on emergency restoration."

Built in the early 19th century, the Neoclassical mansion was saved from demolition in the 1950s when it remained on the site of the newly built FDR Montrose VA Hospital, but was meticulously reconstructed as a museum at a new site close by shortly thereafter and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

The site overlooks the Hudson Highlands and is known for its sweeping views of the Hudson and nearby West Point, which inspired the renowned Hudson River School art movement.

In April 2024, the plaster ceiling in Boscobel's library collapsed, damaging the collection and the building.

The federal funding will allow Boscobel House & Gardens to restore and structurally repair the damaged ceiling, increase safety and accessibility throughout, and add public restrooms. Funding will also revitalize historic rooms, replace damaged textiles and wallpapers, and upgrade the building's HVAC system to improve efficiency.



Cap
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Community Action Partnership

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More info, contact the Putnam CAP Food Pantry Operator

(914) 924-3540



knamba@westcop.org

We Will Miss

Carmel

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Charles Graham, 80, January 19. Balsamo-Cordovano Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-2144.

Brewster

Roland Paul Vermette, 98, January 24. Beecher Funeral

Local Libraries Receive State Funds

The 2024-25 State Aid for Public Library Construction Grant Program Awards were announced Dec. 23, and 13 Mid-Hudson Library System member libraries have been awarded funds, for a total allotment of \$1.7 million.

The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library in Cold Spring was awarded \$55,296 for an energy efficiency project, Patterson Library was awarded \$176,068 for phase two of its adult collection area improvements, and Putnam Valley Free Library was \$72,709 for renovation of its community room.

"We are grateful to our elected officials for their support of this critical state aid program," said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLs executive director. "These funds greatly help local libraries keep up with the aging infrastructure our libraries are operating within."

There is a documented need of \$1.75 billion for public library construction and renovation in New York State. More than half of the 1,000-plus public library buildings in New York are now over 60 years old, and one-third are between 30 and 60 years old.

The funds for all listed projects are from \$44 million in capital funds for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects provided in the 2024-25 state budget.

Mid-Hudson Library System is a cooperative public library system chartered by the NYS Board of Regents and overseen by the NYS Education Department via the Division of Library Development. It is dedicated to working together with 66 member libraries in the region to strengthen local library services while saving local tax dollars.

For more information, visit www.midhudson.org.

Carmel Educator Saves Student from Choking

One day last month, Jeanine Lopez, a paraprofessional at Matthew Paterson Elementary School in Carmel/Kent, was in the school's cafeteria during lunch when a fourth-grader named Ethan began choking, panicked, and got up and ran.

Lopez was able to grab him, keep her cool, and quickly did the Heimlich maneuver. The first thrust of her clenched fist did nothing. Then she performed a second, and a third. On the fourth thrust to the boy's upper abdomen, the piece of food he had been choking on came out and he could breathe again.

A member of the school's safety team, Lopez is certified in CPR, first aid, deploying an AED, administering Narcan, and the Heimlich maneuver.

"There is nothing I wouldn't do to help a child in any emergency," said Lopez. "As a paraprofessional, you must always



Matthew Paterson Elementary School paraprofessional Jeanine Lopez with Ethan at the Jan. 13 Carmel School Board meeting.

be mindful of your environment and students' needs. My advice to anyone who works with children

is to be trained in emergency situations because the more informed you are, the better prepared you are."

Lopez was recognized at the Jan. 13 Carmel School Board meeting.

"In a moment that could have ended very differently, Jeanine acted with calm, courage, and quick thinking," said Principal Jennifer Darling. "Because of her training, her bravery, and her willingness to act, a child went home safely that day. We are beyond grateful and proud to have Jeanine Lopez as part of our school community. Thank you for being a true lifesaving hero."

Superintendent of Schools Michael Plotkin honored Lopez as well.

Lopez has been shy about taking the credit she deserves. As the audience applauded her at the meeting, she just held Ethan's hand and smiled.

Academic Honors

The following area students have been named to the Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut for the fall 2025 semester:

Brewster – Natalie D'Amato, Ella Martinez, and Sophia Schnatz.

Carmel – Benjamin Cohen, Isabella Cornacchio, and Kerri McCoy.

Cold Spring – Christian Ferreira and Madeleine Knox.

Mahopac – Andrew Baker, Hailey Campisi, Michela Gaglio, Alessia Gristina, Kaitlyn Palange, Camila Vallejo, and Charles Woolley.

Putnam Valley – Faith Carravone, Jordan Cuddy, and Emily Nielsen.

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Looking For Something to Do?

Check Out Our Community Events on Page 7

Putnam County Community Events

Winter Coat Drive

Putnam Community Action Partnership is collecting new winter coats (tags still on) in all sizes for children age 0 to 18. Donations can be made at Putnam CAP, 121 Main St., Brewster, through Feb. 28. Financial donations to help Putnam CAP purchase coats for those in need can be made at www.putnamcap.org. For information, call 845-278-8021.

Kindergarten

Registration

Kindergarten registration for the Brewster High School Class of 2039 will take place the weeks of March 2 and March 9, by appointment only. Children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2026, are eligible to register for September classes. Families residing in the district are asked to call 845-279-5051, ext. 6162, for English; or 845-279-2087, ext. 4143 or 4144, for Spanish, for more information.

Snow Ordinance

To facilitate the removal of snow from the roads within the Town of Kent, through April 15, the overnight parking of vehicles on the town right of way is prohibited. Violators will be issued a traffic summons and towed at the owner's expense. All individuals plowing snow must remove it from the town right of way. Also, anyone whose vehicle becomes disabled during a snow event and abandoned must call the Kent Police Department.

Find Shelter

Brewster Cares' winter shelter is open nightly at 8:30 p.m. (you must arrive by 9 p.m.) Daytime warming center hours are 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Meet for screening at 72 Main St., Brewster.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Kent Town Board

The Kent Town Board will meet at Kent Town Hall at 7 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) on: Feb. 3 and 17, March 3 and 17, April 14 and 21, May 5 and 19, June 2 and 16, July 7 and 21, Aug. 4 and 18, Sept. 8 and 15, Oct. 6 and 20, Nov. 10 and 17, and Dec. 1 and 15.

PowerPoint Series

Mahopac Public Library will host a PowerPoint series beginning Tuesday, Feb. 3 from 2 to 3 p.m. Go from getting started to creating polished presentations. This class meets Tuesdays for four weeks. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Ramen Day

The Umami Otakus Anime Club at Mahopac Public Library will celebrate Ramen Day on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 5 p.m. Watch anime, eat snacks, do some crafts, and hang out. Teens will vote on which ramen flavor to try as they watch the month's anime. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 153.

Library Meetings

Reed Memorial Library's Board of Trustees will meet Feb. 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2, in Carmel.

Carmel Town Board

The Carmel Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. the following Wednesdays, at Carmel Town Hall: Feb. 4, 11 and 18; March 4, 11 and 18; April 8, 15

and 22; May 6, 13 and 20; June 3, 10 and 17; July 1 and 8; Aug. 5 and 12; Sept. 2, 9 and 16; Oct. 7, 14 and 21; Nov. 4, 10 and 18; and Dec. 2, 9 and 16.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Watercolor Painting

Patterson Library will present a three-session watercolor workshop led by award-winning artist Sharon Nakazato on Thursdays, Feb. 5, 12, and 19 at 1 p.m., designed to spark your creativity and deepen your artistic skills. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, you'll find inspiration and creativity in every stroke. Adults 18 and older. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Support for Nonprofits

Mahopac Public Library will present an introduction to Foundation Directory for nonprofits Thursday, Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. Looking for grants for your nonprofit? Learn how to use Foundation Directory, the most comprehensive prospect research tool for fundraisers, with over 239,000 Grantmaker profiles. Learn how to search for Grantmakers who have funded organizations working on causes and with communities similar to those you serve. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Fandom Zines Club

Make zines for your favorite fandoms, everything from books to TV shows to video games and more, at Mahopac Public Library on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. Materials will be provided. In the registration form, state exactly what characters from what series you are interested in. If you have specific images you'd like printed, send them to astalcup@mahopaclibrary.org. For grades six through eight. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 153.

Cupid's Craft Corner

Adults age 18 and older are invited to celebrate the season of love with a valentine's-themed arts and crafts program Thursday, Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m., at Brewster Public Library. Choose from mini ceramic painting, diamond painting, and decorations. Registration is required at www.brewsterlibrary.org.

Friday, Feb. 6

Bingo Night

The Kent Primary School Parent-Teacher Organization will hold a bingo night Friday, Feb. 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. One bingo card is \$3, or two for \$5 and five for \$10. Raffles, concession, and more.

Saturday, Feb. 7

Medicare Changes

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will present an informative session exploring key updates to Medicare in 2026 and what they may mean for you, Feb. 7 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Bring your questions and get clear, practical information in a supportive setting. Registration required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Children at the Library

Take Your Child to the Library Day will be celebrated at **Kent Public Library** on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Spin the lottery wheel and win a prize, make a craft, get a tattoo, and check out all the library has to offer.

At **Mahopac Public Library**,

complete a scavenger hunt to earn a goodie bag and raffle ticket for books and puzzles. Drop in to make a cool craft from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., or attend a STEAM family storytime at 1 p.m.

At **Brewster Public Library**, ages 4 to 8 may enjoy a special storytime and craft at 11:30 a.m. Registration is recommended at brewsterlibrary.org.

Anti-Valentine's

Day Party

Brewster Public Library will host an anti-Valentine's Day party Saturday, Feb. 7 at 1:30 a.m., for ages 13 to 17. Enjoy activities, games, and crafts that celebrate friendship, self-expression, and embracing individuality. Registration is required at brewsterlibrary.org.

Home Organizing

Get organized with Stephanie Radman, founder of Mayflower Home Organizing, on Saturday, Feb. 7 at noon, at Patterson Library. Learn how to declutter and organize your homes with purpose. Learn effective strategies to streamline your routines, simplify your spaces, and create a more harmonious, stress-free environment. Adults 18 and older. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Sunday, Feb. 8

Breakfast

Brewster VFW Post 672 will host a breakfast fundraiser the second Sunday of every month from October to May, from 9 to 11 a.m., at 262 Peaceable Hill Road. Coffee, juice, waffles, pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, omelet station, home fries, tater tots, biscuits and gravy, and more.

Monday, Feb. 9

'Glory'

Stop Reed Memorial Library in Carmel, sit back, and relax while enjoying "Glory" on Feb. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments provided. No registration required.

Make Chocolates

Make chocolates Monday, Feb. 9 at 4:30 p.m., at Mahopac Public Library. For grades six through 12. Register online at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 153.

Hearts in Motion

Kids age 5 to 8 may create a colorful paper heart spinner using simple materials and their creativity Monday, Feb. 9 at 4:45 p.m., at Brewster Public Library. Registration required at brewsterlibrary.org.

Diamond Hearts

Kids age 7 to 12 may use colorful gems, decorate festive valentine designs, and turn them into sparkly magnets to take home, Monday, Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m., at Brewster Public Library. Registration is required at brewsterlibrary.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Home Seller's Workshop

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will present a home seller's workshop Feb. 10 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join local real estate professionals of Keller Williams Realty Partners for practical, budget-friendly tips to get your home ready for a successful sale. Learn how to prepare, what to expect, and the smart steps that can help your property stand out in today's market. Registration required at carmellibrary.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

At **Mahopac Public Library**, complete a scavenger hunt to earn a goodie bag and raffle ticket for books and puzzles. Drop in to make a cool craft from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., or attend a STEAM family storytime at 1 p.m.

calendar.

'The Roses'

Patterson Library will screen "The Roses" on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. On the surface, life looks perfect, until hidden resentments and competition turn their once-perfect life upside down in this witty dark comedy. Adults 18 and older. Register at 845-878-6121 or www.pattersonlibrary.org. Wednesday, Feb. 11

Marine Corps League

The Marine Corps League Putnam County Detachment meets the second Wednesday each month at noon at George's Place on Gleneida Avenue in Carmel. For membership, email MCLPutnamCounty242@gmail.com.

ko Kashiwaba, just got its official English translation in 2025. Read the book that inspired the film, then watch it. Make your own soot sprite and learn to make your own onigiri (Japanese rice balls). For grade six. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 153.

Spotting Scams

Learn about three online scams and familiarize yourself with some of the techniques scammers commonly use to access sensitive information Monday, Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m., at Mahopac Public Library. Register to attend in-person or virtually, at www.mahopaclibrary.org or 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Bingo

Enjoy Lunar New Year Bingo at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel on Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. to noon. Celebrate the Year of the Fire Horse by doing a craft and playing bingo. For children age 6 and older. Register at carmellibrary.org.

Patterson

Library Meeting

The Patterson Library Board of Trustees will meet Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Marshmallow

Stem Challenge

Kids age 6 and older will design and build using marshmallows and simple materials in a hands-on STEM challenge that blends creativity, problem-solving, and a little cold-weather inspiration Feb. 18 from 11 to 11:45 a.m. at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel. Register at carmellibrary.org or call 845-225-2439.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Snowflake Craft

Kids age 6 and older can make snow day crafts Feb. 19 at 11 a.m., at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel. Cut, create, and design a snowflake. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org or 845-225-2439.

The Dream & Hope of the Slave'

In recognition of Black History Month, the Kent Public Library will host Tanisha Mitchell from "Opera Talks" as she presents "Cotton: The Dream and Hope of the Slave," a moving and immersive program honoring the journey of the African-American slave through spirituals, art, and first-hand narratives, Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Register at kentpl.librarycalendar.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.



Work by Dede Lifgren, which includes reimagined cardboard, will be on display at Arbor Gallery through March 1.

Arbor Gallery Exhibit Takes Visitors 'Outside the Box'

Arbor Gallery will present a solo exhibition by Dede Lifgren from Feb. 4 through March 1, at 1875 Route 6, Carmel. An opening reception is scheduled Saturday, Feb. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m.

In "Thinking Outside the Box," Lifgren reimagines an everyday material most people overlook — discarded cardboard. In early 2023, the artist set a focused mission to work exclu-

sively with cardboard because it was abundant, ignored, and full of potential.

Through an inventive, hands-on process, Lifgren soaks, cuts, weaves, staples, glues, paints, and adorns each piece — pushing the medium beyond its expected function. The resulting works challenge assumptions about value, permanence, and what art can be made from.

"Cardboard was everywhere — abundant, ignored, and full of potential," said the artist. "What keeps me engaged is the challenge this humble material presents."

For more information, call 845-704-4384 or visit www.arborgallery.art. Gallery hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday from noon to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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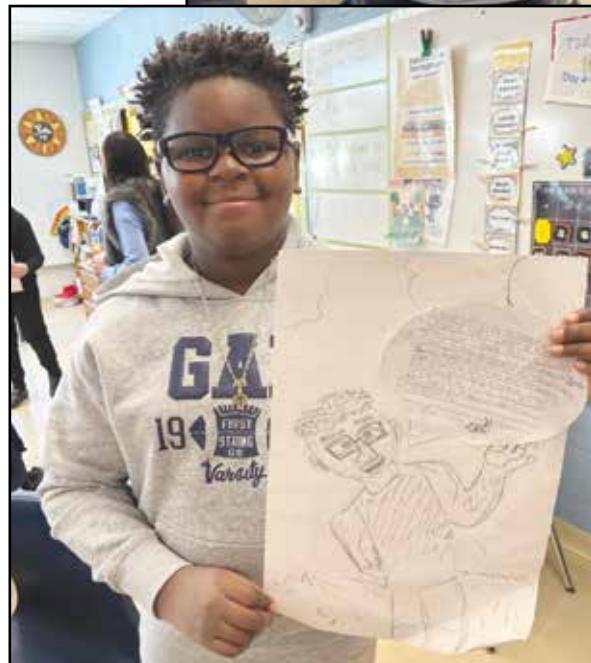
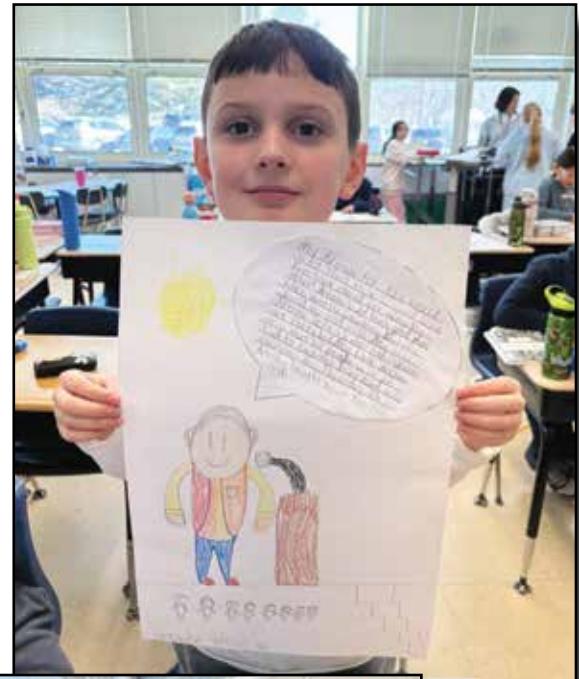
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Carmel Students Share Their Dreams — Just Like MLK



Youth at Kent Primary School show off their MLK Jr. Day projects.



Fourth-graders in Amy Constantinides and Sandra Cairl's class at Kent Primary School in Carmel/Kent honored Martin Luther King Jr. Day by learning about the life and legacy of the civil rights leader and reflecting on his dream for a more just and peaceful country.

Students discussed Dr. King's work and the impact he had on the nation.

"He fought hard so kids could go to the same schools," said Vivian.

Thea said King believed in freedom for everyone. "He was saying let freedom spread out so we can all have it together," she said. "I think what he did was awesome."

Alexander added that King used peaceful protests to stand up for what he believed in, even when

it meant going to jail.

After listening to a book about King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, Constantinides invited students to write about their own dreams for themselves and their community. The class shared their hopes for world peace, kindness, food for everyone, and an end to littering.

Some students also wrote deeply personal dreams. One boy shared that he hopes everyone can stay in this country, while another wrote that his dream is for his family not to be deported.

Through discussion, reflection, and writing, the lesson helped students connect King's message to their own lives and the world around them, showing that his dream continues to inspire even the youngest voices.

A Writers' Symposium for Brewster Youth



“Sweet Amazing Dolphins,” “The Battastic Bat Book,” “The Biggest Animals on the Savannah,” “The Wonderful Word of Sharks,” and “Get Ready for Amazing Snakes” are just some of the titles that fourth-graders at C.V. Starr Intermediate School in Brewster came up with for their books on animal adaptations.

For the publication of said books, teachers Danielle Recine, Julianna Roma, Frank LaMorte, and Michelle Marzzotti decided to throw an authors’ symposium to celebrate. In addition to presenting their finished works, students in all four classes walked from desk to desk reading each other’s books and writing compliments.

“We read so many research books for our papers, took notes, organized, outlined, wrote, and wrote every day to create non-fiction books,” said Emily Wazak. “My book is about elephants. Did you know elephants have over 350 bones in their bodies?”

Students got to choose their animals, as the American Reading Company program provides an entire thematic curated library of non-fiction books. Teachers supplemented that library with articles students could use in their research.

As students walked in a counterclockwise direction, they sat at desks reading. Beside each book was a “compliments card,” which had seven sentence starters:

“I liked your cover because...”

“I liked your biome section because...”

“I liked your life cycles section because...”

The process forced students to closely read each book, looking for examples.

“It shows the author that you like their book because you use details,” said Khaleesi Aida

“I just read Logan’s book on elephants, and I learned a word I didn’t know the meaning of, ‘poaching’ – it means to illegally hunt,” added Colton Busolt.

“I liked the life cycles section because I learned that when an elephant dies, the family stays around to protect the body; they seem sad,” noted Rosie Connor.

“I liked the threats section because I didn’t know trash was a threat to turtles,” added Jazmin Quijada.

The students have really enjoyed writing non-fiction books, according to teacher Danielle

Recine. “When students enjoy the material, it makes it easy to teach,” she said.

Brewster students show off their books.

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STEAM Fair Showcases Creativity at Mahopac M.S.



Students show off their projects during the annual STEAM Fair at Mahopac Middle School.



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Mahopac Middle School students explored everything from kinetic energy and robotics to stop-motion animation during the school's annual STEAM Fair, held Jan. 23 and 24. After weeks of research and preparation, more than 350 students presented over 175 projects, highlighting their creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking.

The event, coordinated by science teachers Margaret Fox and Kelly Kischak, welcomed visiting fifth-graders from across the district on the first day, giving younger students an opportunity to experience the fair and engage with middle school presenters.

Seventh-grader Kyle Augi took first place in the Engineering, Technology & Computers category for his project examining how frames per second affect stop-motion animation.

"I made stop-motion videos for my project and chose to film toys that were articulated," he said. "Articulation means it has moveable joints like arms, legs, and torso."

Augi explained that his hypothesis focused on discovering whether increasing the number of frames per second would create smoother motion. He made five different stop-motion videos and gradually increased the frames per second in each.

As Augi presented his work to visitors, Lakeview Elementary School fifth-grader Bryce Anderson connected the presentation to his own experience.

"I like his project because

I've made stop-motion movies before with LEGOs, and it's very cool and fun to do," he said.

Principal Tom Cozzocrea praised the collective effort behind the event and the enthusiasm shown by students at every level.

"The STEAM Fair is a powerful example of what happens when students are given the opportunity to explore their interests, ask questions, and learn from one another," he said. "This event would not be possible without Kelly and Margaret, the dedication of our teachers, the mentorship of our high school students, and the support of our families and school community. It was especially exciting to welcome our fifth-graders and share this experience with them."

More than 60 students from the Mahopac High School National Science Honor Society volunteered their time to mentor approximately 160 middle school students through weekly sessions leading up to the fair. High school students also assisted with judging, event planning, and setup. Projects were evaluated by teams of middle and high school science teachers, along with NSHS members.

Select students will advance to represent MMS at the Westchester Regional Middle School Science & Engineering Fair, with top finishers there eligible to move on to the next level of competition.

To view a list of winners from the Jan. 23 and 24 fair, visit www.mahopac.k12.ny.us/article/2663683.



About 65 Mahopac High School students are participating in the Wise Individualized Senior Experience program.

Mahopac Seniors Prepare for Life After High School

Mahopac High School recently gave a warm send-off to 65 seniors participating in the Wise Individualized Senior Experience program as they prepared to begin semester-long internships. The program is designed to provide students with authentic work experiences while building responsibility, commitment, and career readiness.

Through WISE, students can pursue internships in fields they may wish to study or enter after graduation. During the first semester, they complete coursework in English and social sciences. In the second semester, they participate in internships while working with a mentor who monitors their progress and supports their professional growth.

During the send-off event, Project Coordinator Jeanette Coniglio encouraged students to dress professionally and familiarize themselves with their new work environments.

200 Acres of Land Preserved in Southeast

Westchester Land Trust recently announced the successful closing of a 200.6-acre forested watershed property in the Town of Southeast, marking the largest land protection acquisition in the organization's 37-year history.

Named Lodestone Preserve, this \$2.2 million project ensures the permanent protection of this critically important landscape to safeguard drinking water, wildlife habitat, and climate-resilient forests for generations to come.

Bordered by the Croton Falls Reservoir, the Diverting Canal, and the East Branch of the Croton River, Lodestone Preserve plays a vital role in protecting drinking water quality for more than 9 million people across Westchester County and New York City. Conservation of these lands reduces the need for expensive water treatment infrastructure, ensures water quality remains high, and enhances the natural filtration systems that surrounding communities depend upon.

The land will also support hiking, birdwatching, photography, and other outdoor recreation experiences that draw visitors, strengthen small businesses, attract eco-tourism, and boost local economic activity.

The Town of Southeast has identified the property as a potential Critical Environmental Area, citing its historic, scenic, drinking water, and habitat value. The land advances New York's

"The WISE program is valuable because students sometimes discover what they do and don't want to do with their careers," she said. "This year, WISE students have secured internships in nursing, education, business, law enforcement, physical therapy, and real estate."

High School Principal Patrick Keevins reminded the students of the importance of first impressions, congratulated the seniors, and wished all of them good luck, while Superintendent of Schools Frank Miele added that regardless of whether the students love what they are doing this semester, they will learn from the experience and should have no regrets.

Students will meet with their mentors weekly to discuss their projects and prepare for oral presentations, which will be delivered to a committee of parents, teachers, and students in late May or early June.

"30x30" conservation goals, adding approximately 1 percent to the town's protected land and water resources.

Lodestone Preserve takes its name from the magnetite mines that once operated on the property in the late 19th century. Lodestone, a naturally magnetized mineral, was historically used to guide navigation – a fitting reference for a landscape that will serve as a hub of conservation programming in the future, drawing people to each other and the land.

The preserve contains a diverse northern hardwood forest with rocky outcroppings, floodplains, and a vernal pool. The preserve's varied topography and intact forest make it especially important for climate resilience. Wildlife documented on the property includes amphibians, migratory songbirds, barred owls, and multiple bat species including the federally and state-endangered northern long-eared bat, which likely uses the site's historic mine shaft as a hibernaculum.

In the years ahead, WLT will focus on proactive stewardship, including forest health management and research to support bat conservation. WLT will also reuse the former mining roads as trails, including opportunities for accessible trail experiences.

The acquisition was made possible by The PCLB Foundation with support from Scenic Hudson Land Trust and WLT supporters.

Brewster Native Graduates Early; Secures Accounting Gig

Brewster native Elisa Cardona achieved something special for Christmas. Not only is the Western Connecticut State University senior the first in her family to earn a college degree, but she graduated a semester early.

As if that's not enough, she already has a job waiting for her, thanks to an internship opportunity she received through the university's Hancock Student Leadership Program.

Cardona graduated from Brewster High School in 2022, and said that when she first started looking at colleges, "I picked colleges that were relatively close to where I live. I chose schools close to me because leaving home was not something I thought about," she said. "In the end, I chose WCSU because of its proximity and its affordability."

Like many incoming freshmen, Cardona, at the time, did not know what degree program she wanted to pursue.

"I went into my freshman year undecided in business administration; however, after my second semester, taking ACC 201, I decided it was time to switch," she said. "I genuinely enjoyed the accounting class and had a lot of fun learning about what the accounting world brings to students."

Cardona was offered an internship at Fiorita Kornhaas & Company in Danbury.

"All the staff were very supportive and mentored me in the



Elisa Cardona

testing, including cash disbursement testing."

The internship lasted about 10 weeks.

While at Fiorita Kornhaas & Company, Cardona mentioned to partner Paula Lathrop that she had previously interviewed for other companies during CTPA Day and had two pending offers from the interviews she had.

"Paula said she was hoping I would stay and join their team in the following year," said Cardona. "She asked me about the other companies I interviewed for, and told me that the firm would offer me a full-time position."

Hancock Student Leadership Program Director Dr. Carol Huang said she is proud of Cardona. "She's capitalized on the opportunity that her participation in the HSLP provided her," said Huang.

Cardona received her bachelor of business administration degree in financial accounting last month, and begins her career at Fiorita Kornhaas & Company in the new year.

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Meeting Room at
Cornerstone Park Building
1 Fair Street, Carmel

HAVE YOU LOST A
LOVED ONE TO
SUICIDE?

We understand the
pain, the questions,
the isolation & the
silence. Join others
who truly understand
your journey.

THIS SUPPORT GROUP OFFERS:

- A safe, compassionate space to share and heal
- Peer-led conversations guided with care
- Resources for grief & recovery
- Connections with others who've walked a similar path.

**COST:
FREE**

TO JOIN OR LEARN MORE

PHONE: 914.469.7307 | EMAIL: ettore@nemgf.org |

WWW.NEMGF.ORG



Samantha, Lucy, Adrianna, and Scarlett have spearheaded a initiative to spread positivity throughout MPES.

Matthew Paterson Youth Spread Positivity

Four girls in Alison Cordone's fourth grade class decided they want to spread positivity throughout Matthew Paterson Elementary School in Carmel/Paterson, so they started a "kindness bookmark club" called "Spread the Word!"

"Their goal was to make a bookmark with a phrase or an illustration of kindness for every student in the fourth grade," said Cordone. "They want their bookmarks to be a reminder to spread kindness wherever you go."

After making their first 100

bookmarks, the group – Samantha, Lucy, Adrianna, and Scarlett – decided to go a few steps further. They solicited help from their classmates and together the class made bookmarks for one half of the school's students, and stickers for the other half.

"The whole reason we are doing this is because we want to spread kindness around the school," said Scarlett.

Their work was showcased at an assembly Jan. 21 for the entire school. In two separate sessions, students from kindergarten to

fourth grade listened to "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" – a story about how kind actions help "fill" others' buckets, while unkind choices empty the bucket. Then they watched a video where students described their acts of kindness.

"I helped a friend by bringing food to the table," said Lillian.

"I stopped to ask someone if they were OK," added Ethan.

At the end of the assembly, the students handed out the bookmarks and stickers and heard the thanks from all their schoolmates.

Threat at CHS 'Not Credible'

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office determined that a threat involving Carmel High School that was received via phone last week was not credible.

Carmel High School admin-

istration closed the school Jan. 27 and a large police presence remained in and around the school while the investigation took place.

Police eventually cleared

\$25M Available for Volunteer Fire Depts.

More than \$25 million in capital grants is available to help volunteer fire departments across the state upgrade their facilities and equipment.

The request for applications through the Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment Grant Program is now available and the deadline to apply is Feb. 25. Visit www.dhses.ny.gov/state-funded-programs.

The State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services awarded the first round of funding through the program in October 2024 to 88 entities across New York.

The program supports volunteer departments by upgrading facilities and response capabilities by: ensuring fire stations and training facilities are safe, structurally sound, meet current building regulations, and support or promote safe firefighting practices; improving firefighter safety and health and wellness by providing personal protective equipment, decontamination equipment and supplies, and effective exhaust removal systems; and supporting consolidation of fire service resources through regional-

ization efforts to expand above and beyond jurisdictional boundaries to enhance local, county, and statewide response efforts.

Two funding options are available through the grant program.

A total of \$20 million is available for construction, renovation, and/or facility purchase projects including fire stations, substations and joint/shared stations, fire training towers, instructional classrooms and meeting spaces, exhaust systems, and shower facilities for decontamination.

A total of \$5 million is available for allowable fire service equipment projects, PPE and PPE extractors/washers/dryers, radios and communications equipment, rehab equipment, and self-contained breathing apparatus fill stations and testing equipment.

"Our volunteer firefighters put their lives on the line every day helping keep their communities safe from fire and any number of other emergencies," said DHSES Commissioner Jackie Bray. "At a time when they are being called upon like never before, it's essential we ensure these departments have the infrastructure and equipment they

need to get the job done."

Only eligible entities located within the state and that serve one or more local governments may apply – such as villages, towns, cities, and fire districts responsible for providing fire protection through a fire department composed of 100 percent volunteer firefighter membership; nonprofit fire companies (subject to prequalification); and counties and municipal shared services.

All applications must articulate how they meet the eligibility requirements.

The Office of Fire Prevention & Control delivers services to firefighters, emergency responders, state and local government agencies, public and private colleges, and citizens. It advances public safety through firefighter training, education, fire prevention, investigative, special operations, and technical rescue programs.

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services provides leadership, coordination, and support for efforts to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorism, natural disasters, threats, fires, and other emergencies.

Community B-Ball Challenge is Feb. 28

The Community Basketball Challenge returns Saturday, Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Carmel High School gymnasium, 30 Fair St. Supported by the CHS Rotary Interact Club and CHS Mentor Club, this event offers nonprofit organizations and community groups an opportunity to raise funds to support their programs and services.

Agencies, clubs, adults and youth, and businesses are invited to sign up and raise money for their favorite nonprofit. You don't have to be a basketball player or know how to play the game to participate.

Here's how it works: participants ask for pledges per basket and/or flat donations from as many supporters as they can. At the event, participants will attempt to complete as many baskets as possible during a

2-minute period. Each successful basket will be tallied against per-basket pledges and added to flat donations to equal the amount due from each of the participants' supporters.

Trophies will be awarded in the youth division and prizes in the adult division to the persons successfully completing the most baskets in the various age groups.

To sign up, visit www.carmelrotary.org.

This year, The Carmel Rotary Club has set a fundraising goal of \$75,000, which will be directed to local not-for-profits and community projects that provide invaluable services to the community.

To date, the Community Basketball Challenge has raised more than \$740,000, benefiting 96 local and regional organizations.

Carmel Votes Down Crisis Stabilization Center

Continued from Page 1

and other prevention efforts."

The vote came after two locations had already been shot down, in 2023.

With respect to the Amer-

ican Rescue Plan Act federal funding originally dedicated for this project prior to Byrne taking office in 2022, the county executive said his administration will work with the Putnam Legislature to ensure these public dollars are used responsibly for pre-approved ARPA projects.

"We will ensure full compliance with federal standards for the benefit of Putnam County and to ensure these dollars are not wasted or lost to the U.S. Treasury," he said.

Southeast Supervisor To Step Down

Continued from Page 1

Durante thanked the board for its patience, for working through challenges with him, and for providing guidance. He also recognized town administrators, board and committee members, and employees for their commitment to the town.

"I've been genuinely impressed by your dedication and your level of commitment, and I wish you all continued success moving forward," he said. "You will always remain the main reason why I love this town."

Durante also acknowledged Town Attorney Willis Stephens Jr. for his support.

"I know dealing with me came with the job, yet you never once made me feel that way," he said. "You were inspiring, respectful, and exactly what I needed to help me know I was able to do this."

Councilwoman Wendy Lewis said she knows this was a hard decision for Durante to make, and thanked him for his service. "You're a good man and your intention was always what was best for the town," she said.

Larca also wished Durante well.

"I've gotten to know Nick over the past two years, and while we didn't always agree – as is often the case on a town board – it's clear he loves Southeast," said Larca. "His passion for recognizing and supporting community members, especially youth sports, really stood out, and his intentions were always focused on wanting to make the town better. Nick is a good man with a huge heart. It takes real courage to step away, and I respect his decision."

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Southeast

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Southeast shall hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, where the ZBA will conduct a work session to review potential applications and to deliberate on applications for which public hearings have been previously held. Thereafter, at or about 8:00 P.M., or as soon as interested parties may be heard, public hearings will be conducted on the following application:

1. **Brian DeJesus and Laura Diaz-Savinon**, owners of premises located at 5 Tanager Road, Tax Map ID 56.14-2-74 seek permission to vary the terms of Sections 138-20 and 138-25 the Zoning Code as the same prescribes minimum setbacks of structures from adjoining property lines and prohibits the expansion of pre-existing non-conforming structures to permit the applicants to construct a second story addition to an existing single-family dwelling which, as proposed, would be set back 11.5' from the westerly side property line where the minimum required set back is 20' and for a variance for the total side setback where 33.3' is proposed and a required minimum total side setback of structures is 50' in a R-20 zoning district.

2. **Jaime Ramirez**, owner of premises located at 255 North Brewster Road, Tax Map ID 45.16-1-34, seeks permission to vary the terms of Sections 138-20 and 138-25 of the Zoning Code as the same prescribes minimum setbacks of structures from adjoining property lines to permit the applicant to construct an accessory structure (Gazebo) which, as proposed, would be located 28' from the rear (westerly) property line where a minimum rear yard setback of structures is 35' and 3' from the side (southerly) property line where a minimum side yard setback of structures is 35' in the NB zoning district.

3. **Jaime Ramirez**, owner of premises located at 255 North Brewster Road, Tax Map ID 45.16-1-34, seeks permission to vary the terms of Sections 138-20 and 138-25 of the Zoning Code as the same prescribes minimum setbacks of structures from adjoining property lines to permit the applicant to construct an accessory structure (garage) which, as proposed would be located 28' from the side (westerly) property line where a minimum side yard setback of structures is 35' and 12' from the side (southerly) property line where a minimum side yard setback of structures is 35' in the NB zoning district.

By Order of the ZBA
Roderick Cassidy, Chairman

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTHEAST PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Board/Architectural Review Board of the Town of Southeast, New York, in accordance with Chapters 78 and 138 of the Code of the Town of Southeast, and NYCRR Part 617 of the Environmental Conservation Law (as applicable), will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 9 and Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at Southeast Town Offices, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, New York to consider the following:

MOREFAR—Application is

PUBLIC NOTICE

being made for Site Plan, Wetland Permit and Special Permit for proposed demolition, construction, and renovation of various membership club buildings and reconfiguration of the existing golf course on a 350.48-acre property located at 8-18 Back O'Beyond Drive, Brewster, NY, in the SP-Z Zoning District, and identified as Tax Map Numbers 58.-1-7 and 58.-1-27. Portions of the property and proposed work are in Danbury, CT. The area of disturbance is approximately 58 acres. The site includes NYSDEC and TOSE wetlands. The property is currently operating under a 1977 Town Board Special Permit

Thomas LaPerch, Chairman
Town of Southeast Planning
Board

Dated: January 22, 2026

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Carmel NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Carmel will conduct a Public Hearing on the Fire Protection Contracts and the Ambulance District Contracts for the year 2026, to be held on the 18th day of February, 2026 at the Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter that evening as possible; said contracts to be advertised and posted as follows:

Contractor Services Not to Exceed
Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Fire Protection-Fire Protection Dist. #1 \$966,380.00

Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Fire Protection-Fire Protection Dist. #2 \$1,742,000.00

Carmel Fire District & Carmel Fire Department, Inc. Fire Protection-Fire Protection Dist. #3 \$1,017,000.00

Carmel Volunteer Ambulance Corps Ambulance Service Carmel Ambulance District #1 \$532,750.00

North Salem Volunteer Ambulance Corps Ambulance Services Carmel Ambulance District #1 \$13,000.00

At said Public Hearing, all interested persons shall be heard on the subject thereof. The Town Board will make every effort to assure that the Public Hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone requiring special assistance and/or reasonable accommodations should contact the Town Clerk.

By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Carmel Alice Daly, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF RE-SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Carmel will conduct a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York 10541 on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter that evening as possible on a proposed Local Law amending Chapter 156 of the Code of the Town of Carmel, entitled "Zoning".

Copies of the full text of the proposed Local Law are available in the lobby at Town Hall, from the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours as well as on the Town of Carmel website at townofcarmelny.gov.

PUBLIC NOTICE

At said Public Hearing, all interested persons shall be heard on the subject thereof. The Town Board will make every effort to assure that the Public Hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone requiring special assistance and/or reasonable accommodations should contact the Town Clerk.

By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Carmel Alice Daly, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Putnam

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on February 25, 2026, in the office of the Putnam County Personnel Officer located in Building #3 at 110 Old Route 6 in Carmel, NY at 10 a.m. on the matters of amending the Putnam County Civil Service Rules and Appendices.

Such proposed changes are available for inspection during business hours in the office of the Putnam County Personnel Officer located at the address listed above.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Kent

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BY

THE KENT PLANNING BOARD

FOR THE
HOMELAND TOWERS
LLC & VERIZON
WIRELESS FACILITY
59 Hortontown Hill Road
Kent, NY 10512
Tax Map 9.-1-5

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing pertaining to the property noted above will be held before the **Town of Kent Planning Board** on **Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7:30 P.M. at the Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent, NY 10512** or as soon thereafter as the matter may come to be heard.

This Public Hearing pertains to an application from:

Homeland Towers, LLC and
Verizon Wireless Facility
59 Hortontown Hill Road
Kent, NY 10512
Tax Map: 9.-1-5

The Applicant proposes to construct a personal wireless services facility, comprised of a 130-foot monopole cellular tower with antenna including related equipment in a fenced compound at the base of the tower together with a new 12-foot-wide 1080-foot-long gravel drive from Hortontown Hill Road to the tower site. The Applicant seeks a Special Use Permit, Site Plan, and a Steep Slope and Erosion Control Permit for the Project.

At this hearing all persons speaking in favor of or in opposition shall be heard. If there are any questions or comments pertaining to this project, please send them to: planningkent@townofkentny.gov. The telephone number for the Kent Planning Board is: 845-306-5612.

January 20, 2026

Publish January 20, 2026 through February 12, 2026

By order of:
Vera Patterson, Secretary for
The Town of Kent Planning
Board
County of Putnam

PUBLIC NOTICE

planningkent@townofkentny.gov
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PUBLIC NOTICE

DEC

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Notice of Complete Application

Date: 01/23/2026 Applicant:

ROME AMERICAN HOLDING

LLC 592 St Rte 22 Pawling, NY

12564 Facility: PATTERSON

INN 293 Rte 311 Patterson, NY

12563 Application ID: 3-3724-

00267/00002 Permits(s) Applied

for: 1 - Article 17 Titles 7 & 8

P/C/I SPDES- Groundwater Dis-

charge Project is located: in PAT-

TERSON in PUTNAM COUN-

TY Project Description: The

Department has prepared a draft

permit and has made a tentative

determination, subject to public

comment or other information, to

approve a proposed discharge of

23,830 gallons per day of treated

sanitary wastewater to groundwater

from a tertiary treatment plant at

the applicant's facility address

located at 293 Route 311, Pat-

terson. The facility consists of a

120-room hotel, restaurant,

catering/banquet facility, and

two smaller retail buildings. The

applicant plans to construct an

outfall to groundwater using 4 x

4 gallons. Construction is beyond

the 100-foot buffer of a NYS

Regulated Freshwater Wetland

which is located farther west on

the property. Requests for a legi-

slative (public statement) hearing

must be sent in writing to the DEC

contact person below by the com-

ment deadline. The Department

assesses such requests pursuant to

6 NYCRR Section 621.8. Refer to

this application by the application

number listed above and SPDES

Number NY0313700. Availability

of Application Documents: Filed

application documents, and

Department draft permits where

applicable, are available for in-

spection during normal business

hours at the address of the contact

person. To ensure timely service

at the time of inspection, it is rec-

ommended that an appointment be

made with the contact person via

email to mike.grosso@dec.ny.gov

State Environmental Quality

Review (SEQR) Determination

Project is a Type I action and will

not have a significant effect on the

environment. A coordinated re-

view with other involved agencies

was performed and a Negative

Declaration is on file. SEQRA Lead

Agency Patterson Town Planning

Board State Historic Preser-

vation Act (SHPA) Determination

Cultural resource lists and maps

have been checked. The proposed

activity is not in an area of iden-

tified archaeological sensitivity

and no known registered, eligible

or inventoried archaeological

sites or historic structures were

identified or documented for

the project location. No further

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT PUTNAM COUNTY

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR NATIONSTAR HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 2007-B, Plaintiff against

CHAD GEFFNER, et al
Defendant(s)

Attorney for Plaintiff(s) McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840, New York, NY 10170.

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered April 23, 2025, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Putnam County Courthouse, Courtroom 209,

20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 9, 2026 at 9:30 AM. Premises known as

21 Colonel Court, Holmes, NY 12531. Sec. 2. Block 1 Lot 7. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Kent, County of Putnam and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$356,621.87 plus interest, fees, and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 501156/2023.

The foreclosure sale will be conducted in accordance with 9th Judicial District's Covid-19 Policies and foreclosure auction rules. The Referee shall enforce any rules in place regarding facial coverings and social distancing.

For sale information, please contact XOME at www.Xome.com or call (844)400-9633. Raymond A Cote, Esq., Referee File # 22-12589NY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK INDEX NO. 501097/2024 COUNTY OF PUTNAM

DEUTSCHE BANK NA-

PUBLIC NOTICE

TIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS- THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R7,

Plaintiff,
vs.

JACKIE SHEEHAN AKA JACQUELINE SHEEHAN AKA JACQUELINE O'HANLON,

INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR
AND DISTRIBUTEE OF VIN-
CENT O'HANLON AKA VIN-
CENT R O'HANLON; TARYN
CORNELIUS, AS HEIR AND
DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ES-
TATE OF VINCENT O'HANLON

AKA VINCENT R O'HANLON;
DEAN O'HANLON, AS HEIR
AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE
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TROY O'HANLON, AS HEIR
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HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEE
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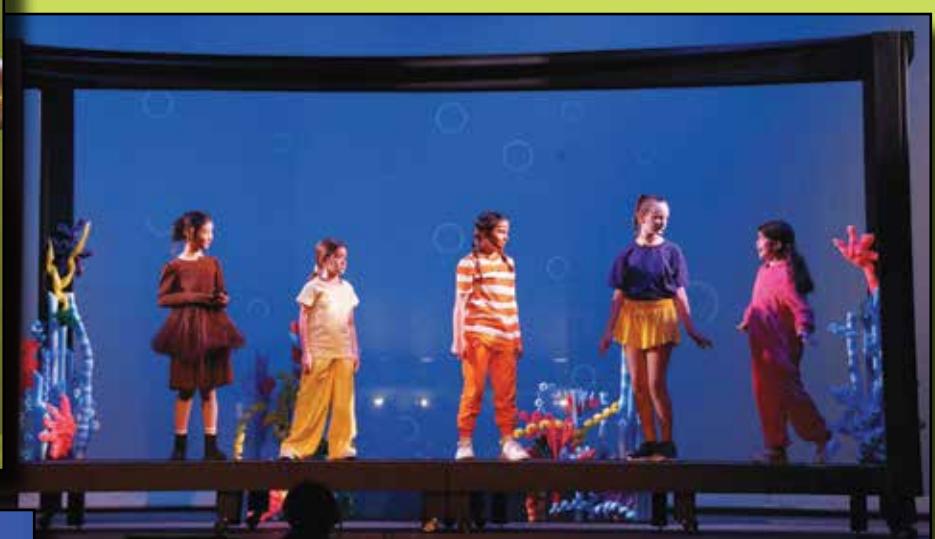
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