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# TIMES

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PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023



The Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association hosted its annual Holiday one the Lake festivities Dec. 2 in the hamlet. In addition to hayrides, live music, chowder tasting, a parade of lights and the lighting of the trees along Lake Gleneida, the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxilliary 6318 sponsored an outdoor Christmas Village. Here, volunteer Claire Deans helps Ferdinand at the arts and crafts tent.

## Mahopac Debates Student-Athletes 'Playing Up'

By Holly Crocco

The Mahopac School Board is currently revising its policy regarding seventh- and eighth-graders playing junior varsity and varsity level sports. While the State Education Department allows any seventh-grader to play up through the varsity level under the Athletic Placement Process, school districts may place further restrictions on their individual policies.

The new policy being considered allows students in seventh and eighth grade to "play up," at the JV and/or varsity level, in the individual sports of bowling, cross-country, golf, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, spring/winter track and wrestling. Eighth-graders may compete at the JV and varsity level in the team sports of baseball, basketball, cheerleading, flag football, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball.

To "play up," a student-athlete must be requested to try out for the higher level by a high school varsity coach, with the approval of the district's athletic director. During tryouts, a seventh- or eighth-grader must score within

the top 25 percent of the scoring rubric to make the cut for the JV or varsity team.

"Only varsity coaches could request that a student participate through the APP process, so it would be at the coach's discretion," said Superintendent Christine Tona during the school board's Nov. 16 work session meeting. "It would not be at the parents' request or anyone else's request."

Athletic Director Stephen Luciana explained that the purpose of the policy is to allow standout student-athletes to play at a level that fits their skill. He said that if a seventh- or eighth-grader finishes tryouts in the top 25 percent of all the athletes competing, "that's pretty exceptional for a sport."

Once on the team, it is expected that the younger student will play at least 50 percent of the time on the JV or varsity team.

In any given sport, no more than 25 percent of the JV or varsity roster shall be filled by seventh- or eighth-grade students.

Further, no high school student who has participated previously at the JV or varsity level in

*Continued on Page 12*

## Christmastime in Carmel



A youth choir serenades the crowd at Spain Cornerstone Park, prior to the lighting of the tree at the corner of Fair Street and Lake Gleneida. Additional photos are on pages 8 and 9.



Santa and Mrs. Claus read a book to kids at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Photos by Holly Crocco.

## Cornell Cooperative Gets \$2M to Aid Farmers & Families

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County has been awarded a \$2 million grant through the New York Food for New York Families program.

The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, is part of a statewide initiative aimed at supporting local farmers, improving community access to local foods, and reinforcing the resilience of New York's food system.

CCE-Putnam County will use the grant to purchase \$1.3 million worth of locally grown food products, including meat, eggs and culturally relevant produce. Meals on Main Street, based in Westchester County, will organize the distribution of the free provisions across Putnam, Westchester and Dutchess counties, making regular stops to public and easily accessible sites with a mobile truck.

This new program builds on

the growing community-based food security programs MOMS currently offers in Westchester.

Putnam County faces significant economic challenges, reporting the highest cost of living in the state, according to the Economic Policy Institute. Nearly one in three individuals in the county grapple with financial instability, living paycheck to paycheck, per the United Way of Westchester & Putnam County. The New York Food for New York Families program aims to alleviate the pressing dilemma residents face between buying groceries and paying rent.

"We are honored to receive this grant, which will significantly contribute to our mission of supporting local farmers and addressing food insecurity in Putnam and nearby counties," said Ruby Koch-Fienberg, agriculture and food systems coordinator at CCE-Putnam County. "This funding will empower us to expand our reach, ensuring that more families

*Continued on Page 13*



# Letters to the Editor

## Slater's Comments on Sanctuary State Disgraceful

Dear Editor:

Apart from its overall blatant xenophobia and extremely flawed logic, (Assemblyman) Matt Slater's recent letter, which was published in the Putnam County Press/Times, The Hamlet Hub and likely other local papers, pushing for the repeal of sanctuary state status for New York, included the following stated or implied lies:

1.) The Hamas attacks remind us that we need to strengthen our border security because they're coming to get us, too.

This is the straight line Slater somehow draws from his opening about the Hamas attacks to the need for stronger U.S. border security. Unfortunately for his argument, Israel's border security is literally among the top five strongest – some rank it number one – in the world.

Israel's systems failed because, in the most simplistic analysis, an extremist group that holds power next door plotted an attack, but to suggest that border security, of all things, had anything to do with it, or that it is in any way analogous to the border situation in the U.S., is to deliberately deceive the public.

2.) As we know, this can

happen here again if we continue to have weak borders because... 9/11.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks were perpetrated by people who were admitted into the U.S. legally on tourist, business or student visas – some, but not all of them, violated the terms of their visas once they were in the country, but they did not cross the border illegally. So, what Slater is talking about here is a total mystery.

The loopholes that allowed their violations to go undetected no longer exist, and post-9/11, the U.S.' vetting of immigrants and visitors is incomparable to and unmatched by – some might even say detrimentally more extreme than – most other countries.

3.) The U.S. under the Biden administration has an "open border" policy.

The U.S. is among the top five on most lists of strictest border entry policies in the world. More immigrants are being admitted to the country legally post-COVID now, but the number of unauthorized immigrants has remained stable over the last 15 years. Furthermore, undocumented immigrants are overwhelmingly coming from countries where the U.S. has employed imperialist policies for more than half a century that ultimately de-

stabilized governments and have resulted in unviable humanitarian conditions that inevitably send immigrants our way.

And then the Biden Administration that Slater claims has "open border policies" tells the people in all of those countries, simply, "Do not come." I'm not sure which suggestion is more insane, to be honest – Biden's or Slater's.

4.) Illegal immigration is to blame for the rise in U.S. fentanyl deaths.

If I was being generous, I would say this was just total ignorance, but since, a) I'm not being generous and, b) I assume Slater is not a dumb man, I have no choice but to conclude it's blatant and dangerous propaganda meant to incite everyday people who aren't paying attention to fear, hatred and potentially even violence.

It is common knowledge that the vast majority of fentanyl is made using chemicals shipped directly to the U.S. from China and Mexico. To suggest the rise in deaths has something to do with undocumented people is downright sinister, and does nothing more than pit Americans against people fleeing a wide variety of difficult circumstances.

We have seen how misinformation and propaganda has led to violence against both Jews and Muslims in this country in the wake of the Hamas attacks, and Slater seems to be positively capitalizing upon that model to encourage completely unwarranted fear of a totally unrelated demographic of people.

Slater's letter was egregious in every way. Any paper that ran it should be ashamed.

*Eileen McDermott  
Brewster*

## Reflections on Budget Process

Dear Editor:

This is what happens in a healthy democracy supported by a system of checks and balances. I used my veto power as a check on the Legislature to fulfill a commitment I made to freeze pay raises for elected officials in my first year; the Legislature exercised its check to override my decision as county executive.

Residents are still facing real economic hardship, whether it be from inflation, high interest rates or unaffordable housing. Overall, the Legislature and I agreed on more than 95 percent of what this budget should include. We worked together to reduce property and sales taxes, while still delivering services our residents have come to rely on and made record investments in infrastructure improvements and mental health services.

And we identified more ways to enhance efficiencies by eliminating unnecessary positions and increased compensation for those who took on extra work, all at a savings to taxpayers.

This administration's mission remains the same – with a detailed focus on delivering top-notch services as we continuously work to make Putnam County government more affordable, accountable and accessible for our residents. And, I realize we have more work to do.

We're working to negotiate contracts with the four collective bargaining units that represent our public employees, and I



## Working Mom By Holly Crocco

# It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Nothing tests the family dynamic quite like preparing for the holidays.

It started the weekend before Thanksgiving when we took advantage of the not-yet-freezing temperatures to put up the outside lights. Mikey was wearing his Halloween costume. Yes, you read that correctly: putting up Christmas lights before Thanksgiving whilst wearing a Halloween costume. Anyway...

Every adult on the planet knows that hanging outdoor holiday lights is a terrible task, so it's no surprise Mikey whined and complained throughout the entire process. He much more enjoys decorating the Christmas tree, which is also my jam.

So, the day after Thanksgiving we headed to the tree farm and hoofed into the woods to select the perfect specimen. My husband and I were looking for something a little less "full," since last year the tree took up so much room that I cursed every time I passed by it. The 5-year-old, however, was looking for the largest tree on the planet.

We compromised by selecting a tree with more height, less bulk. Not quite "tall and skinny," but a much better selection than the XXL tree we had last year. That evergreen fell over in the middle of the night. But don't worry, this year my husband ordered some super-duper tree stand that only cost us three-figures... just like the tree.

Mikey was very "helpful" in directing us as to where to position the tree. And by "helpful" I mean he made sure to scurry in-between and under-foot while my husband and I were "aggressively discussing" whether the tree was straight before locking it in place. I thought it needed to go a little more left, while he thought it needed to go to the other left.

After it was in place (for the record, I was right), it was time to fill the reservoir of the tree stand with water. You know what happens when you have a super-duper tree stand? It holds a heck-ton of water. Now, since my husband spent so much on the stand, he refused to buy the \$10 watering funnel that is attached to a long tube so you don't have to crawl under the tree to water it.

But that's OK, because we have a 5-year-old and he is fantastic at crawling under the Christmas tree!

You know what he's not so fantastic at? Pouring the water into the reservoir at the base of the tree. Oh, well. You win some,

simply find it unfair to grant pay raises to elected officials who negotiate or vote on these same contracts before an agreement is finalized. Ultimately, it is the people's elected representatives who are accountable for these decisions. It's clear six legislators disagree.

Finally, the people of Putnam County should know that,

you lose some.

Next, it was time for the fun part – decorating! Mikey had so much fun finding his Spiderman, R2-D2, Baby Yoda and other favorite ornaments. He also liked finding the ornaments that have family photos on them, and the ones he has made throughout the years.

And he really loved putting them all on the same branch.

This happens every year, and every year the Type A part of me begins vibrating with anxiety while the rational part silently repeats: "It's fine. Everything's fine. The tree doesn't have to be even. Your child is having fun. Just let it go."

The next day we decided to continue diving right into the holiday season by making cut-out cookies. I forgot how much fun Mikey has rolling out the dough and using the cookie cutters to make little Christmas trees, angels, gingerbread people and other fun holiday shapes.

I also forgot that Mikey prefers to treat the cookie dough more like Play-Doh, non-stop rolling it out and then crumbling it all together again, saturating it in flour. I could hear my mother's voice in the back of my mind telling me that the more flour you add and the more you work the dough the drier and tougher it gets, and the neurotic woman in me started to reappear.

But we have wine, so by the time we were done with the decorating, and powdered sugar and sprinkles were covering our clothes, as well as stuck in-between the floor boards, that neurotic woman was nowhere to be seen.

Next on the list of holiday prep is deciphering what Mikey has on his gift wish list. So far he's asked for a game called Monkey See Monkey Poo, a WWE action figure vehicle "Wrekkin Rampage Rig" truck, and some Goo Jit Zu stretchy toys. Apparently Super Mario Bros and Sonic the Hedgehog are so last year. May they rest in peace.

And so, the Crocco Family is rolling right into the holiday season – and we're coming in hot!

Also, for anyone losing sleep over it, I got up in the middle of the night and redistributed the ornaments on the Christmas tree. All is now right in the world.

*Holly Crocco is editor of the Putnam County Times/Press and mother of a 5-year-old. She can be reached at editorial@putnampresstimes.com.*

despite what some have claimed, I have never asked for a pay raise as an elected official; not while I was an Assemblyman, not during my transition to become county executive, and not as county executive. Residents should know I stayed true to my word and did not take a raise in pay.

*Putnam County Executive  
Kevin Byrne*

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# Enoch Crosby DAR Honors Nurses



**Nurse Lauren Markoe Lotocky was recently honored by the DAR-Enoch Crosby Chapter.**



**Nurses Melissa Cardel and Carol Bailey received Certificates of Recognition for Excellence in Nursing.**

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution-Enoch Crosby Chapter recently celebrated the 125th anniversary of the DAR Hospital Corps by recognizing nurses, both retired and active, for their devotion and commitment.

Members Melissa Cardel and Carol Bailey were present at the celebration to receive Certificates of Recognition for Excellence in Nursing, and members Deborah Malanchuk, Vivian Mausler and Susan Handelman, as well as Christine Babon, Dori Venezia, Brenna Law, Lauren Markoe Lotocky and Lori Farrell were acknowledged for their dedicated service to the community in their vocation.

Chaplain Adrienne Davies expressed the chapter's apprecia-

tion by reciting a Nurse's Prayer: "Let me be a source of strength for my patients and their families. Let me be a constant help to the providers and the other nurses with whom I work. Lord, fill me with the energy to open each day with a smile regardless of how tired I am. May I be a true sign of your love to every person under my care."

In 1898, the DAR Hospital Corps was founded at the onset of the Spanish-American War. The surgeon general authorized the DAR to act as an application review board in the selection of graduate nurses for military nursing services under the direction of Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, vice president of the NSDAR.

McGee wrote the section of the Army Reorganization Act

pertaining to nursing, and became known as the founder of the Army Nurse Corps.

The DAR Hospital Corps certified 1,081 nurses for service during the Spanish-American War, and later funded pensions for many of these nurses who did not qualify for government pensions.

If you think you might be direct descendent of a patriot who contributed to the cause of the American Revolution and would like to explore joining this society, contact Registrar Libby Baker at libbybaker@aol.com. Any woman 18 years of age or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership.

# Two Face Drug Charges

A Connecticut man and woman have been arrested following an investigation into drug sales in Putnam County.

According to Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville, in October, an investigator assigned to the Narcotics Enforcement Unit developed information that Luis Flores, 32, of Ansonia, Conn., man was involved in the sale of cocaine in the area. The investigator was able to contact the man and arrange for the purchase of cocaine at a motel in Southeast.

On Oct. 26, NEU members attempted to stop and arrest Flores in the parking lot of the hotel after he arrived to sell cocaine to the undercover investigator. The man fled in a vehicle with another passenger, later identified as Lymaris Burgos, 37, also of Ansonia, nearly striking a member of the sheriff's office who was on foot in the lot, and narrowly missing a marked police vehicle head-on. The occupants were also seen throwing some suspected cocaine out of the passenger window of the vehicle.

The vehicle was eventually stopped on Route 312 and the occupants were taken into custody.

Flores was charged with one count of second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, two counts of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and one count of first-degree reckless endangerment, all felonies; and one count each of resisting arrest and third-degree fleeing an officer in a motor vehicle, misdemeanors.

Burgos was charged with two counts of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a felony; and one count of resisting arrest, a misdemeanor.

Flores was arraigned by the Hon. Richard Vercollone in Southeast Town Court and remanded to the Putnam County Correctional Facility. Later that day, he appeared in Putnam County Court and was released under the condition that he check in with probation weekly.

Burgos was also arraigned by Vercollone, and released on her own recognizance.

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# 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Apple Tree Productions will present "It's a Wonderful Life" as a live radio play by Joe Landry on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m., at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center, 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley.

The production of this beloved holiday classic will include a cast of nine, with Bill Lance on the piano, and live sound effects – replicating a live radio show circa 1946. Directed by Apple Tree founder Judy Allen, veteran cast members Chris Blossy, Elizabeth Breslin, Nancy Maloy, Joe Niola, Simon Skolnik and Lew Zwick will be joined by newcomers Sam Bass, Isabella Bertram and Mae Rum.

The suggested donation for the performance is \$20, which will include a holiday party with refreshments after the show, celebrating volunteers who work all year long to bring programs to the public. Tickets are available online or at the door. Students are admitted free.

For more information, visit TompkinsCorners.org or Facebook, or email info@tompkinscorners.org.



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# ALL IS CALM

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

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The Brewster Theater Company



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## Carmel Rams Head to State Championships

The Carmel High School varsity football team defeated the Christian Brothers Academy of Albany at Middletown on Nov. 25 by a score of 38-25, securing its place at the State Championships on Dec. 3. Here, Leo Venables (15) tackles CBA opponent Leo Venables. Photo by Robin Hawks.

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## Nutrition Corner

By Allison J. Stowell  
MS, RD, CDN



## Thanksgiving Leftovers

After cooking for days, Thanksgiving leftovers are a welcome gift. However, the next challenge is how to manage them safely. You can package them for guests, turn them into something new (recipe below!), enjoy them "as is", or freeze for the future. Regardless, it's essential to handle leftovers safely.

**Thanksgiving evening:** Within a couple hours of cooking, debone and refrigerate turkey in shallow containers. If it's still hot, leave it uncovered in the fridge to cool quickly and then cover. Do the same for other leftovers. If you're sure that you prefer to freeze something, then do it once the dish is cooled to maximize freshness.

**Meals to go:** Prior to Thanksgiving I always pick up some more reusable containers. This way I can provide guests with a "to go" meal that includes their favorite food. I appreciate having fewer leftovers on hand and my guests are delighted to savor the holiday from home another day.

**Enjoying leftovers safely:** Leftover turkey must be consumed within three to four days, while gravy and stuffing are safest when enjoyed within one to two days. Reheat leftovers to a temperature of 165 degrees. If using the microwave, stir frequently to avoid hot pockets and achieve an even temperature.

**Freezing tips:** Frozen leftovers will remain fresh for three to four months. Defrosting gravy can be a bit tough. I recommend stirring it while reheating (gravy made with flour may reheat better than gravy made with cornstarch).

**Leftover ingredients:** Left with an assortment of herbs and other perishable food? Look online for recipes to make use of (not waste!) leftover ingredients.

*Allison Stowell is a registered dietitian for Hannaford Supermarkets. For more information on free, virtual nutrition classes and more, email: [astowell@hannaford.com](mailto:astowell@hannaford.com).*

## Glazed Spiral Ham

(Family Features)

**Hickory Smoked Spiral Sliced Ham with Bourbon, Honey and Orange Glaze**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 Smithfield Hickory Smoked Spiral Sliced Ham
- 1/2 cup bourbon
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 1/2 cups fresh orange juice
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground clove
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 325 F. Remove packaging from ham, including glaze packet, and place face down in large roasting pan.

Heat ham, uncovered, 12-14 minutes per pound, or until internal temperature reaches 120 F. Heating time will vary by weight.

When about 30 minutes of



cook time remains, in small saucepan over medium-high heat, whisk bourbon, honey, orange juice, brown sugar, clove, cinnamon and ginger; bring to boil.

Pour glaze over ham and continue baking, basting frequently.

For final 10 minutes of cook time, turn oven up to 425 F, continuing to baste with glaze.

When ham is heated through, remove from oven, drain liquid in bottom of baking dish and reserve to serve on side of hot ham.

Source: Smithfield

### Ultimate Thanksgiving Leftovers Pie

Hannaford.com

All your favorite Thanksgiving dishes, from mashed potatoes to turkey, get repurposed in this comforting and craveable pot pie.

**Ingredients:**

- Cooking spray
- 2 1/2 cups leftover stuffing
- 1 1/2 cups + 3 Tbsp. low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 2 cups chopped leftover turkey meat
- 1 cup chopped leftover vegetables or frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- 1/2 tsp. poultry seasoning
- 2 cups leftover mashed potatoes
- 2 Tbsp. leftover or jarred gravy

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Coat the inside of a 9" pie plate with cooking spray. Add stuffing to a medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave 30 seconds to 1 minute, until warm. Stir in 2 to 3 tablespoons chicken broth to moisten stuffing. Press stuffing into bottom and sides of pie plate, using the back of a measuring cup to press down. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, until slightly golden on edges.

Meanwhile, in a 12" skillet, melt butter on medium. Stir in flour and cook 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in remaining 1 1/2 cups chicken broth and cook 2 to 3 minutes, until sauce thickens, stirring constantly. Stir in turkey and vegetables and simmer 3 minutes. Add poultry seasoning and season with salt and pepper. Remove from heat.

Pour turkey mixture over the stuffing crust. Top with potatoes, spreading over the turkey mixture with a spatula. Make an indent in the middle of potatoes and pour gravy into it. Place pie plate on a sheet pan and bake 20 to 25 minutes, until bubbly and golden brown. Let sit 10 minutes before serving.





Actors Jessica Beitscher, Philip Anderson and Tommy Koo rehearse a scene from "All is Calm."

## 'All is Calm' Comes to Carmel Stage



Directors Joy Giuseffi, Ellen Lang and Mario Riccobon. Photos by Stacy Dumont

The Brewster Theater Company will present "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914" on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m., at The Theater at Drew Methodist Church, 28 Gleneida Ave., Carmel. Tickets are \$25 and available at [www.brewstertheater.org](http://www.brewstertheater.org) and at the door.

In the words of those present in the trenches and through an a cappella chorale, this play tells the story of one Christmas Eve peace and camaraderie in No Man's Land amidst the violence of World War I. It was written by Peter Rothstein, with vocal arrangements by Erick Lichte and Timothy Tackach.

Musical directors are Joy Giuseffi of Patterson and Ellen Lang of Brewster. The play is stage-directed by Mario Riccobon of Carmel and stage-managed by Carolyn Mc-

Carthy of Brewster. It is produced by Jean Mazzilli of Stormville and Stacy Dumont of Patterson.

"The written and vocal format of this extraordinary story has made it a piece that I have wanted to produce at the Brewster Theater Company for several years," said Dumont, president and co-founder of BTC. "It seems as if 'All is Calm' was patiently awaiting this particular team of experienced and talented directors who have truly enriched our community theater."

The production includes local performers from across Putnam County, as well as Westchester and Dutchess.

The Brewster Theater Company is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community theater, entertaining audiences and bringing artists together in Putnam County and its surrounding areas since 2000.

## Mental Health Support for Schools

Two Putnam County school districts – Brewster and Carmel – are among six in the 40th Senate District that will be receiving \$25,000 in state funding to support a school-based mental health clinic satellite.

Administered by the NYS Office of Mental Health, the funding will be used to bring mental health practitioners into the schools to help with childhood mental health needs and engage families that might not have otherwise sought mental health assistance.

"Every day I hear from residents about the mental health crisis in our communities," said State Sen. Pete Harckham, D-Peekskill.

"That's why I fought for an additional \$1 billion in extra funding for the Office of Mental Health, which we secured last year."

Office of Mental Health-licensed providers are being awarded \$25,000 per clinic to establish services at schools throughout the state. The satellite clinics operate at each school's main location and will be staffed by mental health practitioners regularly throughout the academic week.

These clinics will work to reduce mental health stigma, engage students and their families to connect them with services, and provide case management for those needing more intensive services.

## A Reprieve for Putnam Shoppers No Sales Tax on Clothes & Shoes Less Than \$110

Starting in March, sales tax on clothing and footwear less than \$110 will be eliminated for at least two years in Putnam County.

A resolution enacting the measure was passed unanimously by the Putnam Legislature last month as part of a series of initiatives in the 2024 county budget. County Executive Kevin Byrne recently signed the legislation into law.

"At a time when our residents are still struggling because of rampant inflation, county government must do its part to help out," said Byrne. "Sales tax on needed goods like these are inherently regressive, disproportionately harming those most economically vulnerable. To many residents, that 4 percent tax on a new pair of shoes doesn't seem like much, but to the single mom it could mean being able to afford

an extra onesie for her child."

The two-year sales tax exemption will begin March 1 and is expected to equate to a \$3-million-per-year tax cut. During that period, the county will evaluate the exact fiscal impact and will have the option to renew the initiative in 2026.

"The Legislature is proud to work with the county executive to lower sales tax in Putnam County, and we also worked to lower property taxes in the county," said Paul Jonke, chairman of the County Legislature. "This is what Putnam County now is – we are looking for ways to save the taxpayers money, and put the dollars back into the taxpayers' pockets."

"This will really help the populations we serve, folks who are having a difficult time making ends meet," added Bill Hammond, co-chairman of Putnam

Community Action Partnership, a nonprofit group that helps low-income families and at-risk individuals. "We know they can use this extra money, whether it's for heating their homes or clothing their children, this is going to be a big help."

According to Byrne, the state already doesn't charge sales tax on clothing and footwear less than \$110. So, with absolutely no sales tax being charged, for the first time it's going to be cheaper to shop for clothes and shoes in Putnam County than it will be to go to neighboring Connecticut.

"I think this a wonderful move – it's good for our community, it's good for our businesses, and I want to encourage people to come to Putnam County and shop," said Kathleen Abels, president of the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation.

### We Will Miss

#### Brewster

**Patricia R. Butler**, 94, November 12, Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

**Robert Anthony Marturano**, 51, November 14, Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

**Philip R. Furu, Sr.**, 81, November 24, Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

#### Mahopac

**James Nolan**, 76, November 14, Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

**Maureen T. Franze**, 83, October 26, Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

**Natalina Pugliese**, 90, November 20, Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

**Patricia "Pat" Ann Gilmore**, 88, November 27, Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

**Otto J. Seiderer**, 82, November 17, Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

**Stanley M. Zalesny**, 84, November 18, Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

**Stephen A. Tereshko**, 88, October 27, Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

**Blanche Golder Durant**, 95,

November 14, Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

**Christopher C. Provenzano**, 50, November 8, Yorktown Funeral Home, Shrub Oak, (914) 962-0700.

#### Carmel

**George H. Knoechel**, 89, November 16, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

**Irma M Antonacci**, 80, November 19, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

**Catalina Pevida**, 103, November 23, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

**Francis L. Bellotti**, 80, November 24, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

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# Carmel Students Go Head-to-Head in Mock Debates



Carmel students in AP government classes recently participated in mock presidential debates.

With the Democrats dressed in blue and the Republicans in red, students in Carmel High School's advanced placement government classes' mock presidential debates

got every detail of the two political parties correct – including the heated arguments over policy positions. "Immigration is a defining

aspect of the American character," said Aubrey Dall, the mock Democratic candidate for president. "Immigration is not a problem to be solved. Throughout our history

we have welcomed immigrants." Ava Florez, the mock Republican candidate, begged to differ. "We have a housing shortage, and the influx of immigrants

complicates that even more," she said. "Our immigration system is flawed."

David Zupan and Kerry Hackert's AP government classes each held a debate this month in front of a packed audience at CHD's Casey Hall.

Not shying away from difficult subjects, the candidates debated everything from the tax system and abortion, to climate change and transgender rights. Dall and Florez were the candidates in Hackert's class, while Eric Juhanak and Evan Mole squared off on the debate stage for Zupan's class.

Each presented well-thought-out arguments that were developed by teams of students. The entire debate was student-run, with the topics and questions created by moderators in each class.

"You learn more by doing than by just reading, and we wanted the students to understand how a campaign works, how a political platform is developed, what opposition research involves," said Zupan. "This teaches them current events, collaboration, communication and skills well beyond what we could teach them in class alone."

The debate is a tradition in the class, and students lined up at the doors of Casey Hall hoping to get a seat to watch. Unlike the real presidential debates where groans and applause often interrupt the candidates, the audience at CHS registered its response in whispers and grimaces.

That does not mean the students didn't have opinions. Audience members were asked to vote for a candidate based on the best debate presentation, but to leave their own opinions out of it.

"It was a red wave," said Hackert. "The Republican candidates in both classes won."

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# Putnam County Community Events

## Vendors Wanted

Arts on the Lake is seeking cookie bakers and craft, gift and art vendors for its annual holiday cookie and craft sale Dec. 9 and 10. Email Ed at [office@artsonthelake.org](mailto:office@artsonthelake.org).

## Toys for Tots

New unwrapped, toys may be dropped off at the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots donation box in the lobby of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office on Gleneida Avenue in Carmel, through the morning of Dec. 11.

## Raffle

The Friends of the Mahopac Public Library are sponsoring a holiday raffle for a basket of gourmet treats, including pasta, olive oil, soup mixes, sauces and more, courtesy of LBI Oil and Vinegar. Purchase tickets at the front desk for \$5 each. Drawing is Sunday, Dec. 17. Proceeds support programs and services of the library.

## Book Barn Sales

Start your holiday shopping with \$10 gift cards for sale at the Mahopac Public Library Book Barn. Other specials: buy one get one free children's paperback books and James Patterson novels; and buy 10 or more books and receive one free book (excluding collectibles) or one free Book Barn tote bag. Hours are Tuesday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon; Thursday 4 to 6:45 p.m.; and Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Tuesday, Dec. 5

### Reads at Reed

The Reads at Reed Book Club will meet Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 4:30 p.m. at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel to discuss "The Sweetness of Water" by Nathan Harris. The library's Short Story Discussion Group meets alternating Wednesdays at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Email [devans.durkin@carmel-library.org](mailto:devans.durkin@carmel-library.org) with questions.

### Holiday Concert

Carmel High School musicians in instrumental ensembles will perform holiday music at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel on Dec. 5 from 5 to 5:45 p.m. Registration is required at [carmel-library.org/calendar](http://carmel-library.org/calendar).

### Holiday Craft

Learn the newest craft craze and make a holiday-themed ornament/keychain using colorful resin rhinestones Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 1 p.m. at Patterson Library. Attendance limited. Adults 18 and older. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org).

## Wednesday, Dec. 6

### A Year in History: 1941

Adults, join the Kent Public Library via Zoom on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. for a talk by Evan Weiner on a pivotal year in history – 1941. A reluctant America goes to war with Japan, Germany and Italy after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7. The American Civil Rights Movement is bolstered by FDR. Bugs Bunny becomes a star. An American military vehicle may have been named after a cartoon character. Registration is required at <https://kentlibrary.org>, [Programs@KentLibrary.org](mailto:Programs@KentLibrary.org) or 845-225-8585.

## Thursday, Dec. 7

### Clean-Energy Consultations

Schedule a free 30-minute, one-on-one clean energy consultation at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel on Dec. 7 between 4 and 6 p.m. with Sustainable Putnam's Energy Coach Joe Montuori. Registration is required at [carmel-library.org/calendar](http://carmel-library.org/calendar).

### Menorah Lighting

Chabad of Putnam will host a community menorah lighting Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. on Route 312 at the corner of North Brewster Road (across from the fire station) in Brewster. The festivities will include refreshments such as hot latkes and cider.

### 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3'

Patterson Library will show "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3" on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. Following the death of the family patriarch, the Portokalos family decides to embark on a grand odyssey to his homeland in Greece that ultimately strengthens their enduring bonds of family. Rated : PG 13. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org).

### Trivia Night

Putnam History Museum will present a Julia Butterfield Trivia Night on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at 63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, and via Zoom. Free. Register at [www.putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://www.putnamhistorymuseum.org).

## Friday, Dec. 8

### Documentary Screening

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center will present the "Different Johns" documentary, celebrating the life and legacy of musician, photographer, filmmaker and anthropologist John Cohen, on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m., at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley. Tickets are \$10 at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

### 'All is Calm'

Brewster Theater Company will present the acapella play, "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914," on Dec. 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 10 at 2 p.m., at The Theater at Drew Methodist, 28 Gleneida Ave., Carmel. Out of the violence of WWI, a silence, then a song. A German soldier steps into No Man's Land singing "Stille Nacht." Thus begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music and peace. Tickets are \$25 at [www.brewstertheatercompany.org/all-is-calm.html](http://www.brewstertheatercompany.org/all-is-calm.html).

### 'Little Women'

Celebrate the holiday season with a movie classic, "Little Women," on Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel. Refreshments will be served. Registration is required at [carmel-library.org/calendar](http://carmel-library.org/calendar).

### Cold Spring Aglow

Cold Spring Aglow will take place Friday, Dec. 8 from 4 to 8 p.m. in the village. Enjoy a candlelit holiday walk featuring special performances while shopping at local businesses.

## Saturday, Dec. 9

### Letters to Santa

Through Saturday, Dec. 9, kids from 1 to 92 may drop off letters

and lists to Santa in the popular North Pole Express Mailbox (located inside the library). If you include a return address, Santa will write back. You can still submit letters after Dec. 9, but replies are not guaranteed.

### Craft Sale

Putnam Arts Council is holding a craft sale and small works exhibition Dec. 9 to 17 in the A. Eric Arctander Gallery, 521 Kennicut Hill Road, Mahopac, featuring scarves, jewelry, glass, cards, small sculptures, clocks, ornaments, ceramics, books, chocolate and more. Free. PAC members receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases over \$15. An opening reception is Saturday, Dec. 9 from noon to 6 p.m. Additional hours are noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 through Sunday, Dec. 17 (closed Monday, Dec. 11).

### Defensive Driving

A defensive driving course will be offered Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kent Public Library. Receive up to a 10 percent discount on your motor vehicle collision and liability insurance premium for up to three years, and up to a four-point reduction on your driving record. The cost is \$40, with a portion benefiting the library. Registration is required at [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org) or 845-225-8585.

### Holiday Train Show

Arts on the Lake's annual Holiday Model Train Show at 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes, for both children young and old, is greatly expanded and includes The Nutcracker Railroad. The show runs through Jan. 15, including during the annual cookie and gift sale Dec. 9 and 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. More information at [www.artsonthelake.org](http://www.artsonthelake.org).

### Repair Café

On Saturday, Dec. 9, Sustainable Putnam will host its first Repair Cafe at the Mahopac Middle School between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Bring your broken, but beloved item to be fixed by volunteer experts for free. Keep your lamps, clocks, toasters and more out of a landfill. Learn more and register at [sustainableputnam/repair-cafe](http://sustainableputnam/repair-cafe) or call 646-598-6560.

### Stuff-a-Cruiser

The Town of Kent Police Department will host a "Stuff-a-Cruiser" event to benefit Toys For Tots on Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at 40 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes. Bring an unwrapped new toy to donate.

### Cookies With Santa

The Town of Carmel Recreation & Parks Department will host cookies with Santa at Sycamore Park on Saturday, Dec. 9 for residents age 2 to 10. \$15 per child.

## Sunday, Dec. 10

### Chanukah Activity

Chabad of Putnam will host a "CKids Chanukah Legoland" event Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m. The theme of the program is "Build a Brighter World," and each part of the program will emphasize how children can add light to the world. It will feature an array of games, activities and crafts. Each child will build their own Chanukah dazzler, and receive Chanukah superhero cards to take home. To register, visit [Putnam-Chabad.org](http://Putnam-Chabad.org).

Chabad.org.

### Menorah Lighting

As part of its Holiday on the Lake festivities, the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association will sponsor a menorah lighting ceremony Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. on the shore of Lake Gleneida, at the intersection of Routes 6 and 52 (opposite Reed Memorial Library). Live music will kick off the event at 4 p.m., with the menorah lighting ceremony beginning at 4:30 p.m.

### The 3Bs

The Hudson Valley Blues Society Sunday Concert Series will present The 3Bs on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Studio Around the Corner, 67 Main St., Brewster. The 3Bs are a high-energy, smokin' hot blues band based in Ossining that plays classic and contemporary blues covers and originals. Tickets are \$20 at [www.thehvbs.org/sunday-concert-series.html](http://www.thehvbs.org/sunday-concert-series.html).

### 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. \$15 for adults, \$10 for teens, age 12 and younger eat for free.

## Monday, Dec. 11

### Teen Zine

Join the production of Kent Public Library's first teen zine Monday, Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m. Eat pizza, talk about the zine layout and use craft supplies to create. Open to grades seven through 12. The zine will be published as a physical booklet, as well as online. It will feature content created by and edited by teens. Registration is required at <https://kentlibrary.org>, [Programs@KentLibrary.org](mailto:Programs@KentLibrary.org) or 845-225-8585.

### The Greatest

#### Era of Music

Local author and pop culture historian Marty Gitlin will be at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel on Dec. 11 from 11 a.m. to noon to lead a fun and nostalgic journey through the greatest era of rock-and-roll history: The British Invasion and the American Answer, with video performances by The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Beach Boys, Temptations and more. There will also be trivia. Registration is required at [carmel-library.org/calendar](http://carmel-library.org/calendar).

## Tuesday, Dec. 12

### Medicaid 101

Learn the risks and benefits of Medicaid, presented by local attorney Michael Martin, Esq., at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel on Dec. 12 from 6 to 7 p.m. Registration is required at [carmel-library.org/calendar](http://carmel-library.org/calendar).

## Wednesday, Dec. 13

### 'Lt. Snow'

Putnam History Museum will present a lecture on "Lt. Lemuel Snow, Patriot and Pioneer" by PHM Trustee Kirk Moldoff on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at 63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, and via Zoom. While serving for eight years in the Revolutionary War,

Snow spent most of his time in the Hudson River Valley. This story is an epic tale of one man's love of country and family. Free for members, \$10 for others. Register at [www.putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://www.putnamhistorymuseum.org).

## Thursday, Dec. 14

### Clean-Energy Consultations

Schedule a free 30-minute, one-on-one clean energy consultation at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel on Dec. 14 between 4 and 6 p.m., with Sustainable Putnam's Energy Coach Joe Montuori. Registration is required at [carmel-library.org/calendar](http://carmel-library.org/calendar).

## Saturday, Dec. 16

### Bluegrass Concert

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association's band, The Blue Mask Boys, will return to Reed Memorial Library in Carmel to play a concert of traditional bluegrass and holiday tunes Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration required at [carmel-library.org/calendar](http://carmel-library.org/calendar).

### 'It's a Wonderful Life'

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" by Joe Landry will be presented Saturday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center, 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley. \$20. Register at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

## Sunday, Dec. 17

### Breakfast,

#### Pet Pics With Santa

The Kent Volunteer Fire Department will host Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at its headquarters. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 1 and older, free for 1 and younger. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee, juice, milk and pictures with Santa. Pet photos with Santa will be offered from 12:30 to 3 p.m. \$10 per family of dogs. To reserve your time slot, email [landrews@kentvfd.com](mailto:landrews@kentvfd.com).

## Monday, Dec. 18

### Human

#### Spaceflight History

Join Kent Public Library on Monday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. for a presentation on the Gallaudet Eleven and their service to Apollo. This presentation by Dr. Michael Zeilnhofer will highlight the important role the 11 men from Gallaudet College (now Gallaudet University) had in shaping NASA's human spaceflight program. Registration is required whether you are attending in person or via Zoom. Visit <https://kentlibrary.org>, email [Programs@KentLibrary.org](mailto:Programs@KentLibrary.org) or call 845-225-8585.

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

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# Holiday Extravaganza

Annual Fundraiser



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# Holiday on the



Local fire departments participate in a chili cook-off.



Even the goats from Lobster Hill Farm were decked out for the occasion.



Ferdinand, 5, and Susanna, 2, of Carmel/Kent, show off their crafts.



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# The Lake Makes Spirits Bright in Carmel

The Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association's annual Holiday on the Lake event took place Dec. 2 along Lake Gleneida. Simultaneously, the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary 6318 sponsored an outdoor Christmas village. Photos by Holly Crocco.



After reading to youngsters, Santa and Mrs. Claus enjoyed milk and cookies inside the KOC hall.



Gabriella, 6, of Carmel, has a caricature of herself drawn by Dakota of A Party With a Plan.



## MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

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# Carmel H.S. Eases College Application Anxiety



A representative from SUNY Binghamton on a recent visit to Carmel High School.



CHS Counseling Department Chairwoman Heather Jaffe.



CHS senior Dagan Duke.

Applying to college is difficult enough, according to Grace Fischer, a senior at Carmel High School. She said she did not need the added pressure of sending standardized test scores as part of her application.

"All of the schools I applied to are test-optional," said Fischer, who applied to seven colleges and seeks to study marine biology. "That lessens the stress and helps you focus on your capabilities. An exam does not reflect who I am."

The counseling department at CHS knows all about college anxiety, and Chairwoman Heather Jaffe said all the counselors are skilled at helping students navigate the college application process.

"Usually, the students are overwhelmed," she said. "We help them to de-stress, compartmentalize and take it one step at a time."

The department has a lot of tools to help students and parents with the process. Students use the Scoir College Network system to help with their search and planning. They work with English teachers and counselors on college essays and supplemental essays, and the counseling department invites college admissions representatives to CHS to give students the opportunity to see a broad range of options.

"When schools visit, it really helps students to make a connection," said Jaffe. "They get a college admissions officer's card. They can follow up with email. The college gets to know the students, and when they apply, that is a great help. We have increased the number of visiting schools; this year we had Cornell University come to Carmel High

School for the first time."

Unlike many high school seniors, Dagan Duke has long known exactly what he wanted: to live in New York City and study interior design. The counseling department helped him identify five schools that would be a good fit.

"I started writing my essays in August," said Dagan. "All of my schools are test-optional. For what I want to study, it's based on my portfolio."

The college application landscape has changed dramatically in the last five years, according to Jaffe. Now, more than 80 percent of colleges are test-optional.

More than 50 percent of Carmel students do not submit SAT or ACT scores. Instead, college admissions officers view students more holistically. They look at the curriculum the students have taken, their grade-point averages and their extracurricular activities.

This seems to work for Carmel, seeing as last year the district had several students accepted into the Ivy League.

The number of applications students submit has changed, too.

Most students apply to more than 10 schools these days. With so many applications, the admission rate for colleges is way down. For example, Northeastern University went from a 30 percent admit rate to 7 percent in the past five years.

"Our job is making sure we are appropriately advising students," said Jaffe. "We must make sure the advice is individualized. Just because a school is good for your neighbor or your cousin, does not mean it is good for you. It is paramount to find the right fit."

## Tree Sales Support Delancey Street Foundation

The spirit of the holiday season is one full of gratitude, compassion and hope.

At the Delancey Street Foundation's Mohegan Lake tree lot on East Main Street (Route 6), these values guide those who sell Christmas trees as they raise money for the nationwide organization that has provided housing, employment and a new chance at life for thousands of ex-convicts, people with Substance Use Disorder, and homeless individuals.

The lot, located at 1943 East Main St., is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day through Dec. 23. Trees range in price from \$90 to \$250 depending on species and size. All proceeds benefit the foundation.

The Delancey Street Foundation's Brewster site residents have developed a strong relationship over the years with customers in the Yorktown area, who appreciate the holiday cheer that pops up in their neighborhood when the Christmas trees arrive for sale.

"People who used to go to our Mahopac lot are now coming to our Mohegan Lake lot because they want to support us," said David Hill, an intake coordinator at the Brewster residence. "They

like the products we have. They like the energy of the guys working. They go out of their way to come support us."

Established in San Francisco in 1971, and now with five additional locations around the country, the foundation was formed around the core belief that, through purposeful work, skill-building and shared living, reform is possible for those who have hit rock bottom.


Delancey Street had five graduates this past year, all productively living in the Hudson Valley with stolid trade careers.

Taking no funding from the government, the self-supporting communities are sustained through various businesses ventures that include holiday sales of trees, decorated wreaths and Christmas décor; as well as through enterprises like restaurants and cafés, catering and event planning, moving and trucking, landscaping and office jobs, among others.

This year the foundation is working with a new tree farm source, providing a better variety of fresh, full trees.

For more information, visit [www.delanceystreetfoundation.org](http://www.delanceystreetfoundation.org).

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# Giving Tuesday is a Kent Elementary School Tradition



Kids package up toiletries and other items to send to families in need.



Fourth-graders at Kent Elementary School spent Giving Tuesday picking out bottles of shampoo and conditioner, containers of toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap and other essentials, and packing them neatly into bags to give to complete strangers.

"I hope you think this is helpful," wrote Emma, a student in Chris Livulpi's class, on a note she made to accompany the bag of hygiene supplies.

"We don't know who will be getting the bags," she explained. "They are just going to people who need them."

For nearly a decade, sharing with the less fortunate on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, known as Giving Tuesday, has been part of the fourth-grade curriculum at KES.

Mikey, a student in Cathleen Rossetti's class, held a bag of shampoo and supplies in one hand and the card he had written in the other. "Is this reading or science?" he asked.

"This is social and emotional

learning," answered Rossetti. "Compassion is one of our 'Carmel 6 Cs.' We are spreading kindness today."

The hygiene bags will go to Putnam Community Action Partnership, which will distribute the bags and hand-decorated cards to local families in need.

"We contacted Putnam CAP to find out what they needed, and hygiene kits were at the top of their lists," said Livulpi.

Giving Tuesday has been so meaningful to the fourth-graders that the teachers have turned it into a monthly project they call Days of Caring. Once a month, the children do something to give back to their school or the larger community.

"Our families are very generous," said teacher Nancy Faccilonga. "They provided these things so we can share with those less fortunate than us. Imagine how you would feel if your family got a bag of supplies you really needed from somebody you did not even know."

## Art Exhibit & Sale

Putnam Arts Council's annual crafts sale "reimagined" will take place Dec. 9 through 17 at the A. Eric Arctander Gallery, 521 Kennicut Hill Road, Mahopac. It features more than 15 regional artisans and other unique gift vendors, from the functional to the fantastic, thoughtfully priced and artfully displayed.

The small works fine art

exhibition featuring affordable, original fine art with a maximum size of 8-by-10 inches will open with a reception Saturday, Dec. 9 from noon to 6 p.m. Additional hours are noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 through Sunday, Dec. 17 (closed Monday, Dec. 11).

Admission is free.

Members enjoy a 10 percent discount on sales greater than \$15.

# Prevent Frozen Pipes This Winter

Veolia Group and Veolia North America are reminding customers that now is the perfect time to take steps to prevent their water meter, pipes, plumbing and appliances from freezing this winter.

"The cost to repair broken plumbing is higher than ever," said Chris Graziano, Veolia's vice president and general manager of New York operations. "Winters can be hard on household plumbing, so it's important to take some time to protect water meters and pipes from the freezing weather. Meters and plumbing located on outside walls, in basements, or in crawl spaces are particularly vulnerable to the cold."

### Outside the Home

- Disconnect and drain the garden hose connection.
- Close all outside vents, crawl spaces and doors so cold air doesn't seep inside.
- Fix broken windows and seal cracks in the walls.

### Inside the Home

- Wrap the meter and water lines subject to freezing in insulation or heat tape, which is available at hardware stores.
- Make sure the shutoff valves on either side of the water meter are working properly. Place a tag on the main shutoff valve to make sure everyone knows where it is and how to use it during an emergency.
- Check the water meter periodically, and contact a professional if you notice any damage.
- If you have had problems in the past, you may want to keep a trickle of water running from

the highest faucet during frigid weather. You will be billed for the water used, but this may help prevent costly plumbing repairs that result from broken pipes.

### If You Won't Be Home

• If you're going away for an extended period, keep a minimum amount of heat on in the house. This will help protect the pipes in case the temperature drops.

• If you plan to turn the heat off, drain all the water from the pipes, toilets and water heater, and turn off the power source to the water heater.

### If Pipes Freeze

• Clear blockages as soon as possible to minimize damage. It may be best to call a licensed plumber.

• If a water pipe has burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve in the house.

• Open a nearby faucet slightly so the pipe can drain as it thaws.

• Do not use electrical appliances in areas of standing water, and never use hot water or a blowtorch on a frozen pipe or water meter.

A subsidiary of Veolia Group, Veolia North America offers a full spectrum of water, waste and energy management services, including water and wastewater treatment, commercial and hazardous waste collection and disposal, energy consulting and resource recovery. VNA helps commercial, industrial, healthcare, higher education and municipality customers throughout North America.



# KOBACKER'S IGA

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## Guardian Revival Offers Free Support to Sheriff's Dept.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office has partnered with Guardian Revival, a local non-profit organization, to will provide deputies with direct access to wellness resources and support, including peer support, a 24/7 talk line, therapy dogs, crisis intervention and stress incident management support, as well as therapeutic recreational activities such as hiking, backpacking, kayaking, music and more – all at no cost. Pictured, Sheriff Kevin McConville, left, and Guardian Revival founder Alex Othmer celebration their new partnership.

# Menorah Lightings & Chanukah Activities

Chabad of Putnam will host a community menorah lighting Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. on Route 312 at the corner of North Brewster Road (across from the fire station) in Brewster. The festivities will include refreshments such as hot latkes and cider.

Chabad of Putnam will also host a "CKids Chanukah Lego-land" event Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m., for children to learn about and celebrate Chanukah, the eight-day Jewish Festival of Light that takes place this year from Dec. 7 to 15.

The theme of the program is "Build a Brighter World," and each part of the program will emphasize

how children can add light to the world. The interactive children's program will feature an array of Chanukah games, activities and crafts. Each child will build their own Chanukah dazzler – a light up Lego-like Menorah. They'll also receive Chanukah superhero cards to take home, encouraging them to be their own Chanukah superhero by sharing more light and goodness in the world.

To register, visit PutnamChabad.org.

As part of its Holiday on the Lake festivities, the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association will be sponsoring a menorah lighting cer-

emony Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. on the shore of Lake Gleneida, at the intersection of Routes 6 and 52 (opposite Reed Memorial Library).

Rabbi Avi Korner of Chabad of Putnam County will preside over this Chanukah ceremony, which will feature singing and refreshments. Live music will kick off the event at 4 p.m., with the menorah lighting ceremony beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The public is invited to participate.

For more local Chanukah activities, visit [www.PutnamChabad.org](http://www.PutnamChabad.org).

## Mahopac Debates Student-Athletes 'Playing Up'

Continued from Page 1

a sport will be cut from the team to accommodate a middle-school student. Essentially, this means that any ninth- through 12th-grader trying out for a team for the first time can be "beaten" by seventh- or eighth-grader.

"If I played JV basketball as a ninth-grader, then in 10th grade we have three or four eighth-graders go through the APP process and they cut me and keep those eighth-graders, that is not allowed,"

explained Luciana. "They have to keep me as a 10th-grader because I was on the team as a ninth-grader."

There are three variations of the new policy being considered, which vary from only allowing middle-schoolers to play at the JV level, allowing them to play at either the JV or varsity level, or allowing them to play up only in individual sports. Some of the sports only have a varsity team (no JV).

School board member David Furfaro said he has no problem with a student "playing up," but that it shouldn't be at the expense of a high-schooler losing his or her opportunity to play, as well.

"I think we need to protect the high school athlete, even the ninth-grader," he said. "So, for me, I don't really want to displace any of those high school athletes, at all."

Furfaro said that, plenty of times, there is enough room on the team for those younger athletes to be added. However, when push comes to shove, he doesn't want to see an older athlete ousted. "I just want to protect the high school kid," he said. "I believe a high school kid deserves an experience."

Luciana agreed with that sentiment, but noted that, in addition to taking into consideration the best interests of individual student-athletes, his job is to also develop the program as a whole.

He said the world of club sports, in which kids play privately or recreationally at the elementary level, has taken off in recent years, and those kids are training much more than they ever used to.

"So, we have students that are at a certain ability, where it surpasses probably what some maybe ninth- or 10th-graders are at, and it's our job, or my job – and I do believe it – to put the best players on the team," said Luciana.

Further, he contrasted: "You're not going to tell an eighth-grade student that's extremely smart with academics that we don't want to put you in high academic courses."

In addition, Luciana said modified sports at the middle school level are not what they used to be, so the district could be looking at safety risks if players that are too advanced or too physical to play modified are stuck at that level.

"What's the point in playing modified if you're winning 12, 13 to nothing in soccer, or 70 to 20 in basketball, because we're forced to keep the better players down?" he posed. "It doesn't help them. It doesn't help our program.

It doesn't help the teams we're playing."

Further, the athletic director and board members said they want to make sure students are being selected strictly based on their abilities. "To me, when kids are making a team, it's based off merit," said Luciana. "I don't want politics playing into anything. We don't look at last names when we're going through tryouts."

School board member Tanner McCracken pointed out that if, based on rubric scoring, a middle school student does score in the top 25 percent of all those trying out, then they truly deserve to be on the team.

For example, if 20 students try out for a team and a seventh- or eighth-grader has to be in the top 25 percent, that means the team can accept up to five of those younger students. Mathematically, that means those five would be the best on the team.

"If there is – and I'd love to see that in my lifetime – but five middle-schoolers that would then be the best five of the tryout group of a 20-person roster opening, then that's exceptional," he said. "But I don't think that would happen."

"The eighth-grader should be better than the worst ninth-grader," added Luciana. This is also why the policy states that the younger athletes should get at least 50 percent playing time – since they should be among the best anyway. This way they aren't being pulled up only to sit on the bench.

School board member Michael Martin said he is not in support of the policy.

"Just because a seventh- or eighth-grader is exception, it means they're exceptional, but it's still not their turn," he said. "Let the high-schoolers play. Let's let them have the high school experience. They deserve that... If we were talking about academics and you had a student academically who wasn't doing good, we don't throw them out."

Luciana asked for the board's faith in him and the coaches, that they will execute the policy so that the best interests of student-athletes, as well as the program as a whole, are met.

"This is something I feel strongly about," he said. "I think this is something that's good for all of our student-athletes. It gives them the best opportunity to be at the level they deserve to be at, and I hope you trust me that I can do this the right way."

The policy is expected to be voted on at this month's school board meeting.

# BREWSTER ROTARY'S ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

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### Heidi's Inn

1270 Route 22, Brewster, NY

### McLean Agency

1663 Route 22, Brewster, NY



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Rotary







After CCE-Putnam County uses a grant to purchase locally grown food products, Meals on Main Street will organize the distribution of free food across the county.

### Cornell Cooperative Gets \$2M to Aid Farmers & Families

*Continued from Page 1*

have access to free, culturally relevant and nutrient-dense foods while simultaneously supporting our local agricultural community. We are grateful to the USDA and Gov. (Kathy) Hochul for their commitment to strengthening New York's food system."

The grant is one piece of the collaborative food systems work that CCE-Putnam County, Meals on Main Street and the Putnam

County Food Systems Coalition are doing to create a resilient and sustainable food supply that benefits both farmers and the community. If you're a NYS farmer and want to supply for the program, or a community member keen on volunteering, contact Koch-Fienberg at Rek247@cornell.edu.

For information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County's community programs and events, go to cceputnamcounty.org.

Meals on Main Street by Caritas of Port Chester, Inc., provides food, clothing, counseling and emergency services, such as eviction prevention, to anyone in need in the Port Chester and surrounding area. Learn more at [www.mealsonmainst.org](http://www.mealsonmainst.org).

## Limousine Passenger Safety Prioritized

Protections for limousine passengers was recently enhanced across the state, with Gov. Kathy Hochul announcing a legislative proposal that she says will significantly improve safety within the limousine industry and increase transparency for passengers. These reforms were recommended by the Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Task Force, and require statutory changes.

The Passenger Safety Task Force was originally established in 2020 along with more than 20 statutory reforms as a response to the tragic limousine crashes in Cutchogue and Schoharie, in upstate New York. In the fall of 2022, the task force released its report, including recommendations that require both administrative and legislative changes.

The Department of Transportation and Department of Motor Vehicles have made progress administratively, including overhauling the vehicle registration and change of ownership process, increasing the number of reviews of limousines, increasing the level of coordination between states, and increasing enforcement actions against those who fraudulently register and operate limousines.

The Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Act will require a minimum \$10,000 fine for operating a suspended stretch limousine,

and authorizing the DOT to collaborate with law enforcement to seize license plates of offenders driving passenger vehicles subject to their jurisdiction.

It will also require that stretch limousines to be equipped with enhanced safety features including window break tools, fire extinguishers, improved emergency egress and roll-over protection; and prohibit the operation of a stretch limousine that is more than 10 years old or has milage exceeding 350,000 miles, whichever occurs first.

It is hoped that the act will improve data availability on limousine operators, and mandate that all stretch limousine passengers be given a pre-trip safety briefing.

"The work of the Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Task Force has resulted in a new, comprehensive legislative package that will further protect consumers," said NYSDOT Commissioner and Co-Chairwoman of the Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Task Force Marie Therese Dominguez.

"Our commitment to doing what we can to prevent another tragedy is steadfast and I thank our partners on the task force who worked so diligently to bring forth these common-sense proposals, and Gov. Hochul for her continued commitment to safety within the limousine industry," she said.

# New Law Expands Access to Fentanyl Testing Kits

On the third anniversary of the passing of Matthew Horan, a Westchester resident with Substance Use Disorder who died of a fentanyl overdose, a bill that allows pharmacists to dispense testing kits to detect drug adulterants like fentanyl has been signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

The legislation, known as "Matthew's Law," was announced by State Sen. Pete Harkham, D-Peekskill, and Assemblymember John McDonald III, D-Cohoes.

"To stop as many overdoses as we can before they occur, it is critical that we make sure testing kits for fentanyl and other adulterants are widely available," said Harkham, a member of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse. "Thanks to Gov. Hochul for signing this bill into law, these lifesaving tools will be stocked now in every pharmacy in New York, for starters.

"Not everyone is ready for Substance Use Disorder treatment at the same time," he continued. "We have a moral obligation to help people stay alive until such time they may be ready to access help. It's important to get the word out that fentanyl test kits should be used because they save lives."

More than 109,000 people died from a drug overdose in 2022, according to a Centers for Disease Control & Prevention report released in May. Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid, was the cause of 68.8 percent of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths – more than 75,000 people.

The bill (S.2009C / A.5200B), a version of which was introduced last year, is called "Matthew's Law" in honor and memory of Matthew Horan, after his sister, Kailey Horan, had requested Harkham find a way to make fentanyl testing kits more commonplace and easier to procure after her brother ingested the drug unknowingly.

Prior to the enacting of "Matthew's Law," fentanyl testing strips, which can detect the presence of fentanyl in different narcotics (cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana) and in various drug forms (pills, powders, injectables) have been inaccessible in most communities statewide. Until recently, the testing strips were distributed almost exclusively by Substance Use Disorder treatment providers and harm-reduction organizations at locations that are few and often far between.

Opioid overdose deaths attributable to fentanyl have increased sharply in recent years, as opioid prescriptions decreased because of concerns of abuse, and drug reformulations to counter rampant abuse led to users seeking street sales of illicit painkillers, which are often spiked with fentanyl. As little as 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be a lethal dose.

Matthew's Law allows health-care professionals who are licensed, registered and authorized to prescribe prescription drugs to dispense fentanyl testing kits to any person. The kits can be stored at a licensed pharmacy, hospital, clinic or other health care facility, as

well as at retail stores that contain a pharmacy department. Transactions will be limited to five testing kits at a time.


Matthew's Law passed the New York State Senate unanimously and goes into effect 30 days after its signing, Nov. 17.

Rules and regulations regarding the dispensing of adulterant test kits in New York will be set by the state's Department of Health commissioner. Harkham and McDonald's bill models the August 2022 standing order from the DOH commissioner to make naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication, available at pharmacies statewide.

"We want to express our deepest gratitude to Gov. Hochul for enacting Matthew's Law," said Kailey Horan. "Her commitment to addressing the critical issues surrounding Substance Use Disorder is commendable, and we are grateful for her leadership in creating positive change for New Yorkers."

She also thanked Harkham, and his legislative and committee director Sylvie Sherlach, for their role in the passage of Matthew's Law.

"Working with Sen. Harkham has been a privilege, and we knew his dedication and expertise were crucial for the success of this legislation," she said. "We believed he was the only senator capable of passing this bill with almost unanimous support, and he did. He will always have a special place in our hearts, and we're so appreciative to have had the opportunity to collaborate with him."

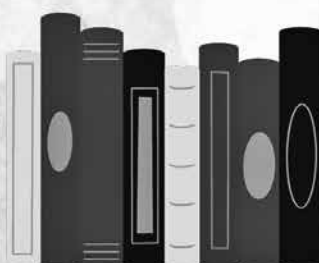


FRIENDS OF THE BREWSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Winter Book Sale!

Come check out a wide variety of new and gently used books and DVDs at bargain prices!  
All proceeds benefit the library.

Wednesday 12/06	❄️	10:00AM - 4:00PM
Thursday 12/07	❄️	12:00PM - 6:30PM
Friday 12/08	❄️	10:00AM - 3:30PM
Saturday 12/09	❄️	10:00AM - 2:00PM





# PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Kent

#### LEGAL NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF KENT

In order to facilitate the removal of snow from the roads, streets and highways within the Town of Kent, the overnight parking of vehicles on the roadway is hereby prohibited. Vehicles found parked on any such roads, street or highways, will be issued a traffic summons and towed at the owner's expense.

Residents of the Town of Kent are also cautioned that should their vehicle become disabled during a snow storm and abandoned, the operator must notify the Town of Kent Police Department forthwith and such vehicle must be removed as soon as possible or it will be towed at the owner's expense.

This ban is in effect from November 15th – April 15th yearly.

By Order of the Kent Town Board  
Yolanda D. Cappelli  
Town Clerk

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Carmel

PLANNING BOARD  
Town of Carmel - Town Hall  
Mahopac, NY 10541  
845 628-1500

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

By the Planning Board of the Town of Carmel, pursuant to Section 267, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on:

#### DECEMBER 14, 2023

At 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, NY 10541 or as soon thereafter as possible on the following matters:

#### CARMEL FIRE DEPARTMENT

94 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512 – Tax Map #44.14-1-24 – Waiver of Site Plan Application

## PUBLIC NOTICE

By Order of the Chairman,

Craig Paepser

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Southeast 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, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at Southeast Town Offices, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, New York to consider the following:

**DIGNELLI VENTURES, LLC** – Application is being made for Special Permit for Excavation and Grading and a Wetland Permit for a proposal to excavate and grade 0.41 acres of 5.03-acres of properties located at 357 and 361 Route 312, Brewster, Putnam County, in the ED Zoning District and identified as Tax Map Numbers 45.-2-46 & 47. The proposed work is adjacent to an existing parking area. The application is in response to a stop work order issued 7/12/23. The proposed project requires Planning Board Special Permit per § 69-15. The buffer of NYSDEC Wetland BR-18 may extend onto the property and a wetland permit may be required.

**BARN DOG FARM** – Application is being made by Old Town Barns for Site Plan, Wetland Permit and Special Permit for a proposal to construct a 42-horse equestrian center, including a 42-stall stable (22,330 sq. ft.); an outdoor riding ring (33,600 sq. ft.); an indoor exercise barn (23,940 sq. ft.); 16 grass paddocks and 4 small "dry" paddocks; a 2-story maintenance and residence building (3,160 sq. ft.) with three upper-floor apartment units (two 2-bedroom units and one 4-bedroom unit); manure storage; onsite well and septic; stormwater management; gravel parking (29 spaces) and interior circulation roads; and a gate and turnaround on Ridgebury Road. The project includes wetlands disturbance and stone wall alterations/removal. It is a 28.01-acre property located

## PUBLIC NOTICE

at 96-108 Hickory Ridge Road, Brewster, Putnam County, in the R-160 Zoning District and Ridge-line Overlay and identified as Tax Map Number 80.-1-3.1.

Thomas LaPerch, Chairman  
Town of Southeast Planning Board

Dated: November 22, 2023

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Supreme Court

**NOTICE OF SALE  
SUPREME COURT. PUTNAM COUNTY. WEBSTER BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plt. vs. ORQUIDE A DUGUE INDIVIDUALLY AND AS GUARDIAN FOR MARIUSZ WALISZEWSKI, et al, Defts. Index #501705/2021.** Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered October 25, 2023, I will sell at public auction in Room 209 of the Putnam County Courthouse, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY on December 18, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. prem. k/a 103 Livingston Road, Kent, NY 10512 a/k/a Section 22.49, Block 1, Lot 10. Approximate amount of judgment is \$258,961.03 plus cost and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. WENDY MARIE WEATHERS, Referee. MARGOLIN, WEINREB & NIERER, Attys. for Plt., 165 Eileen Way, Ste. 101, Syosset, NY. #100925

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS-SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF PUTNAM – SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, -against- TROY E. PAYSON, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF NANCY A. PAYSON; DEBRA ANN PAYSON AND JOHN B. KEANE, III, AS HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE DECEDENT GEORGE H. PAYSON II, AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF NANCY A. PAYSON; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW, NEXT-OF-KIN, DISTRIBUTEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST AND GENERALLY ALL PERSONS AND PARTIES HAVING OR CLAIMING, UNDER, BY OR THROUGH THE DECEDENT GEORGE H. PAYSON III, BY PURCHASE, INHERITANCE, LIEN OR OTHERWISE, ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE PREMISES DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN, WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (SOUTHERN DISTRICT); NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE;; "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #10" inclusive, the names of the ten last name Defendants being fictitious, real names unknown to the Plaintiff, the parties intended being persons or corporations having an interest in, or tenants or persons in possession of, portions of the mortgaged premises described in the Complaint, Defendants - Index No. 500773/2022 Plaintiff Designates Putnam County as the Place of Trial. The Basis of Venue is that the subject premises is situated in Putnam County. To the above named Defendants-YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. That this Supplemental Summons is being filed pursuant to an order of the court dated November 2, 2023. NOTICE-YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME – If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING, LLC) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Gina C. Capone, J.S.C. Dated: November 2, 2023 Filed: November 2, 2023. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage covering the premises known as 102 Hillair Road, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537. Dated: November 17, 2023 Filed: November 17, 2023. Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, Attorney for Plaintiff, By: Richard F. Komosinski, Esq., 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523 P: (914) 345-3020

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF SALE

**SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. KEITH JORDAN A/K/A KEITH R. JORDAN, Defendant(s).**

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee's Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on September 27, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Court Courthouse, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on January 8, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., premises known as 37 Putnam Drive, Carmel, NY 10512. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Kent, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 22.74, Block 1 and Lot 13. Approximate amount of judgment is \$193,930.48 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 500925/2022. Cash will not be accepted. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed at the foreclosure sale.

Gordon B. Fine, Esq., Referee

Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF PUTNAM**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER,**

V.

**STEPHEN KOVALESKI, ET AL.**

### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 21, 2023, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Putnam, wherein NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER is the Plaintiff and STEPHEN KOVALESKI, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 20 COUNTY CENTER, CARMEL, NY 10512, on January 08, 2024 at 11:30AM, premises known as 34 HILLSIDE TERRACE, BREWSTER, NY 10509: Section 67.7, Block 1, Lot 23:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE TOWN OF SOUTHEAST, COUNTY OF PUTNAM AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 501492/2019. Jack E. Schachner, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. \*LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF SALE

**SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM  
Nationstar Mortgage LLC  
d/b/a Mr. Cooper, Plaintiff  
AGAINST  
Sabrina Morrone; Sergio  
Recine; et al., Defendant(s)**

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered November 30, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Putnam County Courthouse, Courtroom 209, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on January 8, 2024 at 10:30AM, premises known as 5 Grove Street, Putnam Valley, NY 10579. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Roaring Brook area, of the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam, State of New York, Section 41.14 Block 1 Lot 5. Approximate amount of judgment is \$523,672.41 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 800067/2021 fka 0001678/2009. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District.

Anthony G. Maccarini, Esq., Referee

LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792

Dated: October 26, 2023

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## Have you heard?



The Putnam County SPCA needs  
**VOLUNTEERS!**



The Putnam County Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

For more information on volunteer  
opportunities, please visit

[www.spcaputnam.org](http://www.spcaputnam.org)



# Byrne Taps Servadio as DSS Commissioner

Sara Servadio has been appointed the new commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Social Services & Youth Bureau by Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne, in the wake of longtime Commissioner Mike Piazza's retirement Nov. 9. Her appointment is pending approval by the County Legislature, which is scheduled to vote on the matter Dec. 5.



**Sara Servadio has been named commissioner of the Putnam County Department of Mental Health, Social Services & Youth Bureau, pending Legislature approval.**

This promotion follows a distinguished tenure by Servadio as deputy commissioner and comes at a crucial time, as the department continues its vital mission to enhance the well-being of all residents.

"Sara Servadio is a consummate professional who brings a level of dedication and leadership that is unmatched in her field," said Byrne. "I am confident that under her guidance, the many operations she oversees, especially our mental health services, will thrive."

Servadio brings more than 20 years of experience in case

in Westchester County's Department of Community Mental Health.

"I'm committed to ensuring our department remains a steadfast resource for Putnam County residents," said Servadio. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to build on the strong foundation established by Mike Piazza, but we have a lot of work ahead of us. County Executive Byrne has made clear that we're going to transform and expand the services we offer; we're working to establish a Mental Wellness Stabilization Center, we've created a director of mental health position, and we're establishing a mental health co-response team with the sheriff's office."

Servadio was appointed by Byrne after an interview process was conducted by a selection committee that included Legislator Amy Sayegh, who chairs the Legislature's Health Committee; Deputy County Executive Jim Burpoe; Director of Personnel Paul Eldridge; Deputy Direc-

tor of Personnel Adrienne Iasoni; and Executive Director of Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center Ann Ellsworth.

tor of Personnel Adrienne Iasoni; and Executive Director of Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center Ann Ellsworth.

"Sara has proven to us during her tenure that she is the perfect person to fill Mike Pi-

azza's very big shoes," said Sayegh, R-Mahopac Falls. "As commissioner, she will be leading the team responsible for the well-being of some of our most vulnerable residents, and I'm confident they are in good hands."

## TOWN OF SOUTHEAST WANTED - TOWN HISTORIAN

Due to the recent resignation of the Town of Southeast Historian, this coveted position is being made available to a resident that has an interest in continuing to maintain the history and genealogy of our fine Town. Any person interested in filling this position should contact Town of Southeast Town Clerk, Michele Stancati. Ms. Stancati can be contacted at 1360 Route 22, Brewster, N.Y. 10509, (845) 279-2196, mstancati@southeast-ny.gov. The position comes without compensation by the satisfaction of making a contribution to our Town and Town's history.

The Town also has an opening on the Town of Southeast's Historic Sites Commission as well as the Planning Board. Any interested parties, see above contract information. 12/6

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

Exam Title & No: Emergency Services Dispatcher 85-611  
Exam Date: January 27, 2024  
Salary: \$49,286 Putnam County (2023)  
\$45,822.40 Town of Kent Police (2024)  
\$47,910.10 Town of Carmel Police (2023)  
Last Filing Date: December 17, 2023  
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 12/6, 12/13

## CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL MERCHANDISE

**ANTIQUA WICKER ROCKING CHAIR** - color tan, Good Condition \$ 120.00.  
**RIVAL ELECTRIC FOOD SLICER**-Chrome Plated-120 Volt AC-1101E,902 U42J,very good condition\$115.00. Retro Series, Nostalgia Electric 50's Style Kettle **POPCORN MAKER V** Condition--\$29.99. Call 845-621-29986. 11/27

**RAMP** - 14-foot Traverse rust-proof aluminum ramp, 30 inches wide, 2 inches side curbs. Welded construction, no support legs needed. Barely used. Purchased from expressramps.com. \$700 OBO. 845-278-6917. 12/13

**ECHANFIT MAGNETIC ROWING MACHINE** - original \$219, like new. \$75. Model CRW 4901, includes user's manual. 845-225-7894. 11/22

**WHITE LOWER BEDROOM DRESSER** - six drawers, \$250. **ANTIQUA BLACK LOVESEAT** w/carved white frame, \$250. **GLASS TABLE** w/ four modern red leather chairs, unique, \$1,000. 914-483-0784. 11/22

### HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED PART-TIME CLERICAL** in Yorktown office. 5-10 hours per week, time flexible. Competitive pay. Call Frank 914-329-8495. 11/29

### WANTED

**BUYING VINTAGE**

**CAMERAS, LENSES, WATCHES, JEWELRY, COINS, CLOCKS, FISHING, HUNTING, MILITARY, FIRE HELMETS, SWORDS, KNIVES, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, COMICS, SPORTING, TOYS, FOUNTAIN PENS, WESTERN AND MORE. PLEASE CALL FRANK 914-763-8766.** 11/29

**WANTED** - Private collector buying 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. 1/31

**WANTED** - buying toys, books, cards, posters, car magazines, records, eight-tracks, pocket knives, CDs, music cassettes, VHS tapes. 914-403-8759. 11/22

## 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 the Wednesday 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.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## TOWN OF KENT AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC HELPER

The Town of Kent is looking for an Automotive Mechanic Helper in the Municipal Repairs Department. Applications can be obtained from the Town Supervisor's Office 845/225-3943. Please submit your application to the Kent Town Clerk at [lcappelli@townofkent-ny.gov](mailto:lcappelli@townofkent-ny.gov).

*The Town of Kent is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

12/6

## POSITION OPENING MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The Town of Kent Highway Department is seeking a Motor Equipment Operator. Candidates must possess a valid CDL Class B New York State Driver's License.

For additional information on the position please contact Town of Kent Highway Department at (845) 225-7172. Applications can be obtained from the Town Supervisor's Office or may be downloaded from the Town's website at [www.townofkentny.gov](http://www.townofkentny.gov). Completed applications should be submitted to the Kent Highway Superintendent at 62 Ludington Court, Kent Lakes, NY 10512 or by email to [highwaykent@townofkentny.gov](mailto:highwaykent@townofkentny.gov).

12/6

## TOWN OF KENT NOTICE OF POSITION OPENING AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC:

The Town of Kent is looking for a full-time Automotive Mechanic to perform maintenance and repair of automotive equipment. Candidate must possess two years of experience as a skilled automotive mechanic including but not limited to working with diesel engines, drive train, and air brakes. Must have own tools and Commercial Drivers License.

Competitive pay and excellent benefits including health insurance and pension plan. Applications can be obtained from the Town Supervisor's Office or may be downloaded from the Town's website at [www.townofkentny.gov](http://www.townofkentny.gov). Please return completed applications to the Kent Town Clerk at 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512 or email to [lcappelli@townofkentny.gov](mailto:lcappelli@townofkentny.gov).

*The Town of Kent is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

12/6



**SPECIAL OFFER**

# **WINTER SALE**

**UP TO 50% OFF**

**New customers can purchase a**

**FULL PAGE  
COLOR AD  
for \$450**

**in this newspaper  
(that's a \$900 value!)**

**Includes a link to your  
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FREE Business Spotlight article with photo**

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or call 845-628-8400 for more information**