



The Putnam County

# 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, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

## Book Vending Machine Promotes a Love of Reading



JFK students who are celebrating a birthday or half-birthday line up to get a book from the Bear-thday Book Vending Machine.

Students at JFK Elementary School in Brewster hear a special announcement come over the PA system Friday afternoons: "Students who are celebrating their birthday or half-birthday, please go to the cafeteria for your bear-thday book!"

The Bear-thday Book Vending Machine will eventually allow every student in the school to choose a birthday book to keep forever. Last week, 24 students lined up next to the shiny new machine and received a gold coin from a treasure chest to use as currency in return for a book.

"My birthday isn't until July, so I'm celebrating my half-birthday," said Gwendolyn Danko.

The machine is like a regular vending machine for snacks or drinks, except that it holds rows of books with titles like "Going to the Sea Park" by Mercer Mayer, "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" by Eric Carle, "Biscuit" *Continued on Page 16*



Students get a gold coin to use in the machine.



Youngsters show off their selections.

## Putnam Chosen for Well Mitigation Rebate Program

By Holly Crocco

Putnam County has been chosen by the state to participate in a pilot program to address PFAS contamination in private wells.

"Water quality continues to be an area of focus for the department," said Putnam Health Department Commissioner Rian Rodriguez at the Feb. 11 meeting of the County Legislature's Health Committee. "Whenever we can participate in programs that may assist our residents with environmental concerns, we attempt to do so."

The New York State Department of Health, Department of Environmental Conservation, and Environmental Facilities Corporation are preparing to roll out a private well PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) testing and mitigation rebate pilot program this year.

It will launch in a handful of counties considered to be at a higher risk for contamination to reduce exposure to private wells and communities that are more likely to be impacted, and assess the feasibility for a more comprehensive statewide program.

"We've been selected as one of those counties," said Rodriguez, who explained that five other neighboring counties have also been chosen.

A total of \$1.5 million in funding has been set aside for the program.

According to Brian Stevens, associate public health sanitarian for Putnam County, the program allows for private well testing, and if contamination exceed state standards, the homeowner is responsible for arranging for a whole-house treatment system to be installed, and may be reim-

*Continued on Page 16*

## Tree & Seedling Sale Returns

### Time to Plan for Spring!

The annual Putnam County tree and shrub seedling sale is back.

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County and the county's Soil & Water Conservation District have teamed up to once again offer a selection of trees and shrubs to county residents. The sale, which is now open online, offers residents trees and shrubs to plant that create habitat and protect water quality.

Trees reduce the amount of stormwater runoff, which reduces erosion and water pollution while stabilizing shorelines – reducing the effects of flooding. In addition, the selection of plants includes native trees, shrubs, and perennials that support birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

"The seedling program has a long history of supplying landowners and gardeners with tree and shrub seedlings that support wildlife and stabilize soil," said Jennifer Lerner, CCE-PC senior resource educator. "The native plants we've chosen not only offer forage and habitat for animals but are a delight in the garden. Fall color, flowers, and tasty fruit... What's not to love?" Online orders will be ac-

cepted through Friday, March 27, at [cceptutnamcounty.org](http://cceptutnamcounty.org). All items will be available for pick up Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster. Plants will be sold online only, on a first-come, first-served basis, and there are limited quantities of seedlings.

Native plants do more than just look good – they bring landscapes to life. They feed nesting birds, support specialist pollinators like native bees, and help turn backyards, gardens, and parks into thriving pockets of habitat.

The selection of native plant plugs offers an easy, budget friendly way to get started. These small perennial starters pack a surprising punch, giving a thrifty path to building a vibrant habitat right at home. With options for sun or shade, a range of soil types, and plenty of room for personal taste, there's something for every corner of outdoor space.

Alongside flowering trees and shrubs, the sale offers a selection of fruit bearing species. Thornless blackberries, Red Lake currants, and other native fruiting shrubs offer both beauty and

*Continued on Page 16*



## Brewster's Crivelli Wins Section 1 Title

Brewster High School's Derrick Crivelli won the boys' giant slalom, slalom, and skimeister titles at the Section 1 skiing championships at Hunter Mountain on Feb. 10. Crivelli, a ninth-grader who in a field of 70 boys came in as the number-one seed in both the boys' slalom and giant slalom, won both events and captured the coveted boys' skimeister title for having the lowest combined slalom and giant slalom times.

### We Will Miss

**Carmel**  
**Martin William Schuldt**, 89, February 3. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

**Brewster**  
**Joseph R. Longchamps**, 83, January 31. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.  
**Allen T. Michell**, 94, Feb-

ruary 2. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.  
**Richard John Henke**, 88, January 31. Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

**Mahopac**  
**Robert E. Kretschman**, 41, February 3. Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

**Patterson**  
**Raymond Merlotto**, 85, February 1. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.



## 'Annie Jr.' Wows in Garrison

Students at Garrison Union Free School District presented "Annie Jr." on Feb. 5. Two separate showings wowed the crowd with "It's the Hard Knock Life," "Tomorrow," and other song favorites.

## Letters to the Editor

### Seeking School Board Candidates

Dear Editor:

In 2025, the Town of Carmel Republican Committee endorsed candidates for school board. In Mahopac, that candidate slate nearly doubled the votes of their opponents. If you are a registered Republican and want to run for board of education trustee for either Mahopac Central School District or Carmel Central School District, send an email to [carmelgopschoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:carmelgopschoolboard@gmail.com) by March 15.

*Carmel Republican Committee*

### Fight Energy Rate Hikes

Dear Editor:

Mahopac families are in an affordability crisis. The cost of groceries, gas, housing, and taxes keeps climbing, and now NYSEG wants to hit our community with massive electricity and gas rate increases. For a lot of households here, this isn't some abstract policy debate. It's the difference between keeping up and falling behind.

I serve as a school board member, and I know firsthand how tempting it is to say, "Just raise taxes." That's always the easy answer. It's also the wrong one. I've fought against tax increases because I believe families in Mahopac deserve leaders who make hard choices, not leaders who automatically reach for taxpayers' wallets.

That's exactly what we should be demanding from NYSEG.

We also need to be honest about how we got here. Albany Democrats pushed to close Indian Point with no real plan to replace that baseload power, and now families are paying the price for that reckless decision through higher and higher energy costs.

Instead of tightening their belts, finding real efficiencies, and making tough internal decisions, NYSEG is asking the state to approve huge rate hikes and expecting working families to just absorb the hit. For seniors on fixed incomes and small businesses already under pressure, that's not manageable. It's a breaking point.

Utilities aren't just another business. They're government regulated monopolies. People in

Mahopac can't shop around when the heat bill comes due or the lights are on the line. That's why the Public Service Commission exists. Its job isn't to rubber stamp whatever NYSEG asks for. Its job is to protect the public.

As a county legislator, I won't just complain about this and move on. I'll push for Putnam County to formally intervene in these rate cases, demand full transparency from NYSEG, and stand with other local governments to fight these hikes in front of the PSC. I'll also support exploring options like community power programs that can give residents more control and more competition, not just higher bills and fewer choices.

If local school districts and town governments are expected to live within their means, then a massive utility company should be held to at least the same standard. Ratepayers shouldn't be the automatic piggy bank for bloated costs, bad priorities, or policies that never seem to come with real accountability.

I oppose these rate hikes. Period. NYSEG needs to go back to the drawing board, make the hard decisions, and prove they've done everything possible before reaching deeper into the pockets of Mahopac families who are already stretched thin.

And the PSC needs to remember who it works for. Not the utility companies. Not the lobbyists. The people who live here.

Affordability isn't a slogan in Mahopac. It's a real, daily struggle. Our families deserve leaders who'll fight for them, not pass the bill down the line and call it "necessary."

*Tanner McCracken  
 Mahopac*

### Questions About Cell Tower Placement

Dear Kent Planning & Zoning Board Members:

I am writing to record my objection to the new cell tower proposed by Homeland Towers, which will be located near the intersection of Hortontown Hill Road and the Taconic Parkway. I was unable to attend the meeting in person Feb. 12.

I have several questions based on what I see on the Homeland

Towers website about its process: What community outreach did the firm do besides put up a sign that fell over, across from one of the houses, and to notify people within 500 feet of the site? I didn't hear about this from you.

What follow-up has the firm done to record any residential property value changes after the towers are put up? They may not be concerned, but we are.

What income/profit is the firm expected to generate after this proposed tower is built? What's the ROI relative to the disadvantages? There must be revenue expected, or it wouldn't be proposed.

I expect that answers will be provided to the taxpaying residents living in the vicinity.

The owner of the proposed site does not live in the Town of Kent, and in fact does not even live in Putnam County. What increase in property taxes will accrue to our town? Or will his property taxes be reduced due to the new use of the property?

A great deal of research and information is available regarding the negative impact of cell phone towers on local residents. These include negative health impacts and negative property value impacts. Would you want to live across the street from a new cell phone tower? If you would not, why would you agree to make your fellow residents live across the street from a cell phone tower? Are decisions for thee but not for me?

What net benefit(s), if any, does the town expect to receive from Highland Towers or the various carriers that would use the tower?

Another consideration is the thought of the unsightly tower rising well above the treetops along the beautiful Taconic. What an eyesore.

Finally, I call your attention to the inadequate town regulation that requires only a 500-foot radius for notification to residents. In this case, it appears that very few residents were notified due to our rural setting and large tax lots. And putting one sign up that promptly fell over, well, frankly, that's insufficient notice. Same with the balloon test notifications. Even though I provided my email address (as recommended by the board) to the secretary after a board meeting last fall, I have not received a single notification from the town.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I sincerely hope you will consider the feedback from the resident taxpayers.

*Jamie Powers  
 Hopewell Junction*

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<p><b>CARMEL</b>                  Shoprite Supermarket                  County Office Building                  TOPS Supermarket                  Sheriff's Office                  Reed Memorial Library</p>	<p><b>PATTERSON</b>                  Patterson Library                  Putnam Diner                  Patterson Town Hall                  Route 311 Deli                  Putnam Lake Market                  Putnam Lake Pizza                  Patterson ACME</p>
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**Carmel Police Department recently arrested three people from Brooklyn who were stopped in Carmel with iPads, iPhones, and an AirPods Pro Max that were purchased fraudulently.**

## Carmel Police Charge Trio with Forgery & Impersonation

Three Brooklyn residents were arrested earlier this month in Carmel following an investigation into fraudulent activity and the unauthorized use of a rental vehicle.

On Feb. 1, a Carmel Police Department K9 officer on routine patrol responded to the parking lot of Skyline Towing for a report of a suspicious U-Haul van. Upon arrival, officers located a white U-Haul bearing Arizona registration occupied by two males and one female.

The individuals were identified as Jovenel Saint Jean Jr., Sariah Sammy, and Kahlil Patterson Jr., all of Brooklyn.

During the investigation, the subjects provided repeated inconsistent and deceptive statements regarding their travel and reason for being in Mahopac, said police. A consensual search of the vehicle revealed three new-in-box iPads, five new-in-box iPhones, and one new-in-box AirPods Pro Max – all appearing unused and in their original packaging – along with receipts indicating purchases that were fraudulently charged using the identity and financial information of a victim from Westchester, Ill.

Further searches of the subjects yielded two counterfeit Illinois driver's licenses bearing false identities, as well as multiple stolen financial cards belonging to unrelated individuals, according to police.

Detectives subsequently contacted the rental company and confirmed that the U-Haul van was significantly overdue for return and that the occupants on scene were not authorized to possess or operate the vehicle at that time.

Saint Jean, Sammy, and Patterson were arrested without incident and charged with fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, criminal possession of a forged instrument, second-degree criminal impersonation, and third-degree unauthorized use of a vehicle.

All three were processed at CPD headquarters and released with tickets to appear in Carmel Town Court on a future date.

### DWI Arrests

At about 2:10 a.m. Feb. 8, a Putnam County sheriff's deputy witnessed a vehicle traveling westbound on Danbury Road in Southeast, swerving within its lane. A traffic stop was conducted and the operator was identified as Jorge Maldonado Zabala, 23, of Bedford. He allegedly showed signs of intoxication and was unable to produce a valid driver's license.

Further investigation revealed that his license was suspended as

a result of a prior driving while intoxicated incident.

Zabala was charged with first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a felony; DWI, and operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content of 0.08 percent or more, both misdemeanors; and multiple Vehicle & Traffic Law violations. He was arraigned in Southeast Town Court and released on his own recognizance.

At about 8:55 p.m. Feb. 8, deputies responded to the area of Peaceable Hill Road and Stone Ridge Road in Southeast for a report of a vehicle that had crashed into a snowbank. The operator was identified as Luis McRea, 40, of Southeast.

Deputies observed signs of intoxication and administered field sobriety tests, which McRea failed, said police. He was charged with aggravated DWI and DWI for having a previous conviction within the past 10 years, first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle for committing aggravated unlicensed operation in the second degree while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, all felonies; as well as multiple Vehicle & Traffic Law violations.

McRea was arraigned in Southeast Town Court and released on his own recognizance.

## Mahopac Man Accused of Brandishing Gun at Bus Driver

A Mahopac man was arrested last week following a road rage/menacing incident in which he allegedly aimed a loaded gun at a school bus driver.

New York State Police at Hawthorne received a walk-in complaint Feb. 4 from a school bus driver who reported that, while driving on the Taconic State Parkway southbound near exit 3 in Mount Pleasant, the driver of another vehicle pointed a handgun at him.

In addition to the driver, a bus monitor and three children with special needs were on the bus at the time.

Following an investiga-

tion assisted by the Westchester County Real Time Crime Unit, the suspect vehicle was located later that evening traveling northbound on the Taconic State Parkway. Members of NYSP-Hawthorne and its Bureau of Criminal Investigation, assisted by the Troop K Community Stabilization Unit while assigned to the District Attorney's Safer Highway initiative, conducted a traffic stop.

The operator, Michael Alarcon, 19, was found to be driving with a suspended New York State driver's license and possessed a loaded handgun.

He was taken into custody

and transported to NYSP-Hawthorne for processing and charged with second-degree criminal possession of a weapon for having a loaded firearm, and two counts of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon for having an ammunition-feeding device and defacing the gun for concealment, all felonies.

He was also charged with second-degree menacing, three counts of endangering the welfare of a child, and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, all misdemeanors.

Alarcon was arraigned in Mount Pleasant Court.

## NYPD Sergeant from Putnam Found Guilty of Manslaughter

A New York Police Department sergeant from Putnam County was recently found guilty of second-degree manslaughter after throwing a cooler at a fleeing suspect in August of 2023, leading to the man's death.

Sgt. Erik Duran, 38, pleaded not guilty during his bench trial, in which there was no jury – just a judge hearing the arguments and rendering the verdict.

He was convicted Feb. 6 by Bronx Supreme Court Judge Guy Mitchell and faces up to 15 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled March 19.

Duran was also facing a criminally negligent homicide charge, which was waived.

He had until Feb. 10 to post \$300,000 cash bail to remain out of custody until the sentencing.

Eric Duprey, 30, died Aug.

23, 2023, after he took off on a motorized scooter along a sidewalk in the Bronx, attempting to flee arrest after he had just sold drugs to an undercover officer.

Video shows Duran, who was a member of the NYPD Narcotics Borough Bronx Tactical Response Unit, throwing a picnic cooler at Duprey's head in an attempt to stop him. Duprey was reportedly driving 30 miles per hour and not wearing a helmet when he was struck, which caused him to swerve and slide under a vehicle.

He later died from blunt force

trauma to the head.

According to CBS News-New York, Duran testified during trial that he was trying to protect fellow officers, but the judge ruled that he had not done so properly. The defense claimed that other people would have been killed because of Duprey's reckless driving, had Duran not stopped him.

However, prosecutors called Duran's actions "reckless, unreasonable, and unnecessary."

The case was prosecuted by New York State Attorney General Letitia James' office.

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# Plans for 2026 Brewster Summer Music Series Underway

We may not believe it now, but summer is coming.

As such, members of the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition are busy planning for the sixth annual Brewster Summer Music Series. The first concert will kick off Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m., and performances continue each week through July 29.

The line-up of free Wednesday night concerts at the village gazebo is still being developed, but will feature bands from a variety of music genres. Back by popular demand, Bookends is scheduled to play at the July 1 concert. Last year, the band drew the largest crowd of the series.

Burke Energy has signed on as the first level-one sponsor of the season, and Suburban Propane is also a sponsor – but more donors are sought.

“We’re reaching out across the town and village in every way we can,” said BSMS Producer Katy Faivre. “Whether it’s \$25 or \$2,500, we know the more funds we raise, the better the concerts will be for the community.”

To become a sponsor, visit [www.culturalartsco.com/brewster-summer-music-series](http://www.culturalartsco.com/brewster-summer-music-series).

TOSCAC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering and sustaining the arts in Brewster, Southeast, and the surround-



Bookends drew the biggest crowd during the 2025 series and will return July 1.

ing region. While spearheading the restoration of the historic Southeast Old Town Hall, the coalition has presented hundreds

of arts offerings at local venues, “celebrating the community with transformative and inspiring arts experiences.”

## Nutrition Corner

By Allison J. Stowell  
MS, RD, CDN



### Quick Meals for Busy Nights

It’s about that time in the winter, when the weather has sufficiently complicated plans and you may be feeling overstretched. It’s easy to rely on takeout and quick restaurant meals at times like these. However, this comes with additional food and nutritional costs, which makes it a problematic approach. Instead, let’s strategize around easy meals that match busy nights.

Double duty prep: Make recipes like the one below that can be used for more than one meal by switching up the sides and flavor profile. This “nextover” approach lets you intentionally use some of what you cooked yesterday to reinvent a meal today. Slice crispy chicken over jasmine rice and top with an Asian inspired dressing or cube it over a greens with beans and defrosted, frozen corn for a Tex-Mex salad.

Grocery shop to match your calendar: Shop for food that matches the week ahead. Then you’ll have food available to put together an easy meal. This saves you money, reduces waste, and ensures you can easily build a nutritious plate. Go for microwaveable grain pouches and pre-washed veggies to add to a prepped protein for a quick meal.

Balance the plate: Sometimes we need to use frozen proteins to bring a plate together. And they may not be prepared exactly the way we wish they were. Remember, it’s still better than most take-out options. Pair a more decadent part of your meal with vegetables and whole grains to balance your plate and control less desirable attributes like sodium and saturated fat where you can.

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

#### Hazelnut-Crusted Chicken with Broccoli Gremolata Hannaford.com (3 Guiding Stars)

Broccoli transforms from side dish to lemony, garlicky topper for crispy chicken in this easy dinner. You can also swap out hazelnuts for almonds for an equally crunchy, nutty chicken breading.

Ingredients:

- 1 (12 oz) pkg broccoli florets
- ½ cup chopped parsley
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lemon
- ½ cup + 3 tbsp olive oil, divided
- 1 cup hazelnuts, chopped
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs
- 1 lb boneless, skinless chicken tenders

Steps:

1. To a food processor, add broccoli florets. Pulse until coarsely chopped. Add parsley, garlic and zest from lemon. Pulse until finely chopped. Add juice from lemon and ½ cup oil. Season with salt and pepper. Pulse a few more times, until combined but not a paste. Pour into a bowl and refrigerate until ready to serve.
2. Preheat oven to 375°F. In a shallow bowl, combine hazelnuts and panko. Season with salt and pepper and mix to combine. To another shallow bowl, add flour. In a third shallow bowl, beat eggs. Season both bowls with salt and pepper. Working with one piece at a time, dredge chicken in flour, shaking off excess, then dip in eggs. Coat in hazelnut-panko mixture, pressing to adhere. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet.
3. Heat remaining 3 tbsp oil in a 12” skillet on medium-high. Add chicken and brown, 2 minutes per side. Transfer chicken to prepared baking sheet and finish cooking in oven, 10 to 12 minutes, until cooked through. Spoon broccoli gremolata over chicken to serve.

### Grilled Chicken Bundt

(Family Features)  
Grilled Chicken Bundt

Ingredients:

- 4 potatoes
- 2 carrots
- 8 Brussel’s sprouts
- oil
- 2 tbsp garlic powder, divided
- 2 tbsp onion powder, divided
- 2 tsp salt, divided
- 1 whole chicken (4-5 pounds)
- 1/2 stick butter, softened

Directions:

Heat grill to 350 F with one burner off for indirect heat. Cut potatoes, carrots and Brussel’s sprouts into bite-sized pieces. Drizzle with oil and mix in 1 tablespoon garlic powder, 1 tablespoon onion powder and 1 teaspoon salt; set aside. Rub chicken with softened



butter, remaining garlic powder, remaining onion powder and remaining salt.

Place some veggies in bottom of bundt pan. Place chicken on top of chimney or tube of bundt pan. Fill pan with remaining veggies.

Place pan over indirect heat and grill 1 hour, 30 minutes, or until chicken reaches internal temperature of 165 F.

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

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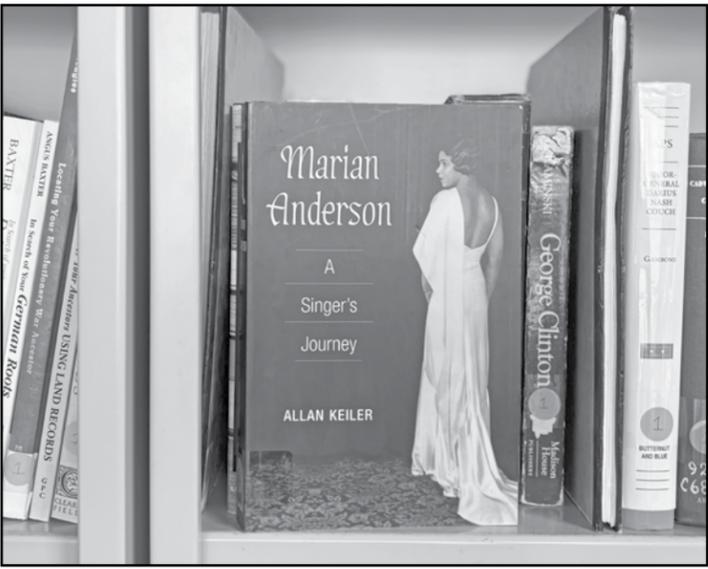
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Published in 2002 by the University of Illinois Press, "Marian Anderson: A Singer's Journey" by Allan Keiler was donated to the Putnam Historical Society by local history author Debbie Rafferty Oswald.

## Putnam Historian's Office Honors Marian Anderson

### From the Putnam County Historian's Office

This Black History Month, we are proud to once again honor a remarkable woman who once called our region home. Marian Anderson – one of the greatest contraltos of the 20th century – was a familiar presence here, even commuting to and from the Village of Brewster train station as she traveled the world.

We're highlighting a treasured volume from our research library, "Marian Anderson: A Singer's Journey" by Allan Keiler.

In 1939, Anderson made history with her powerful performance at the Lincoln Memorial, helping to set the stage for the modern civil rights movement.

Shortly thereafter, around 1940, she and her soon-to-be husband purchased a 12-room Victorian farmhouse and surrounding acreage just over the state line on Joe's Hill Road. They named it Marianna Farm, and it became her refuge between international engagements.

Among her local circle of friends were Milltown area residents, author Rex Stout and his wife, Pola, a noted textile designer; as well as Academy Award- and Tony Award-winning lyricist Dorothy Fields, whose home on Federal Hill was just a short distance away.

Field's home was the old Sears homestead, today's Copland House compound, formerly the Melrose School.

## Live Celtic Music

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center will kick off its 11th season Saturday, March 7 with Cécilia, a Québec-based trio celebrated for its electrifying traditional music and joyful virtuosity. Fresh from a sold-out performance for 700 in Glasgow, Cécilia brings energy, warmth, and world-class musicianship to Putnam County.

Cécilia features three musicians whose chemistry resonates wherever they perform. Timi Turmel is master accordionist, pianist, and musical director; Erin Leahy is a powerhouse pianist, composer, and arranger; and Tom Fitzgerald is a highly respected and sought-after fiddle player.

Blending traditional, Celtic, and Québécois music with influences from contemporary, classical, jazz, and swing, Cécilia creates vibrant rhythms and melodies that feel both modern and rooted in heritage. The band's debut album "Accent" showcases its distinctive sound and musical depth.

TCCC's signature home-baked goods and beverages will be available at the show.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at Eventbrite.com or at the door.

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization located in the historic church at 729

Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley. For more information, visit [TompkinsCorners.org](http://TompkinsCorners.org) or Facebook, or email [info@tompskinscorners.org](mailto:info@tompskinscorners.org).



# Business Spotlight

## Dain's Lumber Builds Northwards

Well before a train line ever ran along the east bank of the Hudson, Dain's Lumber was there.

Founded by Nathaniel Dain in 1848, the family-owned business, N. Dain's & Sons, has endured and grown over the past 178 years. Today, top-grade lumber and building materials line the Peekskill shoreline for a quarter-mile, attracting contractors and homeowners from all over Westchester and Putnam counties – and beyond.

To better serve this large customer base, Dain's has recently expanded into Philipstown, constructing a large warehouse on Route 9 to hold their extensive inventory.

"We may have a retail operation there at some point in the future," said company president James Dain. "For now, it's much-needed storage. We do many daily deliveries throughout Putnam County and into Dutchess, so that Philipstown location is a huge help to us."

James is the sixth generation of family members to run the company. He joined the firm right out of college and took over from his father, Jeff Dain, in 2022. "I worked here in the summers during high school and somehow I just knew this is what I would do," he said.

James has been particularly fortunate in Vice President Megan Lyons Dain, who is also his wife. Both grew up in Philipstown; Megan began working at the lumberyard while the couple was dating and has taken on many responsibilities at the store, including social media.

"My big project was taking on this hardware section, which has over 200 types of objects – from nails and screws to door hardware to attic louvers," she said. "It definitely needed weeding and updating. I'm an organized person so it was a great match."

The COVID epidemic in 2020 put Dain's on a rapid growth trajectory. "The calls came in so fast and furious that the phone lines froze," said Megan. "People wanted home offices and more outdoor living



The Dain's Lumber crew.

spaces. We needed to add staff and carry more inventory."

"Our staff are so important to our success," added James. "People come to us for knowledgeable advice and personal service. Our firm's culture is to go out of our way to help our customers. Integrity and honesty are our core values"

The couple's next project is expanding the outdoor display area for deck, railing, and porch offerings. "This is our unique niche," said James. "For 26 years, we've been hosting an annual decking show and sale at the end of April; vendors come from all over the metropolitan area to display their products."

This year, Dain's will feature an expanded display with two porches that buyers can stand on

to evaluate choices of doors, windows, flooring, railings, and trim. A virtual deck guide can be viewed at [dainsdeckshow.com](http://dainsdeckshow.com).

James and Megan are well aware of the cyclical nature of the building industry.

"My dad says you get seven good years and seven bad years," said James. "What I want to do is keep the business sound for the next generation. We're not going to be selling it. We've got to make it work so that future Dains can carry it on."

Dain's Lumber is located at 2 North Water St., Peekskill, and can be reached at 914-737-2000. Hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and closed on Sundays.

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## William Shakespeare's RICHARD III

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## Brush Fire in Mahopac Falls

Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched at about 3:50 p.m. Feb 11 to a brush fire in the area of Austin Road. Due to the location and need for additional water supply, mutual aid was requested. Mahopac and Somers fire departments responded to assist, including tanker support. Firefighters worked quickly to contain the fire and prevent extension to nearby properties. Photo provided by MFVFD.



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

## Choose Your Own Estate Planning Adventure

Achievement-minded parents of the 21st century wish their children read more. A mere glimpse of their teenager engrossed in a paperback would probably leave a permanent grin on Mom and Dad. The fact that one smartphone has access to all of the world's media and can feed every imaginative impulse is a force that can overshadow the simple act of picking up a book.

Things used to be different. In those ancient, pre-internet, pre-scrolling days, we had to physically source our own reading entertainment. For me, the path to serious reading did not start at the top. Sports books, Mad magazines, Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, and "Choose Your Own Adventure" stories were the on-ramps to a lifelong interest in reading.

The "Choose Your Own Adventure" books were my favorite. Each allowed you to chart a different course within the story, with several different outcomes – all mostly bad, save for one. Turn to page 43 and you escape the Redcoats. Turn to page 45 and the British capture you in the woods and your story ends on a prison ship. The perceived easier road or more monetarily rewarding path tended to lead to disaster, while the more laborious or boring set-up brought better results.

Estate planning works the same way – every decision has a consequence.

An estate plan can go in several directions. The variables are: your priorities, your people, your assets, your ability to delegate to others, your ability to relinquish control, and your timelines. Choosing to create a stable platform allows you to work out your variables more efficiently.

Young couples and young families usually start out with a will or revocable trust with a pour over will that provides basic structure should an unexpected tragedy occur. An executor or trustee collects, manages, and distributes assets as directed in the documents. Guardianship and minor trust provisions protect minor children in these type of extreme circumstances.

Adding advance directives such as a power of attorney or health care proxy provides greater coverage should an emergency or illness limit capacity. Bills can be paid and medical care can be overseen. Wills and revocable trusts along with the advance directives can be either amended, updated, or replaced easily to reflect family changes.

Should you choose not to create these documents and a life-altering event happens, the consequences will be serious. Costly and drawn-out court proceedings will be necessary to bring order and the variables you would have set under your control will now be in the hands of a judge or a New York statute.

As a family matures, the choices for spouses veer between selecting an irrevocable trust or revocable trust. In these cases, you examine the important people in your life and decide if you trust them enough to put them in positions of authority over your assets. If you lack faith in your people and continue to maintain control, that choice will limit asset protection with regards to Medicaid and long-term care.

Then again, choosing the wrong person to be a trustee can adversely affect your assets too, especially if their financial literacy is below average.

Childhood books can be closed and put back on the shelf. "Choose Your Own Adventure" stories had the happy ending buried inside just waiting to be discovered. The effects of a wrong-footed estate plan or lack of a plan can linger for decades and may not be so easy to correct.

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

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# Putnam County Community Events

## Winter Coat Drive

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

## Kindergarten

### Registration

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

## Irish Soda Bread Sale

The Brewster VFW 672 Auxiliary is holding an Irish soda bread fundraiser, with orders accepted through March 10, to Chris at 914-588-0407, Karen at 845-721-0265, or Deb at 845-803-1563. \$20 per loaf. Orders may be picked up Sunday, March 15 between 1 and 3 p.m., at the VFW Hall, 262 Peaceable Hill Road.

## Find Shelter

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

## Senior Center Art Class

Seniors may paint and draw with peers at the Koehler Senior Center on Route 6 in Mahopac, or the Putnam Valley Friendship Center, 117 Town Park Road, on Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Whether you are a beginner or just want to brush up on your skills. Bring your own supplies or use provided materials.

## Tuesday, Feb. 17

### Bingo

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

### Tree & Shrub

### Seedling Sale

Cornell Cooperative Extension and Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation have teamed up to offer a selection of trees and shrubs Tuesday, Feb. 17. The seedling sale has a long-standing tradition of planting trees and shrubs that create habitat and protect water quality. Plants includes native trees, shrubs, and perennials that support birds and pollinators. Also a selection of native plant plugs to get a head start on creating backyard habitat. Shopping deadline is March 27. Plants will be sold online only, at [cceptutnamcounty.org/events](http://cceptutnamcounty.org/events).

## Lunar New Year Celebration

Kids age 4 to 8 are invited to celebrate the Lunar New Year at Brewster Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 4:45 p.m., and wel-

come the Year of the Fire Horse. Listen to an engaging story and take part in crafts and activities that highlight the rich tradition of this festive season. Registration required at [brewsterlibrary.org](http://brewsterlibrary.org).

## Cupid Academy

Kids age 7 to 12 are invited to Brewster Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 5:45 p.m., for its Cupid Academy. Build a bow and arrow and test your aim while creating a fun, colorful group painting with every shot. Registration is required at [brewsterlibrary.org](http://brewsterlibrary.org).

## Wednesday, Feb. 18

### Marshmallow

### Stem Challenge

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

## Thursday, Feb. 19

### Snowflake Craft

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

### Food Preservation

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County Ag & Food Systems Coordinator Ruby Koch-Fienberg will be teaching two food preservation lunch-and-learn classes via Zoom from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19 featuring a "Beginners Guide to Canning and Food Preservation," and Thursday, March 19 featuring "Planning Your Garden for the Jar." \$5 per class. Register at [cceptutnamcounty.org/events](http://cceptutnamcounty.org/events).

## 'The Dream & Hope of the Slave'

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

## Friday, Feb. 20

### 'Nightcrawler'

Adults are invited to Mahopac Public Library to watch "Nightcrawler" on Friday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. Register at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

### Owl Prowl

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County on Feb. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m., at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster, for a visit from an owl, at the Restore and Regenerate Forest. Chris Evers and an owl ambassador from Animal Embassy teach about these animals. Activities are outdoors and will include a woods walk where participants look and listen for local owls with volunteers. There is tiered pricing at \$20, \$30, and \$40. Registration is required at

[cceptutnamcounty.org/events](http://cceptutnamcounty.org/events).

## To Minneapolis

### With Love

Plus One, a newly launched organization in New York's 17th Congressional District, is organizing a district-wide letter writing campaign inviting residents to send handwritten notes of gratitude to people in Minneapolis and across Minnesota for their defense of democracy. Buy or make a card with a handwritten note to drop off by Feb. 20 at one of 13 collection locations – including Bob's Diner in Brewster and Split Rocks Books in Cold Spring. Plus One will address, stamp, and mail all collected letters.

## Saturday, Feb. 21

### Local Genealogy

Join Reed Memorial Library in Carmel on Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. to noon for a session with Alicia Briley who will guide participants through the world of local genealogy. Perfect for curious beginners, seasoned researchers, and anyone who loves a good local story. Registration required at [carmellibrary.org/calendar](http://carmellibrary.org/calendar).

### 'Coffee & Conversation'

State Sen. Pete Harckham will host a "Coffee and Conversation" from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 at Mahopac Public Library, to discuss legislative priorities for the newly commenced 2026 session and important issues affecting the community. Attendees are welcome to bring their questions, ideas and concerns. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. RSVP to [Harckham@nysenate.gov](mailto:Harckham@nysenate.gov).

### Defensive Driving Class

Kent Public Library will host a defensive driving class Saturday, Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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. \$40. Register at [kentpl.librarycalendar.com](http://kentpl.librarycalendar.com).

### Yoga for Adults

Join Jennifer Nikischer for a 45-minute session of yoga Saturday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. at Kent Public Library. This class is for all abilities. Registration is required at [kentpl.librarycalendar.com](http://kentpl.librarycalendar.com).

### Black History

### Celebration

Arts on the Lake will hold its fifth black history celebration and food drive Saturday, Feb. 21 from 2 to 5 p.m., at 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes.

## Sunday, Feb. 22

### Bake Hamantash

Chabad of Putnam County invites the public to join in a "community artisanal hamantash bake" Sunday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m., at the Carmel VFW, 32 Gleneida Ave. Roll, fill, pinch, and bake alongside the community and discover the deeper meaning behind these iconic Purim cookies. The cost is \$25 per family and spots are limited. RSVP at [www.PutnamChabad.org/Bake](http://www.PutnamChabad.org/Bake) or call 845-225-4770.

## Monday, Feb. 23

### 'Weird Crafts'

Kids in grades six through 12 and make a hangable conversation heart Monday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. at Mahopac Public Library. Wish those little candy hearts had the perfect phrase

for you? Make it! Register online at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call 845-628-2009, ext. 153.

### 'At-Home' Library

With your Mahopac Library card, you have access to many resources at home. Learn how to access them Monday, Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Register at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

## Tuesday, Feb. 24

### The World's

### Largest Museum

Follow the fascinating growth and development of the world's largest museum and research complex during its first 60 years Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m., at Mahopac Public Library. Told in rich detail, Smithsonian's Gamble reveals how, as it defined a role rooted in curiosity and exploration, the Smithsonian helped to shape the nation's developing identity. Register at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

## Wednesday, Feb. 25

### 'A New Space Race'

Join Dr. Michael Zeilinhofer at Kent Public Library on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m., for an engaging space talk. It's been over 50 years since astronauts last walked on the moon, but NASA's Artemis Program is getting ready to take us back. Bring the family for a fun look at how Artemis began, what the first missions have already achieved, and what's coming next with the crewed Artemis II launching this year. Ages 7 and older. Register at [kentpl.librarycalendar.com](http://kentpl.librarycalendar.com).

### Visit with

### Benjamin Franklin

Join Jack Sherry as he performs as Benjamin Franklin on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m., at Mahopac Public Library. With wit, warmth, and a sense of humor, Sherry brings Franklin to life through riveting stories and sharp insights from the remarkable career of one of our nation's founding fathers. Age 18 and older. Register at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

## Thursday, Feb. 26

### 'The Incredible

### Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'

Patterson Library will screen "The Incredible Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. An elderly, ordinary man living with regrets takes an extraordinary journey, walking 450 miles to visit an old friend in hospice to make things right. Adults 18 and older. Register at 845-878-6121 or [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org).

### 'Slavery in the Hudson Valley'

Putnam History Museum will present a virtual lecture, "Slavery & Anti-Slavery in the Hudson Valley," on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. The Mid-Hudson Valley was home to a large population of enslaved people who played a major role in local history, from the first arrivals of enslaved people with colonists through the Revolutionary War and beyond. Register at [putnamhistory-museum.org](http://putnamhistory-museum.org).

## Saturday, Feb 28

### Saving Energy

Sean Seary of the Mid-Hudson Clean Energy Hub will show prac-

tical ways to make homes more energy-efficient, lower utility bills, and take advantage of local energy-saving programs Saturday, Feb. 28 at noon, at Patterson Library. Each participant will receive a free energy-saving kit. Adults 18 and older. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org).

### 'Drums Along the Mohawk'

View "Drums Along the Mohawk" with Kent Historical Society on Saturday, Feb. 28 at noon at Kent Public Library. After the film, discuss the 1939 historical drama. Register at [kentpl.librarycalendar.com](http://kentpl.librarycalendar.com).

### Path to Homeownership

Are you dreaming of buying your first home? Considering selling your home for top dollar? Interested in investing in local real estate? Curious about today's real estate market? Planning for retirement with real estate in mind? Join Christine Hamilton and a panel of experts to get answers to your questions Saturday, Feb. 28 at 10 a.m., at Mahopac Public Library. Age 18 and older. Register at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

### B-Ball Challenge

The Community Basketball Challenge returns Saturday, Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Carmel High School gymnasium, 30 Fair St. To sign up, visit [www.carmelrotary.org](http://www.carmelrotary.org).

## Tuesday, March 3

### Garden Club

The Lake Mahopac Garden Club will meet Tuesday, March 3 at 11:30 a.m., at Airport Park. Light refreshments will be available and members are encouraged to bring lunch. The program will be a discussion on design elements.

### Table Talk

CoveCare Center will hold Table Talk Tuesdays, including dinner and conversation about living a drug-free life, at the following locations: Sauro's Town Square Pizza in Patterson on March 3, Cacciatori Pizza in Mahopac on March 10, Gaetano Pizza & Café in Brewster on March 24, and Cold Spring Pizza on March 31. All events begin at 6 p.m. Reservations are required at [prevention@covecarecenter.org](mailto:prevention@covecarecenter.org). Adults must be present with their children/teens.

### Kent Town Board

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

## Send Us Your Community Events

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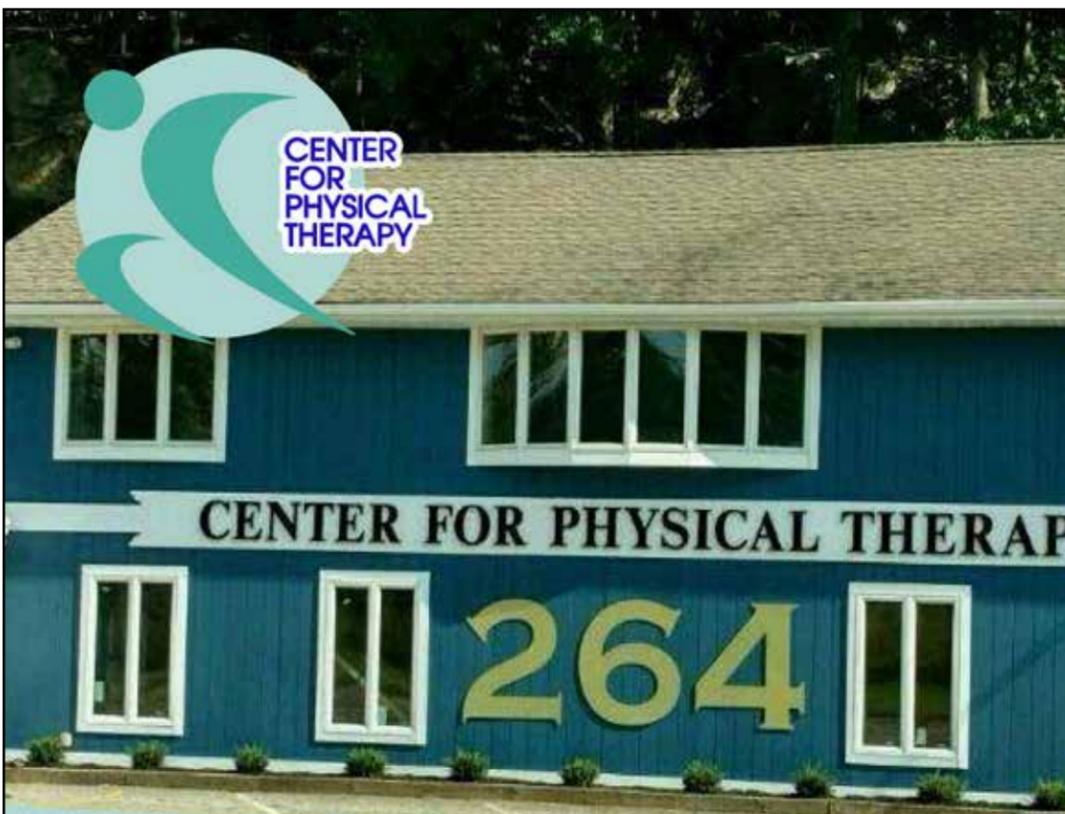
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# Celebrate the Year of the Horse



Patrons at Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison recently made Lunar New Year lanterns with Beacon Spring, to display in the Feb. 21 parade in Beacon to celebrate the Year of the Horse.



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## Haldane Students Join 'ICE Out' Movement



About 200 Haldane high school and middle school students participated in a walk-out Feb. 6 in Cold Spring to protest the actions of U.S. Immigrations & Customs Enforcement across the county. There were no barriers established for the students who chose to participate in the student-led initiative, but their leaving the school was considered an unexcused absence. Photos by Doris Kolarek.



## Earth Science Brought to Life in Mahopac



Mahopac High School earth and space science students with science teacher Robert D'Alessandro – a NYS Master Teacher – and the new interactive sandbox.



Mahopac High School earth and space science students are getting a new way to explore the natural world thanks to an interactive sandbox recently introduced by science and New York State Master Teacher Robert D'Alessandro.

The hands-on tool allows students to shape sand to create mountains, rivers, valleys, and volcanoes while projected images respond in real time. As students move the sand, landscapes change instantly – helping them visualize concepts such as erosion, weathering, water flow, and land

formation in an engaging and tangible way.

"We are very fortunate to have this exciting technology here at Mahopac High School," said D'Alessandro. "It fits perfectly with New York State's new earth and space science curriculum and allows students to learn about processes like erosion and groundwater flow by using their own hands."

Several students played a key role in bringing the sandbox to life. Juniors Justin Bayne, Bobby Egan, and Sullivan Hunter, along with sophomore Jack Egan spent multiple afternoons after school

helping assemble the table and learning how it works. They also demonstrated the technology, showing how small changes in the sand can create dramatic changes in the projected landscape.

The interactive nature of the sandbox encourages curiosity and collaboration, allowing students to experiment, ask questions, and immediately see the results of their ideas. By combining creativity with scientific exploration, the tool provides an exciting, memorable way for students to deepen their understanding of earth science concepts.

## View Student Artwork at Garrison Art Center

The creative artwork of students in kindergarten through 12th grade in the Hudson Valley region will be on display March 14 to 29 at Garrison Art Center as part of "Rooted: Art in the Natural World," a school invitation theme exhibition.

Additionally, the 2026 high school mentor program exhibition features the work of students from regional schools. An opening reception is scheduled Saturday, March 14 from 1 to 3 p.m., at 23 Garrison Landing.

Established in 1994, the school invitational is a cornerstone outreach initiative of GAC. This year's theme invites students from

19 local elementary, middle, and high schools to explore the connection between art and nature – and to reflect on their relationship with the natural world. Students are encouraged to incorporate natural elements into their work, create materials from found or organic sources (such as walnut ink or onion-skin dye), or design art meant to interact with outdoor environments.

The exhibition celebrates creativity grounded in curiosity, stewardship, and a shared connection to the world around us.

Since 1988, the high school mentor program has offered dedicated high school students a

unique opportunity to collaborate with professional artists, fostering growth in their chosen medium. By pairing students with mentors, the program helps them refine their skills, explore creative boundaries, and gain invaluable insights from professional experience.

This year, 13 students are working with mentors across disciplines such as pottery, printing, mixed media, digital photography, and painting. The program culminates in a group exhibition, celebrating the students' artistic achievements.

For more information, call 845-424-3960 or visit [www.garrisonartcenter.org](http://www.garrisonartcenter.org).





The state has made available \$121 million to update public transportation services.

## Funding Available to Support Public Transit Services

A total of \$121 million in state funding is available to help counties, local municipalities, and regional authorities upgrade, enhance, and modernize their public transportation services through the Transit Ready NY program.

Non-Metropolitan Transportation Authority transit providers are encouraged to apply for funding to support transformative capital projects that modernize transit facilities and infrastructure, enhance regional service coordination, improve access to services, and deploy new technology.

Applications will be accepted through May 21.

Award selection will prioritize projects that meet statewide strategic objectives of increasing oper-

ational efficiency, supporting the regionalization of rural transit, and expanding transit service levels. Projects that reduce fleet emissions will also be prioritized.

All projects must have a useful service life of 10 years or more.

Eligible project activities under the program include construction of public transit facilities like intercity bus stations, transit centers, and mobility hubs; implementation of transit priority infrastructure on roadways; deployment of new technology for enhanced passenger experience and/or improved transit operations; improvement of pedestrian roadways for access to transit; implementation of stops, shelters, and street amenities; and improvement, rehabilitation, and expansion

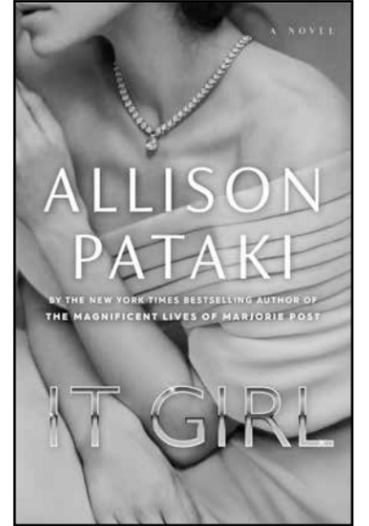
of bus garages and facilities.

Administered by the New York State Department of Transportation, Transit Ready NY funding is open to counties and local municipalities designated as Pro-Housing Communities, as per state requirements.

"I've always believed that supporting public transit is foundational to reducing barriers and expanding opportunities for New Yorkers, connecting them to the places they want and need to go," said NYS Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez. "New York continues to make smart investments in public transit that do just that, benefiting communities statewide."

For more information, visit [www.dot.ny.gov](http://www.dot.ny.gov).

## Allison Pataki to Debut New Novel at Desmond-Fish Library



Local author Allison Pataki will discuss her new book "It Girl" in Garrison.

Allison Pataki will launch her new book "It Girl" at her hometown library in Garrison on March 10 at 6 p.m. The Desmond-Fish Public Library will present Pataki in conversation with fellow novelist Lauren Willig.

"It Girl" tells a Gilded Age tale of an artist whose dramatic journey from poverty to the height of glamour and fame still echoes today.

Pataki – the New York Times bestselling author of "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post" – has created an early 20th century heroine whose artistry, ambition, and heartbreak are forces that speak powerfully to readers today.

From the most humble of beginnings, Evelyn Talbot becomes the first self-made American female celebrity – a "Gibson Girl," the most sought-after face of her time. Two powerful and power-hungry men are drawn to her: Stanley Pierce, world-famous architect, and Hal Thorne, a shockingly wealthy railroad heir and high society playboy. Each man promises comfort, glamour, security, and even love.

But fame and fortune are cruel teachers, and their rivalry brings about "the crime of the century."

Through Pataki's writing, the readers see Evelyn find the power to change not only the world around her, but her own destiny.

Pataki will be in conversation with Willig, author of the "Pink Carnation" series and the new World War I novel "Band of Sisters."

Signed copies of "It Girl" will be available for purchase at the event through Split Rock Books and can be preordered at [splitrock-books.com](http://splitrock-books.com).

Pataki is the multiple New York Times bestselling author of 11 books of historical fiction, memoir, and children's titles, including the critically acclaimed "Finding Margaret Fuller." Her novels have been translated into more than 24 languages around the world and have been selected by the TODAY Show, Good Morning America, PBS Books, Entertainment Weekly, CBS News, People Magazine, Town & Country, and other outlets as favorite and featured titles.

## Help Care for Historical Markers

Volunteers of all ages across the U.S. are invited to sign up for National Historic Marker Weekend 2026, a free community service celebration taking place Friday, April 24 through Sunday, April 26. The event brings people together to learn about and showcase their local history while caring for historical markers.

Established by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the weekend helps communities beautify public spaces and prevent marker deterioration so that hometown history can be enjoyed now and by future generations. This year's theme, "Your Hometown," encourages volunteers to clean and highlight the markers that recognize their community's unique heritage, encouraging pride of place and local tourism.

Registration is open at [www.wgpfoundation.org/national-historic-marker-day](http://www.wgpfoundation.org/national-historic-marker-day).

Participants can also download a free volunteer kit with everything needed to plan a local marker-cleaning project. The kit includes a planning document, marker cleaning guide, lesson plans, tips for publicizing your service project, and more.

Nationwide, more than 227,000 historical markers share pieces of the past, and even one cleaned marker can make a big difference right where you live. Spending an afternoon caring for a marker helps your hometown's history stand out again, welcoming neighbors and visitors alike to stop, read, and connect with the past. All are welcome to participate.

Registered volunteers are recognized each year on the Pomeroy Foundation's online acknowledgments page. Participants may also choose to join a social media photo challenge by sharing "before" and "after" photos from their projects, with select submissions featured on the foundation's website and social media.

First observed in 2021 as National Historic Marker Day and designated to the National Day Calendar in 2022, the event expanded in 2025 to a weekend-long celebration, allowing even more people and communities nationwide to participate.

Volunteers should comply with safety and parking regulations and seek permission when planning to clean a marker.

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

**2 JOIN PUTNAM COUNTY SPCA**  
Create your free SaferWatch account and join Putnam County SPCA.

**3 REPORT A TIP**  
Report a tip by uploading text, photos, videos, or audio—with the option to remain anonymous.



Scan the QR code and download SaferWatch

24 Hour Hotline: 845-520-6915

[sccaputnam.org](http://sccaputnam.org)



Lakeview Elementary School teacher Jennifer Borst with students.

## Mahopac Welcomes New 'Master Teachers'

Mahopac Central School District has two new Master Teachers.

Jennifer Borst, a Lakeview Elementary School educational technology and STEAM educator, and Robert D'Alessandro, a Mahopac High School science teacher, have been selected as New York State Master Teachers in the Mid-Hudson Region.

The designation recognizes outstanding educators who demonstrate a strong commitment to teaching excellence, collaboration, and ongoing professional growth.

The NYS Master Teacher Program offers educators opportunities to engage in high-level professional learning, collaborate with peers from across the region, and explore innovative instructional practices.

"On a personal level, it highlights my commitment to continuous growth as an educator and lifelong learner," said Borst. "Professionally, this program will allow me to collaborate with educators across the region and participate in professional development that aligns with my interests."

She added that her passion for learning continues to drive her work in the classroom.

"I'm inspired by seeing students' 'aha' moments and their excitement as they engage in lessons," said Borst. "That enthusiasm

motivates me to keep growing and to bring meaningful STEAM experiences to my students."

"It's truly an honor and very humbling," added D'Alessandro. "It feels good to know the work I enjoy doing every day is being recognized, and it motivates me to keep learning and improving as a teacher."

He said his inspiration comes directly from the students and colleagues he works with each day.

"My students inspire me every day through their curiosity, questions, and growth," said D'Alessandro. "I'm also inspired by my colleagues at Mahopac, who are an incredibly talented group of educators and make coming to work every day a pleasure."

Superintendent of Schools Frank Miele congratulated both educators on their achievement.

"Jenn and Rob exemplify the passion, dedication, and professionalism that define teaching in Mahopac," he said. "Their selection as NYS Master Teachers is well deserved and reflects our district's strong commitment to excellence. I am very proud of them and their achievement."

Borst and D'Alessandro join a distinguished group of Mahopac educators who have earned the Master Teacher designation.

## New Citizens Naturalized in Carmel



Fifteen new U.S. citizens from 12 countries were naturalized Feb. 4 during a ceremony at the Putnam County Historic Courthouse in Carmel. County Clerk Michael Bartolotti administered the Oath of Allegiance, and the Hon. Anne Minihan, administrative judge for the Ninth Judicial District, served as the officiating judge. New Americans hail from Brazil, India, Latvia, Nepal, Spain, and beyond. Pictures from the ceremony can be viewed at [www.putnamcountyny.com/county-clerk](http://www.putnamcountyny.com/county-clerk).



## PAC Issues Call to Member Artists

The Putnam Arts Council is inviting its member artists to participate in the 2026 annual Membership Exhibition, to be held March 14 to 29, in the A. Eric Arctander Gallery at the Belle Levine Art Center, 521 Kennicut Hill Road, Mahopac.

This exhibition is open to PAC member artists age 18 and older, who are invited to submit one original work of fine art that has not previously been exhibited at PAC. There is no submission fee, and artists may join or renew PAC membership at any time prior to submission, including at artwork drop-off.

Accepted works will be exhibited for sale, with PAC retaining a 35 percent commission on all sales. Two-dimensional work may not exceed 36 inches in any direction, including frame, and three-dimensional work must be manageable by one person. All work must be

ready to hang, with screw eyes and wire preferred.

Artwork must be hand-delivered to the Belle Levine Art Center on Saturday or Sunday, March 7 or 8, between 2 and 5 p.m. A submission form will be provided at drop-off or may be downloaded in advance from the PAC website.

The exhibition opens with a reception and meet-the-artists event Saturday, March 14 from 2 to 5 p.m., with a snow date of Sunday, March 22. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.; Sundays, March 15 and 22 from 2 to 5 p.m.; and by appointment.

The exhibition closes Sunday, March 29 with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m., and an artist talk from 3 to 4 p.m.

For a full prospectus and submission form, visit [putnamartscouncil.com](http://putnamartscouncil.com) or call 845-803-8622.



# KENT PUBLIC LIBRARY



FOLLOW US!



## LOST IN SPACE WITH DR. Z

## A NEW SPACE RACE: NASA' ARTEMIS MISSION TO THE MOON

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 6PM

Prepare for launch!

IT'S BEEN OVER 50 YEARS SINCE ASTRONAUTS LAST WALKED ON THE MOON—BUT NASA'S ARTEMIS PROGRAM IS GETTING READY TO TAKE US BACK!

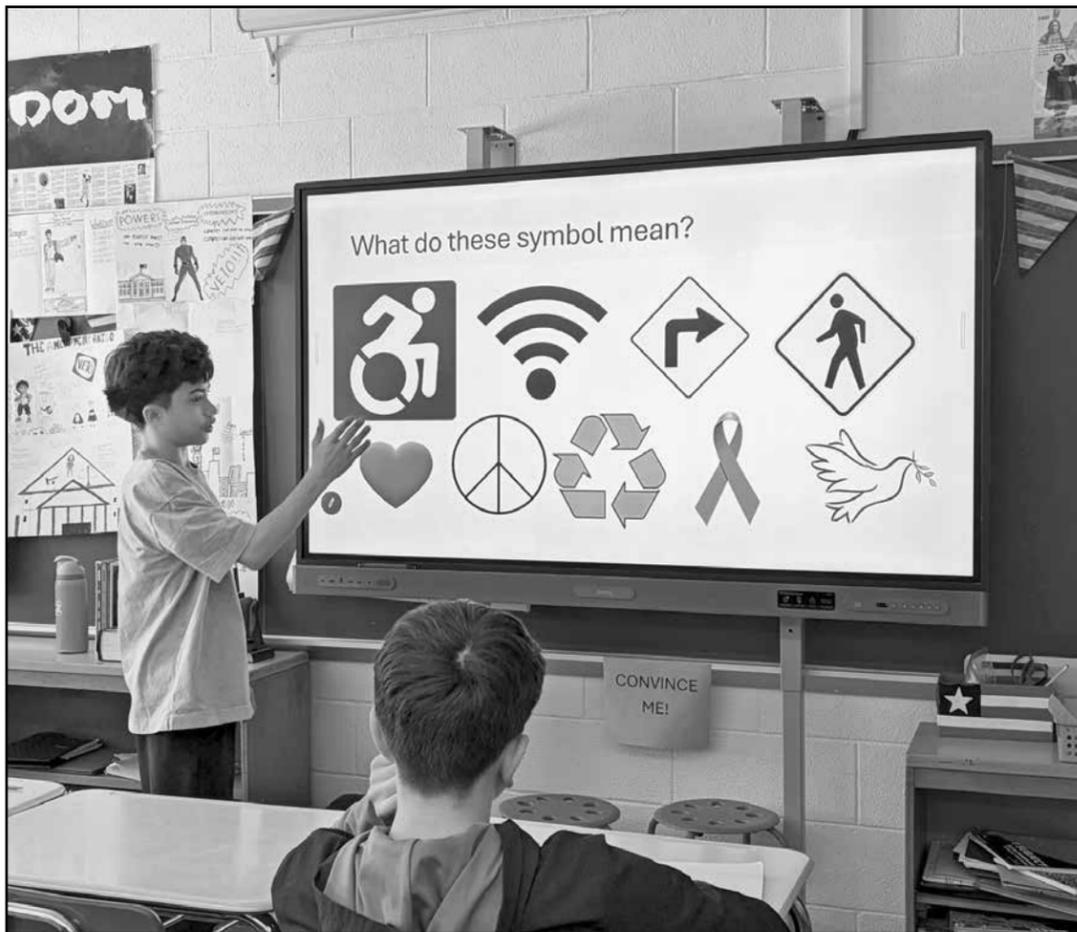
THE CREWED ARTEMIS II MISSION IS LAUNCHING THIS YEAR!

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR AN ENGAGING LOOK AT HOW ARTEMIS BEGAN, WHAT THE FIRST MISSIONS HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED, AND WHAT'S COMING NEXT!

This program is for Youth and Adult! All ages (7+) welcome! Registration required.

CALL 845-225-8585 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.KENTLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.KENTLIBRARY.ORG) TO LEARN MORE

KENT LIBRARY, 17 SYBIL'S CROSSING, KENT LAKES, NY 10512



A student in Lisa Steiner's class describes some common symbols.

## Carmel Students Learn the Importance of Symbolism

Eighth-graders at George Fischer Middle School in Carmel learned about the meaning behind symbols like the swastika, and what actions they can take if they see such imagery in their school.

The lesson in Lisa Steiner's social studies class started with a laughing emoji – a symbol that all the students knew the meaning of without anyone having to explain it to them.

"You get to know the meaning when people start using it," said Jenny. "When a lot of people use a symbol, then you understand it."

Then the class discussed a

half-dozen familiar symbols, from the wi-fi signal to the peace sign, to the breast cancer ribbon.

A short video showed how the swastika was an ancient symbol used in many cultures to represent a good life until Hitler appropriated it and it became known as a symbol of hatred and Aryan supremacy.

The video featured brutal historic footage of Nazi atrocities and the voices of some Holocaust survivors.

"It was a lot," said Mia after watching the video. "There was so much violence then."

Today, when someone uses

the swastika symbol, it represents hatred toward an entire group of people, Steiner told the class.

The lesson was timely, as swastikas have been found in schools throughout the region recently, including in Carmel. When students learned about the history and meaning of the symbol and how it represents hate, they agreed that anyone who sees a swastika drawn on a school desk or wall should report it to an adult.

"I'm surprised it still shows up places," said Alexandra. "I thought Nazi activity and all that hate had died down, but now it seems like it's rising again."



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Monday & Friday mornings from 9:00 am - 11:00 am to help unload and sort food donations (must be able to bend and lift a minimum of 25 lbs.)

Mondays from 2-4:30 pm to help pack and distribute food bags to clients, restock shelves and breakdown cardboard

More info, contact the Putnam CAP Food Pantry Operator

(914) 924-3540

knamba@westcop.org

## Report: School Bullying & Drug-Related Incidents Rise

A report by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli found bullying and drug-related incidents statewide are on the rise, even exceeding pre-pandemic highs, while the rates for the number of serious violent and disruptive incidents remain low.

The report examined seven years of data from the NYS Education Department's School Safety & Educational Climate report.

"Reliable public data about school safety is critical and informs where we need to address problems and identify solutions," said DiNapoli. "This report builds on my office's previous work examining violent and disruptive incidents in our schools. It's disturbing to see the rise in bullying and drug-related incidents. We need to do everything we can to make sure students and teachers feel safe and this data shows there is more to do inside and outside our schools to meet these goals."

In 2019, DiNapoli published a report analyzing the first year of data from the SSEC report, which was implemented in school year 2017-18 to combine Violent & Disruptive Incident Report data with Dignity for All Students Act data.

### Bullying & Cyberbullying

Bullying is the most frequently reported incident category. In 2023-24, excluding cyberbullying, bullying made up 61.8 percent of all incidents reported, and was documented at a rate of 12.4 incidents per 1,000 pupils.

When looking at bullying and cyberbullying in 2023-24, 34.9 percent of all public schools (including charter schools) reported zero bullying or cyberbullying incidents. Nearly one in five public secondary schools (17.8 percent) and nearly half of all public elementary schools (47.7 percent) reported zero bullying or cyberbullying incidents.

In the SSEC data, cyberbullying incident rates are very low. Many cyberbullying incidents may go unreported because they are difficult to detect and anonymous. In 2023-24, an overall rate of 1.8 incidents per 1,000 pupils was reported. Among schools that reported cyberbullying incidents, those located upstate had the highest rates of cyberbullying prior to the pandemic, while New York City had the lowest.

### Drugs & Alcohol

Drug and alcohol incident rates in secondary schools dropped during 2019-20 and 2020-21, likely due to the shift to remote learning during this period. When students returned to in-person learning in 2021-22, reported drug-related incidents rose above

pre-pandemic levels. Incidents for secondary school students rose from 4.2 in 2017-18 to 6.5 per 1,000 students in 2023-24.

Drug-related incidents have more variation by region, with higher rates upstate than in NYC or downstate districts. In 2023-24, incidents were more than twice as high upstate (9.8 per 1,000 students) as they were in NYC (4.2 per 1,000 students). In downstate districts, excluding NYC, the rate was 6.2 per 1,000 students.

From 2017-18 to SY 2023-24, alcohol incident rates in secondary schools hovered at or below one per 1,000 students in all regions.

### Serious Violent & Disruptive Incidents

Prior to the pandemic, some of the most serious violent and disruptive incident categories (assault, sexual offense, and weapons possession) experienced gradually declining rates from 2017-18 to 2019-20, although rates for NYC schools were notably higher than for schools outside the city. After the return to in-person learning in 2021-22, the incident rates remained much lower than in the years before the pandemic.

This coincides with definition changes SED implemented for 2021-22. The new definitions for these serious incidents stipulate that the offender must be 10 years of age or older, the incident must meet the criteria for a felony as determined by school officials, and the incident must have been referred to law enforcement.

Cases of assault declined from 4.9 incidents per 1,000 students in 2017-18 to 0.5 incidents in 2023-24. Similarly, sexual offense cases fell from 1.6 incidents to 0.1 per 1,000 students, and weapons possession cases dropped from 3.1 to 0.9 incidents per 1,000 students. Because the revised definitions include age as a criteria for reportability, DiNapoli's analysis of these categories includes only secondary schools (middle, junior, junior/senior high, and senior high schools).

Analysis of 2023-24 SSEC data shows that 41 percent of public elementary schools and 5.9 percent of public secondary schools reported no incidents of any type.

DiNapoli's report said stakeholders should keep in mind that a school reporting zero incidents through the SSEC report may still have records of individual disruptive and violent incidents that are stored locally. For example, incidents that resulted in disciplinary action would be retained, even if the incident did not meet the threshold for SSEC reporting.



Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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[WWW.SPCAPUTNAM.ORG](http://WWW.SPCAPUTNAM.ORG)

# PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Carmel LEGAL 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:

**FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

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

### STILLWATER BUSINESS PARK

105 Stillwater Road, Mahopac, NY 10541 – Tax Map #75.17-1-53 & 86.5-1-25, 26 – Bond Return

### VEOLIA NORTH AMERICA - LONDON BRIDGE WELLS

39 Brook Street, Mahopac, NY 10541 – Tax Map #64.7-1-10 – Bond Return

By Order of the Chairman,  
Craig Paeprer

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Carmel, Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York until 11:00 A.M. on the 20th day of March, 2026 at which time all bids will be opened, publicly read and recorded by the Town Clerk, no less than five (5) days subsequent to publication of this notice in the official newspapers of the Town of Carmel for the following:

**BITUMINOUS CONCRETE  
CATCH BASINS AND  
SUMPS WITH TOPS  
CRUSHED GRAVEL  
POLYETHYLENE  
DRAINAGE PIPE  
GRANULAR BASE (ITEM 4)  
TREE TRIMMING/  
FELLING**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

All bidders shall comply with Section 103-a and 103-d of the General Municipal Law relating to non-collusive bidding and waiver of immunity against criminal prosecution.

Specifications may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk at the above address, between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Bid envelopes shall be marked "BID" and identify each item bid. All bids must be submitted on bid form furnished by the Town of Carmel.

The Town Board of the Town of Carmel reserves the right to reject any and all bids and re-advertise for new bids at a future date.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD  
OF THE TOWN OF CARMEL,  
ALICE DALY, TOWN CLERK

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Brewster

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, March 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at Southeast Town Offices, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, New York to consider the following:

**MARVIN MOUNTAIN  
TOWER REPLACEMENT** – Application is being made for Site Plan and Conditional Use Permit for a proposal to replace its existing 160-foot guyed communications tower with a 180-foot self-supporting lattice tower on a 66.51-acre property located at 87 Hillside Park, Brewster, NY, in the R-160 Zoning District, and identified as Tax Map Number 67.-1-38.-2. The project also includes tree removal of 0.13 forested acres and gravel resurfacing and

## PUBLIC NOTICE

expansion by 0.01 acres.

**1460 ROUTE 22** – Application is being made for Site Plan and Conditional Use Permit for a proposal to construct an accessory outdoor storage area on a 3.6-acre property located at 1460 Route 22, Brewster, NY, in the SR-22 Zoning District, and identified as Tax Map Number 57.-1-14. The proposed 39,233-SF outdoor storage area would be paved with gravel and contain equipment and machinery enclosed by a fence and screened with existing vegetation and proposed landscaping.

proposes to construct an accessory outdoor storage area on a 3.6-acre property. The proposed 39,233-SF outdoor storage area would be paved with gravel and contain equipment and machinery enclosed by a fence and screened with existing vegetation and proposed landscaping.

Thomas LaPerch, Chairman  
Town of Southeast Planning Board  
Dated: February 11, 2026

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Kent

ZONING BOARD  
OF APPEALS  
25 Sybil's Crossing  
Kent Lakes, NY 10512

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Kent will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, February 23rd, 2026** at the Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY at 7:00 p.m. to review the following applications

1. Andrew Pile  
151 South Knapp Ct.  
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-25-022 - Requests: 8 ft. variance front yd. for roof covering over existing patio Lot Tax Map # 9.-1-38.

2. ARElex Consulting & Design for Vendee: Panco Elite Homes  
119 Dixon Rd  
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-25-023 -Requests 40,000 sf. Area variance to con-

## PUBLIC NOTICE

struct a home in an R-80 Zone, 150 ft. lot frontage & 150 ft. lot width. Tax Map # 20.8-1-26 @ 157 Kentview Dr.

3. Twin County Collison – Raymond See Jr.  
1013 Route 52  
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-25-25- Requests 15' Side property line Area variance for a proposed 30 x 30 for Accessory building. Tax Map # 22.-1-16

4. Michelle McCormick  
12 Summit Lane.  
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-25-026 - Requesting a 6 ft.. Rear area variance for 16 x 15 addition for TV room on a Pre-Existing Non-Conforming lot. Tax Map # 21.18-1-30

5. Homeland Towers and Verizon Wireless  
59 Hortontown Hill Rd.  
Carmel NY 10512

ZBA-25-024 - Requesting a 30 ft. Height variance and, 10 ft. side & 135 ft. Rear for a proposed cell tower Tax Map# 9.-1-5

The Zoning Board of Appeals will entertain any other business, which is properly presented to the Board.

SITE INSPECTIONS ARE THE 2nd. SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. Between 9am & 10:00am

CC: Town Clerk  
Town Board  
Zoning Board of Appeals Members  
Planning Board Clerk  
Wm. Walters, Building Inspector

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Patterson

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Town of Patterson Planning Board of a public hearing to be held on March 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, at the Patterson Town Hall, 1142 Route 311, Patterson, Putnam County, New York

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

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

5. Application of **CARL J PERNA** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to construct a detached garage with driveway. The property is located at 7 Muscott Road S, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #75.73-1-1.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
Lot Coverage: 25%	44.8%	19.8%

6. Application of **KEVIN ISSA** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to construct new addition (game room) and deck. The property is located at 66 Stone Pond Terrace, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #54.17-1-10.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
Side Yard: 25'	17'	8'

7. Application of **MR. GUO GROUP LLC** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking an Interpretation for permission to return to 6 residential units & 1 commercial space (was 8 residential & 1 commercial space). The property is located at 914 South Lake Blvd., Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #75.44-1-63.

### MISCELLANEOUS:

MINUTES: January 29, 2026

By order of the Chairman,  
John Maxwell

## PUBLIC NOTICE

to consider an application entitled "Herman's Performance Site Plan Application" in order to obtain site plan approval for the site's existing residential and commercial uses. The Applicant seeks to legalize the public garage use on the site, for the sales of vehicles, such as, ATVs, boats and snowmobiles. In addition to the 2,700sf commercial building and 18' by 27' metal shed on the site, a single-family residence with an accessory building (garage) exist on the site. Four storage containers are also part of the approval: three for commercial use and one for residential use. The property is located at 2249 Route 22 (C-1 Zoning District), Patterson, New York. All interested parties and citizens will be given an opportunity to be heard in respect to such application.

By Order of the Planning Board  
Ron Taylor, Chairman

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Putnam

LEGAL NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNTY OF PUTNAM  
NOTICE FOR BID  
NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Director of Purchasing of Putnam County for the following commodities and/or service: **RFB-08-26 – CONCRETE SIDEWALKS & CURBS (FEMA & ARPA COMPLIANT)** Detailed specifications may be secured at the office of the Director of Purchasing, Putnam County Office Building, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Room 105, Carmel, New York 10512 between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday or you may download from the Empire State Bid System's website [www.empirestatebidsystem.com](http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com). Sealed bids must be filed in the above office on or before **1:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026**, dated: Carmel, New York, February 12, 2026, Sgd/John Tully, Director, Putnam County Purchasing Dept

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNTY OF PUTNAM  
NOTICE FOR BID  
NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Director of Purchasing of Putnam County for the following commodities and/or service: **RFB-09-26 – FUEL TANK MAINTENANCE, REPAIR & COMPLIANCE** Detailed specifications may be secured at the office of the Director of Purchasing, Putnam County Office Building, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Room 105, Carmel, New York 10512 between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday or you may download from the Empire State Bid System's website [www.empirestatebidsystem.com](http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com). Sealed bids must be filed in the above office on or before **1:00 P.M.**

JOHN MAXWELL  
Chairman

SILVIO BALZANO  
Vice-Chairman

**TOWN OF CARMEL  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

MICHAEL CARNAZZA  
Director of Code Enforcement

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**

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

**FEBRUARY 26, 2026 – 7:30 P.M.**

To hear the following applications:

**NEW APPLICATIONS:**

- Application of **CHRISTINE HICKEY** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to construct new deck in front yard. The property is located at 220 Shear Hill Road, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #65.11-2-30.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
25' Front	17'	8'

- Application of **CHRISTOPHER PRIMAVERA** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to retain existing shed. The property is located at 19 Overlook Lane, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #64.18-1-49.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
10' Side	2'	8'

- Application of **GILBERTO MENDOZA** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to retain gazebo. The property is located at 8 Cornish Road, Carmel NY and is known as Tax Map #54.8-1-33.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
15' Side (Gazebo)	4'	11'

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

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

5. Application of **CARL J PERNA** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to construct a detached garage with driveway. The property is located at 7 Muscott Road S, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #75.73-1-1.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
Lot Coverage: 25%	44.8%	19.8%

6. Application of **KEVIN ISSA** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to construct new addition (game room) and deck. The property is located at 66 Stone Pond Terrace, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #54.17-1-10.

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**MISCELLANEOUS:**

MINUTES: January 29, 2026

By order of the Chairman,  
John Maxwell

# PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026, dated: Carmel, New York, February 12, 2026, Sgd/John Tully, Director, Putnam County Purchasing Dept**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### COUNTY OF PUTNAM NOTICE FOR BID

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Director of Purchasing of Putnam County for the following commodities and/or service: RFB-10-26 – WHIPPLE FEELEY PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL CHAPEL SHINGLE ROOF REPLACEMENT**  
Detailed specifications may be secured at the office of the Director of Purchasing, Putnam County Office Building, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Room 105, Carmel, New York 10512 between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday or you may download from the Empire State Bid System's website [www.empirestatebidsystem.com](http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com). Sealed bids must be filed in the above office on or before **1:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026**, dated: Carmel, New York, February 12, 2026, Sgd/John Tully, Director, Putnam County Purchasing Dept

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Supreme Court NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR FINANCE OF AMERICA STRUCTURED SECURITIES ACQUISITION TRUST 2019-HB1, Plaintiff, vs. MATEUSZ WIEROMIEJCZYK AKA MATT WIEROMIEJCZYK, AS EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN M. JONES AKA JOHN MILTON JONES, JR., ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on October 31, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse at, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 2, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., premises known as 74 Fairview Road, Brewster, NY 10509. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Southeast, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 56.8, Block 1 and Lot 53. Approximate amount of judgment is \$207,533.32 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 501408/2024.

Joseph J. Tock, Esq., Referee

Greenspoon Marder, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 2200, New York, NY 10105, Attorneys for Plaintiff

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF PUTNAM MID-ISLAND MORTGAGE CORP., Plaintiff - against - RENEE CELLIO, et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on December 18, 2025, I, the under-

## PUBLIC NOTICE

signed Referee will sell at public auction in courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse located at 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on the 2nd day of March, 2026 at 10:30 AM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam, State of New York.

Premises known as 49 Ivy Hill Road, Mahopac, NY 10541. (Section: 74.43, Block: 1, Lot: 6)

Approximate amount of lien \$223,422.37 plus interest and costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. 501880/2024. William Timothy O'Keefe, Esq., Referee.

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC

Attorney(s) for Plaintiff

420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840

New York, NY 10170

Tel. 347/286-7409

For sale information, please visit Auction.com at [www.Auction.com](http://www.Auction.com) or call (800) 280-2832

Dated: December 23, 2025

**During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale.**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT PUTNAM COUNTY

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

CHAD GEFFNER, et al Defendant(s)

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

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

20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 9, 2026 at 9:30 AM. Premises known as 21 Colonel Court, Holmes, NY 12531. Sec 2. Block 1 Lot 7. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Kent, County of Putnam and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$356,621.87 plus interest, fees, and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 501156/2023.

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

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

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK IN-DEX NO. 501097/2024 COUNTY OF PUTNAM

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

Plaintiff, vs.

JACKIE SHEEHAN AKA JACQUELINE SHEEHAN AKA JACQUELINE O'HANLON, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF VINCENT O'HANLON AKA VINCENT R O'HANLON; TARYN CORNELIUS, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF VINCENT O'HANLON AKA VINCENT R O'HANLON; DEAN O'HANLON, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF VINCENT O'HANLON AKA VINCENT R O'HANLON; TROY O'HANLON, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF VINCENT O'HANLON AKA VINCENT R O'HANLON; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF VINCENT O'HANLON AKA VINCENT R O'HANLON, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; PROVIDENT BANK; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE,

"JOHN DOE #3" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last ten names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint,

Defendants.

Plaintiff designates PUTNAM as the place of trial situs of the real property

### SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Mortgaged Premises: 526 LAKE SHORE ROAD, PUTNAM VALLEY, NY 10579

Section: 41.10, Block: 2, Lot: 21

To the above named Defendants

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if desig-

## PUBLIC NOTICE

nated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

### NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$438,250.00 and interest, recorded on July 13, 2005, in Liber 4598 at Page 0234, of the Public Records of PUTNAM County, New York., covering premises known as 526 LAKE SHORE ROAD, PUTNAM VALLEY, NY 10579.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

PUTNAM County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

### 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 (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: January 28th, 2026

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC

Attorney for Plaintiff

Matthew Rothstein, Esq.

900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310

Westbury, NY 11590

516-280-7675

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE OF CIM TRUST 2023-R1, Plaintiff, vs. MICHAEL J. HOAG A/K/A MICHAEL HOAG, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on February 26, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse at, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 23, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., premises known as 2407 Route 301, 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 20., Block 1 and Lot 13. Approximate amount of judgment is \$404,523.48 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501723/2023.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Anthony C. Carlini, Jr., Esq., Referee

Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Firm File No.: 232472-1

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, GITSIT SOLUTIONS, LLC, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS SEPARATE TRUSTEE OF GITSIT MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST BBPLC1, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF GERMAINE CHANDELIER, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on December 22, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the at court room 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse at, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 30, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., premises known as 378 Lake Shore Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being at Roaring Brook Lake, in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 30.18, Block 1 and Lot 42. Approximate amount of judgment is \$1,087,927.26 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 500370/2025.

Joseph J. Tock, Esq., Referee

Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Firm File No.: 242959-2

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### LLC

Notice of Formation of **Glavin Carpentry LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 11/05/2025. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to

41 State Street, Suite 112, Albany, NY 12207

Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **TKP CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/08/2026. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: THE LLC, 22 ROSE DR., MAHOPAC, NY 10541. Purpose: any lawful activities.

P. 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4

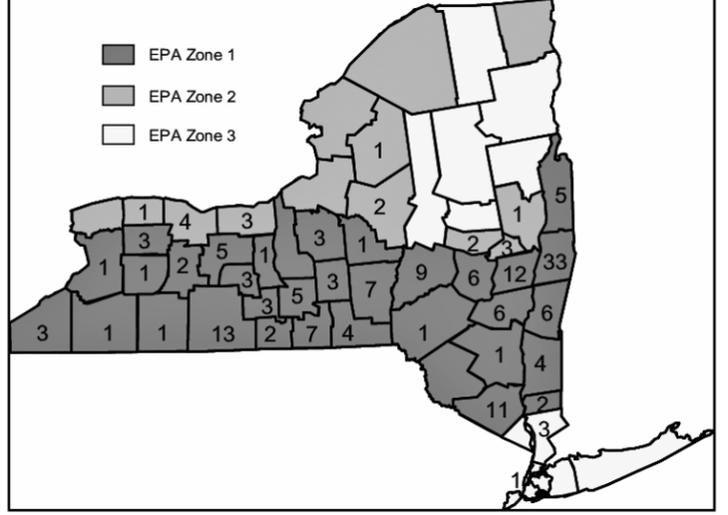
## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **Sterling Oaks, LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 01/05/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 33 Arborview Carmel NY, 10512. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

# A Cold Weather Warning on Radon & Lung Cancer



A simple home radon test could protect your family's health.



The Environmental Protection Agency has developed a radon zone map that helps identify areas at higher risk. Putnam falls into a red zone, with the highest potential for radon exposure – where indoor rates may be greater than 4 picocuries per liter.

With cold weather comes an environmental health hazard that many people are not very familiar with.

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that, according to the American Lung Association, is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking. For people who do not smoke, radon is the number-one cause of lung cancer.

In Putnam County as well as New York State, lung and bronchus cancers are the most common cause of cancer death, and second only to prostate and breast cancer

in terms of incidence.

Radon is nearly everywhere. It occurs naturally in the environment and is present to varying degrees in rocks, water, and soil from the radioactive decay of uranium or thorium in that soil. The risk of exposure to radon rises in winter because people spend more time indoors. Windows are shut and homes are sealed up to keep the cold out, which can cause radon to build up inside.

The Environmental Protection Agency has developed a radon zone map that helps local organizations and government

agencies like the Putnam County Department of Health to identify areas at higher risk. Putnam falls into a red zone, with the highest potential for radon exposure – where indoor rates may be greater than 4 picocuries per liter.

“Having this information is very helpful,” said Public Health Director Rian Rodriguez. “We can educate residents about the possible danger and most importantly how to reduce the risks for themselves and their families. Just because Putnam is in a high-risk zone does not automatically mean a home here will have high levels.

The only way to know is to perform an in-home test for radon.”

Home test kits are available for \$12.25 at [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radon](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radon). They are also available for purchase at most home repair and improvement stores for between \$10 and \$20, and online from the American Lung Association.

If results show a level above 4 pCi/L, the EPA recommends taking corrective action to lower the level. Things can be done to fix the issue, and costs vary depending on how involved the necessary work is.

Homes today can be constructed to be more radon resistant, but all homes – new and old – should have an initial test. If radon is identified as an issue in the home and a radon reduction system is in place, the NYS Department of Health recommends testing every two years to make sure the system is working properly.

Each home is different: one may have higher radon levels, while just next door the levels are within safe limits. Only a home test, usually left for a few days in a basement area, can determine if radon has entered inside.

## PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice of Formation of **Borderless Solutions, LLC**. Arti-

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
cles of Org filed with SSNY on 12/24/2025. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Almonte Law Firm P C, 2472 McDonald Ave, Brook-

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
lyn, NY 11223-5233. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.  
P. 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
lawful purpose or activity.  
P. 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
P. 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
**SERVICES PROVIDED**  
**CAREGIVER** – Let me lighten your load. I can help with childcare, an extra hand for the elderly, housekeeping, meals, running errands. Call Donna 203-417-1048. Trustworthy. Dependable. Experienced. 3/4  
**HANDYMAN SERVICES PLUS PLUMBING REPAIRS**

**& INSTALLATIONS** – call Bob at 845-264-9623 or 203-682-5438. Just make a list and we'll gladly take care of it. 3/4  
**WANTED**  
**WANTED** – Private collector buying firemen's helmets, fishing, hunting items, rods, reels, lures, all types old or new, paintings of fishing, hunting, wildlife art, bows and arrows, no compound bows. Call 845-878-3665 or 845-661-9059. 2/28

Notice of Formation of **Cabrera Property Holdings LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 1/16/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY Should mail process to: Julie Cabrera, 90 Cherry Hill RD, Carmel, NY 10512. Purpose: any

Notice of Formation of **HOMETOWN HANDYWOMEN LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/18/2025 Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 15 Parsonage Street Cold Spring, New York, NY, 10516, USA. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

Notice of Formation of **Hudson Valley Epoxy, LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 2/12/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Hudson Valley Epoxy, LLC. 54 Concord Dr, Mahopac NY 10541. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity. P. 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## SALESPERSON WANTED

The Putnam County Times/Press is seeking a full-time sales representative to sell advertising space in the newspaper

Work from home  
**Commission-Based**

To apply, email your resume to [editorial@putnampresstimes.com](mailto:editorial@putnampresstimes.com).

## Putnam Chosen for Well Mitigation Rebate Program

Continued from Page 1

bursed up to \$5,000.

“If they can prove there isn’t room enough for a sizeable system and they just want to put it on the kitchen faucet, it’s \$1,000,” Stevens said of the cap.

If there’s an option for a private well to connect to a community water system, it’s a \$10,000 cap.

The homeowner is responsible for any ongoing testing and maintenance.

Stevens said the state is doing most of the “heavy lifting” with regard to the program. “Our part is basically on the back side, processing, doing the rebate paperwork, sending it up to the state, and then the fiscal side... doing that reimbursement,” he said.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, D-Philipstown, chairwoman of the Health Committee, said she’s excited for the opportunity for homeowners with private wells.

“This doesn’t create any local taxpayer burden, and I thank you for going after it and I am really pleased that we’ve been awarded this,” she said. “It allows us to accept state funding for private well owners facing PFAS contamination. Many residents rely on private wells – if not most. This is an important public health and environmental protection measure.”

The program has not yet opened up for application, but is

expected to within the first half of the year.

“We have a lot of lake communities, and many, many times the well and the septic are within 100 feet of each other,” said Legislator Toni Adonizzio, R-Kent, who is a real estate agent. “Those home are grandfathered in because there’s no room for them to move, so this would protect them.”

According to Stevens, once someone applies for testing, the state will allocate money – and will allocate as much as it can up to the full amount of the program.

“So once someone tests above the contaminate level, they’ll offer them treatment,” he said. “Then, they have six months to put on treatment. If they don’t, that money that was allocated will go back to the pool.”

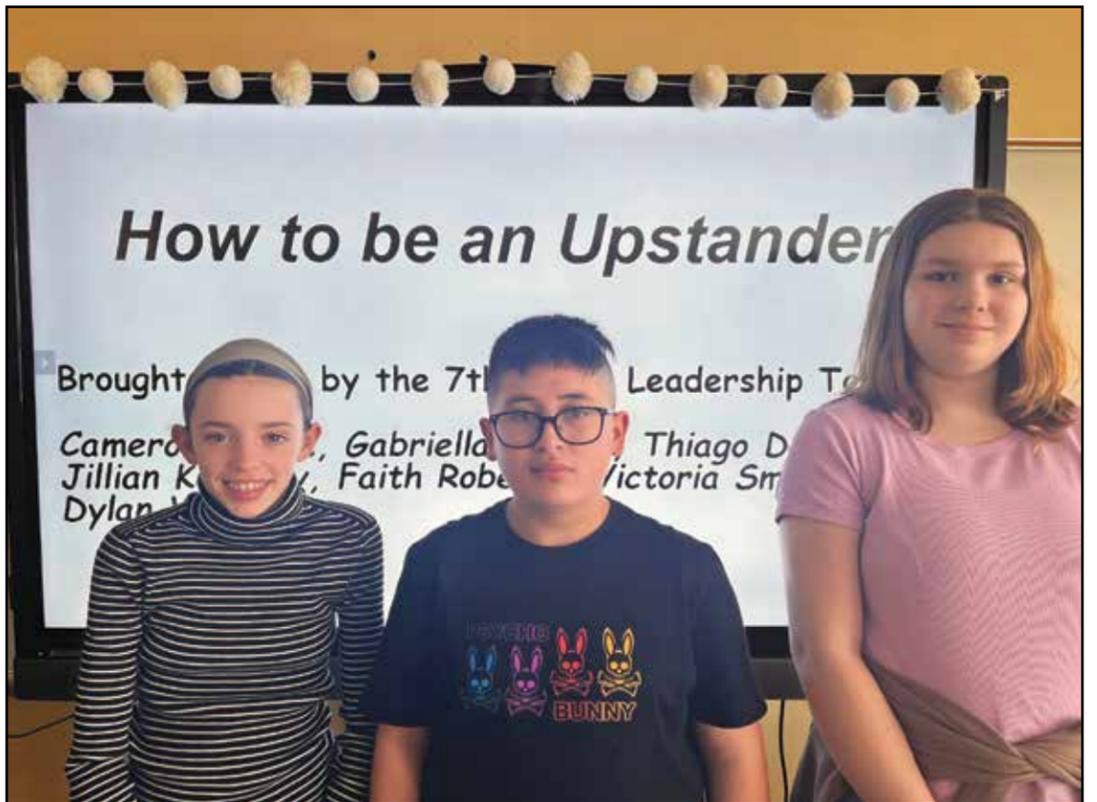
Any Putnam County resident who has a private well is eligible to apply, as are public water supply transients like those living in an apartment above a small business.

“Right now, we regulate all the community water supplies and the non-transients like the big office plazas... So this touches the supplies that aren’t regulated,” said Stevens.

He said that if someone performs the testing but cannot afford to pay for treatment above and beyond the reimbursement, or pay for it upfront, there is no requirement for treatment to be added. In addition, results are not made public.

Legislator Laura Russo, R-Patterson, expressed support and excitement for the program.

“Thank you for getting out there and getting the program going,” she said.



Seventh-graders at Wells recently provided support to their peers on how to respect the rights of all individuals.

## Brewster Students are ‘Upstanders’

For the past nine years, Henry H. Wells’ seventh-graders have attended the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center’s Leadership Institute for middle school students.

This year, after a keynote presentation by a living historian, the students collaborated with 100 others from 37 middle schools from the Hudson Valley in breakout sessions on how to respect the rights of all individuals and how to be an upstander.

“The conference promotes students to be upstanders themselves and to take action against

bullying behavior they may see, particularly in school,” said seventh grade social studies teacher and advisor to the group Marissa Gargano.

But the conference was not the end of the experience. Students who participated in the conference – Dylan Whiteman, Cameron Cluzet, Gabriella Cozart, Faith Roberts, Victoria Smith, Jillian Kennedy, and Thiago Davilla – worked together and designed a lesson that they presented to all sixth grade social studies classes, with lessons titled “Respecting the Rights of All Individuals” and “Words Matter.”

The students fanned out across Wells to share what they learned.

In Mr. Bellicci’s classroom, Smith, Kennedy, and Davilla explained what it means to be an upstander. They made use of a PowerPoint presentation they created which included definitions and pictures.

Afterward, scenarios were posed to the sixth graders: What

would you do if you were shopping at the mall and were mistakenly given an extra \$20 change? What would you do if your best friend was the only one not invited to a party? What would you do to protect Elizabeth Eckford, one of the first high school students integrated into the school system in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957 from threatening protestors?

Sixth-graders were then asked to decide what they would do in each situation.

In Mr. Greggorio’s class down the hall, Whiteman, Cluzet, Cozart, and Roberts discussed the history of Eckford and what they would do to protect her if they were in school at the time.

“I would sit with her on the bench outside the school and talk to her,” said one student. “I would want her to feel good and safe.”

The presentations were an impactful way for the students to become interactive and have a better understanding about being an upstander in real life situations

specifically for their disease resistance – make an excellent place to begin.

Along with selling seedlings that support wildlife, there are also a variety of wildlife boxes available. These birdhouses are built to attract hawks, owls, wood ducks, wrens, bluebirds, and even bats.

For more information, and to shop the seedling sale, visit [cceputnamcounty.org](http://cceputnamcounty.org).

## Tree & Seedling Sale Returns

Continued from Page 1

bounty. For those dreaming of a small home orchard, Shiro plums and Georgia peaches – chosen

## Book Vending Machine Promotes a Love of Reading

Continued from Page 1

by Alyssa Satin Capuccilli, and “Roll Thunder Hear My Cry” by Mildred Taylor.

“I am going to pick ‘Biscuit’ because the author just came to JFK,” said Chloe Gold.

“I want the ‘Bad Guys’ book because it’s a chapter book,” added Jack Miller.

“I already read ‘Roll Thunder Hear My Cry’ but my copy was ruined, and I love the book,” said Ella Richardson.

The book vending machine was purchased with grant money from the Little John Foundation in honor of the late Victoria Lowry, intended to transform lives and empower students with literacy. By putting high-quality literature directly into the hands of children during a most celebrated moment – their birthday – JFK is working to build personal home libraries, promote reading for pleasure, and create lasting, positive memories associated with books.

# ALLISON PATAKI

## New Book Launch:

# IT GIRL

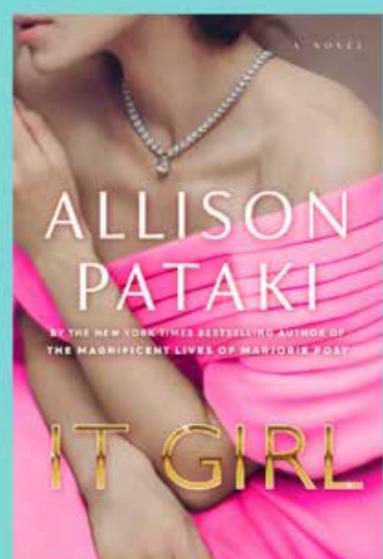
## Tuesday, March 10

### 6 p.m.

In conversation with author **Lauren Willig**

at the **Desmond-Fish Public Library**





**Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org). Preorder at [Split Rock Books](http://SplitRockBooks.com)**