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PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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This photo from February 2021 shows cots set up at the shelter that was run by Brewster Cares.

County to Run 24/7 Shelter During 'Code Blue' Months

By Holly Crocco

Putnam County is moving forward with a joint initiative with CoveCare Center to provide 24-hour shelter services for those who find themselves without a roof over their heads during the coldest time of the year.

On Nov. 18, Putnam lawmakers approved the use of $64,000 coming from the state's Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance to cover eligible expenses for emergency measures that serve individuals experiencing homelessness during the winter season.

According to New York State regulations, a Code Blue alert must be called when temperatures are expected to fall below 32 degrees Fahrenheit with wind chill for at least two consecutive hours.

Department of Mental Health, Social Services & Youth Bureau Commissioner Sara Servadio told lawmakers at the Nov. 18 Health Committee meeting that the county issued a request for proposals in June, looking for providers to offer round-the-clock shelter services this winter.

"The previous agency that held the contract was unable to remain open for six hours a day, and during those six hours we were seeing individuals penetrating businesses and the street during that time, so we put out the RFP to include a 24/7 shelter," she said.

That agency was Brewster Cares, which had administered a warming shelter for the homeless during the past five winters, most recently at 72 Main St. It was run as a volunteer operation with members of St. Lawrence O'Toole and Trinity Lutheran churches.

In a statement issued in September, the organization explained that Putnam County DSS identified the need for a higher level of shelter coverage and services than Brewster Cares was equipped to provide.

"After careful consideration, our board determined that we could not responsibly commit to

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Happy Thanksgiving

Town Parties Jump On Board Vacancies

Put. Valley, Carmel Have Open Seats in Jan.

By Holly Crocco

Both the Putnam Valley and Carmel town boards will find themselves with vacancies come January, with one member from each board being elected to a higher office in the Nov. 3 elections.

Each town has three options. It can pay to hold a special election to fill the seat for one year before another election will take place next November, leave the seat open, or appoint someone to fill the seat until November.

Putnam Valley Councilman Christian Russo, a Republican, won a seat on the County Legislature.

On Nov. 15, the Putnam Valley Republican Committee sent a letter to Democratic Supervisor Alison Jolicoeur and the two Democrats and two Republicans (including Russo) on the town board, urging them to appoint a qualified Republican candidate to fill the seat.

"When the residents of Putnam Valley went to the polls, they intentionally elected a divided board," wrote the committee. "They chose Councilman Russo specifically to serve as a fiscal watchdog and to provide a vital conservative counterweight in town government. Using the appointment process under New York State Town Law to install a member of the opposing party – or leaving the seat empty – would effectively overturn the will of the electorate and establish unchecked, one-party rule in Putnam Valley."

The committee cautioned against consolidating all political influence under a single political banner, claiming such action eliminates checks and balances, reduces fiscal accountability, and erodes public trust.

"Overturning the partisan balance chosen by the voters breeds cynicism and leaves a massive portion of Putnam Valley's electorate without representation in Town Hall until the next election cycle," continued the committee. "As of February 2026, there are 2,913 registered Republicans and 165 Conservatives, to 2,886 registered Democrats. It is important we are all properly represented."

Jolicoeur, however, said the request is premature.

In response to the GOP letter, she said that Russo has not yet formally submitted his resignation to the town, nor has there been any official public announcement regarding a vacancy or the process

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Nurses Demand Safe Staffing at Putnam Hospital

By Holly Crocco

Fair wages and safe staffing standards.

That's what nurses at Northwell Health/Putnam Hospital have been fighting for over the past year. On Nov. 12, those nurses were joined by local lawmakers, union representatives, and advocates in a demonstration outside the Carmel hospital to make their voices heard.

"In the nearly two decades that I've worked at Putnam, nurses have been asked time and time again to take on more roles and more patients with fewer resources," said Nicole Cadella, president of the New York State Nurses Association and the local bargaining unit at Northwell Health/Putnam Hospital. "It's not sustainable."

According to the NYSNA, Northwell Health has neglected to address understaffing in nurse contracts at Putnam Hospital, instead proposing new staffing standards that would make it harder for nurses to deliver safe, quality patient care.

Cadella, who has been a nurse at Putnam Hospital for 19 years, said the nurse-patient ratio was one to six when she started, and is now proposed to be one nurse assigned to eight patients.

"That's not safe for nurses or the patients we're caring for," she said. "Nurses, not hospital administrators, are frontline caregivers and experts in bedside care. We know what we need to make sure every patient receives the safe, quality care they deserve."

That means prioritizing patients over profits.

"Northwell is one of the wealthiest health care systems in New York," said Cadella. "They continue to buy community hospitals to expand their footprint, but they need to invest in those hospitals as well, and maintain the level of care patients are used to and deserve."

Continued on Page 20



Nurses and advocates picket outside Northwell Health/Putnam Hospital in Carmel on Nov. 12, seeking a fair contract that addresses safe staffing. Photo by NYSNA.

Guest Column
Douglas Vandergraph

Survey is Incomplete if the Quiet Neighbor Can't Answer

In Putnam County, two recent pieces of news raise a question that is easy to miss.

The county approved a 2027 budget that includes additional funding for organizations addressing food insecurity, including Second Chance Foods in Brewster. Meanwhile, Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County invited residents to help shape its work for 2027 and beyond.

One story concerns public resources; the other concerns public voices. Neither can fully succeed without the other.

A budget can provide help, but it cannot tell us whether someone knows where that help is available. A survey can gather answers, but it may miss the person who cannot get online, whose workday overlaps every meeting, or who is exhausted from caring for a family member. In each case, a good intention must travel the last few feet to reach an actual neighbor.

The paper's reporting described volunteers preparing meals at Second Chance Foods for distribution through food pantries and other local channels. The Cornell survey asks residents about priorities that include youth learning, agriculture, family budgets, environmental stewardship, and food security.

These are not separate worlds. The family that needs a practical nutrition class may also need transportation. The farmer willing to share a harvest may need a reliable connection to a pantry. The older neighbor with useful knowledge may need someone willing to listen at home instead of at a public meeting.

That last sentence is not a claim that I have interviewed those families. It is a reminder that broad community questions require more than one method for hearing answers. A survey link may work well for some residents and poorly for others. A county that wants honest answers should notice who is least likely to respond and ask how to make the invitation reachable.

My Christian faith gives me a clear example of why asking matters. In Mark 10, a blind man named Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus. People try to silence him. Jesus stops and asks what he wants Jesus to do for him.

That may seem like an unnecessary question. Surely Jesus could see that the man was blind. But Jesus does not treat Bartimaeus as a problem to be managed without his participation. He lets the man speak for himself.

There is a lesson here for public life that does not require every reader to share my faith.

We can see a problem and still misunderstand the help someone wants. We may assume a family wants groceries when it needs a workable pickup schedule. We may assume a student needs advice when the real barrier is a quiet place to study. We may assume an older neighbor wants someone to decide for them when the person wants clear choices and time to consider them.

The answer is not to replace professional expertise with anecdotes. County officials, teachers, service providers, and food-distribution organizations need trustworthy data and careful planning. Their work deserves respect. The answer is to make sure the people affected are also treated as sources of knowledge about their own lives.

There are practical ways to do that. Community surveys can be offered through libraries, senior centers, and partner organizations – not only on screens. Volunteers can explain a question without steering the reply. Public meetings can offer written ways to respond for someone who cannot speak at a microphone.

When programs change, people should be told what happened because of their input, including what could not be done and why. Otherwise, participation can feel like sending words into an empty room.

The same spirit can guide food assistance. When an organization receives funding, neighbors can ask how hours, transportation, language access, and privacy affect whether people use the service. People seeking help should not be made into public examples of hardship. They should be able to ask questions and preserve their dignity. A person is not simply a unit counted in a funding report – that person has preferences, responsibilities, fears, and a voice.

This work is harder than celebrating one grant or praising one survey. It requires patience, and sometimes it reveals needs that cannot be met in one budget year. But there is an honest kind of hope in telling people the truth about limits while continuing to invite them into the next decision.

Being heard does not mean always getting the answer we hoped for. It means the question was not decided before we had a chance to speak.

Putnam County's latest discussions about food access and community priorities offer an opportunity to build that habit. We should thank the workers preparing meals, the residents contributing knowledge, and the public servants weighing limited resources. Then we should ask whose voice is still missing. Not to assign blame, but to make the next effort stronger.

Bartimaeus had to call out while others told him to be quiet. Jesus stopped. In a busy county, that pause may be one of the most useful gifts we can give – enough respect to ask the question, enough humility to hear the answer, and enough care to let the answer change what we do next.

Douglas Vandergraph can be reached at https://douglas-vandergraph.com.

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& Putnam County Press

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PUTNAM VALLEY
Putnam Valley Library
Putnam Valley Town Hall





Bob Cady (left) plays Geppetto, and Adam Browne is the puppeteer of his creation of "Pinocchio." Photo provided by Stacy Dumont.

'A Cricket's Tale' Comes to Life in Carmel

The Brewster Theater Company will present the world premiere production of the new musical "A Cricket's Tale" next month at the Theater at Drew Methodist Church, 28 Gleneida Ave., Carmel.

Putnam County playwright Alyssa Reit composed the music and wrote the book and lyrics of this adaptation of the story of "Pinocchio." The lively, original music, life-sized puppets, and striking set are designed to be enjoyed by audiences of all ages.

"The Reits submitted 'Cricket' to BTC in 2024, and I knew I had to be involved in some special way," said Stage Director Stacy Dumont of Patterson. "This wonderful musical has been in production for over a year, with artists preparing many styles of puppetry since last December. We've all invested a lot of time and love into this original piece."

"A Cricket's Tale" will be performed Dec. 4, 11, and 12 at 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 5, 6, and 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $30 and available at www.brewstertheater.org, and at the door.

"A Cricket's Tale" features a large cast and professional orchestra, conducted by Musical Director Peter Reit of Carmel. The show is produced by Bob Dumont of Patterson and stage managed by George Opfer of Yorktown. Marygrace Orfanella of Carmel is the assistant stage manager.

Under the vocal direction of Ellen Lang of Brewster, the show stars Adam Browne of Patterson as Pinocchio, Bob Cady of Mahopac as Geppetto, and Philip Anderson of North Salem as Cricket. Additional members of the cast and crew hail from Brewster, Carmel, Kent, Mahopac, Patterson, Granite Springs, Somers, Yorktown Heights, and Connecticut.

Former Garrison Principal Facing Child Porn Charges

A former principal at Garrison Union Free School District is facing felony charges involving the possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material, according to information released by New York State Police and Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace last week.

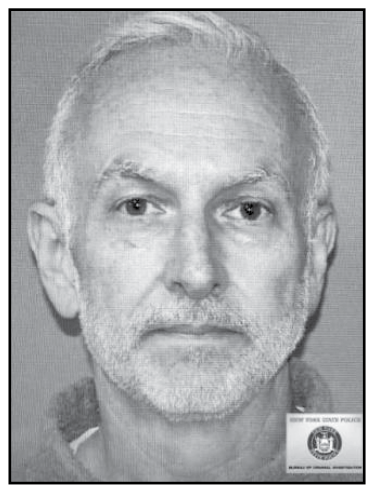
John Griffiths, 62, of Yorktown Heights, served as GUFS' principal from 2015 to 2018.

It is alleged that on Nov. 13 he possessed a digital file of an approximately 6-to-8-year-old female engaged in sexual conduct, and distributed a digital file of an approximately 11-to-13-year-old male engaged in sexual conduct.

NYSP began the investigation following a referral from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. During the execution of a search warrant, troopers seized multiple electronic devices from the defendant's home.

Griffiths was charged with promoting a sexual performance by a child less than 17 and possessing a sexual performance by a child less than 16, both felonies. He was arraigned in Yorktown Town Court, remanded to Westchester County Jail without bail, and scheduled to return to court Nov. 24.

"John Henry Griffiths has spent the last 30 years working in education and volunteering with local youth organizations, affording him access to children," said Cacace. "We encourage anyone who may have been victimized or who may have information about other potential victims to contact my office."



John Griffiths

Anyone with additional information, or who believes they may have been a victim, is encouraged to contact NYSP at 914-742-6057 and reference case number NY2601289358, or the D.A.'s office at 914-995-TIPS (8477).

"Sexual predators often rely on the fear and silence of their young victims to continue their abuse, and we recognize the tremendous courage it takes for survivors to come forward, especially when the person accused of harming them may have held a position of trust," said Cacace. "I want to assure anyone who may have been victimized that we will listen, we will support you, and we will pursue the justice you deserve."

In addition to his position at GUFS, Griffiths has held various leadership and instructional positions in school districts throughout Westchester, including Elmsford, Croton-on-Hudson, Somers, and Pelham, dating back to 1996, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Most recently, he held the position of interim assistant principal at Alice E. Grady Elementary and Carl L. Dixson Primary schools in Elmsford. He was terminated from that position Friday.

Griffiths has also been involved with youth organizations for several years, serving as a Boy Scouts of America scoutmaster with Troop 164 in Yorktown Heights since 2013. He has also served as minister of music at St. Mary's Church in Mount Vernon since 2008.

The case is being prosecuted by Cyber Crimes Bureau Chief Michael Delohery of the D.A.'s Investigations Division, with assistance from prosecutors within the northern Westchester branch.

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28 Gleneida Avenue Carmel, NY

Volunteers Sought to Help Tax Filers

Put Valley Library Hopes to Open Prep Site

The AARP Foundation has kicked off volunteer recruitment for its Tax-Aide program, the nation's largest volunteer-based tax preparation service.

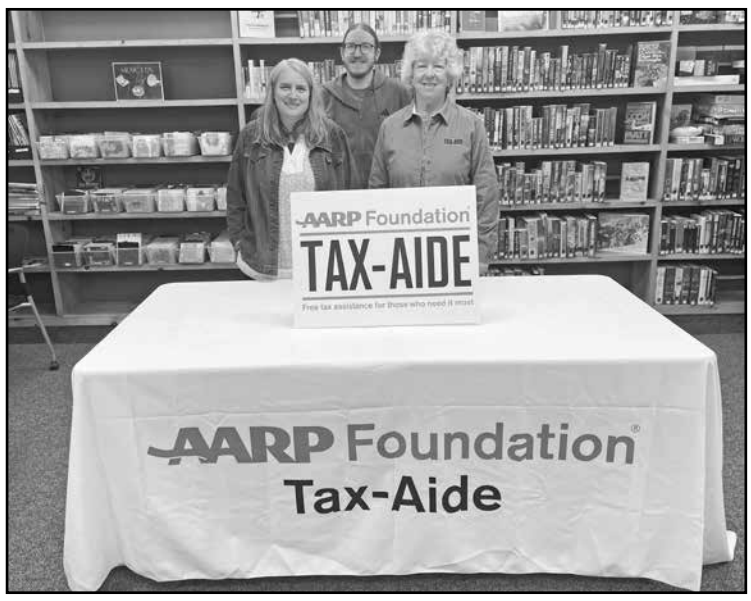
Volunteers may sign up to assist taxpayers, with several roles available. Volunteers come from a variety of industries and range from retirees to university students. All levels and types of experience are welcome.

Provided that volunteers step forward, Tax-Aide is planning on opening a tax preparation site at the Putnam Valley Library.

"There is a great need for free tax assistance in our area," said Cole Caulfield, programs and outreach coordinator at Putnam Valley Library. "We welcome the Tax-Aide program to our library and know the service will be a perfect addition to our offerings. We encourage the community to spread the news and help fill the required volunteer roles."

Training is available with in-person and virtual options, and concludes with IRS certification.

"If you are comfortable with numbers and enjoy learning, there is a role for you," said Pat Grove, site coordinator for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. "As a volunteer, you are never on your own – there is always a dedicated team to help you succeed."



The Putnam Valley Library is hoping to become a tax preparation site for AARP's Tax Aide program.

Tax-Aide offers free, in-person tax preparation and assistance nationwide to taxpayers with low to moderate incomes. Because of the complexity of the U.S. tax code, many taxpayers overpay their taxes or turn to paid tax services they cannot afford. Some may forgo filing their taxes and miss out on the credits and deductions they've earned because they are unable to pay for assistance.

Tax-Aide volunteers can help by providing necessary services in communities where there is the greatest need.

Tax-Aide provides service to more than 3,000 filers in Dutchess and Putnam counties. To learn about local volunteer opportunities, call 845-475-7500.

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Nutrition Corner



By Allison J. Stowell
MS, RD, CDN

Navigating Dietary Restrictions

Living with dietary restrictions, or caring for someone who does is challenging, especially during the holiday season. Holiday meals and social occasions are difficult to navigate when you aren't in control of the menu or location. There are some things to keep in mind when living with a dietary restriction or preparing food for someone who does.

Cross contamination: If you're hosting an event and want to prepare a dish for someone living with dietary restrictions, then please check with the individual first. They may be concerned with residue on your cooking supplies or in your kitchen if they are severely allergic or living with celiac disease. Generally, store bought options are safest and preferred.

Potluck meals: Potluck dinners can be a great option for ensuring there is something for everyone. However, it's very important that all dishes are clearly labeled and separate utensils are available for each dish. It's also best to separate dishes with allergens and to provide the ingredient list for each dish if needed.

Restaurants: If you live with dietary restrictions then you know that restaurants can be tricky. Try reviewing the menu ahead of time and consider calling to speak with the manager to understand how dietary concerns are managed. While more restaurants are offering allergy-friendly menus, there are still inconsistencies in knowledge about cross contamination. It's not enough to trust menu labels, particularly with gluten free.

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

Seared Pork Chops with Quinoa Tabbouleh Salad
(1 Guiding Stars)
Gluten Free, Dairy Free, Nut Free, Wheat Free
Hannaford.com

A Mediterranean-inspired dinner that pairs juicy, golden-seared pork chops with a bright, herb-packed quinoa tabbouleh. It's a fresh and satisfying weeknight meal that comes together in only 30 minutes.

Ingredients:
1 cup quinoa
3 medium tomatoes
1 large cucumber
1 ⅓ cups chopped parsley, plus more to garnish
2 cloves garlic, minced
4 Tbsp. olive oil, divided
1 lemon
1 ½ lbs. bone-in, center-cut pork chops (about ½–1-inch thick)
1 cup tzatziki

Directions:
1. Cook quinoa according to package directions. Fluff with fork and set aside to cool slightly.
2. Dice tomatoes and cucumber and add to a large bowl along with parsley, garlic and 2 tablespoons oil. Zest and juice lemon into bowl. Add cooked quinoa and season with salt and pepper. Toss to combine.
3. Pat pork chops dry. Season both sides with salt and pepper. In a large skillet, heat remaining 2 tablespoons oil over medium-high. Add pork chops and sear until browned, 3–5 minutes per side. Reduce to medium and continue cooking until a meat thermometer inserted into thickest part of chop without touching the bone reaches 145°F, 3–6 minutes, depending on thickness.
4. Spoon tabbouleh salad onto 4 plates and top with pork chops. Serve with tzatziki and garnish with more parsley.

Buffalo Chicken Caesar and Celery Wraps

(Family Features)
Buffalo Chicken Caesar and Celery Wraps



Ingredients:
2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
1/4 cup Buffalo sauce
2 cups Dandy romaine hearts, chopped
1 cup Dandy celery, chopped (about 4 ribs)
1/3 cup Caesar dressing
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
4 large flour tortillas (10 inches)

Directions:
In bowl, toss shredded chicken with Buffalo sauce. Set aside.

To make salad: In separate bowl, combine romaine, celery, Caesar dressing, Parmesan cheese and black pepper. Mix well.

To assemble wraps: Spoon about 1/4 cup Buffalo chicken along center of each tortilla, leaving small border at each end; top with Caesar salad. Fold up bottom of tortilla over filling then fold in sides and roll up tightly. Slice in half diagonally.

Servings: 4
Source: Duda Farm Fresh Foods



Volunteers at Putnam Community Action Partnership show off a donation haul. Provided photo.

Pantries Bridge the Gap for Families Facing Food Uncertainty

By Ruby Koch-Fienberg
CCE Agriculture & Food Systems Coordinator

During the holiday season, the struggle to put a meal on the table becomes even heavier for families feeling financial pressure. In 2023, more than 12,800 households in Putnam County – making up 37 percent of its population – fell below the "asset-limited, income-constrained, employed" threshold. That means more than one in three neighbors struggles daily to cover basic living costs.

As the holidays approach, festive gatherings and winter expenses make this strain much harder to bear. Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County is committed to strengthening the local food system and encourages anyone who can to support their local pantries.

Donating money, toiletries, and basic essentials makes an immediate impact. Before bringing food, always check the pantry's website or call to see what's most needed, as priorities may change.

Bountiful Meals freezers across the county are available to all. Visit cceputnamcounty.org/food-nutrition/bountiful-meals for a list of locations and hours.

Area food pantries include:

Putnam Community Action Partnership, Brewster: 845-278-8021

First Baptist Church Brewster: 845-279-2636

Putnam Valley Community Food Pantry: 845-458-1251

Casa Servir, Kent: 845-221-8785

Brewster Community Food Pantry: 845-279-4325

Gilead Food Pantry, Carmel: 845-225-4586

Patterson Community Church: 845-878-3961

New Life Christian Church, Brewster: 845-278-9407

First Presbyterian Church, Cold Spring: 845-265-3220

Red Mills Baptist Church, Mahopac: 845-628-4230

Brewster Cares: 845-279-2021

St. John the Evangelist, Mahopac: 845-628-2006

We Will Miss

Brewster

Alex P. Minder, 75, November 8. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, (845) 279-3615.

Edward C. Higgins, 93, November 9. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, (845) 279-3615.

Nancy Ann Porretto, 75, November 11. Balsamo-Cordovano Funeral Home, Carmel, 845-225-2144.

Paulette Azzararella, 80, November 13. Balsamo-Cordovano Funeral Home, Carmel, 845-225-2144.

Carmel

Peter A. Swetz Sr., 86, November 9. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, (845) 279-3615.

Lawrence M. Stano, 92, November 13. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, (845) 279-3615.

Joan M. Rosado, 84, November 9. Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672

Dominick Arbore, 87, November 15. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

Mahopac

Gloria Streppone, 98, November 6. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

Stephanie Brooks, 49, November 7. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

Joyce McDonough, 90, November 9. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

Business Spotlight



Michelle Leo opened Suni Sands Curated Home in September in the heart of Pawling. Photo by Chloe Wareham-Gordon.

Suni Sands Brings Unique Home Décor to Pawling

By Holly Crocco

Pawling native Michelle Leo has dreamed of owning a shop in her hometown since her first career day in high school.

"It was Pawling or nothing for me," she said during a recent interview from her new shop, Suni Sands Curated Home, in the heart of the village. "My roots are here and I have a really strong investment in this town."

In 2023, after spending a few years experiencing the hustle and bustle of lower Westchester, the 2001 Pawling High School graduate knew it was time to return to Pawling and bought a house in the village she grew up in. In fact, you may recognize her from an episode of "Small Town Potential" that aired on HGTV back in March 2024, which featured the renovation of her Pawling home.

The idea to open her own business took shape earlier this year when Leo found herself shifting from a more corporate work environment to that of entrepreneur and business owner. In March, she was able to give the business plan her full attention, and in June, when prime real estate in downtown Pawling opened up, she jumped on it.

"Everything kind of fell into place naturally," said Leo.

When longtime LAND Gallery owner Jane Haslam announced that she was vacating the space she had occupied for many years in the historic Dutcher House building on Charles Colman Boulevard, Leo met up with Haslam and the landlord, and Suni Sands Curated Home opened its doors only three months later.

Some fresh paint made the space brighter and more fitting for a shop that features specialized household items and other hard-to-find goods.

"We have a little bit of everything," said Leo. "My favorite thing is home décor and home accents."

Whether you're looking for a gift for someone else or to treat yourself, you can find kitchenware, books, vases, candlestick holders, handbags, personal items, and "all kinds of things you might want to decorate your home with." In addition, Suni Sands features brands you can't find anywhere else nearby.

"The most unique line we have is Brackish," said Leo. "They make incredible jewelry and bow ties from exotic feathers. So there's peacock and turkey feathers, rooster feathers. It's really something for if you're going to a wedding or gala or special event… These are things that celebrities wear on the red carpet, which is kind of fun. It's definitely a brand that I have not found anywhere locally in the Hudson Valley."

Then there are leather handbags and wallets from Hobo. "They are a mother-daughter brand from Annapolis, Maryland, which is where I lived for a while," said Leo.

Suni Sands also features products from New Jersey-based artist Bella Mews, who weaves recycled, vintage Indian saris into clutches.

"I just love that she has this commitment to sustainability and uses things that are repurposed and recycled and turns them into works of art," said Leo.

The business owner even commissioned Rob Santora from Yorktown Heights to recreate modern prints of Pawling landmarks, such as the downtown clock, the Akin Free Library on Quaker Hill, and various churches. "It's great because the locals immediately recognize these, and it's very nostalgic as well," said Leo.

There are also matchbooks and photographs, coasters and pillows, pottery and doormats, soaps and greeting cards.

"All of our cards in the store are blank, which is intentional," said Leo. "I believe in buying a card that speaks specifically to the occasion and person you're buying for, so you can make it your own."

Overall, Leo said she hopes to provide a place for customers to discover unique finds without traveling far from home.

"When I wanted something for me or I needed a cute gift or something different, I found myself leaving town," she said. "I wanted to make sure to create something that would bring enough interest and enough diversity in the product to get people to stay in town and shop locally."

One big draw to Suni Sands is the do-it-yourself succulent bar.

"I really wanted to have a space to sit and do something," said Leo. "To be able to come in with a friend, or solo – whatever you like, and make a succulent. Put your phones down, talk to each other like it's 1995."

According to Leo, these plants are easy to care for and don't need much water. And patrons receive instructions on how to layer the soil, burlap, and top accents before taking home their plants.

"It's so cool to see what people create," she said. "It's great for adults; it's great for kids."

Suni Sands Curated Home – named after Leo's favorite vacation spot since she was a kid, in Jupiter, Fla. – is located at 30 Charles Colman Boulevard, Pawling. It is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, visit www.sunisandscuratedhome.com or Instagram.

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Mahopac Middle School Welcomes New Leadership



Jessica Miller



Michael Rose

Mahopac Middle School recently welcomed two new assistant principals, Jessica Miller and Michael Rose, who join Principal Anthony Muia in leading the school. With backgrounds in classroom teaching, school leadership, and student support, both administrators are focused on building relationships, strengthening the school community, and helping students make the most of their middle school years.

Miller brings experience at the high school, middle school, and career and technical education levels. She spent 10 years teaching English as a new language at the high school level before serving as a middle school assistant principal for three years and a CTE principal for two years.

"I believe middle school is a time when relationships matter just as much as learning," she said. "Students should feel they belong, that their voices are heard, and that they have people in their corner who believe in them. I'm excited to be part of the Mahopac community and to work alongside our students, staff, and families to make these years meaningful for every student."

Rose joins Mahopac after serving as an assistant principal in the East Ramapo Central School District from 2023 to 2026. Before moving into school administration, he taught sixth- and seventh-grade social studies at Jonas Bronck Academy in the Bronx.

A sports enthusiast, Rose also has a background in musical theater and instrumental music.

"I'm excited to join Mahopac Middle School and look forward to getting to know our students, staff, and families," he said. "Middle school is an important time for students to discover their interests, build confidence, and explore new opportunities. I hope to encourage students to stay curious, get involved, and make the most of everything Mahopac has to offer."

Together with Muia, Miller and Rose are making student connections a visible part of their daily work. The administrators use mobile office carts to move throughout the building, allowing them to spend time in different areas of the school, connect with students, and remain accessible beyond their offices.

"Both Jessica and Michael have hit the ground running," said Muia. "They have made it a priority to get to know our students, be present throughout the building, and build relationships with the people who make Mahopac Middle School such a special community. I'm excited about the leadership team we're building and the positive impact we can have together."

Districts Address Screen Time & AI Use

By Holly Crocco

Screen time and the use of artificial intelligence are topics for discussion in Putnam County schools.

"We're continuing our very thoughtful conversations regarding technology," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gail Duffy at the Nov. 17 Haldane School Board workshop meeting. "This is going to be an ongoing discussion of all things technology."

The district is distributing surveys among parents and teachers, organizing student focus groups, and planning to send out a newsletter to parents and the community in December to share information that has been gathered.

"We are trying to work through: What does screen time look like? How should we approach AI? What type of policies might we need to put into place?" said Duffy. "So we're really spending the last month or so gathering feedback."

The superintendent said educators and the administration are being mindful of the district's "why," asking themselves: "What are the standards that we're teaching to? What are the tools we're using? And going through the years, working with our teachers and our educators that are being thoughtful," said Duffy.

The Garrison Union Free School Board had a similar discussion Nov. 18, when Superintendent Dr. Greg Stowell provided an update on the district's Screen Time & AI Advisory Work Group.

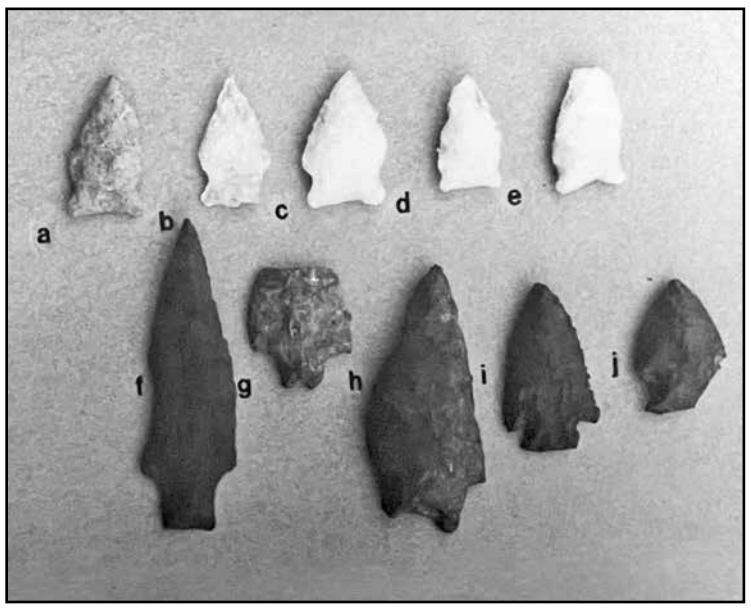
He said the work group will meet four times throughout the school year, as well as send out surveys to parents, staff, and students to gather community input.

A community forum is scheduled April 8 to present the data and insights.

"Our hope is to be able to produce guidelines for both screen time and AI use and present these recommendations at the June 2 board of education meeting," said Stowell.

History Column

Jack Alcott, Southeast Historian



Arrowheads found near encampments on Joe's Hill and Simiwaug Mountain suggest indigenous people first reached the New York area as early as 7,500 B.C.

Brewster's Tribal Past

The Lenape were in "Brewster" and the Hudson Valley thousands of years before Columbus or Viking Leif Erikson arrived in the Americas.

Hunter-gatherers, the Lenape (leh-nah-pay) spoke Munsee in common with other tribes from Delaware to "Manhatta" – today's Manhattan.

No one knows precisely when the first indigenous people reached the New York area, but guesstimates extend from 7,500 B.C. to roughly 1,000 B.C. (about 3,000 years ago), based on arrowheads and points near encampments on Joe's Hill and Simiwaug Mountain (behind Marvin Mountain), and other locations.

Glacier-formed Peach and Tonetta lakes and the east and west branches of the Croton River provided fish and plenty of game that came to drink at the water's edge.

A number of the old roads in the area likely started as Lenape trails, including a good part of the hiking trail (Nelson Boulevard) along the Diverting Reservoir in the Village of Brewster, starting on Railroad Avenue across from the Veterans Park gazebo that stands today.

When hiking that woodsy path, it's easy to imagine that more pastoral and forgotten history – except when a Metro-North commuter train rumbles along the tracks on the nearby hillside on its way to the Brewster station. But Native Americans walked and hunted along those Brewster trails for thousands of years before the first settlers staked their claim there in the early 1700s.

After that, many of the Lenape moved north or west, or were evidently absorbed into the growing population of European interlopers.

Under Andrew Jackson's "Trail of Tears" presidency during the 1820s and 1830s, many of the remaining Algonquin-Wappinger-Lenape tribes were forcibly removed to "Indian Territory" in the Oklahoma southwest – land given to them only to be largely claimed by settlers in the Land Rush of 1889.

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

PAC Sale

Putnam Arts Council's annual holiday exhibition and sale, "Small Works," opens Saturday, Dec. 5 with a public reception from 2 to 5 p.m., at the A. Eric Arctander Gallery, Belle Levine Art Center, 521 Kennicut Hill Road, Mahopac.

The show brings together original work by artists from across the region, celebrating the creativity and imagination that can flourish within a small space.

The gallery will also be open Sundays, Dec. 6 and 13 from 2 to 5 p.m.; and Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.; or by appointment.

The exhibition concludes Sunday, Dec. 20 with an artist talk from 3 to 4 p.m.



Carmel students debate legislative priorities in U.S. history class.

Students Learn the Power of Persuasion

Carmel High School students got a firsthand look at how laws are made by stepping into the roles of lawmakers, advocates, and voters during a recent project.

After learning about the legislative branch of government and the process of turning a bill into law, 11th-grade U.S. history students were divided into committees and assigned issues to research and debate. Topics included lowering the legal drinking age to 18, gun control, abortion, and the death penalty.

Each committee researched its assigned issue, examined the arguments, and presented three points to support its position. After the presentations, classmates joined the discussion and students cast their votes.

During one session in teacher Kerry Hackert's class, 11th-graders Silvia and Violet took to the podium to argue in favor of lowering the legal drinking age to 18. They pointed out that 18-year-olds can vote, serve in the military, and live independently from their parents.

"They are already entrusted with important responsibilities, so they should also be able to decide what to drink," said Silvia. "Plus, being able to drink in a public setting is safer because you can do it with adults around."

Violet offered an economic argument.

"It's also a way to boost the economy," she said, pointing to the high taxes collected on alcohol.

Students on the opposing committee raised concerns about the dangers of lowering the drinking age, including that it would give younger teenagers easier access to alcohol.

"They are in high school with 18-year-olds and could ask them to buy the alcohol," said Lucas. "But most 14-year-olds don't hang out with 21-year-olds, who are already in college."

Safety was another point of discussion.

"Most people get their driver's license at 16," said Lucas. "Lowering the drinking age to 18 could cause more car crashes if inexperienced drivers also drink."

After hearing both sides and taking part in the debate, the class cast its vote. The final tally was nine in favor of lowering the drinking age and 11 opposed.

But that was just the vote of one class. In other periods of the same class, according to Hackert, students voted in favor of lowering the drinking age.

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Putnam County Community Events

Toys for Tots

Reed Memorial Library of Carmel is working with the Marine Corps League to collect new, unwrapped children's toys for Toys for Tots. Through Dec. 15, donations may be placed in the collection boxes at the library, or the Reed Library Community Hub, 9 Church St., Carmel.

The Knights of Columbus Loretto Council No. 536 in Philipstown is collecting donations for the Anthony Phillips Toys for Tots Memorial Drive through Dec. 15 at B&L Deli, Butterfield Memorial Library, Cold Spring Pizza, Deb's Hair Salon (Nelsonville), Drug World, Foodtown, the Office of Downey Energy, Butterfield Condominiums, and the North Highlands Fire Department. On Dec. 17, the toys will be distributed to Philipstown residents between 10 and 11:30 a.m., at the Cold Spring firehouse.

Saturday, Nov. 28

Make & Sip

Putnam Arts Council in Mahopac will host a two-hour workshop in the pottery studio with light refreshments and beverages Saturday, Nov. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. Build a wine goblet. All materials provided: clay, wine, and snacks. You might get muddy, so wear an old shirt or apron. Goblets will be fired and available for pick-up three weeks after the class. The cost is $60 or $55 for PAC members. Register online.

Craft Fair

A holiday craft fair is scheduled Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Patterson Recreation Center, 65 Front St. Shop local while supporting area vendors and artists offering a variety of handcrafted gifts, jewelry, crafts, confections, and more. Free parking. Food available for purchase.

Quilling

Join Teri Richardson at Kent Public Library on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 11 a.m., to learn the art of quilling. Participants will use rolled and shaped paper strips to create designs while exploring the basics of this creative paper craft. For adults. Register at kentpl.librarycalendar.com.

Spirited Drumming

Live, free-form hand drumming sessions are scheduled Saturdays, Nov. 28 and Dec. 26 at 6 p.m., at Arts on the Lake, 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes. No experience necessary. Dancers, chanters, and all others moved by the spirit of percussion are invited to join in. Coordinated by Jeff Poritzky and Rick Taylor. $10.

Holidays in the Park

The Town of Carmel Recreation & Parks Department will host its Holidays in the Park event Saturday, Nov. 28 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at Mahopac Chamber Park. Free. Visit with Santa, enjoy refreshments, sing carols.

Monday, Nov. 30

Pajama & Book Drive

The Mahopac Flower Shop and its My Bag Collective will host a donation drive Monday, Nov. 30 from 4:30 to 8 p.m., at Four Brothers Restaurant in Mahopac, to collect monetary donations to purchase pajamas and books for kids in the community. Vendors and raffles. Four Brothers will donate 10 percent of each bill to this program.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Library Board Meeting

The Patterson Library Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m., at the library, 1167 Route 311, Patterson.

'Empire of Ink'

Putnam History Museum will present "Empire of Ink: The Printers, Rogues, and Radicals Who Invented the American Newspaper" on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m., at 63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring. A sweeping history of America's first media revolution: the rise of the newspaper, and the transformation of a fledgling republic into the world's first information superpower. Free for PHM members, $20 for nonmembers. Register at putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Kent Town Board

The Kent Town Board will meet at Kent Town Hall at 7 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) on: Dec. 1 and 15.

Festive Paintbrush Ornaments

Join Reed Memorial Library to transform everyday paintbrushes into adorable holiday ornaments full of personality, Dec. 1 from 1 to 2 p.m., at the Reed Library Community Hub, 9 Church St., Carmel. All materials provided. For teens and adults 14 and older. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Carmel Town Board

The Carmel Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. the following Wednesdays, at Carmel Town Hall: Dec. 2, 9 and 16.

Library Meetings

Reed Memorial Library's Board of Trustees will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Dec. 2, in Carmel. Register at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Make a Gingerbread House

Decorate a gingerbread house Wednesday, Dec. 2 at Putnam Valley Library. Several sessions between 3 and 6 p.m. Register at bit.ly/PVLGingerbread.

Holiday Baking Demo

Pastry Chef Thierry Danvin, owner of Brewster Pastry, will demonstrate how to create a Yule log Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m., at Patterson Library. Learn, taste, and get inspired to make dessert the star of your holiday table. Adults 18 and older. Register at 845-878-6121 or www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Thursday, Dec. 3

Hanging Christmas Ornaments

Join Madeline Hyatt for a fun, festive workshop at Patterson Library on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m., and create oversized hanging Christmas ornaments to decorate a North Pole photo display for the Petersen's holiday festival and community tree lighting Dec. 12. After the festival, take your ornament home. Adults 18 and older. Space is limited and registration is required at www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Councilwomen Office Hours

Patterson Town Councilwoman Stacy Dumont will hold office hours at the Putnam Lake VFW on the first Thursday of the month at 6:15 p.m., before the Putnam Lake Park District meeting. Councilwoman Gwen Dougherty will hold office hours the third Tuesday of each month at Patterson Town Hall from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Both Stacy and Gwen invite the public to request a meeting at a time convenient for residents. Email StacyDumont@PattersonNY.org or GwenDougherty@PattersonNY.org.

Painting Workshop

Join artist Sarah Miller Totten at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel for an acrylic painting workshop Dec. 3 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. All materials provided. Teens and adults 16 and older. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Friday, Dec. 4

'A Cricket's Tale'

The Brewster Theater Company will present the world premiere production of the new musical "A Cricket's Tale" at the Theater at Drew Methodist Church, 28 Gleneida Ave., Carmel, on Dec. 4, 11, and 12 at 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 5, 6, and 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $30 and available at www.brewstertheater.org, and at the door.

Winter Wonderland

Arts on the Lake's second annual Winter Wonderland is scheduled Friday, Dec. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m., at 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes. Includes a special nighttime viewing of the holiday train show, as well as crafting, games, and coloring for all ages. Hot cocoa, cider, and treats will be sold. $5, or free for children 3 and younger.

Tree Lighting

The Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Christmas tree lighting Dec. 4 at 7 p.m., with Santa arriving at 7:30 p.m., at 17 Luccaro Lane. Refreshments and more.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Breakfast with Santa

The Carmel Fire Department will host a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8 a.m. to noon, at 94 Gleneida Ave., Carmel. Order tickets online.

Parade of Lights

The Putnam Lake Fire Department will hold its annual holiday parade of lights Saturday, Dec. 5 (snow date Sunday, Dec. 6) at 7:30 p.m., from the ballfield in the hamlet to the VFW. After the parade enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and a donut with Santa, and a tree lighting. Bring non-perishable items for the New Life Christian Church Food Bank.

Holiday on the Lake

The Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association will host its Holiday on the Lake festivities Saturday, Dec. 5, featuring hayrides with Santa, trolley rides, a chowder fest, a tribute to veterans at a tree lighting at Cornerstone Park, live music along Gleneida Avenue, a parade of lights with 40 floats through town, and culminates with the lighting of 70 trees along the lakeshore. Free. www.carmelcivicassoc.org.

Open House

Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church St., Carmel, will host a holiday open house Saturday, Dec. 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. Stop by before the Holiday on the Lake parade for hot drinks, baked goods, and live Christmas music.

Gift & Craft Show

Brewster VFW Post 672 will host a craft and art show Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 262 Peaceable Hill Road. Artists, bakers, crafters, jewelry, candles, décor, beauty products, and more. Photos with Santa. Food truck.

PAC Sale

Putnam Arts Council's annual holiday exhibition and sale, "Small Works," opens Saturday, Dec. 5 with a public reception from 2 to 5 p.m., at the A. Eric Arctander Gallery, Belle Levine Art Center, 521 Kennicut Hill Road, Mahopac. The gallery will also be open Sundays, Dec. 6 and 13 from 2 to 5 p.m.; and Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.; or by appointment. The exhibition concludes Sunday, Dec. 20 with an artist talk from 3 to 4 p.m.

Stargazing

The Kent Conservation Advisory Committee invites the public to an unforgettable evening of celestial discovery at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park, 201 Gypsy Trail Road, Carmel, on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. Bring your own telescopes or binoculars to explore the cosmos up close. Rain date is Saturday, Dec. 12. For updates regarding postponement or cancelation, visit www.kentcac.info or follow the Kent CAC on Facebook.

Cookies with Santa

The Town of **Carmel Recreation & Parks Department** will host "cookies with Santa" for residents age 2 to 10 at Sycamore Park in Mahopac on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 2 to 2:45, 3 to 3:45, and 4 to 4:45 p.m. $20 per child.

Take pictures with Santa and sip hot cocoa with cookies Dec. 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. at **First Baptist Church**, 460 North Main St., Brewster. Crafts for children. Open to all communities.

Train Show

Arts on the Lake will present its holiday train show Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., from Dec. 5 through Jan. 10, at 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes.

Medicare Seminar

Join John Bousquet from the Medicare Resource Group for an informational Medicare presentation Saturday, Dec. 5 at 10:30 a.m., at Kent Public Library. This presentation will cover Medicare basics, avoiding common mistakes, and how to save money and get the most out of your benefits. Register at kentpl.librarycalendar.com.

Sunday, Dec. 6

Craft Fair

The Continental Village Fire Department will hold a holiday craft fair Sunday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 12 Spy Pond Road, Garrison. Santa, crafters, and more.

Menorah Lighting

The Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association will host a menorah lighting ceremony Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m., at the shore of Lake Gleneida, at Route 6 and Route 52 in the hamlet. Live music, latkes, donuts, and hot cider. Rabbi Avi Korer of Chabad of Putnam County will lead the ceremony, featuring Chanukah songs.

Festival of Trees

The Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition will present its Festival of Trees Sunday, Dec. 6 from 4 to 6 p.m., at Old Town Hall, 67 Main St., Brewster. Free. Caroling, hot cocoa, photos with Santa, and a glittering display of trees.

Free Concerts

The 2026-27 concert season at Bluestone Farm will feature the Copland House Ensemble at 3 p.m. on the following Sundays, at the former Melrose School campus in Brewster: Dec. 6, Feb. 7, April 4, and June 6. Free with a reservation.

Visit with Santa

Santa will stop by Putnam Valley Library on Sunday, Dec. 6 from noon to 2 p.m.

Kids' Day

Carmel High School will host its annual Kids' Day on Dec. 6 from noon to 3 p.m., in the gymnasium. Bring a nonperishable food item. Crafts and games, face painting, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Monday, Dec. 7

'Agritourism Law'

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County will present "Agritourism Law" on Monday, Dec. 7 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Weil Preserve, 3 Willow Lane, North Salem. A presentation with Jack Hornickel, staff attorney at the Food & Farm Business Law Clinic, covering liability, insurance, zoning and regulatory requirements. Sliding fee from $5 to $15. Register at https://cceputnamcounty.org/events.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Marine Corps League

The Marine Corps League Putnam County Detachment meets the second Wednesday each month at noon at George's Place on Gleneida Avenue in Carmel. For membership, email MCLPutnamCountyny242@gmail.com.

Thursday, Dec. 10

'Why Anthologies Matter'

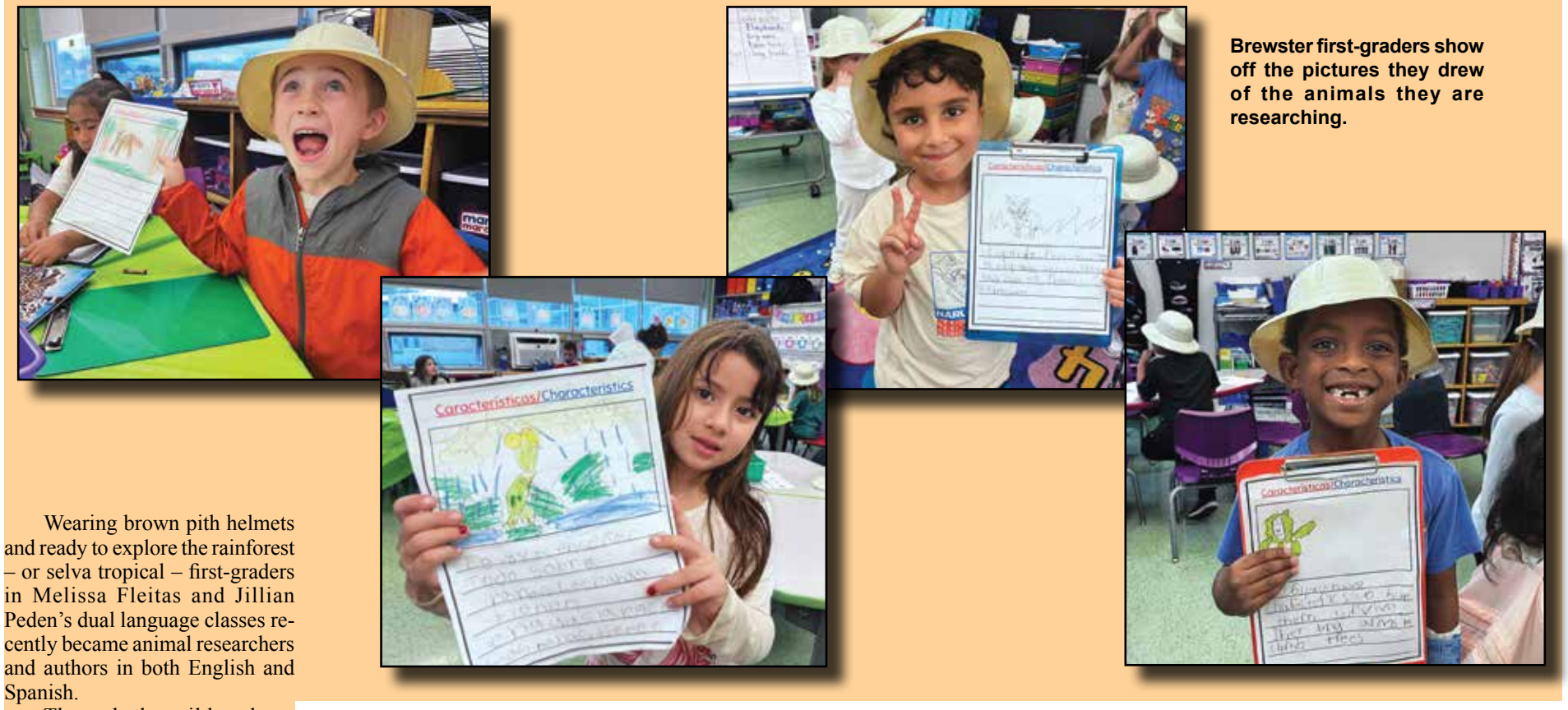
"Why Anthologies Matter: Hot Topics & Varied Voices, with Kathy Curto" will be presented Thursday, Dec. 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Butterfield Library, 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring. 845-265-3040 or butterfieldlibrary.org.

Send Us Your Community Events

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

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

Research & Language Explored in Brewster



Brewster first-graders show off the pictures they drew of the animals they are researching.

Wearing brown pith helmets and ready to explore the rainforest – or selva tropical – first-graders in Melissa Fleitas and Jillian Peden's dual language classes recently became animal researchers and authors in both English and Spanish.

Through the wild and endangered animals research unit, or animales salvajes in Spanish, students read nonfiction books, gather facts, and create their own multi-chapter informational books about one animal.

Working together, students brainstormed the physical characteristics that make each animal distinctive – gorillas' long arms and thick fur, leopards' spotted coats, elephants' trunks and tusks, and frogs' webbed feet and sticky tongues. Their research connects those features to the ways animals move, find food, and survive.

Research notes included: "Frogs have long legs for jumping," "frogs' webbed feet help them swim," and "gorillas' long arms help them climb trees."

Instruction alternated weekly between English and Spanish so students could build vocabulary in both languages, connecting words such as "characteristics" and "characteristicas" while developing their reading and writing skills.

And the project would not have been complete without pictures. Students drew their animals in a scene, such as a gorilla beside a tree, a frog mid-jump, and a leopard baring teeth.

Toys for Tots

The Knights of Columbus Loretto Council No. 536 in Philipstown is collecting donations for the Anthony Phillips Toys for Tots Memorial Drive.

New, unwrapped toys may be donated at the following locations through Dec. 15: B&L Deli, Butterfield Memorial Library, Cold Spring Pizza, Deb's Hair Salon (Nelsonville), Drug World, Foodtown, the Office of Downey Energy, Butterfield Condominiums, and the North Highlands Fire Department.

On Dec. 17, the toys will be distributed to Philipstown residents between 10 and 11:30 a.m., at the Cold Spring firehouse.

For more information, contact Bob Flaherty at 914-318-8076 or Dan Dillon at 845-519-7769.



Student Mural Makes CHS Cafeteria More Welcoming







Students spent the last two months painting a mural in the Carmel High School cafeteria. Provided photos.

A new mural is bringing school spirit to the Carmel High School cafeteria, thanks to the hard work of students, teachers, and staff.

The "Welcome to Carmel High School" mural project got underway in September, when students created drawings featuring familiar CHS icons, including the Ram mascot and the school's classic front entrance.

"Students throughout the school submitted drawings and we chose the ones that most represented Carmel High School," said Art Department Chairperson Chrissie Bevan Wisniewski.

Muralist Joe Pimentel created the outline and oversaw the project, working the students' images into the mural's lettering. Pimentel has helped create pieces in schools throughout the Hudson Valley.

Students, teachers, facilities staff, and administrators all grabbed paintbrushes and helped bring the artwork to life. The project was completed during the last week of October.

Art teacher Danielle Marino teaches a mini-elective class in mural painting that was introduced this year with the goal of adding more artwork to the school. "We are trying to beautify the school with awesome artwork," she said.

Maria, a junior in the murals class, said she has enjoyed being part of an initiative the entire school can enjoy. "It's such a fun project," she said. "I never expected to be working on something like this in school."

Now that the mural is complete, students and staff can enjoy a colorful reminder of what makes Carmel High School special.



Byrne Forms Reorganization Committee

Following his successful reelection to a second four-year term, Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne is forming a Reorganization Committee composed of local community members who will advise him on key personnel appointments, staffing decisions, and organizational priorities as his administration prepares for the next four years.

The committee will serve in an advisory capacity, providing independent perspectives and recommendations as Byrne evaluates the leadership and organizational structure of county government ahead of his second term, which begins Jan. 1.

"Four years ago, the people of Putnam County entrusted me with the responsibility of leading our county government, and I'm deeply grateful they've placed their faith in me once again," he said. "With that renewed trust comes a responsibility to carefully evaluate how we can continue improving the services we provide, strengthening our administration, and ensuring we have the right personnel in key positions to deliver results for the people we serve."

The Reorganization Committee is being established pursuant to Section 3.02(e) of the Putnam County Charter, which authorizes the county executive to appoint executive committees, commissions, and boards to assist in exercising executive functions, including the planning, formulation, and administration of executive programs.

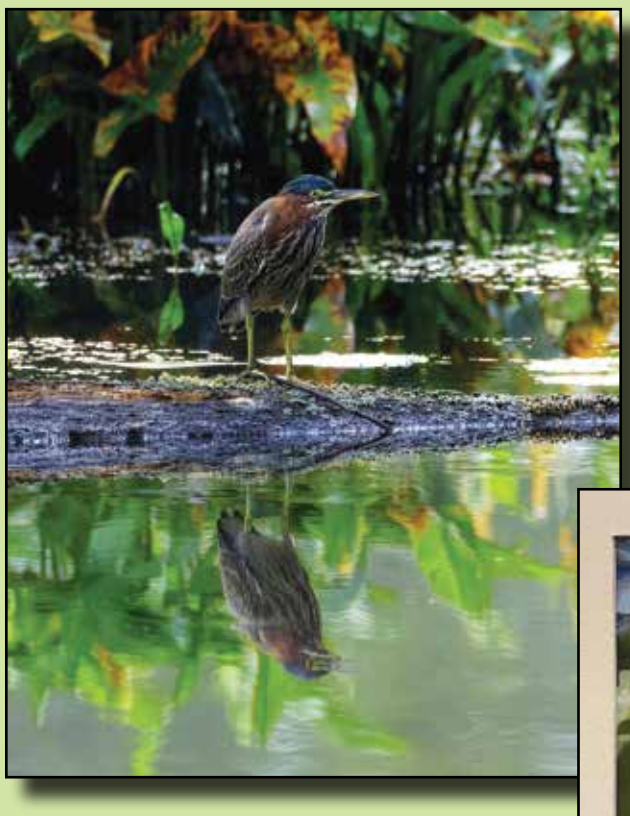
The committee will review the administration's organizational needs, evaluate potential candidates for key leadership positions, and offer recommendations to the county executive. Its work will include consideration of existing personnel and prospective new appointments.

Among the matters the committee will examine is the appointment of the next county attorney, along with other key leadership positions and potential organizational changes intended to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of county government.

"One of the most important lessons I've learned in public service is that good leadership requires surrounding yourself with capable people who aren't afraid to offer their own perspectives," said Byrne. "We want to keep talented individuals who will give me their candid assessments, challenge conventional thinking, and help us identify opportunities to make county government more effective, efficient, and accountable."

The committee's recommendations will be advisory in nature, with final appointment decisions remaining with the county executive, subject to applicable confirmation requirements by the Legislature.

Great Swamp Celebrated With Artistry

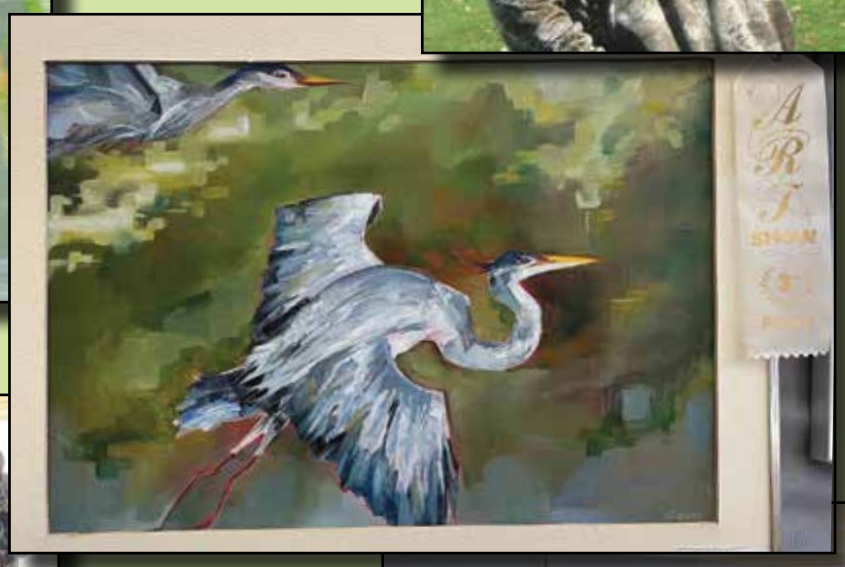


The 30th annual Great Swamp Celebration & Art Show took place Oct. 17 and 18 in Pawling.

Left: "Green Heron" by Frank Matheis took first place in the photography category.



Jim Eyring's birds of prey exhibit and demonstration is a popular attraction at the annual event.



Left: "Great Blue Herons" by Caity Weis of Pawling High School took third place in the Dunlop competition.







More than 550 guests visited the 30th annual Great Swamp Celebration & Art Show on Oct. 17 and 18 at Christ Church on Quaker Hill in Pawling.

"It was rewarding to see so many people stopping by to enjoy art, learn about the Great Swamp, interact with exhibitors, and admire the raptors," wrote Friends of the Great Swamp after the event.

In the painting/drawing category, first place went to "Crow" by Paul Kmiotek, second place went to "Swamp River, Wingdale" by Amanda Epstein, third place went to "Swamp" by Margaret Ryan, and honorable mentions went to Mary Ann Taormina, Alicia Earle, Elizabeth Popiel, Laura Gould, Georgine Honohan, Donna Castelluccio, and Soren Teal.

In the photography category, first place went to "Green Heron" by Frank Matheis, second place went to "Railroad Ave. Bridge, Winter III" by Alice Lynn, third place went to "Beaver Moon" by Marta Kowalska, and honorable mentions went to Phyllis Chadwick, Terry Ariano, Victor Messick, Vicki Andrews, and Claudia Griswold.

The Dunlop Award was presented to juniors and seniors in high school. Taking first place was "Garter Snake" by Ava Abagnale of Pawling High School, in second place was "Lady Bug" by Santiago Escalante of Dover H.S., in third place was "Great Blue Herons" by Caity Weis of Pawling H.S., and honorable mentions went to Max Roberts, Caitlyn Jamison, Sabrina Benedito, and Liv Teal.

Raffles raised $1,160 for the organization. Sariena Masiero was the winner of the kayak raffle, Carlos Passi won the hiking poles, and Michael Sadler won the hydration backpack.

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Handmade Wreaths • Ornaments & Seasonal Crafts
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Tues-Sun • 10am-5pm

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Winners to be drawn Dec 1

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green chimneys



Cam Schlittler

Former Renegades Pitcher a Cy Young Winner

FISHKILL – Just think, only two years ago Cam Schlittler was pitching for the Hudson Valley Renegades.

Now he is the Major League Baseball American League Cy Young winner.

Unanimously.

Schlittler received all 30 first-place votes to become the third man in the illustrious pitching history of the New York Yankees to win the award unanimously. He guided the Yanks to the playoffs with a 14-6 record and a sterling 1.95 earned run average – the best in the league for a starting pitcher.

It was the first time in the 32-year history of the Renegades that an eventual Cy Young winner played for the team.

Schlittler briefly pitched for Hudson Valley in the 2024 season. He is one of more than 150 players for the Renegades who advanced to the major leagues, but the first time someone has won a major award.

He struck out 239 batters in 193.2 innings.

"Obviously it's a special moment for me and my family," he told MLB Network. "It's a great position to be in. I've got to thank my parents and my brother and my sister for being by my side this whole time. I wouldn't really be here without them. Same with the extended family, just always supporting my back. My teammates, my coaches, they've really helped my development this year. It's been a special thing to be a part of, and obviously the job isn't done yet."

And when Yankees Manager Aaron Boone talked about Schlittler's confidence, he wasn't kidding. In a one-word statement on the social media platform X, the pitcher wrote: "Unanimous."



Scribbles on a Notebook

By Rich Thomaselli

Don't Disregard Winter Sports

Lord knows I love football and soccer; baseball and softball, too.

But my favorite season of all might just be winter.

As high school and college sports are ready to start another season this winter, you can't help but love the diversity.

Let's walk through it…

First off is basketball. Hoops is like heaven to me. My problem is that as much as I loved to play, I would only go from 3-point line to 3-point line. Defense was a foreign concept to me. Offensively, well, let's just say that my friends nicknamed me "Black Hole" because the ball would come to me and that's where it died. It would never go back out. I never met a shot I didn't like.

Thank goodness I was a good shooter.

When I became a sports writer, I was blessed because I had great teams to cover in girls' basketball, like Haldane, Our Lady of Lourdes in Poughkeepsie, Roosevelt of Hyde Park, and John Jay of East Fishkill. They all won state titles – some multiple. And I learned so much because the girls relied on strategy and fundamentals instead of physical prowess. They really knew the game.

Then, when I accepted a position in Ann Arbor covering the University of Michigan men's basketball team, it was like watching the sport on another level… A level I had never seen. It was like covering football.

Once, when I covered the New York Giants football team, they were playing in Philadelphia and the Eagles had a policy where they would let the media down on the field for the fourth quarter. I don't care how many different angles television can show, you just can't appreciate the intensity, speed, strength, and violence of the game until you see it up close.

Then there's ice hockey. There is absolutely nothing like an elimination game or overtime hockey. At any level.

Wrestling is a sport unto itself. Nobody has more respect for these warriors than I do.

Bowling is just another night out with friends and family until you see it performed in a competitive nature. It's incredible to watch knowing that a young man or woman needs a spare to keep her team alive.

Me? I still use the bumpers when I go bowling.

Skiing is probably the quintessential winter sport. It's great to see that some school districts make the investment to have it as an option.

Indoor track is an incredible experience.

Gymnastics? You guys and gals are insane – but extraordinarily talented. Like I have said many times, I have enough trouble walking up a flight of steps, much less getting on the balance beam. And a pommel horse is probably out of the question.

Cheerleaders are the backbone of an athletic program. Enough said.

You see what I mean about winter? It's enough to get you through to spring.

Rich Thomaselli is a longtime sports reporter in the Hudson Valley and currently covers Putnam County. He can be reached at rich.thomaselli@gmail.com.

Put Valley Lady Tigers Look Forward to Strong Season

Last season, the Putnam Valley High School girls' basketball team struggled in the beginning and finished strongly. They were just 6-14 overall, but made it to the Section 1, Class B quarterfinals.

Now, fourth-year Coach Harrison Deegan is hoping to build on that momentum.

"Our primary goals are to build team chemistry and compete in every game we play," he said. "We want to continue developing our players individually while improving collectively as a team. As the season progresses, we hope to see consistent growth, increased confidence, and a stronger understanding of our identity."

That's the kind of methodical growth that leads to success.

Deegan will have to do it following a season of graduation turnover. The Tigers lost forwards Leah Harmon and Sofia Hatfield, and guard Sophia Randazzo.

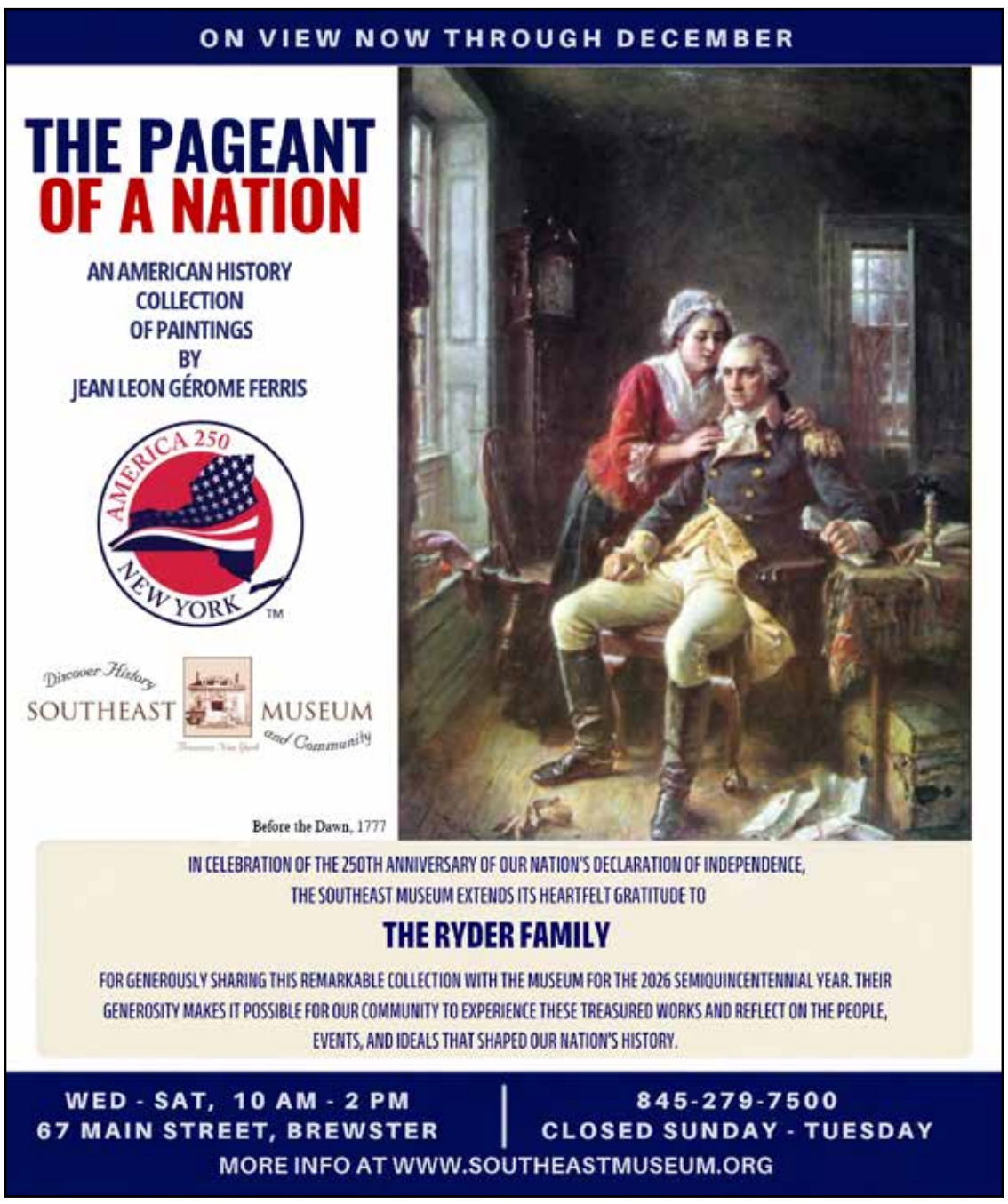
"We will have a young team this season, with several newcomers looking to make an immediate impact," he said. "Layana Williams and Terra Connolly will bring fresh talent to the program, while Vanessa Frye returns from injury and will look to make a significant contribution."

They will be joined by returning Klea Kabashi and standout guard Blaze Connolly, whose name is well-known in this section.

Deegan has some strong building blocks to work with… Now he has to be the maestro and put it all together.

"Our success this season will depend on establishing a clear identity on the defensive end of the floor," he said. "We want to be a tough, scrappy team that creates pressure, disrupts opposing offenses, and forces other teams out of their comfort zones and offensive rhythm.

"We also need to be disciplined in everything we do – from our preparation in practice to our execution during games," he continued. "If we can consistently defend, communicate, play together, and execute our game plan, we will put ourselves in a position to compete every night and continue improving throughout the season."



Mahopac's Waring Leads Putnam at State Meet

QUEENSBURY – There were almost 1,000 runners, both boys and girls, at the New York State High School Cross-Country Championships, including several local standouts.

Especially Kira Waring.

The Mahopac High School star capped a strong season with a 13th-place finish in the Class A race at the state meet for girls. The top 20 receive medals.

The event was held on the course at Queensbury High School.

Waring had the best time and the highest finish of all girls from the five Putnam County high schools who were competing in the four class races at states.

There were no Putnam County high schools that finished in the top 20 in the team competitions.

Guest Column

Chief Thomas Howley
North Salem Police Dept.

How NYS is Quietly Defunding Police

I doubt you are aware of how New York State is quietly undermining local police departments – particularly in small and medium-sized communities that rely on part-time police officers.

To understand what is happening, we need to go back nearly 20 years.

In 2007, retired police officers who wanted to return to law enforcement while collecting their pensions were permitted to earn $30,000 annually. Today, nearly 20 years later, that limit has increased to just $35,000.

Think about that for a moment… In almost two decades, the allowable earnings limit has increased by only $5,000, despite the rising cost of living.

I know what some people are thinking: these officers already receive a pension. Yes, they do. But anyone living in the Hudson Valley understands that a pension alone may not be enough to cover today's expenses.

Here is where this becomes your problem.

Small towns and villages depend on retired police officers to supplement and staff their departments and provide coverage. These experienced officers can work part-time without requiring the municipality to provide another full-time salary and benefits package. Their pensions and benefits generally come from their former employers, while their new departments pay them just an hourly rate. That's a huge savings.

Unfortunately, New York State's outdated earnings cap makes these positions increasingly unattractive. Why would an experienced, retired police officer continue working in law enforcement when they could earn two or three times as much in the private sector? Many simply choose other opportunities.

That leaves local police chiefs with fewer qualified officers to choose from, making recruitment and retention increasingly difficult. In my own experience, there have been times this year when I had no applicants to consider for available positions. This is not just a staffing problem; it's a public safety problem.

When departments cannot recruit and retain enough officers, communities feel the consequences. Shifts go unfilled, coverage is reduced, and police chiefs are forced to make difficult decisions about how to deploy the personnel they have.

Training is another concern. Law enforcement is constantly changing and officers need ongoing training to remain effective and up to date. But every dollar an officer donates to training – no matter how important – is an hour less they are able to protect the community.

Ask police chiefs throughout the Hudson Valley who operate departments with part-time officers. Many have faced situations in which they have had to shorten shifts or eliminate them altogether because they simply do not have enough personnel available. How does that make our communities safer?

New York State should be encouraging experienced officers to remain in law enforcement, not creating financial disincentives that push them away.

So, what needs to happen?

The governor needs to have it in the state budget because state representatives co-sponsor legislation for the cap to be increased, but that never goes anywhere. You see, in Albany, all the bills have to go into a committee and then if they get voted out, they go to the floor for a vote.

You guessed it – these bills never come out of committee for a vote, and stay buried until the session is over. Or one branch will pass it one year and the other won't. The next year, the other one will pass it. It's like a game.

The governor needs to make this a priority and include an increase in the earnings limit in the budget. The current $35,000 cap should be raised to at least $65,000 annually. That would be a more realistic limit in today's economy and would allow experienced officers to contribute more hours to the communities that need them.

And before someone argues that the state cannot do this, consider retired public school teachers. New York State has recognized the importance of allowing retired teachers to return to work under different earnings-limit rules. I know this issue from both sides: I am a retired teacher with 36 years of service and I understand the value of retaining experienced people in public service.

I also understand that some will argue there is a shortage of teachers. There may be, but there is also a shortage of police officers. Both professions are important to our communities and both deserve policies that recognize the value of experience.

The difference is that teachers have a strong, organized voice advocating for their interests. Part-time police officers and the small communities that depend on them do not have the same influence in Albany. The result is an earnings cap that has barely changed in nearly 20 years while the cost of living has continued to climb.

This is not a request for more funding to build larger police departments. It is a request to remove an outdated restriction that prevents local governments from making better use of experienced officers they can already afford to employ. Allowing retired officers to earn more could help towns and villages maintain coverage, provide necessary training, and improve recruitment and retention.

Our communities deserve adequate police protection, our local governments need the flexibility to provide it, and experienced officers who are willing to continue serving should not be discouraged from doing so by an earnings limit that no longer reflects economic reality.

The question is simple: If experienced police officers are willing to serve our communities, why is New York State making it harder for them to do so?

Thomas Howley is chief of the North Salem Police Department.



Gas Prices Decline Across New York

Average gasoline prices in New York fell 11.7 cents per gallon last week, averaging $4.11 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's survey of 6,118 stations across the state. Prices were 27.7 cents per gallon lower than a month prior and stood $1 per gallon higher than a year ago.

The national average price of diesel decreased 18.7 cents per gallon compared to a week prior, and stood at $5.999 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in New York was priced at $3.35 per gallon, while the most expensive was $5.79 per gallon – a difference of $2.44.

The national average price of gasoline fell 21.3 cents per gallon, averaging $3.74 per gallon. The national average was down 55.8 cents per gallon from a month prior and stood 71.3 cents per gallon higher than a year prior, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

"Gasoline prices fell in every state over the last week, with 12 states seeing declines of more than 25 cents per gallon, while diesel dropped in nearly every state, with eight falling more than 25 cents," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "GasBuddy data showed the national average price of diesel fell below $6 per gallon for the first time since Sept. 10 – a welcome milestone for truckers and consumers alike."

These trends may continue, as the International Energy Agency has raised its forecast for oil production, putting additional pressure on oil prices as shipments ramp up through the Strait of Hormuz, according to De Haan.

"GasBuddy expects the national average price of gasoline to fall this week to its lowest level since March, dropping below $3.72 per gallon," he said.

GasBuddy is a North American fuel-savings platform delivering real-time prices at more than 150,000 stations. It updates averages 288 times daily from a broad mix of inputs, including spotter reports, direct station integrations, and transactional data.

Holiday Events at Arts on the Lake

Arts on the Lake has a festive lineup of activities to celebrate the holiday season.

Friday, Dec. 4, enjoy a "Winter Wonderland" from 6 to 8 p.m., at 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes, featuring crafting, games, and coloring for all ages – as well as a special nighttime opening of the holiday train show. Admission is $5 per person, with kids age 3 and under admitted free. Hot cocoa, cider and treats will be available for purchase.

Then, beginning Saturday, Dec. 5 and continuing Saturdays and Sundays through Jan. 10, view the train show between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

AotL's annual Cookie & Gift Sale is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring crafts vendors, artisans, refreshments, and – of course – homemade baked goods.

Sunday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m., enjoy Duke Ellington's swing version of "The Nutcracker Suite," along with other seasonal favorites.

Lastly, a Kwanzaa celebration will begin Saturday, Dec. 26 at 3 p.m., with a lighting of the first candle at 40 Lake Gleneida, Carmel, followed by a reception with light refreshments at AotL from 3:30 to 5 p.m. A candle will then be lit daily at 3 p.m., through Jan. 1.



PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Carmel

PLANNING BOARD
Town of Carmel - Town Hall
Mahopac, NY 10541
845 628-1500 – Ext 190

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:

DECEMBER 10, 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:

BREWSTER THEATER COMPANY INC.

69 Gleneida Ave, Carmel, NY 10512 - Tax Map #44.14-1-2 & 7 – Amended Site Plan

TOLL BROTHERS – OVERLOOK LOT 7 (FORMERLY THE FAIRWAYS LOT 7)

2054 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512 – Tax Map #55.-2-24.8-2 – Amended Site Plan

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PUBLIC NOTICE

By Order of the Chairman,

Craig Paeprer

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Carmel, pursuant to Town Law Section 202-a will conduct a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York on Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter that evening as possible for the following purpose:

To consider the 2027 Tentative Assessment Rolls of
Carmel Sewer Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8
and extensions thereto
as well as
Carmel Water Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #12, #13, #14
and extensions thereto
as well as the
Town of Carmel Garbage District

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT FURTHER NOTICED, that the 2027 Tentative Assessment Rolls may be inspected at the Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York during normal business hours.

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Carmel will conduct a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York 10541 on Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter that evening as possible on a proposed Local Law amending Chapter 137 of the Code of the Town of Carmel, entitled "Taxation".

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

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF RE-SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Carmel will conduct a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York 10541 on Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter that evening as possible on a proposed Local Law amending Chapter 147 of the Code of the Town of Carmel, entitled "Vehicles & Traffic".

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

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Kent

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF KENT

In order to facilitate the removal of snow from the roads, streets and highways within the Town of Kent, the overnight parking of vehicles within the town right of way is hereby prohibited. Vehicles found parked within the town right of way will be issued a traffic summons and towed at the owner's expense. Notice is hereby given that all individuals plowing snow must remove all snow deposited by them within the town right of way.

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

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

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

Town Clerk's Office
Town of Kent

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR BITUMINOUS ASPHALTIC CONCRETE FOR THE TOWN OF KENT

I, Yolanda D. Cappelli, Town Clerk of the Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York, will accept sealed bids at the Kent Town Center, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York 10512 until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at which time they will be opened and publicly read for Bituminous Asphaltic Concrete.

Complete specifications are on file in the Town Clerk's office at the Kent Town Center and on the town's website at www.townofkentny.gov.

Bids must be accompanied by a non-collusion bidding certificate in accordance with Section 103-d of the General Municipal Law. The non-collusion bidding certificate may be obtained in the Town Clerk's office.

Bids must be submitted on a bid form and may be obtained in the Town Clerk's office. Bid prices will be effective from January 1, 2027 until December 31, 2027.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes at the above address and must bear on the face thereof the name and address of the bidder and the inscription "Bituminous Asphaltic Concrete".

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, or to procure by State/County and other towns Contract bid if prices warrant.

By Order of the Kent Town Board.

Yolanda D. Cappelli Town Clerk
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Town Clerk's Office
Town of Kent

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Carmel conducted a Public Hearing on the Fire Protection Contracts and the Ambulance District Contracts for the year 2027, on the 18th day of November, 2026 at the Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York at 7:00 p.m. and the Public Hearing will remain open until December 2, 2026; said contracts to be advertised and posted as follows:

Contractor	Services	Not to Exceed
Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.	**Fire Protection-Fire Protection Dist. #1**	**$990,540.00**
Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.	**Fire Protection-Fire Protection Dist. #2**	**$1,785,000.00**
Carmel Fire District & Carmel Fire Department, Inc.	**Fire Protection-Fire Protection Dist. #3**	**$1,045,500.00**
Carmel Volunteer Ambulance Corps	**Ambulance Service Carmel Ambulance District #1**	**$568,500.00**
North Salem Volunteer Ambulance Corps	**Ambulance Services Carmel Ambulance District #1**	**$13,200.00**

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

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

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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

EDWARD SPADARO
Building Inspector

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:

DECEMBER 3, 2026 – 7:30 P.M.

To hear the following applications:

HOLD OVERS:

1. Application of **161 EAST LAKE LLC** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking an Area Variance for permission to develop the existing lot which permits the construction of 6 townhome units based on the lot density. The developer is proposing a total of 10 units to be constructed. The property is located at 161 East Lake Blvd, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #76.22-1-60.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
Max density = 1 unit/5000 S.F. – 6 Units	10 Units	4 Units
Lot Coverage – 65% of Lot Area	70%	5%
One Side Yard Setback=10 ft	3.6 ft	6.4 ft

2. Application of **MESSINA FAMILY TRUST** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Use Variance to permit continuation of business in an LDR zone and area variances. The property is located at 174 Wixon Pond Road, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #65.5-1-36.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
LDR Zone: NO businesses	Permit business in LDR Zone	
Lot Area: 120,000 s.f.	79,507 s.f.	40,493 s.f.
Accessory Rear Yard Setbacks:		
Shed: 25 ft.	5.3 ft.	19.7 ft.
Pool House: 25 ft.	11.9 ft.	13.1 ft.
2 Story Framed Garage w/office: 25 ft.	12.2 ft.	12.8 ft.
1 story Framed Garage: 25 ft.	24.6 ft.	0.4 ft.
Two-Way Traffic Aisle Width: 24 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

3. Application of **O'REILLY'S AUTO PARTS/UB PUTNAM LLC** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to allow for 63" letters where 24" are allowed. The property is located at Putnam Plaza: 1844-1936 Route 6, Carmel NY and is known as Tax Map #55.11-1-4.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
24" High Letters	63" Letter Height	39"

4. Application of **CRAIG & SAMANTHA VANORSDALE** for a Variation of Section 156-9 seeking a Variance for permission to add front & side porch. The property is located at 264 Archer Road, Mahopac NY and is known as Tax Map #74.16-2-63.5.

Code Requires/Allows	Provided	Variance Required
25 ft. side yard	19.9 ft.	5.1 ft.

MISCELLANEOUS:

MINUTES:
- **August 27, 2026**
- **September 24, 2026**

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PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

BIDS FOR FUEL & DIESEL FOR THE TOWN OF KENT

I, Yolanda D. Cappelli, Town Clerk of the Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York, will accept sealed bids at the Kent Town Center, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York 10512 until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at which time they will be opened and publicly read for Fuel Oil.

Diesel Fuel- delivered to 301 and 311, Highway Garage.

Fuel Oil-#2 heating purpose for Route 311 and Route 301 Highway Garages, Lake Carmel Park Department Garage, Old Town Hall, Kent Town Center Complex (Town Hall, Police, and Library), Lake Carmel Community Center, Huguenot Road and Arts on the Lake. Please list cost of annual service per year and hourly repair rate thereafter.

Bidder must be within 40 square miles to deliver promptly. The bid must be priced on the low New York Harbor Barge Resellers as of November 20, 2026, plus transportation and delivery. Attach copy of Journal of Commerce.

Complete specifications are on file in the Town Clerk's office at the Kent Town Center and on the Town's website at www.townofkentny.gov. Bids must be submitted on a bid form accompanied by a non-collusion bidding certificate in accordance with Section 103-d of the General Municipal Law.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes at the above address and must bear on the face thereof the name and address of the bidder and the inscription "Fuel and Diesel Oil".

Bid prices will be effective from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, or to procure by State/County and other towns Contract bid if prices warrant.

By Order of the Kent Town Board.

Yolanda D. Cappelli Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS FOR TOWN OF KENT

I, Yolanda D. Cappelli, Town Clerk of the Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York, will accept sealed bids at the Kent Town Center, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York 10512 until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at which time they will be opened and publicly read for:

1. Rock Drill or equivalent
2. Excavator Kebelco sk 200 (22 tons) with 5000# rock blaster hammer
3. Excavator Komatsu pc75uu (8 tons) with 1500# rock blaster hammer
4. Bobcat e50 (5 tons) with 1000# rock blaster hammer

Complete specifications are on file in the Town Clerk's office at the Kent Town Center and on the town's website at www.townofkentny.gov.

Bids must be accompanied by a non-collusion bidding certificate in accordance with Section 103-d of the General Municipal Law. The non-collusion bidding certificate may be obtained in the Town Clerk's office.

Bids must be submitted on a bid form and may be obtained in the Town Clerk's office.

Bid prices will be effective from January 1, 2027 until December 31, 2027.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes at the above address and must bear on the face thereof the name and address of the bidder and the inscription "Highway Equipment & Operator".

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, or to procure by State/County and other towns Contract bid if prices warrant.

By Order of the Kent Town Board.

Yolanda D. Cappelli
Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR HIGHWAY MATERIALS FOR THE TOWN OF KENT

I, Yolanda D. Cappelli, Town Clerk of the Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York, will accept sealed bids at the Kent Town Center, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York 10512 until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at which time they will be opened and publicly read for the following.

SNOW PLOW, GRADER BLADES AND CUTTIING EDGES
Blades must be of good quality and meet with approval of the Highway Superintendent.

GENERAL HAND TOOLS, WHEELBARROWS, STREET SIGNS, TIRE CHAINS AND HOOKS
Chains must be delivered to the Route 311 Highway Garage and meet approval of the Highway Superintendent.

BANKRUN, WATER WASHED SAND, CRUSHED STONE, WATER WASHED GRAVEL, CRUSHED BLUESTONE ITEMS N04
All items must meet the approval of the Highway Superintendent. Hauling distance and roads to be traveled over must meet the approval of the Highway Superintendent.

SALT
The bidder must be at a reasonable distance to Town garage to insure delivery same day.

CALCIUM CHLORIDE
Calcium Chloride in 100Ib bags in lots of 1 to 20 tons, delivered to 301 and 311garages, also the price picked up at the plant. The bidder must be at a reasonable distance to town garage to insure delivery same day of order.

LIQUID CALCIUM- CULVERT PIPE, CATCH BASIN TOPS, CONCRETE CATCH BASINS, CAST IRON GRATES, GUIDE RAIL AND POST (INSTALLED)

EQUIPMENT LETTERING
Complete specifications are on file in the Town Clerk's office at the Kent Town Center and on the town's website at www.townofkentny.gov.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes at the above address and must bear on the face thereof the name and address of the bidder and the inscription "Highway Materials" bids. Must be accompanied by a non-collusion bidding certificate in accordance with Section 103-d of the General Municipal Law. The non-collusion bidding certificates may be obtained in the Town Clerk's office.

Bids must be submitted on a bid form and may be obtained in the Town Clerk's office.

Bid prices will be effective from January 1, 2027 until December 31, 2027.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, or to procure by State/County and other towns Contract bid if prices warrant.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Town Clerk's Office
Town of Kent

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR OFF ROAD GENERATOR DYED DIESEL FOR THE TOWN OF KENT

I, Yolanda D. Cappelli, Town Clerk of the Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York, will accept sealed bids at the Kent Town Center, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York 10512 until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at which time they will be opened and publicly read for Generator Dyed Diesel.

Dyed Diesel for Generators delivered to Kent Town Complex, Town Hall, Kent Police Department, Kent Library, Horsepound Road, Will Way and Marion Way and Town of Kent Highway Garages at Ludington and Smokey Hollow.

Bidder must be within 40 square miles to deliver promptly. The bid must be priced on the low New York Harbor Barge Resellers as of November 20, 2026, plus transportation and delivery with a 3,000 gallon truck. Attach copy of Journal of Commerce.

Complete specifications are on file in the Town Clerk's office at the Kent Town Center and on the Town's website at www.townofkentny.gov. Bids must be submitted on a bid form accompanied by a non-collusion bidding certificate in accordance with Section 103-d of the General Municipal Law.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes at the above address and must bear on the face thereof the name and address of the bidder and the inscription "Generator Dyed Diesel."

Bid prices will be effective from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, or to procure by State/County and other towns Contract bid if prices warrant.

By Order of the Kent Town Board.

Yolanda D. Cappelli Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Nelsonville

Winter Parking Ordinance

Winter parking and snow removal regulations in the Village of Nelsonville:

The ban on overnight parking on any public street in the Village, between the hours of midnight and 6am, will be enacted when snow or ice is predicted, or when additional time is needed to clear the streets. Residents must call (845) 265-2500 after 5pm each evening to learn the decision for that night. In the event of a power outage, assume that the overnight parking ban is in effect.

A limited amount of overnight parking is permitted in the areas so designated, on North Pearl Street and Adams Avenue. All vehicles parked in this area must be removed by 9am, so that the lot can be cleared.

The regulation is in effect from December 1 through March 31.

The Nelsonville Village Board reminds residents that it is a violation of section 1219 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic law to throw snow into the roadway. Residents must comply with this law if the streets are to be properly cleared.

Finally, property owners and/or occupants are required to keep their sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF AND FOR THE VILLAGE OF NELSONVILLE, PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK, WILL BE HELD IN SAID VILLAGE AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM, 260 MAIN STREET, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2027, WITH THE POLLS OPEN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF NOON AND 9PM, AND THAT AT SUCH ELECTION THE FOLLOWING OFFICER IS TO BE ELECTED FOR THE TERM SET OPPOSITE HERETO RESPECTIVELY:

TRUSTEE TWO-YEAR TERM
TRUSTEE TWO-YEAR TERM

Melissa Harris
Village Clerk
Village of Nelsonville

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Philipstown

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 8th, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board December 2026.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will NOT meet in the month of December. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 11th, 2027 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Putnam

COUNTY OF PUTNAM
NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE OFFERING

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-RCO-43-26 – PUTNAM COUNTY EMERGENCY VEHICLE UPFITTING – INSTALLATION, PARTS, & REPAIRS 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. Sealed bids must be filed in the above office on or before **1:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2026. dated: Carmel, New York, November 18, 2026, Sgd/ John Tully, Purchasing Director, Putnam County Purchasing Departmen**t

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Putnam Valley

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
265 OSCAWANA LAKE ROAD
PUTNAM VALLEY, NEW YORK 10579
Phone : (845) 526-3740
EMAIL: mbabnik@putnamvalley.gov

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to interested parties that a Public Hearing will be held by the Putnam Valley Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday December 3, 2026 at 6:30 at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road for the purpose of considering the following petitions and requests together with all other matters that may properly come before the Board at this time.

AGENDA
New Application

1. **Panny, Mike, Wood Street, 74.15-2-21; R-1**

Request a 280A variance due to lack of road frontage.

2. **Johnson, Colleen, 64 Tanglewylde Rd, 83.73-1-18; LP**

Request side, rear and front yard setback variance for proposed above ground pool.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW #8-2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of The Town of Putnam Valley duly adopted Local Law #8 - 2026, on November 18th, 2026, entitled "Override Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2027". (This can be seen in its entirety on the Putnam Valley website)

Michelle Stephens
Town Clerk
11/19/2026

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Southeast

ADDENDUM NO. 2
November 6, 2026

PROJECT: PROPOSED STARR RIDGE WATER DISTRICT
PFAS TREATMENT PROJECT

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF SOUTHEAST
PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK

Contractors bidding the referenced project are advised of the following revisions to the Bid Documents.

(1) All of the conditions mentioned in the original Notice to Bidders remain in effect and this addendum is only for an extension of time. Therefore, Contractors are advised that bids are due **Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.**

Contractors should view the Town of Southeast website or contact the Town Clerk directly for all updates and addendums regarding this project.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTHEAST
TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Town Board of the Town of Southeast shall hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, on December 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as interested parties may be heard, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law to consider a proposed local law which would amend Chapter 131 ("Vehicles and Traffic"), §131-37 ("Prohibited Turns."), by adding a new subsection "D" to prohibit right hand turns on red signal at the intersection of Argonne Road and Route 6, 202, 22 (a/k/a "Danbury Road"). Copies of the proposed local law may be obtained from the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Anyone having an interest in the proposed legislation will be given an opportunity to be heard at this time.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
Hon. Kathleen Chiudina, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTHEAST
TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Town Board of the Town of Southeast shall hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, on December 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as interested parties may be heard, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law to consider a proposed local law which would amend Chapter 138 ("Zoning"), Article I, ("General Provisions; Definitions), §138-4 ("Definitions") to add definitions for "Certified Pre-Owned Automobiles", "Collector Vehicle" and "Recreational Motor Vehicle and to amend the definition of "Motor Vehicle Dealership. Copies of the proposed local law may be obtained from the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Anyone having an interest in the proposed legislation will be given an opportunity to be heard at this time.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
Hon. Kathleen Chiudina, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTHEAST
TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Town Board of the Town of Southeast shall hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, on December 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as interested parties may be heard, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law to consider a proposed local law which would amend Chapter 131 ("Vehicles and Traffic"), §131-11 ("Removal of stalled vehicles; Impoundment; deposit of sow and ice; penalties for offenses."), subsection "A" to add language to define when parking on town highways is prohibited during winter weather events, and revise subsection "E" ("Penalties for offenses") to establish a new fine structure for violations of this §131-11. Copies of the proposed local law may be obtained from the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Anyone having an interest in the proposed legislation will be given an opportunity to be heard at this time.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
Hon. Kathleen Chiudina, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTHEAST
TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Town Board of the Town of Southeast shall hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, on December 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as interested parties may be heard, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law to consider a proposed local law which would amend Chapter 126 ("Taxation"), Article III ("Veterans Tax Exemption") to add a full exemption from real property taxation and special district charges to eligible Veterans who are considered by the United States Department of Military Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service. Copies of the proposed local law may be obtained from the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Anyone having an interest in the proposed legislation will be given an opportunity to be heard at this time.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
Hon. Kathleen Chiudina, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTHEAST
TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Town Board of the Town of Southeast shall hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, on December 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as interested parties may be heard, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law to consider a proposed local law which would amend Chapter 126 ("Taxation") to add a new Article establishing a partial real property tax exemption for surviving spouses of police officers killed in the line of duty. Copies of the proposed local law may be obtained from the Town Clerk during regular business hours. Anyone having an interest in the proposed legislation will be given an opportunity to be heard at this time.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
Hon. Kathleen Chiudina, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTHEAST
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Board/Architectural Review Board of the Town of Southeast, New York, in accordance with Chapters 78 and 138 of the Code of the Town of Southeast, and NYCRR Part 617 of the Environmental Conservation Law (as applicable), will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at Southeast Town Offices, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, New York to consider the following:

FRANSEN WETLAND PERMIT – Application is being made for a Wetland Permit, for a proposal to construct a two-story addition, including an attached garage, to an existing single-family home on a 1.98-acre property located at 438 Maple Road, Brewster, NY, in the R-60 Zoning District, and identified as Tax Map Number 55.12-1-32. The property has frontage on Middle Branch Reservoir. The proposed project would result in disturbance within a wetland buffer.

J&J AUTOMOTIVE – Application is being made for Site Plan, for a proposed reconfiguration and repaving of an existing parking lot for a preexisting nonconforming motor vehicle service station on a 1.224-acre property located at 1785 Route 22, Brewster, NY, in the RC-2 Zoning District, and identified as Tax Map Number 46.-4-22. The proposed work would correct nonconforming parking setbacks and provide 24 parking spaces for customers and vehicular storage. Site work also includes landscaping, new curb cuts, and a garbage enclosure. No changes are proposed to the existing building.

MACO LAND REAPPROVAL – Application is being made for an Amended Site Plan and Conditional Use Permit, for a proposal to construct a 10,644-sf building with associated parking, subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS), and outside storage for general business use on a 2.62-acre property located at 1651 Route 22, Brewster, NY, in the HC Zoning District, and identified as Tax Map Number 46.-3-14. The 10,000-sf limit for general business use will be exceeded; therefore, a Conditional Use Permit is required. Amended Site Plan, Conditional Use, and Wetland Permit approval was granted on 7/10/23. The Applicant seeks reapproval; however, due to Wetland Code revisions since this approval, a wetland permit is no longer needed. The site is currently rough graded, the majority of the retaining walls are installed, and on-site wastewater fields are installed.

STONECREST MOTORCARS – Application is being made for Amended Site Plan and Conditional Use Permit (restaurant, fast casual) for a proposal to establish a café within approximately 1,500 SF of an existing 20,000-SF building on a 4.33-acre property located at 1037 Route 22 Brewster, NY, in the SR-6 Zoning District, and identified as Tax Map Number 68.5-2-19. No site disturbance is proposed.

Thomas LaPerch, Chairman
Town of Southeast Planning Board
Dated: November 19, 2026

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Supreme Court

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE
SUPREME COURT –
COUNTY OF PUTNAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HIGHFIELDS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., on behalf of the Unit Owners of Highfields Homeowners Association, Inc., pursuant to Real Property Law, Section 339-aa, Plaintiff- against – **JASMIN VEGA, FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,** Defendants.

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, dated and entered on April 23, 2026 in the office of the County Clerk of Putnam County, I, the undersigned referee named in said judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on the 2nd day of December, 2026 in Courtroom 209 of the Supreme Court, County of Putnam Courthouse located at 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 at 9:30 a.m., the unit known as 33 Pembrooke Court in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam and State of New York (Tax Parcel Section 92, Block 1, Lot 30), and as designated in the Declaration establishing a plan for the Condominium recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Putnam County, Division of Land Records, at Liber 1254 at page 239, as amended at Liber 1350, page 81, and more particularly described as set forth on Exhibit A.

Said premises are sold subject to all taxes, assessments, and water rates which are liens upon the Premises, and subject to all covenants and restrictions of record and any state of facts an accurate survey may show.

The approximate amount of the lien to satisfy for which the above-described property is to be sold is $12,688.56, together with interest thereon from April 23, 2026, as well as the sum which is owed to Plaintiff by Defendant Jasmin Vega on account of common charges, late fees, assessments, and costs which accrue from May 7, 2025 to the date of conveyance of the premises pursuant to the judgment of foreclosure and sale, together with Referee's fees of $750.00, and the expenses of the sale.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 500590/2023. Joseph A. Charbonneau, Esq., Referee.

Gettinger Waldinger Monteleone Gushue & Hollis LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
118 North Bedford Road, Suite 300 Mount Kisco, New York 10549 (914) 666-8033
Dated: October 2, 2026

EXHIBIT A

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam, State of New York, shown and designated as Lot No. 39 on a certain map entitled "Amended Phase Two, Subdivision Map known as Highfields", dated October 11, 1994, last revised December 22, 1994 and filed in the Office of the Putnam County Clerk's Office on January 5, 1995 as Map No. 2597B.

For Information Only:
Address: 33 Pembrooke Court, Putnam Valley

Town: Putnam Valley
County: Putnam
TAX DESIGNATION: Section 92 Block 1 Lot 30

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
PUTNAM COUNTY

154 WOODWORTH AVE., LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL NEUNER LLC,

Defendants.

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:
BARRY E. NESSON, ESQ.

700 WHITE PLAINS ROAD, SUITE 259
SCARSDALE, NY 10583

Pursuant to an ORDER entered herein and dated October 19, 2026, I, as Referee, will sell at public auction to be held on the 2nd floor of the Putnam County Courthouse, 20 County Center, Carmel, N.Y. 10512 on December 7, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. the premises in the Village of Brewster, New York known as Section 67.26, Block 1 and Lot 57 and more commonly known as 1 Michael Neuner Drive, Brewster, New York.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the Entered Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated October 19, 2026 and the Terms of Sale to be read at the auction. The successful Bidder shall be required to deposit with the Referee, a minimum of 10% of the Bid amount.

BID DEPOSIT CHECK(S) MUST BE BY BANK CHECK(S) DIRECTLY PAYABLE TO THE REFEREE. CASH PAYMENTS ABOVE $1,000 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. BIDS IN LESS THAN $1,000 INCREMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ENDORSED CHECKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED,

Index Number: 501191/2026

Dated: October 22, 2026

Michelle Anderson, Esq., Referee

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, **LONGBRIDGE FINANCIAL, LLC**, Plaintiff, vs. **DEREK DONLEY** AKA DEREK GLENN DONLEY, AS HEIR AND ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOAN S. DONLEY, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on October 28, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the second floor of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on December 7, 2026 at 10:30 a.m., premises known as 357 Tonetta Lake 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 56.12 Block 3 and 60 which is now known and part of new Section 56.12 Block 3 and Lot 50. Approximate amount of judgment is $520,316.33 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501655/2021.

Justin L. Sweet, Esq., Referee

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

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PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM **U.S. BANK** TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, Plaintiff AGAINST **CHRISTINE VYCITAL** INDIVIDUALLY AND AS SURVIVING SPOUSE OF RONALD A. VYCITAL, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered June 9, 2026, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the Second Floor of the Putnam Supreme Court, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on December 14, 2026, at 9:30 AM, premises known as 35 Salem Road, Carmel, NY 10512. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Kent, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 33.42 Block 1 Lot 27. Approximate amount of judgment $198,753.31 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501816/2024. Maureen Fleming, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 25-001610 91968

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM **Wells Fargo Bank**, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST **Kevin M. Barber**; Letitia B.A Brache; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered July 30, 2026, and amended October 26, 2026, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Second Floor of the Putnam Supreme Court, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512. on December 14, 2026, at 10:30AM, premises known as 375 West Shore Drive, Carmel, NY 10512. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 66.14 Block 1 Lot 5. Approximate amount of judgment $833,332.32 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 500728/2025. William Timothy O'Keeffe, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: October 30, 2026 For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2831 91983

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LLC

Notice of Formation of **SAMCO CREATIVE LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on August 16, 2026. Office location: Putnam County. Principal business address: 45 Allen Drive, Brewster, NY 10509. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to Peter Connolly, P.O. Box 592, Brewster, NY 10509. Purpose: any lawful activity.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **CLUTCH LABS, LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/17/2026. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Northwest Registered Agent LLC, 418 Broadway, Ste N, Albany, NY 12207. Registered agent: Northwest Registered Agent LLC, 418 Broadway, Ste N, Albany, NY 12207, is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Purpose: any lawful activity.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **21 E Branch Road, LLC**, a domestic limited liability company. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/22/2026. NY Office location: Putnam County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at 10 McMahon Place, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **31 McAlpin Ave, LLC**, a domestic limited liability company. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/22/2026. NY Office location: Putnam County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at 10 McMahon Place, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **37 McAlpin Ave, LLC**, a domestic limited liability company. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/22/2026. NY Office location: Putnam County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at 10 McMahon Place, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **155 Shear Hill Road, LLC**, a domestic limited liability company. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/22/2026. NY Office location: Putnam County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at 10 McMahon Place, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **430 Hill Street, LLC**, a domestic limited liability company. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/22/2026. NY Office location: Putnam County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC at 10 McMahon Place, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **Chora Collective LLC**. Articles of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/14/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Chora Collective LLC, PO Box 135, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **401 Gage Road LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 7/27/26. Office location: Putnam County. NY Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and shall mail process to 401 Gage Rd, Brewster, NY 10509. Purpose: any lawful activity.

P. 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **Lacewell Healthcare Consulting LLC**. Articles of Org. filed with SSNY on August 20, 2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: [228 Park Ave S NY, NY 10003]. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **111 Tower Hill LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 10/15/26. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Gregory N. Scollan, 12 Spring Meadow Lane, Hopewell Jct, NY 12533. Purpose: any lawful activity.

P. 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **Walter's House, LLC**. Articles of Org.

filed with SSNY on 10/16/2026. Office

Location: Putnam County. SSNY

designated as agent of LLC upon

whom process may be served. SSNY

shall mail process to: Walter's House, LLC, c/o John Tremblay,25 Ames Rd, Brewster, NY 10509.

Purpose: Any lawful activity.

P. 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **AKT 2 RE LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 10/16/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: AKT 2 RE LLC, 126 Wellington Dr, Carmel, NY 10512. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **Lock & Holly LLC**

Articles of Organization filed with NYS Dept. of State (SSNY) on October 14, 2026

Office location: Putnam County at 8 Bryant Pond Road, Putnam Valley NY 10579.

SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served.

SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 8 Bryant Pond Road, Putnam Valley NY 10579

Purpose: Farming and selling goods

P. 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **RS Tax Services of NY, LLC**. Articles of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/20/2026. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o RS Tax Services of NY, LLC, 17 Sabrina Court, Holmes, NY 12531. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **CJ Design & Consulting, LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 10/21/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o CJ Design & Consulting, LLC, 346 Route 6, #944, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **Levy Strategic Advisory, LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on 01/26/2026. Office location: Putnam County. NY Secretary of State designated as agent for service of process. Service of process may also be served upon: Neil Levy, 20 Trail of the Maples, Putnam Valley, NY 10579. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
P. 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **Hill Capital LLC.** Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 10/20/26. Office location: Putnam Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY shall mail process to: 539 Route 6N, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: any lawful activities.
P. 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAS MANANITAS TOO LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/22/26. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Luis Sanchez, 1250 Route 22, Brewster, NY 10509. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

P. 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **Clove Creek Group LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the NY Secretary of State (SSNY) on 06/05/2026. Office: Putnam County. Principal business address: 147 East Mountain Road South, Cold Spring, NY 10516. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 147 East Mountain Road South, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

P. 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **265 ROUTE 6 LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 10/14/26. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2390 Route 6, Brewster, NY 10509. Purpose: General.

P. 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **WaterFlow Mechanical & Heating LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 8/19/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: P.O. Box 230 Brewster NY 10509. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16

PUBLIC NOTICE

174 COUNTY RD 71 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 10/23/2026. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 486 BULLETHOLE RD. MAHOPAC, NY 10541. Purpose: Any Lawful

P. 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16

PUBLIC NOTICE

56 LILLIAN ROAD LLC. Filed with SSNY on 04/28/2016. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 52 LILLIAN RD, MAHOPAC, NY 10541. Purpose: Any Lawful

P. 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16

PUBLIC NOTICE

DERRI CAFE LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/21/2026. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 99 MAIN STREET, SUITE A, BREWSTER, NY 10509. Purpose: Any Lawful

P. 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAGG VENTURES LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/15/2026. Office loc: Putnam County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Thomas Gentile, 46 Barrett Hill Rd, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

P. 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHORTROPE DEUX LLC. Filed with SSNY on 05/30/2026. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 15 ALLEN RD, SALT POINT, NY 12578. Purpose: Any Lawful

P. 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **PRACTICE FORWARD REGISTERED NURSING PLLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/21/2026. Office location:

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 12 Main Street, #1100, Brewster, NY 10509. Purpose: Registered Professional Nursing.

P. 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **COW'S PONYTAIL, LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/26/2026. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 87 Manitou Station Road, Garrison, NY 10524. Principal business location: 11 Riverside Drive. Apt. 7FW New York, NY 10023. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

P. 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

PUBLIC NOTICE

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170 LAUNDRY LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 10/28/2026. Off. Loc. : Putnam Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 61 Friendly Road, Mahopac, NY 10541, USA. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

P. 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **ProTechStrategies LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/06/2026. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 6 Gregory Street, First Floor, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: any lawful activity.

P. 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **Opal Parking Solutions, LLC.** Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 11/3/26. Office location: Putnam Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY shall mail/email process to: Peter Preza, 91 Vernon Drive, Carmel, NY 10512, peterpreza24@gmail.com. Purpose: any lawful activities.

P. 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

PUBLIC NOTICE

GRAY CATBIRD LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/13/2026. LLC formed in DE on 09/22/2026. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 5 Parsonage St, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Address in DE: 2915 Ogletown Rd, Newark, DE 19713. Art. of Org. filed with the DE Secy. of State. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

P. 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **Palaciee LLC**. Article of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/05/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process to : c/o Palaciee LLC, 37 Laurie RD, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of **PSOPHIA VAZQUEZ DE CASTRO USA LLC**

Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/26. Office location: Putnam County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 06/05/25. Princ. office of LLC: 3027 Rt. 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: 300 Creek View Rd., Ste. 209, Newark, DE 19711. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

P. 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **Fraiser LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 5/20/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Fraiser LLC, 2891 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE

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15 CEDAR STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/04/26. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 71 Morris Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Purpose: Any lawful purpose..

P. 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **STRETCHHAUS LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/22/2026. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 463 Nimham Rd, Carmel, NY 10512. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

P. 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE

GOLF ANYWHERE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/17/25. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 24 Kentview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

P. 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 1/6/27

PUBLIC NOTICE

GORDO CONTRACTING LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/18/26. Office in Putnam Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 41 Shenandoah Ct., Carmel, NY 10512. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

P. 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

Want to Be a Park Ranger?

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation has launched a recruitment campaign for park rangers to help preserve New York State's landscapes, wildlife, cultural sites, and recreational spaces.

Park rangers serve as ambassadors and safety representatives for state parks and historic sites. Responsibilities range from patrolling campgrounds, beaches, and trails to responding to calls for assistance and helping with general security.

"Park rangers play an essential role in helping visitors safely enjoy everything our parks have to offer – whether they are hiking a trail, paddling on the water, or camping in the great outdoors," said State Parks Commissioner Kathy Moser. "We look forward to recruiting a new class of candidates who will work alongside our dedicated staff and park police across New York's more than 250 state parks and historic sites."

OPRHP is seeking individuals who are committed to public service and to ensuring parks and sites remain safe and welcoming for everyone. Park rangers respond to calls for assistance and alert emergency responders as needed. In addition, they assist with light-duty maintenance at their assigned facilities and support public safety efforts and traffic control at large events.



Photo courtesy of New York State Parks.

Park rangers are not law enforcement officers and are not subject to the same requirements as peace or police officers.

Park rangers are generally hired to work seasonally from mid-May through Labor Day. Employment may be extended at select locations. Visit https://parks.ny.gov/about/employment/park-rangers for more information.

Park rangers work closely with the public and are trained to respond to various emergencies including medical events, missing persons and property, traffic-related issues, and various other safety issues or hazards. They are usually on foot when interacting with visitors, but also navigate parks and sites in vehicles and UTVs, and on bikes.

DEC Opens Annual Student Poster Contest

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's annual water poster contest for middle school students is underway.

The 2027 "Water Connects Us All" theme challenges middle school students to learn about their role in the watershed they live in and what positive actions they can take to conserve, protect, and celebrate water resources – now and for future generations.

"For two decades, the water conservation poster contest has helped inspire New York's next generation of environmental stewards," said DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. "This year's theme encourages young people across New York State to become guardians of their watersheds and reminds all New Yorkers of the everyday actions each of us can take to protect and conserve precious water resources."

Since 2004, the annual poster contest has encouraged thousands of middle school students across New York to learn about their role in protecting local watersheds and how to conserve and safeguard water resources.

Teachers, schools, and clubs are encouraged to visit https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/education for more information about participating in the 2026-27 school year contest. Posters will be accepted through Jan. 8, and the 14 winning posters will be featured in DEC and NYWEA's 2028 annual calendar.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED - Carpenters and laborers wanted. Local Holmes-based contractor. Salary commensurate with experience. Transportation necessary. Email resume to fucilecontracting@gmail.com. 12/2

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. 12/31

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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Celebrating Recovery & Purpose at CoveCare Gala





The event included dinner, dancing, and a silent auction.







CoveCare Center CEO Eric Roth addresses the crowd.



Brian and Patricia Ledley accept the Sid Gibson Imagine Award at the Imagine Gala.

CoveCare Center's 2026 Imagine Gala brought together community leaders, business partners, supporters, and friends Nov. 13 at Hollow Brook Golf Club in Cortlandt Manor for an evening celebrating generosity, community leadership, and the importance of accessible mental health and substance use services.

Held under the theme "Imagine… Serving with Purpose," this year's gala honored Ledley Food Service and its owners, Brian and Patricia Ledley, with the Sid Gibson Imagine Award in recognition of their longstanding generosity, community commitment, and family tradition spanning more than six decades.

The evening featured a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and CoveCare's signature Community Giving Tree.

Guests also heard an inspiring message from Katherine Reynolds, family support navigator team lead at CoveCare Center, who shared her personal journey of recovery and the transformative impact of supportive relationships and opportunities for growth. Having first connected with CoveCare nearly 15 years ago as a participant in the agency's PROS program, Reynolds now uses her lived experience to help individuals and families navigate their own paths toward recovery.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement of CoveCare Center's endowment initiative in partnership with the Anahata Foundation, which has committed a $500,000 matching gift toward CoveCare's initial $1 million endowment goal. CoveCare's Board of Directors pledged an additional $10,000.

Together, these commitments meant that donations made to the endowment during the gala were tripled, up to the first $10,000 raised that evening.



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Jazz at Put Valley Library

Jazz fans across the Hudson Valley are invited to an afternoon of live music at Putnam Valley Library, when Circular Jazz performs Saturday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m., at 30 Oscawana Lake Road. The program pairs timeless jazz standards with the bold, inventive compositions of the late, acclaimed tenor saxophonist and composer Bert Wilson.

Featuring a trio of internationally recognized musicians who reside in the Hudson Valley – Erica Seguine on piano, Bryan Copeland on bass, and Bob Meyer on drums and cymbals – the performance showcases deep swing, harmonic sophistication, and spontaneous musical interplay.

Wilson (1939-2013), an influential figure in West Coast and New York jazz circles who also spent time living in Woodstock, left behind a vibrant catalog known for its emotional intensity and adventurous spirit. Space is limited, and online registration is requested at https://bit.ly/PVLJAZZ.

Town Parties Jump On Board Vacancies

Continued from Page 1

that will follow.

"When the time comes, I want to be clear that this board is committed to a fair, thoughtful, and transparent process," she said. "We intend to do our due diligence, carefully consider the responsibilities of the position, and ensure that any decision is made in the best interest of Putnam Valley and its residents."

Jolicoeur also noted that the responsibility for carrying out the appointment process rests with the town board.

"That responsibility should be afforded the time and space necessary to do our jobs independently, without premature pressure or direction from any partisan organization," she said.

In Carmel, Councilman Robert Kearns won the town supervisor seat.

Carmel Democrats have called on the currently all-Republican board to appoint someone "highly qualified to represent the needs of the people."

"This is an opportunity to select someone who brings a vision for Carmel's future and the vision, experience, and expertise needed to help move our town forward," wrote Marsha Waldman, chairperson of the Carmel Democratic Committee, to the board in a Nov. 19 letter. "The appointee could and should offer strengths in specialized areas such as infrastructure, management, finance, environmental sciences, public administration, or technology."

The committee recommended the town board make a public appeal for interested candidates to submit resumes.

"The candidates should then be interviewed in a public forum, giving the community a voice in their choice of leadership," wrote Waldman. "An open appeal of this nature will bring forward qualified people who may not currently be known by the council members and can bring candidates with a fresh perspective to our town government."

County to Run 24/7 Shelter During 'Code Blue' Months

Continued from Page 1

providing that expanded level of service," wrote the organization. "Brewster Cares therefore will not be involved in any shelter program this winter. Going forward, it will focus on other areas of its mission to serve the local poor and immigrant families and neighbors facing hardship in the Brewster area."

While the county received a number of responses to its RFP, Servadio said none of them met the expectation of the proposal.

Therefore, the county is moving forward – this year – with a program in partnership with CoveCare Center to oversee 24-7 sheltering during Code Blue.

"Essentially we're going to have social services staff and the CoveCare housing case manager maintain daily contact" with the shelter, said Servadio. "As with any other time someone presents to our office unsheltered, there is an intake process. There is an engagement process. We are evaluating the person's needs – financially, physically, if they need to have any sort of assessment done outside of our office…"

She said a large portion of the funding approved may be used to help individuals find more stable housing.

"They aren't going to get free housing for six months or a year, but it's enough to get them a security deposit and first month's rent for an apartment, and then case management to help them maintain it," said Servadio. "The expectation of counties for this funding is a warm space and a bathroom. So we are going above and beyond as much as we can to support individuals. So they are going to have food, they are going to be safe and warm, they're going to have case management, we're going to connect them to medical appointments and providers."

Last year at the height of Code Blue, 20 individuals were housed. According to Servadio, these are historically the same individuals who are assisted each year.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, D-Philipstown, said she's happy to see the county stepping up to better help those in need.

"It seems the change in the model really just improves upon the previous shelter idea," she said. "Supervision and access to services like food, and 24 hours, and now law enforcement also is part of that policy… It looks like a much improved program and model."

Legislator Laura Russo, R-Patterson, agreed. "I think it's a great opportunity for not just the nighttime" but for those who need a place to go during the day, she said.

"This is really important to me," added Legislator Amy Sayegh, R-Mahopac Falls. "I think it's really impressive, and the fact that they have access to DSS to maybe get back on their feet is really incredible."

Servadio noted that the county will issue another RFP in the spring, to give provider agencies another opportunity to submit proposals for next year's Code Blue. Until then, the county will do its best to address sheltering needs.

"This is a big job, but we are confident we'll be able to deliver," she said.

While DSS utilizes several motels in Putnam to house individuals throughout the year, a particular motel on the eastern side will be utilized specifically for Code Blue.

"DSS has used six motels throughout Putnam County, border to border, for years," said Servadio. "And we do have people placed at each motel at certain times, and each case is going to be different. A lot of individuals are employed. Some of them have access to food stamps, some of them have cars, some of them can get themselves to food pantries. If they can't, and we are able to step in and assist them, we will bring them not only to the food pantries, we are going to be using prepared meals from Bountiful Meals, we will be taking them grocery shopping… So it's not one-size-fits-all."

Legislator Tommy Regan, R-Brewster, noted that Brewster Cares had a process in place that required anyone who was intoxicated or overmedicated to be turned away. "So there was some sort of management to the situation so the people we were taking care of were safe and the others were turned over to EMS," he said.

Servadio said that process will still be followed.

"DSS, law enforcement, and EMS are trained to know if someone appears to be intoxicated or actively experiencing a mental illness, and they will not be brought to the overnight shelter – they will be brought to the emergency room," she said.

While Code Blue typically goes into effect in December, this year it began Nov. 1, and will run through March 31. Those who need a warm, safe place to stay during the winter months should get themselves to the DSS office at 110 Old Route 6, Carmel (building 2), between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays to be screened. They may also call 845-808-1500.

Those who need help outside of business hours should call 845-225-4300.



Nurses Demand Safe Staffing at Putnam Hospital

Continued from Page 1

Coral Palmer has worked as a registered nurse at Putnam Hospital for 10 years.

"Every day we're asked to take on more nursing duties and non-nursing duties," she said, noting that her unit often does not have a secretary, so nurses have to answer the phones, take on paperwork, and perform other administrative tasks. "It's too much when we're trying to make sure our patients stay safe."

If one nurse is assigned eight patients, that's 8 minutes each patients gets per hour. "Nurses can't go on like this, and patients shouldn't go through this, either," said Palmer.

State Sen. Peter Harckham, D-Peekskill, was among the elected officials who showed up at the protest to support nurses. He said a contract needs to be settled that not only provides fair wages and good benefits, but safe staffing.

"It's not just a request, it's the law," he said, explaining that in 2022 the state passed legislation requiring safe staffing in hospitals. "It's vital for patient care, it's vital for recruitment … and in the long run it's better for Northwell and the hospital."

Assemblyman Matt Slater, R-Yorktown, agreed.

"I respect our nurses and it's time Northwell respects our nurses, and the best way for Northwell to do that is to provide a new contract with safe staffing," he said.

According to Christina Evans, director-at-large for NYSNA, Northwell Health is the largest private employer in New York State, with more than 100,000 employees.

"It is a massive, financially powerful health care system, yet nurses are being asked to do more with less," she said. "The people who deliver the care should not be the ones paying the price for an organization's priorities."

Leadership at Northwell Health explained that the recent demonstration was not a strike, and that Putnam Hospital will remain fully operational.

"We respect our team members' right to conduct informational picketing," the company stated. "Our nurses are essential to the exceptional care our patients receive every day and we take their concerns seriously. We remain committed to working with NYSNA to reach a fair, sustainable agreement that supports our nurses and prioritizes patient care."