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PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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A monument honoring 15 men who once attended Carmel High School and later gave their lives in service was dedicated Nov. 9. Provided photo.

New Monument at Carmel H.S. Honors District's Fallen Heroes

Not since June 2, 1967 – nearly 60 years ago – had Carmel High School gathered in a ceremony to collectively honor its fallen. On Nov. 9, the district broke that long absence with a formal dedication of a new monument, which drew more than 50 community members to the front circle of Carmel High School.

"It is entirely fitting that this monument stands here, on the grounds of Carmel High School," said Carmel School Board Vice President John Curzio II. "Before these brave men were soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen, they were Carmel students. They walked these same hallways, sat in the same classrooms our students sit in today, and looked out these same windows with big dreams for their futures."

The board of education recently accepted a donation of a bronze plaque affixed to a granite stone, as a permanent memorial inscribed with the names of former CHS students who gave their lives serving their country during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Etched in the memorial are the words of former President Ronald Reagan, which capture the district's promise to the 15 brave souls recognized: "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

Curzio reflected on the service members' sacrifices.

"When they left this campus, duty called them to places far from home," he said. "They traded Carmel's school colors for our nation's uniform, and they gave up all of their tomorrows so that we could have our todays."

Superintendent of Schools Michael Plotkin brought the

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It's Official! Byrne Re-Elected

By Holly Crocco

While Republican Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne has been confident in his victory since election night, he "officially" reclaimed his seat Nov. 10 – which was the date by which mail-in ballots needed to be returned to the Board of Elections.



Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne won a second term in office.

The final total (not including overseas ballots which had a Nov. 16 return due date) had Byrne winning with 47.69 percent, or 20,387 votes, and Democratic challenger Brett Yarris earning 46.91 percent, or 20,055 votes.

Conservative Party candidate Tatiana Brahimi received 5.38 percent, or 2,301 votes.

That's a 0.78 percent margin between Byrne and Yarris, or just 332 votes.

The total was 118 votes more than the threshold for a recount, as the margin has to be 0.5 percent for that to happen.

Byrne secured a second term amid a historically difficult election environment for Republicans and a three-way race that created the po-

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24-Hour Warehouse Traffic Rebuked

By Holly Crocco

Several impassioned residents showed up to the Nov. 5 Southeast Town Board meeting for a public hearing regarding a request by Lincoln Logistics to amend its special permit application to allow overnight truck deliveries to the distribution center on Pugsley Road.

The Southeast Planning Board voted in August to amend the statement of findings from the 2021 environmental impact statement for Lincoln Logistics to support removal of the condition that trucks cannot operate overnight, citing that review of traffic and noise showed there would be no adverse impact.

The matter was then sent to the town board, which will vote on it in the near future.

On Nov. 5, David Steinmetz of Zarin & Steinmetz, representing the applicant, explained that when the development of the property was given the green light five years ago, it was with the constraint that no overnight truck traffic would be allowed. However, such restrictions have made it hard for the property owner to find tenants to

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Thank You, Veterans!



Veterans Day ceremonies were held across the county – and the country – Nov. 11 to honor America's veterans. Here, members of Mahopac VFW Post 5491 and American Legion Post 1080 lead a parade along East Lake Boulevard to the monument by Mahopac Public Library, where a ceremony followed. Additional photos are on page 20. Provided photo.

Kent's Proposed Tax Hike Jumps to 8.7%

By Holly Crocco

The Town of Kent's preliminary 2027 tax levy has risen from the originally proposed 5.9 percent to about 8.7 percent, or $1.7 million, over the current year.

During a Nov. 5 public hearing on the proposed budget, Director of Finance Cristina Cahill said the spending plan includes updated estimates to the town's retirement contribution rates, ongoing negotiations with the Police Benevolent Association and Teamsters unions, and the fire department's 38 percent budget increase.

"This is something the Town of Kent has no say over," she said.

However, the most significant change to the budget is how the town has decided to address its fiscal condition, on the heels of the New York State Comptroller's Office declaring Kent to be in "significant fiscal stress."

"This should not come as a surprise," said Cahill. "When I presented last year's budget I was very transparent, and the board as well, about the town's financial difficulties and what led to the town's depletion of fund balance… After eight years of the town maintaining no property tax increase, the cost of providing those services still continued to rise."

She said that instead of main-

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‘Concerned Putnam Conservatives’ Seek Removal of Party Leadership

By Holly Crocco

The contentious race for Putnam County executive had not yet been called when several “concerned registered Conservatives of Putnam County” drafted a letter to New York State Conservative Party Chairman Gerard Kassar demanding the immediate resignation of the current leadership of the local Conservative Party.

In the spring, the Putnam Conservative Party put up Chairman William Spain as its candidate for county executive, which was a snub to Republican incumbent Kevin Byrne. Then, in August, it swapped its candidate, putting up Tatiana Brahimi.

Regardless of who the individual was, many Republicans saw that person as a “spoiler candidate.”

“We write to express our profound disgust and outrage at the conduct of the Putnam County Conservative Party’s leadership during the 2026 elections,” reads the letter. “Their actions represent a betrayal of the trust placed in them by the rank-and-file Conservatives of this county, Republican allies, and the voters of Putnam County.”

They called the “war” against Byrne disastrous for the Conservative cause in Putnam and beyond.

“By fracturing the center-right vote, they directly damaged the reelection efforts of Congressman Mike Lawler, State Sen. Rob Rolison, and other candidates who carried the Conservative line and fought for the values this party represents,” wrote the citizens. “The splintering was not a principled stand for conservatism. Serious and mounting allegations indicate it was a calculated effort to punish Kevin Byrne and clear a path for a Democratic and Working Families Party candidate…

“The local Conservative Coalition for Byrne, signed by registered Conservatives, publicly rejected their maneuver and called it what it was: an effort to split the Conservative vote to help elect Brett Yarris.”

The letter notes how the county Conservative committee was caught distributing deceptive campaign mailers containing materially altered images in violation of New York State Election Law. “This is a stain on the Conservative Party name and a violation of the rule of law and honest elections that we have long demanded of others,” it reads.

The “concerned citizens” state that members of the county’s Conservative Party deserve new leadership that will restore integrity, transparency, and a commitment to conservative principles rather than personal grudges or external alliances.

Spain dismissed the letter.

“This so-called petition is being spearheaded by a county employee appointed by Kevin Byrne, a former county employee, and two disgruntled individuals I’ve never heard of,” he said. “That’s four people out of nearly 1,800 registered Conservatives in Putnam County, and four people who were conspicuously absent from the campaign trail this year.”

Spain said the local party’s support is earned, not expected.

“Kevin Byrne’s own actions as county executive cost him the support of the Conservative Party,” he said. “We congratulate him on his narrow re-election victory, but he should not overlook the fact that a majority of Putnam County voters cast their ballots for someone else.

“Rather than working to rebuild the relationships and coalitions he has lost, Byrne appears more interested in settling political scores and deepening divisions,” continued Spain. “He should start with the Putnam County Legislature, which has essentially given him a vote of no confidence while denying his requested pay raise. This is too bad and only reinforces why our committee made the decision it did.”

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& Putnam County Press

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PUTNAM VALLEY
Putnam Valley Library
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Working Mom
By Holly Crocco

‘Kevin!’

When reading this column, it’s imperative that when you get to the line where my husband and I both yell “Mikey!” that you imagine it being done like the late, great Catherine O’Hara in “Home Alone,” when she’s on the plane and realizes she’s left her (ironically enough) 8-year-old son at home and yells “Kevin!”

So… My husband was driving and Mikey was rattling off in the back seat about his day at school, which is a new thing this school year. We used to get no details about his day. Nothing. Questions about his day were answered with “I dunno,” “I can’t remember,” or – my personal favorite – the shrug.

This year, however, we’re getting all kinds of intel. And most of the time they are confessions.

“Mom, today I threw Grace’s paper on the floor and she said she was going to punch me.”

“Mom, today I told Lucas he has a low IQ because he wasted all our recess time doing goal kicks and we couldn’t play a game of soccer.”

New this year, the classroom doesn’t have a bathroom like the ones for kindergarten through second grade. As such, I think all the kids are abusing the autonomy of being able to leave the classroom and walk down the hall to the shared bathroom.

And apparently it’s quite the social gathering place.

“Mom, don’t get mad, but today Jackson and I climbed the stall between the urinals.”

“Mom, the teacher made a new rule that only one person can go to the bathroom at a time and they can’t take longer than 5 minutes.”

Anyway, on this particular day Mikey blurted out, “Dad, today me and Gio figured out how to make a Band-Aid.”

My husband made eye contact with him in the rearview mirror, grinning. “That’s cool, bud. How did you make one?”

“No, no. We didn’t make one. We took one apart.”

I side-eyed Mike.

“Uh, what do you mean you took one apart?”

“So, like, Gio pulled the cotton square away from the sticky part, and you can see like the little spot where they stuck it there”–

“Mikey.”

–“and then you leave just a little bit of sticky around the sides so it can still stick to the skin”–

“Wait, Mikey, I have a question.”

–“and the cotton part is what absorbs the blood”–

“Hang on!” The child finally stopped talking when my husband increased his volume. “Where did the Band-Aid on the bus come from? Was it yours?”

Mikey furrowed his eyebrows and glanced between the two of us like we each had three heads.

That infamous shrug. “We found it.”

“Mikey!”

I’ll spare you the rest of the conversation but suffice it to say that my child and his friend found a used Band-Aid on the bus on the way home from school and dissected it within an inch of its life, and was very proud of himself that he gleaned enough knowledge to be able to MacGyver a lifesaving bandage in the future, should he ever find himself maimed.

Very proud parents, we are.

Holly Crocco is editor of the Putnam County Press/Times and mother of an 8-year-old boy. She can be reached at editorial@putnampresstimes.com.

After Vetoes & Overrides, County’s Budget Provides ‘Historic’ Tax Relief

By Holly Crocco

The Putnam County Legislature put to bed a budget on Nov. 12 that doubles the property tax savings for 2027 that was proposed by County Executive Kevin Byrne in early October, overriding multiple vetoes he issued in the interest of protecting the county’s fund balance.

The Legislature accomplished this by using an additional $1 million from the county’s $201 million unrestricted fund balance to put toward insurance costs, more than $2 million toward retiree health costs, and more than $1 million toward pension costs for employees.

“We took that $4 million and instead of further taxing the taxpayers,” used reserve funds, said Legislature Chairman Dan Birmingham, R-Southeast. “What that did was essentially double the tax cuts proposed in Kevin’s budget.”

Each October the county executive presents a tentative budget to the Legislature, which then spends the month combing through it line by line, making additions, deletions, and other adjustments before approving the spending plan. The county executive then has the opportunity to veto some of those changes, which the Legislature can override or accept.

Byrne approved many of the Legislature’s modifications to the tentative budget, while vetoing legislative amendments that he said could threaten the county’s long-term financial health or overstepped the Legislature’s authority.

“Putnam County taxpayers deserve meaningful relief, and this budget already delivers the largest property tax cut in our county’s history, by far,” he said of the original spending plan. “Our responsibility also extends to the families who will be paying these bills next year and the year after that. We can responsibly return $6.5 million to taxpayers while protecting the financial foundation that makes tax relief possible.”

However, during its Nov. 12 meeting, the Legislature overrode all but three of Byrne’s 19 vetoes.

“Those vetoes would have cost the taxpayers of Putnam County $4 million that they now don’t have to pay,” said Birmingham.

The Legislature chairman and the county executive have disagreed this past year over the use of fund balance.

“While I’m disappointed that the Legislature voted to override several vetoes intended to protect Putnam County’s long-term financial health, I appreciate its consideration in upholding others,” said Byrne. “Our original proposal provided record-setting property tax relief to Putnam County residents, and the final approved budget preserved and expanded that relief for next year. Families deserve to keep more of their hard-earned money, and making this county more affordable remains a central priority of my administration.”

However, he said his concerns remain regarding an overreliance on fund balance and the long-term obligations it then creates.

“Savings can only be spent

Continued on Page 14

Recovery is Possible at St. Christopher's Inn

Peer Counselor Pulls from Lived Experience to Help Others

By Rob Sample

In an era of medical miracles, saving lives can be a tall order. But that is what John Bell said happened to him.

And in a lifetime characterized by decades of substance abuse, his cure was miraculous.

Bell is a certified peer advocate (CerPA) and a counselor at St. Christopher's Inn, a substance-abuse treatment center in Garrison that has been run by the Franciscan friars for more than 100 years. It includes long-term inpatient care at multiple residential facilities, follow-up outpatient care, and ancillary services such as smoking-cessation programs.

People in recovery are known as "Brothers Christopher," as the center focuses exclusively on men recovering from addiction – aiming for lasting recovery on the order of what Bell himself achieved.

Bell's vocation derives, in a big way, from the adage that to fully understand people, you must first "walk a mile in their shoes."

Peer counselors are, by definition, people who bring personal experience to bear in their role in helping others recover from substance abuse. That can mean experience with drug or alcohol abuse, having a family member who was a substance abuser, having experience with mental health issues, or a combination of those factors.

That lived experience gives them a useful measure of both compassion and tough-minded expertise. Bell leans into his lived experience to help others embark on a substance-free life – and St. Christopher's boasts a high degree of success.

"More than three-quarters of the men who complete our program remain substance-free," said Bell.

St. Christopher's Inn was first started along what used to be known as Albany Post Road in the 1890s. The Franciscan friars at St. Christopher's opened their doors to men they termed "wayfarers" – men who traversed the roadway with a few worldly goods and no clear destination.

The name "St. Christopher's" honors the patron saint of wayfarers and travelers, in the same way it later inspired the medallions that people used to fasten to their dashboards.

"Those wayfarers were all men, and the early friars soon learned that many of them were alcohol abusers, whom the friars wanted to help," noted Bell. "Our program is an outgrowth of that early mission. We've become widely known as one of the best substance-abuse rehabilitation programs in New York State."

Bell noted that approximately 90 percent of substance abusers have experienced trauma of one sort or another in their lives. The immersive nature of the residential treatment program gives people an opportunity to step away from familiar surroundings and focus on recovery. In the process, they are surrounded by others on the same path, which augments the recovery process.

St. Christopher's has 144 beds in total.

"Men stay for three months at a minimum," said Bell. "The standard in New York is 28 days – a length of time that just isn't as effective. For many clients, such programs become a revolving door."

Bell's own experience with addiction spanned 27 years, during which he took part in more than a dozen programs that failed. St. Christopher's was his final stop, and Bell attributed its success to the continued support it offered beyond the initial stages of treatment.

"This was the only program in which people showed they cared about what happened to me after I finished," said Bell, who went back to school to become a counselor, earning the CerPA designation.

Regarding his work at St. Christopher's, he's open about what recovery has meant to his life, how difficult it was, and the missteps he made along the way.

Incoming patients are matched according to need. For instance, a man who exhibits psychological issues will be teamed with a psychologist or psychiatrist. They'll usually spend a few weeks on the same track or focus before switching to a program that focuses on other recovery goals.

In some cases, enrollment in recovery is mandated by the courts. This occurs when a person is arrested for either the sale or possession of controlled substances. "Our people will work with judges and court personnel to develop a program that meets their recommendations as well as the individual's recovery needs," said Bell.

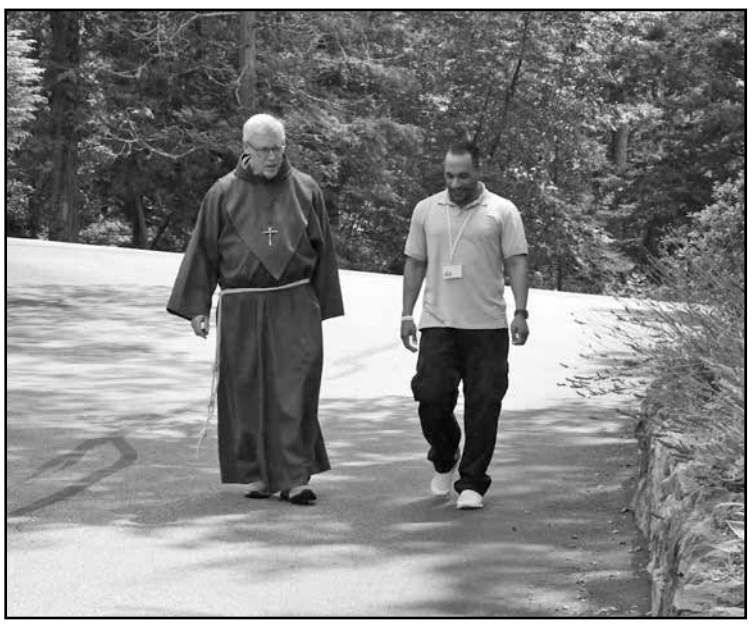
The meaning of "rehabilitation" has evolved during the 100-plus years that St. Christopher's has been around. In its initial decades, programs had a strong emphasis on discipline and meetings in both small and larger groups. These were akin to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and the facility hosts several of these group meetings on site each week.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the facility pivoted to treating the abuse of narcotics and other drugs in response to the growing need for treatment in those areas. More recently, recovery programs have focused on multiple-substance abuse, especially after the opioid crisis became a problem on a national scale.

One of the most important aspects of recovery is learning how to build a meaningful life outside the treatment environment. In Bell's case, he remained at St. Christopher's for an entire year after his three-month program was complete. He spent time at the adjoining San Damiano House & Farm, which is named after the San Damiano church and monastery near Assisi, Italy.

The Italian church is where St. Francis first received his calling in 1205, leading to the formation of the Franciscan order as well as the sister organization known as the Poor Clares, named after St. Clare of Assisi.

"The men will work on the farm three hours each day, Mondays through Fridays, for three months, and it's a great form of therapy," Bell pointed out. "During the warm months we raise a big variety of vegetables and fruits, using specially built raised beds… In addition, crops such as garlic, potatoes, and onions can grow for many months indoors. Moreover, we are busy from January through May getting seedlings ready to transplant outside."



At St. Christopher's Inn, men are invited to explore faith and spirituality in ways that are meaningful to them, whether through Mass, spiritual direction, music, prayer, or quiet reflection.

The larger St. Christopher's also offers an array of vocational programs including hospitality services, food safety and preparation, and environmental management (caring for the Holy Mountain that the complex occupies), among others.

Because it is rooted in a religious organization, St. Christopher's encourages its male participants to have a spiritual connection. In this way, it shares some similarity with the international AA organization, which calls upon participants to place faith in a higher power. Nonetheless, these activities aren't mandatory, according to Bell.

"There is a chapel here and we're encouraged to go, but the friars don't proselytize," he said. "We're a spiritual program, not a specifically religious one. Most important, we're open to all men who want to come to us for healing."

For more information, visit https://stchristophersinn-graymoor.org, call 845-335-1020, or email sciadmissions@atonementfriars.org.

We Will Miss

Brewster

Helen Theresa Gambino, 87, November 3. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

Terrie Ann Nastasi-Schoenig, 65, November 5. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

Giorgio Rimaldi, 88, November 4. Balsamo-Cordovano Funeral Home, Carmel, 845-225-2144.

Cold Spring

Patricia Anne Byron, 80, November 1. Clinton Inc Funeral Homes, Cold Spring, (845) 265-3333.

Mahopac

Henrietta Tschinkel, 99, October 31. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

Kent Seeks Community Input on Open Space Plan

The Town of Kent is working with the conservation nonprofit Hudsonia to complete the town's Open Space Plan, which will help identify and plan for the conservation, stewardship, and enhancement of Kent's natural, agricultural, recreational, scenic, and cultural resources.

Community input is an important part of developing the plan and understanding what matters most to people who live, work, or just spend time in Kent.

There are two ways to help: take the Open Space Plan survey and attend the upcoming community workshop.

Community members are encouraged to complete the survey to share what matters most to them, from protecting water quality and wildlife habitat to preserving scenic landscapes, supporting agriculture, and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation. The survey is 25 questions – mostly multiple choice – and takes an average of 15 minutes to complete.

It is available at https://bit.ly/kentopenspaceplan-survey.

Community members are also invited to attend a public workshop Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybils Crossing. Participants will have the opportunity to explore maps, share their thoughts and concerns, and help identify priorities for the future of Kent's open spaces and natural resources. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Registration is encouraged but not required, at https://bit.ly/kentopenspaceplan-workshop.

There will be future opportunities to provide feedback on the draft plan and maps.

For more information, email openspaceplan@townofkentny.gov.

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For this free, confidential counseling please contact us at 845-225-8493 or email kagreeneputhousing@aol.com or visit our website www.putnamhousing.com.

Mahopac German Teacher Earns National Award

Mahopac High School and middle school German teacher Katrina Bauerlein has been named by the American Association of Teachers of German as the 2026 recipient of the Outstanding German Educator Award in the high school category – the organization's highest honor for German educators.

Bauerlein started teaching at Mahopac in 2001 after returning from a full year abroad, living and working in Germany with a Fulbright Fellowship.

The award recognizes educators who demonstrate excellence in German education as well as creative leadership and contributions to the German teaching profession at the local, state, and national levels.

Bauerlein has been a dedicated member of the Mahopac school community, helping students develop their German language skills. Her approach emphasizes meaningful communication, cultural understanding, and an inclusive learning environment in which students are encouraged to think critically and engage with new perspectives.



Katrina Bauerlein has been honored by the American Association of Teachers of German.

"Katrina brings an incredible level of knowledge, enthusiasm, and care to her classrooms," said MHS Principal Patrick Keevins. "She has a gift for making the German language and culture meaningful and accessible to her students, and this acknowledgement is well-deserved."

For Bauerlein, the award is both a professional honor and a reflection of the importance of continuing to grow as an educator.

"I'm both incredibly honored and humbled to receive this award," she said. "As the sole German teacher in this part of the Hudson Valley, I have always worked hard to seek out professional collaboration and opportunities for my students well beyond our geographic area… I'm so grateful to 25 years of Mahopac German families for their trust and support in all the ways, but especially for welcoming our exchange students from Germany and the willingness to send their kids to Germany for international experiences."

"Recognition at the national level is a tremendous accomplishment," said Mahopac Superintendent of Schools Vincent DiGrandi. "Katrina's commitment to her students and the continued growth of German language education reflects the kind of teaching we value at Mahopac, and we are proud to have her representing our district."

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Nutrition Corner



By Allison J. Stowell MS, RD, CDN

Smart Options for Your Supermarket Cart

It's smart to fill our cart with foods that make the most sense for both our wallet and our health. This starts by choosing nutritious foods with value and versatility.

Nutrient dense: It's helpful to consider the nutrition a food offers, not just the cost. In some cases, a higher price tag may reflect higher nutrient density, which helps you save if it provides the nutrition per serving that another food may not.

Freeze or Pantry Friendly: Low/no sodium canned goods and frozen foods will always be good cart add-ons. These ingredients can round out many dishes. I recommend going with store brand options for cost savings. Think creatively about how to use these staples in several dishes (like the recipe below!) to reduce waste and make your budget go further.

Healthy Convenience: Guiding Stars-earning frozen proteins like skinless chicken, fish and other options are worth adding to your cart. Pre-washed greens and easy prep veggies should also be on your list if they help you consume more vegetables. This is a smart place to spend food dollars because it helps you to eat a more nutritious diet with less effort. And rounding out your plate with veggies means you'll consume less of something else.

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.

Slow Cooker Pumpkin Chicken Chili (3 Guiding Stars) Hannaford.com

This hearty chicken chili gets an unexpected twist from pumpkin purée, adding a subtle sweetness to every warming bite. The slow cooker does all the work while you prep your favorite toppings.

Ingredients:
1 yellow onion, diced
1 green bell pepper, diced
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp. chili powder
2 tsp. ground cumin
2 tsp. smoked paprika
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 (15 - oz.) can pumpkin puree
1 (28 - oz.) can crushed tomatoes
1 (15 - oz.) can low-sodium black beans, drained and rinsed
1 (15.5 - oz.) can kidney beans
2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
2 lbs. bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
Optional toppings: chopped cilantro, lime wedges, shredded cheese, sour cream, sliced jalapeño and tortilla chips

Directions:
1. To a 6-qt slow cooker, add onion, bell pepper, garlic, spices, pumpkin, tomatoes, black and kidney beans and broth. Season with salt and pepper. Stir together to combine. Nestle the chicken into the slow cooker so it's mostly submerged.
2. Cover and cook on low 7–8 hours or high 3–5 hours, until chicken is very tender and easily pulls from the bone. Transfer chicken thighs to a bowl or cutting board. When cool enough to handle, use forks to shred. Discard skin and bones.
3. Return chicken to slow cooker and stir. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Top with optional toppings such as cilantro, a squeeze of lime, cheese, sour cream, jalapeño and tortilla chips.

Sweet Potato Meal Prep Jars

(Family Features)
Sweet Potato Meal Prep Jars



Ingredients:
Dressing:
1/4 cup pico de gallo
3 tablespoons sour cream
1/2 teaspoon taco seasoning
2 medium sweetpotatoes, chopped
olive oil
2 1/2 tablespoons taco seasoning, divided
1 pound ground grass-fed beef
1 can black beans, rinsed
1/2 cup cooked corn
1/2 cup pico de gallo
1/2 cup shredded cheese
2 cups romaine lettuce, chopped

Directions:
To make dressing: In medium glass, whisk pico de gallo, sour cream and taco seasoning.
Preheat oven to 400 F.
Toss sweetpotatoes with olive oil and 1 tablespoon taco seasoning. Spread in even layer on baking sheet and bake 20-25 minutes, tossing halfway. In skillet, brown beef with remaining taco seasoning.
Assemble three meal prep jars with dressing on bottom followed by black beans, corn, pico de gallo, cooked beef, cheese, sweetpotatoes and romaine.
To serve, dump from jars onto plates.

Servings: 3
Source: North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission

Veterans Share Experiences With Brewster Students





Veterans shared their stories with H.H. Wells students.



JFK Elementary School students honored veterans with music and gratitude.

The Brewster Central School District celebrated Veterans Day with special events across campus.

At Henry H. Wells Middle School, 10 veterans gathered to share experiences and lessons from their service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The veterans included Jack Duncan (Marine Corps and Army); Jess McCann (Naval Intelligence); Arthur Hanley (Army); Dan Doherty (Navy); Rob Reicamp (Army); John Gregory (Marine Corps); Duncan Carruth (Marine Corps); Steve Elliot (Marine Corps); Harry Sherblom (Marine Corps); and Nick Neuner (Marine Corps).

Their military experiences spanned the Vietnam era to the present.

Kindergarten-through-grade -12 guidance and social-emotional learning specialist Jess McCann was in her senior year of college, applying to graduate programs in psychology, when the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks occurred. Her dad was one of the first responders to the attacks on the World Trade Center.

"I felt helpless," she told students. "I knew that's when I had to enlist."

She served for eight years as an intelligence specialist in Baghdad, Iraq. During one of her assignments, she had the opportunity to walk through Saddam Hussein's golden palace.

The veterans told stories of camaraderie and the places their military service had taken them – from Iraq to the Arctic Circle.

"I was a test pilot and we flew up to the Arctic Circle," said Dan Doherty. "It was pure white – I couldn't make out where the mountains started and where the ocean began. I'll never forget how beautiful it was."

Wells students were grateful for the opportunity to hear the veterans' stories, but the veterans were just as grateful. "I look forward to this event every year," said Jack Duncan.

"Not every school honors veterans," added Steve Elliot. "It is so important to ask questions and hear the stories."

C.V. Starr Intermediate School hosted a breakfast for veterans and their families.

The highlight of the event was a presentation featuring more than 100 slides honoring over 150 mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, grandparents, and siblings connected to the C.V. Starr community. As each slide was presented, the veteran's service and connection to school were shared:

William Rodriguez, U.S. Army, grandfather of Aviva Rodriguez.

Warren Hutchings, U.S. Navy, World War II, great-grandfather of Penelope Sibrizzi.

The list went on and on, and as the names were read, students sat in rapt attention.

"That was one heck of a list," said Principal Paul Stellacci. "These veterans sacrificed themselves for us. We are here today to pay respect to those who have served our country."

Over at the Brewster High School Performing Arts Center, JFK Elementary School students gathered for a special assembly honoring about 20 veterans with connections to the school.

The BHS Color Guard opened the ceremony with a presentation of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, grade by grade, students stood at their seats to raise their voices in song. As they sang, a slideshow with Brewster veterans from each of the divisions of the armed forces played on a large screen.

Students in Sara Didio's class presented stars to each veteran in attendance. Individual students also offered personal words of thanks for their service.

Veterans and their families were treated to a light breakfast provided by the PTA, and provided with thank-you notes.

Looking For Something to Do? Check Out Our Community Events on Page 9

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$300K Awarded to Study the Great Swamp

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has received $300,000 to conduct a needs assessment and conservation study of the Great Swamp, the critical 19.8-mile-long, nearly 6,000-acre riverine and wetland ecosystem in Putnam and Dutchess counties that protects the Croton Reservoir watershed.

Included in the study will be a focus on the 444-acre Wildlife Management Area inside the Great Swamp, which was expanded recently through the land acquisition of an 87-acre parcel in Patterson.

"The Great Swamp is one of the most important ecological treasures in New York," said State Sen. Pete Harckham, D-Peekskill, who helped secure the funding for the study in the 2026-27 state budget. "Its significance to the region involves protecting fragile drinking water supplies and an immense biodiversity, as well as providing flood mitigation and environmental tourism. We need a new study from the DEC to help guide us in limiting any potential damage to this remarkable ecosystem."

One of the largest wetlands in New York, the Great Swamp functions as both a flood-mitigation buffer and natural filtration system as it spans across the towns of Patterson and Southeast, along with Pawling and Dover. The southern section of the Great Swamp drains via the East Branch of the Croton River into New York City's Croton Reservoir System.

The DEC funding for the study is part of a broader conservation effort meant to evaluate and safeguard the local watershed, ecosystem health, and wetlands protections within the management area. Since the ecosystem of the Great Swamp has not been comprehensively studied in more than 25 years, this funding is considered essential to evaluate the impacts of climate variability and assess the current status of threatened species residing in the wetlands.

Southeast Supervisor Joseph Castellano expressed strong support of the study, which is located partly in the Town of Southeast.

"A thorough and transparent review of the potential environmental, ecological, and community impacts is essential to protecting our natural resources and ensuring that the health and long-term preservation of the Great Swamp remain a priority and that the concerns of local residents are fully considered," he said.

Patterson Town Supervisor Richard Williams agreed.

"The Great Swamp, and its American Red Maple floodplain forest, was a jewel in the heart of the Town of Patterson," he said. "Now, through well-intentioned but misguided conservation efforts of the swamp, that Red Maple floodplain forest is gone, replaced by a series of beaver ponds which create new concerns and new challenges. We need to better understand the changes that have occurred and how to properly manage this new ecosystem."

Judy Kelley-Moberg, a founding board member of the Friends of the Great Swamp, said there are real environmental concerns about the future of the swamp, especially in Patterson and Putnam County.

"That's why I am appreciative of Sen. Harckham for securing funding to conduct this DEC study," she said. "It is my hope this will inspire the many stakeholders concerned with the Great Swamp to work together and protect this incredible natural resource."



Allison shows off her renovated bedroom.

Brewster Child Fighting Cancer Gets Room Makeover

Brewster youth Allison has a bright new bedroom designed around her personality, thanks to a volunteer team from the Westchester office of Consigli Construction Co., and Circle of Care's Art From the Heart program.

Circle of Care works with pediatric oncology teams at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital to support children with cancer and their families with practical, emotional, and financial assistance throughout treatment and beyond. Its Art From the Heart program creates personalized room makeovers for children with cancer, bringing together families, volunteers, and community partners to create spaces at home designed around each child's personality, interests, and needs.

While Allison is being treated for cancer, her family wanted her to have a safe, comfortable place to play, relax, and enjoy her stuffed animals, dress-up, makeup, and other favorite things.

Working with Allison and her family, the Consigli team set out to create a room that felt distinctly hers while using the space thoughtfully. A lofted bunk bed adds both a fun place to climb and plenty of storage, while coordinating furniture gave Allison's favorite things their own places.

Pink and flowery details, sparkles, a rollaway desk with twinkling lights, and a bright new light fixture completed the transformation.

"The challenge was figuring out how to fit everything into a child-sized room while still giving Allison a place to call her own and play," said Jessica Prichard of Consigli Construction, who led the volunteer team. "She has such a lively personality and so much energy. We wanted the room to feel like her."

When it was time for the reveal, Allison took her parents' hands and walked into her new room. She began exploring and, before long, was jumping around on her new bunk bed.

"Once she saw the extent of everything in the room, she was so excited," said Adriana Gambino Cain of Consigli Construction. "Her parents told us the makeover was a dream come true for her and more than they ever could have hoped for."

Stargazing in Kent

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.

In partnership with the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association, the event offers a rare opportunity to view distant worlds through high-powered telescopes and guided star tours. Both professional and hobbyist astronomers will be on hand with a variety of high-end telescopic equipment, giving guests the chance to experience the night sky like never before.

Depending on weather conditions, MHAA members will showcase stunning views of the moon, planets, star clusters, glowing nebulae, and even distant galaxies – all right from Kent's own backyard.

A highlight of the night will be the "naked-eye star walk" where an MHAA astronomer will use a laser pointer to trace constellations and guide participants through the sparkling story of the night sky.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescopes or binoculars to explore the cosmos up close. To preserve night-vision, avoid using white light (such as phone flashlights) near the telescopes.

The rain date is Saturday, Dec. 12. For updates regarding postponement or cancelation due to weather, visit www.kentcac.info or follow the Kent CAC on Facebook.

PUTNAM COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL

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Meanderings
Lou Orfanella

Communication is Key

In the pre-internet era when I attended – and later taught – mass communication courses on college campuses, one of the main things we discussed and focused on was the value of non-verbal communications and of how we constantly are sending messages that are so much more than just the words we utter.

While statistics vary from study to study, suffice it to say that a large percentage – generally considered to be a majority – of what we communicate is non-verbal. Be it facial expressions, physical gestures, or simply the length of pauses between words, our messages are far more than they appear to be on the surface.

I think of this when waiting in line to order coffee or most anything else at a store or café. There are times when I feel like I am being resented by the person behind the counter for taking up more time than I might have if I had used the drive-thru lane or the online advance ordering app.

Drive-thru consumerism used to be reserved for banks and the occasional fast food outlet. Now, everything from shopping at grocery stores and pharmacies to paying one's respects at wakes at funeral homes can be tended to from the comfort of your front seat.

Just speak into the clown's literal or figurative mouth and then drive up to the next window.

As I wait on line and approach the counter, I get the feeling that those on the other side wish I had used the miracle of modern technology that would have led to my order already being bagged and tagged and awaiting my arrival at the end of the counter. Even within food establishments, the rows of in-store kiosks become ways to reduce or even eliminate person-to-person, face-to-face contact.

Just order and pay before exchanging even the slightest pleasantry with another human being.

Advances in technology reach beyond our shopping experiences. I can't be the only parent whose kids have texted each other while traveling in the same car. I can't be the only one who prefers to talk to an actual person when the cable service plan needs to be updated.

And I know I'm not the only one who still thinks that traditional cursive writing continues to be the only way you can actually sign your name on an official document, or that something is definitely lacking in a virtual doctor visit.

Person-to-person communication is not the only place things have changed. Mass media as an industry and means of communication has also morphed in ways that were unheard of back when television anchorman Walter Cronkite was considered to be the most trusted man in America.

Why must the people on television newscasts punctuate so many of their sentences with "right?" as if looking for our approval? Why must they constantly switch from person to person during the broadcast with phrases like, "Back to you, guys," which is too informal even if being used generically.

And why on TV and radio is the audience bombarded with phrases like, "Good morning, everyone," and "Hi, everybody," when the most basic rule of broadcasting is to approach the job as if you are communicating with just one person, which makes a personal connection between the communicator and the recipient of said communication.

Mass communication and basic human interactions need not be difficult or overly technological. Call someone. Write a letter. Or better yet, sit face-to-face with a friend, relative, or even a new acquaintance and ask, to quote Joey Tribbiani, "How you doin'?"

Lou Orfanella is a freelance writer and tutor. He can be contacted at WriterAndTutor@outlook.com.



As always, the parade of lights was the highlight of last year's Holiday on the Lake event.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year Returns to Carmel

'Holiday on the Lake,' Menorah Lightings Planned

The Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association's annual Holiday on the Lake festivities are scheduled Saturday, Dec. 5 along Gleneida Avenue.

Considered the highlight of the holiday season in the greater Carmel area, the event will include hayrides with Santa, trolley rides, a chowder tasting festival, live music along Gleneida Avenue, a parade of lights, and the lighting of 70 trees along the lakeshore.

"There are no charges whatsoever, and we have always been able to do it through contributions from local individuals, businesses, and organizations," said HCCA Association President Frank Chianca.

However, with the rising cost of the trees put up along Lake Gleneida, the association is soliciting sponsors this year to help with the expense. Each sponsored tree will display a tag indicating the sponsor's name or that of a family or individual the tree is dedicated to.

To sponsor a tree, email contact@carmelcivicassoc.org.

Also as part of the Holiday on the Lake events, the spirit of Chanukah will be brought to life with a menorah lighting ceremony Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m., at the corner of Route 6 and 52, across from Reed Memorial Library.

The festivities will kick off with live music, free latkes and donuts, and hot cider. Rabbi Avi Korer of Chabad of Putnam County will lead the traditional ceremony featuring Chanukah songs and inspiring words celebrating the holiday's timeless message of light, hope, and unity.

For more information about local Chanukah activities, visit www.PutnamChabad.org.

For more information about the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association, visit www.CarmelCivicAssoc.org.



Increased Funding for Universal Pre-K

School districts serving the 94th Assembly District are projected to receive nearly $1.9 million in additional universal prekindergarten aid for the 2026-27 school year, supporting a projected net increase of 100 UPK seats for local students, announced Assemblyman Matt Slater, R-Yorktown, last month.

The 2026-27 state budget made significant changes to New York's UPK program. According to the New York State Education Department, all school districts can now access UPK funding, the program has moved to a single funding structure, and per-pupil funding rates for 4-year-olds have increased.
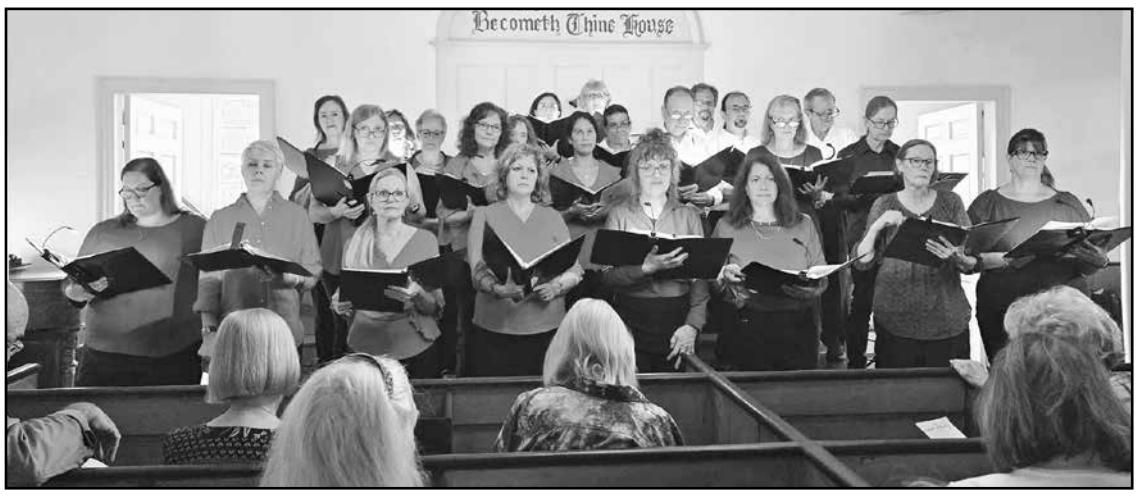
Districts are also able to enroll eligible 4-year-olds and receive state funding for each student served, provided program requirements are met.

"Every family should have access to quality early learning opportunities regardless of their ZIP code," said Slater. "These investments give our school districts greater resources to meet the needs of their communities and expand opportunities where there is demand."

The estimates also project a net increase of 100 UPK seats across the schools serving the 94th Assembly District. The largest projected seat increases include Brewster with 25 seats, Mahopac with 15, and Carmel with 12.

The 2026-27 figures are preliminary estimates generated before actual student counts for the current school year were available.

"This is encouraging progress, but our work does not end with one budget," said Slater. "I will continue working with our local school districts and families to ensure our communities have the resources they need to give every child the opportunity to succeed."



The Putnam Chorale will perform Dec. 13 in Carmel.

Chorale Presents 'Starry Night'

From the quiet beauty of a starlit evening to the joyful exuberance of American spirituals, the Putnam Chorale will explore the many expressions of light, faith, and wonder in "Starry Night: Songs of Light and Wonder," performed on two dates this holiday season.

The program brings together music of extraordinary beauty and emotional depth spanning several languages and musical traditions. Audiences will experience the hushed wonder of Samuel Barber's "Sure on This Shining Night," the sacred mystery of James MacMillan's "O Radiant Dawn," and the luminous serenity of Arvo Pärt's "Bogoroditse Djevo."

These reflective works will be balanced by the spirited energy of beloved American spirituals, including "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Mary Had a Baby."

The choir will also perform "Cant de les Estrelles" (song of the stars), a masterwork by Spanish composer Enrique Granados, scored for piano, organ, and three choruses, and sung in Catalan.

Together, the selections offer a musical journey from quiet contemplation to joyful celebration.

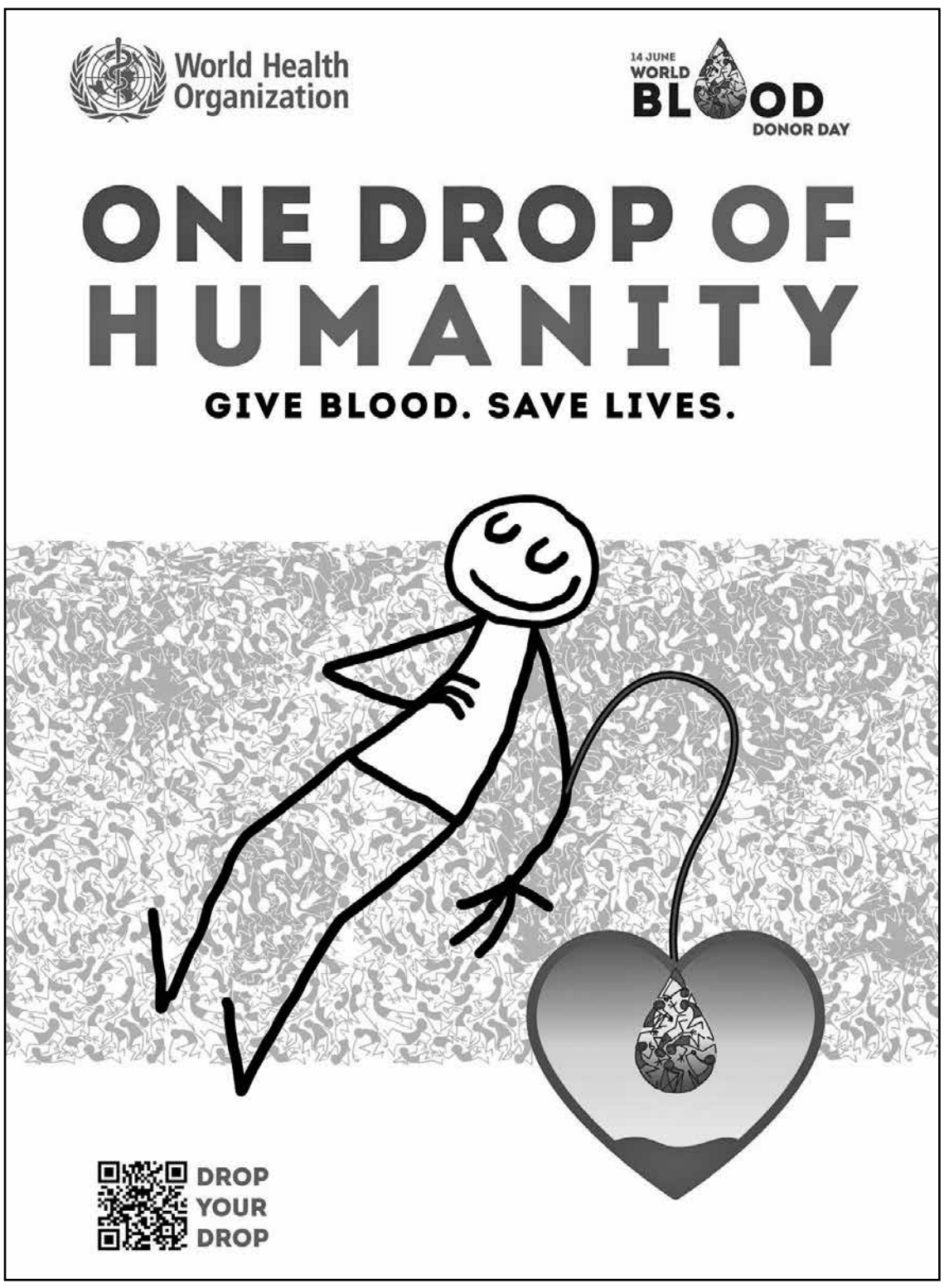
The concerts also highlight an important milestone for the Putnam Chorale, which has grown to 88 singers – giving the chorale the opportunity to explore music of greater complexity and broaden the scope of its performances.

"It is thrilling to see the Putnam Chorale grow to 88 voices, each bringing energy, talent, and a shared passion for making music together," said Music Director Jason Tramm. "That growth opens exciting artistic possibilities, allowing us to embrace more ambitious repertoire and an even greater range of expression. The 'Starry Night' program is a celebration of this flourishing musical community and we cannot wait to share its radiant beauty and uplifting joy with our audiences."

Performances are Friday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m., at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82, Lagrangeville; and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m., at St. James the Apostle Church, 14 Gleneida Ave., Carmel.

Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for students and seniors, and free for youth age 12 and younger. They can be purchased at www.putnamchorale.org/next-event and at the door.

The Putnam Chorale is a 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 1984. It is the largest community chorus in Putnam County and draws singers from towns in Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester, and Fairfield counties.





Goldenrod Gall.

Have You Seen the Goldenrod Gall Fly?

By Janis Butler
CCE Master Gardener Volunteer

Did you ever play with "noggin knockers" as a kid? The "knockers" are galls – dry, corky balls found on goldenrod stems in fall and winter. If you snap off a stalk of goldenrod near its base and again just above the gall, you have a small, stiff club with which to chase other children around as you knock one another on the noggin.

What is a gall?

It's an abnormal growth or swelling of plant tissue, stimulated by what the plant perceives as a threat. This threat could be an insect, mite, fungus, bacteria, virus, or other agent who uses the gall in various ways – as a food supply, for example, and/or as protection against weather and predators.

Galls rarely cause serious harm to the host and can appear on almost any part of a plant, including leaves, twigs, stems, flowers, or even roots. They come in many shapes and colors – sometimes vibrant – taking the form of balls, as in the goldenrod gall, as well as spikes, fingers, and other variations.

The story of the Goldenrod Gall Fly (Eurosta solidaginis, fruitfly family) begins in spring, when the flies emerge from last year's galls and look for mates. The male fly stakes out a position at the tip of a goldenrod and makes himself highly visible. He might wander around on the stem, laying down chemical pheromones as an additional sign of his presence. When a female approaches, he rocks rapidly from side to side, flicking his wings to attract her attention.

Once they mate, the female begins her search for the perfect plant on which to lay her eggs.

There are 100 to 150 species of goldenrod in the world, most of them in North America. The exact number is elusive since they often hybridize in the wild.

The female uses chemical sensors on her feet and antennae to "taste" each plant before making her choice. She lays a few eggs in each goldenrod's terminal bud – 100 to 200 eggs in her short lifetime – but usually only one or two result in galls on a single plant.

Goldenrod Gall Flies only live about 10 to 14 days as adults, the rest of their lives being spent inside the gall as egg, larva, and pupa.

Each egg hatches in five to eight days and the emerging larva chews its way to the center of the stem and down. The presence of its saliva alerts the goldenrod, which reacts by forming a gall.

When the plant senses an invader it sends additional stem material, which happens to be rich in protein and starch, to protect the area. The invading fly larva enjoys this food supply and the protection the gall provides. As the fly larva matures, it feeds off the inner wall of the stem, and the plant compensates for this loss by continually sending replacement nutrients to the area.

As this process continues, the walls of the stem bulge out and form a green ball – the gall – which dries out and turns brown and tough-skinned in fall.

As winter approaches, the fly larva has an important task to perform: preparing its exit. It continues eating plant tissue, this time while chewing its way back toward the outer skin of the stem, and in doing so, enlarging an exit passage wide enough for its larger self. This is especially important because its soon-to-be-adult self will lack mouthparts.

Adult Goldenrod Gall Flies do not eat during their two-week-long lives. The larva leaves a thin layer of skin on the outside of the gall. Then it crawls back to the center of the stem and, like many insects, produces intra-cellular "anti-freeze," consisting of glycerol and sorbitol, to prevent its internal organs from freezing as it rests for the rest of the winter.

In spring, the larva "wakes up" from this state of diapause and pupates. When ready to emerge as an adult, it crawls back through the tunnel it made the previous fall and inflates a swelling "balloon" on its head, much like the eggtooth on a chick. The tough balloon bursts through the outer layer of gall skin and the fly emerges as a fully-formed adult Goldenrod Gall Fly and begins looking for a mate.

Ice fishermen are particularly eager to break open the galls and find plump, juicy larvae even in sub-zero temperatures, thanks to the larvae's natural "antifreeze." They're quite resilient on a fishing hook and effective bait for fish such as bluegill, perch, and crappie.

The Goldenrod Gall Fly is a good example of an insect that does not fit the human-centric definition of "beneficial" (except to fishermen) but is of great importance in its community, providing sustenance and shelter to other species and thereby contributing to balanced ecosystems.

Putnam County Community Events

'Fixers' Needed
Sustainable Putnam needs volunteer "fixers" with skills in either sewing, gluing, basic electrical or mechanical work, to help at its Repair Cafes. These "repair coaches" work together to diagnose and repair a wide array of household items. Volunteers are provided with snacks and lunch. Email volunteer@sustainableputnam.org or call 646-598-6560.

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

Suicide Loss Survivor Support
Project HOPE Putnam County and The Nicole Ettere Memorial Gardens Foundation host support groups for suicide loss survivors in Carmel the second and fourth Monday of each month at the meeting room at Cornerstone Park, 1 Fair St., Carmel, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. They also host a support group at the Philipstown Behavioral Hub on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at 3590 Route 9, Suite 109, Cold Spring. Free and open to all suicide loss survivors 18 and older. Contact 914-469-7307, ettere@nemgf.org, or www.nemgf.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

November Crafternoon
"Amazing Maize" with Haley Brown is scheduled Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 4:30 p.m., at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel. Learn about the importance of corn in American history, make a craft, and have a popcorn snack. For kids age 5 and older. Registration is required at www.carmellibrary.org.

Kent Town Board
The Kent Town Board will meet at Kent Town Hall at 7 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) on: Nov. 17, and Dec. 1 and 15.

Business Development & Marketing
Join Cornell Cooperative Extension for a business development and marketing Zoom series from noon to 1 p.m. the following Tuesdays: Nov. 17, and Dec. 15. These monthly webinars focus on a variety of business development and marketing topics. All sessions will be led by content experts across the CCE system, organizations and businesses which support agricultural operations across New York State. Free. Register online.

Library Board Meeting
The Patterson Library Board of Trustees will meet Tuesdays, Nov. 17, and Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m., at the library, 1167 Route 311, Patterson.

'Home for the Holidays'
Patterson Library will screen "Home for the Holidays" on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. This heartwarming comedy follows a woman whose life seems to be falling apart just as she heads home for Thanksgiving. Surrounded by her quirky family, she faces holiday chaos, old rivalries, and unexpected surprises. Adults 18 and older only.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Carmel Town Board
The Carmel Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. the following Wednesdays, at Carmel Town Hall: Nov. 18; and Dec. 2, 9 and 16.

Cut Flower Webinar Series
CCE's Cut Flower Program Work Team invites cut flower growers to join a free monthly webinar series focused on practical, research-based strategies to support successful production. From noon to 1 p.m., Nov. 18, and Dec. 16. Free. Register at https://cceputnamcounty.org.

Library Board Meetings
The Mahopac Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 18, Dec. 17, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, and June 7.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Members Needed
The Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association will host a special meeting and membership drive Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m., at the Reed Memorial Library Community Hub at Gilead Church, 9 Church St., Carmel. www.carmelcivicassoc.org.

Women's GOP Club
The Putnam County Republican Women's Club meets every third Thursday of the month. Consider joining in discussion about Republican programs, policies, and issues affecting the county. Email the president at putnamwomensgop@gmail.com for more information, including time and location.

Friday, Nov. 20

Holiday Kickoff
Patterson Recreation will host its sixth annual holiday kickoff celebration Friday, Nov. 20 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at 65 Front St. Entertainers, vendors, food trucks, lights, decorations, crafts, Santa, and more. Free. Open to all.

Festival of Trees
Ann's Place will host its 24th annual Festival of Trees from Nov. 20 to 22 at The Summit at Danbury. The event will include more than 200 decorated trees, raffles, holiday shopping, children's activities, and live entertainment. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are $10 for ages 3 to 64, $5 for senior citizens, and free for kids younger than 3. Learn more and purchase tickets at annsplacefestivaloftrees.org.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Fall Quilt Raffle
The quilt on display in the lower-level hallway at Brewster Public Library was donated by the Southeast Museum Quilters, and will be auctioned off Nov. 21. All proceeds will benefit the library. Tickets may be purchased at the circulation desk.

Free Concert
The West Point Glee Club will perform a free concert Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m., at St. Mary's Church, 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring. This patriotic concert is suitable for all ages.

KJ Denhert
KJ Denhert & The NY Unit return to Tompkins Corners Cultural Center, 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. A celebrated NYC songwriter, guitarist, and vocalist, Denhert blends jazz, folk, and other musical influences with soulful vocals, masterful guitar work, and deeply personal storytelling. Tickets are $25 and available at Eventbrite.com or at the door.

Lights on the Lake
The Lights on the Lake Thanksgiving holiday parade in Mahopac is scheduled Saturday, Nov. 21 starting at about 5 p.m. Find a spot on Route 6 between CVS and the firehouse for a good view. This year, all proceeds will benefit the Roche Family. Festivities to follow at the firehouse – live music, petting zoo, pony rides, kids train rides, bouncy house, concessions, vendors, beer truck, food truck. Marchers, vendors, and sponsors needed. Text Max at 518-362-6984.

Sunday, Nov. 22

Live Theater
The Depot Theater and Giraffe & Gibbon Theatricals will present "The Glorious Death of Comrade What's-His-Name" at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays, through Nov. 22, at 10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison. A new musical farce about fame, revolution, and the absurdity of power. Tickets available at www.depottheater.org.

Classical Music
The Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition will present "Musical Mischief Mentor & Friends" featuring works by Joseph Haydn and W.A. Mozart as performed by Robert Zubrycki and Lisa Tipton on violin and Adria Benjamin on viola and Peter Sanders on cello, Sunday, Nov. 22 at 3 p.m., at Studio Around the Corner, 67 Main St., Brewster. $25, or $20 for students and seniors, at www.culturalartsco.com.

Monday, Nov. 23

MPL at Home
With your Mahopac Public Library card, you have access to many resources at home, including movies and TV shows on Hoopla and Kanopy. Monday, Nov. 23 at 11:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m., learn more about what you can watch with your library card. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org.

Thursday, Nov. 26

Turkey Trot
Friends of Reed Library will hold its first Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 26 from 8 to 11:30 a.m., beginning at the Jobs Café/Friends of Reed Library Community Hub, 9 Church St., Carmel. Adult participation is $20 in advance or $25 the day of the event; children are $10. To pre-register email friends@carmellibrary.org. Check in at 8 a.m., race kicks off at 8:30 a.m. at the bike trail entrance at Seminary Hill Road. Special edition T-shirts for the first 100 registrants. Prizes will be awarded for best family costume and best individual costume.

Saturday, Nov. 28

Craft & 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.

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.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

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 Patterson'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.

Friday, Dec. 4

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.





Visit us online at putnampresstimes.com



“Astronomical Chart, Cactus and Lamp” by Charles Ritchie.

Two New Exhibits at GAC

Garrison Art Center is presenting “smallWORKS,” a juried biennial exhibition featuring a collection of 2D and 3D artwork by artists from across the U.S., centered on the theme “looking out from within,” through Nov. 22.

Artists were invited to explore artwork as a kind of window, open to both representational and abstract interpretations. Presented alongside “INSCAPE/OUTSCAPE” in the Balter Gallery, a curated exhibition drawn from The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation, this year’s “smallWORKS” takes inspiration from the exhibition’s meditation on how environments shape our ways of seeing and being in the world.

“Because this year's ‘smallWORKS’ coincides with ‘INSCAPE/OUTSCAPE’ … we were delighted to have Christina Kee jury the show,” said GAC Executive Director Catherine Graham. “Her deep familiarity with the collection, paired with her own sensibility as an artist and writer, made her the ideal choice.”

Kee, an artist and writer who has served as co-curator at The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation since 2011, said she looked for works that she felt communicated a kind of vitality – that “spark” of truly engaged art making.

“I was also mindful of the connection to the broader theme of ‘looking out from within,’ and wanted to represent different approaches, from realistic to abstract, and a range of mediums,” she said. “When appropriate, I paid close attention to technique and the handling of materials. I like to think the resulting selections will make an exciting and thought-provoking show.”

“SmallWORKS” showcases a diverse collection of 2D and 3D artwork, including photography, printmaking, painting, sculpture, stoneware, and mixed media, with 44 works by 43 artists selected from several-hundred submissions.

“INSCAPE/OUTSCAPE: Works on Paper,” an exhibition chosen from selected works lent by The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation, are grounded in verticality, contrast, and structural detail in a nearly monochromatic collection that explores architectural forms and the interplay of shadow and light. By examining the boundaries between interior and exterior, presence and absence, the exhibition invites viewers to reflect on how both literal and metaphorical environments shape our perception and way of seeing the world.

“The foundation holds a collection of unusual depth and feeling,” said Graham. “William Louis-Dreyfus collected outside the direction of the market, guided by relationships with artists, studio visits, and his own eye, rather than prevailing taste. That sensibility is evident throughout: the work carries an intimacy and conviction not always found in collections built through dealers and advisors.”

Louis-Dreyfus (1932-2016) assembled an extensive and internationally diverse art collection over a period of five decades, driven by his unique perspective as a poet, businessman, and passionate patron and collector. Although Louis-Dreyfus did not himself draw, he had a deep and instinctive appreciation for works that emphasize seeing as a conscious, deliberate, and hard-won act.

The foundation collection includes hundreds of works that reflect careful and sustained engagement with their subjects – however commonplace they might appear before their translation into graphite, charcoal or paint.

The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation has been established as an educational resource to increase public awareness of the works of self-taught, contemporary and emerging artists.

“William Louis-Dreyfus would have been thrilled with this exhibition,” said Kee. “In both life and in art, he was always looking; he loved the sense of poetry in a subject barely glimpsed and the surprise of an unexpected view from a door or window frame, looking either in or out.”

The committee built the exhibition around works on paper as a unifying medium.

The galleries at Garrison Art Center, 23 Garrison’s Landing, are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, visit garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.

InspiRED Combines Art & Family Connection



At the Philipstown Behavioral Health HUB in Cold Spring, kids and parents created a night scene.



At the CoveCare Center office in Carmel, participants painted a mother and baby wolf.

CoveCare Center's prevention team wrapped up its sixth annual InspiRED art series in celebration of Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 20 to 27, bringing together more than 40 participants for four evenings of painting, creativity, and family connection throughout Putnam County.

This free community event invited students in grades five through 12 to enjoy an evening of art alongside a parent or adult caregiver. Led by local artist Sarah Miller Totten, each session offered families the opportunity to create something together and enjoy meaningful time with one another – all while celebrating this year's Red Ribbon Week theme: "Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free."

Participants shared enthusiastic feedback, describing the events as "super fun" and "so relaxing." One family even gave the experience a "perfect 10 out of 10" and vowed to return next year.

"Strong family bonds and active parental engagement play a vital role in youth substance misuse prevention," said Melissa LaChapelle of CoveCare Center. "We are grateful to be able to offer this event to the community six years in a row."

Red Ribbon Week is a national awareness initiative to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

CoveCare Center, located in Carmel, is a nonprofit organization that provides mental health, substance use, and supportive services for adults, children, families, and seniors.



Other locations that hosted InspiRED events included Arts on the Lake in Kent and Fallsview Arts in Brewster.

A Brighter Buddy Bench in Put Valley





Girl Scout Troop 1304 recently gave the playground buddy bench at Putnam Valley Elementary School a much-needed makeover. The bright new colors and fresh paint make the bench more welcoming and fits in with the new playground equipment.

Green Chimneys Country Store

Fresh-Cut Sustainably Grown Trees • Decorative Greens
Handmade Wreaths • Ornaments & Seasonal Crafts
Sweet Treats • Candles & Soaps • Custom Gift Baskets



Tree sales start Sat, Nov 28

Store Hours:
Tues-Sun • 10am-5pm

Enter to win a tree or wreath of your choice!
Winners to be drawn Dec 1

Special Offer:
Shop now thru Dec 24 and get $5 off any purchase.

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A 'Spooky' Swim for Aquaflyers

The New Fairfield Aquaflyers – which includes swimmers from Brewster, Patterson, and Carmel – participated in the October Candlewood Lake Spooktacular at Masuk High School in Monroe. Top swimmers included: Kelly Biasetti, Brynn Frederick, Kate Frederick, MJ Juarbe, Anastasia Kozlenko, Alivia Mino, Kylie Mino, Lydia Petersen, Macie Thompson, Kailyn Welsh, Quinn Welsh, Jackson Burdi, Jhandel Garcia, Sebastian Kozlenko, Andrew McGowan, Daniel Paulussi Jesus, Marcos Sa, Chase Thomas, and Connor Welsh. Provided photo.

Mahopac Boys' Soccer Team Defeated in Regional Final

ARMONK – Perhaps the puffy, red eyes and tears told the story.

The incredible and historic run for the Mahopac High School boys' soccer team came to an end in the regional Class AA final Nov. 7 against Huntington of Long Island, 2-1, just one game short of the state semifinals.

"I can't believe it's all over," said a stunned Mahopac goalie Connor Sterbens to no one in particular.

Especially because the Wolf Pac seemed poised to pull out a miracle with 11 seconds left. Mahopac gained possession after a free kick, but Huntington's Edwin Caballero made a diving stop in the waning moments to preserve the win – and send Mahopac players and fans home with those puffy, red eyes.

Still, it doesn't take away from what was a remarkable season. 'Pac finished as Section 1 champs with a 17-2-2 record.

Coach Chris Mulholland was proud and overwhelmed by the greatest season in school history, declaring, "You can't say enough about what these boys accomplished."

All three goals in the game were scored in the first half. In fact, Mahopac led by 1 until Huntington scored twice in the final moments of the first half. Jack Rothmann scored the only goal for the Wolf Pac.

Three days earlier, Mahopac had advanced to the regional final with a 2-1 win over Goshen in spectacular fashion. Manny Mejia ran onto a long kick – really long – from Sterbens and tallied with less than 3 minutes to play to give Mahopac the victory.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

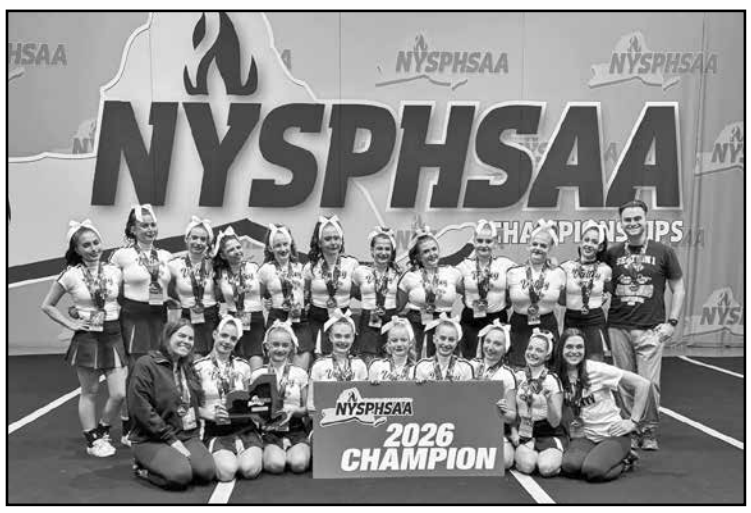
CAP PUTNAM Community Action Partnership

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

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

More info, contact the Putnam CAP Food Pantry Operator

(914) 924-3540 knamba@westcop.org



Put Valley Cheer Is NYS Champs!

For the second year in a row, the Putnam Valley High School cheer team was named state champions by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Provided photo.



The high school boys finished third in the Section 1, Class D Championships at Bowdoin Park.

Haldane Runners Qualify for State Meet

WAPPINGERS FALLS – A handful of high school cross-country runners from Putnam County recently showed they are among New York's elite.

The Haldane High School boys finished third in the Section 1, Class D Championships at Bowdoin Park. The Blue Devils finished behind Keio Academy and North Salem High School.

Haldane's Henry Amadei finished third overall and teammate Oscar Pisano-Simonyi was eighth. Both qualified for the New York State meet, scheduled to be held this past weekend in Queensbury.

In the girls' Class A race, Mahopac's Kira Waring finished third overall and teammate Cara O'Halloran was seventh in impressive showings for both.

Marie Kibbler from Putnam Valley was fifth in the Class C contest.

The Haldane girls were third in the Class D race led by seventh-place finisher Hazel Berkley.



Scribbles on a Notebook

By Rich Thomaselli

Remember what I wrote a few weeks ago about sportswriters having a rooting interest in high school sports? About how the story is always better if they win?

Well, here's a perfect example of how that played out last week…

I was genuinely upset that the Mahopac High School boys' soccer team lost in the regional finals. The team was on the doorstep of the state Final Four. The spectacular season ended with a 2-1 loss to Huntington for the Wolf Pac in the regional final – just one game short of the state semifinals.

In my mind, this was not the way it was supposed to end. The story was supposed to continue. The 17-1-2 record going into the game was supposed to become 18-1-2.

Then I thought about another opinion piece I wrote. How everybody is a winner just for participating. I still believe that.

Mahopac might not believe that right now because the hurt is still too real. Too raw. Still too fresh in their minds. But in due time they will understand.

In due time they will understand how they have done something that is almost impossible – they carried an entire school and community along with them on their amazing ride. That's tough to do at any level of sports.

Granted, it doesn't replace a plaque or a medal, but it's something else the boys can put on their collective resume.

There's really nothing anybody can say right now, but I hope this helps in some small way: Thanks for the lift, boys. It was a great ride.

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.

Nov. 25 is Deadline to End Immigration Detention Contracts

The New York State Office of the Attorney General, through the Office of Immigrant Trust, have sent a letter to county executives and sheriffs across New York providing them with guidance about their legal obligation to end any agreement to house or detain people for federal civil immigration violations by Nov. 25.

Under the Local Cops, Local Crimes Act, passed by the New York Legislature and signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul in May, local governments are prohibited from housing civil immigration detainees in local correctional facilities on behalf of federal immigration authorities, and have until the deadline to unwind those agreements.

"When I signed the Local Cops, Local Crimes Act into law, I made it clear that our local law enforcement should be focused on protecting New Yorkers and keeping dangerous criminals off our streets, not helping ICE carry out their aggressive deportation agenda," said Hochul. "Allowing ICE to utilize our local jails for civil immigration detention does not make New York safer. That is why today we are ensuring that all counties are prepared to fully wind down any agreement that gives federal agents access to local jails in accordance with state law."

The Local Cops, Local Crimes Act, signed into law May 27, bars any local government or law enforcement agency from entering into, modifying, renewing, extending, or remaining in any contract, intergovernmental service agreement, or other formal or informal agreement to house or detain people for federal civil immigration violations.

The law requires any agency with a prohibited agreement to use its termination provision by Nov. 25 – three months after the law's effective date. After that date, any such agreement is void and unenforceable under state law.

If an agreement covers both criminal and civil detention, the agency must end the portion that allows detention for federal civil immigration violations.

Hochul and Attorney General Letitia James emphasize that the law does not prevent a local agency from contracting for detention space for people facing pending federal criminal charges, as long as the agreement does not include detention solely for a federal civil immigration violation. It also does not stop any agency from complying with a state or federal court order or judicial warrant.

The letters ask county executives and sheriffs to inform OIT of the steps they have taken to comply with the law or confirm that they do not have prohibited agreements.

The OIT is authorized to receive complaints, conduct investigations, issue subpoenas, and bring civil actions to ensure compliance with state law. New Yorkers who believe a state or local agency, employee, contractor, school, or other covered entity has violated state laws on civil immigration enforcement should file a complaint at ag.ny.gov/federal-actions-form.



Apply Now for Home Heating Assistance

The state is now accepting applications for the Home Energy Assistance Program, helping eligible New Yorkers save on the cost of heating their homes this winter amid rising energy costs. The program could provide up to $1,086 this winter to help low- and middle-income households and older adults, depending on how they heat their home.

"HEAP is a lifeline for tens of thousands of households across New York State confronted with rising energy prices," said NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance Commissioner Barbara Guinn. "HEAP benefit amounts were increased for New Yorkers who have their heating fuel delivered to their homes, in recognition of significantly higher costs for heating oil and kerosene."

Households that do not automatically receive assistance through HEAP can apply now.

Applications for assistance are accepted at local departments of social services and can be submitted online, through the mail, or in person. New Yorkers may visit ny.gov/HEAP to learn more and apply.

Additionally, older adults needing assistance with HEAP applications may contact their local office for the aging, or the NY Connects helpline at 1-800-342-9871.

The benefit amounts vary based on income, household size, heating source, and if the household includes a vulnerable member. A family of four can have a gross monthly income up to $6,852, or an annual gross income of up to $82,230, and still qualify for assistance.

In response to the rising cost of heating oil and kerosene, New York has increased base HEAP benefit amounts for recipients who have their heating fuel delivered to enable them to purchase a minimum delivery of fuel.

The benefit amount for those who heat with oil, kerosene, or propane has been increased by $90, to $990; and the amount for those who heat with wood, pellets, and coal increased by $65, to $700.

Eligible households can receive one Regular HEAP benefit per season and could also be eligible for an Emergency HEAP benefit if they are in danger of running out of heating fuel or having their utility services shut off. Applications for the additional emergency benefits will be accepted beginning Jan. 4.

HEAP benefits are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so households in need of assistance are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Beyond helping to defray energy costs, HEAP will also support New Yorkers whose equipment is in need of cleaning and/or repairs. Eligible homeowners can now apply to have their primary heating equipment inspected and cleaned through the HEAP Heating Equipment Clean & Tune benefit.

Homeowners with inoperable heating equipment can also apply to have their heating equipment repaired or replaced through HEAP's Heating Equipment Repair & Replacement program.

Applicants for these benefits should contact their local department of social services for more information.



Expert Guidance for Optimal Growth

FEATURE IMPACT

Fall is the perfect season to celebrate trees as they transform the world into vibrant shades of red, orange, green and gold. You can do more than just admire existing trees – because in many areas, fall is also an ideal time to plant new ones.

While spring is often seen as peak planting season, experts say cooler weather and autumn rains provide ideal conditions for seedlings to retain moisture and establish their root systems gradually before winter dormancy, improving their future ability to adjust to summer heat and drier conditions.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, planting trees offers many benefits for the planet, wildlife and humans alike. From an environmental perspective, they help filter air and water, remove pollutants from the soil, slow storm surge and nurture biodiversity. Plus, access to nature can reduce stress and increase opportunities for outdoor recreation, improving overall health and well-being in your community.

This autumn, use these expert tips from Eric North, program manager of urban forestry and ISA-certified arborist at the Arbor Day Foundation, to plan your fall tree planting and add a few new hues to your local landscapes.

Choose the Right Tree

Setting your trees up for success starts with choosing the right species. Before ordering seedlings, take time to identify species that are well-suited to your local climate, soil conditions and planting site. Also consider the tree's mature height and how far the canopy will spread – it won't stay small forever, so make sure you can give it space to grow.

Think About Timing

Although you can technically plant trees until the soil is too frozen to dig a hole, it's best to schedule your fall tree planting at least six weeks before the ground freezes so the seedlings have time to adapt before winter. If you're unable to plant your trees immediately after getting them, you can store them in a cool, dry place, making sure the roots stay damp, for up to five days before putting them in the ground.

Don't Dig Too Deep

A tree planted too deep may develop root and trunk problems that can affect its long-term health. Instead of digging deep, go wide to encourage roots to spread outward. Dig a hole roughly 3-4 times wider than the root system but no deeper than the root itself. When you put the tree in the hole, the root flare (where the trunk meets the roots) should sit level with the soil or slightly above it.

Mulch with Care

Adding 2-3 inches of mulch in a layer around the base of the tree can help insulate the soil and roots, retain moisture and suppress weeds. However, be careful to keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk itself so you don't create a "mulch volcano" that traps moisture against the bark.

Water Frequently

Cozy autumn rainstorms might share some of the workload here, but when the forecast looks clear, it's up to you to water your newly planted seedlings. Keeping the soil consistently moist allows a young tree's roots to stay hydrated and continue growing. Precise care instructions will depend on the type of tree and your location but expect to thoroughly water your trees about once a week until the ground freezes.

Protect Against Wildlife

Small trees are vulnerable to damage from local wildlife like deer and rabbits, who may chew on bark or snap fragile branches. Installing a protective fence or breathable tree guard can help safeguard trees until they're older and more capable of withstanding scavenging from hungry critters.



Join the Cause with Trees

Research from the Arbor Day Foundation's Canopy Report shows most Americans want to live in neighborhoods with more trees, but only a minority report having planted a tree in the past year. However, if you're feeling inspired to plant trees in your yard this fall, the organization is ready to help.



New members who join during the nonprofit organization's fall membership drive will receive 10 free trees suitable for their region, along with clear instructions on how to plant and care for them. Whether you're a first-time planter or a seasoned friend of the forest, you'll receive ongoing support to ensure success in your efforts to grow a greener world.

"People understand how important trees are for their communities, their health and the environment," said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Many just need a simple way to get started. Our fall membership drive puts trees directly into people's hands and gives them the confidence to plant trees successfully."

The foundation has engaged tree planters in more than 90% of all American neighborhoods, thanks in large part to the organization's membership drives each planting season. This fall, more than 2 million new trees are expected to be distributed.

To sign up and choose your 10 free trees, visit Arborday.org/GetTrees, where you can also find additional advice on tree planting, care and more.

After Vetoes & Overrides, County's Budget Provides 'Historic' Tax Relief

Continued from Page 2

once, while ongoing expenses return every year," said Byrne. "These decisions will force tough conversations in the years ahead, and we must be honest about the choices they will require of future budgets… Several overrides also raise questions about whether the Legislature exceeded its authority under the county charter. Protecting the checks and balances between branches of county government preserves accountability for the residents we serve."

Birmingham said he can't understand why Byrne would want to "sequester" so much money that can instead be used to provide tax relief.

"For someone who claims to be a fiscal conservative and a champion of the taxpayers… he wants to keep taking tax dollars away from taxpayers," said Birmingham. "He's allergic to legislative tax cuts, and I don't know why."

The legislator said another $1 million in savings was realized by right-sizing employee health insurance costs, which he said is "over-appropriated" every year.

"The budget that was put to bed (Nov. 12) provides real, meaningful tax relief for taxpayers," said Birmingham.

In correspondence to the Legislature, Byrne warned that combining major increases in recurring spending with further reductions in reliable annual revenue could create growing deficits, jeopardize the county's bond rating, and force future tax increases.

He said that excessive reliance on reserves could also limit the county's ability to continue other taxpayer relief initiatives, including sales tax sharing with towns and villages and efforts to make the clothing and footwear sales tax exemption permanent.

"Spending down savings in a rush to cover recurring expenses creates long-term financial obligations that taxpayers will ultimately be left to address," he said.

Despite their fundamental disagreements, both the Legislature and the administration said they are proud of the final spending plan.

"I appreciate the work of our finance team, department heads, county employees, and legislators who offered thoughtful improvements," said Byrne. "This budget delivers on our commitment to put taxpayers first: historic property tax relief, support for essential services, and responsible planning for Putnam County's future."

Mahopac Schools Make Administrative Appointments

The Mahopac Central School District is welcoming John Chow as interim assistant superintendent of finance and operations, and Timothy Walsh as director of facilities.

Walsh returns to Mahopac after serving as director of facilities at Bedford Central School District. He previously held facilities leadership positions in Mahopac and at Haldane Central School District, bringing experience in building operations, staff supervision, capital planning, and infrastructure management.

At Bedford, Walsh oversaw facilities operations across more than 650,000 square feet, encompassing educational buildings on five campuses and the district's athletic complex. He supervised 45 facilities' personnel and managed a $3.8 million annual operating budget, excluding salaries. His responsibilities have included coordinating a $54 million capital project, a $3.8 million energy performance contract, and a $1.9 million SMART Bond project.

Chow brings more than 20 years of school business leadership in Westchester County to Mahopac. Most recently, he served as assistant superintendent for business at Pleasantville Union Free School District, where he managed a $65 million budget. He previously held the same position at Chappaqua Central School District, overseeing a $130 million budget; and at Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, where he also served as chief contract negotiator and completed a $10 million capital project.

His background in school finance, budget management, and contract negotiations will inform his work with Mahopac's financial and operational planning, helping the district align resources with its priorities while maintaining robust academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs for all students throughout the district.

Superintendent Vincent DiGrandi welcomed both recruits.

"John and Tim bring valuable experience in school finance, facilities management, and long-term planning," he said. "We look forward to working with them as we continue to support our students, maintain our schools, and manage district resources responsibly on behalf of the Mahopac community."

It's Official! Byrne Re-Elected

Continued from Page 1

tential to split the center-right vote.

"I am deeply grateful to the people of Putnam County for placing their faith and trust in me for another four years," he said. "Throughout this campaign we made our case based on our record, our results, and our vision for Putnam's future. The voters have spoken, and I am honored to continue serving the county I have called home my entire life. I thank my wife, Briana, and our family for their love, patience, and fortitude throughout this entire campaign. Running for office requires sacrifices from the people closest to us, and I could not do this without them."

Byrne campaigned on his administration's work to reduce taxes, strengthen essential services, improve infrastructure, and make county government more transparent and responsive to residents.

"This victory belongs to the volunteers who knocked on doors, the supporters who helped share our message, and every voter who believes Putnam County deserves a government that puts taxpayers first," he said. "We built a coalition that brought together residents from different backgrounds and political parties around a shared commitment to our county's future. The numbers bear out that we clearly got crossover support from a significant number of Democrats to secure this victory."

Byrne also thanked the Board of Elections staff, those who worked to administer the election, complete the ballot count, and his opponents.

"I appreciate everyone who worked diligently throughout this process," said the county executive. "I also want to thank my opponents for stepping forward to run. While we disagreed on many issues, it takes courage to step into the arena and put yourself before the voters. With the counting now complete, our focus is on the work ahead and delivering for the people of Putnam County."

Looking toward his second term, Byrne pledged to continue protecting taxpayers, maintaining fiscal discipline, supporting public safety, and improving services for residents.

"Whether you voted for me or supported another candidate, I am your county executive, and will work every day to serve and earn your trust," he said. "We have made meaningful progress together and there is more to accomplish. I'm ready to keep working to make Putnam County more affordable, accountable, and accessible for all."

Yarris said he's proud of the campaign he ran and the issues he raised, which have already sparked change at the legislative level.

"You shouldn't run for office just to win an election," he said. "You run because you want to change the hearts and minds of people, and because you want to help… We got a lot of people to change the way they think, and to expect more of their government. We brought big, bold ideas that sparked significant, valuable conversation and got the Legislature to take significant action."

That includes a recent motion that puts limits on the power of the administrative branch.

"Voters across the county wanted change," Yarris said, noting that, for the first time in recent history, the incumbent county executive received fewer than 50 percent of the vote. "The fact that so many voted against the incumbent speaks volumes."

Yarris said that regardless of whether Brahimi's votes would have gone to him or Byrne is irrelevant. "People had a choice to vote for Kevin, or not vote for him," he said. "A clear majority of voters voted for change in the county executive's office. They may not get it, but they wanted it."

The candidate said he waited to bow out of the race until nearly all ballots had been counted. "A person should concede when the outcome is no longer in doubt," he said. With hundreds of mail-in ballots that were originally requested still unaccounted for until their final day of eligibility, there was still hope.

Yarris said he also hoped to give those serving in the military, whose ballots can be received through Nov. 16, a chance to have their voices heard as well. However, it became clear that the numbers wouldn't add up for him.

"I have no regrets about this process," he said. "Short of winning office, we did what we set out to do… This county is beginning to look different. We now put a second Democrat on the Legislature. Our state representation is 75 percent Democrat. I won six of the nine municipalities in this county.

"That speaks volumes for the desire for a different direction," continued Yarris. "We are grateful to every single volunteer and supporter who helped build this movement. Putnam needs change, and we believe this is only the beginning of what we can accomplish together."




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New Monument at Carmel H.S. Honors District's Fallen Heroes

Continued from Page 1

men's stories to life, sharing details about their accomplishments and experiences as students in the Carmel schools.

He described them as "standout competitors who wore our school colors with pride" and "brilliant minds and dedicated individuals who shaped our school's culture." Some, he noted, were musicians, workers, and ambitious young dreamers. All were "brave young souls from every corner of our broader community."

For many attending the dedication, it was deeply personal.

Ralph Osterhoudt, a WWII veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, came to the ceremony to honor the soldiers.

WWII veterans inscribed on the plaque include Francis Adams, George Bridle, John Clifton, John Cook, Reed Hopkins, William Mahl, Daniel O'Brien, and Francis Sprague.

Glenn Starr traveled from his home in Pleasant Valley to honor his father, Edward Starr, a U.S. Army captain who was killed in Vietnam.

A Patterson resident and Carmel graduate, Edward Starr went on to excel at Virginia Tech, where he became an accomplished leader. He later earned a reputation as an all-American leader and steadfast role model among his peers at Officer Candidate School.

Glenn Starr said he was grateful his father's sacrifice would be remembered at the school his father once attended. "I am very lucky that my dad has been remembered like this," he said. "It means a lot."

Other Vietnam War veterans listed on the plaque include Franklin Eucker, James Foster Jr., Michael McDonald, and Kenneth Totten Jr.

Charles Cole, 87, attended with family members to honor his friend Lt. Col. Harry Lagerwall, who worked at Nichols Hardware to save money for college before attending Syracuse University, where he joined the Air Force ROTC. His remains were not recovered until 1985.

"I went to that ceremony, too, when he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery," said Cole.

Korean War veteran Richard Turpin is also honored on the plaque.

The monument project began more than two years ago, when Curzio spearheaded the effort with fellow board members to recognize the fallen students. Community fundraising and support made the project possible.

"From this moment forward, as long as this school stands, no student or community member passing by this front circle will ever forget the depth of that sacrifice," said Curzio. "May this monument serve as a daily, living reminder to every person who walks through the front doors of Carmel High School: that freedom is never free, and that some of the greatest heroes our nation has ever known once called this school home."

24-Hour Warehouse Traffic Rebuked

Continued from Page 1

lease the space.

"There is abundant case law in the State of New York that says there's a really high barrier for local government regulating business activities," he said. "You can regulate under zoning use and the location of uses, but you can't really regulate hours of operation."

Steinmetz noted that Ace Endico has no limitation on its hours of operation.

Nonetheless, the stipulation was put in place five years ago, and the law allows the client to come back to argue that a condition of the agreement doesn't make sense.

Theresa Brandon-Simao of the Tonetta Lake area said she's already being woken up nightly by truck traffic on Interstate 84, and that allowing those trucks on the local roads overnight will only increase the noise.

"Ace Endico is nothing; to even compare it is embarrassing for you," she said. "Ace Endico is a tiny building compared to what is up on that hill."

Samantha Woodgate, who also lives along Tonetta Lake, echoed those sentiments.

"The sound travels and I'm hoping, as a town board, you will protect the residents that butt up against the warehouse," she said. "Because if I can hear the highway noise, I'll hear this warehouse as well."

Ann Fanizzi of Hunter's Glen said she expects the town to honor the agreement that was made five years ago.

"That was the document the residents of this town agreed to and that the developer agreed to," she said. "And now because it was inconvenient for him because he could not make money, because he could not get fees, because he could not get someone to go into a 600,000-square-foot building, we the residents have to bear the burden of that? That was a business decision he made."

Bill Nulk, chairman of the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency, spoke in support of the removal of stipulations, which "handicap the project from actually fulfilling its full capabilities. They have gone through a great deal of revisions to take a look and change the necessary things and prove they are not excessively noisy," he said. "They should be able to operate the way a warehouse operates."

Kathleen Abels, president of the county's Economic Development Corporation and a resident of Brewster, agreed.

"My job is to attract, support, and promote businesses because they're important to our tax base," she said. "If people who live here want relief from their taxes, they need business… Retaining a for-profit property owner will help pay our school, town, and county real estate taxes. That's very important for me."

A resident of Hunter's Glen expressed disappointment that despite months of residents turning out to oppose 24-hour operations at the site, the planning board moved forward with the change, "signaling that out-of-state corporate interests outweigh the well-being of the constituents you were elected to represent. The developer built this warehouse fully aware of their daytime-only trucking restrictions," she said. "Their inability to find a tenant is private and financial risk. It should not be solved by permanently disrupting the peace, sleep, and health of Southeast residents."

The August approval by the planning board to amend the special permit was passed 4-3, with members James King, Lynne Eckardt, and David Rush voting "no." The motion to send the matter to the town board passed by a vote of 5-2, with Eckardt and Rush voting "no."

During the hearing, Scott Seaman said that while everyone has the right to run their business, they still have to work within the rules.

"A community has the right to decide how we want to exist – how we want business to exist, how we want to interact with each other," he said. "And if the community decides this is not the type of structure we want, these are not the hours we want, these are what we rely on our community board members to uphold."

Steve Mattson said he doesn't like that the applicant is trying to "change the rules of the game."

"I'm pro-business, I'm pro-entrepreneurs, but here's the thing: we all agreed on this," he said. "The rules of the game were negotiated. Business owners take risk. It's not working out? Too bad… As a town board, don't let their argument push you around. Stick to the rules we agreed to. Protect the quality of life for the residents."

Former Southeast Town Board member John Lord recalled how, when the stipulation was agreed upon, it was not something the applicant wanted but had to accept to get the approval. "Now they realize that it didn't work out for them, but that was the rule," he said.

Steinmetz claimed that the goal of allowing overnight truck traffic is not to increase the quantity of deliveries, but redistribute them.

"The facility is only as big as the facility is," he said. "It can only handle as much material that would come in and go out based upon both buildings, based upon their size… Your board and the planning board approved a 24-seven, 365-day-a-year operation; we're not asking to change that. People are distorting that a little bit. We are trying to have 'nighttime scheduled truck access.' Those are your words, not ours."

Further, Steinmetz said it's not uncommon for business owners and property owners to seek upgrades, adaptations, and overall change to their properties.

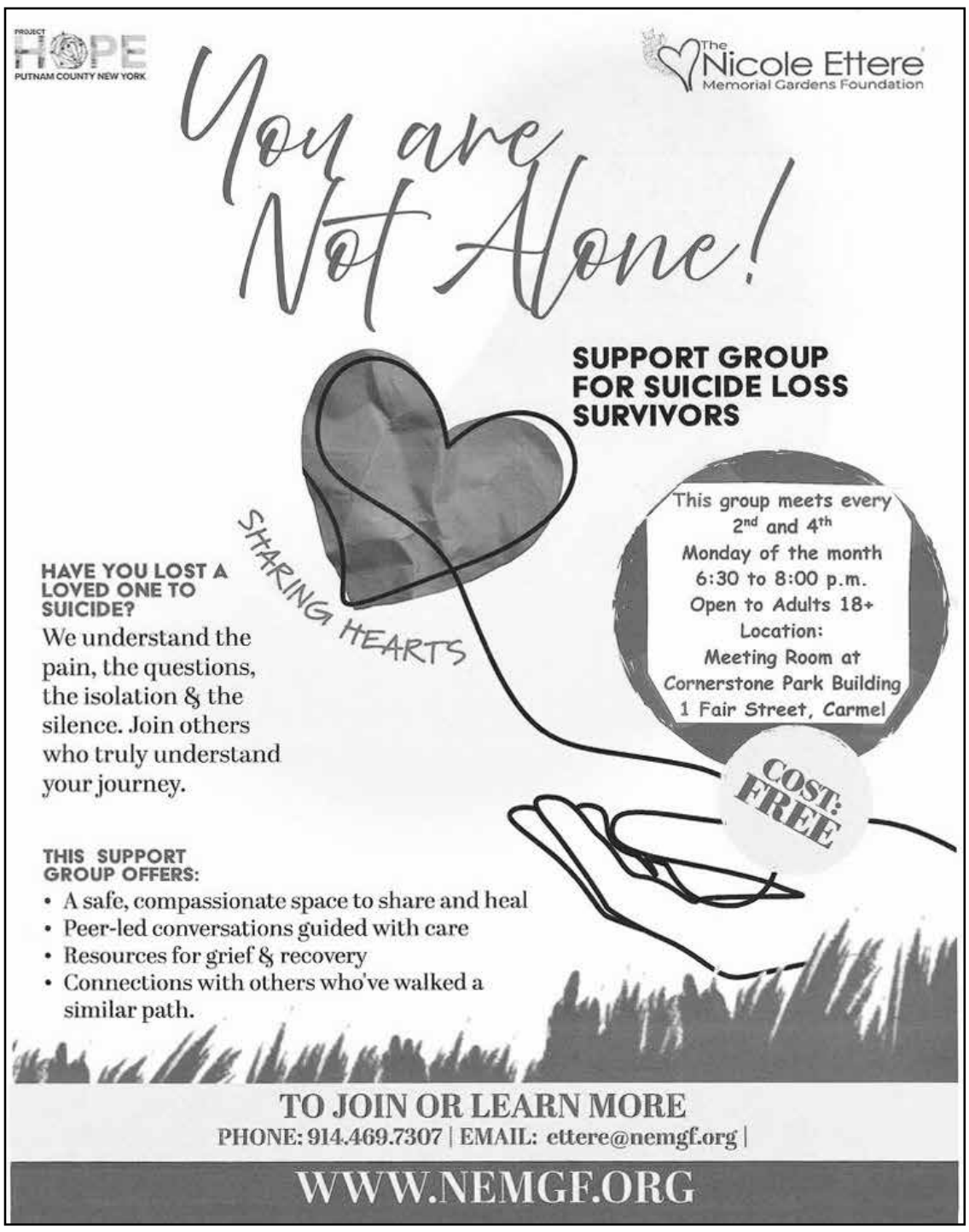
"There's nothing wrong with asking for an amendment," he said. "You're not bound by that which you bought into forever."

In addition, he pointed out that the planning board determined overnight truck traffic would have no adverse impacts on the environment.

"If you want to disagree with me and with my client and our experts, you need to realize you're actually disagreeing with your planning board, with your planning consultant, and with the conclusion of that board, and what that binding resolution amending the findings stands for," said Steinmetz.

"The trucks are there anyway," he continued. "Nothing prohibits the trucks from moving around the site at night… What we're trying to do is make sure folks who actually use warehouses along the Route 84 corridor and beyond can use this one the way they use everything else, which is 24 hours."

The Southeast Town Board closed the public hearing, with a decision expected to be made at an upcoming meeting. If approved, the matter will go back to the planning board for amended site plan approval.



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PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Garrison Fire District

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Garrison Fire District, the Fire District is seeking sealed proposals for the audit and review of Fire District finances for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026.

Proposals will be received at the office of the Board of Fire Commissioners at P.O. Box 634, 1616 Route 9, Garrison, New York 10524 until 4:00 p.m. (prevailing time) on January 7, 2026.

Detailed specifications regarding audit requirements will be available at the Fire District Office during business hours on regular business days commencing immediately.

All persons submitting proposals must familiarize themselves with the audit requirements. Proposers may telephone (845)702-2720 or email bookkeeper@garrisonfiredistrict.org during regular business hours in order to receive an informational packet.

Proposers are advised that the successful proposer must be licensed by all appropriate agencies to do the work required under the proposal and shall be required to provide proof of professional liability, liability, and worker's compensation (where applicable) insurance.

The Board of Fire Commissioners reserves the right to reject all proposals and re-advertise for new proposals in its discretion.

Dated: November 9, 2026
By Order of the Board of Fire Commissioners
Garrison Fire District
Cristin Erickson, Secretary
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Nelsonville

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 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2027, WITH THE POLLS OPEN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF NOON AND 9PM, AND THAT AT SUCH ELECTION THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS ARE 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 North Highlands FD

LEGAL NOTICE MEETING CHANGES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2026 and the 2027 RE-ORG MEETING

Please take notice that Philipstown North Highlands Fire District of the Town of Philipstown, County of Putnam, New York, will cancel their Workshop Monthly Meetings for Thursday November 26,2026 and Thursday December 24,2026. A workshop meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday December 22,2026 starting at 7:15 P.M.

The Re-Org Meeting will be held Monday January 4,2027 at 7:15 P.M. at the North Highlands Fire Department, 504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring, NY

This notification is being given to the news media pursuant to the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
PHILIPSTOWN NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE DISTRICT
Linda Valentino
Secretary
Dated November 10, 2026
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Putnam

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provision of the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended, a Public Hearing will be conducted by the Putnam County Office for Senior Resources on Friday, December 18, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m. The Public Hearing will be held at:

Putnam County Office for Senior Resources
William Koehler Memorial Senior Center
180 Route 6, Carmel, NY

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the 2026-27 annual update of the 2024-28 Four-Year Plan of the Older Americans Act, the New York State Community Services for the Elderly and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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

Interested parties will be given the opportunity to speak at the Public Hearing. Testimony will be limited to 10 minutes per speaker and will be scheduled in the order in
which they are received. Anyone wishing to speak may contact Marlene Barrett, OSR Director at 808-1700, ext. 47121.

A written copy of your testimony must be presented prior to the hearing to be submitted by close of business 12/10/26 to sherrie.gilmore@putnamcountyny.gov.

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

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability and in accordance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), OSR has made its facility available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to the public hearing. Should any accommodation be needed, please contact OSR by 12/7/2026 at 845-808-1700.

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

2026
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PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNTY OF PUTNAM NOTICE FOR BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Director of Purchasing of Putnam County for the following commodities and/or service: RFB-40-26 – PRINTING SERVICES FOR THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS 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 2, 2026. dated: Carmel, New York, November 12, 2026, Sgd/ John Tully, Purchasing Director, Putnam County Purchasing Department**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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-41-26– DRY CLEANING, LAUNDERING, ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT & CORRECTIONAL FACILITY 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 9, 2026. dated: Carmel, New York, November 12, 2026, Sgd/ John Tully, Purchasing Director, Putnam County Purchasing Department**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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-42-26– SUPPLY & DELIVER SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT UNIFORMS 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 9, 2026. dated: Carmel, New York, November 12, 2026, Sgd/John Tully, Purchasing Director, Putnam County Purchasing Department**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Misc

Notice is hereby given that an On-Premise Liquor License, NYS Application ID: NA-0524-26-30913 has been applied for by **Patterson Eats LLC** to sell liquor, beer, wine and cider at retail in an on-premises restaurant. For on premises consumption under the ABC Law at 2605 Route 22, Patterson NY 12563.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Southeast

ADDENDUM NO. 2
November 6, 2026

PROJECT: PROPOSED STARR RIDGE WATER DISTRICT
PFAS TREATMENT PROJECT

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

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,

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 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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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

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 Qualification of **ORCHARD RIDGE ASSOCIATES II LLC**

Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/14/18. Office location: Putnam County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 08/03/18. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 1944 Route 22, Brewster, NY 10509. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., #4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **NextGen Soccer Development LLC**. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 11/14/2025. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: NORTHWEST REGISTERED AGENT LLC: 418 BROADWAY, STE N, ALBANY, NY, 12207. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.
P. 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **TopEnd Home Renovations LLC.** Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 9/28/2026. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o TopEnd Home Renovations 394 Farmers Mills Rd Carmel, NY 10512. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **Hudson Ridge Living LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/30/26. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 112 Heath Road, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of **BORN ON SATURDAY LLC.** Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 9/25/26. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o BORN ON SATURDAY LLC, 602 Covington Pl, Brewster, NY 10509 . Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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 Secy 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

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

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

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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

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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. 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

Kent's Proposed Tax Hike Jumps to 8.7%

Continued from Page 1

taining consistent revenue via property taxes to cover increasing expenses, accumulated reserves were used to balance the budget. Over time, those reserves depleted, and several funds – specifically, the special districts – went into deficits.

To continue providing services, money was taken from the general fund to cover those expenses.

"The current board was left to face those problems, along with inflation, rising employee benefit costs, increasing operating costs, and numerous storms that required unexpected expenditures," said Cahill, noting that those are situations in which it would have benefited the town to have a healthy reserve fund to dip into.

The town's total deficit is estimated at $1.9 million as of Dec. 31, 2025, and will likely be larger once the 2026 numbers are audited.

"The longer we allow these deficits to remain unresolved, the greater the risk that additional expenses and unexpected events will make our financial situation worse," said Cahill.

To start righting the ship, the current budget includes a planned roadmap to begin covering those deficits via a structured approach, with the goal to not only get those deficits back to zero, but to even build up some reserves, she explained.

That roadmap includes a payment plan for the special districts to pay back the money "loaned" from the general fund, with 3 percent interest.

"Unfortunately we are working with extremely limited financial resources, which has made an already difficult situation even more challenging," said Cahill. "Despite these constraints, we remain committed to making responsible decisions, rebuilding our financial reserves, and putting the town on a stronger financial foundation for the future."

The highway department has the biggest deficit, at $1.1 million, followed by the Lake Carmel Sanitation District at $297,000, the Lake Carmel Park District at $252,000, and water districts one and two at $217,000 and $40,000.

Repayment plans have been calculated by taking into consideration the number of residents in those district who share the cost. For example, Cahill explained that Water District No. 1 has 105 tax-paying parcels, and Water District No. 2 has 73, so only those who use each district are responsible for paying that debt back.

"We're trying to work with what our numbers are to try to make it as little of a tax burden as possible, but at the same time we cannot prolong this anymore," said Cahill.

The highway department deficit – which is not subject to interest since it's coming from the town's whole tax base – will be repaid over five years, as will the Lake Carmel Park District deficit. The sanitation district will be on a three-year repayment plan, while the water districts will each be on an eight-year repayment plan.

Town Supervisor Jaime McGlasson said she believes this is the right direction for the town to go in. "It may not be the easiest, but this is the way that I think we need to go," she said.

Councilwoman Anne Campbell said she would like to see the town not only get out of a deficit, but also build up a capital reserve fund for future capital projects. "Otherwise it becomes the crisis of the day," she said.

Councilman Christopher Ruthven asked if the town is doing enough to support the highway department, since the past few years have brought snowstorms and natural disasters that have cost the town dearly.

McGlasson noted that the town hopes to put some of the $10 million that the County Legislature approved to share with the municipalities in 2027 and 2028, toward highway expenses.

Town Assessor Sean Plawsky explained that, with the highway department repayment plan – which affects all households – the average homeowner will see a $237 increase to their tax bill next year. Those in the special districts will see a little more.

Cahill reminded the board that the town is in fiscal stress due to years of undertaxation.

"It might seem like a big percent increase, but the bottom line is… had things been done responsibly in the past, those eight years that you paid 0 percent tax (increases) – yes at the time that 0 percent was great because you weren't paying it, but now you're paying for it in the long run because those funds are done," she said.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

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

SERVICES

GARAGE ORGANIZING MANAGEMENT : custom, built-in, kids' benches, shoe boxes, shelves/racks, bike hanging rigs, sports cabinets. Free estimate Call Nicholas at 914-203-0031. 11/18

RENTAL PROPERTY

Newly renovated 2BR/2BA SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FLORIDA rental on the Intracoastal with great views. Walk to ocean/shopping. 2-week min. Email meltem.blue@yahoo.com. 11/18

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.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

SIGNATURE_____ PHONE_____

Putnam Salutes Its Veterans





More than 300 people including veterans and their guests were served during two seatings at the annual Putnam County Veterans Chow Down, held Nov. 8 at the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac.





Carmel VFW Post 1374 and its auxiliary, along with Carmel American Legion Post 270, hosted their annual ceremony at the monument on Terry Hill Road in Kent.



Ceremonies took place at American Legion halls and VFW posts across the county Nov. 11 to commemorate Veterans Day. Here, Boy Scouts, firefighters, and other members of the public gather in Mahopac for a wreath-laying ceremony. Provided photos.





In anticipation of Veterans Day, Garrison Union Free School District recognized local former service members during its annual ceremony.