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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025



Fourth-graders at C.V. Starr participate in a recent Colonial Fair. Photos by Brewster Central School District.

Brewster Youth Learn About Life as Colonists



Butter churning and cider making, furniture graining and stenciling, candle making and creating whirly-gig toys were just a few of the hands-on learning experiences in which fourth-graders at C.V. Starr Intermediate School in Brewster became apprentices for the day to gain an appreciation for how challenging life was for colonists.

The school's Colonial Fair began in 2001 with a grant from the Brewster Education Foundation and has been going strong ever since.

The day is the culmination of the fourth grade's study of New York State history, which started with a unit on Native Americans and ended with the colonists. Students learn that the Colonial Era was a time in New York's history when European explorers traveled in search of a new life and settled in and around Brewster, and often worked with – and learned from – the Native Americans to build homes and use resources to survive.

Recently, fourth-graders welcomed Deborah Oswald from the

Southeast Museum to kick off the social studies unit. Oswald brought replicas of artifacts, such as clothing and games. She also discussed how different and difficult life was for African Americans during this period.

Then, students dressed the part in prairie dresses, colonial soldiers' uniforms, tricorne hats and wigs, and learned typical trades.

"Good day, lads and lasses," said master craftswoman Michelle Marzziotti. "Welcome to our
Continued on Page 9

County to Hire New Public Health Director

By Holly Crocco

The Putnam County Legislature's Personnel Committee recently approved the reclassification of the commissioner of health position, to that of a public health director.

According to Personnel Director Paul Eldridge, the county has been recruiting for a new commissioner of health for quite some time now, and while a prior candidate was selected, that person bowed out during the final vetting process. Therefore, the move to a public health director began – opening up the candidate pool to those who are not physicians.

Eldridge said at the Feb. 13 Personnel Committee meeting that, prior to 2005, Putnam always had a public health director. He also explained that with a public health director, as opposed to a commissioner, the state requires the county to also have a medical consultant.

Rian Rodriguez has been selected to fill the role of public health director, and upon full legislative approval at the March 4 meeting, he will serve a six-year term. At that time, current Interim Commissioner of Health Dr. Michel Nesheiwat will be named the county's medical consultant.

Legislator Greg Ellner, R-Carmel, called the restructuring "a bit of a shell game."

"When this was originally presented, it was presented as a savings," he said. "But based on what you're saying here, because we're going to have a legacy of two (employees), this is \$60,000 more than what we're currently paying, and I'm not comfortable with that."

Rather than paying for a public health director and a medical consultant, Ellner asked why that additional pay wasn't offered when looking for a commissioner of health.

"We never said that it would be cheaper," said Eldridge. "And I actually made the point that it would be two people."

Ellner, and Legislator Paul Jonke, R-Brewster, disagreed, saying it was "sold" as a savings during the budget development process.

Rodriguez is an epidemiologist by training with a master in public health in epidemiology from New York Medical College. He has 30 years of experience in health care under his belt, including time spent at Columbia and Memorial Sloan Kettering. He spent two decades as an oncological researcher, has served as national director for the American Cancer Society, and is currently serving as director of clinical quality for a managed care organization known as Healthfirst.

"Although I understand these are very big shoes to fill, I'm quite comfortable filling them," Rodriguez said at the Personnel Committee meeting. "Quite frankly, when it comes to scale, what I currently do is much larger in regards to improving health outcomes of large cohorts of individuals."

While he has been a Putnam resident for four years, currently living in Brewster, he comes from New York City.

The Personnel Committee unanimously approved the reclassification and the appointment of Rodriguez, moving the matter to the full Legislature.

New Head of Putnam's Senior Resources Named

The Putnam County Legislature's Personnel Committee unanimously approved the appointment of Marlene Barrett as director of the Office for Senior Resources, during its Feb. 13 meeting.

Barret has been with the department for 13 years, starting off as a caseworker before being appointed deputy director in April 2023.

"Since I started in this department, I've planned on ending in this department," she said. "I know the impact this department makes on the community – not only professionally but personally."

Legislator Amy Sayegh, R-Mahopac Falls, who was involved in the interview process for this position, called Barrett an "amazing candidate."

"It makes me proud to have somebody come through the ranks in Putnam County through our department, and to want to continue in a leadership position that I think you're well qualified for," she told Barrett at the Personnel Committee meeting. "Your enthusiasm, your knowledge, and your compassion are a huge asset to our seniors."

Barrett's approval is pending a vote by the full Legislature.

Letters to the Editor

Survey Says ...

Dear Editor:

Two of my top priorities as your county executive are fiscal responsibility and listening to our residents. With this transparency in mind, I would like to present to our residents the complete results of our community tax survey launched earlier this month.

The questions concerned the

county's tax policy, including current revenue sources, as well as my proposed property tax cut which, if enacted, would be the largest in Putnam's history. Respondents were asked questions about their knowledge of the issue and preferences in county taxes. We use this unvarnished data to help us determine policy and serve you better, because I firmly believe public engagement

makes better public policy.

When asked to choose a top priority for county leaders to tackle, our Putnam County residents overwhelmingly (72 percent) selected a new reduction in their property tax rate. Runner-up was distributing a portion of the county's sales tax revenues with all six towns (19 percent).

I appreciate this important feedback and look forward to working with our County Legislature to address these priorities. To view the results of the community survey in full, visit PutnamCountyNY.gov/salestaxsurvey.

Kevin Byrne
Putnam County Executive



Working Mom

By Holly Crocco

Sicko

It's February and we hadn't had the plague since the holidays, which means we were due. And let me tell you, it's doing a real number on the Crocco household.

As usual, it started with the 6-year-old.

What's amazing to me is that sickness almost always arrives in the dead of night, which is what happened this time around. It was the long weekend for President's Day. He stayed up late Saturday night watching a movie, gave us the usual bedtime protest, and then fell asleep like normal. Nothing out of the ordinary.

Then, at about 1:30 a.m., I heard him calling me from his bedroom.

"Mom ... Mom ... Mo"—

The third summoning of my name was cut off by the unmistakable sound of gagging. I'm not sure how to type that out phonetically, but I'm confident you get it. I rushed in just in time to miss catching his puke in the garbage can. So, after cleaning him up, changing the sheets, and getting the "puke bucket," as we like to call it, ready, I soothed him back to sleep.

In denial, I tried to tell myself that he simply had a little reflux from eating popcorn late at night and sleeping on his stomach, and that a little something "just came back up." He wasn't sick.

I was proven wrong when he woke up three more times in the night, vomiting, with fever and clammy skin.

During one of those times he stopped to ask me, "Momma, if I'm better after this night, Owen can still come over tomorrow, right?" I had to inform him that his scheduled play date would in fact be put on hold indefinitely.

Sorry, kid, but the party stops when someone pukes.

So, Sunday he spent on the couch with a fever, although thankfully the puking stopped. He was much cooler when he went to sleep and he woke up the next morning fever free and much more like himself. Fortunately he had off for President's Day, so he had some time to recuperate before heading back to school.

And then, by mid-morning, the snot arrived. And it has been dripping like a leaky faucet ever since.

Now, I feel like "back in my day," you either got a stomach bug

OR you got a cold/flu. You didn't just get everything thrown at you all at once. Now you get the whole kit and caboodle. You can't breathe at the same time that you can't be more than a foot away from the toilet.

Anyway, throughout this whole time my husband and I were diligent not to cross-contaminate anything with the child, in the hopes of being able to avoid sickness ourselves. It's nearly impossible, since the kid is clingy when he's sick, breathing all over us and touching us nonstop.

He's gotten much better through the years at using tissues and covering his mouth when he coughs or sneezes, and we were constantly ushering him to the bathroom to wash his hands after using said tissues. We're still working on getting him to stop licking his upper lip when his nose is dripping, which is one of the most disgusting things these kids do!

We put the throw blankets in the wash, hosed down the decorative pillows with Lysol, and even cracked a window despite the cold temperatures. We were really feeling good about it.

Monday afternoon we ventured out to run some errands since, even though his nose was running, he had been fever free for more than 24 hours and we figured could use some fresh air. My husband got him an Icee from the gas station as a little treat and a sugary pick-me-up.

As we walked back to the truck, Mikey said to me, "Momma, try this. The blue tastes like cotton candy."

"Really?" I said. "I thought blue was blue raspberry."

Then, without even thinking about it, I accepted the offered drink, brought the straw to my lips, and took a big slurp.

My husband froze. I stopped in my tracks.

Mikey just looked at us. And that, dear readers, is why I write this column from the confines of my bed, with a cold rag on my forehead and steaming cup of tea at my side.

Parenthood is not for the weak.

Holly Crocco is editor of the Putnam County Times/Press and mother of a 6-year-old boy. She can be reached at editorial@putnampresstimes.com.

Hike the Pawling Nature Preserve

Friend Of the Great Swamp will host a hike at Pawling Nature Preserve on Sunday, March 23 at 10 a.m., at the Furlong and Sprague Road trail entrance in Dover.

This is a moderately challenging hike that is 6.3 miles long and will last about three to four hours.

Dress for the weather and wear good hiking shoes/boots, and practice good tick-bite prevention (repellents, light-colored clothing, long sleeves, pant legs tucked into socks). Bring your own drinks and snacks.

No dogs allowed.

Highlights will include sec-

ond-growth oak woodlands, accompanied by swamps, red maple forests, fields and hemlock forests. Along the gorge sides, see unusual plants such as walking fern, maidenhair spleenwort and hobblebush. Other rare plant species include devil's bit, soapwort gentian, yellow wild flax, scarlet Indian-paintbrush and Bicknell's sedge.

Twelve species of amphibians, including six species of salamanders and five species of frogs, breed at the preserve. At least 77 bird species use the area for nesting or foraging, including hermit thrushes, black-throated

green warblers, winter wrens, blue-gray gnatcatchers, and Acadian flycatchers.

To register, email Ken Luhman at frogspaddle22@gmail.com. There is a \$5 suggested donation, which can be made at <https://friends-of-the-great-swamp.square.site>.

Additional FrOGS hikes are scheduled the following Sundays at 10 a.m.: March 9 at the Michael Cialola Conservation Area, and April 6 at Laurel Ledges. On Sunday, April 27 at 9 a.m., there will be a hike and trail cam class at the Gordon Douglas Reserve West.

Putnam Valley F.D. Receives \$5K Grant

The Public Employer Risk Management Association has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the

Putnam Valley Volunteer Fire Department to be used toward the purchase of a new gear washer or

dryer, which is crucial in reducing carcinogen exposure while helping maintain gear integrity.

The department will receive these funds under the Firefighter Risk Management Reduction Mini-Grant Program, created through a partnership between PERMA and the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs.

"Volunteering or working in the fire service has inherent dangers, but a firefighter's gear should not be one of them," said Mary Beth Woods, PERMA executive director. She said the International Agency for Research on Cancer considers there to be sufficient evidence for several firefighting-related exposures causing different types of cancer.

"PERMA's goal is to help fire departments purchase specialized washers or dryers to reduce their members' exposure by enabling them to safely and thoroughly clean turnout gear," said Woods.

The cost is typically \$5,300 for a single washer and \$7,800 for a single dryer, plus installation fees.

"Chemicals, biological hazards, asbestos fibers, and toxic byproducts from burning materials can all cling to firefighters' protective gear," said Bruce Heberer, CEO of NYS AFC. "Research has shown that purpose-built washers are more effective than hand-washing gear, which can also create an exposure situation. We're proud to partner with PERMA to help our members overcome the financial barriers to purchasing these washers and dryers. It's an important win for everyone involved, especially our firefighters on the front lines serving our communities."

These grants are among the 20 PERMA awarded this month to fire departments throughout New York State. Since its inception in 2019, this program has provided more than \$275,000 in funds for gear washers and dryers through 62 grant awards to 54 member organizations.

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PUTNAM VALLEY

Putnam Valley Town Hall
Putnam Valley Library
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Public Invited to State of the County Address

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne invites residents, lawmakers, and stakeholders to attend his 2025 State of the County presentation Monday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m., at Ace Endico headquarters, 80 International Blvd., Brewster. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

Byrne said this annual address will provide an update on the county's progress, highlight key achievements from the past year, and outline his vision for the future. Topics will include tax relief, infrastructure improvements, public safety initiatives, economic devel-

opment, and government ethics.

"This event is an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, address the challenges ahead, and share our plans to keep Putnam County on a path of fiscal responsibility, public safety, and economic growth," said Byrne. "I encourage all residents to attend, stay informed, and be part of the conversation about our county's future."

The event is open to the public, and attendees are encouraged to RSVP by Friday, Feb. 28 at putnamcountyny.gov/sotc2025.



Miss Columbus contestants at the grand stand of a prior parade.

Columbus Day Parade Returns to Mahopac

The Italian American Club of Mahopac recently announced the return of its Putnam County Columbus Day Parade and festivities in 2025.

The club is a community-focused organization founded in 1928 that seeks to contribute and support the area through social and cultural events, charitable fundraising, and collaboration with other groups. Its mission – accomplished through the volunteer efforts of its members – is to contribute to the vitality of Put-

nam and the greater community by hosting a variety of community programs that send positive messages and involve children and adults of all ages.

This year, it will be celebrating its 38th Putnam County Italian heritage festivities and Columbus Day parade. Honorees include Carmel Town Councilman Frank Lombardi as the parade grand marshal, and IAC Recording Secretary Bonnie Palmiero and Vice President Joseph Fierro as the honorary grand marshals.

Scheduled events include a Columbus Day gala on Sunday, June 8 at 2:30 p.m., at Villa Barone Hilltop Manor in Mahopac; the parade Sunday, Oct. 5 at 2:30 p.m., along Route 6 in Mahopac; and an international heritage celebration Sunday, Oct. 12 at 2 p.m., at Carmel Town Hall.

For more information, visit italianamericanclubofmahopac.org or Facebook, or email Giulio Cefaloni at gcefaloni@fordham.edu or Linda Cefaloni at linda.cefaloni@gmail.com.



Last year's Brewster Summer Music series was a hit.

Brewster Summer Music Series Prepares for 2025 Season

The Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition is organizing its fifth annual outdoor Brewster Summer Music Series. Free concerts will begin June 18 and continue weekly through July 30 at the gazebo in Veteran's Park, at the corner of Railroad and Morningthorpe Avenue – near the train station.

CAC is seeking sponsors to assist with underwriting the series so the concerts can remain free to the public.

“Attendance from Brewster and the greater Southeast communities has increased each year, along with the enthusiastic response from the audiences and

fans of the bands at each concert,” said organizer Katy Faivre. “It has become an important entertainment choice and cultural event for the community.”

All contributions by sponsors and supporters are vital to CAC's efforts to bring free music offerings to the community, and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. To contribute and for more information, visit www.culturalartsco.com.

The Cultural Arts Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating the community with transformative and inspiring arts experiences since 2010.

Free Tax Prep Assistance Program Runs Through April 15

The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board has been directing the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program since 2004, and over the past 21 years, hundreds of people have volunteered their time and expertise to help low- and moderate-income individuals and families file their taxes for free – including people with disabilities, senior citizens, and those for whom English is their second language.

To ensure the program delivers maximum benefits, VITA relies on volunteers to act as greeters and assist with language translation and call-center operations. Tax preparation is done by IRS-certified volunteers via electronic filing.

The program is available at select locations throughout Westchester County and beyond through April 15. Residents can call 211 or 1-800-899-1479 to schedule an appointment at one of nine locations. A complete list of the sites with the services offered, as well as times, can be found at www.westchester-putnamonestop.com.

The free tax prep program is a national initiative sponsored by the IRS and the state Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance to help low- and moderate-income residents qualify for federal and state earned income tax credits.

The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board is comprised of leaders and staff of state and county government agencies, nonprofits, public education, and the private sector who work

together to strengthen the partnerships between business, education, and service providers within the “Career Center Network” to meet the needs for a skilled workforce. The board pursues funding opportunities and develops model programs and leading-edge practices.

The network is made up of

four career centers in Carmel, White Plains, Mount Vernon and Peekskill, as well as partner agencies that provide state-of-the-art technology, training, resources, and services to youth, adults, and employers. For more information, visit www.westchesterputnamonestop.com.

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Trash Truck Hits Overpass

Route 22 in Brewster was temporarily shut down in both directions in the area of Interstate-684 on Feb. 18, after an empty trash truck hit the bridge and abutment and caught fire. Firefighters from Brewster and Carmel put down absorbent booms to stop diesel fuel that was leaking into storm drains, and the Putnam County Haz Mat Team was called to assist at the scene. New York State Police, as well as Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Department of Environmental Conservation police all responded to the scene.

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Nutrition Corner

By Allison J. Stowell
MS, RD, CDN



American Heart Month

As February ends, so too does an annual spotlight on heart disease prevention through American Heart Month. This year let's use Heart Month to focus on the role of saturated fat in the progression of heart disease.

A heart-healthy diet is rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fats from plants like olive oil, vegetable oil, avocado, nuts and seeds. It should also emphasize leaner proteins, low fat (or nonfat dairy) and minimal amounts of other sources of saturated fat.

Recently, due to popular diets and false claims among social media influencers, people have been over consuming foods rich in saturated fat like higher fat meats and whole milk. Yet, we have known for a long time that saturated fat is directly linked to an increase in LDL ("bad") cholesterol.

Saturated fat is primarily found in higher fat meats, full fat dairy, and coconut milk/oil. To lower our LDL cholesterol (and improve our cholesterol levels overall) we should limit our saturated fat intake to less than 10% of our total fat calories.

Regardless of the dietary approach you may be using to meet your health goals, we all have the same needs when it comes to reducing the risk of heart disease. Choose foods aligned with lowering your risk, while still achieving your overall diet goals.

Allison J Stowell MS RD CDN serves as the online dietitian for Hannaford Supermarket. For more information on free, virtual nutrition classes and more, visit Hannaford.com/dietitians. For more on the Guiding Stars nutrition guidance program, visit GuidingStars.com.

Roasted Poblano Chicken Soup (2 Guiding Stars) Hannaford.com

Large, dark green poblano peppers have a mild to medium heat-just enough for this chicken soup. If you prefer more spice, add a little more cayenne or half of a seeded jalapeno pepper.

- Ingredients:
- 4 poblano peppers, halved and seeded
 - 1 Tbsp. olive oil
 - 1 yellow onion, diced
 - 1 red bell pepper, diced
 - 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
 - 5 cups low sodium chicken broth
 - 1 cup frozen corn, thawed
 - 1 (15.5-oz.) can low sodium black beans, drained and rinsed
 - 2 tsp. cumin
 - 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper (optional)
 - 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
 - 1 lime
 - Chopped cilantro, shredded cheese, hot sauce, to serve

Directions:

Preheat broiler. Position an oven rack 4" to 6" from top. Place poblano peppers on a foil-lined rimmed baking sheet, cut-sides down. Broil 10 minutes, until blistered. When blistered all over, remove peppers and transfer to a medium bowl. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and let sit at least 10 minutes. When cool, remove skin from peppers.

Meanwhile, heat oil in a large Dutch oven on medium. Add onion and bell pepper. Cook 4 to 5 minutes, until softened. Sprinkle flour over vegetables and cook 1 to 2 minutes more, stirring constantly. Slowly pour in broth, stirring as you add, until slightly thickened and smooth.

Bring mixture to a light boil. To pot, add corn, beans, cumin and cayenne, if using. Season with salt and pepper. Let simmer 15 minutes.

Dice poblano peppers. Stir peppers into soup along with shredded chicken. Squeeze in juice from lime and season to taste. Divide among bowls and serve with cilantro, shredded cheese and hot sauce.

Tip: Instead of fresh poblano peppers, you can use canned whole poblano peppers, drained. Remove stems and seeds and open the peppers so the flesh side lies flat, then dice.

Barbecue Chili

(Family Features)
Barbecue Chili

Ingredients:

- 1 pork loin (2-3 pounds)
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and green chilies
- 2 cups barbecue sauce, divided
- 1 cup water
- 1 can (29 ounces) tomato sauce
- 2 cans (27 oz each) chili beans
- 1 package chili seasoning
- 1 tbsp barbecue seasoning
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- sour cream, for serving
- shredded cheddar cheese, for serving
- corn chips, for serving

Directions:

Place pork loin in slow cooker. Cover with diced tomatoes and green chilies, 1 cup barbecue sauce and water; cook on low 4-6 hours.



Cut up cooked meat and place in Dutch oven along with juices from slow cooker. Add remaining barbecue sauce, tomato sauce, chili beans, chili seasoning, barbecue seasoning, onion powder and garlic powder. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Cook over medium heat 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve with sour cream, shredded cheese and corn chips.

Tip: Add can of beans if serving bigger crowd.

Servings: 8-10
Source: Culinary.net

Enoch Crosby DAR Inducts New Members



Chaplain Adrienne Davies, Mary Schleissmann, Regent Susan Rebentisch and Vice Regent Holly O'Connor.



Vice Regent Holly O'Connor, Regent Susan Rebentisch, Michelle Rissolo and Chaplain Adrienne Davies.

The Enoch Crosby Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution inducted two new members this winter.

Mary Schleissmann was inducted in December. Her patriot follows a direct paternal line to the Colonial Era, meaning each person connecting her to her patriot had the same last name.

After a brief ceremony, the chapter celebrated the holiday season with its annual potluck luncheon and Yankee swap. Every year, members look forward to purchasing and wrapping holiday gifts for a local families in need, delivered after the celebration.

Michelle Rissolo, whose patriot ancestor enlisted in New York, was inducted at the chap-

ter's meeting in February.

Afterward, Paul Collins, author of "Enoch Crosby: The Shoemaker Spy," enthralled attendees with a description of the life and times of the chapter's namesake. Collins said he was determined to substantiate all details that went into the book, and members have since enjoyed reading about significant events that took place locally.

NSDAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Any woman 18 years or older—regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background—who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership.

Contact Enoch Crosby Chapter Registrar Libby Baker at libbybaker@aol.com for information.

We Will Miss

Brewster

Merle Golz, 92, Feb. 12. Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

Carmel

Robert "Bob" Sibrizzi, 62, Feb. 12. Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Barbara A. Reilly, 60, Feb. 13. Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Thomas P. Feighery, 90, Feb. 15. Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

Mahopac

Angelo Pozzuto, 78, Feb. 18. Balsamo-Cordovano Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-2144.

Thomas Damian Baranowski, 69, Feb. 7. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

Thomas G. Tiffany, 65, Feb. 14. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992.

Elaine M. Buttacavoli, 83, Feb. 15. Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, Mahopac, (845) 621-1992

Betty Ann Shields, 84, Feb. 12. Clinton Inc Funeral Homes, Cold Spring, (845) 265-3333.



Video News Club members work on a segment.

Behind the Scenes of Mahopac Middle School's Video News Club

Excitement fills the air every Wednesday at Mahopac Middle School as a group of enthusiastic students rush to begin filming the weekly school news broadcast. Without any fanfare, members of the Video News Club walk through the doors of the classroom to take on the roles of reporters and on-air stars of their own news stories.

Led by technology teacher and club advisor Jay Zides, the students meet weekly to write, record, and produce news announcements that are aired every Friday morning for the entire school. Students are assigned articles ranging from school events, sports updates and important reminders, to fun facts and features that keep the whole school in the loop.

Zides said the atmosphere in the Video News Club is electric and fast-paced.

"The students produce their segments and write their scripts just like a professional newsroom," he said. "There isn't a lot of time, and everyone has to just go for it."

On a recent Wednesday after-

noon, assignments were handed out and club members quickly got to work. Daniel DiLullo, Marjan Ljumic and Lorenzo Piediscalzo prepared the news, Emily Travis and Evan Ortiz took on the weather, Avery Cruz and Maria Shkreli reviewed a movie, Ahnaf Aziz read a Super Bowl prediction for the sports report, Belle Carey and Bletare Idrizaj covered a top story piece, and Isabel Gonzales and high school interns Jeliel Ruiz and Nicholas Wong supported the production of the segments.

As soon as the stories are written, members gather in front of a green screen, ready to film. It's a hands-on experience in which they can express their creativity and learn real-world media skills. From crafting a script to providing a professional delivery on camera, the students get an up-close look at what it's like to work in broadcast journalism.

On Thursdays, the raw footage is edited and fine-tuned to ensure the Friday broadcast is polished and ready for prime time. From editing graphics, to

adding music and cutting to the right shots, club members take ownership of every aspect of the production process.

For many of the students, this club has become a highlight of their week. They're not just creating announcements – they're learning how to collaborate, problem-solve, and communicate effectively in a real-world media environment. Plus, the thrill of seeing their faces on-screen is a rewarding experience they won't forget.

In a world where technology and media are constantly evolving, the Mahopac Middle School Video News Club gives students a valuable opportunity to develop skills they can use now and in the future, and all students are welcome to join. Thanks to Zides' dedication and the hard work of club members, every Friday morning's broadcast is something the whole school looks forward to.

To watch a video of the Mahopac Middle School's morning announcements, visit <https://sites.google.com/mahopac.org/mms-news/home>.

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Slater Urges State to Define 'Antisemitism' in Curriculum

Assemblyman Matt Slater, R-Yorktown, has introduced legislation to establish a formal definition of antisemitism within the New York State Education Department, to serve as a guideline for reviewing, investigating, and

determining whether a violation of law, regulation, or Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has occurred.

The legislation adopts the working definition of antisemitism established by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2016, which has been recognized by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The definition states: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

"The first step in combating hate is defining it," said Slater. "Having clear parameters in place will help determine when an act of

antisemitism has occurred and ensure appropriate action is taken."

A report by NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli published in August highlighted a significant rise in hate crimes across the state. In 2023 alone, there were 1,089 reported incidents – an increase of 69 percent since 2019.

"Since the attack by Hamas on Israel in October of 2023, reported incidents of antisemitic hate have skyrocketed in our state," said Slater. "This is unacceptable, and this legislation is a crucial step toward stopping it. New York is a state that takes pride in its diversity, and I will work with my colleagues in the Legislature to ensure our families, friends, neighbors, and communities feel safe here."

The bill is being sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, R-Long Island.



Elder Law Advice Alan D. Feller, Esq.

Estate Planning For Solo & Small Families

I was annoyed. The Viennese table was surrounded and there was no way I was going to break through that fortress of big-bodied pastry lovers.

But I had one slight advantage: at 10 years old, I couldn't care less about the coffee station perched at the end of the table. Luckily, some of the cake-eaters shifted a few feet closer to the coffee urns, allowing me to squeeze my tiny frame into a gap and grab a tiny cannoli.

The occasion? I have no clue.

It could have been an engagement, anniversary, or birthday party. In those years I was dragged to an endless array of family functions, most of which were forgettable – except for that feeling of dessert

helplessness that has stayed with me. In my mind, at that moment, there were too many family members in my way.

How naïve I was. Being the only child of an only child, I should have recognized the precariousness of a family's size. All of those people grabbing napoleons and cream puffs ... gone. Some of them had children, many did not. Of those children, several remained unmarried and the ones who did marry lost spouses fairly young.

My family dwindled.

Look at all the charts, bar graphs, and spreadsheets you like – families have gotten smaller. Solo households made up 7.7 percent of all households in 1940. Today, that percentage hovers around 30.

Planning can be a challenge when your choice of executor teeters between your postal carrier and your accountant.

As we reiterate in these columns, elder care attorneys are not social engineers. Forming relationships, having children, and relocating for work involve timing, philosophies, physics, logistics, and luck that flies way above our paygrade.

What you need is a core group – a collection of family, friends, neighbors, and professionals who could and would help you if you need assistance. For planning to work, you will need a trustee, executor, agent under a Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy, and Disposition of Remains.

Even if these responsibilities fall to one or two people, prioritize those relationships.

Once your core group is chosen, let them know where you keep your important documents. Hanging a Health Care Proxy on a refrigerator seems like a cliché, but it works. Emergency responders will be able to know who to contact in a health crisis. For your financial documents, a fire-proof box is preferable.

Solo and small family estate plans tend to have more charitable bequests and specific gifts. We encourage trusts for solos and small families because New York law requires the Surrogate's Court in the county where a decedent resided to obtain jurisdiction over the decedent's closest living relatives for Probate or administration purposes.

For many solos or small families, this means that cousin Floyd, who stole your Schwinn in 1977, will have to "sign off" on your estate before your treasured neighbor Rose can inherit that \$50,000 you promised, or your local ASPCA receives your donation.

Trusts avoid Probate and avoid the nonsense concerning cousin Floyd; Rose and the ASPCA would just inherit the money directly and easily.

Your plan begins with an idea. The way you lived and the people you touched are all part of your legacy. Whether your family has 75 members or three, following some basic rules will simplify your estate.

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

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Putnam County Community Events

Board Members Sought

The Town of Kent is accepting resumes for the Lake Carmel Park District Advisory Board. Submit an application or resume to the Kent town clerk at 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512 or lcappelli@townofkentny.gov.

Concessionaire Wanted

The Town of Carmel Recreation & Parks Department is accepting applications for a 2025-28 concession stand operator at Sycamore Park for summer camp and special events. Must attend a Food Service Sanitation Course, hold a Food Service Establishment Permit issued by the Department of Health, and carry their own insurance. The concessionaire RFP can be picked up at Sycamore Park, 790 Long Pond Road, Mahopac, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Proposals must be received no later than 4 p.m. March 6. 845-628-7888.

Shelter & Warming Station

Starting at 8:30 p.m. daily through March, those who find themselves without housing may stay at the Brewster Cares shelter, or call 845-279-6146. The daytime warming center is also open at the same location, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hot meals, a safe space to sleep, a place to bathe and launder clothes, and a communal atmosphere are offered.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

'Fly Me To The Moon'

Patterson Library will show "Fly Me To The Moon" on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. A sharp comedy-drama set during NASA's historic Apollo 11 mission. When marketing expert Kelly Jones is brought in to repair NASA's public image, her bold tactics clash with launch director Cole Davis's already tense operation. As pressure mounts, the White House orders a backup plan: a staged moon landing. Rated PG-13. Adults. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

IDA Meeting

The Putnam County Industrial Development Agency will meet Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. at 2 Route 164, Patterson. View the meeting at www.facebook.com/putnamida, and the minutes and a recording will be posted to www.putnamida.com as soon as possible after the meeting has been adjourned.

Kids Craft Club

Kids in kindergarten through grade four are invited to the Kent Public Library on Tuesdays, Feb. 25, March 18 and April 22 at 4:30 p.m. to read a book and make a seasonal craft. Registration is required.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

FDR Program

Kent Public Library will present "History Talks with Jeffrey Urbin of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum" on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Delve into the rich legacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, exploring a range of topics that shaped the course of history. Adult program. Register at kentpl.librarycalendar.com to receive the Zoom link.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Mahopac Library Meetings

The Mahopac Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27, March 27, April 24 and May 22. The annual meeting is June 2 (7 p.m.), with the reorganizational meeting July 10.

Recognizing Scams & Fraud

Adults age 18 and older are invited to Patterson Library on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. to hear from Deputy Claire Pierson from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department as she explains how to recognize the latest scams and fraud attempts, how to safeguard yourself from them, and what to do if you fall victim to one. Registration is required at 845-878-6121 or www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Relay Kick Off

A kickoff event for Relay For Life of Mahopac is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall at 333 Buckshollow Road, Mahopac. Theme announcement, top teams of 2024, meet the event committee. RSVP to Erica at ericam0309@gmail.com.

Friday, Feb. 28

Single Parents Workshop

A single parents workshop and forum is scheduled Friday, Feb. 28 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, March 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at First Baptist Church Brewster. Free, for single parents/caregivers who feel alone or isolated. Refreshments served and childcare available for school-age children. Registration at brewsterchurch.com. Available in Spanish. For information, call 845 279 2636.

Dungeons & Dragons

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will host a Dungeons & Dragons program Feb. 28 at 12:30 p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Historical Horticulture

Join the Putnam History Museum and Boscobel House & Gardens on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at PHM in Cold Spring or virtually for a lecture on the history of gardening, agriculture, and landscaping during the 19th century. To register, visit putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Saturday, March 1

Irish Soda Bread Sale

Brewster VFW 672 Auxiliary will host an Irish soda bread sale fundraiser with orders accepted March 1 through 10. \$20 per large loaf. Orders will be ready for pickup Saturday, March 15 between 1 and 3 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 262 Peaceable Hill Road. Call Chris at 914-588-9497, Karen at 845-721-0265, or Deb at 845-803-1563.

Decoupage Workshop

Join Dutchess County artist Christine Mowbray at the Kent Public Library on March 1 at 11 a.m. for a creative afternoon decorating a decoupage glass plate. For adults and seniors. Registration required at kentpl.librarycalendar.com. Supplies limited.

Sunday, March 2

Wildfire Fundraiser

A Music Cottage teacher showcase is scheduled Sunday, March

2 at 4 p.m. at Studio Around the Corner, 67 Main St., Brewster, to benefit the California Community Foundation Wildfire Recovery Fund. \$20 per person or \$50 per family. Call 845-363-1456 to reserve seats.

Relay Fundraiser

Relay for Life Eastern Putnam will hold a "Let's Strike Out Cancer" kickoff to the Relay season Sunday, March 2 from noon to 3 p.m. at Spins Bowl Carmel, \$25 per person includes shoe rental. 50/50 and raffle baskets. Benefits the American Cancer Society. RSVP to Lorraine by Feb. 24 at lrainel@comcast.net.

Monday, March 3

State of the County

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne invites residents, lawmakers, and stakeholders to attend his 2025 State of the County presentation Monday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m., at Ace Endico headquarters, 80 International Blvd., Brewster. Doors will open at 6 p.m. RSVP by Friday, Feb. 28 at putnamcountyny.gov/sotc2025.

Tuesday, March 4

Make Body & Foot Scrubs

Kent Public Library will host a foot- and body-scrub-making workshop with Gigi's Melts, Balms & Scrubs on March 4 at 5:30 p.m. For adults and seniors. Registration required at kentpl.librarycalendar.com. Supplies limited.

Kent Town Board

The Kent Town Board will meet the following Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Town Hall: March 4 and 18, April 1 and 15, May 6 and 20, June 3 and 17, July 1 and 15, Aug. 5 and 19 (daytimes), Sept. 2 and 16, Oct. 7 and 21, Nov. 18 and 25, and Dec. 2 and 16.

Table Talk Tuesdays

CoveCare Center will host Table Talk Tuesdays to promote resiliency and family connections, including complementary pizza, soda and light dessert, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. at Sauro's Town Square Pizza in Patterson, March 11 at 6 p.m. at Cacciatori Pizza in Mahopac, March 18 at 6 p.m. at Gaetano Pizza & Café in Brewster, and March 25 at 6 p.m. at Cold Spring Pizza. Reservations are required at prevention@covecarecenter.org or 845-225-2700, ext. 117. Include name, email and phone number, date/location, and the number of people attending.

Lego Club

Kids in kindergarten through grade four are invited to join Kent Public Library on Tuesdays, March 4 and April 1 at 4:30 p.m. Creations will be displayed in the children's section. This is not a drop-off program; parents must remain in the building. Registration required.

Wednesday, March 5

Carmel Town Board

The Carmel Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. the following Wednesdays at Town Hall: March 5, 12 and 19; April 2, 9 and 16; May 7, 14 and 21; June 4, 11 and 18; July 2 and 9; Aug. 6 and 13; Sept. 3, 10 and 17; Oct. 1, 8 and 15; Nov. 5, 12 and 19; and Dec. 3 and 10.

Thursday, March 6

Southeast Town Board

The Southeast Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. the following Thursdays at Town Hall: March 6 and 20, April 3 and 17, May 1 and 15, June 5 and 26, July 10 and 24, Aug. 7 and 21, Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 6 and 20, and Dec. 4 and 18.

Deni Bonet & Chris Flynn

Adults age 18 and older are invited to Patterson Library on Thursday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. for a concert by Deni Bonet and Chris Flynn – an Americana, folk-rock duo whose blend of music and humor have entertained and captivated audiences from Carnegie Hall to the White House. Registration is required at 845-878-6121 or www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Republican Women's Club

The Putnam County Republican Women's Club meets the first Thursday of each month in Brewster. The 2025 dates include March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. Email putnamwomensgop@gmail.com for information.

Saturday, March 8

Repair Café

Sustainable Putnam's quarterly Repair Café returns to the Mahopac Middle School on Saturday, March 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If parts are needed, they are sold at cost. Free coffee, tea, and snacks are served. To pre-register, visit sustainableputnam/repair-cafe or call 646-598-6560.

Run for Library Board

Mahopac Central School District residents interested in serving on the Mahopac Public Library Board of Trustees are invited to an information session March 8 at 10 a.m. Meet current board members and get to know Executive Director Michele Capozzella. Virtual and in-person. For those attending in person at the library, a light dinner will be served. Register at <https://mahopaclibrary.org> or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Guitar Performance

Reed Memorial Library will present jazz guitarist Abe Ovadia on March 8 at 11 a.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Irish Music

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center will welcome Bruce Foley and John Nolan on Saturday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m., at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Region Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Hall of Fame, they will perform traditional Celtic music. Tickets are \$25 at Eventbrite.com.

Sunday, March 9

FrOGS Hikes

Friends Of the Great Swamp will host winter hikes on the following Sundays at 10 a.m.: March 9 at the Michael Ciaiola Conservation Area, March 23 at Pawling Nature Preserve, April 6 at Laurel Ledges. On Sunday, April 27 at 9 a.m. there will be a hike and trail cam class at the Gordon Douglas Reserve West. \$5 registration; email Ken Luhman at frogspaddle22@gmail.com.

Parade

The 48th annual Northern Westchester/Putnam St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled Sunday, March 9 at 2 p.m. along Route 6, Mahopac. Buses will run from the Lake Plaza Shopping Center to the Corner of Route 6 and Croton Falls Road beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Relay Fundraiser

The Italian American Club of Mahopac invites the public to a fundraising dinner to benefit Relay for Life of Mahopac on Monday, March 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. at 141 Buckshollow Road. Dinner, music, raffles, and more. \$40 for non-members, \$35 for members and seniors, \$10 for children younger than 10. RSVP by March 6 to Linda Cefaloni at 914-582-4373 or Giulio Cefaloni at 845-745-2655.

Breakfast

Brewster VFW Post 672 will host a breakfast fundraiser the second Sunday of every month from October to May, from 9 to 11 a.m., at 262 Peaceable Hill Road. Coffee, juice, waffles, pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, omelet station, home fries, tater tots, biscuits and gravy, and more. \$15.

Monday, March 10

Eucharistic Revival

"Behold + A Eucharistic Revival with Array of Hope" is scheduled March 10, 11 and 12 from 7 to 9 p.m., at St. James the Apostle Church, 14 Gleneida Av., Carmel. Consisting of talks, an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, confession, praise music, and Mass on March 12. Featuring Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR; Dr. David Hajduk; and the AOH music team. All are welcome. www.stjamesapostle.org.

Quit Smoking

The Putnam County Department of Health will offer Freedom from Smoking, an evidence-based smoking cessation program, to individuals who live or work in Putnam. Classes will be held Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Department of Health from March 10 through April 21, with an extra class Thursday, April 3. Free. Pre-registration required at <https://PCDOH-FreedomFromSmoking2025.eventbrite.com>.

Wednesday, March 12

College Prep

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will present "Getting Started with the College Process" on March 12 at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

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.

New Exhibits Coming to Garrison Art Center



“Blockhead in a Universe” by Amy Talluto.

Garrison Art Center will present “Every Picture Tells a Story,” an exhibition of paintings by Natalie Wargin, as well as “Skeleton Key,” an exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Amy Talluto, from

April 12 to May 4, at 23 Garrison’s Landing.

A public reception with the artists will take place Saturday, April 12 from 5 to 7 p.m.

This is the first solo exhibit at

GAC for each artist.

Wargin’s paintings celebrate the passage of time and the beauty of the Hudson Valley landscape. Her work unites themes of nature’s cycles, and the poignancy of daily



“Emily’s Dream” by Natalie Wargin.

life, well-being, and mortality – creating imagery that captures fleeting moments and enduring human connections and experiences.

Wargin views her art as both visual and narrative, sharing personal

stories with each piece on her blog or social media to deepen engagement with her audience.

“It’s a small thing, but it often sparks meaningful dialogue with my audience about my life and theirs,” she said.

The artist said she finds this storytelling approach to be integral to her creative process. Her evolving perspective, shaped by time and change, envisions idealized landscapes and relationships, offering comfort and hope.

“I paint beautiful vistas and relationships that express my desire to care for our memories and the world we’re lucky to have,” said Wargin.

Talluto’s “Skeleton Key” explores how painting and sculpture unlock meaning in one another, acting as gateways to unexpected and poetic realities.

The Surrealist poet Pierre Reverdy once wrote, “The image is a pure creation of the mind... The more the relationship between the two juxtaposed realities is distant and true, the stronger the image will be.” This concept of merging distant realities to create powerful visual and emotional resonance is central to Talluto’s work.

“Skeleton keys can open any door,” she explained. “They are a carte blanche entry card to an infinite number of secret portals. In this way, a sculpture might unlock meaning in a painting, and a painting might unlock meaning in a sculpture. Everything is a key to everything else – each is a gateway to a new, distant, and true reality.”

For Talluto, the creative process embraces both intention and unpredictability. “Surprise is the prize,” she said, likening her work to finding faces in clouds.

By merging disparate ideas, including intriguing symbols and recurring motifs, her art invites viewers to uncover their own connections, unlocking layers of meaning within a rich, dreamlike world.

An artist talk is scheduled Saturday, April 26 from 3 to 4 p.m., moderated by Elisabeth Condon.

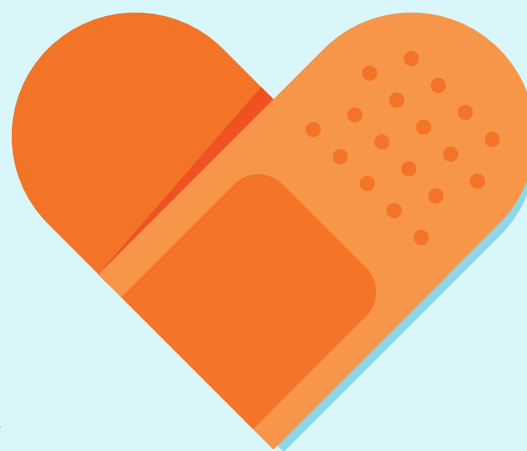
Garrison Art Center is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit arts and education organization founded in 1964 that is committed to making a difference by providing access to the visual arts to a diverse audience of learners, professional artists, community members, collectors, families, and friends from varied ethnic, cultural, geographic, and economic backgrounds.

For information about exhibitions, classes, and other programs at GAC, visit garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.

Optum

Act now to lower your Flu/COVID risk

During the peak season for respiratory illnesses, the most effective way to reduce your risk of Flu and COVID-19 is by getting vaccinated. Be proactive about maintaining good health for yourself and your family.



How do you know if it's the Flu or COVID-19?

Both are contagious and impact the respiratory system which can lead to severe illness. Some shared symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, and muscle aches. It is important to get tested for exact diagnosis and treatment.

Who is at risk for Flu or COVID-19 complications?

Those aged 65 and older, pregnant women, and adults with chronic health conditions who have been hospitalized are most at risk. Additionally, children under the age of 5, especially those under 2 years old, are also at a higher risk of facing severe complications.

How do I keep myself and my family protected?

To prevent illness from these two viruses, it is important to ensure that you are up to date on your vaccinations. Additionally, practicing general safety measures daily can be beneficial. These include regular handwashing, avoiding contact with individuals who are sick, and covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If you are already sick, refrain from contact with others.

Importance of a primary care physician

Having a primary care physician, and receiving regular preventive care, can assist in maintaining good health and detecting problems early on. Keep preventative care visits separate from those for sickness, injury, or routine care for ongoing medical conditions.

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Brewster Youth Learn About Life as Colonists

Continued from Page 1

furniture shop where we will be making treasure boxes.”

Down the hallway in Michelle Maselli’s classroom, students were apprentices and making candles. “Do you know what the colonists would have used to make wicks?” she asked.

“Horse hair and tall reeds,”

answered Tatiana.

In Danielle Recine’s classroom, students were meticulously dabbing paint onto stencils on wooden boards.

“Colonists used stencils to make designs on the walls like wallpaper,” said Ben Berish. “When the colonists came to the New World, they thought it was going to be easy, but life was hard. They had to make everything themselves. They had to make their own furniture, wallpaper, and candles. They did get help from the Native Americans who taught them how to harvest and make medications, but it was hard. There wasn’t a lot of free time.”

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Apply Now for Summer Service Corp Program

Applications for the Empire State Summer Service Corps Program are now open, and State University of New York students are encouraged to apply for one of 150 paid civic and service internships this summer.

The program will take place from May through August, and SUNY students are encouraged to apply on their SUNY college's website before March 20.

The Empire State Service Corps is one of Gov. Kathy Hochul's 2024 State of the State priorities to expand service opportunities for college students. Those participating in the program dedicate at least 300 hours to paid community service, and convene regularly to share and learn from each other's experiences.

During its first application cycle, almost 2,000 SUNY students submitted applications for 500 spots across 45 SUNY colleges and universities during the 2024-25 academic year. AmeriCorps funding will make it possible to expand the program to serve 150 students this summer.

"College has the unique power to bring students together in service and learning," said SUNY Chancellor John King Jr. "SUNY is proud to make it possible for hundreds of our students to complete paid service internships in their communities through the Empire State Service Corps."

The Empire State Service



SUNY students may apply to serve their community this summer. Photo courtesy of www.suny.edu.

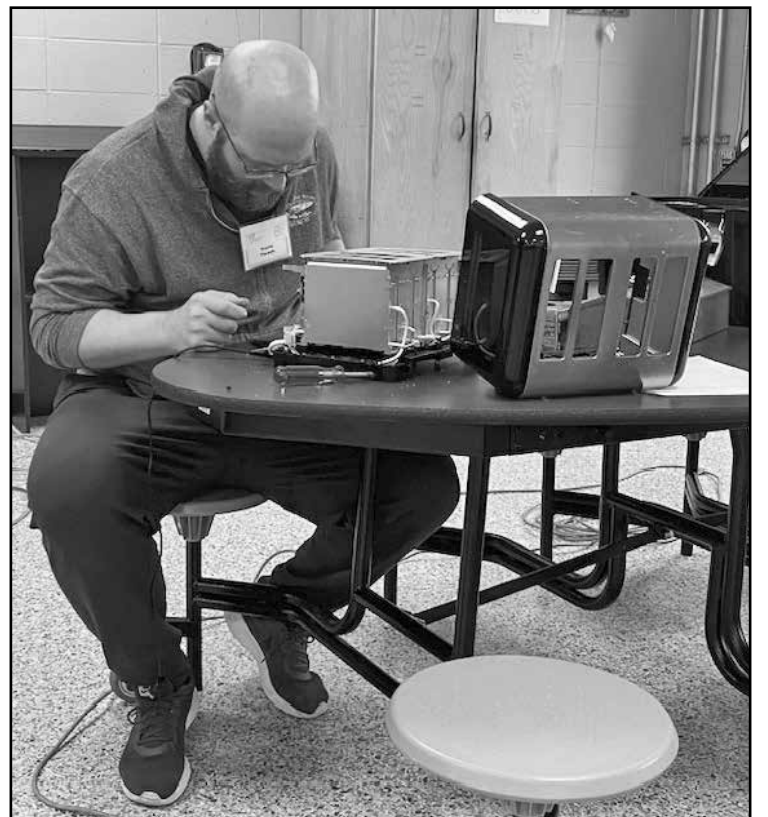
Corps provides paid civic and service internships in the following areas:

- K-12 Tutoring: Partner with local school districts for regular tutoring sessions to support recovery from pandemic-era interrupted learning.
- SNAP & Basic Need Outreach: Support students with SNAP outreach on campus, as well as provide basic needs support, including shifts at the campus food pantry.
- Peer Mental Health: On select campuses, be trained to serve as peer mental health counselors.
- Sustainability: Serve in campus roles and with local

nonprofits and state agencies on sustainability work, such as recycling campaigns, tree planting, pollinator gardens, and sustainability outreach.

- Anti-Hate & Bias Prevention: Serve with local nonprofits focused on ending hate and bias in the community.
- FAFSA Completion: Serve local communities through visits to local high schools and work on-campus to support students in completing the FAFSA so they can access financial aid.

Hochul and the State Legislature committed \$2.75 million to continue to fund the Empire State Service Corps in the 2025 state budget.



"Repair Coach" Travis Thrush diagnoses a broken toaster at a recent Repair Café in Mahopac.

Breathe Life into Broken Items

Mahopac Repair Café Returns

Sustainable Putnam's quarterly Repair Café returns to the Mahopac Middle School on Saturday, March 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Repair Café brings together residents with broken household items and expert volunteers who repair them for free. Lamps, clocks, toasters, small appliances, audio equipment, small furniture, clothing, bicycles, and more are accepted for repair.

If parts are needed, they are sold at cost.

Free coffee, tea, and snacks are served at the café.

To learn more and pre-register, visit sustainableputnam/repair-cafe or call 646-598-6560.

Additional volunteer "fixers" are needed. These volunteer repair coaches try to diagnose the problem and repair it. Coaches regularly consult with one another to problem solve and share tips. Volunteers are provided with free snacks and lunch.

To volunteer, email volunteer@sustainableputnam.org or call 646-598-6560.

Aspiring Homeowners Sought

Housatonic Habitat for Humanity has two homes available for aspiring homeowners – in the heart of Danbury and in New Preston, Conn.

To qualify for a Habitat home, a candidate must be first-time homebuyer, employed for at least two years, have good repayment history, a credit score of 660 or higher, and a household minimum income of at least \$60,000.

In addition, Housatonic Habitat is searching for a disabled veteran or a veteran with a family member who has a disability, which will enable the organization to customize a home with Americans With Disabilities Act modifications to meet the specific needs of the homeowner.

For more information and to apply, visit housatonic Habitat.org, email info@housatonic Habitat.org, or call 203-744-1341.



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Brewster eighth-graders show off their inventions.

Innovation Makes Life Easier for Brewster Middle-Schoolers

If only in-school problems like broken Chromebooks, tiny desks, and anxiety could be solved with innovative products.

Eighth grade students in Victoria Golden's Build a Business class have spent this semester putting that wish to the test.

Students in the Brewster business elective course have designed and built products to make middle school life easier. Investor pitches for their products were evaluated recently by a panel of judges that included English language arts teacher Catherine Dima, school resource officer Deputy Shawn Larussi, and school monitor Suzanne Rhodes.

Each pitch had to include a business overview, a pitch deck, team presentation, interaction with judges and classmates, and be completed in less than 5 minutes.

"Last year I dropped my Chromebook and it broke," said Jack Bryggman. "I didn't realize I had to pay for it and was really upset, so I came up with an affordable Chromebook case that can also hold all of my schoolwork."

Another group also focused

on Chromebooks, creating a case with a digital screen with a reminder to charge the computers. They polled students and teachers and based their design on input from those polled.

"If we get money from investors, we will put money into better materials and advertising," said Xavier Flores.

In middle school, the desks are too small to hold a computer, notebook, pens/pencils, and paperwork. Two groups focused on this problem with different designs.

Spacious Extensions solved the problem with cardboard covered in felt, clipped onto the desk with rubber clips, while the Desk Extender solved the problem with cardboard and magnets.

Fidgeting Fidget is a three-in-one fidget spinner resembling a squishy, stretchy keychain and spinner. "It's meant to help students get focused in class," explained Kate Ryan. "But you can put it away in your pocket if it gets too distracting."

The product Chime Time is for teachers who either forget to take attendance or are so overwhelmed by activity in the

classroom they cannot take attendance. It's a ringer with flashing lights on a loop that chimes at the right time.

"It's easy to set up with lots of options," said William Gonzalez Mejia. "We are working on prototypes with different designs that are holiday themed – a tree for Christmas, a pumpkin for Halloween."

"The great thing about this class and these projects is that students can get creative and take ownership of their product," explained Victoria Golden. "It's student-driven."

Today, middle school problems ... Tomorrow, the world!

State Funding Supports Youth & Teen Mental Health First Aid

More than \$10 million in state funding is available to offer a statewide youth and teen mental health first aid program, announced Gov. Kathy Hochul recently.

The New York State Office of Mental Health will administer the funding to develop a training and certification program that helps New Yorkers identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders in young people who may be experiencing a crisis.

OMH is providing \$10 million over five years for a not-for-profit organization to create or expand youth mental health first aid and teen mental health first aid training and certification programs.

The youth mental health first aid training is designed for parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and others. The program trains them on how to help young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who are experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge, or who are in crisis.

The teen mental health first aid training is designed for young people between the ages 15 and 18 so they may identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges in their friends and peers. The training provides the skills to recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health

and substance use challenges, the impact of bullying and school violence on mental health, how to have impactful conversations with classmates about mental health concerns or to seek help from an adult, formal and informal support, and self-care.

Previous state investments have resulted in more than 2,000 adults trained in youth mental health first aid. Likewise, roughly 5,000 young people have been trained in teen mental health first aid as a result of state funding.

"Young people are experiencing so many unique pressures today and it's become increasingly important for them to understand how these challenges impact themselves and their peers," said NYS Office of Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan. "By expanding teen and youth mental health first aid training, we equip more teachers, caregivers, and youth themselves with the tools they can use to help recognize the signs of a behavioral health crisis and respond effectively. Teen mental health first aid helps teens talk with fellow teens about mental health concerns."

Hochul also established the Youth Mental Health Advisory Board, a 30-member advisory board that includes youth between the ages of 11 and 17 that convenes quarterly and is designed to ensure youth-informed best practices continue to be incorporated in developing behavioral health programs and policies.

Hear Irish Music at Tompkins Corners

Bruce Foley and John Nolan will perform Saturday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m., at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center, 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley.

Both members of the Mid-Atlantic Region Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Hall of Fame, the two will present a concert of traditional Celtic music that showcases Foley's rich voice, masterful guitar playing, and expertise on the uilleann pipes, along with Nolan's virtuosity on the button accordion.

Fresh from Joanie Madden's Folk 'n Irish Cruise, celebrating Cherish the Ladies' 40th anniversary, the two share a musical connection that – as Paul Keating put it – "only really develops through decades of playing together."

Foley has performed with Scottish folk singer Andy Stew-

art, Irish songman Tommy Sands, and fiddler James Kelly. He has also toured the world with his wife, Mary Coogan, as part of Cherish the Ladies. A career highlight includes playing the uilleann pipes at Madison Square Garden for Pete Seeger's 90th birthday celebration.

Nolan, an All-Ireland accordion champion – and the first American to win the title – is a master of both traditional tunes and song accompaniment.

Both musicians are featured on the latest "Sailors on the Rock" CD.

Tickets to the March 8 performance are \$25 and may be purchased at Eventbrite or at the door. For more information, visit TompkinsCorners.org or Facebook, or email info@tompkinscorners.org.




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Gov. Announces Efforts to Protect Natural Resources

A \$500 million funding commitment for clean water was recently announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul as part of her 2025 State of the State, bringing the state's investment to a record \$6 billion.

The governor's agenda also includes initiatives to increase climate resilience in the face of extreme weather and expand access to green spaces, particularly in underserved urban areas. These efforts not only promise to create jobs and enhance environmental quality, but also lay the foundation for a healthier, more sustainable future for all New Yorkers, said Hochul.

Water Infrastructure

To protect public health, address environmental challenges, and ensure clean drinking water is available to all New Yorkers, Hochul says sustained investments are crucial to help municipalities meet their critical drinking water and sewer infrastructure needs, and is proposing crucial initiatives to protect water infrastructure:

- Invest \$500 million to reduce water bills, combat flooding, restore waterways, and replace lead service lines to protect vulnerable populations, particularly children in underserved communities.
- Launch a pilot program providing financial assistance for private well owners to test and remediate wells impacted by emerging contaminants.
- Create a new grant program focused on strengthening the cybersecurity maturity of the water and wastewater systems sector to

provide technical assistance and funding for local government water and wastewater systems to effectively assess their cybersecurity posture, develop a cybersecurity plan, and improve their cybersecurity resilience.

• Direct the Department of Health, Department of Environmental Conservation, and Department of Public Service to begin drafting minimum cybersecurity standards for water and wastewater utilities to protect the reliability and security of water and wastewater services.

Safeguard Against Extreme Weather

Following an onslaught of drenching rain, flooding, extreme weather, sweltering heat, and bitter cold, Hochul is proposing several actions to continue building more resilient communities and adapt to the impacts of climate change:

- Expand & Strengthen Resilient & Ready Programs. Severe weather events are leaving homeowners in need of urgent repairs and long-term resilience measures. Hochul said the state will increase funding for the Rapid Response Home Repair Program and Resilient Retrofits Program, which have provided vital assistance, helping more than 1,300 homeowners recover and prepare for future disasters.
- Help Businesses Recover After Disasters. Hochul proposes modernizing the Jobs Retention Tax Credit Program to better support businesses in disaster-affected areas. The updated program

will lower the eligibility threshold to include businesses with 10 or more employees, allowing small businesses to participate for the first time. The expansion also removes industry-specific limitations, allowing all affected businesses to seek support after an emergency event.

• Protect Infrastructure. Building on the success of the 2024 Green Resiliency Grant program, which funded \$60 million in transformative projects, Hochul proposes continuing the GRG program with Environmental Bond Act funding. This round will prioritize projects offering significant risk reduction, such as porous pavement, rain gardens, and stormwater retention systems, helping communities build greener, more resilient infrastructure.

• Invest in Coastal Resiliency. Coastlines face increasing risks from extreme weather and rising sea level increases, threatening communities and economies. Hochul said the state will launch a new Department of State grant program to support nature-based solutions like living shorelines and ecosystem enhancements. Additionally, expanded funding for projects identified in Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans will help address flood risks and improve sustainability, creating more resilient waterfronts statewide.

Modernizing the Superfund Program

Hochul said she will announce a plan to reauthorize and modernize the State Superfund



Gov. Kathy Hochul recently announced a \$500 million funding commitment for clean water as part of her 2025 State of the State. Photo courtesy of www.governor.ny.gov.

Program with new tools to accelerate cleanups and repurpose contaminated sites for productive uses, such as manufacturing, clean energy, housing, and community redevelopment.

For more than 40 years, the Superfund Program has been instrumental in cleaning hazardous waste sites and protecting communities. However, emerging contaminants like PFAS and shifting development priorities demand updates to ensure the program remains effective. To address these challenges, the updated law will prioritize sites posing the greatest public health risks, especially in disadvantaged communities that have faced disproportionate pollution.

Expanding Access to Green Spaces

The governor said the state will provide funding for land conservation to protect open spaces, farmland, and enhance accessibility. Recognizing the need for streamlined processes, she said she will also champion several key initiatives:

- Modernizing the use of title insurance to expedite land acquisitions.
- Granting the Department of Environmental Conservation the authority to independently acquire conservation easements.
- Reducing the financial hurdles faced by non-profit organizations in their land conservation efforts.

Senior Programs Receive Grant Funding

Through its winter 2024-25 grant cycle, the Field Hall Foundation in Cortlandt Manor has granted \$275,635 to area agencies that serve the senior population to support programs that offer essential services and financial assistance, empowering seniors to live independently and successfully in their own homes.

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital has been granted \$25,000 to remove barriers that would impede senior patients' continued recovery at home. This program serves seniors living in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties.

Visiting Nurse Services in Westchester – which also serves residents of Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester – has been granted \$25,000 to connect seniors virtually with nurses for more consistent healthcare monitoring.

The Long Term Care Community Coalition has been granted \$15,000 to improve the effectiveness of the Long-Term Care Ombudsmen Program for nursing home residents and their families in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties.

The foundation has three grant cycles each year. For more information on the grants awarded or future grantmaking, visit www.fieldhallfoundation.org.

Field Hall Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of older adults and their caregivers. It does this by providing grants to nonprofits and local government agencies for programs and projects that directly impact vulnerable seniors and/or their caregivers, with priority given to programs that address basic needs.

ASSEMBLYMAN MATT SLATER

DIAPER & WIPES Drive

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All sizes needed, especially larger size (i.e. 5, 6 and pull-ups)

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60 McAlpin Ave, Mahopac
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN HALL
265 Oscawana Lake Rd, Putnam Valley
TOWN OF SOUTHEAST TOWN HALL
1360 NY-22, Brewster
TOWN OF KENT TOWN HALL
25 Sybils Crossing, Carmel Hamlet
PATTERSON RECREATION
65 Front St, Patterson
TOWN OF YORKTOWN TOWN HALL
363 Underhill Ave, Yorktown Heights
TOWN OF SOMERS TOWN HALL
335 US-202, Somers

COLLECTION DATES:
FEBRUARY 1ST- 28TH

ASSEMBLYMAN MATT SLATER
NYS ASSEMBLY

CAP
PUTNAM
Community Action Partnership
WESTCHESTER

Frostbite

A person is often unaware of frostbite because their frozen skin is numb.

Signs & Symptoms

- Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite.

Other signs include

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness



Photo courtesy of Medical News Today.

Heart Health for Smokers: Quit Program Starts March 10

Every February, public health advocates commemorate Heart Month to prompt residents to keep their hearts healthy.

Cardiovascular disease has been the leading cause of death in Putnam County nearly every year since 2012. While it is the number one cause of death for men, women, and people from most racial and ethnic groups in the U.S., an estimated 80 percent of cardiovascular disease is considered preventable. Lifestyle changes such as physical activity, nutrition choices, and smoking habits can contribute to better health outcomes.

To improve heart health, behavioral changes are usually necessary – but rarely easy. Most health officials advocate small, incremental steps when increasing physical activity or diet. Many helpful resources are available online from reputable resources like the Putnam County Department of Health and the American Heart Association.

Smoking and addiction to nicotine are often considered difficult behaviors to change – but it is not impossible, and help is available. On Monday, March 10, the Putnam County Department of Health will host its first session of the year for the proven smoking cessation program called Freedom From Smoking. It is a seven-week program, considered the “gold standard” of quit programs, and the health department offers it free of charge to Putnam residents.

Many thousands of people nationwide have participated in the program developed by experts from the American Lung Association and now lead smoke-free lives.

Freedom from Smoking sessions begin with participants learning how to prepare to quit and how to make an individualized plan to enhance their ability to stay off tobacco. Classes take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays through April 21.

“Quit Day” is Monday, March 31, and a second class is held three days later for a 72-hour check-in, on Thursday, April 3.

“If you have ever thought about quitting, you should consider trying this program,” said Alexa Contreras, one of the facilitators and a health educator at the Putnam County Department of Health. “Even if you have tried before and returned to smoking. It is important to

know that most people who are successful in finally quitting have had previous attempts. It may take multiple tries. You can think of each attempt as practice to get you closer to your goal.”

Victoria DiLonardo, who also works in health education at the health department, will join Contreras in facilitating the classes. Both are certified by the American Lung Association to teach the Freedom From Smoking classes. While they are taught in English, Contreras is bilingual and this opens the door for improved understanding and success for all, while also meeting the diverse needs of participants.

“If an individual stops smoking, it can reduce the risk for heart disease by as much as half,” said Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, interim health commissioner. “The chemicals you inhale when you smoke cause damage to your heart and blood vessels that makes you more likely to develop plaque buildup in the arteries, called atherosclerosis. Smoking also increases your risk for peripheral artery disease, which is when plaque builds up in the arteries that are responsible for carrying blood to your head, organs, and extremities. This puts people at an increased risk for heart attack and stroke.”

DiLonardo was quick to point out that, “Smoking cessation boosts health in so many ways. It improves lung function, reduces the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD, and lowers the risk of 12 different types of cancer,” she said.

“Putnam County is consistently ranked among the healthiest counties in New York State and that is partly because of the high-quality public health programming we strive to provide residents,” said County Executive Kevin Byrne. “Programs like Freedom From Smoking, which help residents quit for good, are a good example. If you or a loved one is ready to make a change, we are here to support you every step of the way.”

Pre-registration is required, as group size is limited. Additional information on the program in 40 languages can be found at www.freedomfromsmoking.org. For more information or to pre-register, contact the Department of Health at 845-808-1390, ext. 43155, or visit <https://PCDOH-FreedomFromSmoking2025.eventbrite.com>.

Energy Storage Implementation Plan Approved

The New York State Public Service Commission recently approved the retail and residential energy storage program implementation plan, filed by the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority. In its decision, the commission directed NYSERDA to modify the plan to allow for resources that participate in the New York Independent System Operator distributed energy resources program to be eligible for the retail storage incentive.

“Energy storage is crucial as New York works to decarbonize our electric grid, manage increased energy loads, and optimize the integration and use of clean, renewable energy,” said Commission Chairperson Rory Christian. “Today’s decision moves forward our landmark energy storage program.”

In June, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the commission had approved a new energy storage roadmap for the state to achieve a nation-leading six gigawatts of energy storage by 2030, which represents approximately 20 percent of the peak electricity load of New York. The roadmap is a comprehensive set of recommendations to expand New York’s energy storage programs to cost-effectively unlock the rapid growth of renewable energy across the state and bolster grid reliability and customer resilience.

The 6 GW goal established in the roadmap, and adopted by the

commission in its 2024 Energy Storage Order, was divided to ensure adoption across the retail, residential, and bulk energy storage sectors.

The 2024 Energy Storage Order established a goal of deploying 1,500 megawatts of retail energy storage and 200 MW of residential energy storage by 2030, and directed NYSERDA to file an implementation plan. Recently, the commission approved the plan for the retail and residential components.

The plan for the bulk energy storage component is currently under review.

The 6 GW roadmap will support a buildout of storage deployments estimated to reduce projected future statewide electric system costs by nearly \$2 billion, in addition to further benefits in the form of improved public health because of reduced exposure to harmful fossil fuel pollutants. It is a comprehensive set of recommendations to expand New York’s energy storage programs to cost effectively unlock the rapid growth of renewable energy across the state and bolster grid reliability and customer resilience.

The roadmap kicked off pro-

grams toward procuring an additional 4.7 gigawatts of new storage projects across the bulk (large-scale), retail (community, commercial and industrial), and residential energy storage sectors in New York. These future procurements, combined with the 1.3 gigawatts of existing energy storage being procured or already under contract with the state and moving toward commercial operation, will allow the state to achieve the six-gigawatt goal by 2030.

Energy storage plays a critical role in supporting New York’s zero-emission electric grid by enabling the integration of large quantities of renewable energy, helping to smooth generation, reduce curtailment, and shift renewable generation to where and when it is needed most.

As New York electrifies buildings, transportation and industrial end uses, accelerating energy storage deployment will provide a flexible solution to help meet these additional demands on the grid and support the retirement of downstate fossil fuel generators near their end of life.

For more information, visit www.dps.ny.gov and search case number 18-E-0130.

Looking For Something to Do? Check Out Our Community Events on Page 7

Free Tax Prep

for working families and individuals

TAX RETURN

Call 211 or 1-800-899-1479 to make an appointment

The VITA Program
Runs From
February–April 15th
at 9 Sites

For more information, or to make an appointment, call: 211 or 1-800-899-1479

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VITA Program Partners:

Funding for the VITA grant program provided by the IRS and Westchester County.

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Kent

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION

BY THE KENT PLANNING BOARD #2 2025 FOR THE GUYLAZACA-MAYET PROPERTY 24 SOL DRIVE KENT, NY 10512 TAX MAP: 33.17-1-48

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing pertaining to the property noted above was held before the Town of Kent Planning Board on Thursday, February 13, 2025 and was adjourned to be continued on Thursday March 13, 2025 at 7:30 P.M. at the Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent, NY 10512 or as soon thereafter as the matter may come to be heard.

This Public Hearing pertains to an application from:

Daniel Mayet
24 Sol Dr.
Kent, NY 10512
Tax Map: 33.17-1-48

This application proposes to an alteration and a two car garage addition which will be 40,511 square feet on a single-family residence on the property.

The subject property is located at 24 Sol Drive in the R-40 Zoning district.

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

Date: February 17, 2025
By order of:
Vera Patterson, Secretary for The Town of Kent Planning Board
County of Putnam
planningkent@townofkentny.gov
Kent Planning Board Public Hearing Notice #7 2025

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Southeast

SOUTHEAST TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Southeast shall hold a Public Hearing on March 6, 2025 at the Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as interested parties may be heard, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law to consider a proposed local law which, if adopted, would amend Chapter 54 (Building Construction and Fire Prevention), Sections 54-14A & D; Chapter 55 (Buildings, Unsafe), Section 55-13; Chapter 69 (Excavations and Grading), Section 69-17; Chapter 71 (Explosives and Blasting), Section 71-10; Chapter 78 (Freshwater Wetlands), Section 78-6E; Chapter 83 (Historic Sites and Historic Districts), Section 83-13; Chapter 87 (Junkyards), Section 87-10; Chapter 96 (Noise), Section 96-10; Chapter 131 (Vehicles and Traffic), Section 131-11E; and Chapter 138 (Zoning), Section 138-89, all of the Code of the Town of Southeast as the same provide penalties for violations of the provisions of such chapters, to increase such penalties. Copies of the proposed Local Law can be obtained from the Town Clerk at Town Hall during normal business hours. Anyone who has an interest in the foregoing matter will be given an opportunity to be heard at this time.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Carmel

LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Carmel, Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mahopac, New York until 11:00 A.M. on Friday, the 21st day of March, 2025 at which time all bids will be opened, publicly read and recorded by the Town Clerk, no less than five (5) days subsequent to publication of this notice in the official newspapers of the Town of Carmel for the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Brewster Schools

Brewster Central School District Attention Parents:

In compliance with §3635 of the New York State Education Law, a parent or guardian of children residing within the Brewster Central School District who are attending a non-public

PUBLIC NOTICE

school must request transportation services prior to April 1st, 2025, proceeding the next school year, or within 30 days of residence within the district.

To obtain an application, please visit www.brewsterschools.org/transportation

Each year all new and existing students are required to register and provide proof of residency documents for these services.

If you have any questions, please email us at: transportation@brewsterschools.org.

BY: Mary E. Smith
Supervisor of Transportation
Brewster Central School District
40 Farm to Market Road
Brewster, NY 10509
845 279-4700

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Supreme Court NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CASCADE FUNDING MORTGAGE TRUST HB13, Plaintiff, vs. ANY AND ALL KNOWN OR UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HELEN FORCINA, DECEASED, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report, Amend the Caption, and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on November 18, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at court room 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 10, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., premises known as 87 Hewitt Street, Lake Peekskill AKA Putnam Valley, NY 10537. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 83.74, Block 2 and Lot 55. Approximate amount of judgment is \$290,966.26 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501717/2021.

Niki Pagonis Quinn, 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 PUTNAM COUNTY

PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff against JOANN P. BRUGGER, EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD F. BRUGGER, et al Defendant(s)
Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Stern & Eisenberg, P.C., 20 Commerce Drive, Suite 230, Cranford, NJ 07016 and 1131 Route 55, Suite 1, Lagrangeville, NY 12540.

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered December 4, 2024, I will sell at public auction to the highest

PUBLIC NOTICE

bidder at the Putnam County Courthouse, Courtroom 209, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 10, 2025 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 14 Nova Lane, Brewster, NY 10509. Sec 69.13 Block 1 Lot 28. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Southeast, County of Putnam and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$389,286.65 plus interest, fees, and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 501704/2023.

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

Juliana Lobiondo, Esq., Referee
File#NY20230000463-1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT PUTNAM COUNTY

M&T BANK, Plaintiff against ALEXIS C. DEVLIN, et al Defendant(s) Attorney for Plaintiff(s) McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840, New York, NY 10170.

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered December 16, 2024, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Putnam County Courthouse, Courtroom 209, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 10, 2025 at 11:30 AM. Premises known as 169 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel, NY 10512. Sec 55.18 Block 1 Lot 12. 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, State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$396,771.27 plus interest, fees, and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 500586/2022.

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

For sale information, please contact XOME at www.Xome.com or call (844)400-9633.
Cirino M Bruno, Esq.,

Referee File # 22-11880NY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF PUTNAM

MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC,

-against-

VINCENT DIBENEDETTO, HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF DONATA DIBENEDETTO, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Putnam on December 19, 2024, wherein MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC is the Plaintiff and VINCENT DIBENEDETTO, HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF DONATA DIBENEDETTO, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 20

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carmelibrary.org

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNTY CENTER, CARMEL, NY 10512, on March 17, 2025 at 9:30AM, premises known as 2102 MARTINGALE DRIVE, UNIT 2102 A/K/A UNIT 136 IN BUILDING NO. 21, CARMEL, NY 10512; and the following tax map identification, 44-1-14.2102.

THE UNIT KNOWN AS UNIT NO. 136 IN BUILDING NO. 21 AS SHOWN ON THE SITE PLAN FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM AS MAP NO. 1875-U IN THE TOWN OF SOUTHEAST, PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 500413/2022. Niki Pagonis Quinn, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. **All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF COOPERATIVE APARTMENT SECURITY BY VIRTUE OF DEFAULT in a security agreement executed on December 17, 2007 by Susan C. Broadway, and in accordance with its rights as holder of the security, **Nationstar Mortgage LLC**, by Kim Carrino, Auctioneer, will conduct a public sale of the security consisting of 417 shares of common stock in **Woodcrest Gardens, Inc** and all rights title and interest in and to a proprietary lease between corporation and debtor for UNIT C10 in a building known as and by the street address, 675 Route 6, Woodcrest Gardens, C10, Mahopac, NY 10541 together with fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with UNIT C10 on March 06, 2025 at 12:00PM front entrance of the Historic Courthouse at 44 Gleneida Ave, Carmel, NY, in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the principal amount of \$71,672.36 plus interest from July 01, 2024 and costs, subject to open maintenance charges. The secured party reserves the right to bid. Ten percent (10%) deposit by

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

BUYING VINTAGE CAMERAS, LENSES, WATCHES, JEWELRY, COINS, CLOCKS, FISHING, HUNTING, MILITARY, FIRE HELMETS, SWORDS, KNIVES, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, COMICS,

PUBLIC NOTICE

bank or certified funds required at Auction, payable to the attorneys for the secured party. Closing within 30 days. Such sale shall be subject to the terms of sale. **GROSS POLOWY LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williams-ville, NY 14221 (716) 204-1700 ATTORNEYS FOR SECURED CREDITOR 83995**

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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 RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST C/O U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. ROSA ENGLAND, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee's Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on December 5, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at court room 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 17, 2025 at 11:30 a.m., premises known as 64 Hillside View Road, Mahopac, NY 10541. 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 52, Block 1 and Lot 2. Approximate amount of judgment is \$750,256.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #500420/2023. Cash will not be accepted.

Jonathan Victor, Esq., Referee

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP, 120 White Plains Road, Suite 215, Tarrytown, New York 10591, Attorneys for Plaintiff

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF MFRA TRUST 2014-2, Plaintiff, vs. GARY KNOWLES, ET AL., Defendant(s).

SPORTING, TOYS, FOUNTAIN PENS, WESTERN And More. Please Call Frank 914-763-8766. 2/28

WANTED - Private collector buying firemen's helmets, fishing, hunting items, rods, reels, lures, all types old or new, paintings of fishing, hunting, wildlife art, bows and arrows, no compound bows. Call 845-878-3665 or 845-661-9059. 2/28

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on November 25, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Putnam Supreme Courthouse, courtroom 209, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 17, 2025 at 10:30 a.m., premises known as 219 Elm Road, Mahopac, NY 10541. 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 63.82, Block 1 and Lot 47. Approximate amount of judgment is \$488,056.17 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501931/2023.

Anthony Carlos Carlini, Jr., Esq., Referee

Law Offices of Matthew W. Lizotte, 1 Blue Hill Plaza - Lobby Level, Suite 1509, Pearl River, NY 10965, Attorneys for Plaintiff

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-BC2, Plaintiff-against- BIBIANA HALAGA; PETER HALAGA, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated January 6, 2025 and entered on January 7, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in the courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse located at 20 County Center, Carmel, NY on March 24, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam and State of New York; known and designated as Section 86.40 Block 1 Lot 1.

Said premises known as 18 SUMMIT DRIVE, MAHOPAC, NY 10541

Approximate amount of lien \$780,515.32 plus interest & costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

Index Number 500826/2022. CHRISTOPHER A. MON-

PUBLIC NOTICE

TALTO, ESQ., Referee
Pincus Law Group, PLLC
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff
425 RXR Plaza, Uniondale,
NY 11556

{* PUTNAM CO3*}

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM M&T Bank, Plaintiff AGAINST Kristen Sullivan, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered September 9, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at Courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Court, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on March 31, 2025 at 10:30AM, premises known as 181 Topland Road, Mahopac, NY 10541. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being at Lake Secor, in the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam, New York, Section: 74.26 Block: 1 Lot: 28. Approximate amount of judgment \$237,579.65 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #500953/2022. Anthony C. Carlini, Jr., Esq., Referee McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC 420 Lexington Avenue-Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 22-12236NY 84373

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LLC

Notice of Qualification of Lion Mountain Analytics, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/24. Office location: Putnam County, LLC formed in Connecticut (CT) on 07/21/24. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Paracorp Incorporated, 2804 Gateway Oaks Dr. #100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Address of the principal office: 54 Danbury Road, Suite 265, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Arts of Org. filed with the CT Secy. of State, 165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1000, Hartford, CT 06115-0470. Purpose: any lawful activities.

P. 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of DREAM LASER WORKS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/10/2025. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Chad Andrews 16 Beverly Warren Road Garrison, NY 10524 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

P. 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Upstate Animation, LLC. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 11/27/24. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Upstate Animation, LLC, 226 Logan Ln, Mahopac, 10541. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity. P. 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Healing Minds Therapy LLC. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 12/07/2024. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Healing Minds Therapy LLC, 113 Old Road, Brewster, NY 10509. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity. P. 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 36 KLD LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/14/2025. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 44 Gramercy Park N, Apt. 4B, New York, NY 10010. Purpose: any lawful activities. P. 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of DAV Properties, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on January 23, 2025. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 3402 Danbury Road, Brewster, New York 10509. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. P. 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

CLASSIFIED ADS

PRINT CLEARLY your AD on the form below and send it to: PUTNAM COUNTY PRESS, P.O. BOX 608, MAHOPAC, NEW YORK 10541 by the WEDNESDAY before publication, or email your ad to advertising@putnampresstimes.com. 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

 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 SIGNATURE _____ PHONE _____

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

Exam Title & No: Custodian 25-600 OC
Exam Date: April 26, 2025
Salary: \$59,680-\$62,609 Mahopac Central School District
\$75,792-\$78,555 Carmel Central School District
Last Filing Date: March 1, 2025
Exam Filing Fee: \$35

To apply and for information about minimum requirements, job duties, and subject of the exam, as well as the exam announcement, please visit: <https://putnam.munisselfservice.com/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> or call Putnam County Personnel Department (845) 808-1650 X46105. EEO/AA 2/12, 2/19, 2/26

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