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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023



FrOGS board member Judy Kelley-Moberg speaks at the dedication of a new educational sign on the boardwalk at Patterson Environmental Park.

New Sign Dedicated Along Patterson Environmental Park Boardwalk

Members of Friends of the Great Swamp were joined by elected officials Dec. 9 to dedicate an educational sign on the boardwalk in Patterson Environmental Park.

The sign describes the importance of the Great Swamp, which a unique natural treasure and one of the largest wetlands in New York. The south flow of swamp that runs through Patterson contains more than 3,300 acres of critical wetlands and provides habitat for diverse flora and fauna, clean drinking water, flood control, recharging of aquifers and a wildlife travel corridor, as well as many recreational opportunities.

The sign installation is the culmination of a multi-year, multi-constituent collaboration to build and enhance the boardwalk into the swamp.

In 2019, the town's park caretaker and FrOGS board member Rick Saracelli, Patterson Environmental Conservation Inspector Ted Kozlowski, Town Councilman Shawn Rogan, FrOGS board member Judy Kelley-Moberg and Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District Manager Lauri Taylor met to plan the building of a boardwalk in the park.

Taylor's office obtained an environmental grant and the town contributed monies from the caretaker's budget to fund the project. After much discussion, changes in materials and design, a pandemic and floods, an initial 350-foot elevated boardwalk was constructed in 2022, thanks to the perseverance of the planners, the leadership of Rogan, and the devoted efforts of volunteers.

The final boardwalk section and the railings on the viewing platform were completed last spring, and a sign donated by Rick and Gail Saracelli that was writ-



The new sign encourages visitors to appreciate the value of the Great Swamp.

ten by their son Tony about the beauty and wildlife in the swamp was installed at the boardwalk entrance May 9.

At any time of daylight in any season, you may meet families with children, paddlers in kayaks or canoes, plein air artists, dog walkers, bird watchers, duck hunters, fisherman, bicyclists, hikers, cross-country skiers and/or snowshoers enjoying the Patterson Environmental Park, with its completed boardwalk and trails that allow visitors an up-close connection with the Great Swamp.

The newly installed sign was designed and donated by FrOGS while the town fabricated and installed the mount. Its positioning allows a view of Pine Island to the south that matches the overhead photo on the sign of the East Branch Croton River winding around the island.

The sign encourages visitors to pause and look around, to understand the history of the area, to appreciate the value of this wetland to the community and the wildlife that depends on it, and to help protect this critical environmental resource.

Kent Passes Soil Removal & Excavation Law

By Holly Crocco

It's been a long time coming, but the Kent Town Board recently approved a new chapter of local law regarding soil removal and excavation.

For the past year, stakeholders have been drafting an amendment to Kent town code to address the excavation of—and sale or exchange of—topsoil, sand, gravel, rock or other Earth substances. This action was prompted after a plan to build a truck stop in town caused a firestorm response from residents when it was learned that the proposal would have allowed the developer to essentially mine part of the property and remove and sell the excavated material off-site.

Prior to the unanimous approval at the Dec. 5 town board meeting, Henry Boyd from the

Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce urged lawmakers to finally approve the law and protect the town's landscape.

"We like our town kind of the way it is, and if you can vote on it, the sooner the better," he said. "The Town of Kent will be behind you 100 percent if you get this going."

The updated code clarifies requirements ensuring that excavation is conducted in a manner that will protect residential and local business areas and the value of land from potential adverse impacts. The code also limits the amount of excavation to the minimum required for site preparation, and avoids the creation of a disturbed, barren area of land inconsistent with the town's natural environment.

Continued on Page 16

Brewster Heights Water Rate Changes Addressed

By Lori Samuels

Changes to water rates for residents of Brewster Heights and Eagles Ridge Condominium were discussed at the Nov. 30 Southeast Town Board meeting, when Special Districts Administrator Rodney Brown clarified the specifics of a Nov. 6 letter to homeowners in which sample rate adjustments were presented. Some residents misunderstood the letter to be a bill; the letter raised other concerns, as well.

Brown indicated that a majority of residents will most likely not see any change to their water bills, or may possibly pay less once the new rates take effect in January. However, a small number of residents who are using a larger share of water may pay an increase.

The purpose of the presentation was to answer home-

owner questions and address concerns around the change in rates for those with meters in their homes. All 244 homes in Brewster Heights are metered, while a majority of those within Eagles Ridge are without meters. The change to the billing structure is meant to equalize a situation in which, currently, a resident using more water may be paying the same as a resident who uses less, according to Brown.

He explained that work projects are scheduled to rectify issues, to "level the playing field" around how homeowners are charged, based on their usage.

"Currently, a lot of people are paying below the number that starts getting charged for the service," he said. "There is a fixed cost connection fee that is the known expense, versus the usage

Continued on Page 16





Patterson Teens Collect Coats for CAP

Patterson Library's Teen Leadership Council recently wrapped up its annual children's coat drive by collecting 38 new children's coats that were donated to the Putnam Community Action Partnership for distribution to local families.



Brewster students take turns in the Gaga pit at JFK Elementary School.

JFK is Gaga for Gaga!

Lady Belden's Christmas Dream



*I am dreaming of a Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know*

HELP MAKE LADY BELDEN'S DREAM COME TRUE
Support www.friendsofbeldenhouse.org

If there's recess at JFK Elementary School in Brewster, you can be sure there's action at the Gaga pit. As snow flurries fell recently, there was a long line of cheering second-graders around the pit and 10 to 12 students playing the game.

"I love the Gaga pit," said recess aid Christina Rienzi, "It's been a game changer at recess. It's broken up the cliques and blended everyone together. There are kids who are really competitive and kids who just want to have fun. Everyone loves Gaga."

What exactly is Gaga?

It's a fast paced game played in an octagonal pit. A gentler version of dodgeball, the game is played with a jelly ball and combines the skills of dodging, striking, running and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. The goal is to keep moving to avoid getting hit by the ball.

Last year, the JFK parent-teacher organization suggested the pit be added, which was easily approved by the school, and raised money for the pit. It was permanently installed over the summer.

"It has been quite a hit and the kids absolutely love it!" said JFK PTA President Stephanie Trovato.

The rules are simple:

"All you have to do is hit the ball to get someone out," said Aliana Becker.

"But there's no jumping on the walls and no turtling – you can't hit the ball from the ground," added Hazel Siuda.

And it's fun to play:

"I like it because I like hitting stuff," said David Ramos.

"And it's fun to play with your friends," added Byron Mejiapalma

"Yeah, and we get to get a lot of people out," said Egon Gegag.

"I like it because when people chant for me, I feel really good," noted Lucas O'Sullivan.

All the time, students waiting to play are chanting "Powerhouse."

"They yell that because they want to get in and play," explained Matthew Lopez.



Stephen Baranowski has resigned from the Carmel Town Board.

Carmel Town Councilman Resigns Retiring Employees Recognized

By Holly Crocco

The resignation of Carmel Town Councilman Stephen Baranowski was announced at the Dec. 13 Carmel Town Board meeting, when Supervisor Michael Cazzari read a letter from the councilman.

"I recently made a decision to resign my position as town councilman to focus on my health and help take care of a family member with dementia," he wrote. "I have been wrestling with this decision for some time and it has been a very difficult one."

Baranowski, who was elected to his seat in 2021, expressed his gratitude to the rest of the board and his constituents. His resignation took effect Dec. 13.

"It has been a pleasure serving the people of the Town of Carmel the past few years and I am grateful for all the support you have given me," he wrote.

The town board can opt to appoint someone to fill the now-vacant seat, or leave it unfilled until the November election.

"Stephen will be missed," Cazzari said, after reading Baranowski's letter. "Thank you for your service in the military, and to this board."

Also during the Dec. 13 meeting, retiring employees were recognized by the board.

Cazzari thanked longtime Highway Superintendent Michael Simone for his 26 years of service, Town Clerk Ann Spofford for 27 years with the town, and Councilman Robert Schanil for the four years he spend on the board – some of which he served as deputy supervisor.

Schanil thanked his colleagues for their friendship and support, including Cazzari and former Town Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt.

"I've been blessed to have worked with a fine group of people and appreciate the two supervisors I have served under," he said. "I would also like to thank this wonderful community for your support and encouragement. It has certainly been an honor to serve in this capacity. It's overwhelming how many people I have met along this wonderful journey."

In addition to helping the town maintain a fair budget, Schanil said he is most proud of the food drive he and fellow Councilman Frank Lombardi organized during the pandemic that raised more than \$25,000 in food and donations. "It was one

of the biggest and most successful in the county," he said.

The retiring councilman also thanked all the civic organizations that serve the community, as well as the various town departments, and welcomed incoming public servants.

"These newly-elected officials are young. They are vigorous and they are grounded in our community with their families," he said. "They're going to do a great job."

Cazzari also acknowledged is outing chief of staff and assistant to the town board, Anne Pasquerello for her 22 years with the town.

"Anne, you've been a friend, you've been a confidant, you've taught me so much," said Cazzari, who noted that Pasquerello has "pretty much been running the town the past 20 years."

Assemblyman Matt stopped by the meeting to also express his gratitude for those leaving town government.

"We all know how hard it is to be a public servant sometimes," he said. "Bob, you took it beyond serious... You did great things. I know that in a lot of ways you've left a real lasting mark on the town board."

Slater said Cazzari was right in his statement that Pasquerello has run the town during her tenure, and noted that Simone has been a fierce advocate for the town while at the helm of the highway department, fighting for state funding and traveling to Albany to make sure his voice was heard.

"He's been a great leader for the Town of Carmel," said Slater.

Putnam County Legislator Erin Crowley echoed Slater's sentiments.

"Anne has certainly taught me a lot," she said. "You will be greatly missed. You are a great asset. You are a friend... Bob, you've served our community as a cop and moved into being a public servant. You are a selfless human being."



Working Mom By Holly Crocco

Santa's Watching

As I write this column I have less than two weeks left of what I like to call "free parenting assistance" and sometimes even "free babysitting."

Obviously, that's a stretch, but believe me when I say there are no two words that hold more weight for a 5-year-old than "Santa's watching." Those words are so effective that they allow me to leave Mikey to his own devices and trust him with the honor system, to an extent.

"Mikey, I have to go into the other room by myself for 30 minutes (to wrap presents). You can watch a show on TV but don't get into anything. Santa's watching."

"Sure, bud, you can have a cookie. Think you can get it yourself? But you can only have one. Remember, Santa's watching."

"Mikey, are you keeping your hands to yourself on the bus? Don't bother lying to me... Santa's watching."

"Hey, kid, you better clean up your toys, because – that's right – Santa's watching!"

It's a shame we only invoke the power of Santa in the last quarter of the year. I could really use his help over the summer when it's daylight until 9 p.m. and I'm trying to get the little gremlin to sleep.

Pro tip: Never say "I'm telling Santa," because then you become the tattler and someone to blame. But when you say "Santa's watching," it relieves you, as the parent, of

all evil doings. "Santa's watching" means you simply cannot help your child out when they misbehave, because the big guy saw it with his own two eyes.

It helps if, when you say those words, you grimace and shrug your shoulders, like you feel sorry for your little trouble-maker for getting themselves on the naughty list.

So far this season, "Santa's watching" has gotten us a clean playroom, a few eaten vegetables, less fuss at bath and bed times, and a cleaner car for Mom (that one I'm really proud of), to name a few.

However, there are times when those words, used in haste, can disrupt the entire socio-ecological system of the household. We narrowly escaped one such occasion the other night.

Mikey was being punished for some bad behavior and he was not responding well to his time out in his bedroom. He kept whining and stomping his feet and pushing, pushing, pushing his father. I could see my husband was on edge but before I could interfere I heard the words roll off his tongue: "Santa's watching and now he's not going to come!"

Too much! Way, way too much!

He looked back at me in the

hallway where I was hiding, shaking my head vehemently and dragging my hand across my throat in an attempt to convey to him, through Charades and telepathy, to pull it back.

But it was too late. The damage was done.

My child let out the most mournful shrill I have ever heard went into complete meltdown mode. Undomesticated animals in the wild fearing for their offspring show more control over their emotions than my little guy did in that moment.

Quickly, my husband backpedaled. "OK, look, Santa is seeing your poor behavior, but that means if you turn it around he will see that, too. OK?"

The crying subsided slightly. "Maybe if you write a letter to you mother and me telling us you're sorry, he'll give you another chance."

I heard a little hiccupped "OK," and Mike looked back down the hall at me. I rolled my hand at him, indicating for him to keep going.

"And, uh... If you write a letter to Santa, as well, telling him you won't behave like that again, I'm sure you'll be back on the nice list."

Again, a soft, "Yeah, OK," came from Mikey's room.

It was touch-and-go for a while, but we managed to keep the Christmas spirit alive and well in the Crocco household. And, more importantly, we did not compromise the power of "Santa's watching."

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

Letters to the Editor

I Stand With Israel

Dear Editor:

On Oct. 7, Israel suffered a senseless surprise attack by the Hamas terrorist organization, tragically resulting in significant loss of life. Since then, the idea of the very existence of Israel has come under siege and there has been an unacceptable increase in antisemitic acts.

Let the record show that I fully support the State of Israel and its right to exist, as well as to defend itself. I strongly condemn the antisemitism and acts of violence against Jewish people on our soil and abroad.

Putnam County Legislator
William Gouldman
District 2, Putnam Valley

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Sheriff's Office Welcomes New Deputies

Deputies Brianna Coyle and Brian O'Connor have been added to the ranks of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, having graduated from the Westchester County Police Academy on Dec. 8 after successfully completing a 21-week training program. Coyle and O'Connor will be assigned to the Patrol Division and will begin a 10-week field training program in which they will each be paired with a field training officer who will teach and guide them through the procedures of the sheriff's office and how to apply what they learned in the academy to real-life situations. From left are Senior Investigator Corinne Pitt, Undersheriff Thomas Lindert, Sheriff Kevin McConville, Coyle, O'Connor and Captain James Schepperly.

Nutrition Corner

By Allison J. Stowell
MS, RD, CDN



All About Flour

There are a variety of flours that create baked goods, which are nutrient rich and have other attributes. When replacing all-purpose flour with an alternative, it's essential to know how much to use and how it may impact your recipe.

Oat flour*: Ideal for baked goods with a high moisture content like cookies, muffins, and quick breads. If you're substituting oat flour for all-purpose, increase the liquid (or fat) in your recipe. Replace one cup all-purpose flour with 1 1/4 cups oat flour (less if baking breads that need to rise).

Whole wheat flour: Nutrient rich whole wheat flour will create darker, denser baked goods. You can replace half of all-purpose flour with whole wheat without impacting the taste or texture of your baked goods. If only using whole wheat flour in your bread recipe, the Whole Grain Council recommends adding 2 teaspoons liquid per cup of whole wheat flour and allowing your dough to rest 25 minutes before kneading.

Almond flour*: Almond flour is rich in heart healthy (mono-unsaturated) fat, micronutrients (especially vitamin E), and protein, while being lower in carbs. Replace all-purpose flour with almond flour in a 1:1 ratio. Baked goods will be flatter and denser due to the lack of gluten.

Coconut flour*: A quarter cup of coconut flour offers 10 grams of fiber, 6 grams of protein and 13% and 11% of the daily values for potassium and iron respectively. Coconut flour can be used in a variety of sweet and savory baked goods. Use just 1/4 cup to replace one cup all-purpose flour (note: it will absorb liquid in your recipe).

Buckwheat flour*: Rich in antioxidants, micronutrients, and fiber, buckwheat gives your sweet or savory baked goods a nutty, earthy flavor. Try it in crepes, cookies, bars, and pancakes. Typically, buckwheat can replace 25%-50% of all-purpose flour.

*While these flours are natu-

rally gluten-free, look for those labeled as such to create celiac-safe, gluten-free baked goods.

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

Citrus-Almond Olive Oil Cake
Hannaford.com

This delicious seasonal cake adds something special to your dessert table.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 Tbsp. plus 1 tsp. orange zest, divided
 - 1 Tbsp. plus 1/2 tsp. lemon zest, divided
 - 1/4 cup sugar
 - 2 cups packed almond flour, plus more for pan
 - 1 tsp. baking powder
 - 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 - 1/2 tsp. table salt
 - 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
 - 4 large eggs
 - 2/3 cup honey
 - 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

- Directions:**
1. Heat oven to 325 degrees with a rack in middle position. In a small bowl, toss 1 tablespoon each orange and lemon zest with the sugar; set aside. Grease bottom and sides of a 9" springform pan, then dust lightly with almond flour.
 2. In a large bowl, whisk together almond flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon. In a medium bowl, whisk eggs, honey, oil, and remaining zest until thoroughly combined, then add to dry ingredients, and stir until no streaks of dry flour remain. Scrape into prepared pan and sprinkle with citrus sugar.
 3. Bake until top is golden brown and center springs back when lightly pressed, 40 to 45 minutes. Let cake cool in pan on a wire rack for 15 minutes, then release sides of pan and let cool completely before serving.

Baked Apples with Coconut and Crumble Topping

(Family Features)

Baked Apples with Coconut and Crumble Topping

Ingredients:

- 6 Envy Apples
- 3/4 cup dark chocolate
- 1/2 cup chopped roasted hazelnuts
- 1 cup instant or rolled oats
- 1/2 cup dried coconut
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/3 cup butter
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- maple syrup or honey, for serving

Directions:

Core apples then score skin around apple a few times. Cut small slice from top and bottom to make apple more stable and give room for crumble topping.

Finely chop chocolate and combine with hazelnuts. Arrange apple slices in lined baking dish.

Fill center of each apple gener-



ously with chocolate and hazelnut mixture (reserve about 2 tablespoons for topping).

Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine oats, coconut, flour, butter and brown sugar; mix well.

Top each apple generously with crumble mixture, creating small mound on top of each apple; sprinkle with reserved chocolate and hazelnut mixture.

Bake apples 20-25 minutes, or until crumble is golden and apples start to soften. Serve with drizzle of maple syrup or honey.

Servings: 8
Source: *Envy Apples*

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Sounds of the Season

Patrons filled the Patterson Library for a holiday performance by the Winter Ensemble of the Putnam Chorale under the direction of Jason Tramm. The holiday-themed musical selections included a mixture of contemporary compositions and historical pieces.



Elder Law Advice Alan D. Feller, Esq.

If a Loved One Dies Without a Will

"I am not ready yet!"

A Will is a very important document and the process should not be hurried. If the client wants to wait to make a Will, then we have to respect their decision. There is no rush, right?

With the client's words still hanging in the air, I started thinking about Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president of the United States (1923-29). His nickname was "Silent Cal." He was also in office when my client was born.

Expecting a sense of urgency from an almost 100-year-old client and finding none matches Americans' general attitude toward Wills. Sixty-seven percent of Americans do not have a Will. "Haven't got around to it yet," is the number one reason cited.

In certain circumstances, not having a Will is only a tiny inconvenience. The first spouse to pass away may have named the surviving spouse as beneficiary and joint owner on all assets. With just a few death certificates and forms, a loved one's assets would flow directly to the survivor without court intervention.

The situation changes if a deceased love one's assets are titled solely in their own name. In order to gain control over those assets, an administration proceeding would be required in New York to appoint an administrator to handle the estate. Similar to a probate proceeding, an administration petition is filed in the Surrogate's Court of the county where the decedent had their residence.

The petition lists all the closest living heirs of the decedent and predeceased heirs so the court clerks can understand the family structure. Often, a family tree accompanies the petition. The person applying to become administrator of the estate is usually the spouse or closest living relative and they are entitled to a commission.

Close relatives may renounce their right to become administrator if they do not wish to take on that responsibility.

A paid funeral bill and original death certificate round out the necessary documents required for the court proceeding.

Surrogate's Court has a filing fee schedule based on the size of the estate. The highest fee is \$1,250 for estates valued at more than \$500,000. This fee does not include the estate attorney's legal fees.

While a Will or trust lays out specific instructions and preferences for the distribution of your assets, intestacy (dying without a Will) is controlled by statute. A decedent leaving a wife and children will have \$50,000, plus half of the remaining estate go to the spouse and the rest be divided equally by the children.

A spouse surviving without children would inherit everything, and the same goes for children surviving without a spouse. If no child or spouse is living, then siblings would inherit everything. If children or siblings have predeceased the decedent, their children would inherit "by representation."

Simply put, as an example, a decedent dies with \$90,000. He had two children and three grandchildren. One child predeceased, leaving two of the grandchildren. Each of the two grandchildren would inherit \$22,500 (splitting the amount their parent would have received) and the surviving child would get \$45,000.

If both children predeceased, leaving only the three grandchildren, then each grandchild would receive \$30,000, and heirs of the same generation would split the estate equally. This is different from "per stirpes," which is found in Wills and trusts and allows for a predeceased heir's offspring to receive or split their parent's share without regard to any other person in their generation.

Intestate statutes are logical and reasonable. Families are not. The brother you have not spoken to in 30 years will inherit your house. The niece you have never met will inherit your bank accounts. If this seems like a good idea, then you can forget about making your Will. For the rest of us, do not wait 98 years.

Alan D. Feller, Esq., is managing partner of The Feller Group, located at 625 Route 6, Mahopac. He can be reached at alandfeller@thefellergroup.com.

Cornell Barn Coming Soon to Tilly Foster Farm

The Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County barn project at Tilly Foster Farm & Educational Institute in Brewster is one step closer to becoming a reality. Recently, the cantina building was razed, creating a footprint for CCE to build its new home on the county-owned-and-operated farm. This project has been several years in the making, and Executive Director Stefanie Hubert expressed her gratitude to County Executive Kevin Byrne, the Putnam Legislature and the Department of Public Works for their guidance and support. Learn more about CCE's plans and capital campaign at cceputnamcounty.org. Photo by Hubert.



Coats Distributed to Those in Need

Carmel Rotary collected a total of 91 adult and children's coats to distribute to local agencies that help people in need.

Green Chimneys Community-Based Services and CoveCare's PROS program were the recent recipients of donated coats that were collected as part of the 2023 Warming the Hudson Valley initiative, with the help of Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County and Putnam County National Bank.

"We are grateful for the generosity of our community and the collaboration between these organizations to keep everyone warm during the colder months," said CCE staff.

Coats were also transported by the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services to its headquarter, where they were sorted

for Putnam County's Prevention Council, which hand-delivered two large bags of coats to people being released from detox centers and rehabilitation. The Office of Senior Resources also received two bags,

with an immediate request for a woman's extra-large size.

The remaining coats will be split up between the Department of Social Services and Putnam Hospital.

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Garrison Art Center Awarded \$25K State Grant

Garrison Art Center has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts to support the nonprofit arts and culture center.

“We thank NYSICA for this award,” said GAC Executive Director Catherine Graham. “In 2024, we celebrate our 60th anniversary and the evolution of our art center, from being founded by a local group of parents supporting their children’s artistic expression to hosting events and exhibitions attended by thousands in the lower Hudson Valley. We take pride in our roots as an education center and our educational programming that serves artists of all ages and skill levels.”

Since the pandemic’s close, GAC has expanded its programming, outreach at local schools and financial assistance as it works toward becoming an arts destination in the region that is open and inclusive to all.

“Spanning the entire breadth of the arts and culture sector –

from world-renowned performers to afterschool programs, from long-established museums to community arts collectives – these organizations and artists together are a powerful driver of health, tourism, economy and education for our residents and visitors,” said NYSICA Chairperson Katherine Nicholls. “On behalf of council and staff, congratulations to Garrison Art Center and thank you for your perseverance, your creativity and your tireless service to New York State.”

GAC 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.



Third-graders in Brewster recently learned about the mysterious stone chambers of Putnam County.

Brewster Students Study Stone Chambers

“I have a mystery that has never been solved – right here in Putnam County,” said Southeast

Museum Educator Deb Oswald to third-graders from C.V. Starr Intermediate School in Brewster.

“Can you help me solve it?”

For two days recently, the students became detectives and had lots of observations and comments about the mysterious stone chambers Oswald showed them during a slide show.

There are stone chambers that dot the landscape throughout Putnam County, and many theories about how they came to be. Some people believe they are root cellars or ice houses built by colonists, while others believe the Native Americans built them as forts for protection. Still, others think these chambers go way back to the Druids and Vikings and were used for worship or to celebrate the seasonal solstices.

Finally, a few have mused these chambers, which have a strong magnetic pull, were built by aliens.

“These chambers are as mysterious as Stonehenge,” said Oswald. “I need you to help me solve the mystery of who built the Putnam stone chambers.”

Despite some creative thinking, the mystery remains.

We Will Miss

Brewster

Brett J. Holliday, 62, December 6, Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

Louis Thomas Riolo Sr., 84, December 5, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Carmel

Mildred Donlon, 100, December 1, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Ann Kennedy Acken, 82, December 3, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Jose G. Perla, 67, December 8, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Mary “Maureen” A. Gleason, 85, December 9, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Mahopac

Adele Graham, 100, December 3, Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

Arlene F. Currie, 82, December 5, Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

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Putnam County Community Events

Book Barn Sales

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

Coat Drive

Putnam CAP is accepting donations of new children's winter coats, with tags on, for kids and teens age 0 to 18 years. Coats can be dropped off at 121 Main St., Brewster, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or until 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Art Gallery

Arbor Gallery, located inside Promenade on 6, 1875 Route 6, Carmel, is currently featuring framed archival prints by Carmel residents Kelly Edwards and Scott Garrette, wooden bowls by Edward Bryan of Hudson Valley Woodworking, illuminated fused glass pieces by Christine Groppe of CG Glasswork, and more. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends. For information on shows, events and opportunities, visit www.arborigallery.art.

Farmers' Market

The Hudson Valley Regional Farmers' Market takes place every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association, 15 Mt. Ebo Road South, Brewster. Fresh vegetables, fruits, meats, eggs, baked goods (gluten-free, too), hand-made objects, knife sharpening and more. A community market experience year-round. Voted best Farmers Market in Putnam County.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Holiday Concert

Carmel High School musicians in brass and vocal ensembles will perform holiday music at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel on Dec. 19 from 5 to 5:45 p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Kent Town Board

The Kent Town Board will meet Tuesdays, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at Kent Town Hall.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

FDR Gifts

Kent Public Library will host a virtual history talk by Jeffrey Urbin of the FDR Presidential Library & Museum on Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Examine some of the interesting, innovative and icky gifts presented to FDR during his presidency. Adults only. Registration is required by visiting <https://kentlibrary.org>, email ingPrograms@KentLibrary.org or calling 845-225-8585.

'Andrea Bocelli: Family Christmas'

Patterson Library will show "Andrea Bocelli: Family Christmas" on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. This special "concert" captures the wonder and music of the holidays with a mix of classic carols and original songs from the Bocelli family's brand new multi-

generational album. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Southeast Town Board

The Southeast Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster on Dec. 21.

Friday, Dec. 22

Coloring for Adults

Mahopac Public Library will offer coloring for adults Dec. 22 (every second and fourth Friday of the month) from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of relaxation, stress relief, focus and fun. For ages 18 and older. Materials provided. Drop-in program, no registration needed.

Caroling

Christmas caroling for family and friends will take place Friday, Dec. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Promenade on 6, 1875 Route 6, Carmel. Song book provided. For a solo, email PO6@gennifermaher.com.

Saturday, Dec. 23

Gift Wrapping

Free holiday gift wrapping, done by the elves of Kent Public Library, will be offered Saturday, Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Materials and service provided. Registration is recommended, at www.kentlibrary.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Indoor Snow Fun

Join Mahopac Public Library for some indoor snowball fun in the third floor community room on Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for children age 3 to 4 and pre-kindergarten, from 1 to 1:45 for kids in kindergarten through grade three, and 3 to 3:45 p.m. for kids in grades four through six. No coats or mittens needed. Registration is required at www.mahopaclibrary.org or 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Pokémon Club

Join Kent Public Library for a winter break edition of Pokémon Club on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 12:30 p.m. Put out lures, meet other trainers, catch Pokémon, trade cards, watch Pokémon and more. All ages. Snacks provided. Registration is required at <https://kentlibrary.org>, by email to Programs@KentLibrary.org or calling 845-225-8585. Note: An electronic device is needed to play Pokémon Go. For assistance, contact the library.

Blues Jam

The Hudson Valley Blues Society will host its next blues jam Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Studio Around the Corner, 67 Main St., Brewster. A backline is provided so bring your instrument, your voice, or just listen to some great music; no pedals for pedalboards. \$7 for HVBS members; \$10 for non-members. BYO refreshments; water and soft drinks sold. www.thehvbs.org.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Storytime with Caitlin

Children age 4 to 8 are invited to stop by Mahopac Public Library on Dec. 28 at 11 a.m. to enjoy hearing high-school student Caitlin read her original story "Rog the Frog." Learn about Caitlin's

writing and illustrating process and ask questions, then do a simple craft.

'Frosty' Movie & Craft

Enjoy the classic cartoon about the snowman that comes to life when a discarded top hat is placed on his head Thursday, Dec. 28 from 11 a.m. to noon at Brewster Public Library. Afterward, do a fun "Frosty" craft. Popcorn and beverages provided. For ages 3 to 12. Registration is required at brewsterlibrary.org or 845-279-6421.

Friday, Dec. 29

New Year

Storytime & Craft

Read picture books and make a special craft that you can use to ring in 2024 on Friday, Dec. 29 from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. at Brewster Public Library. For children ages 4 to 10. Registration is required at brewsterlibrary.org or 845-279-6421.

Monday, Jan. 1

Concert for Peace

A New Year's Day Concert for Peace will take place Monday, Jan. 1 beginning at 2 p.m. at Studio Around the Corner, 67 Main St., Brewster. Enjoy music, poetry and more. \$10. Tickets at www.culturalartsco.com.

Interfaith Prayer

The Buddhist Association of the U.S. will host a New Year's interfaith prayer for world peace on New Year's Day, on Monday, Jan. 1 at the Chuang-Yen Monastery, 2020 Route 301, Carmel. It will start at 10 a.m. in the Great Buddha Hall. Lunch will be provided at 11:45 a.m. in the dining hall.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

Healthy Habits

Join Brianna Moura at Kent Public Library on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 5:30 p.m. for a one-hour workshop on healthy habits. Brianna is a certified Empowerment Life Coach whose focus is on empowering people to find the inner courage to learn what they truly want out of life. Discuss her system of five habits that lead to an overall happier, healthier and more fulfilling life. For adults. Registration is required at <https://kentlibrary.org>, by email to Programs@KentLibrary.org or calling 845-225-8585.

Thursday, Jan. 4

Growing Small Fruit

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County will present Growing Small Fruit on Jan. 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Tailored for new farmers, small berry producers and part-time growers, this focuses on best management practices taught by Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Small Fruit & Vegetable Specialist Laura McDermott. \$10. Register at <https://cceputnamcounty.org/events>.

Monday, Jan. 8

Gamers Club

The Gamers Club at Mahopac Public Library invites kids in grades six through to enjoy a gaming experience Jan. 8 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Snacks and beverages provided. Have a game

idea? Recommend it! Bonus option: write a review of the experience or a specific game, or share ideas on how to improve the club; each statement will count as an hour of community service. Registration is required at www.mahopaclibrary.org or 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

Vision Boards

Teens in grades seven through 12 are invited to Kent Public Library on Tuesday, Jan. 9 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. to create vision boards for the new year, using library crafting supplies including inspirational stickers, scrap paper and magazines, markers and colored pencils. Bring any photos, magazine cut-outs or crafting tools you would like to use. Register at <https://kentlibrary.org>.

Thursday, Jan. 11

'What Happens Later'

Patterson Library will show "What Happens Later" on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 1 p.m. Follow the story of two ex-lovers who find themselves trapped together overnight in an airport. Rated: R. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Agroforestry Exploration

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County will present Agroforestry Exploration on Thursday, Jan. 11 from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom. The integration of farming with trees, shrubs and forest ecosystems, holds the key to enhancing the resilience of small farms. By diversifying income streams, promoting environmental stewardship and providing adaptive strategies against climate change, it opens new avenues for sustainable and prosperous farming. \$10. Register at <https://cceputnamcounty.org/events>.

Sunday, Jan. 14

Breakfast

Brewster VFW Post 672 will host a breakfast fundraiser the second Sunday of every month from October to May, from 9 to 11 a.m., at 262 Peaceable Hill Road. Coffee, juice, waffles, pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, omelet station, home fries, tater tots, biscuits and gravy, and more. \$15 for adults, \$10 for teens, age 12 and younger eat for free.

Monday, Jan. 15

Holiday Train Show Ends

Arts on the Lake's annual Holiday Model Train Show at 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes, for both children young and old, is greatly expanded and includes The Nutcracker Railroad. The show runs through Jan. 15. More information at www.artsonthelake.org.

Thursday, Jan. 18

Raising Goats & Sheep

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County will present Beginner Sheep & Goats on Jan. 18 from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom. Learn infrastructure needs, forage, and the management basics for health and lambing/kidding. Discuss an introduction to breed selection, regulations, marketing and other factors for meat, dairy and fiber production. Resources

for raising small ruminants available through CCE programs will be shared. \$10. Register at <https://cceputnamcounty.org/events>.

Saturday, Jan. 20

Intro. to Feng Shui

Tori McBrien, a certified Feng Shui practitioner and interior designer, will explain the basics of Feng Shui and how we can apply these principles to design spaces that are energetically balanced and support our well-being Saturday, Jan. 20 at 1:30 p.m. at Patterson Library. For adults 18 and older. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Calling All Musicians

Putnam Symphony Orchestra has openings for all qualified musicians to join its Olympic-themed spring concert April 14. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at Brewster High School beginning Jan. 24. There are no auditions and no fee to join. For more information, visit putnam-symphonyorchestra.org or Facebook, email putnamsymphony@verizon.net or call 845-228-4167.

Educational Consulting

Students and caregivers are invited to Kent Public Library for a presentation by Dustin Horvath, M.S.ED, exploring the transition process upon graduation from high school to post-secondary education for students with disabilities, Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. IDEA vs. ADA, applications, self-advocacy, self-disclosure and more. There will be a Q&A session. Registration is required at <https://kentlibrary.org>, by email to Programs@KentLibrary.org or calling 845-225-8585.

'Dreamin' Wild'

Patterson Library will show "Dreamin' Wild" on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 1 p.m. Follow the story of Donnie and his family, the Emersons, after an album he and his brother recorded 30 years ago is rediscovered and labeled a lost masterpiece. Rated PG. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Saturday, Feb. 3

The U.S. Parks System

Drawing on his years of teaching the National Parks & World Heritage Sites course at Central Connecticut State University, Richard Benfield will tell the story of the U.S. National Parks to create an immersive experience for all participants, Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. at Patterson Library. For adults 18 and older. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Send Us Your Community Events

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

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

Young Doctors of Reading at Kent Primary School



First-graders in Corinne Phillips' class at Kent Elementary School enjoy a new reading program.

When the students in Corinne Phillips' first grade class donned their lab coats, adjusted their masks and assembled their new stethoscope kits, they looked like a group of very young doctors.

said Fiona, as she turned to her classmate. "Did you try hearing your heart? It's amazing." To an outsider this may not have seemed like a reading lesson, but that was the point.

trict instituted a new reading program for kindergarten through sixth grade this year. Core Knowledge Language Arts is a Science of Reading-based program that emphasizes skills like phonics, decoding and blending sounds.

It introduces young readers to a wide vocabulary while building on topics like science and social studies, according to Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Lauren Santabarbara.

For the past three years, the district has partnered with The Reading League to train and learn about the Science of Reading, which led to the new reading program, CKLA. Teachers in kindergarten through sixth grade were trained in CKLA last year, said Santabarbara. This year, teachers in grades seven through 12 are learning the method so they can support the language, comprehension and vocabulary skills of students as they move up through the grades.

At Kent Primary School, Phillips' class had just finished its first CKLA unit, which was on the human body.

"The reading in this unit is all about our bodies," she said. "The vocabulary is about the five body systems: muscle, skeletal, nervous, circulatory and digestive. It is sophisticated but it is presented at their level."

To wrap up the unit, Phillips outfitted her students like doctors for the day. "I decided to do hands-on activities that review all the things we learned before giving students a written assessment with questions about the body," she explained.

Dressed like young interns, the children moved around the classroom and worked at tables with a variety of activities – the board game Operation, a human body model, puzzles of skeletons and other body systems.

One girl put on an apron while her partner attached internal organs onto it in their correct places with Velcro.

"What's this?" she asked, holding up a purple shape.

Phillips answered with a question: "What are the first two letters?" "S-T."

"And what is the sound 'S-T' makes?"

"Sss-ta, sss-ta, sss-ta... stomach!" said the student, and stuck the stomach onto the apron right above the large intestine.

Phillips has been teaching for 17 years. Last year, she taught kindergarten at Kent Primary School and she now has nine of the same students in this year's first grade class.

"I love this program," she said. "I see tremendous growth. The kids have really gotten wonderful vocabulary from it."

Not to mention fun. Six-year-old Ronin put the skeleton puzzle together on the floor. "I just put a body together," said the student.

Then he adjusted his stethoscope, turned to his classmates and said: "I am Dr. Ronin, pediatrician. I'm coming to help you, kids!"



Navigating a healthy holiday season: Tips to staying safe and well



End the year in your best health with these basic healthy habits while traveling and spending time with family and friends during the holiday season.

Vaccination: Protect yourself and others by staying up to date on vaccines, including COVID-19 and flu shots. The flu vaccine is a must for everyone six months and older, especially for those at higher risk of complications. If you're not up to date on your vaccines, now is the time to prioritize immunization.

Hand hygiene: Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) when soap is not available. This is a simple yet effective habit to protect yourself and others from harmful germs.

Safe travel: Stay informed, prepare a travel health kit with items like necessary medications, sunscreen, insect repellent and hand sanitizer. Practice good hand hygiene during your travels and contact your health care team if you feel unwell.

General healthy habits: Maintain a balanced diet, engage in regular physical activity, and manage stress to promote overall wellness. Focus on a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and lean proteins while minimizing fat and added sugars. Set aside moments to unwind, practice self-care and seek professional help, if needed.

Prioritize your health: Take proactive steps to ensure a joyous and healthy holiday season for yourself and those around you.



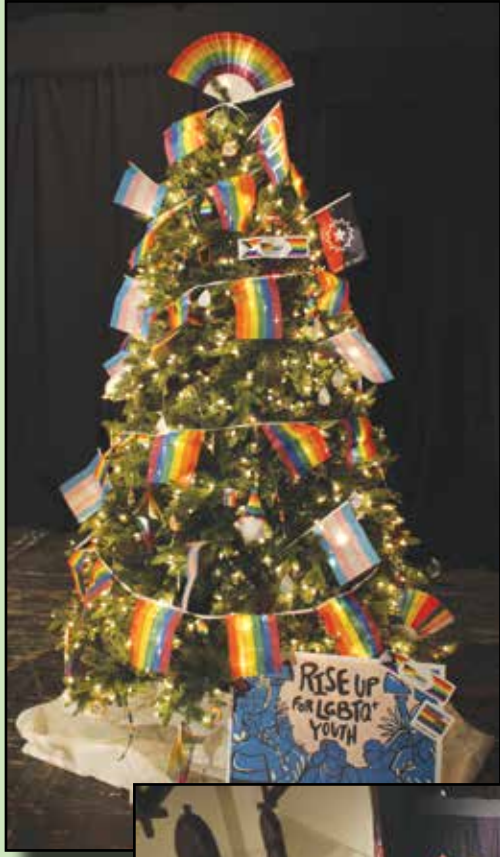
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One Last Chance to View 'Festival of Trees'

There's one more chance to catch the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition's Festival of Trees, which is on display in Southeast Old Town Hall Theater, 67 Main St., Brewster. View these trees Monday, Jan. 1, when TOSCAC presents its Concert for Peace in the Studio Around the Corner, located below the theater.

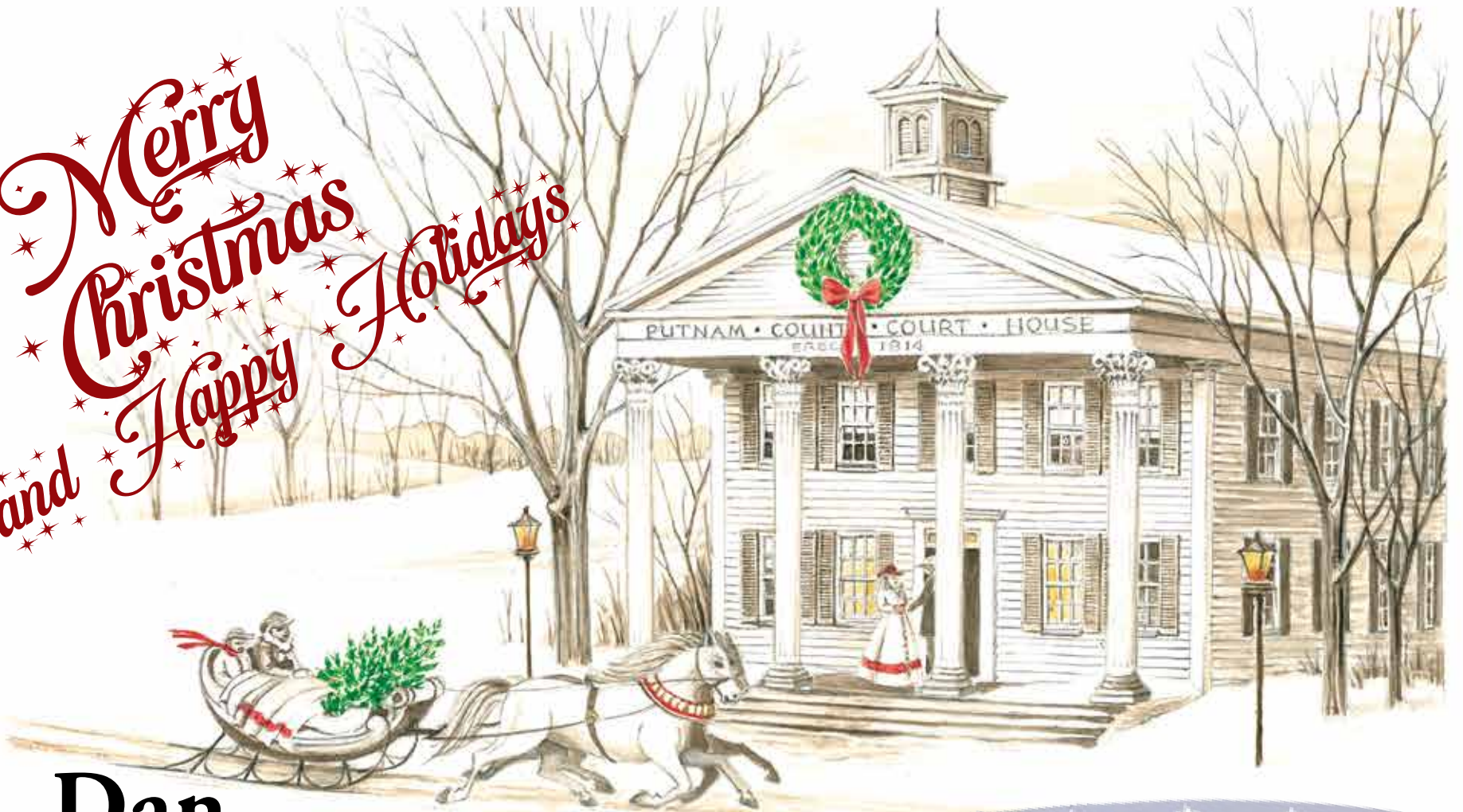


Photos by Laurie Doppman, Olenna Truskett and Stephanie Schleicher.



Trees have been decorated by several community organizations, including Putnam Pride, Brewster Volunteer Fire Department, Brewster Public Library, Putnam Symphony Orchestra, the Southeast Museum, Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County master gardeners, the Brewster/Carmel Garden Club, Hudson Valley Blues Society, Rene Soto and the Hudson Valley InterArts Class, Dawn Moffatt, CPR instructor Rebecca Rabinowitz, and Lupe and Mariana Miguel and Katie Mejia representing "Paises Hispanos."

Merry
Christmas
and Happy
Holidays



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Seniors Treated to Holiday Luncheon at Brewster Schools



Brewster middle-school students recently served up a festive lunch for senior citizens.

C.V. Starr Intermediate School recently hosted senior citizens from Southeast and Patterson for a special luncheon in which they were treated to a meal and serenaded by third-graders decked out in holiday colors and bling.

Many of the seniors have been attending the luncheon for years and almost all went to Brewster schools or had/have children and grandchildren go through the school system.

“My daughter was in the first class of students at C.V. Starr – when the doors first opened,” said Roberta Wasser. “She is 36 years old now.”

Betty White said her family

moved to town in 1964 and she had 10 children go through the school district.

“I have a grandson, Connor Flannagan, who is currently in the fifth grade at C.V. Starr,” added Tracy Griffin.

“When I attended Brewster High School, it was in what is now Wells Middle School,” said Corainne Birch.

One entire table of invitees had worked in the district.

“We come for the food and the conversation,” said Larry Smith.

“We know the food is good – our daughter is the cook at C.V. Starr.”

His wife, Marilyn, had been the cook at BHS for 32 years.

“It was a challenge,” she said.

At their table was Karen Ratajack, who had been the head of food services, and Vivien Burdich, who had been a teacher’s aide in special education.

As they chatted and ate, a flurry of Wells eighth grade National Junior Honor Society members were moving around the room serving coffee and dessert.

Of course, the sing-along brought the room together. The third-grade chorus had been practicing once a week since mid-October, and it showed as the students’ voices filled the gymnasium and got everyone in the winter spirit.

Edible Arrangements



Kids went to town decorating festive gingerbread houses with M&Ms, gumdrops, marshmallows and other goodies during two separate sessions with Miss Robin at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel recently.



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Angelica's Law Seeks to Reduce Reckless Driving

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently signed Angelica's Law, which protects New Yorkers from reckless or dangerous driving. It decreases the number of prior license suspensions needed to qualify for first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a class E felony.

Angelica Nappi of Holbrook was 14 years old in 2008 when she was struck and killed by a driver who did not have a valid license and who had more than five previous driver's license suspensions.

The new legislation was passed to help to keep drivers with prior suspensions off of the road by applying a felony to recidivist driv-

ers who operate vehicles without a valid license after having committed five or more moving violations resulting in prior suspensions or revocations.

"Almost 16 years later, my fight for safer roadways has been acted upon," said Angelica's mother, Dawn Riendeau. "I know Angelica is proud."

Angelica's Law builds on Hochul's commitment to making New York's roads safer by cracking down on dangerous drivers. In September, in response to the governor's 2023 State of the State message, the Department of Motor Vehicles proposed regulatory changes to

bolster its ability to remove drivers who engage in risky behavior from roadways and to make it more difficult for persistent violators to get back their driving privileges.

"It is our mission at DMV and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again," said DM Commissioner and Chairman of the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Mark Schroeder. "This law will put persistently dangerous drivers on notice. I applaud the governor, Legislature and Angelica's mother for advocating for this important legislation that will make our streets safer for all."



NY Crusiers, ShopRite Donate to Food Bank

The Carmel-based New York Crusiers car club hosts weekly cruise nights at Lakeview Plaza in Brewster and at the ShopRite shopping plaza in Carmel from May to October, with upwards of 300 cars on any given night. Thanks to the support of car enthusiasts and ShopRite, the club was recently able to hand out turkeys and donate more than 25 bags of groceries to the Mount Carmel Baptist Church food bank. Another donation was planned for the week before Christmas. Photos courtesy of Tom Broderick, president of New York Crusiers.

New Bills Recognize Iraq & Afghanistan War Veterans

Two bills establishing special commemorative medals for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, respectively, have been signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul. The bills were introduced by State Sen. Pete Harchham in an effort to provide greater recognition and support of veterans of armed service statewide and ensure they receive the benefits they have rightfully earned.

"Showing residents of New York who have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars our real appreciation for their service, valor and sacrifice requires much more than a 'thank you,' parades and a holiday," said Harchham. "While these commemorative medals are a symbolic recognition of this service, our prevailing concern and care for the well-being of our veterans needs to be absolute, always."

Harchham serves on the Sen-

ate Veterans, Homeland Security & Military Affairs Committee.

The first new law (S.5372A) authorizes the adjutant general (the state's highest-ranking military official in the New York National Guard) to present in the name of the State Legislature a medal to be known as the New York State Afghanistan War Commemorative Medal to members of the armed forces who served abroad in Afghanistan from October 2001 through August 2021.

It is not required for recipients of this medal to have been residents of New York during the time of this service.

The second new law (S.5394A) allows a New York State Iraq War Commemorative Medal to be presented to members of the armed forces who served abroad in Iraq from March 2003 until Dec. 18, 2011.

Both bills passed the State Legislature with bipartisan support, and will take effect April 1.

"The men and women who will now be recognized by the State of New York for their selfless sacrifices in Iraq and Afghanistan are true heroes," said Sean Witoshynsky, an E-6 technical sergeant in the Air Force and commander of VFW Post 9257 in Putnam Lake.

"Residents of New York State have served in every conflict from the Revolutionary War to the battlefields of the Middle East," he said. "It is truly fitting that these two bills were signed into law on Veterans Day. I believe a nation should never forget its history or the men and women who had a hand in writing it."

Boscobel Launches Meadow Rehab Project

Boscobel House & Gardens on Route 9D in Garrison – famous for its stunning views of the Hudson River, restored Neoclassical mansion, renowned design collection, exhibitions and community programs – has launched a meadow restoration project with horticulturalist and designer Larry Weaner and nationally-recognized landscape architecture firm Reed Hilderbrand.

The project will convert a large area of non-native grasses and undesirable invasives into a native meadow, with the hopes that it will open new opportunities to enjoy and learn Hudson Valley nature.

The plan prioritizes plants that thrived in the Hudson Valley when the Munsee Lenape and Wappingers people were the region's primary stewards. Site preparation is underway and planting begins in early summer 2024. The meadow will take two to five years to become fully established and will require a permanent program of careful management.

Leading the project is Weaner, whose firm Larry Weaner Associates has won numerous awards for designing and managing complex ecosystems that self-propagate.

"Working on the meadow at Boscobel has provided an outstanding opportunity to combine history, culture and ecology," he said.

Boscobel and LWA are collaborating closely with the local conservation board to ensure the restoration process reflects the Hudson Valley's strong environmental standards, while also engaging with historians on Native American cultivation practices. Boscobel also partners on landscape stewardship and interpretation with the Philipstown Garden Club, Cornell Cooperative Extension-Putnam County and Constitution Marsh Audubon Center & Sanctuary.

"Boscobel is on a mission to connect our Hudson Valley landscape's past to its future by enhancing our ecology and outdoor guest experience," said Boscobel Executive Director Jennifer Carliquist. "The meadow reflects a transformational commitment to do that through plants, programming and partnership."

The meadow is one of several sustainability initiatives that extend Boscobel's impact beyond site boundaries. In October, Boscobel earned an "Excellence Award" from the Greater Hudson Heritage Network for the Boscobel Community Tree Initiative, which has planted more than two dozen trees in the nearby Town of Cold Spring in partnership with the Cold Spring Tree Advisory Board, Town of Philipstown and CCE-Putnam County.



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Help Children with Special Needs Enjoy the Holidays

The holidays are upon us, and while there's loads of merry-making and fun to be had – the changes and sensations of the season can add stress to the lives of children with special needs and their families. The Episcopal Center for Children, a nonprofit organization serving children with special needs age 5 to 14 in the greater Washington, D.C. area, offers several tips to help.

“Children with special needs enjoy the holidays, but they are especially sensitive to the changes in routines the holidays bring,” said Stephanie Nash, president and CEO of the center. “Making a plan, thinking about your child’s needs, and adjusting your expectations can help you create a positive holiday experience for the entire family.”

- Make a plan for the holidays and share it with your family.

Create a schedule for your family’s holiday activities and post it for your child to see. You may find it helpful to use pictures to help a young child. Talk about the schedule with your child so he or she can anticipate what will happen.

- Remind your family about holiday plans.

Review the schedule and discuss it with others in your home so they understand what is going on and how they can best support your child with special needs (and everyone else in the family), so everyone can have a fun holiday.

- For holiday gatherings, give your child a job and a plan.

Ask your child to help collect coats, give out treats or greet arrivals. Rehearse the plan. Give your child a schedule or plan for a festive occasion so he or she knows

what to anticipate and when things will happen.

- Maintain routines as much as possible.

There may be special activities for the holidays, but try to keep your child’s schedule as close to “normal” as possible. Routines are key for helping children coping with special needs, and it’s especially important for children to stick to regular medication and sleep schedules as much as possible.

- If your child is sensitive to unfamiliar smells, help manage them.

Cinnamon is a common holiday fragrance. One way to help a child experience this smell minimally (and gauge reaction to it), is to add cinnamon to play compound before an event. Ask guests visiting your home to not wear heavy perfumes if your child is sensitive to them and think about other smells, like evergreens.

- Eat healthy foods and consider how new or special foods impact your child.

During the holidays there are all sorts of fun foods and treats to enjoy. Some children are more affected than others by dietary changes. Pay attention to your child’s moods and how diet and situational changes may be impacting him or her. If you are at an event, bring along food that is familiar to your child if you think it may be needed.

- Take breaks when needed.

Sometimes children need a break from the hubbub of holiday activities and busyness. Fill a bag or backpack with a few favorite toys, games or activities. If you see your child is getting stressed, get out the bag and find a quiet spot to play.



Photo courtesy of the Episcopal Center for Children.

- Do not allow presents to be a hindrance to enjoyment.

Toy packaging today can frustrate children and parents alike. Children who have trouble with fine motor skills may find unwrapping some gifts frustrating. You can adjust packages to their comfort level by loosening ribbons and paper, or pre-cutting fasteners. Ask others who give your child gifts to be aware of his or her needs when it comes to wrapping presents.

Some children find it disorienting to unwrap things that are new and unfamiliar to them. If that is the case for your child, wrap a few favorite toys for your child to unwrap.

- Get your child into the spirit of the season through gift giving.

Gift giving provides an oppor-

tunity to practice social skills. Help your child make a gift for someone else, and practice how to give the gift to that person. Let your child experience the joy of giving.

- Give your child the gift of your attention.

Holidays can be busy for grown-ups and children. Make sure you spend a few minutes of quality time with your child every day – and give your full attention.

Practice active listening, where you listen to what your child is saying and then repeat it back to them to demonstrate that you are listening. Focus on offering connection and support.

The Episcopal Center for Children is a nondenominational, nonprofit organization that has been dedicated to serving the needs of children and their families for the past 125 years.

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Patterson

TOWN OF PATTERSON NOTICE OF HEARING

2024 CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION PUTNAM LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Patterson, New York will hold a public hearing in consideration of contracting with the Putnam Lake Fire Department to provide fire protection, rescue and first aid services (collectively referred to herein as “Fire Protection Services”) in all, or a portion of the Fire Protection District as shown on the “Fire Map” filed in the Office of the Putnam County Clerk as filed Map No. 793. Said public hearing will be held at the Patterson Town Hall, 1142 Route 311, Patterson, New York, on December 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the evening of that day, or as soon thereafter as may be held, at which time all persons interested therein shall be heard. For such services the Putnam Lake Fire Department shall receive the yearly sum of five hundred and fifty thousand, four hundred twenty dollars (\$550,420.00). The contract shall run for one (1) year from January 1, 2024 and shall expire on December 31, 2024. A copy of the proposed contract may be obtained from the Town Clerk at the address below.

The Town Board will make every effort to assure that the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone requiring special assistance and/or reasonable accommodations should contact the Town Clerk.

Dated: December 13, 2023

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PATTERSON

EILEEN FITZPATRICK, TOWN CLERK

P. 12/20 - 61

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF PATTERSON NOTICE OF HEARING

2024 CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION PATTERSON FIRE DEPARTMENT NO.1

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Patterson, New York will hold a public hearing in consideration of contracting with the Patterson Fire Department No. 1 to provide fire protection, rescue and first aid services (collectively referred to herein as “Fire Protection Services”) in all, or a portion of the Patterson Fire Protection District as shown on the “Fire Map” filed in the Office of the Putnam County Clerk as filed Map No. 793. Said public hearing will be held at the Patterson Town Hall, 1142 Route 311, Patterson, New York, on December 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the evening of that day, or as soon thereafter as may be held, at which time all persons interested therein shall be heard. For such services the Patterson Fire Department No. 1 shall receive the yearly sum of nine hundred and thirty-five thousand, nine hundred fifty dollars (\$935,950.00). The contract shall run for one (1) year from January 1, 2024 and shall expire on December 31, 2024. A copy of the proposed contract may be obtained from the Town Clerk at the address below.

The Town Board will make every effort to assure that the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone requiring special assistance and/or reasonable accommodations should contact the Town Clerk.

Dated: December 13, 2023

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PATTERSON

EILEEN FITZPATRICK, TOWN CLERK

P. 12/20 - 63



FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

MOVIE AND CRAFT!

THURSDAY DECEMBER 28

11:00AM-12:00PM

Join us in the program room to watch the Frosty the Snowman movie on our big screen, followed by a fun craft!

Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

This program is intended for ages 3-12.

Registration is required.



PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Putnam

COUNTY OF PUTNAM NOTICE FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Director of Purchasing of Putnam County for the following commodities and/or service:

RFP-10-2023 – BOND COUNSEL

Detailed specifications may be secured at the office of the Director of Purchasing, Putnam County Office Building, 40 Glenaida Avenue, Room 105, Carmel, New York 10512 between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday or you may download from the Empire State Bid System's website at www.empirestatebidsystem.com.

Sealed proposals must be filed in the above office on or before **1:00 P.M., FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024.**

Dated: Carmel, New York December 13, 2023

Sgd/John Tully, Purchasing Director

Putnam County Purchasing Department

P. 12/20 - 36

PUBLIC NOTICE

Supreme Court NOTICE OF SALE

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

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

Gordon B. Fine, Esq., Referee

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

P. 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 12/27 - 52

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

V.

STEPHEN KOVALESKI, ET. AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 21, 2023, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Putnam, wherein NA-

PUBLIC NOTICE

TIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER is the Plaintiff and STEPHEN KOVALESKI, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 20 COUNTY CENTER, CARMEL, NY 10512, on January 08, 2024 at 11:30AM, premises known as 34 HILLSIDE TERRACE, BREWSTER, NY 10509: Section 67.7, Block 1, Lot 23:

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

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

P. 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 12/27 - 64

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

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

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

Anthony G. Maccarini, Esq., Referee

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

Dated: October 26, 2023

P. 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 12/27 - 56

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS-SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF PUTNAM - SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, -against- TROY E. PAYSON, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF NANCY A. PAYSON; DEBRA ANN PAYSON AND JOHN B. KEANE, III, AS HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE DECEDENT GEORGE H. PAYSON II, AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF NANCY A.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PAYSON; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW, NEXT-OF-KIN, DISTRIBUTEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST AND GENERALLY ALL PERSONS AND PARTIES HAVING OR CLAIMING, UNDER, BY OR THROUGH THE DECEDENT GEORGE H. PAYSON II, BY PURCHASE, INHERITANCE, LIEN OR OTHERWISE, ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE PREMISES DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN, WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (SOUTHERN DISTRICT); NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #10" inclusive, the names of the ten last name Defendants being fictitious, real names unknown to the Plaintiff, the parties intended being persons or corporations having an interest in, or tenants or persons in possession of, portions of the mortgaged premises described in the Complaint, Defendants - Index No. 500773/2022 Plaintiff Designates Putnam County as the Place of Trial. The Basis of Venue is that the subject premises is situated in Putnam County. To the above named Defendants- YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. That this Supplemental Summons is being filed pursuant to an order of the court dated November 2, 2023. NOTICE-YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME - If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING, LLC) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Gina C. Capone, J.S.C. Dated: November 2, 2023 Filed: November 2, 2023. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage covering the premises known as 102 Hillair Road, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537. Dated: November 17, 2023 Filed: November 17, 2023. Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, Attorney for Plaintiff, By: Richard F. Komosinski, Esq., 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523 P: (914) 345-3020

P. 12/13, 12/20, 12/27, 1/3 - 122

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

BY VIRTUE OF a certain Writ of Execution, issued out of the SUPREME COURT, COUNTY of QUEENS, and to me directed and delivered, I have levied upon and taken which I shall expose for sale as the law directs at the lobby of the Putnam County

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sheriff's Office, 3 County Center Carmel, New York, on the 8th day of February, 2024 at 10:00 in the forenoon of that day- all the right, title, and interest which LORMAT CONSTRUCTION CORP. (now known as LORMAT REALTY CORP.) and LORMAT REALTY CORP. (formerly known as LORMAT CONSTRUCTION CORP.) had on the 1st day of September 2022 or at any time thereafter of, in, and to the following property, to wit:

46-54 Miller Road Carmel NY 86.11-1-11

ALL that plot, piece or parcel of land, with buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam and State of New York, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of Miller Road, formerly Beckers Road, at the division line between the premises being described and land of Louise Lotrecchiano, formerly of Mt. Hope Enterprises;

RUNNING THENCE along said division line south 81 degrees 08' 50" east 213.61 feet to the division line between the premises being described and land now or formerly New York Central Railroad (Putnam Division);

THENCE along said division line south 55 degrees 23' 20" west 92.34 feet to a point;

THENCE continuing on a curve to the left having a radius of 1,959.58 feet, a distance of 213.39 feet to the easterly side of Miller Road;

THENCE northerly along the easterly side of Miller Road north 8 degrees 51' 10" east 218.44 feet to the point of place of BEGINNING.

46-54 Miller Road Carmel NY 86.11-1-10

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of Miller Road where the same is intersected by the division line between premises being described and land now or formerly of Mario & Alfred Passero formerly of Patsy & Lena Cilirzo and formerly of Ferrieri;

RUNNING THENCE along said division line South 81 degrees 08' 50" East 242.63 feet to the division line between premises being described and land now or formerly of Mario Agri;

THENCE along said division line South 10 degrees 54' 51" East 128.80 feet to a cross cut on a rock found in the division line between premises being described and land now or formerly of State of New York, formerly New York Central Railroad;

THENCE along said division line South 55 degrees 23' 20" West 100.00 feet to the division line between premises being described and land of Louise Lotrecchiano, Thomas Lotrecchiano, Jr. and Mollie E. Lotrecchiano, formerly of Miller;

THENCE along said division line North 81 degrees 08' 50" West 213.61 feet to the easterly side of Miller Road;

THENCE along same North 8 degrees 51' 10" East 190.00 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING Sale is subject to all lawful liens.

Terms of the sale are strictly cash or bank check; 10% payable at time of sale and remainder by 4PM of sale date.

The Sheriff reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

Dated: 11/29/2023
Kevin J. McConville
Sheriff of Putnam County
3 County Center
Carmel, New York 10512
Sheriff File: 23000681

Attorney for Plaintiff:
Daniel E. Sully, Esq.
241 86th Street

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brooklyn, NY 11209
718-748-8257a

P. 12/13, 12/27, 1/10, 1/24 - 131

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2018 G-CTT, Plaintiff AGAINST CHRISTOPHER POOLE AS ADMINISTRATOR AND AS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF NANCY A. DANIELSON AKA NANCY DANIELSON, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 11, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse located at 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on January 22, 2024 at 9:30AM, premises known as 51 Ellen Avenue, Mahopac, NY 10541. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being at Lake View Park, Lake Mahopac, Town of Carmel, Putnam County, New York, Section: 75.51 Block: 1 Lot: 12. Approximate amount of judgment \$193,989.47 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #500760/2022. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the PUTNAM County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Christopher York, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 22-001369 78700

P. 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/10 - 51

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST ROSE A. EDDY AS EXECUTOR TO THE ESTATE OF THEODORE J. ILLAR AKA THEODORE ILLAR, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 19, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Supreme Court in Courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Court, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on January 22, 2024 at 10:30AM, premises known as 162 Tibet Drive, Carmel, NY 10512. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Kent, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 30.16 Block 1 Lot 13. Approximate amount of judgment \$223,733.44 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501114/2022. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the PUTNAM County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. A. Albert Buonamici, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 22-002349 78506

P. 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/10 - 46

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM SANTANDER BANK, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST ERIC MOORE, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 20,

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Supreme Court in Courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Court, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on January 22, 2024 at 2:30PM, premises known as 25 Ferris Drive, Garrison, NY 10524. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Philipstown, County of Putnam, and State of New York, Section: 90.8, Block: 1, Lot: 29. Approximate amount of judgment \$467,899.32 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #800093/2022. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the PUTNAM County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832. Craig M. Wallace, Esq., Referee McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC 7 Wells Street, Suite 205B Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 23-001045-01 78635

P. 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/10 - 51

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC,

V.

EUGENE BAYERSDOR-

PUBLIC NOTICE

FER, JR., AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF IRENE BAYERSDORFER, ET. AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 03, 2023, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Putnam, wherein MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC is the Plaintiff and EUGENE BAYERSDORFER, JR., AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF IRENE BAYERSDORFER, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 20 COUNTY CENTER, CARMEL, NY 10512, on January 22, 2024 at 11:30AM, premises known as 5 CARILLON ROAD, BREWSTER, NY 10509: Section 56.14, Block 2, Lot 50:

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

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 501028/2022. Christopher York, 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..**

PUBLIC NOTICE

P. 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/10 - 68

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT-COUNTY OF PUTNAM

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff, AGAINST CHARLES KOHN, et al. Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly entered on June 20, 2023.

I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction in Courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse at 20 County Center Carmel, NY 10512 on January 29, 2024 at 10:30 AM premises known as 2003 Kings Way, Carmel, NY 10512.

Please take notice that this foreclosure auction shall be conducted in compliance with the Foreclosure Auction Rules for the Ninth Judicial District, Putnam County, and the COVID 19 Health Emergency Rules, including proper use of masks and social distancing.

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, Putnam County, New York. Section 44.11, Block 1 and Lot 22.-2003.

Approximate amount of judgment \$103,436.62 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment. Index #501487/2019.

Emily Barile Boccardi, Esq., Referee,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Aldridge Pite, LLP - Attorneys for Plaintiff - 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747

P. 12/27, 1/3, 1/10, 1/17 - 58

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: PUTNAM COUNTY. WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF UPLAND MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST B, Pltf. vs. KATHRYN C. MADDEN, et al, Defts. Index #501454/2019. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated Nov. 15, 2022, I will sell at public auction in Room 209 of the Putnam County Courthouse, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY on January 29, 2024 at 11:30 a.m., prem. k/a 402 Hortontown Road, Hopewell Junction, NY a/k/a Section 9, Block 1, Lot 23. Said property being in the Town of Kent, Country of Putnam and State of NY, designated as Lot No. 1 on a certain Map filed in the Putnam County Clerk's Office as Map No. 1540 on October 13, 1976. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$515,059.66 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. GORDON B. FINE, Referee. MARGOLIN, WEINREB & NIERER, LLP, Attys. for Pltf., 165 Eileen Way, Ste. 101, Syosset, NY. #101015

P. 12/27, 1/3, 1/10, 1/17 - 37

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST DANIEL P. MCGEE, KATHLEEN E. MCGEE, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a

PUBLIC NOTICE

Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered November 9, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Ceremonial Courtroom of the Putnam Historic Courthouse, 44 Gleneida Ave, Town of Carmel NY 10512 on January 29, 2024 at 9:30AM, premises known as 51 Sherwood Hill Road, Brewster, NY 10509. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Southeast, County of Putnam, State of New York. Approximate amount of judgment \$480,866.21 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501005/2021. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the PUTNAM County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Edward T. McCormack, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 22-001714 78860

P. 12/27, 1/3, 1/10, 1/17 - 43

PUBLIC NOTICE

LLC

Notice of Formation of **PLAN-Kent LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-10-06. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to PLAN-Kent LLC: PO Box 1549 Carmel NY 10512. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. P. 12/13, 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/10, 1/17 - 17

CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

RAMP - 14-foot Traverse rust-proof aluminum ramp, 30 inches wide, 2 inches side curbs.

Welded construction, no support legs needed. Barely used. Purchased from expressramps.com. \$700 OBO. 845-278-6917. 12/13

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED **PART-TIME CLERICAL** in Yor-

ktown office. 5-10 hours per week, time flexible. Competitive pay. Call Frank 914-329-8495. 11/29

WANTED

BUYING VINTAGE CAMERAS, LENSES, WATCHES, JEWELRY,

COINS, CLOCKS, FISHING, HUNTING, MILITARY, FIRE HELMETS, SWORDS, KNIVES, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, COMICS, SPORTING, TOYS, FOUNTAIN PENS, WESTERN AND MORE. PLEASE CALL FRANK 914-763-8766. 2/28

WANTED - Private collector buying fishing, hunting items, rods, reels, lures, all types old or new, paintings of fishing, hunting, wildlife art, bows and arrows no compound bows. Call 845-878-3665 or 845-661-9059. 1/31

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.

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SEEKING FROGS TREASURER AND BOARD MEMBER

Friends of the Great Swamp has an immediate opening for a Treasurer who will manage our bank accounts, oversee our annual budget, liaise with our tax preparer, track income, document expenses, file property tax exemptions in 3 towns, and maintain insurance coverage. The incumbent will serve on the Board of Directors and chair the Finance Committee whose members will assist with these responsibilities. This is a volunteer position critical to supporting FroGS' mission to preserve and protect the health of The Great Swamp watershed. If you are interested in filling this important and rewarding role, please contact our Chairmen Ken Luhman at 203-767-8391 or frogspaddle22@gmail.com. 12/13, 12/20

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

Exam Title & No: Account Clerk II 62-515 OC
 Exam Date: February 10, 2024
 Salary: \$45,517-\$55,097 (2023 rate)
 Last Filing Date: December 22, 2023
 Exam Filing Fee: \$35

To apply and for information about minimum requirements, job duties, and subject of the exam, as well as the exam announcement, please visit: <https://putnam.munisselfservice.com/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> or call Putnam County Personnel Department (845) 808-1650 X46105. EEO/AA 12/20

Carmel Kindergarteners Learn Various Holiday Traditions



Above: Vinnie-Ann Goldberg reads to her kindergarten class at Kent Elementary School.



Right: Students learn to spin a dreidel.

To teach about Hannukah, Kent Elementary School teacher Vinnie-Ann Goldberg had her kindergartners sing a song, spin dreidels and taste homemade latkes.

"These taste like hash browns," said Scarlet.

Then Goldberg asked what students knew about the holiday.

"I know that the Hannukah candle holder is called a menorah," said Declan. "I never celebrated Hannukah, though, so I don't know what latkes taste like."

When it came time to try the potato pancakes that Goldberg made for the class, Declan said he liked them.

"Why might it be important

to learn about other people's holidays and traditions?" asked Goldberg.

"Because you get to taste new foods," answered Allie.

Then the teacher asked if there were any similarities between Hannukah and the holidays the children might celebrate at home. That stumped the mostly-5-year-olds for a bit.

"Well, do you decorate for the holidays?" asked Goldberg.

"I decorate with ornaments," said one child.

"I decorate with a menorah," added another.

Then it was time for the children to take a turn dancing and spinning themselves like dreidels.



Lake Carmel Celebrates the Season

The annual Lake Carmel winter holiday event drew the largest crowd in many years, as the community came out to celebrate the season with Santa. The Lake Carmel Park District Advisory Board hosts this event each year to help make special Christmas and Hanukkah memories for kids of all ages.

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Young Chefs Make Sweet Treats



Youngsters got in the holiday spirit recently by making snowman cookies at Kent Public Library.



Brewster Heights Water Rate Changes Addressed

Continued from Page 1

that is the unknown, like electric and diesel. Other variables include the per-gallon rate as well as the cost of living.”

The town plans to go around to all residences to make sure all meters are working properly, and to make sure homeowner-installed meters are replaced by district meters so that usage is captured.

One resident of Eagles Ridge asked about communal spigots available to every eight units. “If it’s going through a meter, who’s paying for it?” she asked.

Brown said he will go to the site to check, and if there is a common spigot, identify how it is fed, and if there is a meter, who should be paying. If there isn’t a meter, he said one needs to be installed, as “there is no free water.”

As to the confusion about the old bill versus the new bill, Brown said the chart in the letter is purely a hypothetical example of the current rate versus the new rate, which will be based on actual usage.

Jim Gaynor of Eagles Ridge asked if the district can confirm how many homes are without meters.

According to Brown, out of 138 units, only 24 are metered, and 114 are non-metered. Another resident indicated that there are meters inside each unit, as well as outside.

Town Attorney Willis Stephens explained, “A few years back, the privately-managed water system failed, and Eagles Ridge water management became part of the Brewster Heights Water Department.”

According to Brown, currently, residents of Eagles Ridge without meters will continue to be charged the current flat rate, which doesn’t distinguish between heavy and light water consumption. “If Eagles Ridge

wants meters, it will have to request them and it will be a cost to the condominium,” he said.

When asked how to confirm that all current meters in the district are working properly, Brown said the water department is checking each meter, with a list of 40 yet to be completed.

One homeowner asked about quarterly usage numbers in 2023 that were significantly higher than reported in 2022, to which Brown indicated this could be related to a water leak, if not inside the home, then in the ground.

Additionally, a bill may seem higher if the timing of readings represents a longer usage period, such as an additional two or three weeks, according to Brown.

Water quality issues were also raised during the meeting, with one homeowner reporting being concerned about continual problems with green and yellow water, film on silverware after using the dishwasher, and “paying over \$465 for stuff that I can’t drink.”

“We have had a problem with dirty water,” said Councilman Eric Larca. “You’ll hear from me, I promise. The problems are being addressed. Others in Brewster Heights indicate they no longer have a similar problem, but we’re taking it very seriously. The Department of Environmental Protection and the Board of Health are overlooking everything we do, but it’s still advisable to have your water tested. I test my own water.”

“This is a work in progress,” added Supervisor Tony Hay. “Things are being done.”

Larca said there are ways to get the water cleaner. “I own my own home and I buy water,” he said. “I don’t trust the water coming out of the ground. This problem is all around the town.”

At the close of the meeting, Brown said the meter use per-gallon rate and the connection fee will be confirmed prior to a letter due to be sent to homeowners in January. The board indicated that before that, at the Dec. 21 meeting, those rates and the fee will be confirmed.

“We do have a plan in place,” said Brown. “We have a bunch of projects ahead, so be ready.”

Kent Passes Soil Removal & Excavation Law

Continued from Page 1

removed. “The goal is not to limit profit, but to create a threshold of how much rock is processed and removed, versus processing and reusing the material on the site,” he said.

Processing, for example, could mean grinding down rocks to use as the foundation for a new house.

In addition, it prevents adverse effects of disturbed land such as erosion and pollution.

During a prior meeting, Bruce Barber, the town’s environmental consultant, clarified that the code prohibits mining where rocks are excavated and

According to Barber, the previous code had a loophole in which the developer followed the rules in place at the time and was able to get site plan approval because the planning board didn’t have the tools that are now in today’s code.

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!

St. James the Apostle Parish

Carmel, NY 10512

845-225-2079

Parish: www.stjamesapostle.org

School: www.stjamescarmel.org

Religious Education: religioused.stjamesapostle.org



St. James the Apostle Church
14 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512



Our Lady of the Lake/Mt. Carmel
1 Doherty Drive, Carmel, NY 10512

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Masses at St. James:

3:30pm (Family Mass, procession of children and blessing of the manger)
5:30PM (*note change of time)
9:30pm (Mass in Polish), and
Midnight Mass

Masses at Our Lady of the Lake:

4:00pm Vigil Mass

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

Masses at St. James:

8:00am, 10:00am, and
12:00 Noon

Masses at Our Lady of the Lake:

9:00am, 11:00am, and
12:30pm (Mass in Polish)



Our Parish Family wishes you a very Merry Christmas and every blessing for a prosperous New Year!

Father Robert A. Quarato, Pastor
Father Szymon Kurpios
Father John Tran

Deacon Scott Bierbaum
Deacon Anthony Gruerio
Deacon John Scott
Deacon Arthur Weiner

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