



The Putnam County

TIMES

FREE

PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

This paper publishes official notices for Putnam County, Carmel, Kent, Southeast, Brewster, Patterson

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VOL. 166 NO. 50

P.O. BOX 608, MAHOPAC, NEW YORK 10541

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EDITORIAL@PUTNAMPRESSTIMES.COM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024



Fulmar Road Elementary School kindergartners celebrate Friendsgiving on Nov. 22.

Mahopac Kindergartners Celebrate Friendsgiving

Fulmar Road Elementary School kindergartners gathered in their school cafeteria Nov. 22 to enjoy a "Friendsgiving feast."

Friendsgiving is an annual event where all the kindergartners gather to celebrate friendship. Each child contributed a food item to the meal, and they all enjoyed a special snack prepared for the whole grade.

"The children have made so many new friends since starting school in September," said kindergarten teacher Megan Shea. "Friendsgiving is a wonderful way for us to recognize and celebrate these special friendships."

Leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, students



learned about gratitude and wore crowns they designed to represent the things they are thankful for. At the conclusion of the

celebration, the students and staff joined together for a fun and lively turkey dance, known as the Turkey Wobble.

Outrage Over Proposed Carmel Water Dist. Costs Info. Meeting Dec. 11

By Rob Sample

Opponents of a proposed \$27 million water treatment plant for Water District Two in the Town of Carmel are continuing to cry out that the project is too costly and unnecessarily.

In October, a vote by the Carmel Town Board to bond \$24 million to finance the new plant failed to garner a four-vote "supermajority," as is required for its passing. While a public informational meeting regarding the water plant is scheduled Dec. 11, residents also voiced their dissent at the Nov. 27 board meeting.

Resident John Butler said paying for the new plant will cost households in his district an additional \$924 per year, in addition to what they already pay for water usage.

"The debt will be paid by the 1,500 to 1,600 households of Carmel Water District Two – no state money, no federal money, no money from anywhere," he said. "When and if the bonds are approved for this project, the households will be burdened for the next 30 to 40 years. It's a generational debt."

Town Supervisor Michael Cazzari countered that \$460,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds from the county have been dedicated to the project. Further, he said that until a design is completed,

a municipality cannot apply for federal funding for a project.

"Congressman (Mike) Lawler is getting us \$1.4 million to \$1.5 million for the design," he said. "So there is money flowing in."

Resident Charlie Cole said the added cost would create a large burden for households, and has been communicated poorly. "You've got to think about the people, too, not just about your positions up there," he said, gesturing to the board dais.

Jennifer Doherty, a member of the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association, said she appreciates the board's work, but that people have reason to be angry.

"We found out that you guys needed a supermajority to pass the bond and that it failed by one vote," she said. "Why are there zero grant proposals out there for this? We have a grant writer on staff."

Doherty described Lake Gleneida, which supplies Carmel Water District Two, as quite healthy. "We don't need a Taj Mahal plant – we can do with a Ford," she said. "We'd really like this to go back to the table and figure out something that's cheaper for the residents."

Cazzari noted that the engineers who developed the proposed plant will outline why their design makes sense at the upcoming informational session. As proposed, it would utilize a process

Continued on Page 15

A Holiday Spectacular at Kent Public Library



This year, Kent Public Library brought its holiday kick-off celebration indoors. Patrons sipped hot cocoa, nibbled on cookies, and soaked in the spirit of the season, while Santa and a reindeer greeted children.



The Carmel High School chorus and band filled the building with the sound of the season, the program room hosted a festive craft, and the genealogy room was transformed into a station to write letters to Santa.



Those without housing can find a place to sleep at 577 N. Main St., Brewster.

Brewster Shelter & Warming Station Open

Brewster Cares is the last line of defense against homelessness in Putnam during the cold winter months. Through a partnerships with St. Lawrence O’Toole Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Brewster, it provides shelter to the county’s unhoused population from December to March.

Starting at 8:30 p.m., those who find themselves without

housing may show up at 577 N. Main St., Brewster, inside the sports complex; or call 845-279-6146.

The daytime warming center is also open at the same location, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Staff and a network of volunteers help to provide hot meals, a safe space to sleep, a place to bathe and launder clothes, and a communal atmosphere to those who do not have shelter for the winter.

Brewster Cares works with the Department of Social Services to find permanent housing solutions and provide services for guests, as well as help them apply for jobs and connect with local employers.

To volunteer, visit www.brewstercaresny.org.

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

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is available at the following locations
EVERY WEEK, and prints the OFFICIAL
NOTICES for PUTNAM COUNTY, the towns
of CARMEL, PATTERSON, SOUTHEAST,
KENT AND BREWSTER VILLAGE

<p>BREWSTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brewster Library Southeast Town Hall Kobacker’s Supermarket Buy Rite Liquors Brewster Village Office DeCicco’s Supermarket 	<p>MAHOPAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Mills Market Carmel Town Hall Stop & Shop Supermarket Mahopac Library Olympic Diner
<p>CARMEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoprite Supermarket County Office Building TOPS Supermarket Sheriff’s Office Reed Memorial Library 	<p>PATTERSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patterson Library Putnam Diner Patterson Town Hall Route 311 Deli Putnam Lake Market Putnam Lake Pizza Patterson ACME
<p>KENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kent Town Hall Deli Land - 508 Rte. 52 Kent Library Kent Liquors - 1078 Rte. 52 Lake Carmel Pharmacy 	<p>PHILIPSTOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nelsonville Town Hall Desmond Fish Library Butterfield Library Foodtown Supermarket
<p>PUTNAM VALLEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putnam Valley Town Hall Putnam Valley Library Anita’s Deli & Grocery 	

Temporary Burn Ban Over

The temporary burn ban implemented by Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne in response to the threat of wildfires due to severely dry conditions has expired.

A subsequent state-wide burn ban issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation earlier last month also expired Nov. 30.

Residents should note, however, that local governments within Putnam County may still have their own burn bans or restrictions in effect.

The emergency declaration and accompanying executive order for the burn ban was issued by Byrne on Oct 28. Days earlier, a brush fire in Kent burned 33 acres over six days and necessitated a

response from 10 fire agencies and various town and county agencies to successfully contain and control.

Between Oct. 23 and Nov. 18, the Putnam County 911 Center received a total of 152 responses from brush fires, open burns, outside smoke conditions, and out-of-county mutual aid, according to Byrne’s office. This included 29 brush fire dispatches and seven department deployments to neighboring Orange County to aid the large Jennings Creek/Greenwood Lake fire.

“The last six weeks have been a trying time for our local fire departments and first responders,” said Byrne. “We owe them all a great thanks for their vigilance, outstanding work,

and continued efforts monitoring the situation.”

“The dry weather we’ve experienced created trying conditions,” added Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton. “It’s been a team effort between our local fire departments, dispatchers, law enforcement, and partners at the state to respond and keep the public safe. With that said, I would like to encourage the public to take serious precautions if they choose to plan an outdoor fire or safely burn in accordance with local ordinances.”

The National Wildlife Coordinating Group has safety tips available at www.nwgc.gov/node/34989.

Letters to the Editor

Unacceptable Noise from Gun Club

Dear Editor:

The policy statement of the Town of Carmel is to prevent excessive, unnecessary, or unusually loud noise that may jeopardize the well-being, public health, comfort, and peace and quiet of its residents.

Thousands of residents of Carmel, Mahopac, and Somers who live in the surrounding area of the Willow Wood Gun Club have been denied the right of peace and quiet they deserve. They are now bombarded every week with thousands of harrowing shotgun blasts.

Many residents have indicated they now know what it must be like to experience “Hell on Earth” in a combat zone. While the shooting is going on, it is impossible to sit on your deck or patio and enjoy the tranquility of your surroundings. Many times you can hear the shotgun blasts while in your home with the windows closed.

There have been many noise complaints, but no actions have been taken.

Condo 22 of Heritage Hills has used a Toptes TS-501 B Model sound level meter to determine the noise levels that are occurring on the Condo 22 property line. Readings of 79 decibels have been measured and recorded on video; 60 decibels is the code limit. The Toptes sound level meter has recorded hundreds of shotgun blasts that are over 60 decibels.

Additionally, it appears the Town of Carmel has no equipment to measure sound levels when complaints are filed.

The Town of Carmel noise code states, regarding unnecessary noise: No person shall make or cause or permit to be made, verbally or mechanically, any unnecessary noise. An unnecessary noise shall mean any excessive or unusually loud sound or any sound which either annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of any other person.

We say to the Town of Carmel code enforcement officer: Take measured readings of the noise levels of the Willow Wood Gun Club and if necessary, close the WWGC skeet disc shooting

stations.

The shotgun blasts have been allowed to continue at the gun club with no consideration of the effect they have on the neighbors in Carmel, Mahopac, and Somers. Homeowners are thinking about moving because of this noise invasion of their privacy. We invite the Carmel code enforcement officer to drive on Union Valley Road, Lovell Street, Warren Street, etc., any week, and hear the noise of the shotgun blasts.

So far, the nightmare remains open. The skeet disc shooting stations are as close as 132 feet away from Condo 22 property in Heritage Hills.

It is time for the officials of the Town of Carmel to act, and measure the sound levels at the skeet disc shooting course of the Willow Wood Gun Club and, if the sound levels are in excess of code, close it down. The original course of four target practice ranges was there for 70 years. No problem with that. The new skeet disc shooting course with 15 shooting stations is totally unacceptable.

Fifteen shooting stations from which the residents in the surrounding area hear excessive, unimaginable noise at 79 or more decibels ... Think of parents trying to explain these booming and exploding noises to their children?

The time has come for action by the officials of the Town of Carmel.

Jack Stein
Vice president, Condo 22
Heritage Hills

Overwhelmed by Community Support of CAP

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Putnam Community Action Partnership staff and advisory board, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the entire community for coming together to make our Thanksgiving program a great success.

This program would not have been possible without the incredible generosity and support from local organizations, businesses, and individual community members. With our

community’s support, we ensured that more than 340 low-income families were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

Many may not realize the level of collaboration and partnership that is involved to bring our Thanksgiving program to fruition.

We are sincerely thankful to the Rotary Clubs of Brewster, Carmel, Lake Mahopac, Patterson, and Southeast for donating all of the pies, rolls, and butter needed for the program; the Knights of Columbus Council 6318 for donating grocery store gift cards and turkeys; as well turkey donations from PCSB Bank and Stew Leonard’s.

The Delancey Street Foundation, Kobacker’s Market, Ace Endico, and the Putnam County Office for Senior Resources’ William Koehler Memorial Senior Center also played a crucial role by donating freezer space to store the turkeys, ensuring we had enough to meet the needs of our community.

Special thanks also go to DeCicco & Sons in Brewster and ShopRite in Carmel who allowed us to host fresh produce drives in front of their stores the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, and to the Brewster High School students and families who volunteered at those drives.

Stop & Shop in Mahopac also showed its support by donating hams to supplement our offerings.

A huge thank you to all of the community members who volunteered their time to sort and package fresh produce bags for the distribution, and those who volunteered to help distribute the food to our clients – you donated more than 100 hours of service to the agency.

Furthermore, we are grateful for the grant funding provided by M&T Bank, the Field Hall Foundation, and County Harvest, which allowed us to purchase additional food to make the program even more impactful.

Lastly, we are so appreciative for the incredibly generous contributions made by hundreds of individual community members.

We are truly humbled by the outpouring of community support we received. Putnam County’s generosity has ensured that families in need had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and we are incredibly thankful for your kindness and commitment to our mission of assisting low-income individuals and families on their journey toward self-sufficiency.

Marisa O’Leary
Putnam CAP director



Brewster Elks Club Honors Student-Writers

The Brewster Elks Lodge honored student/writers of the first quarter of the school year during a Nov. 22 recognition dinner for student and their families. The winners were selected by Henry H. Wells Middle School for their outstanding achievements. From left are (front row) Lesley Gomez, Jacob Rivera, Benjamin Paradiso, Claire Brondo, Juliet Juarez, (second row) Dylan Ross, Brandon Fisher, Nicolas Iacoviello, Joseph Langlois, Grace Wyda, Kaysen Diaz, (third row) Mayori Lucas, Joseph Biancamano, Anabella Velardo, Olivia Brenes, Gianna Carpanzano, Alessandra Addor, (fourth row) Charlene Posadas, Daniel Mangome, Jack Fox, PJ Nichols, Mark Tallerico, (fifth row) Elks Youth Activities Chairperson Peter Priolo, Exalted Ruler Chris Kelly, David Chen, Sawyer, Whitehead, Brian Romero, Grace Rogers, and Loyal Knights Melissa Dinkler and Dan Giordano.

Drunk-Driving Arrests

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office made several driving while intoxicated arrests over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

At about 5 p.m. Nov. 26, deputies were dispatched to a two-car accident with injuries on Route 311 near McManus Road North in Patterson. Upon arrival they saw a Honda Civic on the shoulder of the roadway and a Honda Passport overturned in the middle of the roadway.

Through interviews with the drivers and other motorists who allegedly witnessed the accident, it was determined that the driver of the Civic was headed westbound on Route 311 when the driver of the Passport, identified as Agustin Flores, 30, of New Milford, Conn., who was heading eastbound, crossed lanes and the vehicles sideswiped each other.

Flores was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and charged with DWI, aggravated DWI for having a blood-alcohol content of 0.18 percent or higher, driving to the left of pavement markings, moving from the lane unsafely, and no seat belt. He was processed at the Putnam County Correctional Facility and released with an appearance ticket returnable to Patterson Town Court.

The other driver was taken to Danbury Hospital for treatment.

At about 12:30 a.m. Nov. 28, a deputy saw a vehicle speeding on Route 52 and turning on to Fair Street in the Town of Carmel – almost striking the deputy's vehicle. According to the sheriff's office, a traffic stop was initiated and the driver showed obvious signs of being impaired and failed field sobriety tests.

Nascimento Samara, 42, of Stormville, was charged with DWI, failure to obey a traffic control device, and moving from the lane unsafely. She was processed at the correctional facility and issued an appearance ticket returnable to Carmel Town Court.

At about 2:40 a.m. Nov. 30, deputies stopped a vehicle on

Route 22 in Southeast after it was seen failing to maintain its lane of traffic. Erick Gamez-Castillo, 28, of Dover Plains, reportedly failed field sobriety tests and was charged with driving while ability impaired by drugs and alcohol, seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation, operating a motor vehicle with no license, drinking alcohol in a motor vehicle, and moving from the lane unsafely. He was processed at the correctional facility and issued an appearance ticket returnable to Southeast Town Court.

At about 3:15 a.m. Dec. 1, deputies stopped a vehicle on Danbury Road for failing to maintain its lane of traffic. Arnolfo Morales, 32, of Danbury, reportedly failed field sobriety tests and was charged with DWI and moving from the lane unsafely. He was processed at the correctional facility and

released with an appearance ticket returnable to Southeast Town Court.

At about 3 a.m. Dec. 4, a deputy came across a stopped vehicle on the Interstate-84 westbound exit ramp at the traffic light at Route 312 in Southeast, which failed to move when the light turned green. Peter Nusser, 54, of New Milford, was determined to be under the influence of alcohol and reportedly failed roadside field sobriety tests. He was arrested and transported to the correctional facility, where he refused to submit to a chemical test.

Nusser was charged with felony DWI for having a previous conviction within 10 years, refusal to take a breath test, operating a motor vehicle without a proper license, and operating a motor vehicle while using a portable electronic device. It was also discovered that Nusser had numerous open warrants against him, and he was held pending arraignment in the morning.

Fatal Accidents, Police Chase & Drug Charges

A fatal accident occurred last week in Southeast.

According to Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville, at about 8:30 a.m. Dec. 2, deputies were dispatched to John Simpson Road for a head-on motor vehicle accident involving two vehicles.

Preliminary investigation revealed Anna Catullo, 82, of Shrewsbury Mass., was driving a Honda CRV southbound on John Simpson Road when she crossed over the double-yellow line and struck an Isuzu box truck heading northbound driven by Isuzu, Xavier Quindetempaguy, 45, of Carmel.

Catullo was pronounced dead at the scene, and Quindetempaguy was transported by Empress ambulance to Danbury Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The New York State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit was called in to assist with the investigation, and Brewster Fire Department assisted with the accident and road closure. The roadway remained closed between Root Avenue and Route 6 until about 11:50 a.m.

A Fishkill man was killed Nov. 27 in a crash on the Taconic State Parkway in Putnam Valley.

According to the New York State Police, at about 11:50 a.m., Michael Fitzgerald, 58, was traveling southbound just south of Route 301 in a Toyota Rav4 when he left the roadway for unknown reasons, struck a rock

embankment, and the vehicle became fully engulfed in flames. He was pronounced deceased at the scene by members of the Putnam Valley Fire Department and Empress EMS paramedics.

New York State Police responded Nov. 27 at about 10:35 a.m. to assist Carmel Police Department with a subject fleeing a domestic incident on Interstate-84.

According to CPD, Noel Mendez Jr., 47, of Fairview, N.J., operating a rented Chevrolet Express van, allegedly struck several marked Carmel units intentionally while fleeing the domestic incident.

Troopers caught up with the pursuit on I-84 and followed Mendez onto the Taconic State Parkway southbound. Mendez reportedly struck multiple uninvolved vehicles before exiting the parkway into the Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, where he drove off-road – putting pedestrians in danger – before returning to the parkway traveling northbound.

He exited onto Route 6, then took Strawberry Lane, and Oscawana Lake Road, where troopers initiated contact with Mendez and terminated the pursuit. He was taken into custody and charged with third-degree unlawful fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle, fourth-degree criminal mischief, and reckless driving, all misdemeanors.

Continued on Page 12

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'Safe Me' Sticker Program Gains Popularity

The "Safe Me" special needs registry and sticker program is gaining popularity.

The "Safe Me" program began as a joint project between Carmel Police Department and the Mahopac Special Education Parent-Teacher Organization. While many police departments in the area have a special needs registry, there was no easy way to relay to first responders at an emergency any helpful information on file for those with special needs or communications challenges.

In an emergency, if a driver or other loved one is incapacitated, leaving a non-verbal or incapable individual to speak for themselves, the sticker

will alert emergency personnel that their home police department retains helpful information for that person. Ideally, this will



include identifying information and emergency contacts.

First responders can identify

the issuing police department by the patch on the sticker and use the QR code to quickly access that department's phone number. The QR code only scans to the issuing police department's phone number, so no sensitive information is exposed.

With the support of Mahopac and Carmel schools' SEPTOs, and a number of local police departments (Kent, Yorktown, Mamaroneck, and others), it is hoped the program will expand to help keep those with special needs in the community safe.

Parents or police agencies interested in the program may email CPDCRT@ci.carmel.ny.us or call 845-628-1300.

Nutrition Corner

By Allison J. Stowell
MS, RD, CDN



Holiday Season Self-Care

This holiday season will go quite quickly, with the school break coming in just over two weeks. This means that holiday shows, concerts, recitals, cookie exchanges and more will seemingly all happen at once. Let's make sure your personal wellness remains a priority with some easy tips that keep your own self-care at the top of the list:

Exercise: Find at least 10 minutes daily for exercise. While more would be better, even 10 minutes reminds you to stay on track with fitness. Vary it day to day to hit different muscle groups.

Breath or meditate: You may just have five minutes. But if you use it to sit, breathe, and regroup it will have a positive impact on your holiday season.

Maintain a regular sleep schedule: This is critical for keeping up with the daily tasks this time of year presents.

Be the person that brings the veggie dish: When you're asked to contribute to a pot-luck meal, bring a veggie dish to ensure there is something nutritious to balance other offerings. Visit Hannaford.com for many crowd-pleasing ideas.

Moderate your alcohol intake: Mocktails and non-alcoholic beverages are more popular than ever. Let this trend guide you toward less alcohol consumption.

Simple meals: Ensure that a balanced meal is minutes away with easy recipes and smart shopping that includes more "better-for-you" convenience items that help you quickly build nutritious plates.

Say "no": Sometimes the best thing you can do for yourself is pass on an invitation. Try to balance your commitments with time to restore yourself.

Make time to do good: Donate your time, food, or needed items to local non-profit organizations. Then think outside the box when it comes to gifts for family and friends that may need help or support. Offering your time, a meal, a ride to an appointment, or help with other tasks may be more meaningful than

any gift you could consider.
Allison Stowell MS, RD, CDN is a registered dietitian for Hannaford Supermarket. For more information on free, virtual nutrition classes and more, email astowell@hannaford.com or visit Hannaford.com/dietitians. For more on the Guiding Stars nutrition guidance program, visit GuidingStars.com.

Tortellini en Brodo (2 Guiding Stars) Hannaford.com

When you're seeking a dose of comfort, this incredibly simple Italian dish will hit the spot. This recipe adds spinach and mushrooms to make the dish a little heartier.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
 - 1 (8-oz.) package sliced mushrooms
 - 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
 - 2 (32-oz.) boxes low-sodium chicken broth
 - 1 (15-oz.) package four cheese tortellini
 - 1 lemon, quartered
 - 1 (5-oz.) package baby spinach
 - Grated Parmesan and/or chopped parsley, to serve (optional)

- Directions:**
- In a large pot, heat oil over medium-high. Add mushrooms and season with salt and pepper. Cook until tender and browned in spots, about 6 to 8 minutes. Add garlic and cook 30 seconds, until fragrant. Add chicken broth to the pot and bring to a boil over high. Add tortellini and cook until al dente according to package directions. Remove the pot from the heat. Squeeze 2 lemon quarters into the pot and season the broth with salt and pepper. Add spinach. Cover and let stand for 5 minutes, until spinach has wilted.

Divide tortellini, broth and vegetables among bowls. Garnish with remaining lemon quarters and Parmesan, if using.

Mixed Berry Whole-Wheat Muffins

(Family Features)
Mixed Berry
Whole-Wheat Muffins

- Ingredients:**
- 1 1/4 c white whole-wheat flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1/8 teaspoon salt
 - 1 large egg
 - 1/2 c maple syrup
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 - 3/4 c plain nonfat Greek yogurt
 - 3/4 c unsweetened applesauce
 - 1/2 c chopped strawberries
 - 1/2 c blueberries

Directions:
Preheat oven to 400 F. Grease muffin pan and set aside.
In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In separate large bowl, mix egg, maple syrup, vanilla, yogurt



and applesauce. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Do not overmix. Fold in strawberries and blueberries. Pour batter into prepared muffin tin, filling cups about 3/4 full.

Bake 15 minutes, or until tops are golden brown and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Remove from oven and let cool in muffin tin 5 minutes before removing.

Servings: 12
Source: Healthy Family Project

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Caples Jefferson Architects has been selected to design and develop a creative center at the former Melrose School in Brewster.

Architect Selected to Transform Former Melrose School

Copland House Plans Arts & Cultural Hub in Brewster

Copland House, the award-winning creative center for American music and the arts based at legendary composer Aaron Copland's national historic landmark home in Cortlandt Manor, recently announced its selection of Caples Jefferson Architects to plan, design, and develop Bluestone Farm – its recently-purchased satellite venue in Brewster.

Founded by Sara Caples and Everardo Jefferson in 1987, Caples Jefferson Architects has been widely honored for its many cultural, educational, and civic projects. With a strong commitment to creating architecture at the intersection of social justice, the arts, and learning, the firm devotes approximately half of its projects to communities underserved by the design profession.

The two principals were just elected as national academicians of the National Academy of Design in recognition of their contributions to contemporary American art and architecture.

The \$3 million, 24-acre former grade-school campus in Brewster is the focal point of Copland House's transformational programmatic and institutional expansion. Bluestone Farm will enable Copland House to substantially extend its artistic support, audience reach, public presentations, educational engagement, and programs that uniquely embrace and champion the entire creative process.

The property will serve as a meeting place where artists, music and arts lovers, cultural adventurers, and newcomers of all ages, backgrounds, and identities are welcomed into a world of ongoing exploration, discovery, and innovation.

"We love that the campus builds on the foundational legacy of Aaron Copland, whose compositions brought our nation's music to new levels," said Caples and Jefferson. "We look to find ways, as Copland did, to create experiences that go deep into our art while providing accessible enjoyment to all. And we're

excited by the game-changing possibilities that will result as Copland House's compelling vision reshapes its new campus as a pivotal location for creation and performance. We're deeply honored to be working on this verdant, hilly site, re-centering it in contemporary American sound."

For 50 years, until the mid-2010s, Bluestone Farm was the site of the beloved Episcopal grade school known as the Melrose School. Prior to that, in the 1940s and 50s, it was the country home of the pioneering lyricist and author Dorothy Fields – one of the first women to flourish on Broadway. Copland House's revival of the bucolic property aims to bring it back to its modern-era roots as a home for creativity, learning, reflection, and public engagement.

Offering both a serene location and ready public access by car, train, and air, the heart of the wooded property is a 25,000-square-foot, three-wing school building that is surrounded by three residential houses, an intimate stand-alone chapel, small farm outbuildings, and a large outdoor soccer field.

Copland House plans to develop a state-of-the-art performance, recording, film, educational, and distance-learning venue; artist studios and living quarters for composer-led resident creative teams working collaboratively in theater, dance, opera, the visual arts, and other genres; exterior gardens and green spaces for leisure, public performances, and other presentations; administrative offices; and interior and exterior exhibition and gathering areas.

Copland House's programmatic and institutional growth will complement the continuing and essential role of Rock Hill – its decades-old residence in Westchester County, which is a National Historic Landmark that stands as the organization's institutional and inspirational home.

"Caples Jefferson (Architects) has had long expertise and an

impressive track record in a wide variety of cultural, theatrical, and civic projects," said Ezriel Kornel, president of Copland House's Board of Trustees. "We were deeply impressed with their understanding of our mission, as well as their readiness to work in collaboration with us to fully realize our vision and specific needs. They've also been clearly moved by the historical nature of this project and how this will be transformative on the national arts scene."

Cookie Sale Fundraiser

Arts on the Lake's annual cookie and gift fundraising event is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes.

This popular event features homemade cookie recipes not found in stores. Sold by the pound, partakers find that the selection of scrumptious sweets and more make great gifts for the family and friends.

While at AotL, view the

holiday model train show open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Jan. 26. This year's layout has expanded with new tracks and trains, including the Nutcracker Railroad. In addition, there are three Victorian miniature interior scenes on display.

If you can help by donating cookies or being a vendor, email office@artsonthelake.org.

For more information, visit www.artsonthelake.org.

We Will Miss

Brewster

Daniel J. Pironti, 83, November 25, Beecher Funeral Home, Brewster, NY, (845) 279-3615.

Carmel

Joan J. DeMarzo, 89, November 28, Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

Mahopac

Anthony "Tony" Horree, 63, November 29, Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., Mahopac, (845) 225-5655.

Patterson

Donald Pompa, 68, December 1, Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel, (845) 225-3672.

Putnam Valley

Raymond Carra, 89, December 1, Heritage Funeral Home, Putnam Valley, (845) 526-3000.

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ARE YOU READY FOR THE SUMMER SEASON?

Brewster Students Encouraged to Become ‘Sweethearts & Heroes’



Tom Murphy shows students how they can become superheroes.



Purple Heart Recipient Rick Yarosh with a student after the recent assembly.

Brewster High School recently hosted a different type of assembly.

“We’ve never had a

presentation like this before,” said Taylor Slavkin. “It was so touching and personal. The story about the little girl who gave hope

to Rick when he didn’t expect it was so moving.”

Sweethearts & Heroes, a duo of superheroes without capes

comprised of Tom Murphy and Purple Heart Recipient Rick Yarosh, spoke to ninth- and 10th-graders about how they can

activate their own superpowers of compassion, empathy, and “HOPE” (hold on possibilities exist) in their classrooms and beyond.

“We implement practices and habits that genuinely empower and nurture students’ growth,” said Murphy. “When people genuinely connect on a daily basis, they naturally develop the capacity for more meaningful interactions and thoughtful responses. Prioritizing human skills shouldn’t require extra preparation or a separate curriculum – it should be our primary focus. After all, before we can effectively teach academic subjects, we must first be teachers of humanity.”

For more than 16 years, Sweethearts & Heroes has presented what Murphy calls “the stop, drop and roll of bullying prevention” to more than 2.5 million students in school districts from New England to Hawaii, as well as Canada.

The auditorium immediately went quiet when Yarosh appeared on stage in his wheelchair.

Yarosh was on a patrol in the Abu Ghraib region of Iraq when the vehicle he was traveling in was hit by an improvised explosive device. The blast ruptured the fuel cell and caused the vehicle to burst into flames. As a result, Yarosh suffered burns over more than half of his body, had his right leg amputated below the knee, and lost the use of his hands.

“After my accident, I had no hope. I was lost,” he said. “One day a little girl came up to me. I said ‘Hi,’ but she ran off and I thought to myself, she’s scared. Instead, she said to her father, ‘He’s so nice.’ I didn’t expect that at all. That little girl didn’t realize it, but she dumped a bucket of hope on me that changed my life forever. I am asking you to give hope to others and become a sweetheart like that little girl did for me.”

When the assembly ended, there was a line of students who approached Yarosh to shake his hand, tell him how they felt about his story, and take a selfie with the veteran. In sharing his story, Yarosh taught the students about hope and gave them tools they can use to become part of the solution.

The students walked away from the assembly understanding there are choices they can make, as well as simple ways to jump into action and make a positive change.

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Putnam County Community Events

Santa Letters

Children can write letters to Santa using stationery provided in the children's room at Brewster Public Library, or drop off a letter from home in the special mailbox near the circulation desk, before Dec. 16. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope to guarantee a response from Santa.

'Buy, Give, Get'

The "Buy, Give, Get" coats program has returned to Ocean State Job Lot and will run through Jan. 1, when any customer who buys a winter coat for \$40 and gives it back to the store as a donation to a veteran in need will get a \$40 gift card, to be used for a future purchase online or at any Ocean State Job Lot store. This year's program has been expanded to include donations to those impacted by the recent hurricanes.

Coat Drive

Putnam Community Action Partnership is accepting donations of new (with tags on) children's winter coats (age 0 to 18), dropped off at 121 Main St., Brewster, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Shelter &

Warming Station

Starting at 8:30 p.m. daily through March, those who find themselves without housing may show up at 577 N. Main St., Brewster, inside the sports complex; or call 845-279-6146. The daytime warming center is also open at the same location, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hot meals, a safe space to sleep, a place to bathe and launder clothes, and a communal atmosphere are offered.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Drew Thrift Shop Sale

Drew Thrift Shop on Gleneida Avenue in Carmel will hold its annual Christmas sale Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 10 and 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cello Music

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will host "Winter Holidays on the Cello with Alex Prizgintas" on Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. Enjoy jazz, rock, klezmer and traditional styles. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Cookie Decorating

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will host a children's craft afternoon Dec. 10 featuring cookie decorating with Pink Sugar Pastries at 4:30 p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Carmel Town Board

The Carmel Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. at Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Balloon

Twisting Workshop

Teens age 12 to 18 are invited to the Kent Public Library on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. for a balloon twisting class. Learn the basics of balloon twisting and how to create a variety of animals and shapes. After completing the class, participants may earn community service hours by volunteering at events. Register at <https://kentlibrary.org>.

'Throw-Back Tech Basics'

Mahopac Public Library will host "Throw-Back Tech Basics" on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 12:30 p.m. Do you have home movies on VHS? Want to listen to an old mix tape again? The library has the tools to convert old media (cassettes, VHS, 8mm reels) into digital formats that can be accessed on a computer and easily shared. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Marine Corps League

The Marine Corps League Putnam County Detachment meets the second Wednesday each month. For membership, email MCLPutnamCountyNY242@gmail.com.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Holiday Crafts

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will host holiday crafts for children age 3 to 5 years Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

High School Concert

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will host the Carmel High School Musicians Concert on Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. Enjoy the sounds of woodwind, string, and vocals and get into the spirit of the holiday season. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Resume Help

Mahopac Public Library will present "Improve Your Resume with Practical Strategies: on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 10 a.m. Learn how to help your resume stand out and communicate your strengths. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

'5000 Blankets'

Patterson Library will screen "5000 Blankets" on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. A woman and her son's search for her missing husband among Fort Worth's homeless leaves them unable to ignore the plight of their community's most vulnerable population. A comment from the boy sparks a movement to inspire a city to help unhoused people in need. Rated PG-13. Adults 18 and older. Register at www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Busted Canvas Workshop

Brewster Public Library will hold a festive holiday bust-out canvas workshop for ages 18 and older, Thursday, Dec. 12 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This hands-on program invites adults of all skill levels to create their own holiday-themed artwork on canvas. Registration is required at Brewsterlibrary.org.

Friday, Dec. 13

'That Time of the Year'

The Brewster Theater Company will present the musical revue "That Time of the Year," on Friday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m., at The Theater at Drew Church, 28 Gleneida Ave., Carmel. Tickets are available at brewstertheater.org or at the door.

Make Ornaments

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel will host an adult holiday craft, creating festive holiday ornaments, Dec. 13 at 1

p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Teen Trivia

Mahopac Public Library will host a teen trivia night – holiday edition, Friday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. Compete in various rounds of trivia to win a prize. Teens will be divided into groups of four to make teams. The team with the most correct answers wins. For information, please email Amanda at astalcup@mahopaclibrary.org.

Holiday Concert

The Putnam Chorale will present "With Strings Attached," a holiday concert, Friday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., at St. James the Apostle Church, 14 Gleneida Ave., Carmel; Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 83 Main St., Brewster; and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m., at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard St., Beacon. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors, and can be purchased on site the day of the event or online at putnamchorale.ticketleap.com.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Vendor Fair

A holiday vendor fair is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 625 Route 6, Mahopac. Free entry. Shop local. Photos with Santa.

Festival of Trees

The Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition presents its annual Festival of Trees at Old Town Hall Theater, 67 Main St., Brewster, with viewings Saturdays, Dec. 14 and 21 from noon to 2 p.m. Free.

Wreaths Across America

The Putnam County Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol will celebrate Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, Dec. 14 beginning at noon at Raymond Hill Cemetery in Carmel. Wreaths will also be placed at Gilead Cemetery. To sponsor a veteran wreath for \$17, go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/27878.

Gingerbread Houses

Children in grades five through eight are invited to Kent Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m., to create a gingerbread house. Kids in grades nine through 12 may make their houses at 12:30 p.m. Register at <https://kentlibrary.org>.

Holiday Festival

A holiday festival is scheduled Dec. 14 from 3 to 6 p.m. next to Patterson Library, including a tree lighting and decorated vehicle parade. Vendors will sell jewelry and home décor, glassware, home goods, skincare and cosmetics, candles, hats and scarves, engraved items and more.

Concert

Enjoy a holiday concert featuring singer/songwriters John Farrell and Ann Marie Farrell on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Brewster Public Library. Registration is recommended at brewsterlibrary.org.

Holiday Houses

Kids age 3 and older can create houses out of graham crackers, candy canes, and an assortment of colorful sweets Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10:15 to 11 a.m., or 11:15

a.m. to noon, at Brewster Public Library. Registration is required at Brewsterlibrary.org.

Sunday, Dec. 15

Cash Bingo

The Carmel Knights of Columbus Council 6318 ladies auxiliary will host Cash Bingo on Sunday, Dec. 15, with doors opening at 1 p.m. and the first game at 2 p.m., at 10 Fair St., Carmel. \$35 via Eventbrite.com or \$40 at the door. Concessions, bell jar, raffles and more.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Kids age 3 and older can enjoy a storytime with a fuzzy friend Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 4:30 to 5 p.m., then leave their stuffed animal for a library sleepover they will never forget. Pick them up the next day after 1 p.m. and find out what they were up to when you were away. Registration is required at brewsterlibrary.org.

Kent Town Board

The Kent Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. at Town Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Reiki

Reed Memorial Library will host "Reiki Refresh: Cleansing the Energy of 2024 & Preparing for 2025" on Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Google Docs Basics

Learn the Basics of Google Docs during a program Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Mahopac Public Library. Google Docs makes it easy to collaborate with others. This free word processing tool can save a subscription to Microsoft 365. Create your first Google Doc, share it with others, and leave comments. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Patterson Town Board

The Patterson Town Board will meet Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mingle & Jingle

Mingle with friends and get in the holiday spirit at Patterson Library's Mingle & Jingle on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at noon. Enjoy light refreshments and festivities, followed by the movie, "The Holiday" at 1 p.m. Adults 18 and older. To register, call 845-878-6121 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Gift Wrapping

Teen volunteers will be providing holiday gift wrapping at Mahopac Public Library on Dec. 18, 19 and 20 at 4:30 p.m., via 15-minute appointed sessions. Patrons can bring up to five gifts. To set up an appointment, email Amanda at astalcup@mahopaclibrary.org.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Southeast Town Board

The Southeast Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. at Town Hall on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Mahopac

Library Meetings

The Mahopac Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 19, Jan. 23, Feb.

27, March 27, April 24 and May 22. The annual meeting is June 2 (7 p.m.), with the reorganizational meeting July 10.

Kids Crafts

Reed Memorial Library will host children's holiday crafts Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

'Espionage in the HV'

Patterson Library will host "Espionage and Intrigue in the Hudson Valley During the American Revolution" on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. During the American Revolution, the Hudson Valley was a hotbed for espionage. Join local teacher Rob Buccheri for a journey into the stories of spies and divided loyalties during our nation's struggle for independence. Adults 18 and older. Register at www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Friday, Dec. 20

Dungeons & Dragons

Reed Memorial Library will host a Dungeons & Dragons program Dec. 20 at 12:30 p.m. Registration is required at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Christmas Concert

MCB Church will present a Christmas concert with the Rev. Timothy Mercaldo of worshipplus.org on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m., at 76 Gleneida Ave., Carmel. Mercaldo is a singer, pianist, storyteller and preacher. Open to the public. Free. Parking is available in the Wenco Plaza lot off of Fair Street.

Thursday, Jan. 2

Game Challenge

Mahopac Public Library will host a kids versus teens game challenge Thursday, Jan. 2 at 2 p.m. Challenge a teen to board games, chess, checkers, card games, electronic games and more. Bring a favorite from home. For children in kindergarten through grade five and teens in grades six and up. Register online at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 139.

Republican

Women's Club

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

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 The First United Methodist Church
 83 Main Street, BREWSTER

Sunday December 15 • 2pm
 St. Joachim Church
 51 Leonard Street, BEACON

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Mahopac elementary school students “stuff a bus” for the St. John Food Pantry.

Mahopac Students Collect Donations for Food Pantry

In the days leading up to Thanksgiving, students from Austin Road Elementary School and Lakeview Elementary School brought nonperishable food donations to school, where they filled up school buses to be delivered to St. John the Evangelist Food Pantry in Mahopac.

“Stuff the Bus, sponsored by our Lakeview and Austin Road Parent-Teacher Organizations, has become a cherished tradition in our school communities,” said Lakeview Elementary School Principal Elizabeth Blessing. “It’s heartwarming to see our students’ excitement as they

bring in donations, demonstrating their kindness and generosity. This initiative is a wonderful opportunity for our entire school community to come together and make a meaningful impact.”

Austin Road Elementary School Principal Bryan Gilligan expressed gratitude toward all families who donated items for the food drive.

“St. John Food Pantry was delighted to receive all the donations from our community,” he said. “We also want to extend our gratitude to the parent volunteers who assisted in collecting and delivering the donations to the pantry.”

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Brewster seventh- and eighth-graders recently performed for the entire school.

Brewster Middle School Holds Holiday Concert for Peers

The Henry H. Wells Middle School auditorium was filled to capacity for the first in-school holiday concert featuring the seventh and eighth grade orchestras and bands, and the mixed-grade chorus.

“Hello, Wells Middle School, we are excited to play for you!” said band teacher Kelsey

Marrocco.

The music was lively and festive, and perfectly selected for the middle school set, featuring each section of the orchestras and bands with lots of plucking and trilling and percussion, and some “ho ho hos.”

Some of the selections included “Winter Wonderland,”

“Bazaar” by Randal Standridge, “Terra Nova,” and “Santa the Barbarian.”

One seventh-grader was duly impressed, saying, “Wow, they were really good. That was great.”

Wells music teachers include Marrocco, Karlie Leahy, Dan Milici and Hideo Schwartz.



Photo courtesy of Project FeederWatch.

Join the 38th Season of Project FeederWatch

Monitor Birds & More Near Home

Project FeederWatch continues with its 38th year, gathering information about how bird populations are faring across the U.S. and Canada – vital information for conservation. This year, participants can continue to share details about squirrels, deer, raccoons, bears, or other mammals they see at their count sites, in addition to birds.

The FeederWatch season takes place through April 30. FeederWatch is also asking for reports of sick birds and for information about how watching birds impacts people’s sense of well-being.

“We are trying to accomplish several things with these new data,” said project leader Emma Greig. “If participants see sick birds or a predation event, for example, how does it change how they feel overall about birds and bird feeding? We are also trying to understand if seeing squirrels, deer, or other mammals affects human behavior or changes the way people feel about offering supplementary food to birds.”

FeederWatchers make periodic two-day counts at

designated watch sites through April, spending as much or as little time as they wish. Even counting birds once or twice all season has value. People can also report what they see to FeederWatch even if they don’t have a bird feeder.

“FeederWatch has been used for so many bird population and behavior studies over the years,” said Greig. “Recently, data from FeederWatchers are helping scientists understand large-scale climate fluctuations across the continent and the impact climate change is having on birds.”

Project FeederWatch is a joint research and education project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Sign up at feederwatch.org to join the record-high contingent of FeederWatch participants from both the U.S. and Canada. The participation fee in the U.S. is \$18.

Project FeederWatch is made possible by the contributions of thousands of volunteers and supporters, including Armstrong Bird Food and Wild Birds Unlimited.

Article provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

State Funding Supports Paving of Route 312

A total of \$3.5 million in state funds to resurface Route 312 from west of the Metro-North Railroad to Route 22 in the Town of Southeast has been awarded, announced Gov. Kathy Hochul last week.

The funding is part of \$100 million to enhance the resiliency of state highways in 70 locations across New York impacted by extreme weather. With support from the Infrastructure & Jobs Act, a total of 551 lane miles of state highways in every region will be repaved.

The State Department of Transportation is already responding to snow and ice events all across New York.

Paving investments in the

face of extreme weather help ensure that state highways remain in good repair and have the added benefit of making it easier for staff to perform snow and ice operations more effectively and efficiently.

“Targeted infrastructure investments not only enhance public safety, but the resiliency and sustainability of New York’s vast network of roads and bridges,” said NYS Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Dominguez. “Smart transportation investments have the ability to bring people and communities together, and that’s just what this investment in our critical infrastructure will do across New York State.”

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Funds for EMS Planning

Putnam County has been awarded \$39,382 in federal funding to support planning and operational readiness for disaster response.

The award is part of more than \$7.4 million being directed to county emergency management agencies in New York State through the annual federal Emergency Management Performance Grant, provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

This funding assists efforts ranging from the development and implementation of training and exercises, to acquiring emergency response resources at the county level.

To receive funding, counties must develop projects or

initiatives that strengthen their own readiness and response capabilities to address all potential hazards. Projects may focus on addressing efforts identified by FEMA as needing national improvement, including logistics and distribution management planning, evacuation planning, disaster financial management, catastrophic disaster housing, and resilient communications.

"Emergency management agencies at the county level play vital roles in readiness and disaster response," said NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Commissioner Jackie Bray. "This funding will help our counties and New York get important training and other resources to help keep

their neighbors safe in the event of an emergency."

Funding may be used to support management and administration activities, planning, staffing for emergency management agencies, equipment, training and exercises, construction and renovation of emergency operations centers, and maintenance and sustainment of GIS and interoperable communications systems.

The New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services administers this funding on behalf of FEMA and will be in contact with each jurisdiction's emergency management office directly to ensure these funds are made available as quickly as possible.



Kent Primary School Principal Vincent Fino promotes kindness among Carmel youth.

Kindness is Contagious at Kent Primary

Every day last month at Kent Primary School started with a dose of kindness.

When they saw a classmate being kind, students of all grades submitted kindness "snippets" to a "kindness jar" across from the school office. Each day, Principal Vincent Fino picked a few snippets, or notes, that describe the good deeds student witnessed to read during morning announcements.

On a recent day, Fino shared the following good deeds:

"I saw Joey show kindness today by letting me play with him."

"I saw Riley show kindness today by giving me a tissue when I was crying."

"I saw Michael show kindness by helping Arthur up when he fell."

This was not just a

Thanksgiving holiday effort, but part of the district's philosophy of positive behavior intervention and supports, in which administrators celebrate students when they show good character or kindness as a strategy to make good behavior contagious.

The KPS Parent-Teacher-Organization also set an example of kindness by providing breakfast and hot coffee for the bus drivers on the Monday before Thanksgiving, to thank them for getting children safely to and from school every day.

"Is that hot coffee?" Driver Robert Reilly asked when he spotted the coffee urn. "This is so nice of the PTO."

Reilly has been driving a bus for the Carmel Central School District for more than two decades and said he has seen countless acts of kindness over the years.

Report: Preschool Special Ed Services Need Better Oversight

Preschool students in need of special education services are not always getting the help they need, or are getting services late, according to an audit released last week by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

The audit of the State Department of Education found many local school districts maintain waitlists for services because there are not enough providers, and SED's oversight of services was hindered because it did not know how many students were enrolled in the preschool special education program, the services they are receiving in real time, or the number of districts using waitlists.

"Providing timely, quality early education services to preschool children with special needs can make a world of difference in their development, and delays can have long-term consequences for their academic futures," said DiNapoli. "Too many children are not getting the services and therapies they are entitled to within required timeframes, and some are not getting the services at all. The State Education Department and school districts must do a better job serving these students."

Children who are referred for special education services undergo a parent-approved evaluation within prescribed timeframes, and if approved, an Individualized Education Program is developed. The services recommended under the child's IEP are supposed to start within 60 school days of receiving parental consent. School districts are responsible for ensuring services are provided in the 60-day timeframe.

Eligible students are entitled to all services prescribed in the IEPs under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

DiNapoli's audit found many children are not getting services they need and some are not getting them in the required timeframe. Of 550 school districts (not including New York City) that responded to an audit survey, 83 percent said they have a waitlist for services. In site visits to an additional 40 districts, auditors found 21 (53 percent) that also maintained waitlists – which accounted for a total of 301 students who were waiting for services.

The State Education Department acknowledged that waitlists are in violation of the requirement that students with disabilities receive the IEP programs and services to which they are entitled, but does not know how many students are not receiving required services. SED does not have the data it needs to be aware of the challenges, such as provider shortages, that school districts face in fulfilling the services mandate that force the need for waitlists – and has been unable to support them in a solution.

The State Education Department does not collect any information on school districts' waitlists to identify potential need issues, nor does it monitor how districts choose waitlisted students for services to ensure fairness in selection and placement. Without knowing how many waitlists are in use across the state or how long those waitlists are, SED also has no awareness of how many students are not getting all or some of their services they're entitled to, or what services are most in need and where.

DiNapoli's audit also found that the State Education Department's division that monitors preschool special education services, Special Education Quality Assurance, reviews only one-sixth of the state's school districts (118 of 710) annually for compliance with requirements. As a result, there is a delay in addressing problems with student eligibility and enrollment, as well as in identifying where schools are facing provider shortages.

Discrepancies among various State Education Department data systems and sources result in unreliable information regarding services provided, and SED's lack of analysis of the information it does have limits its ability to monitor issues at school districts, such as unserved students or delayed evaluations, said DiNapoli.

His audit made seven recommendations to SED, including that it develop a strategy to address the statewide shortage of preschool special education service providers and work with districts to identify ways to obtain the necessary services; increase monitoring of districts to strengthen the timeliness of

evaluations, IEPs, and regional service needs in real time; identify districts that need immediate review of their preschool special education services; and create data controls to ensure complete and accurate records.

The State Education Department agreed with the audit recommendations, noting that it shared many of the concerns raised in the report, and said its Office of Special Education is working on a long-term project for a real-time data system the agency believes will help districts and parents identify programs to meet children's needs.



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'Think Big, Shop Small'

The state is encouraging New Yorkers to support local businesses during the holiday shopping season by highlighting the critical role small businesses play in building vibrant communities.

"Every thriving Main Street tells a story of small business success," said Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight. "By choosing to shop local, we empower these businesses to flourish, ensuring our neighborhoods remain vibrant and resilient. These enterprises do more than drive our economy – they create first jobs for young people, spark innovation in every sector, and preserve the distinctive character of our communities."

Small businesses, defined as those with fewer than 100 employees, represent 98 percent of all businesses in the state, employing nearly 40 percent of the private-sector workforce.

In the retail sector alone, New York is home to more than 71,000 stores, with nearly 79 percent – approximately 55,000 – being independent local retailers. These enterprises are vital economic engines, with retail establishments contributing \$40.1 billion in wages in 2023 and projected to generate \$507 billion in sales in 2024, providing more than \$20.3 billion in state sales tax revenue.

Of New York's small businesses, about 8.1 percent are retailers, forming an essential part of local economies as they drive community growth, foster neighborhood identity, and keep billions of dollars circulating within communities.

Empire State Development powers small business growth through strategic investments and innovative support programs that address current market challenges. Through the State Small Business Credit Initiative, ESD has committed nearly \$100 million to help entrepreneurs access capital and expand their operations. New York's network of 26 entrepreneurship assistance centers offers technical support and training across the state.

Additionally, New York has streamlined access to resources through its digital Business Express platform, connecting entrepreneurs with millions in available funding opportunities, tax incentives, and specialized assistance programs designed to foster innovation and accelerate growth in every region of the state. Learn about ESD's small business and other programs at esd.ny.gov.

The New York State Department of Labor offers no-cost services for businesses of all sizes, including thousands of job postings at <https://dol.ny.gov/find-job-0>, access to tens of thousands of qualified

candidates, career fairs and customized recruitments, and human resources consultation services.

More than 25,000 businesses each year work with the Department of Labor to list their jobs, find the right candidates, access hiring and training incentives, obtain business tax credits and incentives, get help with one-on-one labor law and safety and health compliance services, and find layoff aversion resources. For more information, visit: www.labor.ny.gov/business.

The New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets supports New York's agricultural industry, which boasts nearly 32,000 farms, 700 farmers' markets and farm stands, and thousands of small agribusinesses. The department supports farms and food and beverage businesses by providing critical services that enhance business and increase productivity, profitability, and competitiveness.

Additionally, the Taste NY program showcases New York farmers and food and beverage businesses at large public events and at more than 70 Taste NY locations across the state.

Also, the online marketplace ShopTasteNY.com offers opportunities to shop for New York agricultural products and gifts from the comfort of home.

SAT Prep Scam Alert

As high school students prepare for the next round of SAT tests, the New York Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection is warning both parents and students about SAT prep scams.

SAT scores can influence college admissions and scholarship rewards, and as a result, many parents and students seek out tutors and test prep materials to help prepare for the exam.

In a new scam, parents are receiving calls claiming to be from the College Board or other educational institutions about prep materials their child requested at school. Often, the caller may have the student's name and the school they attend, making the caller seem legitimate. However, the caller asks for an address and a credit card number for a deposit, claiming the deposit will be refunded once the test prep material is returned.

According to the Better Business Bureau's scam tracker, parents who gave their information never received material and lost their deposit, and now the scammer has their credit card information, as well.

"Prepping for and taking the SATs can be stressful enough without having to worry about scammers taking advantage of you with new, convincing tactics that seem legitimate," said Secretary of State Walter Mosley. "As young New Yorkers prepare for the upcoming round of tests, we are urging both parents and students to be vigilant in protecting their sensitive information. Do your research before offering

any payments and remember, you should not share personal or financial information over the phone with unsolicited callers."

The College Board is the organization responsible for the SAT exams. It offers free materials to prepare for the SATs on its website. The College Board will call to follow up on student inquiries but does not make unsolicited calls or ask for credit card/bank information or passwords over the phone. More information is available at <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice>.

If a caller says they are calling about a request from your child, let the caller know you need to confirm with your child before you talk to them. If you need to call the College Board back so you can confirm with your child, call it directly at 866-680-9990.

If the caller claims to be with another educational organization besides the College Board, research the organization before deciding to work with it. Search for the organization name and reported scams or complaints, and ask other parents if they have worked with the organization.

The New York State Division of Consumer Protection provides voluntary mediation between a consumer and a business when a consumer has been unsuccessful at reaching a resolution on their own.

The Consumer Assistance Helpline at 1-800-697-1220 is available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays, and consumer complaints can be filed at any time at www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection.

New Assistant Super of Biz at Carmel Schools

Ken Silver has been appointed assistant superintendent of business for Carmel Central School District, bringing decades of experience as a business leader in districts throughout Westchester and Dutchess counties to Carmel.

He will start Jan. 6.

"Mr. Silver has the expertise we need for this vital position," said Carmel School Board President Melissa Orser. "In addition to his vast experience in budgeting, financial management, forecasting and contract negotiations, he has been instrumental in starting programs that have allowed districts to share services and cut costs."

Silver is currently assistant superintendent for business in the Poughkeepsie City School District,

and previously worked in Mount Vernon, Edgemont, and Dobbs Ferry, among other districts.

While in Dobbs Ferry, Silver launched the first cooperative health insurance program, which included 23 school districts, and established the first multidistrict cooperative transportation program, which involved four districts. His regional approach has provided cost savings for taxpayers in each of the districts.

"After a careful search, I think we found the right person for Carmel schools," wrote Superintendent Dr. Erin Meehan-Fairben in a letter to the community. "Mr. Silver is a team builder whose deep background will make him an asset in all areas of district operations."

Fatal Accidents, Police Chase & Drug Charges

Continued from Page 3

Mendez was issued an appearance ticket returnable to Putnam Valley Town Court and released to the custody of Carmel P.D.

A Patterson man is facing a drug possession charge after being arrested last month by members

of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

At about 3:45 p.m. Nov. 15, members of the Narcotics Enforcement Unit stopped a vehicle heading westbound on Interstate 84 in Southeast. The driver, Randy Cascino, 35, who allegedly possessed suspected fentanyl, was taken into custody and transported to the Putnam County Correctional Facility in Carmel for processing.

Cascino was charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor, and released on his own recognizance with an appearance ticket.

FIND SHELTER

Winter Shelter

Overnight Shelter begins Dec. 1 at 8:30 pm
Meet for screening at 577 North Main Street
You must arrive before 9 pm.

Daytime warming center opens
Dec 2, hours 6:30 am-2:30 pm
Meet for screening at 577 North Main Street

BREWSTER  cares

31 Prospect Street, Brewster, NY 10509 brewstercaresny.org 845-279-6146

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Carmel

LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received at the Office of the Town Clerk, Town of Carmel, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York 10541, until 11:00 AM on **January 23, 2025** at which time all bids will be publicly opened, read, and recorded by the Town Clerk for the following:

CONTRACT NO. C257 TOWN WIDE WATER STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION – STEEL TANKS CARMEL WATER DISTRICT #2

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

Specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Town Clerk, at the above address, beginning **December 10, 2024** between the hours of 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Copies of Bid Documents may be obtained upon receipt of \$50.00 per set; cash, certified check or money order payable to the Town of Carmel, **non-refundable**.

A **pre-bid conference** will be held on **December 19, 2024** at 10:00 AM, at the Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, New York 10541. The purpose of the pre-bid conference is to afford the prospective Bidders and interested parties an opportunity to raise questions pertaining to the Bidding and Contract Documents and for the OWNER or its representatives to clarify any points.

Bid envelope shall be marked **“BID”** plus bid title and number.

The Town Board of the Town of Carmel reserves the right to reject any and all bids and abandon the proposal or may reject all bids and re-advertise at a future date.

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

Carmel Schools

December 2, 2024 – Patterson, NY.

Please be advised that the Board of Education of the Carmel Central School District has scheduled meetings as follows. **Note:** Board meetings will be Live Streamed (not including committee meetings) at https://www.carmelschools.org/groups/15632/board_of_education/home_page.

Committee meetings are open to the public and attendance is welcome.

Board of Education meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. The Board will propose an immediate entry into Executive Session with a 30-minute limit. Public participation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Board of Education Committee Meetings, Matthew Paterson Elementary School
Room 166
Facilities & Transportation, 5:30 – 6:20 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Board of Education Meeting, Matthew Paterson Elementary

PUBLIC NOTICE

School Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.
Community members who wish to speak during the public comment section of the Board meeting are asked to sign up in advance using our Public Comment Sign-up Form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/SnQBCFWYy8>

Joanne Stevens
Clerk, Board of Education
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Kent

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

25 Sybil's Crossing
Kent Lakes, NY 10512

Agenda **December 16, 2024**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Kent will hold a Public Hearing on **December 16, 2024** at the Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY at 7:00 p.m. to review the following applications.

1. Marcin Cichocki
131 Woodland Drive
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-24-027- Remove existing shed and replace with (2) sheds: 10' x 13' and 12' X 23' x 8'. Request is for 8' rear variance for each shed.
TM# 33.27-2-42

2. Holly Ann Woolard
22 Roslyn Road
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-24-028-Requesting to install a 12 x 24 oval shaped above ground pool which requires a variance for 7' rear and a 10' right side.
TM# 22.82-1-23

3. Genaymaryn Marrero
1071 North Horsepound Road
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-24-021- Holdover from last month: Requesting a variance to extend rear of barn garage by 4' 6" on existing concrete pad.
Tax Map# 12.-1-25
4. Jonathan Willens & Julia Beardwood
127 Sagamore Drive
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-24-023- Hold over from last month. Proposal is for a new passive house. Variance request is for 150ft road frontage.
TM# 20.13-1-5
5. David Beresford
31 Anton Drive
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-24-024- Hold over from last month. Proposal is to build a house. Variance request for the lot is 50, 756 sq. ft.
Variance request for the width is 125 ft. Variance request for the highway frontage is 150 ft.
TM# 11.7-1-7

6. Maryann Kohan & Masoud Kohan
1299 Peekskill Hollow Road
Carmel, NY 10512

ZBA-24-026- Hold over from last month. Variance request is for two subdivisions.
Variances for Lot 1: Lot Width variance request is for 39 ft. Front Yard variance request is for 19.2 ft. Side variance request is for 15.7 ft.

Variances for Lot 2: Lot Width variance request is for 228.2 ft.
Road Frontage variance request is for 176 ft.
TM# 31.-1-2

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Board.

SITE INSPECTIONS ARE THE 2nd. SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. Between 9am & 10:00am CC: Town Clerk
Town Board
Zoning Board of Appeals Members
Planning Board Clerk
Wm. Walters, Building Inspector
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Southeast

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

that the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Southeast shall hold a public meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall, 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY, where the ZBA will conduct a work session to review potential applications and to deliberate on applications for which public hearings have been previously held. Thereafter, at or about 8:00 P.M., or as soon as interested parties may be heard, public hearings will be conducted on the following applications:

1. Christie & Eric Johnson, owners of property located at 419 Allview Avenue, Tax Map ID 67.18-1-8, seek to vary the terms of sections 138- of the Zoning Code as the same requires minimum setbacks of structures from adjoining property lines to permit the applicants to construct a shed which as proposed would be located 4' from the rear westerly property line where a minimum setback of 20' is required and 8' from the southerly side property line where a minimum setback of 20' is required in a R-60 zone.

2. David Palaia, owner of property located at 75 Vails Lakeshore Drive, Tax Map 79.-1-40.-78, seeks to vary the terms of sections 138-20' and 138-25 of the Zoning Code, as the same prohibits the expansion of non-conforming structures and provides for minimum setbacks of structures from adjoining property lines, to permit the applicant to construct/reconstruct a single family dwelling which, as proposed, would require the following variances: Front Yard (easterly) setback, 39' is proposed where a minimum of 50' is required; side yard (southerly) setback -16.5 ft is proposed where a minimum of 25' is required; side yard (northerly) setback - 15' is proposed where a minimum of 25' is required; and total side yard setback where 31.5' is proposed and a minimum of 70' is required in a R-40 zone.

By Order of the ZBA
Timothy Froessel, Chairman

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Supreme Court NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. PHYLLIS JULIANO AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF MARIA ELENA CASSESE, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on October 10, 2024, and Order Substituting Referee duly entered on October 10, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at courtroom 209 of the Putnam Supreme Courthouse, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY

PUBLIC NOTICE

10512 on December 23, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., premises known as 1 Cherry Lane, Putnam Valley, NY 10579. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 73.5, Block 2 and Lot 72. Approximate amount of judgment is \$235,869.37 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #500992/2023.

Ralph D. Amicucci, Esq., Referee

Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff
Firm File No.: 220827-2

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMONS Supreme Court of New York, Putnam County U.S. BANK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, AS SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST TO U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE CIM TRUST 2021-R2, MORTGAGE-BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2021-R2, Plaintiff -against- JOSEPH LICARIAS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE TO THE ESTATE OF DOMENICK LICARI A/K/A DOMINICK LICARI A/K/A DOMENICK L. LICARI; DEBRA RAIMUNDO AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE TO THE ESTATE OF DOMENICK LICARI A/K/A DOMINICK L. LICARI; RANDAL LICARI AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE TO THE ESTATE OF DOMENICK LICARI A/K/A DOMENICK L. LICARI; UNKNOWN HEIRS TO THE ESTATE OF DOMENICK LICARI A/K/A DOMINICK LICARI A/K/A DOMENICK L. LICARI; DLJ MORTGAGE CAPITAL, INC.; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (SOUTHERN DISTRICT) O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; PUTNAM COUNTY CLERK; HOUSEHOLD FINANCE REALTY CORPORATION OF NEW YORK; “JOHN DOE” AND “JANE DOE” said names being fictitious, it being the intention of Plaintiff to designate any and all occupants of premises herein, Defendants. Index No. 501148/2024. Mortgaged Premises: 346 Haviland Drive Patterson, NY 12563 Section: 25.47 Block: 2 Lot: 41 f/k/a Section: 57 Block: 5 Lot: 4 To The Above Named Defendant(s): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. If you fail to appear or to answer within the aforementioned time frame, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECTIVE of the above captioned action is to foreclose on a Mortgage and Consolidation Agreement to secure \$197,395.08 and interest, recorded in the Putnam County Clerk's Office on May 18, 2004 in Liber 4196,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Page 0052, Document Number 18188 covering the premises known as 346 Haviland Drive, Patterson, NY 12563. The relief sought herein is a final judgment directing sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the mortgage described above. Plaintiff designates Putnam County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is located. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. FRIEDMAN VARTOLO, LLP 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160 Garden City, New York 11530, Attorneys for Plaintiff.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF PUTNAM

FIRSTBANK,

-against-

CHARLES SAMUEL, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Putnam on October 22, 2024, wherein FIRSTBANK is the Plaintiff and CHARLES SAMUEL, 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 6, 2025 at 2:30PM, premises known as 69 EMPIRE DRIVE, PATTERSON, NY 12563; and the following tax map identification, 25.78-1-66.

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

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 500244/2023. Jack Elliot 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.**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, U.S.

PUTNAM COUNTY AND TOWN NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

BANK TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF THE BUNGALOW SERIES IV TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. LINDA M. COOPER, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Decision & Order & Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on October 29, 2024, 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 13, 2025 at 10:30 a.m., premises known as 15 Steiner Drive n/k/a 38 Steiner Drive, Mahopac, NY 10541. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 64.9, Block 1 and Lot 5. Approximate amount of judgment is \$616,868.60 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501476/2022.

Maureen Fleming, Esq., Referee

Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff
Firm File No.: 222812-1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF PUTNAM.

SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES, Plaintiff -against- UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW TO THE ESTATE OF NONA COLE a/k/a NONA M. COLE AND ANY OF HIS, HER OR ANY OF THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE, AND INTEREST, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated on November 7, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Carmel, County of Putnam and State of New York, known and designated as Home No. 28-H together with a 1.0608% undivided interest in the common elements.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SBL# 44.14-1-49.-828 f/k/a 16-3-1.-828

Said premises known as 28 WOODLAND TRAIL, CARMEL, NY 10512

Approximate amount of lien \$142,760.90 plus interest & costs.

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

Index Number 500723/2017.

RALPH D. AMICUCCI, ESQ., Referee

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

{* PUTNAM CO3*}

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK INDEX NO. 500027/2020 COUNTY OF PUTNAM

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Plaintiff, vs.

VICTORIA FRANCES WILLIS AKA VICTORIA F MULLER, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA A WILLIS; CAROL M WILLIS, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA A WILLIS; JOANNE MARIE WILLIS, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA A WILLIS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA A WILLIS, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors,

PUBLIC NOTICE

administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; "JANE DOE" (REFUSED NAME) AS JOHN DOE #1;**

"JOHN DOE #2" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last eleven names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Mortgaged Premises: 16 PUMPHOUSE ROAD, BREWSTER, NY 10509

Section: 56.12, Block: 2, Lot: 47

Defendant(s).

To the above named Defendants

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$85,000.00 and interest, recorded on January 09, 2013, in Liber 6122 at Page 222, of the Public Records of PUTNAM County, New York., covering premises known as 16 PUMPHOUSE ROAD, BREWSTER, NY 10509.

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

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

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Dated: October 14, 2024

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC

Attorney for Plaintiff
Christopher McKenna, Esq.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310
Westbury, NY 11590
516-280-7675

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF PUTNAM, US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. ZEF RUKAJA/K/A JOERUKAJAS EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF AGA RUKAJ AND AS TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FOR DESCENDANTS OF THE ESTATE OF AGA RUKAJ, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee's Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on November 1, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Putnam Supreme Courthouse, Courtroom 209, 20 County Center, Carmel, NY 10512 on January 13, 2025 at 11:30 a.m., premises known as 15 Spruce Knolls Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam and State of New York, Section 73.9, Block 1 and Lot 10. Approximate amount of judgment is \$501,492.21 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #501029/2022. Cash will not be accepted.

Christopher York, Esq., Referee

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LLC

Notice of Formation of ANGEL'S DREAM PROPERTY, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/23/24. Office location: Putnam County. Princ. office of LLC: 1118 Rte. 52, Ste. F, Carmel, NY 10512. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 17 Karlsen Lake Rd., Brewster, NY 10509. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

P. 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of MACK PROPERTY SERVICES, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/23/24. Office location: Putnam County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o Mary Parenti, 27 Gatto Dr., Mount Kisco, NY 10549. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process

PUBLIC NOTICE

to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

P. 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Window Films LLC for the purpose of film production. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 03/17/2023. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 607 Gipsy Trail Road Carmel Hamlet, NY 10512. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

P. 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11

PUBLIC NOTICE

PANI VILLA LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/06/2024. Office loc: Putnam County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 112 Stillwater Road, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

P. 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Everlast Remodeling, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY

on 7/24/2024. Office Location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 22 W Curry Rd., Mahopac, NY 10541-3310. Purpose: any lawful activity.

P. 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of RPC DPD Carmel NY, LLC.

Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/16/24. Office location: Putnam County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 06/11/24. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Matthew Chauvin, Esq., Ianniello Anderson, PC, 805 Route 146, Clifton Park, NY 12065. Address to be maintained in DE: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Arts of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of the State of Delaware, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

P. 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1

PUBLIC NOTICE

S C A P E R O T T I INNOVATIONS, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/3/24. Office in Putnam Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC

whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 913 Gipsy Trail Rd., Carmel, NY 10512, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

P. 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1

PUBLIC NOTICE

SAVO MAINTENANCE LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/02/2024. Office loc: Putnam County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 12 Croton Falls Rd., Apt 7, Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

P. 12/11, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1, 1/8, 1/15

Have you heard?



The Putnam County SPCA needs **VOLUNTEERS!**



The Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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www.spcaputnam.org

Ecommerce Growth Expected to Continue in 2025

Trends Shaping the Future of Online Selling

(Family Features) Thanks to the explosion of ecommerce over the past couple decades, consumers can find virtually any product or service they can think of online. In fact, the consumer ecommerce market is expected to approach \$6 trillion by 2027, according to the International Trade Administration, up from roughly \$4 trillion in 2024.

A diverse collection of product segments is driving this growth, including everything from fashion and furniture to food and beverage. While major marketplace retailers still lead the category, ecommerce has become commonplace among small businesses, too. In fact, by the end of 2023, an estimated 80 percent of small businesses had at least basic ecommerce capabilities, according to a report by Digital Commerce 360.

However, small businesses are grappling with challenges such as inflation, supply chain issues, and keeping pace with major retailers, among other things that are driving a variety of ecommerce trends in 2025 and beyond, including:

- **Video Content** – Spurred by social media, video content is in high demand on ecommerce sites, too. Videos that explain how to use products, offer tips for using them, and demonstrate projects that were completed using a product all earn

favor with shoppers.

In addition, videos that highlight product features, video reviews on social media, and “live shopping events” on the social channels of ecommerce retailers can provide a more appealing interactive experience for shoppers.

Inclusive of the “live shopping events” trends, livestreaming is often popular among consumers as it can create a sense of “fear of missing out,” leading to enhanced brand loyalty and engagement. Short-form videos sweeping social media also drive engagements and offer a quick, appealing way to demonstrate new or popular products.

- **Personalized Products** – Ecommerce provides opportunities for shoppers who appreciate buying products that are uniquely their own. Online buying platforms that allow for customization of products such as shoes, clothing, and drinkware can create buyer engagement and earn loyal shoppers who know they can purchase the items they want exactly to their own specifications.

In fact, a survey by McKinsey Insights found 80 percent of loyal customers prefer shopping with brands that offer tailored choices and personalized experiences. From color selection and accessories to performance

variations, custom options can help create a highly personalized shopping experience that allow buyers to interact more directly than they would for a standardized transaction.

Beyond the initial purchase, customized reports and shipping notifications are also becoming the norm. Shippers can alert customers to their products’ delivery status – including any delays or changes – via email, text, video message or, in some cases, a customizable dashboard where consumers can view incoming shipments tied to their account or address, request a different delivery time or location, pre-sign for packages, and more.

- **Micro Purchasing Moments** – You may think phenomena like impulse buys or convenience purchases are reserved for brick-and-mortar stores, but micro-purchasing trends suggest otherwise. These purchases are typically made by someone looking for a quick solution or information in a hurry from a mobile device, such as comparing two or more similar products and clicking a “buy now” link, ordering and paying for food ahead of time to skip the line, making a hotel or excursion reservation while traveling, or looking up movie showtimes and purchasing tickets from the same page.

Ecommerce sites that can establish themselves as a resource, make information easy to digest, and simplify the purchasing process are earning customers (and revenue).

- **Flexible Payment Options** – Online purchases were once limited almost exclusively to credit card purchases, but over time, businesses have granted greater flexibility to shoppers when it comes to collecting payment. While this trend has been growing for several years, many contemporary ecommerce sites now accept credit or debit



Shutterstock photo.

cards, online checks, digital wallet and mobile payment services, cryptocurrency, and even installment payments via third-party providers.

By 2029, the third-party payment market is expected to almost double from \$62.5 billion in 2024, according to findings from Mordor Intelligence.

- **Simplified Shipping Options** – Evolving technology isn’t just improving the browsing and purchasing side of ecommerce; shipping operations are also seeing enhancements. For example, ShipAccel, a digital platform designed by Pitney Bowes, simplifies and enhances shipping operations with advanced ecommerce technology. The platform empowers early ecommerce brands to ship like larger companies with access to discounted carrier rates; more than 80 integrations including leading marketplaces, data, and insights to help make smarter shipping decisions; branded tracking; and return capabilities.

Following are some easy ecommerce shopping tips:

Whether you’re a buyer or a seller, getting smart about shipping can help improve your ecommerce experience.

- **Be cost-conscious.** Buyers obviously benefit from lower costs, but as a seller, managing shipping costs means more revenue. Volume discounts and options for lower prices with longer shipping times can make a bigger impact than you might expect. A shipping partner that has pre-negotiated discounted rates with carriers can deliver significant savings to your business, too.

- **Reduce package sizes.** Using boxes or padded envelopes that closely fit the product being shipped can reduce weight and therefore the cost to send it to the customer. Also avoid excess packaging that adds bulk, which adds cost and waste.

- **Utilize advanced tracking tools.** Keep tracking information for everything you ship or buy so you can monitor its safe delivery or, if problems arise, promptly identify and correct the issue.

Source: Pitney Bowes.

CLASSIFIEDS

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MITSUBISHI MIRAGE HATCHBACK - 2014 black. 135,000 miles. \$1,500. 845-367-1978. 1/1

WANTED

TRAVEL EUROPE - March 2025. Paris, Venice, Rome. Putting a small group together. Share expenses and adventure. Call Pat at 845-742-3095. 1/1

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

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

Exam Title & No: Employment and Training Counselor 87-785-010 OC
 Exam Date: January 18, 2025
 Starting Salary: \$54,464- \$66,380
 Last Filing Date: December 17, 2024
 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 12/11

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

Exam Title & No: Emergency Services Dispatcher 60-014-790
 Exam Title & No: Employment and Training Assistant 87-784-010 OC
 Exam Date: January 18, 2025
 Salary Range: \$48,827- \$59,291
 Last Filing Date: December 17, 2024
 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 12/11

Outrage Over Proposed Carmel Water Dist. Costs

Continued from Page 1

called dissolved air flotation to remove impurities from the water. He noted that a DAF system is already in place to filter water from Lake Mahopac for other town residents.

Rob Kearns, the Carmel Town Board member who voted against bonding for the project in October, asked whether any reports or studies have been done involving technologies besides DAF. “Let’s prove this is the system that they (the taxpayers) need to spend their money on,” he said.

Putnam Legislator Greg Ellner, who lives in Carmel Water District Two, said the town never provided a comparison of costs of other potential systems to the public.

“Your request for proposals had an experience clause that required all submitters have at least five references,” he said. “By putting that in your RFP,

you have limited the number of respondents, and you’ve basically denied any alternate technologies (from consideration).

“From my knowledge of the county and with engineers, I know that – as of a week ago – no intended-use plan was filed with the state Environmental Facilities Corporation, which is a source of grants and low-cost loans,” continued Ellner. “You do not need a full design to apply for that.”

Cazzari countered that Ellner was being disingenuous. “This town has such a good bond rating that we get a better value by going out and doing bonds (ourselves),” he said, noting that state lending “would cost you, the user, more money.”

Cazzari also said that alternative filtration systems may cost less in the short term, “but you end up with a sludge that’s filled with PFAS that is toxic that we are going to have to spend more money to dispose of.”

PFAS, or “per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances,” encompass a wide range of chemicals used in commercial and industrial products that end up in waterways. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration, researchers and

partners are still trying to assess ways to manage and dispose of PFAS and how to remove these substances from drinking water.

Peter Gephardt, who lives in the Lake Gleneida neighborhood, questioned the need for a dissolved air flotation system.

“DAF is well suited for water sources that have algae, and from Hazen and Sawyer’s own report they did not find any algae at all in Lake Gleneida,” he said. “It also said PFAS, PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), and PFHXA (perfluorohexanoic acid) were not detected in Lake Gleneida.”

Hazen and Sawyer is the New York City-based engineering firm that conducted a water-quality study of Lake Gleneida.

Resident David Keith said that regardless of the technology chosen, the same firm hired to design the plant should be the one that builds it. “Anytime you have somebody design and then somebody else builds, you’re going to have cost overruns,” he said.

The informational meeting and presentation regarding the new water treatment plant is scheduled Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at Carmel Town Hall, 60 McAlpin Ave., Mahopac.

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