

Carmel Residents, Town Board Vow to Fight Cell Tower Projects

By Neal Rentz

About 90 Carmel residents came to the Mahopac Public Library on Sunday to strategize how they could block proposals to construct two cell towers in residential neighborhoods in town.

The leaders in the fight against the towers is resident Robert Buckley and Carmel Supervisor Kenny Schmitt, who said the town board agreed with those protesting the proposed towers and will try to move them out of residential areas.

Buckley noted that Danbury, CT-based Homeland Towers, which was hired by Verizon, is seeking to build a 157-foot-high tower on Dixon Road and a 180-foot-high tower on Croton Falls Road. Aside from Verizon, the other carriers on the towers would be Sprint, T-Mobile and AT&T, Buckley said.

Buckley said he recently spoke with a representative from Homeland Towers



Robert Buckley is leading the fight against the placement of two cell towers in residential areas of Carmel.

NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

to express the opposition from him and other residents to the company's proposals. Buckley said the company representative did not give him satisfactory answers. For example, the company representative said millennials like cell towers in their neighborhoods, but Buckley said he replied that the homes in the areas of the proposed towers are owned by residents who are older than millennials.

Robert Gaudio, an attorney representing Homeland, submitted plans and met with the planning board last month. In other cases in Putnam County, Homeland has argued the utilities are necessary to fill cell service in certain areas and downplayed concerns from neighbors.

Buckley said he felt Homeland Towers

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Union Members Rally for Fair Deal From County

By David Propper

In an attempt to implore Putnam County leadership to offer them a fair deal, union workers from CSEA picketed on the steps of the Historic County Courthouse last Thursday after going two years without a contract.

With the annual county budget set to be passed this week, about 70 CSEA members held up signs and chanted for an equitable deal that would result in pay bumps and strong health insurance benefits. CSEA leadership and County Executive MaryEllen Odell don't appear to be on the same page though, with each other pointing fingers as to why negotiations have stalled.

CSEA president Janet Canaday said

union reps would be meeting with county leadership on Nov. 15, the first meeting between the two sides since June 28 of this year. Canaday said proposals requested by the union to be included in the contract are not in the budget that will be voted on this week. The proposals would be more of contribution toward retiree health insurance and salary adjustments, she said.

"My members were mad, angry, frustrated," Canaday said. "Feel disrespected and they're tired."

Canaday said union workers were protesting Thursday because she reached out to the county several times and no one was getting back to her. Even a meeting

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Divided Carmel School Board Talks Bond Prop

By Anna Young

The Carmel Board of Education continues to remain divided following the recent failing of a bond referendum that would have provided updates to district facilities.

With board members facing a surge of public concern after the district's \$25.4 million bond was voted down by less than 200 votes on Oct. 2, the board discussed during last Tuesday's meeting their views on putting up another referendum in May. The most recent bond would've repaired roofs, made each building ADA compliant, enhanced the old George Fischer Middle School library and built a new bus garage in the Town of Kent.

Board members Tara DeTurris and

Michelle Yorio both agreed that the bond should be put up for another vote, arguing that each component within the proposition is needed to enhance the district. DeTurris said she refuses to separate the bond by placing the transportation facility into a separate proposition, stressing that she's not willing to lose district money if the bus garage were to be voted down again.

"I believe that the unethical behavior that went on during this last vote will continue and I think that if we split it up one of them will pass and the other one may not, and I'm not willing to risk \$130,000 that we've put in toward this land," DeTurris said. "I will support it

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DeCicco's in Brewster to Eliminate Plastic Bag Use

By David Propper

A supermarket in Brewster plans to completely eliminate single use plastic bags before the end of the year, becoming the first major grocery store in Putnam County to take the measure.

In hopes of being a "good corporate citizen," DeCicco and Sons, a chain of family owned supermarkets, made the announcement last week that it would stop using plastic bags within the next 30 days. CEO John DeCicco Jr. said over the last several years, the company has taken on different environmental initiatives, including this current action.

"We think that being environmentally conscious is not just smart business, but that it's an ethical imperative," DeCicco said.

As an alternative, the supermarket will offer paper bags, but will also encourage customers to bring reusable shopping bags and those that return to the store with their own bags will receive a credit at their register total. Last year, Christopher DeCicco, vice president of the company, said the chain of stores used 22 million plastic bags.

"That won't happen again next year," he said. "We took a look at our operations, and identified that this was the single

'We think that being environmentally conscious is not just smart business, but that it's an ethical imperative.'
- John DeCicco

most positive environmental change that we could make."

Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who is the health committee chairwoman, was elated by the news. She wants to see all plastic bag use banned in the county and hopes DeCicco's actions sets a good example for other markets.

"That is a huge step," Scuccimarra said.

She plans on bringing the issue back to the forefront of the legislature next year if re-elected. She mentioned a five-cent deposit charge is something she would want to explore to discourage customers from using plastic bags.

"DeCicco's cutting it right off is just amazing and I'm so thrilled that someone in Putnam County is doing it," she said.



Is Your SI Joint Causing Your Back Pain?

A common problem that's too often overlooked...

Ask the Doctor

Dr. Marshal D. Peris
Co-Director,
Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Spine Surgery Section
Northern Westchester Hospital

Learn more about Dr. Peris, visit
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Q: What is the SI Joint?

A: The full name is the sacroiliac (sa-krō-'i-lē-,ak) joint, and there are two of them, one on either side of your tailbone. They connect the triangular bone at the base of your spine, called the sacrum, with the iliac bone of your pelvis. The SI joints are the keystone of the body, or the center of gravity. Their job is to support and transmit the weight of your upper body to your legs and pelvis.

Q: How Does the SI Joint Cause Pain?

A: SI joint dysfunction occurs when the ligaments of either joint are injured or worn away. This can cause pain in your butt as well as in your lower back, groin, thigh and side. Most people with SI joint dysfunction experience severe pain when they get up from a seated position, then feel better when they walk.

Q: What Causes SI Joint Dysfunction?

A: Osteoarthritis, rheumatologic and auto-immune diseases, traumatic injuries and pregnancy can cause SI joint dysfunction. And some people get it after they've had surgeries such as hip replacement or spinal fusion.

Q: How Does the Doctor Diagnose SI Joint Dysfunction?

A: Since most back pain is caused by a spinal problem, the doctor first rules out the spine by doing imaging like X-rays and MRIs. There are also physical exam maneuvers that can pinpoint trouble in the SI joint.

Q: How Is SI Joint Dysfunction Treated?

A: Physical therapy, weight loss, trunk-strengthening exercises like yoga or Pilates, and anti-inflammatory medicines are the first lines of treatment. If these don't help, doctors inject a steroid and local anesthetic into the joint, a procedure called SI joint injection. If there is still no improvement, doctors perform a minimally invasive surgery called SI joint fusion. Titanium implants are inserted across the sacroiliac joint through a 3-cm incision to lock the joint in place so it can't move anymore. The surgery takes about an hour and is done under general anesthesia at Northern Westchester Hospital. For the first three weeks after surgery, patients walk with crutches or a walker. After six weeks, they resume normal activities.

County Exec. Candidates Trade Punches in Final Round of Campaign

By David Proper

Like two heavyweight fighters taking their final slugs in the late rounds of a boxing match, the two candidates for Putnam County Executive once again exchanged punches a week before Election Day.

Alleging a pay-to-play ploy, Democrat Maureen Fleming called on Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell to be investigated for accepting campaign donations from Motorola, which has business in front of the county Legislature.

In a press release, Fleming's campaign stated donations to the Odell campaign from Motorola, a Poughkeepsie-based Motorola business partner, a top Motorola executive and that executive's husband tracked closely to legislative committee discussions that moved forward a major project in which Motorola has a financial interest.

The county is looking to upgrade its low band emergency communications system across the county for first responders, which would include installing and replacing cell towers across the county to create communication linkages for all fire companies, ambulance corps and police departments.

Fleming's campaign detailed instances

when Motorola was mentioned by lawmakers on the protective services committee close to when Odell received donations from the company and connected parties. For instance, Odell received a \$1,000 donation from Motorola Solutions on Feb. 15 and a week later business that involved Motorola was discussed in front of the protective services committee. Then, on May 14, a discussion that referenced Motorola was again brought up at a legislative meeting and three times following that Odell received donations from one business and two people connected to Motorola, according to the Fleming campaign.

"The legislative agenda of the Odell Administration has clearly been influenced by payments from and related to Motorola. It is a disgraceful betrayal of public trust, and calls into question the rhetoric around the proposed emergency radio upgrades," Fleming stated.

Odell's campaign hit back hard, calling Fleming's "latest false attack" a "sign of a desperate campaign and one that is on its last breath." Odell stated Fleming has engaged in a smear campaign to mislead voters and attack her integrity.

Odell said Motorola has been a county vendor for more than 20 years and she never requested any action be taken by

the legislature on behalf of Motorola. She argued any business in front of the legislature has nothing to do with her office or her campaign.

"I have never engaged in pay-to-play and Maureen Fleming should be ashamed for even insinuating it," Odell stated. "Throughout this campaign, Maureen has been devoid of ideas or solutions to address any of the issues that affect Putnam County, rather she has spoken in generalities, platitudes and insults."

Earlier last week, Fleming faced questions over why a lawsuit leveled against the town that was lost has not been paid yet. In a letter to the editor written last month, Odell stated Fleming has cost the town close to \$400,000 when she refused to settle a case in the matter of Merritt Construction vs. Town of Kent, which involved the sewer system along Route 52.

The letter from Odell claims Fleming advocated for a trial, which the town lost and then on appeal the town again lost. The town has yet to pay the money a judge order them to, Odell said, with interest growing.

During a town board meeting last Tuesday, former Kent supervisor Kathy Doherty, who is an Odell supporter, asked when the lawsuit would be paid

out. Councilman Paul Denbaum, who was running for county executive but did not get enough signatures to get on the ballot, said the town was still negotiating during this juncture of the litigation and once it's complete, the town board would inform taxpayers what the final outcome is "as soon as we can."

Doherty stated the town was told by former legal counsel to pay the damages of the lawsuit, rather than going forward with more litigation, but Denbaum said that wasn't the case.

"You need to pay the money and the interest needs to stop," Doherty said.

Fleming didn't speak on the subject during the meeting, but, in an interview, defended the direction the town has taken. She said she doesn't personally make any decisions regarding litigation, rather the town board as a whole makes those decisions with consultation from legal counsel.

She also criticized Odell for settling the Don Smith lawsuit that former district attorney Adam Levy brought against the former sheriff for defamation. The county agreed to pay Levy \$125,000, which received public backlash. Odell has argued that the legislature made the call to pay the settlement.

Election Day is next Tuesday, Nov. 6.

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Murphy Accuses Harckham of Corruption Link in Wild Campaign Week

By Martin Wilbur

State Sen. Terrence Murphy renewed his attempts to link his Democratic rival Peter Harckham to a convicted former aide of Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

On Monday, Murphy's campaign released testimony from the corruption trial of Joseph Percoco last winter that revealed that Harckham spoke to four area school superintendents about getting Percoco's wife a teacher's job in 2012.

Percoco was convicted in March of taking \$320,000 in bribes from businessmen, which involved payments to his wife, Lisa. He was sentenced in September to six years in prison.

"Peter Harckham bent over backwards to help his political kingpin, who it turns out, was on the take," said Murphy's campaign spokesman Martha Ruiz Jiménez. "He will say and do anything to hide the fact that he was an eyewitness to the pervasive corruption and fraud that as Preet Bharara said, 'infected state development projects,' where bids 'were rigged, the results preordained; companies got rich and the public got bamboozled.'"

Harckham testified that he first met Percoco in 2002, when Harckham was Bedford Democratic Committee chairman. Harckham later moved to South Salem and Percoco bought a

house in 2011 about a half-mile down the road. That's when Percoco reached out to Harckham.

He also testified that he contacted superintendents in Katonah-Lewisboro, Somers, Bedford and Yorktown.

"Joe first called me and said he was looking up in that area, and I offered to be a resource if he needed help," Harckham said on the witness stand. "And then a while later, I got a call that they had bought a house in South Salem and his wife Lisa was looking for a teaching job closer to their new home, and did I have some connections that I could help introduce them to?"

Harckham's campaign manager Lloyd Trufelman dismissed the Murphy campaign's attempt to draw a connection between the Democratic challenger and Percoco as a desperate move. He said the Westchester Fair Campaign Practices Committee cited Murphy's attempt to link Harckham's jobs with two state authorities between mid-2015 and April 2018 with Percoco as "corruption by association."

"This comes five days after the Fair Campaign Practices Committee found that all this about Percoco and Pete is a lie," Trufelman said. "He went and challenged that and they ruled (Murphy) was definitely lying."

But Jimenez said there is a tangled

web that involves Harckham.

"Peter Harckham has so many intimate connections to entities involved in or convicted of the Percoco pay-to-play that it is nearly impossible to keep track of," she said. "He worked to obtain special favors for them and it seems was also the beneficiary of such favors himself. Wouldn't we all love to have a neighbor like that?"

Monday's accusation was the latest in a series of spats and bizarre occurrences as the race enters the home stretch. First, a 38-year-old Peekskill man was arrested for arson after he set a Murphy lawn sign on fire on Route 6 in Cortlandt the previous weekend.

Then the Murphy campaign accused Harckham of unlawfully surveilling his district office in Shrub Oak after a deer camera was found affixed to a nearby utility pole.

Trufelman said the camera was set up to try and catch the culprit or culprits who have been stealing Harckham's lawn signs throughout the district, particularly the "No Murphy/Trump" signs, one of which was placed near the district office. Yorktown police determined the camera was not filming the building.

"Trump-Murphy signs are getting stolen as fast as they are getting put up and it's a lot of money," Trufelman said.

"We've actually filed a police report about it but there's nothing you can do unless you can prove it."

Then Murphy's campaign posted a press release on its website equating the Harckham campaign's camera to last week's mailing of pipe bombs around the country.

"Amid news of a potential terrorist ring or serial bomber mailing suspicious packages to elected officials, serious concerns were raised over the installation of a spy camera by State Senate candidate Peter Harckham's campaign, just days after an individual was arrested for arson after burning lawn signs from the campaign of State Senator Terrence Murphy," Murphy's statement read.

Harckham immediately fired back.

"Senator Terrence Murphy's statement desperately trying to connect me to today's mail bomb attacks within our district and around the country is disgraceful," he said in a statement. "In the midst of a serious emergency, his response is to issue a false, slanderous and incoherent, conspiracy-laden missive trying to leverage this act of domestic terrorism to help his re-election effort. Apparently there's no level he won't stoop to in this campaign."

The following day the post was removed from Murphy's website.



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Carmel Residents, Town Board Vow to Fight Cell Tower Projects

continued from page 1

was seeking two tall towers because it hopes to negotiate a lower height that would eventually be accepted by the town. However, Buckley said cell towers were inappropriate for any residential area in town.

The two proposed towers would be eyesores and sharply reduce property values, Buckley said. The project would harm local residents to benefit Homeland Towers, he said.

"At the end of the day it's all about money," he said.

The Homeland Towers projects would need to be approved by the planning board and possibly the zoning board of appeals if variances were needed, Buckley said.

Buckley stressed that the town needed to follow the 1996 federal law regarding the approval of cell towers in order to not lose in court should the town seek legal action against Homeland Towers to prevent the projects from going forward. The federal law prohibits municipalities from rejecting cell tower projects based on health and safety concerns if the company building the towers meets



Carmel Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt said the Town Board would fight placement of cell tower in residential areas.

federal standards, he said. The town could reject the towers on other grounds, such as the historical value of the area, a potential drop in the property values or if the projects would violate local laws, he said.

Under town law, constructing cell towers on residential property is the fifth propriety for the placement of a cell tower, Buckley said. Before the projects are considered by the Planning Board, the Town Board should seek alternative locations for the proposed towers, he said.

Croton Falls Road resident Bryce Fiero said he opposed the tower being sought for his street because of its negative visual impact. "It's going to be an eyesore," he said.

Though several elected officials from the local area attended the meeting, only Schmitt spoke. He said the town board was in agreement with the residents opposing the proposed towers. Schmitt said he has spoken with Homeland Towers about moving the Dixon Road residential area tower to a location behind the Jimmy McDonough Memorial Park.

"It's a huge open area," Schmitt said. Since the tower would be on town property the town would receive monthly revenue for the usage of the land, he said. Schmitt said the town board believes that cell towers should not be constructed in residential neighborhoods.

"We are going to fight for you," he said.

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Terrence
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NEW YORK STATE SENATE

Divided Carmel School Board Talks Bond Prop

continued from page 1

going back up but as one, I will support the option to extend the land (contract), but I will not split the bond up.”

While the board and residents have placed blame on board member John Curzio for the second bond in as many years failing, he maintained that the voters expressed their opinion twice and the board “must accept the will of the people.”

“I think that this board in large part is in a bubble where as an entity they don’t seem to realize that the people have spoken twice now,” Curzio said. “I realize that this board isn’t used to being told no by the people.”

Curzio, who was the sole board member to vocally oppose the bond, said he fully supported items in the bond, including roof repair and ADA improvements, but would not support extending the option for the bus facility. He suggested the board go back to the drawing board before issuing another bond.

With Curzio’s statement sparking frustration, Yorio pressed him on what the board should do moving forward, which resulted in a tense debate between the two board members.

“I find that interesting because in the lead up to both votes my suggestions



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

School board members Michelle Yorio and John Curzio went back and forth last week about another bond proposal for the Carmel school system

were sidelined repeatedly, but after it fails I seem to be the first one you want an opinion from,” Curzio replied.

Prior to the vote, Curzio opposed the land option, but remained steadfast that the bus garage should have been a separate proposition on the ballot. He also stressed the board should have collaborated with Kent officials, asserting

the bus garage would have taken a piece of property off Kent’s tax rolls. The board voted 6-1 months ago to bunch every proposal together with Curzio the lone holdout.

Despite opposition to separating the bond into two propositions prior to the vote, few board members said last Tuesday they would consider putting the

bus garage into a separate proposition.

Board member John Cody said he wants to see the bond put up for another vote but was still deciding if the proposition should be split up. He said the community now realizes the importance of maintaining facilities and believes the bus garage needs to be moved.

Member James Reese said he doesn’t support another bond but would support separating the components if it came up for vote. Reese added that the board should analyze the school budget to fix the roofs without a referendum, and that he was no longer in favor of holding the land option for the bus garage.

Vice President Richard Kreps said the board should worry about the essential needs of the district if they choose to put another referendum up for a vote. With roof maintenance a district-wide issue, he said that should be the only item placed in a bond unless other components could be covered monetarily and wouldn’t result in a tax hike.

“Personally, right now, I would give up on the transportation (garage),” Kreps said. “If something comes along later on where it’s available and we get a feeling from the community that they want to do that then we’d look at it at that time.”

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Letters to the Editor

Carmel Schools' Culture Makes District Stand Out

As parents, we always hope that our children will be successful, find a career they love, and be happy and kind people. As a district, this is how we feel about our students. For parents and grandparents alike, we see the huge difference in the job market and career opportunities from when we were in high school. We see a change in our society and culture as we rely more on technology and innovation. As a mom, how can I be sure my sons are ready? How do I know they are being educated to prepare them for the next generation work experience? That part

was easy. I became part of the process.

Being out in the community and hearing from parents, I have realized that many are not aware of what the Carmel Central School District is doing and where we are heading. I hope you will read the letters I share, so you can learn more about our amazing students and dedicated staff. I want you to learn about the culture we nurture and to see the programs and student activities that make our schools stand out.

Do you know about the six C's? They are Compassion, Citizenship, Critical

Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, and Communication. This is our Graduate Profile—our goal as a school community that we cultivate our students with these ideals. These are nothing new. These ideals are what we teach our children at home. These ideals are what our staff has already been implementing. However, we thought it was important to put the framework to paper. Our planning teams have worked hard these past few years. Committees that included community members, parents, staff, board members, and administration. This collaboration

fine-tuned our mission and vision, set our goals, and identified our values.

Through this process, we did not always agree on the details but one value was very clear: Students are the priority. I am proud of the work that has been done. I hope you will go to our website to see our video and read about our mission.

Michelle Yorio
Carmel Board of Education Member
Carmel

Odell Has Kept Promises as County Executive

This coming election is huge. The direction of our nation and our communities lies in the outcome.

On November 6th we have a chance to re-elect MaryEllen Odell as our County Executive. MaryEllen has done all she promised by keeping our taxes low and presenting fair and impartial budgets. She is a defender of our right to own Firearms, protector of our Elderly and Veterans and has been a pillar to the community.

The Democrats will run a candidate against her this year and that means a few things if that person should win: Higher Taxes, less protection for your right to own a firearm, less respect for our Veterans and Elderly, less support for Law Enforcement and more wasteful social programs to name a few. As a Democrat this is what they believe, just go to NYDEMS.org and see for yourself. Any

politician who has a "D" in front of their name supports the Democratic platform. If they don't, why are they running as a Democrat? The Democratic Party has become the Socialist Party and supports radical groups such as ANTIFA and its likes. It is the Party of intolerance. It is the Party of Andrew Cuomo.

We need Republicans who will represent the complete opposite of the values of the Democratic Party and that Republican is MaryEllen Odell. Hopefully this election will produce a Tsunami of Red that will wipe out the wave of blue. You have a choice! Vote For the Republican ticket. Vote for MaryEllen Odell.

Annie Coffey
Hamlet of Carmel

Putnam County Needs a Change in Leadership with Fleming

I have known Maureen Fleming since I moved up to Putnam nearly 20 years ago. In that period of time, I have been so impressed with her character. She has amazing skills: she is intelligent, a mother, an attorney, and a skilled Supervisor of the Town of Kent. Throughout her 3 terms she has reduced debt service by 38 percent and added \$1.4 million to the general fund.

On the other hand, during Odell's term of office, there have been lots of questions raised. For example, Tilly Foster, the Butterfield project and the use of the Putnam Golf Club to name a few. No clear answers have been provided by the current County Executive. Instead of answers we get lots of talk about other things – not answers to our questions.

Mary Ellen Odell has recently trumpeted that we "only" have a 2 percent increase in taxes in compliance with the tax cap. The problem is that she's

also using \$4 million of the general fund to pay for her budget. Hmmm...To make matters worse, this year is the 7th county tax increase in a row. She blames it on spending mandates. Trouble is that spending choices to meet mandates are fully within the executive's control.

The other major item that doesn't make sense is the financial picture at Putnam Golf Course. While Odell says the Golf Course is on solid financial ground, the fact is that October expenses for the Golf Course have exceeded income generated by \$223,055.55. Check page 187 of the budget documents to see for yourself.

Join me in changing the leadership in Putnam County.

Challen H. Armstrong
Brewster

Montanaro Will Uphold Zoning Code in Southeast

On November 6th, two candidates will vie for your vote for the position of Town of Southeast Board. On what basis should you make your decision for this critical position. The Town Board is comparable to a legislature with the responsibility of making and enforcing laws, specifically those relating to the present and future character of the town, the course of its economic, social and cultural development and quality of life of its residents. Principally among them are those relating to land use or what is called Zoning, often contained as part of the Comprehensive Plan. These laws telegraph to resident and non-resident alike the guiding principles governing decisions respecting the town. Similar to the Constitution, once adopted, they should be very difficult to overturn. Or they should be.

Yet what has been the history of our town government: a conspicuous disregard for the law, changing zoning willy-nilly

when a developer for example finds the law too restrictive, too inconvenient and proceeds to introduce changes that fit the contours of his project. The zoning laws then become the developers' law codified, forever erasing the intent of the original law and voiding resident input. We have seen their successful efforts in the face of strong resident opposition at every turn i.e. the Honda car dealership, Crossroads 312 and most recently the Northeast Interstate Logistics Center.

There is only one candidate who has expressed unequivocally a respect for our laws, respect for Zoning and the Comprehensive Plan adopted with resident advice and yes consent at numerous meetings and Public Hearings. That candidate is Melinda Montanaro. Vote November 6: you can trust Melinda to respect the law.

Ann Fanizzi
Southeast

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Letters to the Editor

Murphy Offers No Alternative Besides Attacks

I am a constituent of incumbent New York State Senator Terrence Murphy. Last week, I was disappointed to discover that Senator Murphy has been blocking users from posting comments on his public Facebook page. In the past, I have expressed opinions about Murphy's desire to disenfranchise New York voters, refusal to hold Town Hall meetings, and ugly and racially-divisive attack ads sent to my home and viewed by my family during the 2016 campaign.

Senator Murphy is a public figure, and his Facebook page is a public forum. But instead of engaging with his constituents, Murphy silences civic engagement. Senator Murphy is apparently keen to avoid any encounters – including Town Hall meetings – during which he might face criticism or disagreement. Similar blocking activities have been held by multiple U.S. federal courts to impinge on the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment and to violate the U.S. Constitution. But perhaps more

importantly, our representatives should not be so thin-skinned that they refuse to engage with their constituents.

In light of this, it is telling that Senator Murphy's latest attack mailers go after Pete Harckham's positions on affordable housing and universal healthcare, even while Murphy himself proposes no solutions whatsoever to address these issues. Without any counter-proposals to offer, I suspect Murphy has no alternative but to attack his opponent. The irony is that Murphy does so while insulating himself from any criticism and silencing his constituents.

On November 6, I want to cast my vote for a candidate who will listen to and engage with constituents. Senator Murphy gives me no confidence that he is that candidate.

Airina Rodrigues Dyachkovskiy
Cortlandt Manor

Signs for Dems Missing at Rapid Pace in Putnam

I write in reference to the repeated vandal and/or removal of approximately 100 campaign signs for four democratic candidates, Sandy Galef, Karen Smythe, Maureen Fleming, and Gary Link, from the roads of Western Kent this past weekend. Although it is typical for a few signs to "disappear" each election season, the level of such activity this year is unprecedented. The perpetrators are stealing property, interfering with a fair election, and in some cases trespassing, and they have been targeting signs that are replaced for removal again the very next night.

Whether or not this has been done with the knowledge of local candidates Ruthven and Odell, it is a sign, I

believe, of the increasingly rancorous partisanship that has seized hold of our national political dialogue. Civility and a sense of fair play have been replaced by a disregard for ethics, decency, and the laws of the land. The lack of respect for the democratic process is chilling. It is a cogent reminder of just how much is at stake at all levels of government, from the Town Board to State government to the US House and Senate, in the upcoming midterm elections.

Anne Balant-Campbell
Town of Kent

Harckham Deserves Support for State Senate

I am writing in strong support of Pete Harckham, specifically for his position on gun safety, and the New York State SAFE Act. Pete Harckham firmly believes the we can protect second amendment rights while preventing gun violence, and will work on behalf of all New Yorkers to do so!

The NY Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement, passed in the wake of Sandy Hook, is perhaps the most comprehensive gun safety legislation in the country. NY has the fourth lowest rate of gun violence deaths per capita behind MA, HI, and RI. Additionally the SAFE act enhancements were passed by the NYS Assembly in 2018 to include enhanced background checks, a ban on bump stocks, and a ban on guns for those convicted of domestic violence, and Red

Flags (removal of guns from the mentally ill, etc.)

Terrence Murphy co-sponsored S.879, a bill to repeal the SAFE act outside of NYC. Murphy's National Rifle Association score is 93%, and he received a \$2,000.00 contribution from the NRA in his last campaign.

Pete Harckham will be an advocate for gun safety, he will work to maintain the SAFE Act, and pass the enhancements in the Senate, including the Red Flag Bill to keep our schools and families safe! Vote for Pete Harckham for NYS Senate.

Julie Evans
Croton on Hudson

Murphy Mailings are Unsubstantiated and Misleading

As an unaffiliated voter, I recently received multiple mailings from the New York Republican State Committee attacking Democratic candidate Pete Harckham who is opposing Terrence Murphy, an incumbent State Senator. The postcards claim that Mr. Harckham acted unethically in his previous positions of public trust. What is the point? How can the Republican Committee expect any reasonable person to consider this? Republicans in elected offices from town clerks to US Senators support and praise President Trump, a man who behaves unethically without shame on a daily basis. Indeed, Mr. Murphy was an early and consistent Trump supporter. What is their excuse for ignoring the

President's unethical behavior? "He is just being Trump". By their own actions the Republicans' message is to vote for and support the candidates who will aggressively pursue their agenda; any unethical behavior is disregarded. Their hypocrisy is astounding. The independent, non-partisan Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee found that the statements attacking Mr. Harckham on behalf of the Murphy campaign were unsubstantiated and misleading. It is time for a change. Please vote on November 6.

Bradley Schwartz
Brewster

Senator Murphy's Anti-Democratic Approach to Voting Rights is Wrong

While a high rate of voter participation is an indicator of a strong democracy, New York is repeatedly among the lowest 20% of states in voting percentage. This result is substantially explained by New York's antiquated voting laws. Pete Harckham, the Democrat running against Murphy, supports early voting and automatic registration which would greatly improve the situation.

In contrast, Murphy sponsored voter ID legislation designed to reduce voting. While Murphy claims that requiring voter IDs would reduce voter fraud, numerous court cases have concluded that virtually no such fraud has been shown to exist, and Murphy cites no proof. Notably, a federal appeals court concluded that a package of voter ID, reduction of early voting, and related laws disenfranchising voters "target African Americans with almost surgical precision." There is no place for such a voter ID requirement in New York.

New York is one of only thirteen states without early voting. The Democratic-controlled Assembly passed early voting legislation (A.9608-B), which would

expand voting rates, but the Republican-controlled Senate failed to act. If the Senate remains Republican, the Majority Leader, who will serve for all of 2019 and 2020, will almost certainly prevent early voting legislation from reaching the Senate floor.

Automatic voter registration would register anyone who has contact with specified government agencies. The result would be to increase registration and thereby voting, create accurate voting lists, and update address changes, an effective, non-discriminatory way of establishing accurate voting lists. Twenty-five Democratic Senators sponsored or co-sponsored an automatic registration bill (S3304A), but again the Republicans failed to permit a Senate vote.

Murphy's biased vote suppressing agenda should have no place in New York. Vote for Pete Harckham to increase voting participation and improve democracy in New York.

Jonathan Kratter
Cortlandt Manor

The Ballard Barrett and First Presbyterian Cemeteries
is holding a special reorganizational meeting on
November 15, 2018 at 11AM at the Town of Carmel Offices
located at 60 McAlpin Avenue, Mahopac, NY 10541.

All lot owners are invited

to attend and vote on the future of the cemetery.

A new board for the cemeteries will be voted in at the meeting.

For directions go to the Town of Carmel's webpage.

Alicia Young, Associate Accountant, Division of Cemeteries

New York State Department of State

99 Washington Avenue • One Commerce Plaza

Albany, New York 12231

Office # 518-486-7594 Alicia.Young@dos.ny.gov

Letters to the Editor

Voting for Dems Best Path for America

As a relatively new transplant to Brewster/ Putnam County, can you and/or your readers kindly explain to me how and why they vote Republican? I'm admittedly a Democrat due primarily to the party's views on LGBT and women's rights, immigration, and civil rights issues, which I understand many in this area take a different stance on for religious and other reasons. But setting those issues - most of which have no direct effect on anyone's daily life - aside, Republicans--both locally and nationally--consistently vote against the best interests of Putnam and Brewster's largely working class population in ways that concretely disadvantage them.

Healthcare for all, for example, is a necessity and favored by 70 percent of Americans, but Republicans without fail vote against it. Republicans have also cut funding and essential services for veterans and do nothing to combat homelessness, which disproportionately affects veterans. Closing our borders and deporting thousands would have a drastically negative impact on the agricultural industry, on which many throughout the Hudson Valley are dependent. All of these Republican platforms would harm real people in this area, and yet they still vote Red.

Is it really just all about guns? Democrats cannot take away anyone's 2nd Amendment rights - NY already has strict gun laws, and as a result it has among the lowest gun deaths in the nation. Yet, people who want to use their guns for hunting and maintain collections do, and will always be able to. Democrats favor cutting taxes, providing public services, and taking care of veterans - Republicans would and have cut such assistance at every turn.

I can only conclude that the type of xenophobia, homophobia, racism and sexism aggressively promoted from the top of the Republican party are at the crux of Putnam's red wave. In my first year living here, my dental hygienist asked me if I referred to my wife as "husband," so I'm aware there's work to be done up here, but it's time to wake up and accept that diversity and change - yes, progressivism - is the natural progression of a free society. Closing borders, cutting services for the homeless and veterans, and denying affordable healthcare to those who need it most will be the end of it.

Save America--Vote for Democrats on November 6.

Eileen McDermott
Brewster

Maureen Fleming is the Honest Choice for Top Putnam County Post

I graduated from college last December and moved back home right after to Carmel. I was excited to move back, not only because I was done with school, but because I've always loved Carmel. I'd love to stay in this county, because I love it here, and I could get a job here, but unfortunately I cannot stay.

My parents want to move out of the county because taxes are so high, but they're worried no one would buy for that exact reason. Taxes go up every year and businesses aren't moving here. If my parents, a retired 9/11 firefighter and a full-time working woman, can't make it work in Putnam, a single person just out of college doesn't stand a chance.

I feel like all this county does is waste money. Being home during this election, I've been able to learn about what's been happening in the government the past seven years under Odell. It's wasteful. It's not transparent. Maureen Fleming is the town supervisor of Kent, and her record is clean and clear.

It's sad for me to watch what could have been an opportunity for discussion in this county turn into attacks and tricks by the Odell camp. I know Fleming has never raised taxes because I have friends

in Kent, and because I read the budgets myself after Odell claimed otherwise on Facebook (I'm not actually sure if she is purposefully lying or really doesn't understand how taxing works). I know Kent citizens are still happy with their guns, MS13 free, and in the five years Fleming has been in Office, Kent definitely hasn't become a sanctuary city.

I also know people have been stealing Fleming for Putnam signs across the county, squashing people's first amendment freedoms - the same people saying Fleming is taking their second amendment. All the Odell signs have stayed up. The county executive sees these lies circulating, circulates a few herself, watches the illegal disposal of signs across Putnam, and does nothing. This eliminated any remaining faith I have in her. We need honesty back. We need fiscal intelligence back. We need Maureen Fleming.

Alyssa Schofield
Carmel



VOTE Gary Link for Kent Town Board

- Promote Responsible Commercial Growth
 - Diligent Fiscal Responsibility
 - Prioritize Lake Quality
 - Strengthen Bi-Partisanship
- Years of Town Gov't. Experience
- Years of Property Tax Experience

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NOT County Interests

Fiercely Independent!

Vote Row A on Nov. 6th

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PV Voters Should Get Facts Straight on Bond Propositions

There seems to be a lot of chatter about both the school and the town bond referendums. Both of these are asking the community to demonstrate a show of faith, a trust in our leadership. There are always divisive voices. However, I would challenge every member of the Putnam Valley community to ignore these voices and to think for yourselves. If we believe in community; if we believe in providing our future doctors, electricians, attorneys, mechanics, teachers, policemen, and so on with a good public education; if we believe that we want our town to provide services for our children, ourselves, our parents and our grandparents; if we believe all of this, then we should trust and support our leaders. It's time to stop questioning the integrity and honesty of the leadership simply because you may not

agree with the agenda. Anyone who finds themselves in a position that gives them pause for whatever reason be it financial or philosophical should vote with their conscience. But please don't vote out of anger or because of misinformation. Putnam Valley is important to us all, and a supportive, caring community is why many of us chose to live in this small town in the first place.

Lisa Spittal
Putnam Valley



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Letters to the Editor

Serino Supports Veterans in Her Senate District

Recently, I attended a pasta dinner hosted by Senator Sue Serino and Vet2Vet at the Wappingers Elks and I just have to thank these folks for always taking the time to remember our veterans.

People might think that a pasta dinner isn't a big deal, but this event was so much more. It brought veterans from every generation together to communicate and that doesn't happen enough. This is the second event of Serino's I've been to this year. Earlier, I attended her Golden Gathering and I think these events speak directly to why Sue is such an important representative—she cares about the people others tend to forget.

As a senior, and a veteran I cannot thank her enough for all that she does for

us. As a military man, I know that Sue is the kind of leader that will always have our backs. She's not afraid to stand up and fight for us and we need more people with a backbone like hers, and the strong moral compass she has to go along with it. I'm not one for politics, and I learned a long time ago, that you can't depend on most politicians, but Sue is a person that I know we can trust. She's genuine and she has a real heart of gold. I'll be proud to give her my vote this year, as will my entire family, from my kids to my grandkids, and I hope you will too.

Martin Kirwan
Wappingers Falls

Kent Employees Underpaid Because of Fleming

A recent photo depicting Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming standing on the historic Putnam County Court House steps, holding a CSEA picket sign was a slap in the face to the underpaid Town of Kent employees. I wish she stood in "solidarity " with them! It is a well known fact that the "hard working backbone" of her present administration is underpaid compared to other towns in Putnam County. In the past, she has carried this around like a badge of honor, individuals working for the town for more than 7 years making under \$36,000. But yet a new hire of her choice started at \$48,000. Maybe the Town of Kent needs more photo opps for her to correct this.

What about the lawsuit for the sewer district, that she lost, then appealed, and

lost again. A \$372,000 bill that she didn't pay and now is costing the taxpayer approximately \$3,000 a month in interest since May 2016, never mind the legal fees! Maybe the money she saved on the backs of town employees can help pay that bill? What other bills haven't been paid, large or small? How many businesses will no longer deal with the Town of Kent? I feel sorry for the next Kent Supervisor who will have to clean up this mess. Maureen Fleming calls this "fiscally conservative," I call it penny-wise and pound foolish! Putnam County voters beware!

Michele Sclafani
Town of Kent Conservative
Chairwoman

Odell Did Not Understand Purpose of Community Congress

As a volunteer for the Nancy Montgomery campaign, I was honored to attend the Philipstown Community Congress County Candidate forum Friday night and see so many neighbors engaged in a local race. Focusing on topics presented by the participants in the community survey, I hope, helped to shed light on the role county government

should play in our shared goals.


As productive and successful as the event was however, I was appalled by the blatant disrespect demonstrated by MaryEllen Odell. After arriving 25 minutes late with absolutely no apology, her opening statement showed a total misunderstanding of the purpose of the Community Congress and a flippant

disregard for its common agenda. And her early departure robbed the participants of any opportunity for follow up questions or even a hello and a handshake.

I don't know whether this was a lack of preparation for the event, or simply a lack of consideration for the needs expressed by our community, but Philipstown has waited around too long for MaryEllen

Odell to give us the attention we deserve. We don't have the luxury of waiting out another term.


Sean Conway
Cold Spring



I'M STILL HERE
BECAUSE
NEWYORK-
PRESBYTERIAN
IS HERE



ROXANNE Putnam Valley, NY
Survived cardiac arrest

AMAZING THINGS ARE HAPPENING HERE

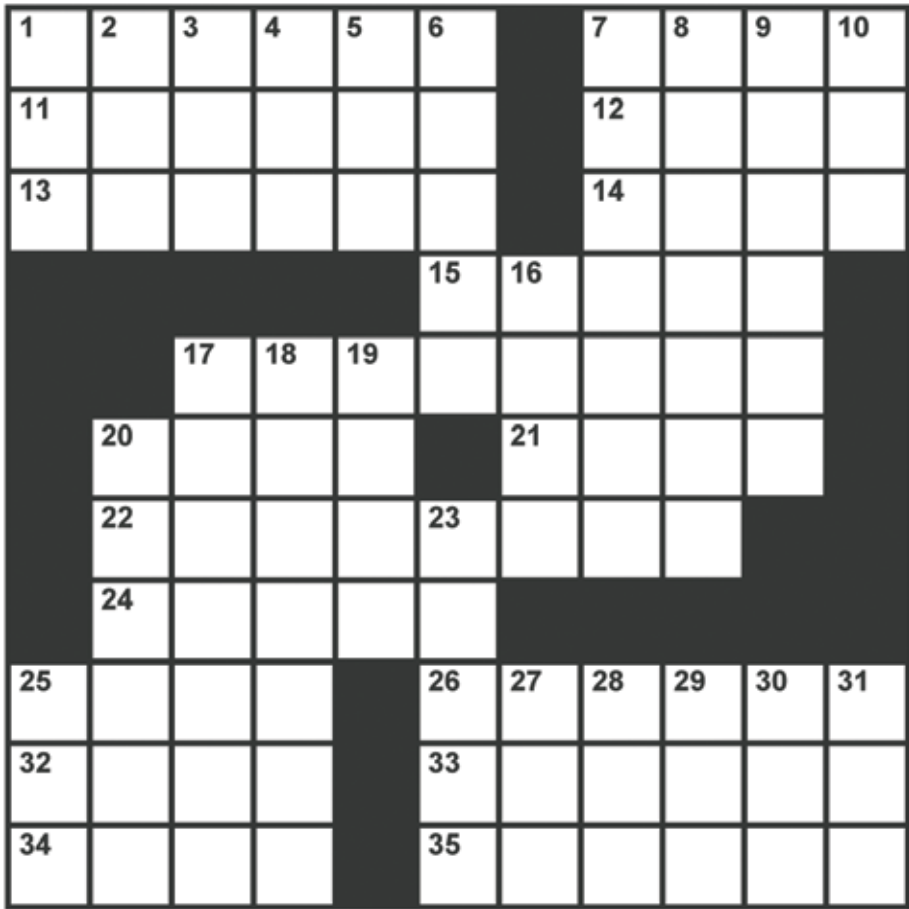
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 19

- Across
1. See eye to eye

7. Sully

11. Stir up

12. Swiss river

13. Sea near New Zealand

14. Cinematographer Nykvist

15. Collectible Ford

17. Peekskill's new royal eatery, goes with 26 across

20. Tommie of the 60's-70's Mets

21. ____ the wiser

22. Put off

24. Confused

25. Hosiery shade

26. See 17 across

32. Send

33. Weapon case

34. Enlivens, with "up"

35. Vampire-like fly
9. Alternatively

10. Part of a royal flush

16. Bond opponent

17. Behavior or actions motivated by vanity

18. Boo-boos

19. Guitarist Townshend

20. Geronimo's tribe

23. "Blue Ribbon" beer maker

25. Special perception

27. Sounds of hesitation

28. Late ____

29. Lucrative

30. Sci-fi figures

31. It's definite

- Down
1. It has nine lives according to legend

2. "... a man ____ mouse?"

3. Denials

4. Goes with laude

5. It's from sea to shining sea

6. "Chicago" star, first name

7. Double reeded woodwind

8. Shirley's friend in 1970s-'80s TV

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As Putnam County Executive, **MaryEllen Odell** has supported our seniors, honored our veterans, protected our children and invested in our parks to improve our quality of life, all while running a fiscally responsible government.

- ★ **STAYED under the property tax cap** every year and **reduced** the county's debt by \$40 million
- ★ **PROTECTED our children** by funding school resource officers and tackled the opioid crisis by taking on **Big Pharma**
- ★ **SUPPORTED our seniors** by investing in senior centers and honored our veterans by establishing the **Row of Honor**
- ★ **INVESTED in our parks**, including **Tilly Foster Farm and BOCES Institute & the Putnam County Golf Course**, making them available for all families to enjoy
- ★ **SECURED millions of dollars** for **infrastructure and sewer projects** and protected our environment by preserving open space and treating blue-green algae



On November 6th, **VOTE**
MaryEllen Odell
for Putnam County Executive
PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MARYELLEN ODELL



Letters to the Editor

Voting for Dems in Putnam Would be a Mistake

As a former Chairman of a Republican Committee I remember a time when Republicans and Democrats could work harmoniously together despite their ideological differences. I even remember working on the campaigns of Democrats whose INDEPENDENT thinking I agreed with and supported. This was the Democratic Party of our parents, not the Socialist Party of today, posing as Democrats. Back then, Democrats didn't obstruct, disrupt, and divide. Back then, Democrats respected the Office of the President of the United States, whether or not they agreed with the President's philosophies.

The entire platform of the Democrats in this mid-term election is to attack and impeach President Trump, despite a booming economy including a history breaking stock market, unemployment and tax breaks. Yet, the Democrats continue to spew Anti-American hatred and divide this country, while disrespecting our Constitution and Flag.

On the local level, Democrats are lying to our Seniors to secure votes. It is the Democrats who obstructed, disrupted and blocked the building of the Senior (Friendship) Center at Butterfield for years, and now they criticize the time and

money it took to build it. In 2015 Roger Ailes donated \$500,000.00 and Paul Guillaro broke ground to build the Senior Center until the Democrats rejected it and rallied against it because Ailes was a Republican.

They continued to block development of the Butterfield complex by Paul Guillaro until being sued and are directly responsible for both the delay and the costs. They have also led the voters to believe that the lawsuit was dismissed and it was not. It is Republican County Executive MaryEllen Odell and District #1 Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra who fought to finally make it a reality.

The voters must decide if they want Putnam to be a Sanctuary County that will harbor criminals, condone illegal immigration and refuse to cooperate with federal agencies, if they want American citizens stripped of their right to protect their families under the Second Amendment, if they want continuous tax increases imposed on hard working, tax paying Americans, to support all those who will not work and do not pay taxes, in exchange for Democrat votes.

Voters must decide if they want to spend the next 2 years accomplishing nothing while watching a circus unfold as

Family Could Turn to Odell in Hour of Need

A few months ago, I woke up to a startling discovery. My son, who is a Veteran, was using heroin and was in crisis. Not knowing what to do, I called County Executive MaryEllen Odell at 6:50 a.m. She not only answered my call, but she listened and told me that she was going to have someone get in touch with me who could help. By 7:30 a.m. I was on the phone with John Bourges of the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Vet 2 Vet Program of Putnam County. John was having coffee with my son by 9 a.m. That afternoon, my son willingly went to the VA hospital and took his first step toward recovery.

Today my son is clean and still in recovery. We are hopeful about the future.

My son may not be here today were it not for the help of MaryEllen Odell and the Joseph P. Dwyer Vet 2 Vet Program of Putnam County. I cannot thank them enough.

We need leaders who care about us as people. That is why I am voting for MaryEllen Odell for Putnam County Executive on Tuesday, November 6, and I am asking your readers to do the same.

Sincerely,
Richard Ferris
Brewster

the Democrats focus on impeaching the President and Justice Kavanaugh.

If you want to continue to move this country forward, and not waste the next 2 years supporting the agenda of hatred, obstruction, protests, lies and division, vote Republican so that elected officials will do what they are paid to do instead of pursuing a personal agenda of destruction at the expense of the hard working, tax paying American citizens.

Don't let the Democrats take us back

to a place where building construction slows down, unemployment goes back up, social security does not get increased, our veterans and law enforcement officers are targeted and the tax breaks we are scheduled to get this year are taken away.

Cindy M. Trimble
Cold Spring

Town of Southeast SPECIAL ELECTION VOTE NOV 6th

ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

Your elected Town Board will...

- VOTE ON IMPORTANT ZONING CHANGES
- VOTE ON CRUCIAL LAND USE MODIFICATIONS
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It's time to start prioritizing residents, not developers.

Melinda **MONTANARO**
Southeast Town Council

Obituaries

Phyllis D. Viar

Phyllis D. Viar, of Brewster, formerly of Mt. Vernon, died peacefully at Putnam Hospital Center on October 23. She was 82 years old. Born on May 30th, 1936 in the Bronx, daughter of the late Nunzio and Rachel (Nigro) Bracone. Phyllis married the love of her life Anthony Viar Jr. on May 27th, 1962. Anthony predeceased his wife on October 14, 2009. Phyllis was an administrative assistant with the Mt. Vernon High School for 9 years before retiring. She loved to cook and spend time with her family. Prior to moving to Brewster, Phyllis was always lending a hand to others. Mrs. Viar is survived by her children; Michael Viar and his wife Melissa and Julie Ann Franco, her 4 grandchildren; Jonathan, Adam, Kyle & Vincent and her sister Lee Tesoro.

Saverio Lanzillotto

Saverio 'Sam' Lanzillotto, recently of Brewster, formerly a 60 year resident of Yonkers, died on Saturday, October 20. He was 87 years old. Born on May 29, 1931 in Bronx, NY, son of Carmine and Anna (Cianciatto) Lanzillotto. He graduated from schools in the Bronx and attended Colorado State College of Education in Greeley, CO. Sam honorably served in the Air Force during the Korean War. Sam

married the love of his life, Theresa Vozza on July 7, 1956 in the Bronx. Sam was Owner and Operator of Gas-Lite Service Company in Yonkers for 50 years having retired in 2002. Sam enjoyed travels to the Saratoga racetrack and visits to Lake George with his family. Those that knew Sam would certainly agree that his honesty shown bright amongst his many qualities. Maybe it was this wonderful quality that assisted in his obtaining Babe Ruth's autograph when he was just a young man. Besides his wife Theresa of 52 years, Sam is survived by his four children, Richard C. Lanzillotto of Medford, LI, NY, Anne-Marie Lanzillotto of Lawrenceville, NJ, Joanne (Alfred) Valentine of Brewster, and Michael (Susan) Lanzillotto of Croton-On-Hudson, NY; a brother, Nicholas Lanzillotto and a sister, Teresa Casatelli both of Franklin Square; 8 grandchildren; Christina, Richard Jr., Laura, Olivia, Joseph, Erika, Cynthia and Alexandra. Also a greatgrandchild on the way.

Annabelle C. Vazzano

Annabelle C. Vazzano, a 45-year resident of Brewster, died peacefully on October 24, at Columbian Presbyterian Hospital. She was 78 years old. Born on December 26, 1939 in New York City,

continued on page 19

BIG ELECTION

Whether it is fighting for our rights in Albany, fiscal responsibility in our County or protecting the environment in Kent with smart growth, the answers are all on ROW A this November.



SANDY GALEF for NYS Assembly

KAREN SMYTHE for NYS Senate

MAUREEN FLEMING for Putnam County Executive

GARY LINK for Kent Town Board and

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY for US House of Representatives

Vote Tuesday, November 6.

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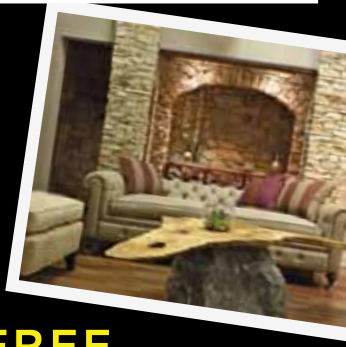
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Putnam Hospital Center Opens New Emergency Department

Putnam Hospital Center celebrated a vital achievement earlier this month by cutting the ribbon on a new, state-of-the-art Emergency Department. The \$9 million project is a crucial step toward enhancing patient care as the hospital responds to a growing community.

"The new Emergency Department is a reaffirmation of Putnam Hospital Center's commitment to providing patients with individualized care that is delivered with compassion and increased safety and efficiency," hospital President Peter Kelly said.

Construction began in September 2017 and involved building a new 8,400-square-foot Emergency Department adjacent to the existing 8,600-square-foot facility. The addition includes 11 private specialty treatment rooms, a new nurses' station, and a larger waiting room, along with separate ambulance and pedestrian entrances to improve patient safety and flow. The new Emergency Department will open for business on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

"I'm so proud to be part of this incredible project," Emergency Department Medical Director Dr. Keyur Ajbani said. "We strive for excellence in our Emergency Department and this expansion will provide us with the platform to deliver that care."

Phase II of the project started Oct. 17 and involves renovating a portion of the existing Emergency Department,



PROVIDED PHOTO

A huge ribbon cutting was held earlier month to celebrate the expansion of Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel



PROVIDED PHOTO

Part of the new look expansion within the hospital, in which construction started in 2017.

creating four new treatment rooms, a results-pending room, a consult-bereavement room, a new staff lounge, bathrooms, lockers and a new waiting area for transferring patients and pickups. Those refurbishments are expected to be completed by the end of March 2019. When completed, the Putnam Hospital Center Emergency Department will have a total of 27 treatment rooms.

"This expansion strengthens our

ability to address the healthcare needs of the community as we continue to grow as a regional healthcare system," Kelly said.

In 2017, Putnam Hospital Center had 27,017 visits to its Emergency Department, a figure that is projected to reach close to 28,000 this year.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place near the entrance of the new Emergency Department, where

approximately 150 community members, local leaders and employees joined Kelly, members of the Health Quest and Putnam Hospital Center boards of trustees, the Putnam Hospital Center Foundation and Putnam Hospital Center Auxiliary to celebrate the occasion.

The enhancements and renovations are paid in part by contributions made by the auxiliary and other fundraising efforts.

True Confessions of a Compulsive Weeder

For the past several years, I've been without a garden of my own to tend, living as I do in Trump Park where the landscape is beautifully managed as part of my maintenance fee. I can enjoy the beauty of the shrubs and flowers, the latter of which are changed according to the season, without any work on my part.

But I still have fond memories of gardening chores, especially – don't be surprised – pulling weeds. I particularly miss this chore at this time of year because when you pull a weed, it stays pulled.

When I first discovered the joys of gardening as a youngster, it was all about planting annuals and seeing quick results. But by the time I was in high school, perhaps in dealing with my impetuous nature, I found that I equally enjoyed pulling weeds to help ease those first bouts of post-adolescent anxiety. I must have been very anxious because my family's garden was always weed-free. It seemed to have been a healthy addiction for me.

That addiction became full blown as an adult when I moved to Westchester



By Bill Primavera

and my responsibilities were upgraded from a small square patch of earth in front of my house in Brooklyn Heights, where a sickly gingko tree sprang from the concrete sidewalk, to a verdant acre and a half of lawn and garden.

At the same time, I had started a new job and commuted a long distance every weekday to report to a boss who was the "Mr. Hyde" personality of all time. My weeding activity was especially intense during that period. Every time I yanked a weed, it was as though I was vicariously yanking his head bald, even

though he was already bald.

Lest one think that I need intervention, I would say that there are good compulsive habits and this might be one of them. At a time when many parents are concerned about violence in video games, I might suggest that as an antidote they require their children to weed in the garden for an equal amount of time that they would spend playing those games of virtual destruction. Put the quest for the elimination of villains to practical use, I say.

For adults, rather than considering weeding a chore or even therapy, it can be approached as an art, complete with its own techniques and disciplines as I first learned many decades ago when I read a joyous book called "The No-Work Garden" by Ruth Stout, sister of the detective fiction writer Rex Stout.

Recently, I was reminded of the healing art of weeding when I discovered that the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series now features an edition "For the Gardener's Soul" by Marion Owen. In her blog at www.plantea.com, Owen said a while back that weeding can be a pleasant "zen-like" experience – and I agree.

She also writes that regular weeding in the garden is like regular vacuuming in the home. Most people probably don't like either chore, but it's essential to a successful garden, as vacuuming is to a clean home.

Considering that a single weed can produce as many as 250,000 seeds, and those seeds arrive through a multilevel attack from the air, rain runoff and bird droppings, weeding would seem to be a losing battle. But there are preventative measures that can help diminish sprouting weeds.

Just keep up with the following:

* Uproot the offenders and place them

in the compost pile before they go to seed.

* Mulch, mulch, mulch. A three- to four-inch layer of mulch applied between plants or garden rows can slow down, or in many cases, prevent the re-growth of weeds.

* In the spring, after preparing the soil for planting, let it set for seven to 10 days. Then work the surface of the soil with a hoe. This will slice off the newly emerged weed seedlings. If you have time before planting, let the soil rest another week or so and hoe again.

* Cover the soil for a short while with black plastic, but don't leave it on for more than a couple of months because the soil needs air and water to remain healthy.

* Use those vertical barriers, such as wood, metal or heavy plastic edging to prevent grass and weeds from encroaching from lawn to garden.

And be mindful of what William Shakespeare wrote: "Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste."

While Bill Primavera enjoys careers as a journalist and publicist, he is gainfully and happily a licensed Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate, specializing in upper Westchester and Putnam Counties. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

Happenings

We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Nikki Gallagher at nikki@theexaminernews.com

Tuesday, October 30

Celebrate Halloween with Mad Science: (for children in grades 1-5). 5 p.m. Wear your Halloween costume and join us for some mystifying and scientific fun with fire and ice! Learn about the amazing properties of fire and combustion. Then, cool off with spectacular demonstrations involving dry ice! Check out the "Big Burp", the "Screwdriver Sizzle" and the famous "Mad Science Bath." This program is sponsored by the Friends of Mahopac Public Library. Registration is required; register online at www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Monster month film screening: Dracula featuring Bela Lugosi. 7 p.m., Popcorn provided; drop-in program, no registration need. For information visit www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext 100

Thursday, November 1

Stories & songs with Miss Charlotte at the Kent Library: Preschoolers and caregivers are invited to come in and enjoy some Sessions for 0-2 years will be held on Thursdays: November 1, 8, and 15 at 11:30 a.m.; sessions for 3-5 years will be held on Wednesdays: October 31 and November 7 and 14 at 11:30 a.m. Registration is required. The Kent Library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing off Route 52 and can be reached at (845) 225-8585 or www.kentlibrary.org.

Magizooologists! 21 Fantastic Beasts will be hiding in the Kent Library from November 1-15. Find a Beast Card (see photograph) and turn it in at the front desk. In return, we will enter you for a chance to win movie tokens to Carmel

Cinemas right in time to see Fantastic Beasts 2: The Crimes Of Grindelwald! All ages are welcome to participate! The winner will be notified on Thursday, November 15 at 3 p.m. The Kent Library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing off Route 52 and can be reached at (845) 225-8585.

Learn to make Balloon Animals: Learn how to make balloon animals, then go out into the community to make balloon animals at special local events. 3:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to earn community service credit; pick up a Teen Volunteer application at the Library or download one from the Library website. For more information visit www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext 136.

Friday, November 2

Flo Brandon Book Group: Join for a discussion of Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel. 11 a.m. Drop-in group; no registration needed and new members are always welcome. For information about future reads visit www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Summer Trails Pumpkin Mash: Hosted by Summer Trails Baseball Camp. When Halloween is over, what do you do with your pumpkins? Here at Summer Trails we have a mashing, smashing, pounding, flinging, launching good time! Bring your friends, family for the messiest and silliest this fall!!! (no need to bring a pumpkin, we will have plenty) 93 Mahopac Ave, Granite Springs. 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

180th Celebration of Patterson Community Church Weekend including: A dinner dance on Friday, November 2 featuring Tony T's Echos

of Sinatra, at the Church, 1062 Route 311, advance Tickets \$40/Seniors \$35, 1062 Route 311, see website <https://pattersoncommunitychurch/> - Church History Presentation by Patterson Historical Society, 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm, lunch provided at church - Sunday, November 4th -180th Church Commemoration Service - 9:30 a.m. for more information Elder, Patterson Community Church. 914-774-7127

Wonder Lab: Every other Tuesday 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Kids will work together to explore the concepts of STEAM through fun activities, exciting experiments, and awesome art. For grades 3-6. Registration is ongoing. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845- 878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Saturday, November 3

All Novelists Welcome: Visit the Kent Library to work on their projects and meet other writers every Saturday in November from noon -2 p.m. During NaNoWriMo, or National Novel Writing Month, novelists attempt to write at least 50,000 words (the point when a story becomes a novel). Either come in for some moral support, enjoy our quiet work space, or celebrate your victory while getting feedback from fellow writers. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required. The Kent Library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing off Route 52 and can be reached at (845) 225-8585 or www.kentlibrary.org.

CARMEL CUBS 2019 COOPERSTOWN TEAM FUNDRAISER: Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.,

-10 a.m. Applebee's in Southeast/Brewster. Tickets are \$6/each and can be purchased by emailing carmelcubsbaseball@gmail.com

Tompkins Corners Presents a Reading of Alice Jankell's Play, The Sweet Spot: 7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center will present a reading of Alice Jankell's new play, The Sweet Spot, with Mary Beth Hurt and Paul Savior, and directed by Ms. Jankell. Q&A will follow the reading, with audience feedback encouraged. Refreshments will be served. Suggested donation is \$10 and reservations can be made at www.tompkinscorners.org/reservations.html or by phone at 845 528-7280. Email info@tompkinscorners.org.

Harney Tea Tasting: 1 p.m. Learn how to brew the perfect cup of tea as Mike Harney, local tea master, explains the differences among teas and how they are grown, harvested and dried as we sample several of the more than 300 varieties of Harney & Sons Teas. For more information or to register, contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

FREE Rabies Shot: Attention Putnam Residents! Bring your dogs, cats, and ferrets to a FREE rabies vaccination clinic on 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Putnam County Department of Health, the clinic is being held at Brook Farm Veterinary Center, 2371 Route 22, Patterson and is open to all Putnam County residents. For more information and directions, please call the Putnam County Department of Health at (845) 808-1390 ext. 43160.

Union Members Rally for Fair Deal From County

continued from page 1

with Odell took more than three attempts before the two connected, she said.

When asked about Odell's assertion that the union was making it difficult to schedule a meeting, Canaday said, "It's a lie."

She noted that the legislature voted to give themselves a 14 percent raise last year and this year managers for the county are getting a 2 percent bump, while union workers' pay remains level.

"Our last contract was a disgrace," Canaday said. "We're not actually getting a fair cost of living."

While Democrat Maureen Fleming joined in on the rally last week, the CSEA did not endorse a candidate for county executive. Canaday said it was under consideration, but ultimately no endorsement was voted on. Fleming, the Kent supervisor, is facing Odell in the race for county executive.

Fleming, in a press release earlier this month, took a shot at Odell for not



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Union workers were out in full force last week, demanding a fair deal from county leaders.

reaching a deal with workers in three different labor unions, including the CSEA.

Vice president of the Putnam County Sheriff's Employee Association (PCSEA) Frank Caruso, said he and other members were in attendance to support the CSEA. Both unions have been without a contract

for the last two years, with the PSCEA not even in discussions with the county leadership.

"We're hoping to get stuff resolved," Caruso, who was speaking for himself and not the entire union, said. "Morale is very low because of that."

Caruso said the PCSEA is seeking a fair and equal contract, noting, "I love Putnam County, but we want Putnam County to love us back."

"We don't want to do this, but it has to be done so they can hear us," Caruso said.

Odell, in a statement, said Fleming's appearance at the rally, which she was invited to, is proof the unions are allowing themselves to be "pawns in a political race."

"The unions save the middle class and saved lives. I am the granddaughter and

daughter of union workers, I get it," Odell stated. "We will reach a fair and equitable agreement that will respect the employees and the taxpayers that they serve."

During a public hearing the same night regarding the proposed county budget for next year, union workers and supporters spoke out, urging legislators to advocate for a fair deal.

CSEA member Laura Bromfield said Odell has ignored calls from the union to negotiate a new deal and has shown "downright contempt" for union employees. Bromfield asserted the buildings where employees work are in terrible conditions.

"Morale of the employees are at an all time low," Bromfield, a Carmel resident, said.

Janet Meunier, the local president for CSEA, said it disheartens her that the legislature is not part of the negotiating process from the onset.

"We want to hear from you," she said. "Let's work together for a better Putnam."

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SUMMIT GENERAL CONSTRUCTION LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/11/2018. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7 Arbor St, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SUPRANOWITZ CONSULTING LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 9/13/18. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 190 Lake Shore Drive Pleasantville NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF METACR, LLC., Consulting Co. filed with SSNY on 9/17/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to MetacR, LLC, 591 Warburton Ave., Ste. 373, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF QUINN AIR LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 7/27/18. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 529 Rockland Ave., Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CTP CONSULTING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/25/18. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may

be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 7 Mid Place, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BB GRANT EDUCATORS, LLC, Filed with SSNY on September 18 2018. Office: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent and shall mail process to BB GRANT Educators, LLC 465 S. Lexington Ave., White Plains, NY 10606 Purposes: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 255 EAST 45 STREET LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 9/28/18. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 255 EAST 45 STREET LLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140, White Plains, NY 10604. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF VAST VIDEOGRAPHY, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 8/10/18. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Vast Videography, LLC, 24207 Town Green Dr., Elmsford, NY 10523. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCE LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 08/03/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Alternative Energy Resource LLC 36 Primrose Ave, Mount Vernon NY 10552. Purpose: Alternative Energy Consulting.

LEGAL NOTICE - AXEL YANES, Plaintiff v. MARY CIVITELLA, Defendant, under index number 61040/2018 in Supreme Court, Westchester County. This is a personal injury action in which plaintiff is seeking to be compensated for injuries sustained at the premises known as 421 Elm Street, Port Chester, NY, including but not limited to pain and suffering and other damages sustained on July 27, 2015 as a result of the defendants' negligence. Plaintiff is seeking compensation in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of the Trial Court. Defendants are in default and must appear and/or Answer the Summons and Complaint under Index Number 61040/2018. If defendants fail to interpose an Answer, a default judgment will be entered against the property.

continued on next page

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE ART CLOSET LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with SSNY on 09/26/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **50 Old Roaring Brook Rd., Mount Kisco, NY 10549.** Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CURATED FOR YOU BY KATRI. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/25/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, **6 Barron Cir., Chappaqua, NY 10514.** Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Obituaries

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daughter of the late Frank and Victoria (DiSalvio) Jesselli. Annabelle graduated from Seward Park High School in 1957. On September 24, 1960 she married the love of her life Frank Vazzano at St. Joseph's Church in New York City. Following their wedding they moved to Queens, NY before moving to Brewster in 1972. Mrs. Vazzano is not only survived by her loving husband Frank, but also her children; Frank Vazzano (Lana Totten) of Brewster, Anthony Vazzano (Diana) and Christopher Vazzano (Heather) of Patterson, her 3 grandchildren; Cristina, Christopher & Julianna and her sister Marie Parlante.

John "Jack" R. Mark

It is with heavy hearts that the family of John "Jack" R. Mark, 68, announces his passing on October 25, 2018 surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Mark was born on March 20, 1950 to the late, Robert and Patricia (Gaus) Mark in Yonkers. On February 20, 1971 he married his best friend and the love of his life, Kathleen Storminger in the Bronx, and together they were blessed with two children; Tammy and Noel. In 1978, he and Kathleen moved to Lake Carmel to call home and together raised their family.

Jack worked for New York Telephone Company as a manager retired after 22 years, later worked at Putnam Hospital Center as a Supervisor for Security and later retired after 22 years of hard work. Although he enjoyed working his favorite pastime was spending time with his family and friends. He fully enjoyed life and was an avid fan of wood working, gardening and going to the grandchildren's activities. Jack was a devoted husband, a loving father, Pop, brother, uncle and a friend to many. He will be dearly missed by all who had known and loved him, yet his legacy of love and devotion to family and friends will continue to grow in our hearts. Jack is survived by his devoted wife of 47 years, his two loving children; Tammy Meissner and Noel Broccoli, his sister Patricia Kennedy and his four adoring grandchildren; Athena, Robbie, Taylor, and Jake all of whom he adored, and each child held a special place in his heart.



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Putnam Valley FB/LB John Listwan (44) took over on both sides of the ball in the sixth-seeded Tigers' shocking 36-25 win over No.2 host Pleasantville in the Section 1 Class B semifinals at Parkway Field last Friday night when the captain went for 30 carries, a school record 287 yards and four TDs on offense while adding 11 tackles, one sack and one fumble caused on the other side of the ball. The Tigers advanced to their first Section 1 title tilt this Friday (4:30 p.m.) to face top-seeded, state-ranked (No.3) Ardsley at Mahopac High School... see Grid Notebook

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

