



# Coronavirus Shuts Down Putnam County

## *First Confirmed Cases Reported; No Jail or Hospital Visitors Allowed*

By Holly Crocco

Two positive cases of COVID-19 in Putnam County residents have been confirmed by the Putnam County Department of Health. The individuals have been quarantined at home and will continue to be monitored carefully, according to the department.

Contact tracing is underway and those that are found to have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case will be notified by health department officials and precautionary or mandatory quarantine will be established for each person.

"This is not an unexpected event, nor should it cause alarm," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. "We knew

eventually a positive case would be confirmed. The Putnam County Department of Health's communicable disease staff is working with state and local partners to identify all possible contacts."

Prior to lab-confirmation of positive COVID-19 cases in Putnam, the county executive declared a State of Emergency through March 27, and ordered all public schools closed for a five-day period, with an option to extend it for another five days. All classroom and extracurricular functions are also suspended.

The Garrison Union Free School District has announced that it will be closed through April 15.

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PROVIDED PHOTO

On Monday, Putnam County Department of Health staff were able to test qualified individuals who met specific state DOH and Centers for Disease Control criteria using the drive-through clinic procedure implemented recently in Westchester County. In order to limit potential spread of the disease, testing occurred in an empty parking lot by appointment only with public health professionals taking proper infection control precautions.

### Coronavirus - Inside This Issue

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**Go to [www.TheExaminerNews.com](http://www.TheExaminerNews.com) for the latest COVID-19 news and updates.**

# Astorino Rumored to Challenge Harckham for State Senate

By Holly Crocco

Former Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino, a Republican who ran for governor in 2014, is rumored to be considering a run for State Senate in the 40th district, challenging incumbent Democrat Peter Harckham.

The 40th district represents the Putnam County towns of Carmel, Patterson and Southeast, as well as parts of southern Dutchess County and many communities in northern Westchester.

While Westchester is considered a "deep blue" county, the further north you travel in the 40th district, the more republican it becomes. In 2016, the district voted for Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton, and former State Sen. Terrence Murphy defeated Democrat Ali Boak 58-42 percent.

Harckham narrowly defeated Murphy in 2018, 51-49 percent, in a gubernatorial year, with Gov. Andrew Cuomo trouncing Republican Mark Molinaro – who was also

seeking to be the Republican candidate for governor – 60-36 percent.

Upon hearing the rumors, the Democratic State Senate Committee wrote a letter to Astorino "welcoming" him to the race.

"You were already rejected by voters in losing races for county executive and governor, and couldn't get enough support to run for Congress, so let's do this!" wrote the committee. "Hopefully we'll see you out on the campaign trail soon!"

Astorino served as Westchester County executive from 2010 to 2017, and as a Westchester County legislator before that. He was an advisor to Trump during Trump's presidential campaign, and is currently a CNN contributor.

Harckham served alongside Astorino as a Westchester County legislator, from 2007 to 2015, serving two terms as Democratic majority leader. He left the Legislature in 2015 to work under the Cuomo administration. Harckham also

*continued on page 12*



State Sen. Pete Harckham



Former Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino

# Coronavirus Shuts Down Putnam County

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On Sunday, Odell ordered all public daycare centers that are regulated by New York State – including but not limited to all large and small day care centers, nursery and preschools, prekindergarten and head start programs – in Putnam County be closed for five days beginning March 16.

Additionally, the county executive issued executive orders canceling or postponing all social, community and public gatherings and events in which it is anticipated that more than 20 people will be in attendance; and ordering all food service establishments including delis, supermarkets, grocery stores and catering facilities to cease all buffet-style service and sales.

“You should only be leaving your homes when absolutely necessary,” said Odell. “All social events should be reconsidered and rescheduled if at all possible. By slowing the spread of COVID-19, it can allow the health care system to be better prepared and have the available beds for the most ill.”

According to news reports, as of Friday, there were 33 individuals in Putnam who were being monitored for COVID-19 symptoms due to recent travel or having come in contact with someone with the virus.

Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat acknowledged that the health department has received many complaints that residents are calling and not receiving an

answer after leaving a message.

“We do apologize that our nurses are inundated with calls,” he said. “Please know that you are among many other people with concerns and questions. We are attempting to contact everybody who leaves us a message.”

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley suspended all visitation to the Putnam County Correctional Facility effective Monday. In addition, all programs and religious services are canceled until further notice, and the inmate work program will not be providing outside services to any facility until further notice.

“We know these steps will be difficult for the families of inmates and the inmates themselves, however we must ensure that we protect everyone’s health – especially those confined to close quarters,” said Langley.

All senior centers and adult day service sites will be closed for two weeks, from Monday, March 16 through and including Friday, March 27. Meals will instead be delivered at home for those who need them.

“Since seniors are particularly vulnerable to this virus, it is just better to be safe than sorry,” said Odell.

The Office of Senior Resources is expanding its home-delivered meal services while the senior centers are closed. Those who currently receive home-delivered meals will continue to do so. In addition,

seniors who regularly attend the nutrition sites and who have been identified as in need of continued nutrition support will get meals delivered, according to OSR Director Michael Cunningham.

In addition to meals, the following services will also still be available to the county’s seniors during this time: telephone reassurance and expanded outreach to at-risk seniors and site participants, caregiver support, legal services, HIICAP health insurance counseling and assistance, EISEP and home health aide support, and HEAP home energy assistance.

The sites affected are the Carmel Friendship Center, the Putnam Valley Friendship Center, the Friendship Center at Philipstown and the William Koehler Senior Center in Mahopac.

On Sunday, the Putnam County Clerk’s Office encouraged all patrons to consider foregoing visiting that office and the Department of Motor Vehicles in Brewster for the upcoming week unless absolutely necessary.

“If you must visit our offices to avail yourself of our services, please be advised that we will be significantly limiting the amount of customers in our office,” said County Clerk Michael Bartolotti.

Visitors to the County Clerk’s Office, as well as DMV, will be limited to a maximum of 10 patrons at a time.

Nuvance Health, which includes Putnam

Hospital Center in Carmel, announced Monday that no visitors will be allowed at any of its facilities until further notice.

“You should only be leaving your homes when absolutely necessary,” said Odell. “All social events should be reconsidered and rescheduled if at all possible. Please continue to use common sense and to be mindful of your neighbors and your communities so that we can achieve a reduction in exposure.”

Data suggest that 80 percent of people who contract the virus self-resolve and tend to have mild symptoms that eventually subside, according to the health commissioner. “But we practice social distancing for the 20 percent that will have serious complications, hospitalizations requiring intubation, or possibly death,” said Nesheiwat.

Testing for COVID-19 is occurring in Putnam County, at the discretion of an attending physician following state DOH and CDC guidelines.

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#### **Q: What stage is my cancer?**

**A:** Breast cancer stages are represented on a scale of 0 to 4, with 4 being the most serious. Stage 0, also called ductal carcinoma in situ, means that your cancer is contained in a milk duct and has a low risk of spreading. Stage 4 breast cancer means the cancer has spread to other parts of your body. If your cancer is stage 4, seeking treatment immediately may improve your outcome and ultimate quality of life.

#### **Q: How do I decide whether a lumpectomy or mastectomy is the best option?**

**A:** More often than not, you will choose the type of surgery you feel most comfortable with. The survival data of lumpectomy with radiation is equivalent to that of a mastectomy, so we’ve learned that more surgery is not necessarily better.

#### **Q: How soon does surgery need to be done?**

**A:** Typically, we try to operate within a month of a diagnosis – you don’t have to decide immediately. You can learn about breast cancer, understand your options, and then make a decision you’re comfortable with. A woman’s gut feeling is most important. My patients often ask me, “What would you do?” But it’s not about me – it’s what the woman wants and what makes sense for her, her family, and her life.

#### **Q: How do I choose a surgeon?**

**A:** Seek a fellowship-trained breast surgeon. These are surgeons who, after their residency, do a fellowship specific to oncologic breast surgery. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we work as a team to care for you through surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, genetics and plastic surgery.

#### **Q: How can I find support during this difficult time?**

**A:** Northern Westchester Hospital’s Bruce and Andrea Yablon Cancer Health and Wellness Program provides supportive care and holistic treatments that complement medical treatment. You can choose free integrative medicine services, including reiki, acupuncture, massage, nutrition planning, fitness and exercise plans, mindful wellness and emotional support, and a survivorship program.

We also partner with Support Connection, a group that offers free emotional, social and educational support services to women and their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer. I encourage my patients to take part in these programs. The support enables women to help each other and empowers them to become their own health care advocates.



# Putnam's First Brand Hotel Open for Business

## *Comfort Inn Brewster Located at Former Kelties Bum Steer*

By Holly Crocco

No cleaner, more sanitized place could be found March 13 as the Comfort Inn Brewster at 7-11 Peach Lake Road (Route 121) officially opened its doors – marking the opening of the first name brand hotel in

Putnam County.

Sparkling new and free of COVID-19 fears, and opening Friday the 13th, nonetheless, owner Shelly Nichani of Greenwich, Conn., said he's nothing but excited and confident about welcoming residents, visitors, transients and anyone looking for a home

away from home.

Nichani and Greenwich Hospitality Group, LLC, own nine franchise hotels in several states. When a realtor alerted him to the property that was available in Brewster, Nichani said he was drawn to its proximity to Interstate 84 and Danbury, and the fact that

it would be the first hotel in Putnam County.

As a family-owned business, he said making guests feel at home is what they strive for. "Keep it simple and hospitable, and take care of your customer," he said.

*continued on page 4*



The Comfort Inn Brewster on Peach Lake Road/Route 121 opened March 13.

HOLLY CROCCO PHOTOS



From left are Putnam County EDC President Kathleen Abels, Tourism Director Tracey Walsh, Comfort Inn Brewster General Manager Shelly Ibrahim, owner Shelly Nichani, and Putnam County IDA Chairman Bill Nulk in the hotel lobby on opening day – March 13.

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# Putnam's First Brand Hotel Open for Business

continued from page 3

The Comfort Inn Brewster is a three-story hotel with 57 rooms that offer either two queen-size beds or one king-size bed. Amenities include complementary hot breakfast, a fitness center, and a meeting space that can hold up to 60 people. It employs about 10 staff members, including front desk attendants, housekeeping staff, and a general manager and maintenance supervisor.

Nichani said he expects to see a mix of guests at the hotel, including professionals who are doing business nearby, people visiting family, tourists visiting local ski resorts and other areas of interest, and various travelers on I-84 who need a place to stop off.

Bringing the Comfort Inn Brewster to fruition as taken Nichani about 12 to 15 months.

The property is the location of the former Kelties Bum Steer restaurant and hotel, which was the site of an explosion July 29, 1997 that killed two people and injured five.

Since then, former property owner Fox Ridge Motor Inn, Inc., and its tenant Fox Ridge Hotel & Suites, LLC, attempted to bring a Best Western Plus to the site, but encountered significant financial difficulties, explained Putnam County Industrial Development Agency Chairman Bill Nulk.

He said that when Nichani expressed interest in buying the property in 2018, all parties involved worked hard to expedite the



HOLLY CROCCO PHOTO

Owner Shelly Nichani and General Manager Seham Ibrahim chat with Putnam County IDA Chairman Bill Nulk, Tourism Director Tracey Walsh, and EDC President Kathleen Abels in the lobby of the new Comfort Inn Brewster.

process of transitioning property ownership.

"It worked out to be an adequate realignment," said Nulk, explaining that not only is the hotel located in an ideal location,

but it also replaces the eyesore that has existed for more than 20 years. "The town is very happy to have it here."

In addition, Nulk noted that Nichani

owns another 10 acres of property adjacent to the hotel that could be developed into a restaurant, convention center-type facility, or other commercial space as nearby Route 6 is redeveloped.

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## Harckham Introduces Bills to Provide Aid, Resources During COVID-19 Crisis

State Sen. Pete Harckham, D-Peekskill, introduced legislation last week that addresses some of the financial concerns related to the growing coronavirus crisis and its impact statewide. All four bills are in response to potential disruption and economic loss caused by the health emergency, as more schools, businesses, offices and other public spaces are being temporarily closed.

"As the coronavirus outbreak intensifies in some areas of New York, we have to anticipate some of the economic consequences that will occur and try to offer appropriate assistance to those who will need it most," said Harckham. "This package of legislation will serve as both a safety net and precautionary resources to have in place as we face this crisis. As such, I appreciate the support my Senate colleagues have shown for the legislation. I think we all realize that now is the time for proactive measures."

Among the bills Harckham sponsored are an amendment to prior legislation that will provide interest-free loans to small businesses affected by any community-wide shutdowns from the coronavirus; a bill that ensures school tuition is paid to special act schools that receive state aid; a bill that raises the cap on how much retired police officers can make during states of emergency; and a similar bill that will allow retired state health care workers to earn more than the earnings cap during a declared state of emergency.

Across New York, health and government officials remain at high alert while working to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

"While New York State Department of Health works to contain the virus, it is important that we look ahead, galvanize our resources, and see who will need assistance," said Harckham, who is hoping to expedite passage of the legislative package in the State Senate.



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# Put Valley School Board Awards Bids for Capital Project

By Holly Crocco

Students, staff, parents and residents of the Putnam Valley Central School District may soon see fencing going up around the middle and high schools, as the Board of Education on March 5 unanimously approved the awarding of bids to several contractors to begin the work.

"The good news is we got base bids on budget, and we got a great turnout during the bidding process," Walter Hauser of KG&D Architects in Mount Kisco told the school board.

As part of the project, upgrades are planned at the middle school cafeteria/auditorium, including an expanded kitchen and additional multipurpose space to host larger functions and meetings. In addition, a

modern learning commons is planned at the school, as well as a modernized entrance, more flexible classroom space, and upgrades to bathrooms.

At the elementary school, HVAC and seating upgrades are planned in the auditorium, and two active learning spaces will be created.

Also, a new health and wellness center at the high school/middle school campus to accommodate physical education and health classes, sports teams, and outside groups is being designed.

According to Hauser, 25 different contractors submitted a total of 84 bids on different aspects of the capital project, with KG&D recommending the awarding of 14 contracts. "So we have a great result on the project and we're really excited to move

forward," he said.

District voters approved \$12 million in bonding for the project, and the base bids came in at about \$11.99 million.

Hauser noted that there are a few alternate plans at the middle school that KG&D recommends putting on hold until a later date. These include creating classroom core spaces, a nurses suite and new guidance offices.

"We've talked to all the low bidders – they're willing to maintain their prices for an extended period of time, and that may give us the option to award those at a later date," said Hauser. "But right now we want to maintain a healthy contingency, at least through the most critical part of the project, which is the demolition of the middle school where we take the building apart, get it out of the ground, and until we're out of the ground with the wellness center. Those are supercritical phases."

He said once the contracts are formalized, mobilization at the middle school and high school can begin.

"These are all contractors we've worked with before," concluded Hauser. "We're comfortable that they understand the project, that they're all qualified, and in fact some

of these contractors have been involved in capital projects on your campus, including some of the contractors for the wellness center were involved with the construction of the high school. We're pleased that there's some familiarity and they are excited to return to work for Putnam Valley."

Kevin Sawyer from Triton Construction noted that the anticipated completion date for the middle school is Sept. 1.

"This is a really exciting night... because now we've finished all this talking about doing this project and we're going to start doing this project," he said. "It is an aggressive schedule but we know that we can make it."

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Luft stated in a letter to the community that a construction staging area will be erected in the middle school parking lot adjacent to the courtyard in the coming weeks.

"This will affect the number of available parking spaces and will impact our dismissal process," he said. "Your flexibility, partnership, and patience will be critical to minimizing the disruptions and will best support our students."

For details, visit the district's website and social media pages.



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## Obituaries

### John Anthony Catapano

John Anthony Catapano, 86, died March 6. John was born in Brooklyn on July 11, 1933 to the late Antonio and Filomena Catapano. He is predeceased by his wife Alice Carolyn Catapano, who passed away March 9, 2015.

John is survived by his daughter Angelina Valentini and her husband Anthony, and grandchildren Alyse and Sean Doyle, and Gabrielle and Anthony II; daughter Victoria Hirsch and her husband Robert Christopher, and grandchildren Olivia and Robert; son John Catapano; son Felice Catapano and grandchildren Nicholas and Mariah; son Antonio Catapano and his wife Tiffany, and grandchildren John and Damian; and five great-grandchildren.

John and Alice raised their family in Mahopac, in the "Fish Bowl" neighborhood where he put on fireworks displays for the Fourth of July.

### Paula Frusciante

Paula Frusciante of Mahopac passed away Sunday, March 8, at the age of 68. She was born in Brooklyn on Dec. 28, 1951, the daughter of George and Helen Kaye. Paula grew up in lower Westchester and graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1969.

Paula married Anthony Frusciante Jr. on Oct. 2, 1983 and they lived in Mahopac for more than 36 years. Paula is survived by her husband Anthony, son Daniel of Lincoln, Neb., and daughter Rebecca of Glen Burnie, Md.

Paula, a stay-at-home mom, was president of school PTOs and president of the Marching Band Parents Association, was an involved dance mom and catered teacher luncheons.

Visitation was held March 12 at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, with funeral services the next day at the funeral home. Interment was at Rose Hills in Putnam Valley.

### Robert E. Havel

Robert E. Havel, 67, of Brewster died March 6. He was born April 1, 1952 in Manhattan to George and Frances (Tighe) Havel, and was a graduate of John Jay High School in Katonah.

Robert married Toni Piteo on Oct. 8,

1977 at St. Patrick's Church in Armonk.

In addition to his wife of 42 years, Robert is survived by daughter Nicole Cosentino (Christopher) of Chappaqua; son Paul Havel of White Plains and his girlfriend Amanda Whisenant; grandchildren Ellie, Abby and Izzy; and siblings Catherine Suchenski (Bob) of Southbury, Conn., Eugene Havel (Jodi) of Danbury, Patricia McGinn (Thomas) of Katonah, and Gary Havel (Dana) of Cumming, Ga.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 12 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Katonah, followed by private cremation. Visitation was March 11 at Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster.

### Pasquale Leonetti

Pasquale "Pat" Leonetti of Carmel died March 4 at the age of 80. He was born in Yonkers on Oct. 15, 1939, the son of James and Carmela (Lallone) Leonetti.

Pat began his career as a school teacher at Rye Neck High School where he taught for 15 years.

On April 14, 1979, Pat married Arden Sproul at Christ Church in Pawling. In addition to Arden, he is survived by his children Trevor (Nanci) Kubik of Patterson, Adam Leonetti of Emmaus, Pa., Dana Leonetti of Brooklyn, and Caitlin Leonetti (Angelo St. Jean) of Stamford, Conn.; sister Maria Tarantino of Mt. Vernon; and grandchildren Haley and Jack.

He was predeceased by his son PJ.

Visitation was March 9 at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, with funeral services the following day. Cremation was private.

### Rhoda Needelman

Rhoda Needelman of Cold Spring, formerly of Yonkers, passed away March 8 at North Westchester Restorative. She was 89.

Born Feb. 24, 1931 in New York City to the late Louis and Minnie Garfinkel Cohen, Rhoda and her husband Marvin ran the concession booths at the Depot Theater and Cold Spring Little League. Rhoda also was the controller and bookkeeper for Cresthill Industries. She was one of the founding members of the Philipstown Reformed Synagogue.

Rhoda is survived by her children Gayle Needelman of Cold Spring, and Mindy Jesek and her husband John of Cold Spring; grandchildren Katherina Jesek, J.M. Jesek, Lauren Lulgjuraj and her husband Johnny, Nicole Needelman and Kaitlin Needelman; great-grandchildren A.J. and Serena Lulgjuraj and Mason Jesek; daughter-in-law Michele Needelman of Suffern; brother Gerald Cohen and his wife Katrine; sister Sandra Greenberg and her husband Jerome; and many nieces and nephews.

Rhoda was predeceased by her husband Marvin on Oct. 17, 2019, and her son Howard Needelman.

A graveside service was held March 10 at Sharon Gardens with Rabbi Helaine Ettinger officiating. A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 16 at St. Mary's Parish Hall at 10 a.m.

### Anita D. Pellegrino

Anita D. Pellegrino, 102, of Mahopac, died March 9.

Anita was born Nov. 29, 1917 to Vincent and Antoinette D'Ovidio in Rome, Italy, where her father was stationed while in the military. The family later moved to their hometown of Lanciano, Italy. She married Vincent Pellegrino on Dec. 5, 1948.

Anita is survived by her children Vincent Pellegrino of Mahopac, Gerald Pellegrino and his wife Ida of Lakewood, N.J., and Richard Pellegrino and his wife Ellen of Putnam Valley; grandchildren Vanessa, Theresa and Caitlin; and sister Marie Ferrari and her husband Alfredo.

Anita was predeceased by her husband Vincent who passed away in 1997, and by her sister Elda.

Visitation was March 11 at Cargain Funeral Homes Inc., in Mahopac. A Mass of Christian burial took place the next day at St. John the Evangelist Church. She was then brought to her final resting place in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.

### Marilyn Russo

Marilyn Russo, 85, died March 8. Marilyn was born Oct. 16, 1934 in the Bronx to William and Mary (Natale) Ward. On Sept. 20, 1953 she married John Russo. Marilyn was a cashier at the A&P in Mahopac, and a homemaker.

She is survived by her daughter Joanne and son-in-law Joseph Netrosio of Mahopac; son William Russo of Fishkill; daughter Jeanellen and son-in-law John Baker of Mahopac; and son Joseph and daughter-in-law Sarah Russo of Brewster; grandchildren Joseph, Jackie (Mike), Nicole (Mike), Aimee (Mike), Douglas (Alisha), Rachel and Johnny; great-grandchildren Dylan, Elaina, Talon, Kylie and Ruby; and sister Anna Bonda.

Marilyn was predeceased by her husband John on Feb. 4, 2018 and her son John Russo on Nov. 13, 2010.

Visitation was held March 15 at Cargain Funeral Home in Mahopac, and a service was March 16 at the funeral home. Burial followed at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

### Catherine Sepe

Catherine Sepe, 93, of Carmel, died March 5.

She was predeceased by her husband Peter (Pietro), as well as all of her siblings.

Catherine is survived by her children Orsolina, Gennaro (Leslie), Marie, Ralph and Peter; grandchildren Lauren, Lindsey, Lucas and Jacob; sister Frances; and nephew Gennaro (Carolyn) and niece Marie Frances, and their children Melissa (Louie), Anthony (Sarah), Stephanie, Stevie, Carly and Meredith (Mike) and Olivia.

Catherine was the second youngest of 10 siblings born to Maria and Ralph Ianniello, on Dec. 20, 1926 in Mt. Vernon. Catherine raised her family in North Pelham until she and Peter moved their family to Carmel in 1983.

Visitation was March 8 at Cargain Funeral Homes, Inc., in Carmel. A funeral mass took place the next day at St. James the Apostle Church in Carmel, with interment following at Raymond Hill Cemetery in Carmel.



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# The Savvy Scholar

## Putnam Valley

By Holly Crocco

Only 60 percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree in six years, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

That's a number Gayle Chaky would like to change.

As founder and principal of the Savvy Scholar (a member of the Putnam Valley Business Council), Chaky seeks to help families navigate the road to higher education.

Chaky spent most of her professional life in higher education, as an accounting professor at Dutchess Community College and then at Cape Cod Community College. "During that time, most of the freshmen and sophomores I dealt with didn't really understand why they were in college," she said.

In addition, a lot of students told her they picked a business major because they didn't know what else to pick, or because it was at the suggestion of their parents. "I just really could see that a lot of them were wasting time in a program they didn't like," she said.

This inspired Chaky – who always wanted to be an entrepreneur – to use her background to help teens carve out an



Gayle Chaky

appropriate path before they get to college.

"The whole concept is that I truly believe if students work on career exploration, then no matter what they

run into in college, they can handle it," she said. "Therefore, the odds of them completing a bachelor degree in four years is much higher – and them finding something they like."

Chaky does most of her consulting via Zoom, an online video-chat portal, which means she can coach students from all over the globe.

While conferencing with Chaky, students measure their intrinsic motivation, meaning they explore the things that excite and motivate them and discover where their passions lay. She said these students will be much more successful in life than those who follow extrinsic achievements, such as simply making as much money as they can.

Through a coaching format, Chaky helps students research fields of study and career paths, what colleges are realistic for them, how to go about applying to colleges and for financial aid, and provides them with other decision-making tools to help them on their journey.

"It's a process, and they're learning about themselves," she said.

Chaky said she mostly works with students who have just completed their sophomore year of high school, through those in their senior year. While students

younger than sophomores don't seem to be ready to explore their college aspirations just yet, she suggested teens not wait until their senior year to begin the process.

"If we can have a plan set in place summer after junior year, we're in good shape," she said.

That plan includes knowing where they want to apply and what they want to study.

When it comes to choosing a college, Chaky said she takes into account each student's individual situation. "My goal is to find a good fit for them, which also fits in the family budget," she said. Sometimes that means starting at community college, and sometimes it means aiming higher than originally thought in the hopes of gaining a scholarship.

Chaky also works with college freshmen who are unhappy in their current course of study, and those who are in their final year at a community college and need help deciding what to do next.

In addition, she helps students – and parents – prepare for going away to college.

For more information about the Savvy Scholar, visit [thesavvyscholar.com](http://thesavvyscholar.com), call 845-462-8005, or email [gchaky@thesavvyscholar.com](mailto:gchaky@thesavvyscholar.com).

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# Brewster Dad Pushes for Driver's Licenses With Autism Designation

By Holly Crocco

Peter Gagliardo of Brewster knows firsthand the fears any parent – especially a parent of a child with an autism spectrum disorder – feels when it comes time for their child to get their driver's license and begin navigating the world on their own.

"My son is autistic – he's on the spectrum," said Gagliardo at the Putnam County Legislature's March 10 Protective Services Committee meeting. "Our son happens to be pretty much functioning, to where he was able to get his driver's license."

However, Gagliardo often wonders how his 18-year-old son Ryan would handle a situation in which he were pulled over or involved in a vehicle accident.

That's why he's pushing for New York State to amend its Vehicle and Traffic Law to allow for a distinctive mark to be placed on a person's driver's license or official state identification card, indicating that he or she has an autism spectrum disorder.

"If they want to know you're wearing eyeglass or if you're an organ donor, or if your fishing license is now on your driver's license, why shouldn't the officers or fire or EMS not be able to know this ahead of time?" he asked.

Having this indication on one's driver's license would be completely voluntary, and could be removed at any time, said Gagliardo.

The Putnam resident, who is a former member of the Bedford and Yorktown police departments and the Mount Vernon and



USA TODAY/GAGLIARDO FAMILY PHOTO

The Gagliardo family, from left, includes Ryan, Denise, Lexi and Peter.

Hartsdale fire departments, said this will allow police officers and first responders to recognize that the person they are dealing with may have a challenge that prevents them from responding appropriately in the event that they are pulled over, carded, or otherwise engaged.

He said that knowing someone has an autism spectrum disorder will aid police officers and first responders in keeping the situation from escalating if the person begins to get frazzled.

"It changes the whole demeanor of the situation," he said. "It calms it right down."

Local law enforcement agreed.

"They're able to see the person is on the spectrum and they can respond accordingly as far as they can turn it down a notch," Sgt. Gerald Locascio of the Kent Police Department was quoted on ABC News. "If there are other officers responding for whatever the situation is, they can advise them to back it down with the lights, the siren."

Gagliardo said the public's awareness of autism has changed in the past two decades. "Twenty years ago we only knew that autism was around – it was just starting," he said.

"Now they're all adults."

The interesting thing about the autism spectrum is that many of those identified as "autistic" are high-functioning enough to be able to obtain their driver's license and get a job and become a contributing member of society – even though they may not communicate as well as the rest of the public.

"I think this overture is twofold because it benefits the young adult who has their driver's license, but it also benefits law enforcement to be cognizant of the issue," said Legislator Ginny Nacerino, R-Patterson. "Sometimes these children might not have the same tools to act diplomatically in a situation that becomes stressful... it gives the officer the benefit to understand the dynamics of the situation."

Gagliardo began contacting lawmakers in October, and ABC News picked up on his efforts and ran a news segment featuring the family. While Gov. Andrew Cuomo responded that he'd give the matter consideration, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, D-Yonkers drafted a bill to make it happen.

While on vacation in Florida, Nacerino saw that segment and said she was proud to see that one of her constituents was making an impression across the county.

According to USA Today, Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, Virginia and the District of Columbia all have legislation that allows for the indication of a "communication impediment" on driver's licenses.

Local lawmakers spoke highly of the initiative.

"It is not only an advantage to law enforcement, and a benefit for the person with autism, but it is also a relief for the parent," said Legislator Paul Jonke, R-Brewster, who has an 11-year-old daughter on the spectrum.

"I'm very proud of the fact that you're from Putnam," added Legislator Joseph Castellano, R-Southeast.

Committee members unanimously approved a memorandum of support of the legislation, to send to Albany.

## Police Blotter

### DWI/Leandra's Law

**March 7:** Ronnie Caraballo, 38, of Putnam Valley, was arrested by Putnam County sheriff's deputies and charged with felony driving while intoxicated under Leandra's Law after being stopped on Oscawana Lake Road in Putnam Valley.

According to Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., at about 9 p.m., deputies assigned to the float patrol on Lake Oscawana saw Caraballo driving his car westbound on Church Road, approaching the intersection of Oscawana Lake Road, failing to maintain his lane by

crossing over the white fog line and the double-yellow center line.

During a traffic stop, deputies allegedly smell alcohol, and discovered that Caraballo's 14-year-old son was in the back seat, along with a 15-year-old friend.

Caraballo was transported to Putnam County Correctional Facility for processing, where he declined to submit to a chemical breath test. He was charged with two counts of felony DWI/Leandra's Law, as well as DWI and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, misdemeanors.



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# All of Us Need to Do Our Part to Fight the Coronavirus

By Dr. Laura Korin

As a physician, I'm not an alarmist. Most physicians aren't. By our training, we learn to check ourselves and remain calm in the face of a crisis.

But I'm here to sound the alarm, or rather, to join in with other physicians sounding the alarm about the coronavirus (COVID-19). First from Wuhan, then Italy, and more recently the U.S.

I am a primary care physician, the person you trust to guide you to better health and help you recover from illness, the shoulder to cry on, someone who cheers you on in your efforts to improve your life. I hope you will heed my words.

I am in contact with thousands of physicians across the country and the world. Our message is simple: Stay home! We are not asking you to panic. We are asking you to take our warnings and instructions seriously and help us save your life and the lives of others.

We are scared. We have learned how bad the situation can get from physicians in other countries, as well as heartbreaking accounts from my colleagues in the Seattle area, who are forced to make painful decisions.

In the U.S., health professionals have little to no access to protective equipment and are beginning to fall ill. Physicians, other health care providers, first responders, janitorial staff are literally risking their own lives while battling for yours and doing so without proper equipment. Stay home!

Also – I can't believe I have to write this – but please stop stealing masks, hand sanitizers and gloves from your doctors' offices or hospitals. I get it, you're scared, but our supplies are severely limited and they won't help you as much as they will us. Don't you want us around to help you or your loved one if one of you is ill?

Also, don't lie about your symptoms to



Dr. Laura Korin

get through the screening process because you want to be tested but your symptoms are mild and you were recommended to stay home. Now you've exposed everyone in your path, including the clinical staff trying to care for the critically ill, and you might not get tested anyway. There is a limited supply of test kits, and not everyone qualifies for testing.

Despite what you may have heard, not everyone can get the test, even if the doctor wants to test you. Hopefully this will change soon. I'd love to test everyone, then we'd really get a sense of the impact here, but we can't, yet.

If you are sick, definitely stay home and contact a medical professional first to see if you need to be seen. Only go to the emergency room if you are having an emergency. Look at your local health department website for links and information about what to do if you get sick

and how to prepare your home.

Other than that, please stop traveling, meeting up with friends, having parties or playdates, going to the gym, going to bars... I understand that your children may be frustrated by the realities of social distancing and interruptions of their normal activities. But the school closures will accomplish nothing if you continue with gatherings, small or large.

The symptoms of coronavirus take days to manifest themselves. Someone who

comes over looking well can transmit the virus. It's okay to go outside for walks, runs, biking (and you should, it's a great stress reliever), but maintain distance, ideally 6 feet between people outside your family.

Call your friends and check in with your older neighbors to see if they need something while you are (sparingly) going to the grocery store or pharmacy. Take care of each other – just don't hang out with each other. Continue to cover your cough and wash your hands, but that alone is not enough. Stay home!

Early and aggressive social distancing can flatten the curve, not overwhelm our health care system, and eventually may reduce the length and need for longer periods of extreme social distancing later, which is what has occurred in Italy and Wuhan. We all need to do our part during these times, no matter the difficulties. I hope one day you can tell us we overreacted, then that means we all did our part.

Many people are literally risking their own lives while fighting for yours. Please stay home. It is the absolute least you can do.

*Laura Korin, MD, MPH, is a family physician and preventive medicine/public health physician who trained at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She practices at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She was raised in Pleasantville and continues to have close ties to the village.*

## Garrison Schools Budget to Remain Within Tax Cap

By Holly Crocco

The Garrison Union Free School District will be proposing a budget that remains within state-mandated property tax cap, according to Business Administrator, Treasurer and Tax Collector Susan Huetter, who addressed the school board at its March 4 meeting.

The district's proposed 2020-21 budget is \$11.48 million, which is about \$400,000 than the current year's budget. Essentially that increase is due to a hike in instructional expenses, which are increasing \$422,000, according to Huetter.

"That's mostly in the special education area, with tuition going up," she explained.

The tax cap calculation allows GUFSD to implement at tax levy of about \$9.5 million,

which is about \$219,000 more than this year.

With about \$917,000 coming to the district in the form of state education aid, and about \$40,000 being earned in interest, Huetter is recommending the district use about \$1 million from its appropriated fund balance and reserves to balance the budget.

According to Huetter, over the last five years, district homeowners within the Town of Philipstown have seen a total tax rate increase of 92 cents per \$100,000 of assessed property value, and homeowners in Putnam Valley have seen an increase of 29 cents.

"We are the second-lowest tax rate in a five-county area," she said. "The only school that is lower than us is Pocantico Hills (in Westchester)."



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# Carmel Supervisor: 'I'm Lucky to Be Alive'

By Holly Crocco

It was near the end of the Carmel Town Board's Jan. 2 organizational meeting that Town Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt said he first began experiencing pain in his chest. "It radiated across my whole chest," he said during last week's Town Board meeting – the first meeting he has attended in nine weeks.

Assuming the pain was just reflux, indigestion or heartburn, Schmitt simply ignored it. "Being a guy, sometimes we ignore those signs and we don't do anything about it, thinking it's nothing," he said.

So he went home, took some TUMS and a Prilosec, and went to bed.

Schmitt continued to ignore the pain when it woke him up at 4 a.m. "Something was clearly wrong," he said. "I didn't know what it was and I still didn't do anything about it at that point. I let it go and went back to bed and didn't think anything of it."

The next morning, with the pain still lingering, Schmitt said his daughter-in-law who is a cardiac care nurse told him to go to the hospital, as did a close friend.

"So I went over to Putnam Hospital and as soon as I told the girl at the desk what was going on they brought me into the ER right away, and I still thought it wasn't heart related," he said.

There, doctors hooked him up to an EKG machine and performed some tests. "The doctor came in to read the results and he said, 'Mr. Schmitt, you're having a heart



PROVIDED PHOTO

Carmel Town Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt back at work after recuperating from open heart surgery.

attack right now," recalled the supervisor.

Specifically, he was experiencing what doctors call a "STEMI" – an ST-elevation myocardial infarction – which is considered a serious type of heart attack during which one of the heart's major arteries that supplies oxygen and nutrient-rich blood to the heart is blocked.

The staff at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel arranged for an ambulance to take Schmitt immediately to Danbury Hospital,

which has a cardiac catheterization lab. When he arrived, a team of doctors was waiting for him. Going through is wrist, doctors ran a catheter with a camera up through his arm and chest and into his heart.

The doctor told Schmitt that due to the number of blockages in his arteries, he was not a candidate for stents, or supports, to relieve the obstructions. "You have multiple blockages in your arteries; you need open heart surgery," the doctor said, according to Schmitt.

He found the news to be almost unbelievable.

"I'm 62; I haven't had any heart issues – there really aren't any heart issues in my family," he said. "I don't smoke. I'm not diabetic. I'm not overweight. I don't drink excessively."

Schmitt was admitted to the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit for three days while blood thinners left his body. "Three days later I had open heart surgery," he said.

The supervisor underwent a 6½-hour quadruple bypass, in which a cardiothoracic surgeon removed pieces of artery from Schmitt's arms and legs to replace blocked arteries in his chest.

"It was successful, thank God. And if it wasn't... well I'm not going to get emotional," said Schmitt. "If I didn't get there when I did it could have been really bad. I could have had a massive heart attack and they may not have gotten help to me."

Nine weeks after surgery, Schmitt was back at the podium at Town Hall and leading

the Carmel Town Board meeting. However, he's made some major changes to his lifestyle.

The supervisor has been walking 3 miles a day and is trying his best to stick to a heart-healthy diet. "I feel pretty good," said Schmitt, who has shed 10 pounds since surgery.

The supervisor said he is thankful to all the family, friends, co-workers and residents who have helped him along his journey to recovery. "I can't tell you how many people reached out to me, sent me well wishes," he said. "It really meant a lot to me."

Schmitt said he was sharing his story with residents as a cautionary tale.

"If your body is telling you something, listen to it," he said. "If something's not right, don't ignore it. Don't be stubborn like I did for two days. Get to the hospital. Get to your doctor."

The supervisor also recommends undergoing a nuclear stress test at a certain age, or an echocardiogram, which usually requires a referral or prescription from your primary care doctor.

"Get tested," he said. "Most likely you're going to be fine, but if you do have issues – if you have an artery issue or you have a valve issue or you have something else going on with your heart, they'll be able to determine that at the testing time and then you can get help."

"I didn't get tested," continued Schmitt. "I was fortunate because I had the early warning signs."

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## Astorino Rumored to Challenge Harckham for State Senate

*continued from page 1*

ran unsuccessfully for the New York State Assembly during a special election in 2010.

Both Astorino and Harckham reside in Westchester.

According to news reports, Astorino brings to the race a campaign war chest, left over from his race for governor, of \$800,000. Democrats will likely try to match Astorino and the New York GOP dollar-for-dollar in this contest, which could be another \$5 million State Senate race. (Former State

Sen. George Latimer defeated Republican Bob Cohen by a 55-45 percent margin in 2012, in the last \$5 million Senate race, with Cohen outpacing Latimer 2-1, but still losing.)

Democrats currently hold a 40-22-1 (vacant) majority in the State Senate. A GOP landslide would have to occur for a flip to happen.

Neither camp has commented on the rumored challenge.

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# Fire Destroys 150 Acres at Breakneck Ridge

By Holly Crocco

A brush fire consumed about 150 acres in the Hudson Highlands and along Breakneck Ridge in northern Putnam and southern Dutchess counties March 9 and 10, according to the New York State Police, Troop K headquarters.

On March 9, a multi-agency response was coordinated in the towns of Fishkill and Philipstown to contain the fire, which was reported at about 1:40 p.m. along the tracks of the Hudson Line of the Metro-North Railroad, on the side of the Hudson River, near the tunnel that carries Route 9D under the mountainside.

"First responders arrived to find a large brush fire on both sides of the tunnel that also had multiple vehicles involved," according to the Cold Spring Fire Department.

While all hikers came off the mountain safely, several vehicles were destroyed, said the Fishkill Police Department.

The fire reportedly "jumped" over Route 9D and began spreading up the hillside toward Breakneck Ridge, where it continued throughout the night and into Tuesday.

All hiking trails in Hudson Highlands State Park were closed Tuesday, according to an alert from the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The fire was reportedly out by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

The cause and origin of the fire is still



NYSP PHOTO

A view of the Hudson Highlands and Breakneck Ridge on fire, from the western side of the Hudson River near New Windsor, Monday night, March 9.

under investigation, said NYSP.

Among the responding agencies were the North Highlands, Garrison, Continental Village, Putnam Valley, Putnam Station and Cold Spring fire departments; the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police; Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Rangers; NYS Park Police and Park Forest Rangers; Putnam County Sheriff's Office; and the Air National Guard.

This blaze occurred as New York State approached its "burn ban" period, from March 16 through May 14, in which burning is prohibited across the state (with several exceptions) due to the risk of brush fires.



## COVID-19 Closings, Cancellations and Postponements

### Library Closures

Most libraries across Putnam County offer online services and "chat" features for patrons to use from their home computers and personal devices. In addition, many libraries are waiving any late fees that would normally be incurred during this time of closure. Visit your library's website for more information.

The Putnam Valley Free Library will be closed until further notice.

The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring is closed through April 1.

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison is closed through March 27.

The Mahopac Public Library is closed

through March 22.

Reed Memorial Library in Carmel is closed through March 29.

The Brewster Public Library and Kent Public Library will be closed for two weeks beginning March 16.

The Patterson Library will be closed until at least March 28.

### Civil Service Testing Suspended

The Putnam County Personnel Department has suspended civil service testing and decentralized, continuous recruitment examinations through March 27. Postponed exams will be rescheduled to a later date. Candidates will be contacted

with the new dates once they've been determined.

Exams scheduled beyond March 27, including the examinations scheduled Saturday, March 28, will be determined prior to March 28. For more information, email [putnampersonnel@putnamcountynyny.gov](mailto:putnampersonnel@putnamcountynyny.gov).

### Cancellations

The Putnam County clerk has postponed the March 28 "Passport Saturday" until a later date. Currently, the April 25 "Passport Saturday" will still be held from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Putnam County Clerk's Office, 40 Gleneida Ave., Carmel. For more information, call County Clerk Michael Bartolotti at 845-808-1142, ext. 49301.

The Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Youth Art Month awards evening scheduled April 1 for Carmel Central School District students has been cancelled. The chamber will work with faculty to get the awards to the students.

The Brewster High School musical "Big Fish" scheduled March 19 to 21 has been postponed until later this spring. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/std77hp>.

The March 25 handgun safety course hosted by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department has been cancelled.

The PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Vet2Vet Program in Putnam County has cancelled all meetings and events throughout the month of March.

The Town of Philipstown has postponed all productions at the Depot Theater for

six weeks – as well as all nonessential gatherings scheduled through the town's recreation department.

The Garrison Art Center has cancelled all classes until mid-April, as well as the opening reception for the Caroline Burton and Eric Erickson exhibit. The show will be installed as planned and open for small groups of visitors starting March 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A mid-run reception has been scheduled Saturday, April 18 from 5 to 7 p.m.

All Carmel Town Board meetings and works sessions will be closed to the public until further notice; residents may still view the meetings on Cable Channels 24 (Verizon FIOS) and 95 (Comcast/Xfinity), as well YouTube. All planning, zoning and environmental conservations board meetings have been postponed until further notice.

The Town of Carmel Recreation and Parks Department has cancelled the egg hunt that was scheduled March 28. In addition, all winter classes scheduled this week are cancelled. Registration for spring classes, summer camp and Bark Park can be done online.

All drop-in meetings at the Mahopac firehouse are cancelled until further notice. In addition, the Shen-Yun trip that was scheduled for March 18 is cancelled, as is the Aqua Turf trip that was scheduled April 14.

The meeting of the Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee that was scheduled April 2 has been rescheduled to May 7.

Send your closings, cancellations and postponements to [hcrocco@theexaminernews.com](mailto:hcrocco@theexaminernews.com).

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 to play today's crossword!



# Carmel Students Earn Information Technology Awards

Carmel High School sophomore Kathleen O'Sullivan and junior Kaitlyn Musial have been recognized as 2020 Hudson Valley Affiliate Winners of the Award for Aspirations in Computing by the National Center for Women and Information Technology.

This is the second year that O'Sullivan has received this award.

Both were endorsed by technology teacher Don Saldicco.

"Kathleen is unique in that she is a highly driven, self-motivated young woman," said Saldicco. "Already, she has developed several projects which focus on extending the capabilities of severely disabled children. She is a key member and leader of Carmel's FIRST FRC Robotics Team and she was instrumental in the team's participation in the FIRST World Championship this past year."

Saldicco said Musial has a "steadfast work ethic and she is always thinking of new ways to foster a passion for robotics in both her peers and younger students. For example, she often recruits and mentors female team members," she said. "She also helped start a FIRST Lego League junior pilot program for district fourth-graders."

The Award for AiC honors women in grades nine through 12 who are active and interested in computing and technology, and encourages them to pursue their passions. Award recipients are chosen based on their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, tenacity in



PROVIDED PHOTO

Kaitlyn Musial, Dr. Greg Mohr and Kathleen O'Sullivan at the FIRST Robotics New York Tech Valley competition, where Musial and O'Sullivan accepted the Engineering Inspiration Award on behalf of Carmel's Robotics Team, The Bad News Gears Team 5943. Along with this award was an invitation to Worlds Championship in Detroit, Mich.

the face of barriers to access, and for their plans for post-secondary education.

Each Regional Affiliate Award winner receives recognition at an awards event, an engraved award for both students and

their school, scholarship and internship opportunities, entry to a peer-network of technical women in the NCWIT AiC Community, and various prizes, such as computing resources, gadgets, swag and more.

Kathleen O'Sullivan has competed in science fairs since she was in fifth grade. She has taken first place in the technology category locally each year of middle school, and advanced to the Tri-County Science Fair and won second place twice and third place once.

In seventh grade, O'Sullivan was a Broadcom Master's nominee, and in eighth grade, she participated in the Connecticut Invention Convention and won the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering Fair Award and the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair Award.

She then moved on to nationals, where she won second place for her grade.

O'Sullivan said she hopes to study electronics engineering, aerospace engineering, and computer software in college. She will have one of her inventions on Henry Ford's Innovation Nation this fall.

Kaitlyn Musial has been a member of FIRST Robotics since the eighth grade. As robot driver and lead electrician, she competed with her team at the World Championship in Detroit in 2019. She is currently co-captain and drive coach.

She was also a semi-finalist for the Dean's List Award at the FIRST Tech Valley Regional Competition 2019.

Musial was recently inducted into the National Honor Society and has been the recipient of numerous Kumon Math Gold and Silver awards. She plans to study mechanical and electrical engineering, as well as aerospace engineering in college.

## Master Gardener Volunteers Offer Scholarships

High school students graduating in June interested in a career related to horticulture, environmental science, sustainability and similar topics are invited to apply for one of two \$500 scholarships being awarded by the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County.

Students must be Putnam County residents but can attend any high school or be home-schooled. Awardees must plan to pursue advanced education in a recognized institution of higher learning.

The deadline to apply is April 30.

For 10 years, CCE of Putnam County Master Gardener volunteers have offered

this scholarship to promising Putnam youth. Past recipients have attended programs in environmental science and sustainability at Cornell University and SUNY Plattsburgh, electrical engineering and renewable energy at R.I.T., and wildlife and conservation law at Unity College.

Additional details about the scholarship, application form, and eligibility criteria are available through high school guidance offices and at [putnam.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/scholarship](http://putnam.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/scholarship). Questions may be directed to [janeellen.malinowski@yahoo.com](mailto:janeellen.malinowski@yahoo.com).

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# Coronavirus Concerns Visit the Real Estate Industry

A while back, I wrote a column about doorknobs that I thought was comical. It included one of my wife's famous Lithuanian sayings, "I visited my friends only to kiss the doorknob, which translates simply that they were not home. Lithuanians have quaint expressions for nearly everything they do.

But can you imagine anybody kissing a doorknob today, considering that the typical doorknob probably harbors more germs than any other fixture in our homes?

As a realtor, I and my colleagues have been advised this week by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been changing the way we should operate in and around homes we are listing for sale or viewing with buyer clients.

According to a new survey just conducted by the association, nearly one in four home sellers nationwide are changing how their



By Bill Primavera

home is viewed while that home remains on the market, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The changes include eliminating open houses from their marketing plans, requiring potential buyers to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer, asking buyers to remove shoes or wear footies and other changes.

The percentage of sellers adopting these and other changes climbs to 44 percent in Washington state and 34 percent in California, two of the states hardest hit by coronavirus.

The NAR's Economic Pulse Flash Survey, conducted on Mar. 9 and 10, asked questions about how the coronavirus outbreak, including the significant declines in stock market values and mortgage interest rates, has impacted home buyer and seller interest and behavior. Several highlights of the member survey include:

--Thirty-seven percent said lower mortgage rates excited home buyers much

more than the stock market correction.

--Almost eight out of 10 (78 percent) said there has been no change in buyer interest due to the coronavirus.

--Sixteen percent said buyer interest has decreased due to coronavirus, with members in California and Washington state citing larger decreases in buyer interest -- 21 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

--Nearly nine out of 10 members (87 percent) said coronavirus has not affected the number of homes on the market.

In Washington state and California, 5 percent and 4 percent of members, respectively, reported homes were removed from the market. That figure is 3 percent for members nationwide.

To me and my real estate colleagues, all relevant news is local, and in checking with my office at William Raveis in Yorktown, I

learned that two weeks ago, the number of showings scheduled on Saturday were 34. As I write this on Saturday this week, I've called my office to learn that that number of scheduled showings had dropped dramatically to nine showings and, before the end of the afternoon, four of those had been canceled.

So, hold on to your hats, home sellers and fellow realtors, and let's all hope that the number of coronavirus cases starts declining soon. If not, all we can do is be patient and, most of all, be safe.

*Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*

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## Crossword Puzzle

- Across
1. Crooner, Smith

4. Bern's river

8. Swindler

11. Brad, e.g.

12. Meet, as expectations

13. Summer colors

14. It's found in banks

15. "It takes a \_\_\_\_" or Armonk specialty food store, \_\_\_\_ Prime Meats

17. Healthy

19. Seafood

20. Send the troops home

22. Dentist's advice

26. Elbow's site

28. Fix

29. You don't have to be a "melophile" to attend this Brewster school, but it helps, Music \_\_\_\_

33. Female pronoun

34. Boring triplet

35. Robin Hood's girl

37. St Patrick's place

38. Toyota pickup

39. It can be less traveled

40. Perplexed, at \_\_\_\_
- Down
1. Bash

2. Saint and a founder of scholasticism

3. Madame, for short

4. Deer's headgear

5. Battery for laser pointers

6. Halo

7. Otherwise

8. Three, they say

9. Off-road goer, for short

10. Like some roulette numbers

16. Chuck

18. Abhorred

21. Half a bikini

23. Positive aspect

24. Desert bordering the Red Sea

25. African carnivore

27. People in charge, abbr.

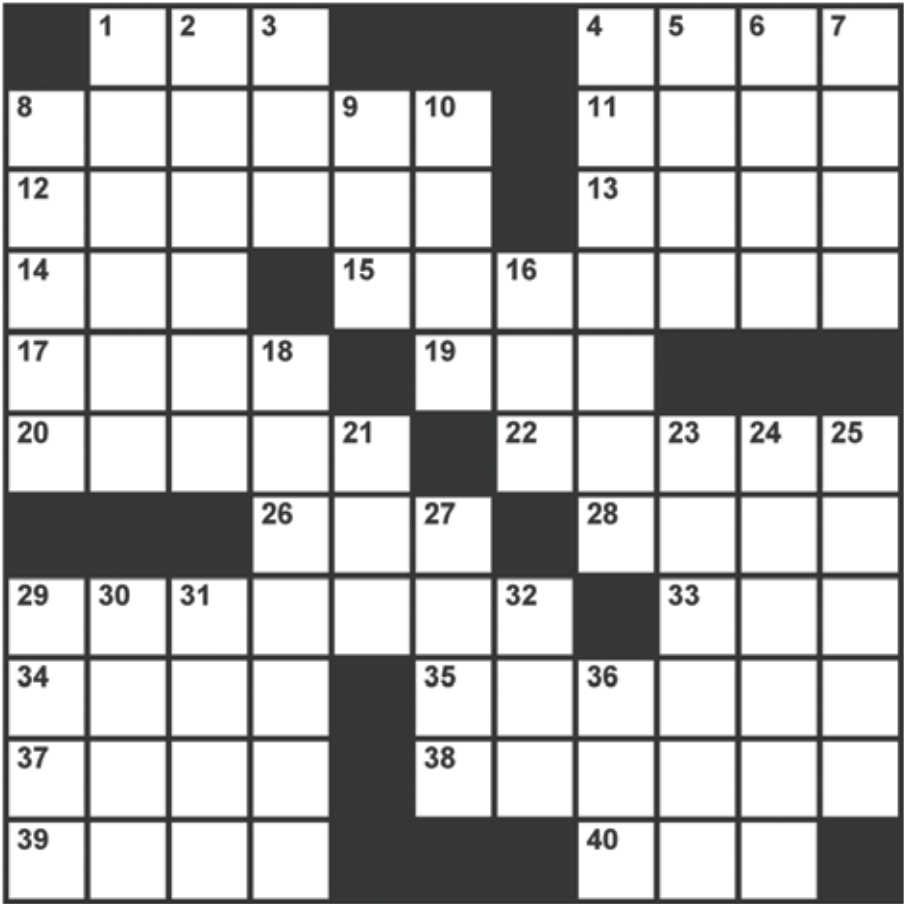
29. "Good buddy"

30. Spiced stew

31. Rink star Lipinski

32. French "water"

36. Some midwives, abbr.





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**CHEMUNG COUNTY** Tax Foreclosed Real Estate Auction: 100+ Lots! Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Registration: 7:00AM; Start: 9:00AM. Holiday Inn, 760 E. Water Street, Elmira, NY 14901. Pre-Auction Seminar: Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 6:00PM. Call 800-536-1401, Ext. 110; www.auctionsinternational.com/liveauctions

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# Crossword Answers

	1	S	2	A	3	M				4	A	5	A	6	R	7	E
8	C	O	N	M	9	A	10	N		11	N	A	I	L			
12	R	I	S	E	T	O				13	T	A	N	S			
14	O	R	E		15	V	I	16	L	L	A	G	E				
17	W	E	L	18	L		19	R	O	E							
20	D	E	M	O	21	B		22	B	R	23	U	24	S	25	H	
				26	A	R	27	M		28	S	P	A	Y			
29	C	30	O	31	T	T	A	G	32	E		33	S	H	E		
34	B	L	A	H			35	M	A	36	R	I	A	N			
37	E	I	R	E			38	T	U	N	D	R	A				
39	R	O	A	D						40	S	E	A				



**Legal Notice**

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
SUPREME COURT COUNTY  
OF PUTNAM  
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS  
Index No.: 501323/2019**

**BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC**, Plaintiff, v. **ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE LATE CHRISTOPHER STEWART A/K/A CHRISTOPHER M. STEWART**, IF LIVING, AND IF ANY BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS WHO ARE SPOUSES, WIDOWS, GRANTEEES, MORTGAGEES, LIENORS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF SUCH OF THEM AS MAY BE DEAD, AND THEIR SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, JACQUELINE M. STEWART, JENNIFER ANN STEWART, Defendants.

**To the above named Defendants:**

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's attorneys within thirty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

**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 your mortgage company will not stop this 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.**

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Honorable Victor G. Grossman, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed the 14 day of February, 2020 at Carmel, New York.

The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage on the following property: Tax I.D. No. 33.57-1-23

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York, more fully described as being Lots numbered 13568 through 13572 both inclusive as shown and delineated on a map entitled, "Twelfth Map of Lake Carmel, Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York," filed in Putnam County Clerk's Office the 18th day of August 1930, as Filed Number 130KK being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

**BEGINNING** at the corner formed by the intersection of the easterly side of Lincoln Drive and the southerly side of Mamasasco Road;

**THENCE** along the southerly side of Mamasasco Road, South 77 degrees 15 minutes 20 seconds East, 103.18 feet;

**THENCE** South 12 degrees 44 minutes 40 seconds West, 100.00 feet to the division line between Lot Numbers 13567 and 13568 on the above mentioned filed map;

**THENCE** along the last mentioned division line North 77 degrees 15 minutes 20 seconds West, 91.57 feet to the easterly side of Lincoln Drive;

**THENCE** North 06 degrees 07 minutes 20 seconds East along the easterly side of Lincoln Drive, 100.65 feet to the point or place of **BEGINNING**.

These premises are also known as **44 Lincoln Drive, Carmel, NY 10512**.

**WOODS OVIATT GILMAN LLP**  
**Attorney for Plaintiff**  
**500 Bausch and Lomb Place**  
**Rochester, NY 14604**

**Legal Notice**

**SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF PUTNAM  
INDEX NO. 501311/2019**

**BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SERIES I TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. MARK B. HOWARD, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD; CHRISTOPHER HOWARD, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD; EDWARD HOWARD, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD; THERESA KELLER, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HOWARD** 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, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; **SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve 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, Defendants.

**SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS**  
Plaintiff designates PUTNAM as the place of trial situs of the real property  
**Mortgaged Premises:**  
8 CRESCENT ROAD MAHOPAC, NY 10541  
**District: Section: 63.16**  
**Block: 1 Lot: 15**

To the above named Defendants  
**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until (60) days after service of the Summons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
**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 \$544,185.00 and interest, recorded on July 13, 2006, at Liber 4892 Page 318, of the Public Records of PUTNAM County, New York, covering premises known as **8 CRESCENT ROAD MAHOPAC, NY 10541**.

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

**RAS BORISKIN, LLC**  
**Attorney for Plaintiff**  
**900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310**  
**Westbury, NY 11590**  
**516-280-7675**

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**Going  
Viral!**

**Despite  
COVID-19 Panic,  
DeChent Breaks  
School Scoring  
Record, Leads  
Put Valley to 1st  
NYSPHSAA  
Region 1 Win**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Putnam Valley freshman Eva DeChent (21) set a school record with 39 points, but due to the Covid-19 scare and the subsequent fan ban next to nobody saw the young phenom lead the state-ranked (No.4) Tigers to a 66-49 NYSPHSAA Class B regional win over visiting Marlboro last Wednesday. Word trickled out early Friday that Sunday's scheduled regional championship game against Section 8's Carle Place and the rest of the NYS tournament, including Hen Hud's Class A regional against Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell, was put on indefinite hold... see Girls' Hoops Notebook



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Putnam Valley Snags 1st Regional Victory, 66-49, over Marlboro

## Freshman DeChents Drops 39, Sets New School Record; NYSPHSAA to Determine Course of Action Regarding #COVID-19

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Eva DeChent isn't supposed to be able to set varsity school records at the age of 14. In fact, freshman school records are rare feats, usually reserved for seasoned veterans of the hardwood.

Yet, DeChent went out and scored 39 points in host Putnam Valley's 66-49 NYSPHSAA Class B regional triumph of Section 9 champion Marlboro last Wednesday night, breaking Coach Kristi Dini's mark of 38 set back in 2004.

With fans banned from state playoff games due to concern over the possible spread of Covid-19, DeChent posted an impressive



Putnam Valley freshman Eva DeChent goes baseline for two of her school record 39 points in 66-49 win over Marlboro.



Put Valley team poses with Arianna Stockinger to recognize her 1,000th point in regional win over Marlboro last Wednesday.



Tigers Kelli Venezia, Eva DeChent, Alex Waters and Cyera Daughtry walk the walk after knocking off Marlboro in Wednesday's regional win.

double-double, grabbing 12 rebounds, adding four steals and dishing the assist that led to junior Arianna Stickinger's 1,000th career point.

In the school's first regional game ever, DeChent sliced and diced the Marlboro defense, leading the Tigers to their first regional championship game, which was scheduled against Section 8 champion Carle Place last Sunday.

However, with the better part of NYS having declared a state of emergency over the Covid-19 scare, the NYSPHSAA tournament was indefinitely postponed. Administrators are hoping to resume the tournament after the scare dies down, but the prospects of that happening did not appear strong as of press time with Friday's mandate that Putnam County schools close for the week of March 16-20, to be reassessed at week's end.

So, if indeed this was state-ranked (No.4 overall in Class B, No.3 among NYSPHSAA schools) Putnam Valley's final game of the season, the Tigers went out with a bang during a history-making campaign that included the program's first sectional title, a school record 21 wins and DeChent's new single-game scoring mark.

"People don't know it yet, but Eva's a big-time division one basketball



Putnam Valley senior Alex Waters fires J in Tigers' 66-49 regional win over Marlboro Wednesday.



Put Valley junior Arianna Stockinger goes for two of her 15 in Tigers' 66-49 NYS regional win over Section 9 champ Marlboro.

player," Coach Dini said of DeChent, the League III-E MVP. "She's a top-20 scorer in Section 1 as a freshman, and today's she's more upset about a missed free throw and not getting 40 than she is with scoring 39.

"Yeah, she's a stud on both ends of the floor," Dini added. "She's long and can defend and she can score the ball in every way... from the right, from the left, on the perimeter. She's the real deal, a big-time scholarship player, a 2,000-point scorer, and she's stuck with me."

Putnam Valley never trailed Marlboro, which had won back-to-back Section 9 titles, but had no answers on defense. DeChent finished the first half with 21 points, 15 of them coming in the second quarter as Putnam Valley went into the break with a 35-24 lead. Stockinger added 15 points and became the fourth Lady Tiger to score 1,000 points (joining Dini, Christine

*continued on next page*



# Sports

## #FlattenTheCurve is our New Mantra NYS Hoops Games Postponed for Put Valley, Hen Hud Girls



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor @Directrays

*Update: Moments before the Examiner was due to go to press Monday, the Section 1 Executive Committee postponed practices, scrimmages and games until March 30th. They will re-assess the status of spring sports on that date. Any hope for the resumption of the NYSPHSAA winter championships appears lost at this*

*point, though it remains a fluid situation.*

When the winter preps athletic season began back in November of 2019, nobody's wildest nightmare could have conceived the unfitting outcome to the 2020 sports campaign. Last week, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the incremental worldwide panic, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association suspended its state championships across the board, including basketball, ice hockey and bowling.

Closest to home, the historical girls' basketball seasons of state-ranked (No.4) Class B Putnam Valley and state-ranked (No.15) Class A Hendrick Hudson came to a screeching halt amid howls of disingenuous dissent and disbelief. Heck, nobody wanted this out-

come, but most understood it was inevitable, and we're starting to get the feeling that spring sports may never get past last week's tryout stages.

According to sources, there is a slim chance that NYSPHSAA resumes these winter championships the final week of March when the NYS Federation basketball tournament was scheduled to be played. The association sent an email to the brass at PV and Hen Hud Friday telling them that they are "cautiously optimistic" they can resume, but doomsayers assume this is forlorn hope.

Within a span of 24 hours, the NHL, NBA and MLB had suspended action, and the NCAA cancelled its men's basketball tournament, which generates the most postseason

revenue (roughly \$1.134 billion) this side of the NFL playoffs and Super Bowl (\$1.233 billion). So, nobody should be surprised that NYSPHSAA chose the route it did; doing so in an effort to help minimize the spread of the Coronavirus. Containment means no large

gatherings, no personal contact, etc., etc. It had to be done, much as it sucks.

Necessary steps were taken, beginning with fan bans and then postponement. Heck, I never thought I'd see the day when I said 'I missed the parents' like I did last Wednesday when Put Valley banned fans from attending its Class B regional win over Section 9 champion Marlboro. Things just snowballed from there and the championships were put on

### Direct Rays

### Putnam Valley Snags 1st Regional Victory, 66-49, over Marlboro *continued from previous page*



Hen Hud senior Caitlin Weimar and the Sailors are hoping their historic season hasn't been cut short by Covid-19 disease.

Kemp, senior teammate Kelli Venezia). Senior Venezia added eight points for the Tigers (21-3), who let Marlboro hang around longer than they should have.

"The first quarter we didn't start off too good, so I knew I had to help my team because we weren't going out of here with a loss today," DeChent said. "I want to win states, so I just pushed as hard as I could to get the win. I just started feeling it. It was weird with nobody here in the gym today, so I knew I had to bring my own energy. It was difficult to play with no fans. I know it killed my dad to have to miss this."

HEN HUD was scheduled to face Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell in the Class A Sailors' first regional game in program history, but, like Putnam Valley, the state-ranked (No.15) Sailors (23-1) remain in a holding pattern.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said he couldn't be prouder of the way his players have dealt with the Corona calamity that put season on hold.



Put Valley senior Cyera Daughtry doing what she does best #Grinding in Tigers' Class B regional win over Marlboro.

hold just two days after we celebrated the PV win at Momma Brazee's house (Coach Kristi Dini's mom).

Try explaining that to a group of young ladies like Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman did with his Sailors, or like Dini did with senior captain Cyera 'Cee' Daughtry, who dealt with multiple concussions, and ankle reconstruction surgery less than a year ago, which involved extensive periods of rehab and physical therapy to prolong her high school career.

These kids are learning first hand that life is anything but fair. Hardships and struggles are part of the journey, which ultimately determine the fate of our youngsters later in life. Dealing with unexpected tribulation is reality, but teenagers should never have to go through an experience like this. They are coping, as best as possible, according to Sherman.

"It has kind of been surreal," Coach Sherman said after guiding the Sailors to a school record 23- win season and the only sectional title in program history. "The wording of

everything to date has been tough. Originally, it was "postponed indefinitely" and now they are "cautiously optimistic", which has probably given our girls some false hope. We are in a holding pattern right now because there is no school Monday or Tuesday, so no practice, and we will just wait and see. It's disappointing for sure, but all things considered the girls are happy they have good health and are very pleased they have made some history at Hen Hud no matter how this season ends."

The Lady Sailors were scheduled to play the first regional game in school history last Friday against Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell, but word got out late Thursday that the game had been postponed.

"As you know, information changes by the hour," Hen Hud A.D. Tom Baker said. "We are hoping we have a little more info by the middle of next week. It's pure madness right now."

Putnam Valley was scheduled to face Section 8 champion Carle Place on East Rockaway on Sunday, but the Tigers are in the same holding pattern as the Sailors. Neither team can practice until Wednesday at the earliest, but even that seemed far-fetched as of press time Monday.

Empathy is only part of what we feel for our kids. I had planned to spend the weekend of March 20-22 on the road with them, including a Final 4 weekend awash in the excitement of their postseason journeys; just as their parents, grandparents and friends did.

Instead, every bracket in the country has been busted by a disease far more ripped than when No.16 UMBC upset No.1 Virginia in March of 2018.

We'll get past this, and when we do watch the "bleep" out, because now that it's been taken away from us, our lust for sports and competition will be far greater this spring/summer. Stay vigilant, my friends! #FlattenTheCurve.



# Stock' Tops 1,000 Points



**Putnam Valley Torches  
Marlboro, Additional  
Gains in NYS Tourney  
on Hold #CoronaVirus**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Putnam Valley junior F Arianna Stockinger drains a three from the top of the key to sink the 1,000th point of her career last Wednesday in the state-ranked (No.4) Tigers' 66-49 NYSPHSAA Class B regional win over Section 9 champion Marlboro. Afterward Coach Kristi Dini presented Stockinger with commemorative ball (inset) for becoming just the fourth player in program history to hit the milestone. The Tigers will await a decision from state officials to determine whether or not the season will resume or be cancelled due to the Covid-19 scare and the statewide emergency declaration... see Girls' Hoops Notebook