

13th Year, Issue 10



thetideofmoriches.com

OCTOBER 2024

Webby's Beach gets a little library



With the help of councilwoman Karen Dunne-Kesnig, Center Moriches Boy Scout Philip Bechtold recently installed a little library at Webby's Beach. Photo courtesy of the Town of Brookhaven

CM resident completes Eagle Scout Project BY NICOLE FUENTES

Center Moriches resident and Troop 23 Boy Scout Philip Bechtold recently funded, designed, built, and installed his little library Eagle Scout Project at Webby's Beach, in Center Moriches, for the Town of Brookhaven.

Bechtold, 17, a senior at Center Moriches High School, completed the project at his home with the help of three other scouts, including Antonio Gerberino, April Haarke and her brother, Teddy. His scout leader, Lisa Haarke, also helped see the project through. The total time it took to both build and install it was about three days.

"The cooperative spirit was amazing," he said. "Giving back to our community means a great deal to me."

He originally started by contacting the town for suggestions on something that would benefit the Center Moriches area. He said that Kate Kollegger, a Brookhaven representative, was more than helpful, making several suggestions as to projects and locations. He then chose for it to be installed at Webby's Park, with the enthusiastic support of Councilwoman Karen Dunne-Kesnig.

"I chose Webby's Park as it is fun to read at the beach and then to be able to take a good book home with you," he said. "Many children's books are available as well and will continue restocked."

The project was officially completed by the end of the summer on Aug. 30.

"We were very excited to have Philip work on his Eagle project," said Dunne-Kesnig, noting Bechtold called her office a few months ago looking for ideas and decided on this library. "He, along with See LITTLE LIBRARY on page 6 Construction to begin on library's new parking lot

BY NICOLE FUENTES

A total of nine bids were submitted for the Center Moriches Free Public Library parking lot expansion project, which were opened on Sept. 5. The library has since awarded the bid in the amount of \$538,500 to Gatz Sitework and Landscape Construction Inc.

According to the project superintendent Thomas R. Sullivan, of Park East Construction, the construction management firm, they do not yet have a full schedule but are expecting completion sometime in late November/early December, with work beginning this month (October).

The project comes in response to an increase in community members utilizing the public library.

"We have experienced many occasions where parking has been insufficient," said library director Marcie Litjens. "We look forward to completing this project with little disruption to library services and enhancing accessibility and convenience for our library patrons."

Back in February, the library board worked with their architect, John Tanzi, to complete the design of the new area.

The new area is projected to include 55 additional spots, including more handicapped parking. The new design will also widen the existing stalls and create a pathway to walk through the lot.

"Many factors were considered beyond traffic flow and safety, including fencing, landscaping, and special lighting to reduce light pollution at night," said Litjens.

Last year, the Friends of the Center Moriches Free Public Library provided financial support to help the library pur-See LIBRARY PARKING on page 6



SEE PAGE 12 FOR HIGH TIDE TABLES FOR LOCAL WATERS

Paws of War visits Camp Paquatuck PAGE 3 Coast Guard station closes PAGE 4 Distinguished Youth Award PAGE 22



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Paws of War visits Camp Paquatuck

BY C. E. PARRY

Bobo sings. Blaze and Lucy dance. Together, they form a team of socializing therapy canines helping Camp Paquatuck residents learn proper human-to-animal etiquette.

With their trainers/owners, these therapy dogs play a vital role in helping foster compassion and patience among the Paquatuck campers, who interact with them on a weekly basis throughout the summer.

During their final visit of the season, on Aug. 29, Rebecca 'Becca' Stromski, head trainer for Paws of War, took time out to discuss the program while other trainers engaged each member of the group, encouraging play and rewarding with treats and compliments.

"Puppies know more than we do," she observed. "They know how to read people and they know how to teach. And this is one of my favorite places to bring them." In addition to their visits to children with special needs, teams of volunteers and their dogs visit area nursing homes and hospitals.

Paws of War also trains service dogs to assist veterans by doing chores, opening doors, navigating street crossing and travel on planes. Their service training is more extensive and includes a certification process that must be fulfilled before the dog can be placed with a veteran.

Another program assists military families, first responders, and returning military service men and women seeking to adopt pets they've bonded with while deployed overseas.

But here, in this serene and welcoming setting, the emphasis today was on fun and friendship as dogs and their new pals engaged in some serious play: the way Paws of War has of fulfilling another mission at Camp Paquatuck.

MT/Parry





















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East Moriches Coast Guard Station closes

Local Fire Departments prep for enhanced service

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The East Moriches Coast Guard Station has officially, as of this summer, transitioned to a part of the Shinnecock station.

According to PA2 Sydney Phoenix, of the U.S. Coast Guard, the reasoning behind the measure was due to the FY24 Force Realignment Initiative, which highlights the Coast Guard's growing demands despite facing a "significant" workforce shortage.

According to the Coast Guard, their service is short nearly 10 percent of the entire enlisted workforce and cannot continue to operate as they have historically with fewer people.

To mitigate the issue, the Vice Commandant Adm. Steven Poulin has provided specific temporary operational guidance to adapt their operations while "prioritizing lifesaving missions, national security and protection of the marine transportation system."

Starting this past summer, the Coast Guard temporarily transitioned the seasonal East Moriches station into a forward-operating location for continued use. A forward-operating location is a pier/facility the Coast Guard can use to extend range or base operations.

Additionally, all staffing is now solely concentrated at the parent Shinnecock station. However, according to the Coast Guard, no assets were removed or transferred as the resources utilized by the East Moriches station are assigned to their parent station.

"As is the case year-round, the seasonal station's area of responsibility will be fully covered by its parent station," a press release read.

However, service from the Coast Guard, according to commissioner of the Mastic Beach Fire Department Bill Biondi, will now take about an hour.

"An hour is too long for a boater in distress," he said, noting that due to those concerns several local fire departments including Mastic Beach, Mastic, Center Moriches, East Moriches, Eastport, Westhampton Beach, Bellport, Brookhaven, Hagerman and South Country Ambulance have teamed up to provide additional water rescue response.

"We are ready for it at this point," Biondi said of the departments preparing for the station to close.

Ex-chief Bill Renzetti of the Center Moriches Fire Department, agreed, stating they knew of the closing for several years and have been receiving the proper training to expand their services.

We have pooled all our resources and



can respond as one with a much quicker response time, within 7 to 10 minutes," he said, noting it is much better than up to an hour.

Utilizing taxpayer dollars, Biondi said, the departments have been able to acquire professional equipment, including an ocean vessel and jet skit to provide enhanced services.

Currently, the local departments are still in need of night-vision googles to navigate the ocean waters at night to avoid sand bars.

"We do get a lot of calls at night; in the bay, it's not so bad, but in the Atlantic ocean that's totally differentyou can't see anything at night," he said, noting that costly night-vision googles are top of their list.

The local departments are hoping to receive state and/or federal funding to help cover additional costs.

However, according to Gov. Kathy Hochul's Long Island press secretary Gordon Tepper, "Hochul has consistently supported volunteer firefighters and first responders across New York State."

This includes Hochul's funding to support volunteer firefighters as well as the state's first training stipend program for volunteer firefighters. This year, a total of \$25 million was allocated for grants available to volunteer fire departments for construction, renovation, or purchase of facilities and equipment service projects, and over \$10 million was issued to volunteer firefighters through stipends for various training courses.

Additionally, Renzetti said he hopes those interested in volunteering for their local fire department will notice it is not just about fighting fires.

"We are always looking for new members," he said. "Maybe, this will be a good way to get someone interested in boating. We don't just fight fires."

He also noted that anyone who might have an emergency on the water should dial 911 from their cell phone, rather than their radio, being that the cell automatically locates them and tells emergency services their GPS coordinates. ■



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LITTLE LIBRARY: Donations help fill little library

FROM PAGE 1

some other scouts, did a wonderful job, and the community has welcomed this new little library."

According to Dunne-Kesnig, the Webby's Beach playground is also presently being replaced.

"This will continue to be a nice place for families to visit," she added. "Philip worked very hard on this project and we are very proud of his accomplishment."

As for funding, Bechtold said, the project was originally funded by family members (dad, "papa" and grandma), for which he has repaid them with his personal lawn-cutting funds.

"I want to thank the leaders of Troop

23, Ryan Person, Travis Kaiser, and Lisa Haarke for having faith in me and assisting me on my journey to becoming an Eagle Scout," he said.

The books for the library were donated by Friends of the Center Moriches Library and by Raccoon Books in Sayville.

Unfortunately, a few days after installing, Bechtold said, the library was vandalized and knocked over.

"Thanks to my dad and papa, it's back up and stronger than ever for all to enjoy!" he said.

The community project is one of his final steps to becoming an Eagle Scout

in December, after also having completed the required badges and necessary tasks.

"Being a Scout means commitment, loyalty, friendship, and the ability to have a positive attitude," he added.

In addition to being a member of Troop 23, Bechtold is an active member of The Order of the Arrow, an honorary Boy Scout Society. This past summer, he also worked on a service project in Southern Canada.

"For two weeks, we restored trails while enjoying canoeing on the many beautiful lakes in a Canadian national park," he said. Last summer, he also attended the Summit in West Virginia. Also, this coming February, he is looking forward to attending Sea Base with his troop in the Florida Keys.

In addition to scouting, he has volunteered for several years at the Marine Animal Rescue Center at the Riverhead Aquarium. In college, he hopes to one day pursue a major in marine science. As a scout, he said, he encourages

girls and boys to consider joining. "My scouting experience has been an

amazing and rewarding journey," he added. ■

Photos courtesy of the Town of Brookhaven



Antonio Geribino and Philip Bechtold.



Left to Right: Antonio Geribino, April Haarke, Philip Bechtold.

LIBRARY PARKING

FROM PAGE 1

chase a piece of land adjacent to the building, located at 235 Montauk Highway. The land is located near the existing lot in the rear to be used to expand the parking lot.

The club, according to members, collects donated books eight months out of the year in an effort to sort and amass enough books for their sales. All funds raised support the purchase of equipment, furniture, and programs. This funding also made the property purchase possible.

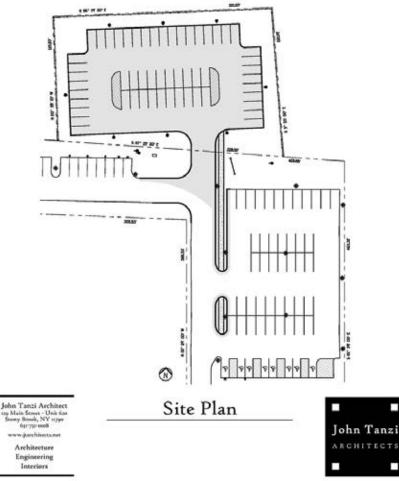
"People don't know what to do with them [old books], and, for years, I hated when people would throw them away. So, we collect them," member Kathy Kleinpeter said of the idea behind the book sales.

The land was officially acquired last year by the Friends of The Library. The current budget for the lot is \$700,000, which will include the new lot and redesigning the existing one.

Additionally, Litjens said, the library was also awarded a NYS Construction Aid Grant of \$225,000. The land for the parking area was acquired last year, and the Friends of the Library generously donated money towards the purchase.

"Careful budgeting has allowed the library to proceed with this project without asking the public for a bond," Litjens explained, noting the zero cost to the taxpayer. "The need for a larger parking lot has been necessitated due to an increase in the community using the services of the library." ■

Center Moriches Free Public Library Parking Lot Project



Official renderings for the project expected to break ground this month.

File photo

TOTAL LIBRARY VISITORS

2021: 67,668 or 190 per day (COVID) 2022: 179,184 or 491 per day 2023: 199,098 or 545 per day 2024: January-August 145,802 visitors or 600 per day (the highest number of patrons on a particular day was 1,033)







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ESM alum starts his rookie season with the Colts

A Q&A with Matt Goncalves **BY JORDAN STANKOVICH**

Matt Goncalves, a Manorville native and Eastport-South Manor alum, is in his rookie season playing offensive line for the Indianapolis Colts. Goncalves made his NFL debut in Week 1 at home vs. the Houston Texans and is relishing playing at the NFL level after being drafted out of University of Pittsburgh in the spring.

Tide: What were your initial thoughts when you stepped on the field, being you've worked so hard for this your whole life and now it's a reality, you've reached the highest level?

Goncalves: Yeah, I mean it was an unreal feeling to be honest, to be able to go out there in gameday not turn on red zone, it was a pretty cool feeling, and to hear Lucas Oil Stadium on third down, fourth down, it was unbelievable; it was everything I've asked for and dreamed for, so it was very exciting, and I look forward to the rest of the games as well, so every game is a dream come true.

Tide: You're part of a franchise with a lot of history and with much success. There's been iconic names such as Johnny Unitas and Peyton to wear the blue and white.

Goncalves: It means everything. To look at the historical players to come out of the Indianapolis Colts gives you another reason to work harder each and every day. So, it's definitely something that lingers in the back of your mind. especially when you get deep into the year wanting to do what some of those guys did. It definitely means something, so like I said, it's in the back of our minds.

Tide: If Anthony Richardson stays healthy, he can be a great QB. You have Jonathan Taylor, Michael Pittman, Josh Downs, who should be back soon. It's a really talented offensive unit. Talk about the vibes amongst the offense. You guys could score a lot of points and definitely could be a contender this year.

Goncalves: Yeah, it's something that we know we're capable of, especially with the talented weapons we have and with AR [Anthony Richardson] being able to air the ball out 65 yards and run it on the ground, too. He runs a deadly combination along with Jonathan Taylor back there, and some of our great receivers and the great offensive line that we have as well, protecting AR and opening up lanes for Jonathan Taylor. So, I think altogether it's an exciting offense ,and I think we have an exciting defense, too, so

Manning. Talk about what it means I think altogether our team is shaped out to home, it always means something to of the long hall.

Tide: I know it's not for a while, but you'll be making two trips to MetLife Stadium this year. Talk about how excited you'll be to get to play not far from home later in the season.

Goncalves: Yeah, it's very exciting getting to go back there right around New Jersey and New York and something you dream about when you grow up, and having your family there and some friends and stuff like that, it's definitely a dream come true and to be close me.

Tide: Any personal goals that you have for your rookie year?

Goncalves: I'd like to take the field and get a couple snaps and play my first couple snaps in the NFL—that would be awesome, to be able to go out there and run, block, pass, block and all that stuff, that's definitely a goal for me. It's not being an All Pro or anything like that. I just want to get onto the field. It's kind of like the goals I set at Pitt, too, so hopefully I could make those possible. \blacksquare







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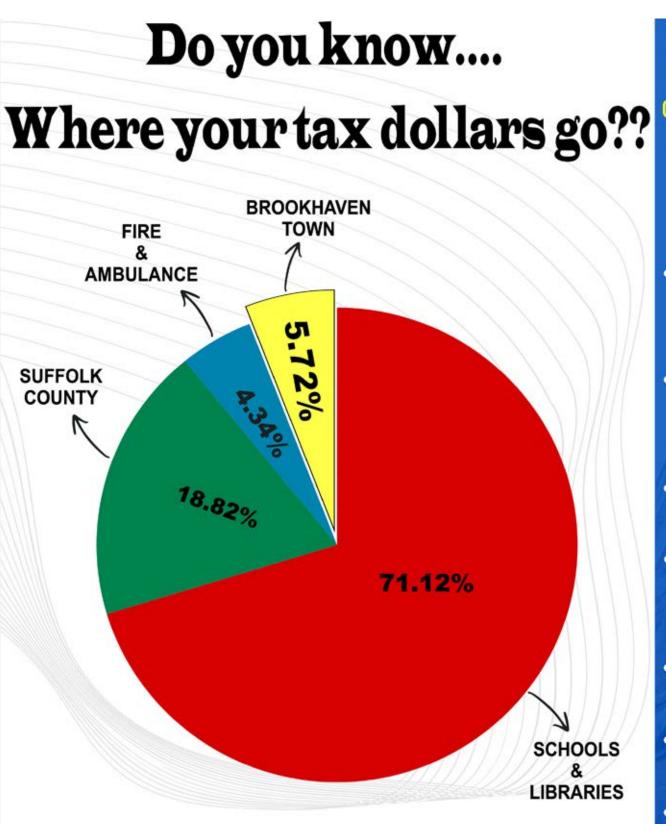
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*This chart is an approximation of the average resident's tax breakdown. Residents will receive their individual pie chart in either August or December.

For more info, visit: brookhavenny.gov/taxes

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Fall Fest, Spooky Walk and March of the Goblins to return!

NICOLE FUENTES

This fall, the Chamber of the Moriches has prepared with events sure to please every trick-or-treater.

Fall Fest, Sunday, Oct. 20 The fair will be held on Oct. 20 with a closed-off Main Street in Center Moriches from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be vendors, food trucks, and of course, the Main Street merchants displaying their merchandise as well as the Main Street eateries serving up tasty snacks and meals.

Vendor spots are \$85. Nonprofit vendor spots are \$45. Chamber Member vendor spots are \$45. For more information or for application contact Geraldine Sapanaro at 631-878-3849 or visit <u>moricheschamber</u>. org.

Spooky Walk, Oct. 18, 19, 25 and 26 at Camp Paquatuck

Celebrating its 36th year, the Spooky Walk will be held to benefit the camp for children with disabilities. The walk will be open from 7 to 9 p.m. at 2 Chet Swezey Road in Center Moriches.

Delivering about 45 minutes of scares, the Spooky Walk is considered the longest-lasting haunted walk on Long Island. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the camp.

Tickets are \$25. For more information visit <u>spookywalk.com</u>.

Fall Festival, now through Oct. 31

Waterdrinker Farms will be hosting a fall festival every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at their farm, located at 663 Wading River Road in Manorville. There will pumpkin-picking, hayrides, a corn maze, and animals.

Blanket Making Classes, throughout October The Center Moriches VFW Post 414 will once again be hosting their blanket making classes with 10 seats available per class. All supplies are free and provided. The event takes place at 437 Montauk Highway in Center Moriches. Blankets made will be donated to Center Moriches Victory Post 414 for distribution to local veteran homes in November. Class dates include October 2, 9, 16, 18, 23, 25, and 30 at 5:30 p.m. and 19, 20, and 27 at 9 a.m. Call Sara Luna to reserve a spot at 631-283-1354.

March of the Goblins, Oct. 31

The trick-or-treat event will be held for the children of the community to provide a safe environment to get candy along Main Street. Businesses along Main Street are welcomed and encouraged to have candy for the children. Main Street will be closed to traffic from Chichester to Railroad avenues. Since the event started in 2002, the fire department has staffed the streets intersecting with Main Street to ensure the children's safety. The event will be held on Main Street in Center Moriches from 4:30-6 p.m.

Veterans Parade, Sunday Nov. 10 The chamber will be hosting the annual Veterans Day parade on Nov. 10 starting at 2 p.m. on Main Street in East Moriches. If you or someone you know is a veteran and would be interested in participating in the parade, please call Miriam Gillies at 631-878-1111. If you are unable to walk, the chamber will drive. Float participants are also needed. For more information visit: www. moricheschamber.org.



The Tide invites you to share a favorite apple recipe

Got a dessert your family always clamors for; craving the scent of cinnamon and pumpkin spice over suntan lotion? Wondering what to do with all those apples from this year's family outing?

The Tide invites you to submit a favorite apple recipe for inclusion in our November issue.

Please make sure to include a list of ingredients, approximate preparation time required, any special instructions, the number of servings it will yield, as well as a brief description of its importance to you and your family. Is it passed down from previous generations, a particular holiday favorite, a discovery made while searching for something new, or a cherished part of a tradition? Tell us why it's special.

Please email your recipe and description to liascnib@gmail.com by Oct. 15. ■

Meet Larry Actual FES Patient

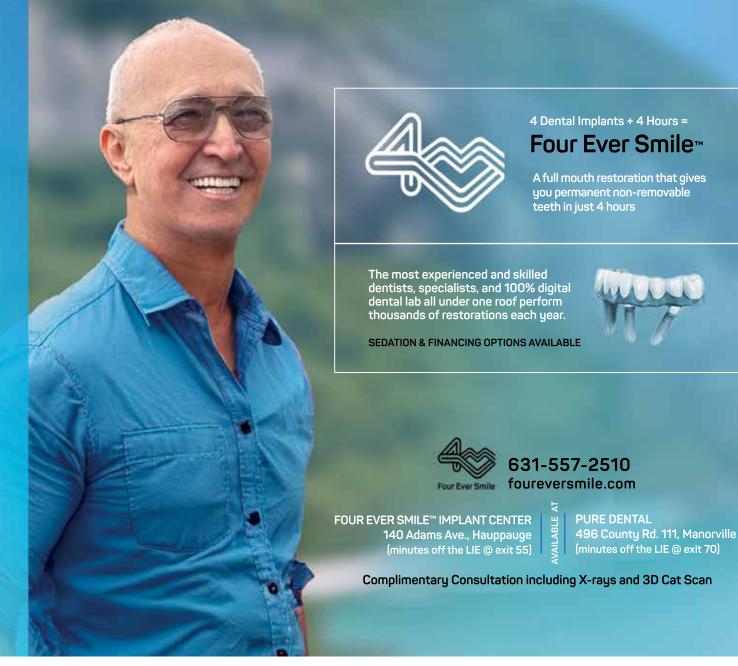
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Q&A with Keith Vibert, DDS PRESIDENT, CEO FOUR EVER SMILE™

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Q: Why Four Ever Smile[™]?

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• They allow you to taste and experience hot and cold food

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LOCATIONS Four Ever Smile Implant Center, Hauppauge Pure Dental, Manorville

Structure demo'ed on Senix Avenue for open space

Town and county partner for acquisition of historic property

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The town began the demolition of the structure, after clearing and removing an accessory structure days prior, on the 10-plus acre of property, which was acquired for open space on Senix Avenue.

"We are working to preserve open space and almost every single town board meeting agenda has open space acquisitions on it," supervisor Dan Panico said. "Additionally, we work to redevelop areas to meet the needs of the time and spur on economic activity where appropriate."

In this year's budget, despite rising

fixed costs and state mandates, he said, he will remain committed to open-space preservation and the parks.

"We will continue to commit resources to preserving the future, our environment, and the character of our communities—with councilwoman Karen Dunne Kesnig," he added.

Additionally, in collaboration with Suffolk County, the Town of Brookhaven officially acquired just under 12 acres of undeveloped woodlands along North Street on the Manorville/East Yaphank border.

Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico held a press conference announcing the acquisition last month. On hand for the event were Panico, Suffolk County executive Ed Romaine, Legis. Jim Mazzarella, councilwoman Dunne Kesnig and assemblywoman Jodi Giglio.

The site, according to Panico, features

mature woodlands, rolling topography, and a natural pond. It also has historical significance, having been the site of the home of the Arch family, an African American family residing at the property in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Abram and Huldah Arch acquired the property in 1865 and were part of a network of laborers who were employed by William Sidney Smith (of the Longwood Estate), among other prominent Brookhaven residents. The home is depicted on historical maps dating to 1873.

It is believed the Arches had one daughter, Annie Arch, who was well known within the local community and involved in the AME Zion Church in Center Moriches. She was also a close friend of Mary Bell, whose historic home in Center Moriches is listed on the NYS and National Registers of Historic Places and has been acquired by the Town of Brookhaven.

Mary Bell's historic home, locally known as the "slave house," is also located nearby at 66 Railroad Avenue in Center Moriches. The Mary E. Bell House is an example of how emancipated slaves went on to build their own communities. The house and land provided a safe space, the ability to supplement their income with a garden and independent work, and was located close to the AME Church that they played an active role in.

"This joint acquisition further protects important woodlands in and around the Central Pine Barrens, the Forge River watershed, and furthers the town and county's efforts to protect and promote our local history through preservation," Panico said. "Brookhaven Town and Suffolk County look forward to learning more about the rich history of this property." ■



Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico held a press conference announcing the acquisition last month. On hand for the event was Panico, Suffolk County executive Ed Romaine, Legis. Jim Mazzarella, councilwoman Karen Dunne Kesnig and assemblywoman Jodi Giglio.



The town has demolished the structure, after clearing and removing an accessory structure days prior, on the 10-plus acre Senix Avenue property, which was acquired for open space. Courtesy photos

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HIGH TIDE TABLES FOR LOCAL WATERS OCTOBER 2024

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Moriches Bay	10:06 AM	10:25 PM	10:40 AM	11:07 PM	11:24 AM	PM	12:00 AM	12:19 PM	1:01 AM	1:21 PM	2:04 AM	2:26 PM	3:08 AM	3:32 PI
Moriches Inlet	9:27 AM	9:46 PM	10:01 AM	10:28 PM	10:45 AM	11:21 PM	11:40 AM	PM	12:22 AM	12:42 PM	1:25 AM	1:47 PM	2:29 AM	2:53 F
Smith Pt. Bridge	12:05 AM	12:22 PM	12:41 AM	12:56 PM	1:23 AM	1:40 PM	2:16 AM	2:35 PM	3:17 AM	3:37 PM	4:20 AM	4:42 PM	5:24 AM	5:48
	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SA P.N
Moriches Bay	4:13 AM	4:36 PM	5:14 AM	5:35 PM	6:08 AM	6:29 PM	6:58 AM	7:19 PM	7:45 AM	8:08 PM	8:32 AM	8:58 PM	9:20 AM	9:50
Moriches Inlet	3:34 AM	3:57 PM	4:35 AM	4:56 PM	5:29 AM	5:50 PM	6:19 AM	6:40 PM	7:06 AM	7:29 PM	7:53 AM	8:19 PM	8:41 AM	9:11
Smith Pt. Bridge	6:29 AM	6:52 PM	7:30 AM	7:51 PM	8:24 AM	8:45 PM	9:14 AM	9:35 PM	10:01 AM	10:24 PM	10:48 AM	11:14 PM	11:36 AM	
	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SA P.I
Moriches Bay	10:11 AM	10:46 PM	11:06 AM	11:46 PM	AM	12:05 PM	12:47 AM	1:04 PM	1:47 AM	2:02 PM	2:45 AM	3:00 PM	3:43 AM	3:56
Moriches Inlet	9:32 AM	10:07 PM	10:27 AM	11:07 PM	11:26 AM	PM	12:08 AM	12:25 PM	1:08 AM	1:23 PM	2:06 AM	2:21 PM	3:04 AM	3:1
Smith Pt. Bridge	12:06 AM	12:27 PM	1:02 AM	1:22 PM	2:02 AM	2:21 PM	3:03 AM	3:20 PM	4:03 AM	4:18 PM	5:01 AM	5:16 PM	5:59 AM	6:1
	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	S/ P.
Moriches Bay	4:39 AM	4:50 PM	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	6:13 AM	6:23 PM	6:52 AM	7:02 PM	7:27 AM	7:40 PM	8:01 AM	8:15 PM	8:32 AM	8:50
Mandala a ladad	4:00 AM	4:11 PM	4:50 AM	5:00 PM	5:34 AM	5:44 PM	6:13 AM	6:23 PM	6:48 AM	7:01 PM	7:22 AM	7:36 PM	7:53 AM	8:1
Moriches Inlet	4.00 AW	1.111100	1.007.00	0.00110	0.01700	0	0.10 / 1.11							

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Spooky Walk to kick off 36th year

Event hosted at Camp Paquatuck

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Celebrating its 36th year, the Spooky Walk will be held to benefit the camp for children with disabilities.

The Spooky Walk began in 1989 and has developed into one of Long Island's most popular Halloween events. The Camp Paquatuck Fundraisers were the first volunteers, along with family and friends, to set up, dress up, and haunt unsuspecting visitors as they strolled through the campgrounds. Today, they have more than 500 volunteers who make the Spooky Walk possible.

According to Marcella Weiss, the past camp board representative and Spooky Walk coordinator, president of the The Moriches Paquatuck Fundraisers, many of the booths for the walk start setting up right after Labor Day and work several hours getting their exhibits ready.

"The Spooky Walk provides an evening of total entertainment. The lines can be long, but when asked, customers don't mind the wait," she added. "We try not to rush anyone through, so everybody gets a good scare. It is amazing to sit back and listen to the laughs and screams as this 35-year-old tradition continues to entertain and to support Camp Paquatuck."

Delivering about 45 minutes of scares, the Spooky Walk is considered the longest-lasting haunted walk on Long Island. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the camp.

The walk will be open from 7 to 9 p.m. at 2 Chet Swezey Road in Center Morich-



es on Oct. 18, 19, 25 and 26 at Camp Paquatuck. Tickets are \$25. For more information, visit spookywalk.com.

WHAT YOU WALK THROUGH

The first exhibit is Alice in Zombieland, hosted by Amanda Epp, Daniel Szabo and friends.

The exhibit is then followed by The Wicked Woods, made by the Ferington family, who go above and beyond making sure guests are spooked by many scary surprises.

Next is the Back Trail into deeper woods for more frights and hidden

monsters! This area is manned by several volunteers with a stop at The Cult, hosted by Jessica and John Del Cuore. The Cult is an eerie area that takes walkers through a dark tunnel. The walk continues up the path and to the water's edge to visit the Lost Pirates as they try to welcome you aboard.

Walkers then head up the hill to the Haunted Hospital to visit patients that never left.

New this year, Rob Frey is promising a scary media event. So, come and be surprised!

The last exhibit, and the most popular, is Club Boogie, hosted by Chris

Burian, which invites everyone to dance along with his happy monsters.

The last exhibit, and the most popular, is Club Boogie, hosted by Chris Burian, who invites everyone to dance along with his happy monsters.

After warming up with the dancing monsters, customers are welcomed at Marie's Food Tent with hamburgers, hotdogs, sausage and peppers, roasted corn, homemade candy apples and more. There is also a beer tent sponsored by Long Island Farm Brewery.

Kids of all ages enjoy the DJ entertainment on the great lawn. Music and lights are provided by Chuck and Bonnie Schultz, former owners of the Village Music Shoppe in Mastic. ■



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Game Farm gala disrupted by humane demonstration

BY C. E. PARRY

Guests arriving for the second gala fundraiser, "Twilight in the Wild at the L I Game Farm," on Sept. 12, were greeted by a contingent of protesters, led by John Di Leonardo, president of Humane Long Island, some of whom held signs that drew honks from passing cars.

Asked about their reason for being there, many expressed strong feelings.

"Because animals are my heart," said Maria Elena Bresloff, holding a sign referencing Bobo, the giraffe that died at the Game Farm last year. "We don't want it to happen again. Animals are living beings, not objects. But since they can't speak, we are their voice."

For Juliana Johns, the point was simple. "Animals belong in the wild," she said. "This is no way to sustain a population, keeping them in captivity. It's exploitation. Giraffes belong in their natural environment."

And Stella D., who gave only her last initial for attribution, mentioned the NEWS12 story about the USDA's investigation into BOBO's death, which cited several physical deficiencies as causation.

John Di Leonardo explained their involvement in calling The Game Farm to task. "Suffolk County residents deserve better than to be conned by a self-dealing corporation that neglects animals until they die," he said. "The misleadingly named 'Foundation For Sustainability' was founded not for the stainability of wildlife, but instead for the sustainability of the cruel and antiquated Long Island Game Farm, a for-profit entity that confines animals. Humane Long Island is urging authorities to take a hard look at this charity and reminds the public that wild animals belong in the wild."

Melinda Novak, L I Game Farm president, and Patricia Snyder, L I Game Farm executive director, shared their concerns about the disturbance outside the facility's gates as guests arrived for the evening.

'We are troubled to hear that the Long Island Humane Society continues to threaten the Long Island Game Farm, and now the Foundation for Sustainability. This group is citing the USDA report earlier this year about the death of Bobo the giraffe last fall, which devastated the staff and our community. While the results of the USDA report have long been addressed and there have been no further violations, this organization continues to misinterpret the report, spread false claims, and villainize LI Game Farm. However, we can only speak to our own actions and motivations-animal care is our top priority."

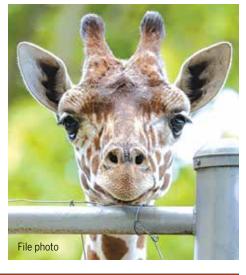
A suit filed earlier against them by Humane Long Island had alleged the Game Farm's improper use of funds."As part of our mission to connect people with nature and wildlife, we host a number of programs... to achieve our goals. We are extremely proud of the community connections we have made in our first year of programming... We look forward to introducing educational environmental programs within the newly paved Universal Access Trail for all mobilities, and public performance on the newly renovated stage."

"There is no credible evidence of their claims against this nonprofit," she continued, "they are totally separate entities, with separate books for accounting. There is no impropriety. We follow the rules. Our Board of Directors signs an annual conflict of interest agreement as per appropriate non-profit protocols."

At the Sept. 4 board meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature, Humane Long Island asked the board to investigate the Game farm's \$568K JumpSTART grant application, which mentions the Foundation for Wildlife Sustainability.

"The county gave us the grant," added Novak. "They want us to stay here." \blacksquare







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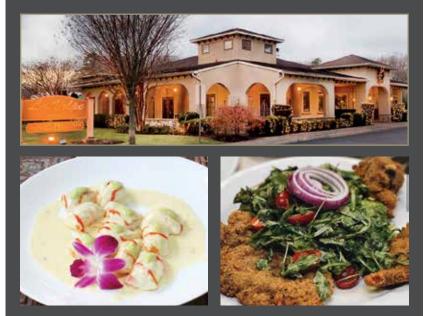
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Community group seeks landmark status for Little Red Schoolhouse, which turns 100 next year

BY GARY HABER

The Little Red Schoolhouse in Moriches turns 100 next year, and members of a local civic group want to see the Town of Brookhaven declare it a historic landmark.

They're concerned that without landmark status, the building could be torn down, moved, or altered so significantly that it loses its historic character.

Landmark status would give the building "some protection," said John Sicignano, president of the Mastic Park Civic Association.

'It's been part of the community for almost 100 years," Sicignano said.

The building on Montauk Highway is in front of the Moriches satellite branch of the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library. The Little Red Schoolhouse holds special importance to Joe May, of the Mastic Park Civic Association.

"If you didn't go to Center Moriches, that was the school you went to," said May. 79. a retired Suffolk County police officer, who was among the youngsters who attended school there in the years it was used as classroom space until the early 1980s.

May was part of a group that met recently with Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico and councilmember Karen Dunne Kesnig (6th District) to press their case for the town declaring the building a historic landmark. May and the others would like to see the building turned into a community center or history museum.

Dunne Kesnig said in an email that no decisions were made coming out of the meeting, but they and town historian Barbara Russell will visit the Little Red Schoolhouse "to assess its present condition" and meet again.

This is the latest move in an effort that dates back years.

In 2019, May gathered more than 2,200 signatures on a Change.org petition asking that the building be preserved. A separate petition for landmark designation has about 200 signatures so far, May said.

The William Floyd School District still owns the building, but "is in the final stages of transferring ownership to the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library," school district spokesman James Montalto said in an email.

Kerry Rosales, the library's director, said in a statement that "the library does indeed have plans to restore and repurpose the building. However, our focus had to shift to completing the main library's expansion and renovation project, as well as the two new branches."

Rosales said that "despite these challenges, the library trustees are committed to working with community leaders to restore the LRS. We are currently working with our architect to determine the full scope and cost of the renovation. Once this is established, we plan to engage with community civic groups, elected officials, and nonprofit organizations to secure private funding and government grants for the project.

Rosales said that among the potential uses are "as a community meeting space, hosting a local history collection, or use by one of the library's not-for-profits such as the Community Family Literacy Project and Friends of the Arts.'

While the library hasn't officially weighed in on whether Brookhaven should declare the Little Red Schoolhouse a historic landmark, the president of the library's board of trustees seems cool to the idea.

'While the board has not taken a formal position, we are greatly concerned that an official historic designation would limit the types of uses of a renovated building, while significantly increasing the cost of restoration," board of trustees president Joseph Maiorana said in a statement.

Meanwhile, May said he and the others remain committed to fighting for landmark status.

"They understand we're not going away," he said.



Area residents want to see the Little Red Schoolhouse in Moriches declared a landmark by the Town of Brookhaven. MT/Haber

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Keith Romaine Memorial Snapper Derby

BY C. E. PARRY

Under a bright blue-sky, cormorants, gulls, and other denizens of Union Avenue Dock were sidelined from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. by this year's contingent of Keith Romaine Memorial Snapper Derby participants.

Supervisor Panico, councilwoman Karen Dunne-Kesnig, and Suffolk County executive Ed Romaine were on hand to welcome the anglers and their families to the event, held this year on Sept. 8.

"It's a great event, particularly for young people," said Romaine. "The weather is perfect. And it's the best way to honor and celebrate Keith's life, raising money for scholarships in the town he grew up in."

Erin Rara, whose son Joseph's memory was also being honored, remembered how keen he had been to participate the first year the derby was held, but he missed the deadline. He died the following year without having a chance to enter.

A scholarship in his name is awarded to a Center Moriches student whose friendliness and commitment to others exemplifies Joseph's outgoing character.

"He knew what it means to be a good friend," his mother said. "Always welcoming and open to others, especially new people he met."

The joint event, sponsored by the Town of Brookhaven and the Montauk Surf-



casters, raised \$5,500 in donations from area businesses. Excitement grew as the clock neared 3 p.m. and Panico prepared to address the crowd.

There were cheers as he announced winners in the 14-16-year-old category: Joe Intravaia in first place; Ian La Puma in second place; Kevin Whelan in third.

In the 15-18-to-year-old group, James Taylor received first place honors and Leah Velazowor took home a second-place win.







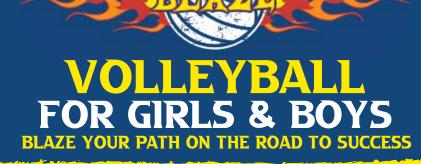






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Congratulations and happy faces brought the event to a close just after 3:30 p.m., when the winners, their families, and those hooked on fishing went home, looking forward to next year. Mt/Parry



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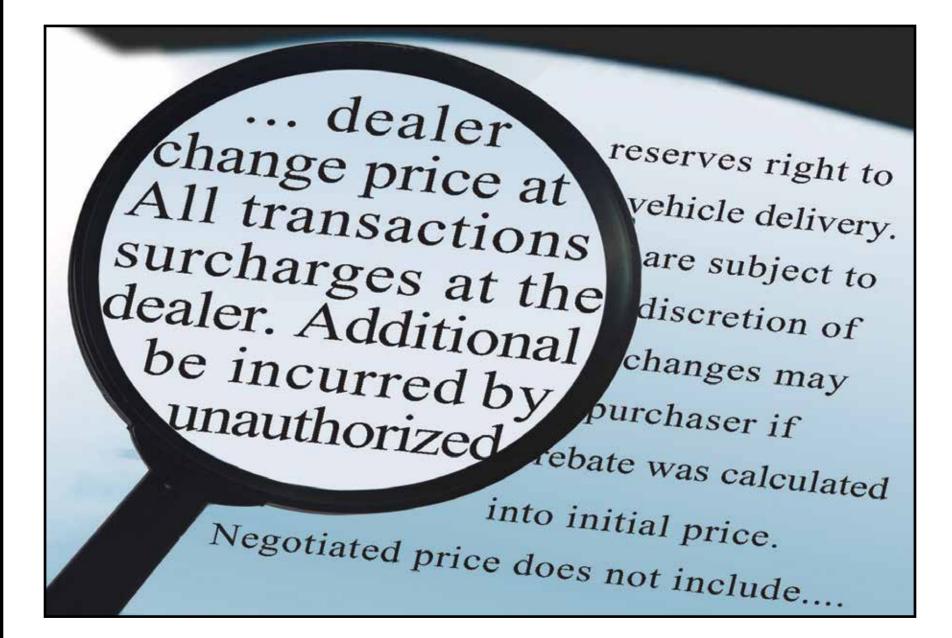


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Going for the gold and getting it

BY LINDA LEUZZI

Devoting over 250 hours of community service, plus passing requirements in exploration, physical fitness and personal development, is no small feat.

But Center Moriches High School student Austin Faller committed himself to these goals, resulting in this year's Suffolk County Distinguished Gold Medal Youth Award.

"This is put out to our district," explained Legis. Jim Mazzarella, of the award, open to 12-to-18-year-olds in the county. "Austin was the only one to sign up for the award in District 3. It's a lot of work, and youths have to hit certain milestones in four areas. He received the highest award we give out."

Austin, a Center Moriches resident, enrolled in multiple AP, International Baccalaureate, and honors classes and maintained a 4.0 GPA with Honor Roll status for the last four years. He logged his 250-hour community service time and participated in numerous leadership programs, as well as participating in three sports on the varsity level in football. lacrosse and wrestling.

Dad Will Faller, a Suffolk County Sheriff's Department corrections officer, called Austin an old soul.

'Even as a kid, he was very helpful and would go out of his way to do things for people; he had a very grownup personality, taking people's needs into consideration," he explained.

Will commented that while his work hours can be long, Austin accompanied him to different charity events through the sheriff's office as a way to spend



Center Moriches senior Austin Faller received the Suffolk County Distinguished Gold Medal Youth Award. He's with Legis. James Mazzarella, his mom Maria Faller, and dad Will Faller. Courtesy photo

time together. "The Polar Plunge, the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics," he said, among others. "Also,

Caitlin's Vision. I have two boys. They always came with me."

With mom Maria's efforts and Will's, it

was pointed out good that parenting had a lot to do with his son's journey. "We've been lucky," he said.

Austin was asked about some of the specific efforts he tackled. "I helped out with a youth lacrosse clinic and I had to go to Eastport once a week," he explained. "It was roughly an hour to an hour and a half in a sports complex. If they were having trouble with a skill, I'd help coach the kids. I thought it was a very good experience helping kids with the sport I love to play. That was one of them.'

Austin also pitched in at Legis. Mazzarella's office. "I had to stamp letters the first couple of days, but also sat in and saw what happened in the office. It was once or twice a week."

Austin attacked his letter pile with zeal; his was always the highest, Mazzarella said. "You don't always see the attitude that Austin came here with," Mazzarella emphasized. "At the time, we were working on a mailing that requires tedious work. But he was here to contribute and please his supervisors. What stands out about Austin is his maturity and self-assuredness. He's already an adult. He gives you a firm handshake, looks you in the eye and thanks you.

Austin is heading to Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa., after his current senior year. "They have an amazing health sciences program, and the lacrosse coach reached out," he said. "I felt it was one of my better options. I do want to pursue health science as a physician or physician's assistant, or open a gym as well." ■

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Longtime Eastport-South Manor CSD clerk to retire

The Eastport-South Manor Central School District announced the retirement of longtime district clerk Sharon Murray during the Sept. 18 board of education meeting.

Murray held the job as district clerk for more than 30 years and has prepared for more than 1,000 board meetings, superintendent of Sschools Joseph A. Steimel explained. Steimel also remarked that Murray's continuity has been extremely important as she has spent countless hours working with new and veteran trustees and superintendents. He also

noted that Murray was clerk during the district's merger and building of the current Eastport-South Manor Jr.-Sr. High School and was a wonderful advisor and friend when he became former principal.

Steimel said, "To say she is the mortar of the bricks is an understatement.'

Board of Education president Jeffrev Goldhammer also thanked Murray for her decades of dedication to the community. "She is irreplaceable to any board member entering into a trustee position and will be missed," Goldhammer said. ■



Brookhaven town councilwoman Karen Dunne Kesnig presented Eastport-South Manor Central School District clerk Sharon Murray a certificate of appreciation upon her retirement. Photo courtesy of the Eastport-South Manor Central School District

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L.I. witches and the hunt to expose them

BY C. E. PARRY

Social unrest. Economic uncertainty. Religious persecutions and mass upheavals. Political friction among world powers. Gender politics seeking to control women's power. Stories of suspicious activity involving cats. Welcome to the 17th century.

According to Tara Rider, Ph.D., senior lecturer in environmental studies at Stony Brook University, where she is an expert on the relationship between nature and society, the gender and societal impact of these concerns led directly to fears instilled in 17th-century Europeans, concerns they brought with them as colonists, including those who settled on Long Island.

While today evil is regarded as an abstract concept, Rider says, at the time it was regarded as real and concrete, something that could be touched by those who populated our early communities.

And, it could be empowering your neighbor next door.

In May 1658, the newly formed village of East Hampton consisted of just 34 families living in relative isolation, even though it was part of British-held New England. Goody (Goodwife) Garlick, a 50-year-old childless former indentured servant who had married Joshua, a successful farmer, stood trial before Gov. John Winthrop in Hartford, Conn., charged with being a witch. At the time, Suffolk was part of Connecticut.

East Hampton residents, already given to gossip, whispered suspicions and back-biting, had turned their disdain for her into formal accusations following the death of 16-year-old Elizabeth Gardiner Howell, a young wife and mother. In spring of that year, Howell had fallen ill after nursing her infant. Taking to her bed, she called out Garlick's name, pointing toward the foot of her bed where she claimed a "dark form" had appeared. The next day, she died.

Class differences—Elizabeth was the daughter of Lion Gardiner, founder of East Hampton and the most prominent man in town, while Joshua, though prosperous, was of a lower class—contributed to suspicions that Elizabeth's death had been sourced through evil.

The recorded charges included sorcery and familiarity with Satan. As with other such trials of the time, they were crimes with origins in religious beliefs that were adjudicated in secular courts. The penalty was death. And there had already been four hangings for witchcraft in Connecticut.

Six years later, Puritan-led Setauket, then a "frontier" village experiencing instability, saw its own witch hunt when Ralph and Mary Hall were accused of causing the death of George Wood and his infant child.

On Oct. 2, 1665, the Halls were tried in the Court of Assizes in NYC, accused of "murder via application of witchcraft and sorcery"; the foreman was Thomas Baker of East Hampton. Both declared their innocence and begged to be found so by God and Country.

Both Goody Garlick and Mary Hall were spared the death penalty, but neither was found entirely innocent, according to the records. There was suspicion of their guilt, but not enough to justify hanging. Mary's husband was found free of suspicion.

Gov. Nicholls, who presided over the Halls' trial and sentencing, was a progressive thinker for his time; his judgment that insufficient evidence of guilt existed to justify hanging served to end witch hunts in our area before they could take hold, as they did in Salem, where 150 were accused in 1692.

Why were most of the accused women, and how did the Moriches community avoid similar activity?

Dr. Rider says there were many factors, but a shift in medical practice that began in the 16th century helped heap suspicion on women. Women's ability to give birth and the knowledge of medieval herbalists and midwives, gave them enormous power. The Church, in concert with governments, sought to link their abilities with supernatural evil, thereby reducing their influence.

The 13th and 14th centuries saw a series of devastating plagues. In a time before knowledge of bacteria's role in sickness, the hysteria that followed found scapegoats who could be blamed for the massive number of deaths. As Europe's mass religious upheavals played out during "The Burning Times" between 1550 and 1650, there were allegations of heresy, mass trials, inquisitions, executions and societal tensions. And, according to the Catholic Church, witchcraft was heresy.

Eighty percent of those accused of witchcraft were women, especially older, post-menopausal women or those without children, those who had any mental or physical deformity, or who did not for any reason fit into the social norms of the time. Cats, because they were seemingly able to appear out of nowhere, were said to act as their familiars and were viewed skeptically, or even killed. With patriarchal legal and religious systems in place, women had little power, and so could be easily scapegoated.

But here in the Moriches, during the 17th century, the expansive distance between families, the largely agrarian-based economy, and the sizable influence of few landowners offered less fertile ground for the frictions that took root elsewhere.

The farms and their inhabitants were less vulnerable to the societal pressures in more concentrated, frontier communities where one had to petition to join and an individual's life depended on the group; survival meant strict adherence to its governance.

It would take the new interest in empiricism, reason, and use of the scientific method to observe, evaluate, and study phenomena to bring an end to witch hunts in Europe. The last execution for witchcraft in England was in 1712.

The Enlightenment had begun. lacksquare

Referenced: archivist97. "Witchcraft in Setauket, the Trial of Ralph and Mary Hall." October 31, 2020. https://www.history.com/topics/colonial-america/salemwitch-trials.

Referenced: Dewan, George. "In the Matter of Goody Garlick." New York archives Fall 2005. www.nysarchivestrust.org



Celebrate national Black Cat Day!

BY C. E. PARRY

Observed four days before Halloween, National Black Cat Day is a celebration of our feline friends, whose reputation has often suffered from its purported connection to the unhallowed arts.

Two of their strongest advocates, Lillian Lennon, director of RSVP, an animal rescue in East Moriches, and Dr. Diana Savino-Thoms, director at Center Moriches Veterinary Hospital, are making sure black cats get the care and treatment they deserve.

RSVP, Animal Welfare and Rescue, will hold a special Black Cat Awareness Day on Oct. 27,

from 2 to 5 pm at PetSmart in Riverhead, featuring adoptable felines, kids' crafts and "treats

without tricks.

RSVP will hold a special Black Cat Awareness Day on Oct. 27 at Petco in Riverhead. Advanced registration is

required. Dr. Savino-Thoms, who has seen her share of people and their pets in her veterinary practice, has a special soft spot for black cats—pets, she says, prospective adopters often overlook. In fact, she has three of her own.

"Black cats definitely get a bad rap. There's a stigma attached to their color. And because they're linked with Halloween, some people assume they're mean-spirited," she said.

"But they're actually very sweet and

affectionate! They're outgoing, playful, smart and sociable—just the opposite of their reputation. And, they love to snuggle. Growing up, we never had a black cat, even though, my father, Dr. Richard Savino, is a veterinarian. It wasn't until I started seeing them as patients that I began to notice their personalities.

The first black cat she adopted, Paige, was part of a litter they took in to adopt out. When we take in kittens to adopt out, my staff puts in a lot of time helping to socialize them. Paige was part of an all-black litter, and the only female. At the time, my children were young and I invited them to come and play with the kittens, too, to further their comfort with children.

"And they fell in love with Paige. That was the deciding factor for me. I brought her home and it was the best decision I ever made. She is like a second mother to my children. Her sweet, loving personality makes our hearts melt. She sleeps with the kids when they're sick and checks them each night, going from bed to bed as they sleep."

"A few years later, we adopted Sir Edward, part of another litter brought in for adoption. There was something special about him, too. He's such a sweet little boy. As the staff and I started handling him, I'd carry him around with me, let him sit on my lap as I wrote up charts, called back clients and listened to him purring as he slept. He was such a sweet addition that when Martin came into the clinic to be adopted and purred the minute he was picked up, I knew he needed to come home with me, too. He and Edward are best friends. They play, snuggle and groom each other daily.

Together these three have made our home a fun place to be. I'm so happy I brought them home... even though my husband is always a little nervous when I walk through the door that I might not be alone."

"Which is why it's sad that black cats have so much difficulty being adopted. Even the sweetest member of a litter will be left behind by people who choose other colors first. At CMVH, we look for adopters who can look past preconceived negativity associated with them—images drawn from Halloween of arched backs, hissing, claws out, glowing eyes. Black cats are sweet and so much more than the myth.

"I always encourage clients to just sit and visit with a cat. See if there's a connection instead of getting caught up in its color, gender, breed. If they feel drawn to that kitty, they have been chosen by the cat. The rest should be history.

"Eliot, our black hospital cat for many years, was an example. He'd roam around the office and greet everyone. He truly felt like a member of the staff. He'd sit up with the receptionists, visit with clients, hang out in a treatment room.

"There was one day when we walked into a room to find the client sitting on the floor with his dog, Eliot, sitting on



the scale, and all three waiting for the appointment to begin. The client confessed he'd been a bit anxious at first until Eliot helped soothe his fears.

"Eliot was one of a kind. He truly had a way of making everyone around him feel relaxed and happy. And he definitely helped dispel a lot of rumors about black cats for our clients." ■

Light and shadow at Gallery 90

BY C. E. PARRY

Gallerist Linda Prentiss had seasonal changes in mind when she curated "Light and Shadow," now on view through Oct. 13 at Gallery 90, in Center Moriches.

Work by local artists featuring vivid color, high contrast, richly saturated light effects and macabre imagery, laced heavily with humor, are arranged throughout the space in a thoughtfully executed display.

Louise Weck's Hopper-esque subjects present a world skillfully abstracted, with forms executed in vivid hues. Her clear knowledge of anatomy, composition, color, and relationships rendered in high contrast includes shadows that become an equal part of her focus.

Retired Riverhead cartoonist and illustrator Van Howell entertains with his fine hand. Black-and-white line drawings have rarely teemed with so much energy and expression. Reminiscent of Charles Addams's New Yorker cartoons, the fine lines create dramatic movement throughout, whether they depict the interior of a building or the landscape among trees.

Mary Jane Van Zeijts's pastels are a subdued, colorful discovery of light's effect upon marshes, the ocean beach, and our surrounding landscape at twilight.

Marlene Weinstein's haunting, hand-colored photographs give off a sense of an austere gathering of ancient beings, communing at the tideline, or ghost trees awaiting the next storm.

And, in her black-and-white photographs, we see the interplay of multiple reflections: light on glass and windows.

Meanwhile, in Ray Germann's ethereal beach scenes, water and shore meet and embrace, their grooves marking a statement of connection, even if shortlived.

And, finally, Beata Kruk's Eastern-inspired monotypes of repetitive, natural forms that play with shadows against a textured background encourage us to see the world in a whole new light.

"Light and Shadow" is on display at Gallery 90 through Oct. 13, Saturdays and Sundays at noon until 5 p.m. ■





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KEITH'S CORNER

October is the favorite month at Helping Makes U Happy!

Saturday, Oct. 5 is the date of our big, annual, free Halloween costume giveaway. It will be held again this year at the Brookhaven Fire Department's Fire Prevention Open House from 4 to 8 p.m. at 10 Camp Upton Road, Shirley (behind Zwanger-Pesiri).

It's an indoor event, so it will be held rain or shine, and we have hundreds of costumes—some new, some gently used. So, bring your family and come on down!

Of course, there's also Keith's Mega Auction for Helping Makes U Happy to look forward to—Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Center Moriches High School gym! When we say MEGA, we mean MEGA so many prizes! Doors open at 3 p.m. and prizes called at 6 p.m.

You don't have to be present to win, but large prizes must be taken home that evening. Music provided by DJ Daddy-O Entertainment; food for purchase by Justin's Chop Shop.

Come on down for a great event and help us raise some funds to help our neighbors in need all year long! \blacksquare

MORICHES CHAMBER UPDATE

Fall Festival is Sunday, Oct. 20, in Center Moriches. Please join us for a day of fun!

We have lots of vendors, great food trucks, and live music starting at noon featuring the bands Sitting Ducks noon to 1 p.m., Urban Acoustic 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., and New Students 3 to 4 p.m. Sign up to be a vendor at www.moricheschamber. org.

March of the Goblins is Oct. 31. Get ready for a spooky good time at the March of the Goblins! On Halloween, bring your little ghouls and goblins to Main Street in Center Moriches for a fun-filled trick-or-treat event. From 4:30 to 6 p.m., Main Street will be closed from Chichester Avenue to Railroad Avenue to ensure a safe and fun experience for all. Local businesses will be handing out treats, so come dressed in your favorite costumes and collect goodies from the heart of the community. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season with friends, family, and neighbors while supporting local shops. Don't miss out on the hauntingly fun atmosphere of this cherished annual event.

Chamber meeting: The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at Sunsets at Senix. The evening will kick off with a 6 p.m. networking session, offering a great chance to connect with local business owners and community members. The official meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m., where important updates and initiatives for the Moriches area will be discussed. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the chamber, this is a great opportunity to engage, share ideas, and contribute to the local business community. If you would like to join the chamber, please visit our website https://moricheschamber.org/.

Oct. 31, as we all know, is Halloween.

It's also Keith's birthday—happy birth-

day, Keith! Happy Halloween, everyone!

The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches is incredibly proud to celebrate our longtime member, Miriam Gillies, for being honored as the countywide Senior Citizen of Distinction. Gillies's dedication, hard work, and commitment to our community have made a lasting impact, and this well-deserved recognition is a testament to her outstanding contributions. We are grateful for her involvement and leadership within the chamber and the greater Moriches area. Congratulations, Miriam, on this prestigious award and for being an inspiration to us all!

Jim Mazzarella, along with Ed Romaine, congratulated Gillies with the following statement: "Miriam Gillies has been a stalwart member of the Center Moriches community for countless years through her work with the Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches and many other efforts. Miriam has devoted her

MORICHES BAY GARDEN CLUB Small Standard Flower Show

BY PATTI CHIEFFO

On Saturday, Aug. 17, the Moriches Bay Garden Club presented their Small Standard Flower Show to the community at the Center Moriches Library. The theme of the show was "Through the Decades." There were many entries from our garden club members, including several entries from young community members in our Youth Design and Youth Botanical Arts Horticulture Division.

There were Picnic Sets for four, Lunch on a Summer's Day set for two, a Quiet Times Breakfast for one. Several members entered their flowering annuals, annuals grown for their foliage, flowering perennials and cut perennials grown for their foliage. Also, hanging baskets, succulents, container grown cactus, and various types of evergreens. And let's not forget the beautiful and creative Botanical Arts Designs, as well as Botanical Arts Horticulture. We also had a special Botanical Arts Photography Division, where the public voted on the display of their favorite flower photograph.

The decorations made by Maggie from our club were a big hit. The cardboard '70s hippie van gave the people who visited our show a chance to take a picture through a window of the bus, and the flowers on the walls and the disco balls on stanchions with a pink entryway welcomed everyone into the large room.

time by giving back to those in need by driving cancer patients to medical treatments, storing medical equipment, and leading the local ACS unit, where she chaired Daffodil Days, Jail and Bail, and many other events and fundraisers. One of Miriam's proudest achievements was launching a Relay for Life event at her local school district. Miriam was also chosen to take over the East Moriches Veterans Day parade. As a current director of the Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches, she chairs the Christmas and menorah lighting, Student of the Month, and has been a tremendous asset to both the chamber and the community.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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Hylands' Printing Business Services Robert Hyland - hylands@optonline.net 631-399-0100 The entries were judged by judges from the National Federated Garden Club before the doors were opened to the public. We had so much positive feedback from everyone and our members had a lot of fun creating the flower designs and sharing them with the community.

At our October meeting, we will be working with pumpkins and succulents to make a beautiful fall display. You are welcome to join us. If you would like to attend any of our meetings please contact Debbie, our president, at (631) 258-2657 or debgcan@ gmail.com. ■



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It is n	ot our aim to tell readers what to think, but to provide them with food for thought
	and to make interpretive editorial comment on the news

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AROUND TOWN

Saturday, October 5

Fall-O-Ween on the Farms – Join Waterdrinker at its two farm locations in Riverhead or Manorville for mums, pumpkin picking, fall-themed fun and games and food trucks, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Hayrides, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.water-drinker.com.

Friday, October 11

The High Holidays – The Jewish Center of the Moriches invites the Jewish community to worship Yom Kippur, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 11 & 12. For information, email thejewishcenterofthemoriches@gmail.com.

Tuesday, October 15

Haunted Libraries – Join librarian Jill Sollazzo at Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library to hear the fascinating accounts of ghostly librarians through the ages, 6:30-8 p.m. Register online or call 631-399-1511.

Saturday, October 19

Brookhaven Recycling Event – E-waste collection, paper shredding, and drug takeback at Center Moriches Library, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brookhaven Town residents can safely discard old electronics, unneeded personal documents, and expired or unneeded medications.

Pumpkin Picking – Families with children ages up to 5th grade can join Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library

for fall fun off-site at Glover Farms, 641 Victory Ave., Brookhaven, 10-11 a.m. OR 12-1 p.m. Register online or call 631-399-1511, ext. 1030.

Sunday, October 20

Fall Festival – Join the Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches on Main Street, Center Moriches for fall-themed fun, live music, vendors, and food trucks, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit moricheschamber.org.

Tuesday, October 22

College Admissions – Program at Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library will help high school teens and their parents navigate the college admissions process, 7-8:30 p.m. Register online or call 631-399-1511, ext. 1030.

Of Note ...

St. Joseph's Open House – Learn all about the world-class education available at St. Joseph's University on Sunday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet with professors and learn about scholarships from financial aid specialists; tour the campus and the stateof-the-art new Student Center. To RSVP, visit sjny.edu/Llopenhouse or call 631-687-4500.

Volunteer Literacy Tutors Needed – Middle Country Library is seeking volunteer tutors. Free trainings will be offered Saturdays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, and 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tutors must commit to 2 hours a week of training and tutoring at the library. Register at https://tinyurl.com/Seldentutortrainin-gOct2024 or call Amber Gagliardi at 631-585-9393, ext. 274.

Register to Vote – The online registration deadline is 10 days before Election Day. If registering by mail, application must be postmarked 15 days before and received 10 days before Election Day. In-person registration deadline is 10 days before Election Day. For more information, visit vote.gov/ register/ny. To check your voter registration, visit www.voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

Project Warmth – Program assists eligible families and individuals with heating emergencies. For more information or to apply for the program, dial 2-1-1 (or 1-888-774-7633) or visit www.unitedwayli.org.

Pet Supplies Needed – RSVP Inc. Animal Welfare & Rescue Group is in the need of wet and dry dog and cat food, chews, blankets/ towels, pens and crates, and flea/tick preventatives. Please call 631-533-2PET (2738) or email info@rsvpinc.org to arrange a pickup.

Extreme Weather Safety – Be prepared for extreme weather. Save PSEG's 24-hour electric service number: 1-800-490-0075; follow PSEG Long Island on Facebook and Twitter for updates before and after storms; and make sure everyone in the family knows what to do in the case of an emergency. Visit www.psegliny.com/page.cfm/Home/Safety for video tips from YouTube, Sesame Street and more.

Gamblers Anonymous – Are you or someone you know living with a gambling problem? Call 631-297-6166 for help. Covering all areas of Long Island, Sunday-Friday.

Flag Disposal – Have a torn or faded United States flag? Boy Scout Troop 800 will dispose of it properly with flag disposal protocol. Email the troop at TroopPack800@ aol.com or call Pat at 631-874-0531.

Are You In Debt? – Debt Counseling Corporation will have personal finance counselors at Brookhaven Town Hall in Farmingville by appointment. Call 631-698-2074 for information.

War on Want Project – Help fight global poverty by getting involved with a project aimed to raise funds and awareness of poor families in northeast Brazil. To learn more about the project, visit <u>www.waronwant.org</u>.

Boating Classes – The United States Power Squadrons offers classes, free vessel safety checks and more. Visit www. WeBoatSafe.org or call 800-341-8777 to find a squadron location near you.

Tech Help – The Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library offers free, one-on-one assistance to you get started or solve specific concerns with smartphones, tablets, eReaders or laptops. Call 631-399-1511, ext. 240 to schedule an appointment.

75 Years Ago OCTOBER 1949

Sizzling steaks and a spotlight on the aims of Rotary combined to highlight the meeting of the Rotary Club of the Moriches. Club members who served as chefs for the occasion were **Thomas Field**, **Dr. Lewis Foster, Harold Lukert, Louis Lukert, Leo Hersh, J. Wesley Sinnickson** and **John Matteson**.

Members of the Student Advisory Council at Center Moriches High School elected officers, with **Sarah Hamilton** chosen to head the organization.

Completion of a bicycle path at Center Moriches High School was announced by **Hallock A. Wood**, principal, who said that the path should make for greater safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chamberlain, Mrs. Kenneth Carman, Mrs. Fred Martin, Mrs. Edward Ringhoff, Mrs. John Ringhoff and Mrs. Bernard Jacobsen were among the East Moriches residents who took the historical tour to Connecticut with Nathaniel Howell.

Donald Gordon, an Eastport High School sixth grader, spotted the rare black-back gull, the Savannah star, and junco and the marsh wren while on a birdwatching expedition with members of the Moriches Audubon Society.

Several students in the music department at Center Moriches High School were chosen for the All-State Sectional program to be held at Bay Shore. Students chosen for the band are **Ruby Bell**, Joan Belli, Robert DeCordova, Faith Henderson, Joan Pieper, Allan Rogers, Helene Rudnetsky, Corinne Valenti and Gerald Wood. Shirley Bernstein and Dolores Loper will play in the orchestra, and Lynne Layman will sing in the chorus.

Mrs. Herman David was elected president of the Guildettes of the First Presbyterian Church, East Moriches, at their meeting.

Among the skilled workers preparing local cauliflower in the Long Island Duck Packing company's new department at their Eastport plant are **Mrs. Anna Cheseboro** of Manorville and **Ms. Mary Ella Mayo** of East Moriches.

Evelyn Preston of Wakefield and East Moriches, became the bride of **William Houghton Hawkins**, of Center Moriches, at a lovely wedding ceremony at St. Francis of Rome R.C. Church, Wakefield.

Playing this in October at **The Center Moriches Theatre**: Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz"; Ingrid Bergman and Joseph Cotton in "Under Capricorn"; Gary Cooper in "Task Force"; and Shelley Winters in "Johnny Stool Pigeon."

50 Years Ago

OCTOBER 1974

Lynn Tenke, a senior at Center Moriches High School, will be featured in the eighth annual edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1973-74. She is active in the music program, school paper, yearbook and magazine, and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

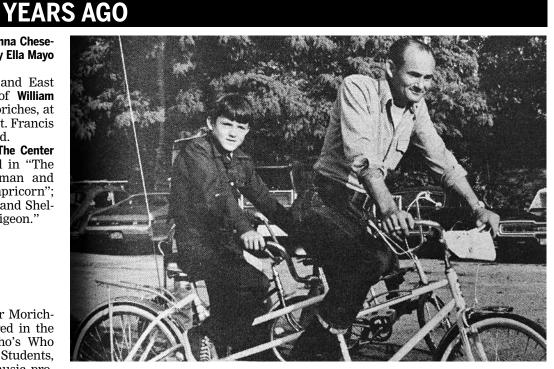
Mr. and Mrs. William Walker Jr. of Orchid Drive celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary.

Marine Pfc. John H. Mohring, of Shirley, participated in amphibious assault training exercises with Netherlands Marines in the Caribbean.

The Holiday Beach Property Owners Association reelected **Ernest Bindel** as its president at a meeting held at the clubhouse on Old Neck Road, Center Moriches.

The recorded history of the Center Moriches Fire Department, enclosed in a lead envelope, was placed behind the cornerstone at a dedication ceremony. Among those who attended were members of the ladies auxiliary, **Vivian Orofino**, **Adrienne Robinson** and **Winnie Thomasen**.

Greg Scanlon was the first cyclist to complete the 110-mile round trip from Center Moriches to Montauk in the Bike-a-Thon sponsored by the Paquatuck Squaws,



October 1974: Brian Clancy, 8, gets ready to do some backseat driving for his father, Edmund, as they begin the 55-mile trek to Montauk at the second annual Bike-a-Thon sponsored by the Paquatuck Squaws to raise funds for Camp Paquatuck in Center Moriches.

a group of women who raise funds for Camp Paquatuck, Center Moriches. Among the Squaws who participated in the trip were **Carol Failla**, **Pat Gerard** and **Cathy Kavanaugh**.

Rotary Governor **Daniel Barnes** of the Rotary District of Long Island was hosted by **James Dineen**, president of the Moriches Rotary when he visited their headquarters.

Haskell Warner, of Eastport, accepted a check for \$5,000 from **Richard Pellicone**, president of the Westhampton Chamber of Commerce, from the proceeds of the chamber's annual art show that will benefit Camp Paquatuck, a summer residential camp for special-needs children.

Three generations of the Johnson family of Center Moriches are now active members of the Center Moriches Fire Department. They are Howard Johnson, Ken Johnson Sr., and Ken Johnson Jr. Silver shovels marked the special occasion at ground-breaking ceremonies for new schools in William Floyd School District. The shovels were wielded by **Nicholas Poulos**, William Floyd District principal, and **Frank Campbell**, school board president.

"Who's Who Among American High School Students" honored **Kathy G. Bergmann**, a former senior at Center Moriches High School, by featuring her in the eighth annual edition. She is active in student council, editor of the literary magazine, a member of the Latin Club, and won the Latin Award for above 90 average for four years.

Playing in October at local United Artists Theatres: Julie Christie and Omar Sharif in "Doctor Zhivago"; Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Elizabeth Taylor in "That's Entertainment."

- Compiled by Vanessa Graniello



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