

*****ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

PSRST STD
US Postage
PAID
St. James NY
Permit No. 10



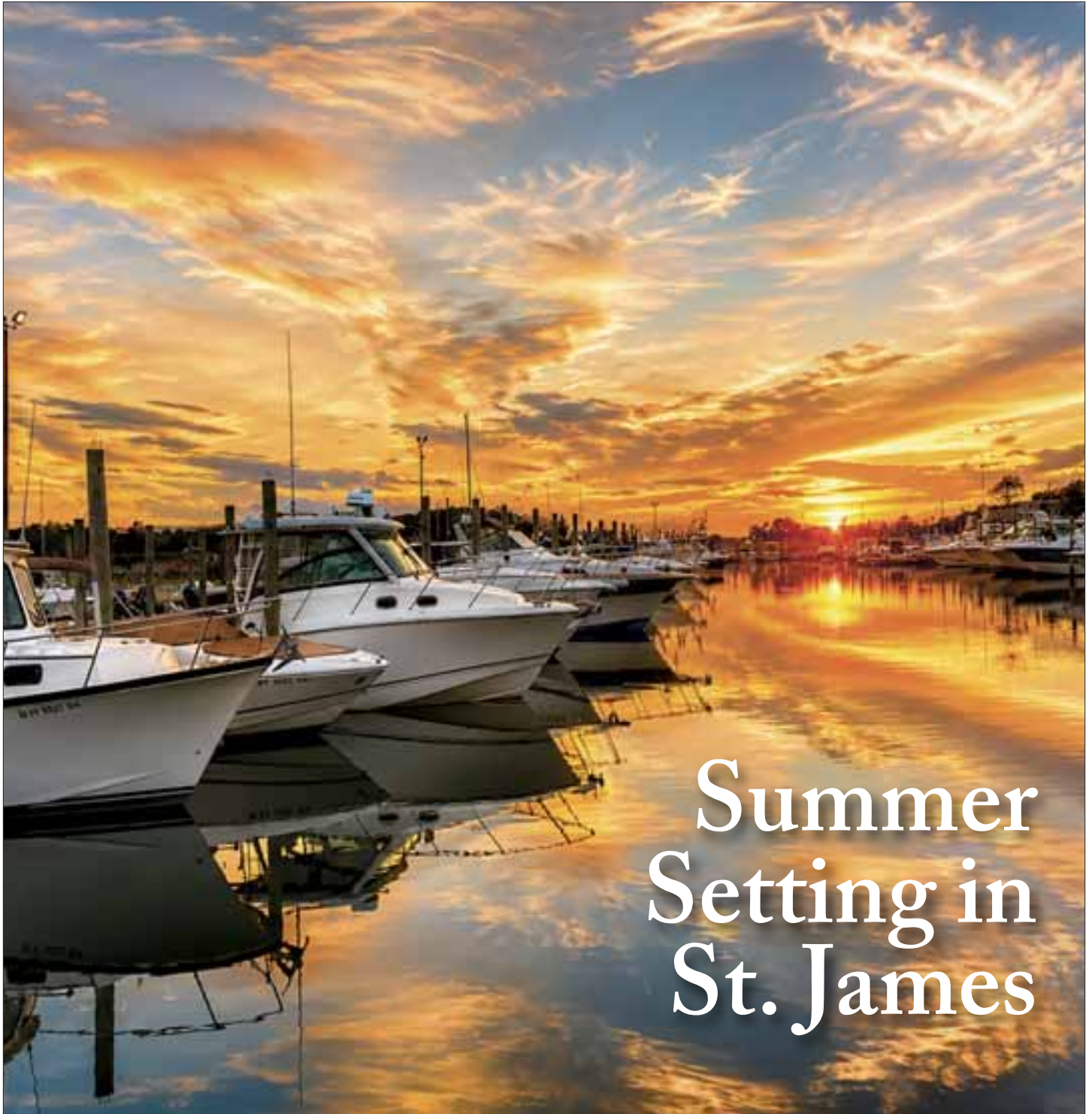
AUGUST
2026

Volume 39
Number 3

Keeping you up to date on
SALES, HAPPENINGS & PEOPLE
In Our Town - St. James
PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Our Town

S • T • J • A • M • E • S



Summer
Setting in
St. James

photo by Scott Posner

Branch Funeral Homes

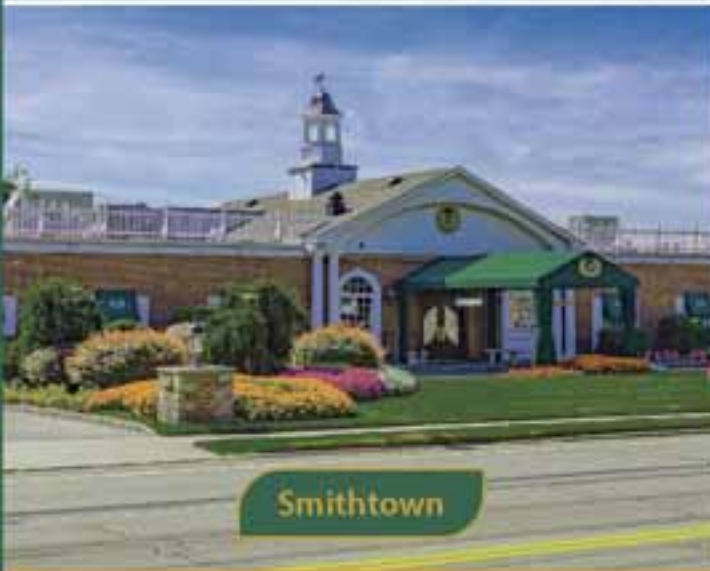
Four Generations of Hope, Guidance & Compassion



Commack



Miller Place



Smithtown



Rocky Point


BRANCH
FUNERAL HOMES
Funerals & Cremations

Owned & Operated by The Vigilante Family



John Vigilante
4th Gen.
Funeral Director

Henry Vigilante
3rd Gen.
Funeral Director

Paul Vigilante
4th Gen.
Funeral Director

Hudson
On-Staff
Certified Grief
Therapy Dog

BRANCHFH.COM | 631.724.9500

Our Town

S • T • J • A • M • E • S

STAFF

Robin Clark Editor
 Lorrie Anne Minicozzi Art Director
 Robin Clark Production
 Ami Bondi Feature Writer
 Denise Davis Design Contributor
 Fran Posner Proof Reader
 Debby Posner Finance

OUR TOWN

- ST. JAMES -

is a monthly publication produced
 exclusively for the people of
 St. James, Nissequogue and
 Head of the Harbor, L.I., N.Y.

Email info@ourtownstjames.com for
 Advertising & Copy Deadline

OUR TOWN is mailed directly to
 every residence & business in the
 11780 zip code area
 (6559 total copies mailed)
 St. James Post Office Permit #10
 St. James, NY 11780

Published by
 The St. James Chamber of Commerce
 631-584-8510

email: info@stjameschamber.org
info@ourtownstjames.com
 website: www.ourtownstjames.com

Not responsible for typographical errors.
 We reserve the right at our sole discretion to edit or
 refuse to print editorial or advertising material
 deemed detrimental to Our Town's public image
 or unsuitable for its readers.



I N T H I S I S S U E



MERCHANT SPOTLIGHT:

AJ's Garage 4

AROUND TOWN:

What's Happening at the
 St. James General Store? 6-10

Shadows Rise Original Rock Musical
 Brings Culper Spy Ring to Life 14-16

Girl Scouts Plant Pollinator Garden 18
 Caterina Valentina Ribbon Cutting 20
 Arline's Art For A Cure 22
 St. James Celebrates Avenue of Heroes 24
 Galiano Wine Bar Paired Sommelier Wine Dinner 26
 Downtown St. James: Small-Town Charm on Every Corner 28
 Village of Nissequogue Celebrates 100th Anniversary 32
 Creating Connection for Seniors 33

TRAVELS WITH IRMA:

Canadian Maritimes 30-31

IN THE NEWS:

Hazardous Household Waste Event 42-43
 Smithtown Rotary Highlights Local Organizations 44
 Smithtown Rotary Members Visit Pal-O-Mine Equestrian 45

REALTY WISE:

The Upside to Downsizing 34

ST. JAMES DAY:

Sponsorship Information and Application 35-37

COFFEE BREAK:

Crossword Puzzle, Sudoku and Riddles & Teasers 38-39

THE BLACKBOARD:

Student Leadership Skills Shine at The Knox School 46
 Caps Off the the Class of 2026 47

THIS PRECIOUS EARTH:

Wyrd 50-51

DESIGN IDEAS:

Designing a Haven for Better Rest and Wellness..... 52-53

FINANCIAL FOCUS:

Debunking Five Common Social Security Myths 54

SUMMER MUSINGS:

The Last Bookstore 56-57
 Background People 58-59
 Summer Fruit Memories - 1956 60
 Invitation Invoice 61

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

Suffolk County North Shore Artisans Calendar of Events 62-66

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

..... 67

HEALTH NOTES:

Ask Ron Villano 68
 Declutter Your Life..... 70-71

ST. JAMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS

..... 73

DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

..... 74-75

PLEASE NOTE:

Advertising & Editorial Deadline
 for the **SEPTEMBER** edition of OUR TOWN • ST. JAMES is
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 - 12 NOON.

Distribution takes place on **AUGUST 24, 2026.**

MERCHANT SPOTLIGHT

AJ's Garage

386 Lake Avenue
631-686-5153



by Scott Posner

Upon entering the doors of AJ's Garage, located at 386 Lake Avenue, you will come to meet the very capable father and son team of Leon and AJ. AJ began his training over 15 years ago. He knew from a very early age that he had a passion for fixing all things mechanical. He attended BOCES and Lincoln Tech School to hone his skills.

Leon has been turning wrenches for 35 years! Here is a quick comparison to the technology held in the average car today versus when Leon started:

	1991	Today
ECUs (Electronic Control Units)	1-5	50-150
Computer Processing Power	1 or 2 16 bit processors	Dozens of 32 & 64 bit processors
Sensors	10-30	100-Over 300
Software Code	50,000-500,000 lines	100-300 million lines

That is a staggering increase in technical components packed into every car and they need care as well as any other part in each and every vehicle.

AJ's Garage was opened with the



mission of serving the community and fixing your problems. They do so by explaining what is needed. They like to have very open avenues of communication and seek to bring the repair process out from behind the curtain by providing explanations and visuals of exactly what is needed. They desire to provide exceptional service that is simplified and transparent.

They are available to perform the annual required New York State inspection. This is a 42-step process to assure that our vehicles are safe and compliant. It is easier to see problems coming with engines and transmissions, but many of those crucial electronic components can



tion are imperative to safe operation.

AJ is also prepared to tell customers when problems outweigh the value of a vehicle and a different course of action would be more prudent. He is passionate about making sure their customers are getting the best advice possible.

Need tires or a tire repair? Check out AJs for new tires or to fix a flat tire. They can do either.

Statistics show consumers are holding onto their car for longer periods. It is nice to have another reliable place to bring your vehicle where you can be confident in the service, professionalism and honesty they provide.

Stop in or call them at 631-686-5153.

Email: ajsgargae386@gmail.com

Waterfront Living on Long Island's North Shore



OLD FIELD, NY

14 Woodcock Lane

\$5,100,000 • 5 BD • 5 BA

Set on 2.5 acres in one of Setauket's most desirable locations, this estate features spacious, thoughtfully designed living and entertaining spaces with premier North Shore waterfront views. This rare property offers privacy, tranquility and stunning sunsets.



EAST SETAUKET, NY

7 Preston Lane

\$4,799,000 • 4 BD • 4 BA • 1 HB

A rare waterfront property in the Strongs Neck enclave. This beautifully rebuilt, 5,000 SF home features harbor views, a saltwater pool, and an approved NYSDEC permit for a deep-water dock with direct access to Port Jefferson Harbor and the Long Island Sound.

COMPASS



Maria Orlandi

Licensed Associate RE Broker
Founding Agent, Luxury Division
maria.orlandi@compass.com
M: 631.697.0474 | O: 631.629.7719
MariaOrlandiLuxuryLiving



Maria Orlandi is a licensed associate real estate broker affiliated with Compass. Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.

AROUND TOWN

What's Happening at the St. James General Store?

by Arline Goldstein

August is often considered the unofficial vacation month, and the St. James General Store has plenty of ways to make it even more enjoyable. The dictionary defines a vacation as time away from work or school for rest, recreation, or travel. Here on Long Island, many people choose a "staycation," using home as their base while taking the opportunity to explore and enjoy adventures close to home. Long Island offers countless places to discover, especially right here in our own community.

Photographer Ralph Puglisi Jr. has beautifully captured the essence of Long Island through his stunning photography. His images remind us what makes living here so extraordinary. As soon as I walked into the store, I was greeted by three different 2027 calendars featuring his work. It's never too early to pick up next year's calendar, especially when it's filled with scenes you'll enjoy all year long.

Stephanie Potts, manager and buyer for the General Store, has selected the perfect tableware for those of us who live on an island



surrounded by water. The dinnerware collection reflects the cool, pale blue hues of the sea, accented with crisp white. Many of the platters, mugs, serving dishes, and dinner plates are decorated with seashells, starfish, and other coastal motifs, making them perfect for

summertime entertaining.

Nearby, a royal blue and white serving collection immediately caught my eye, along with cheerful red and white melamine dinnerware. Dinner plates range from \$6.95 to \$12.95, while platters are continued on ppage 8

Keratin Treatment

Longer Hair Higher

\$150.00

Strip Eyelashes

\$20.00

Extension Lashes
(Flair or Individual) Starting at **\$75.00**

WE MOVED!

VISIT US AT OUR NEW LOCATION:

Green Hills Salon Suites

556-10A N. Country Rd.

St. James NY 11780

Wash, Cut & Blowout

\$45.00

(Long Hair Extra)



Salon 230

556 10A N. COUNTRY RD.

ST. JAMES, NY 11780

631-862-7023



Open 6 days a week: Tues.-Fri. 9:30-7 • Sat. 9-6 • Sun. 9:30-5 • Closed Mon.



SUPPORT
Your Local
Restaurants

Imagine your home, totally organized!

Custom Closets, Garage Cabinets,
Home Office, Pantries, Laundries,
Wall Beds, Wall Units, Hobby
Rooms, Garage Flooring
and more...



\$300 off Plus Free Installation

Terms and Conditions: \$300 off any order of \$1198 or more, \$200 off any order of \$998-\$1198 or \$100 off any order of \$698-\$998, on any complete custom closet, garage, or home office unit. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any complete unit order of \$600 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Expires in 30 days. Offer not valid in all regions.

12 Month Interest
Free Financing
Available!

With approved credit. Call or ask your designer for details.



Colleen has been a professional designer for over a decade. She is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). As a Senior Design Consultant, she has helped hundreds of families across Long Island with their home organizing needs. Colleen finds it most rewarding to help her neighbors in our town. She has lived in St. James since 1993 and raised her five children here.



**Colleen Caemmerer,
owner.**

Virtual Design Services Available



Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

800-293-3744

Locally Owned and Operated!



Follow us



Closets byDesign®

Most Credit Cards Accepted Licensed & Insured Nassau Lic #H044534000 Suffolk Lic #47713-H NYC Consumer Affairs Lic #1360201 2000 © All Rights Reserved, Closet by Design, Inc.

A R O U N D T O W N

What's Happening at the St. James General Store?

continued from page 6

priced from \$16.95 to \$62.95. Made from durable, hard-to-break melamine, they're ideal for outdoor dining and summer gatherings.

I was also delighted to find Vermont maple syrup and locally produced Southampton honey on the shelves. Since enjoying fresh corn on the cob is practically a summer tradition, be sure to pick up the colorful Rainbow Corn Holders displayed on the main floor. The charming bee-themed plates featuring the words "Bee Kind" are another fun seasonal find.

Lightweight scarves, priced at just \$9.95, are perfect for wrapping around your shoulders on cool evenings at the beach or while taking a drive with the top down. For children, there are baskets filled with irresistibly soft stuffed animals, including adorable puppies and even an elegant, long-haired white

cat that's hard to resist.

As I wandered through the store, I paused to admire one of its treasures, the antique cash register. Invented in 1879, it has undoubtedly witnessed countless transactions throughout the store's long history.

The General Store also offers a wonderful selection of reasonably priced toys, games, and coloring books for youngsters. Continuing with Ms. Potts' "Land and Sea" theme, I found fun shark-shaped erasers that would make terrific back-to-school gifts in September.

The "All Things Beachy" display has everything you need for a day by the water, including sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, baseball caps, nautical tote bags, and much more. And,



of course, don't forget the sunscreen!

There's nothing quite as relaxing as reading a good book beneath a beach umbrella. The Book Loft offers

continued on page 10

Imagine...

A vacation-land right in your own backyard!

Wouldn't it be nice to have a place to go where your whole family could relax and ease the tensions of life...? Without expensive vacation reservations and travel expenses? Since it is your family and your property we are talking about,

you will want a quality installation by an experienced, reputable pool builder. Sundance will provide you with a durable, safe, easy to maintain swimming pool built just the way you like it.



sundance swimming pools inc.

sundanceswimmingpoolsinc.com

631-862-1900

email: sundanceswimmingpoolsinc@gmail.com
Suffolk License #10921HI • Nassau License #H280344



Thinking of buying or selling? Trust our local expertise and proven success to help you maximize every dollar of your real estate investment.



Nissequogue, NY | MLS# 000034. \$6,800,000.
243 feet of Long Island Sound waterfrontage, direct beach access, and 7,000+ sq. ft. of custom luxury.



St. James, NY | MLS# 966893. \$1,169,000.
Meticulously maintained 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath updated Colonial on 1.25 acres with a 4-stall barn and paddocks.



St. James, NY | MLS# 1004553. \$1,800,000.
All brick expansive Estate full of character.



Head of Harbor, NY | MLS# 988568. \$1,630,000.
Under contract in 4 days. Sold over asking price.



Nissequogue, NY | MLS# 961073. \$1,600,000.
Listed and under contract in 1 month.



St. James, NY | MLS# 999279. \$886,000.
Under contract in 2 weeks. Sold over asking price.

The Right Agent Makes All The Difference.



Bonnie Glenn
Associate Real Estate Broker
Gold Circle of Excellence
c.631.921.1494
bonnieglenn@danielgale.com
bonnieglenn.com

Christa Glenn
Real Estate Salesperson
c.631.621.6763
christaglenn@danielgale.com
christaglenn.danielgale.com



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO

2025's Top Selling Realtor in the 11780 Zip Code

Smithtown Office | 81 Route 111, Smithtown, NY | 631.584.6600
Stony Brook/Port Jefferson Office | 1067 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY | 631.689.6980

danielgale.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

What's Happening at the St. James General Store?

continued from page 8
something for every interest, from books about St. James and neighboring communities to titles on astrology, horses, Ghosts of Manhattan, Strange Stories, and many others.

If your idea of vacation includes spending time on the water, you'll also find books on fishing, camping, and our National Parks.

The Garden Room is always filled with seasonal treasures. A colorful doormat featuring a watering can caught my attention, and at \$24.95, it's a wonderful value. Tucked away nearby was an enchanting miniature garden, no more than eight inches across, complete with everything you'd imagine in a perfect little hideaway.

Golf enthusiasts will also discover unique golf-inspired gifts. And for those enjoying a staycation and finally finding time to relax on the patio, you deserve it!

Dover Books are another hidden treasure. Many are priced under \$5.00 and include both classic literature and a variety of fascinating subjects. Sports fans will appreciate the selection of baseball books, including *The History of Baseball* and biographies of some of the game's most notable figures.

Kiersten Gerard, a recent college



graduate, began working as a shopkeeper and has since become the store's unofficial "artist in residence." We are incredibly proud of the artwork she has created for the General Store. Many of the spectacular front window displays are her creations, including an exotic fish constructed from cardboard and papier-mâché. The underwater-themed windows feature colorful fish that appear to float effortlessly through

the scene. Kiersten also crafted two
continued on page 48



WE FIX **UNCOMFORTABLE HOMES!**

THIS SUMMER... **STAY COOL!**

**WHY WAIT?
IT PAYS FOR ITSELF!**



THIS SUMMER

- ROOMS TOO HOT?
- AC RUNNING ALL DAY?
- UPSTAIRS UNBEARABLE?
- HIGH ELECTRIC BILLS?



FREE PSEG Long Island
Home Energy Assessment



FOUR  LEAF
BEST of LI.
BESTOFLONGISLAND.COM
2023 - 2026
WINNER
BEST INSULATION
COMPANY



STAY COOL!

IN ONE DAY,
we can make your home:

- ✓ COOLER
- ✓ MORE COMFORTABLE
- ✓ MORE EFFICIENT



★★★★★
5-Star Google Rating



ACT NOW!

631-230-1844

Most homeowners
will qualify for
\$4000 or more in
PSEG Rebates!

Suffolk 47109-H Nassau H1901670000 NYC 1351564-DCA

DeBarbieri Associates, Inc.

Your Real Estate Professionals Since 1960

406 NO. COUNTRY RD.
ST. JAMES, NY 11780

631-862-7447

VIEW US AT: WWW.DEBARB.COM

KINGS PARK "LOVELY HI RANCH"



4 BRs, 2 full & 2 half baths. EIK, LR/DR combo. Natural gas HW heat, 200 amp electric. Whole house auto Generac generator. Brick paver walkway & patio. Fenced rear yard w/large koi pond. 1 car garage. Potential M/D w/proper permits. **\$699,000.**

SMITHTOWN "BROOKFIELD COLONIAL"



4 BR, 2.5 bath Colonial, FLR, FDR, updated EIK w/granite tops & SS appliances, den w/frplc. HW & tile floors & w/w carpeting. 2 car att. garage, 150 amp electric. Natural gas heat. Fenced rear yard, level .25 acre w/IGP, paver patio, gazebo. Front & rear IGS. Belgium block lined blacktop driveway. Mint condition. **\$879,000.**

EAST SETAUKET CONDO "THE LAKES"



Lovely 2 BR Townhome, FLR, FDR, EIK, 2.5 baths, one car attached garage, laundry room, private rear patio, wall-to-wall carpet, clubhouse, outdoor inground pools, spa and tennis/pickle ball courts. Gated community. Real estate taxes \$4,294 year. **\$599,000.**

CENTEREACH "LARGE CUSTOM HIGH RANCH"



4 BRs, 4 full updated baths & office, 1 car att. garage, vinyl siding, arch. roof, 2 zone Weil Mcclain oil HW heat & 2 zones CAC. Thermo windows thru-out. Freshly painted, freshly re-done H/W floors, luxury vinyl planking & w/w carpet. Upstairs LR & first floor den. Oversized .57 acre lot w/fenced rear yard, in-ground sprinklers. Full bsmnt & crawl space, 200 amp electric, 275 gallon oil tank in bsmnt, oversized paved driveway & paver front walkway. Rear Trex deck. Possible M/D with proper permits. **\$729,000.**

VILLAGE OF LAKE GROVE "NEW TO MARKET"



Cute 1 BR, 1 bath Cottage. Living room, kitchen, rear deck, crawl space, propane gas hot water, ductless heat pump, HVAC, 100 amp electric. 2 sheds are gifts, .15 acre. Sold as is. Total RE taxes are \$4,685. Sachem Schools. **\$339,000.**

RONKONKOMA "COMING SOON"



Colonial home w/2 BRs and 2 full baths. FLR, EIK, den, oil heat, partially finished bsmnt. Many thermopane windows, vinyl siding, covered front porch, circular driveway, 2 car detached garage, .45 level acre w/fenced rear yard, Connetquot Schools.



ST. JAMES "STORE FOR RENT"

1,150 sq.ft. Retail Store, 9' ceilings. Excellent exposure in shopping center with ample front parking. Natural gas heat & CAC. \$2,300 mo. rent plus all utilities & proportionate share of tax increase & CAM.

Call for details.

DeBarbieri Associates, Inc.

Your Real Estate Professionals Since 1960

406 NO. COUNTRY RD.
ST. JAMES, NY 11780

631-862-7447

VIEW US AT: WWW.DEBARB.COM

RESORT STYLE LIVING ST. JAMES PROPER

Exceptional Custom Estate in St. James Proper, situated on 1 acre of meticulously landscaped property with a resort style bucolic yard. A covered front porch leads into a double height entry foyer, ELK w/granite tops, family room with wood burning fireplace, HW floors. Built ins & custom millwork throughout. Private den, first floor full bath. Primary ensuite with 2 walk in closets, propane fireplace, private balcony & custom private bath with shower, whirlpool tub, bidet & more. 3 additional bedrooms on second floor & brand new full bathroom. Finished basement 9' ceilings w/custom mill work. Custom bar, office, full bath, Movie theater, built in fish tank,

& pool table. Rear yard encompasses a double height paver patio, outdoor kitchen, rear awning, 35'x35' saltwater heated IGP with waterfall, Covered entertainment area, tennis court w/pickleball & basketball. Rear stadium lighting, built in fireplace, elevated gazebo. 2 car detached garage & rear pool house area. 4 car garage total. 400 amp electric, 2 zone CAC, two 275 gal. oil tanks in basement, central vacuum, low line septic. Mature landscaping, landscape lighting, architectural roof. Much more! Must see to appreciate, A Gem!

\$2,049,000.



Echoes of the Revolution: *Shadows Rise* Original Rock Musical Brings the Culper Spy Ring to Life in St. James

by Celebrate St. James
Center for the Arts

July 16, 2026

When the lights dimmed inside the historic Celebrate St. James Center for the Arts, audiences were transported into the secret world of the Culper Spy Ring through an original rock musical unlike anything the community had seen before.

Over three sold-out performances, *Shadows Rise* captivated audiences with soaring vocals, cinematic projections, immersive storytelling, and a powerful reminder that some of America's greatest heroes walked the very streets of Long Island. Blending live theater with original rock music and innovative multimedia, the production proved that local history can be both educational and unforgettable.

The journey began with a simple request.

As communities across the nation prepared to commemorate America's 250th Anniversary, Village of Nissequogue Mayor Richard Smith

approached Celebrate St. James President Natalie Weinstein with an idea: create an original theatrical production honoring Long Island's Revolutionary War heroes.

Rather than producing a traditional historical drama, Weinstein conceived the production, directed

its creative vision, and assembled an inspired team that included Carolyn Benson, whose original music, lyrics, and creative collaboration gave the story its emotional heart-beat; Paul Mahos, whose immersive multimedia and video design

continued on page 48



EXPERIENCE COUNTS

DON'T LEAVE YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE TO CHANCE



*Investment Management • Mutual Funds
Insurance • Retirement & Financial Planning*



BRANCH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. **A REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISOR**

Integrity • Insight • Independence

21 BENNETTS ROAD, SUITE 201 / SETAUKET, NEW YORK 11733
631-979-6000 / FAX 631-979-6023
www.branchfinancialsrvcs.com

YOU CAN'T HUG AN 800 NUMBER™

HARLAN J. FISCHER AND MICHAEL J. BRESCIA

INVESTMENT ADVISORS OFFERING ADVISORY SERVICES THROUGH BRANCH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND CETERA INVESTMENT ADVISORS, LLC,
BOTH REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISORS. SECURITIES OFFERED THROUGH CETERA WEALTH SERVICES, LLC, MEMBER FINRA/SIPC.
BRANCH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. IS UNDER SEPARATE OWNERSHIP FROM ANY OTHER ENTITY NAMED.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1974



Shadows Rise Original Rock Musical

continued from page 14
transformed the stage into the world of Revolutionary espionage; and the talented cast, technical team, and leadership of Lighthouse Repertory Theatre. Together, they brought to life the extraordinary story of ordinary Long Islanders whose courage, sacrifice, and quiet acts of espionage helped General George Washington defeat the British and ultimately change the course of American history.

Working together, Weinstein, Benson, and Mahos blended historical research, original music, multimedia, and emerging technology to create an immersive theatrical experience unlike any other. Artificial intelligence served as a creative tool – not to replace creativity, but to expand it – allowing the team to create sweeping visual environments while keeping the production portable enough to travel to theaters, schools, museums, and community venues with minimal staging.

Guiding audiences through the unfolding story was Lighthouse Repertory Theatre founder Tony Chiofalo, whose narration seamlessly connected the historical events while Lighthouse's talented cast and technical team brought the legendary members of the Culper Spy Ring vividly to life through compelling performances and Benson's dramatic contemporary rock score.

What audiences experienced



over one unforgettable weekend was the result of an extraordinary collaborative effort completed in just a few short months. Working against an ambitious timeline, local artists, performers, technicians, and volunteers united behind a shared vision – bringing Long Island's Revolutionary history to life in a fresh, exciting, and unforgettable way.

The audience response spoke for itself.

Guests left asking where they could purchase the music, bringing friends back to see the show again,

and suggesting the production be shared with local history classrooms. For the creative team, there could be no greater compliment. Their goal was never simply to tell the story of the Culper Spy Ring – it was to make audiences feel connected to it.

The experience extended beyond the stage through a creative fundraising initiative. During each performance, audience members bid on the opportunity to enjoy a historical "date" with one of the

continued on page 40



A New Chapter.
**THE SAME
GREAT CARE**



**COMPREHENSIVE
HEARING EVALUATIONS**



**HEARING AID
CLEANING & REPAIRS**



**HEARING AID
SALES & FITTINGS**



**PERSONALIZED
CARE & FOLLOW UP**



Jennifer and Jessica Kent are proud to continue providing the same trusted care, personal service, and dedication you've come to know – now under new ownership and a new name.

FREE ✨
CLEANING
WITH YOUR
FIRST VISIT!

Bring in this ad to receive a
FREE cleaning of your hearing
aids with your first visit.

Previously known as **LONG ISLAND HEARING**
now operating as

PREMIER HEARING AID CENTER



Come see us at our new location!

22 Southern Blvd., Suite 118, Nesconset, Ny 11767

631-972-5211



Girl Scouts Plant “Bee Kind Pollinator Garden”



by Cara Keil

Girl Scout Troop 1861 completed the Girl Scout Silver Award Project this year which requires 50 hours of service towards a sustainable project. Their project is called "Bee Kind Pollinator Garden" which was planted for the St. James Post Office.

The girls worked all year to research plants and pollinators, plan the garden, make kindness rocks, and plant the pollinator garden at the St. James Post Office.

At the end of June, the troop installed the garden including plants, irrigation, and mulch to bring beauty, kind-

ness, and pollinators to our community.

The troop is made up of four girls including Cecilia Iacono, Violet Keil, Sophie Bowman, and Linnea Nilsen. They are 8th Graders at Nesaquake Middle School. Their goal was to beautify the community, spread kindness, and provide a long lasting garden to boost our ecosystem and attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds.

The girls of Troop 1861 hope the St. James community will enjoy this garden for years to come and they hope it will attract many pollinators to help the environment.





ST. JAMES
AUTOMOTIVE CENTER
"Serving Your Community for Over 30 Years"



Formerly St. James Gulf
Same **HONEST** Ownership
Same **GREAT** Service

Shop Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 8 AM-5 PM
Sat. 7 AM-3 PM



\$5 OFF
OIL CHANGE
Expires 8/31/26
Must be presented
when dropping off vehicle.

525 N. Country Rd., St. James • 631-584-5798
www.stjamesBP.com

NEWS FLASH...



The best bargains
are right here in
St. James!



Guidance you can trust. Results you'll love.



697 Short Beach Road, Nissequogue | Available – \$6,750,000

Soundview Haven is located on 11.2 Acres of verdant lawn, lush plantings and mature trees in the picturesque Incorporated Village of Nissequogue. With magical views of the Long Island Sound and 322 ft. of beachfront, this exceptional Estate creates its own secluded enclave. MLS# 990237.



451 River Road, Nissequogue | Available – \$1,200,000

Recently remodeled 5-bedroom, 3-bath Colonial on 2.5 acres of property, overlooking the Nissequogue River. MLS# 1011636.



41 Astor Avenue, Saint James | Available – \$1,095,000

Set on .61 acres of flat, beautifully landscaped property this 4-bedroom, 3-bath Colonial has recent thoughtful updates throughout. MLS# 1001456.



28 King Arthurs Court, Saint James | Available – \$865,000

Elegant and inviting 3-bedroom, 2-bath Expanded Ranch featuring numerous recent updates and spacious living throughout. MLS# 999791.



45 Oak Run, Stony Brook | Available – \$749,000

2-bed, 2-bath home at The Oaks at Stony Brook, offering a carefree Ranch-style living in a desirable 55+ community of 45+ homes. MLS# 1004142.



Marianne Koke

Associate Real Estate Broker
c.631.335.7111
mariannekoke@danielgale.com



Scan QR code
for more info.

danielgale.com

Smithtown Office
81 Route 111 | Smithtown, NY 11787

Each office is independently owned and operated.

AROUND TOWN

Caterina Valentina Salon Grand Opening

The St. James Chamber of Commerce was proud to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for Caterina Valentina Salon. It was a day of celebration and lots of pink! Congratulations to Caterina and their staff.





(631) 979-POOL
www.PowerPoolCare.com

Where Quality and Attention To Detail Count

Serving our community for 40 years!

- Renovations
- Liner Changes
- Summerizations
- Maintenance
- Service / Repairs
- Winterizations
- Hot Tubs





TURNING 65

PLEASE CALL TODAY!!

SPECIALIZING IN SUPPLEMENT PLANS

AUTHORIZED AGENT

AARP UNITED HEALTHCARE

AETNA

ANTHEM

WELLCARE

GLOBE

**Never
Any
Fees**

**Save
This
Ad**

SANDRA ALTAN

631-769-1584

SANDY@SA-HEALTHPLANS.COM

670 MIDDLE COUNTRY RD., ST. JAMES, NY 11780

MEDICARE CLIENTS: "We do not offer every plan available in your area.

Currently, we represent 7 organizations and 19 plans in your area.

**Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-Medicare, or your local State Health Insurance Program
to get information on all of your options."**

Arline's Art For A Cure

by Arline Goldstein

For the past several months, I have been working on a very personal project that is dear to my heart, and I would like to share it with you.

My sister, Linda Skolnik, was diagnosed with Stage 4 melanoma and passed away in 2006 at the age of 65. With earlier detection, her life may have been saved. Since then, my mission has been two-fold: to promote early detection and to help fund research that will one day make melanoma a treatable disease rather than a death sentence.

Linda's story is also one of hope. Thanks to an experimental treatment involving a series of injections, she was able to live a full and active life for 19 additional years. Our family will always be grateful for that precious time. Eventually, however, her immune system could no longer fight the disease. Her ex-

perience reminds us that continued research, clinical trials, and the dedication of doctors and scientists offer hope for a future where melanoma can be successfully treated.

I am honored that Memorial Sloan Kettering and RallyUp are supporting Arline's Art For A Cure, an online art auction to benefit melanoma research. The auction launches on August 15 and culminates with an in-person bidding event on August 29, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., at The Knox School in Nissequogue.

I have donated 50 of my original works of art to this fundraiser, and every dollar raised will benefit Memorial Sloan Kettering's melanoma research programs.

Beginning August 15, please visit RallyUp.com and search for "Arline's Art For A Cure." You will find all 50 pieces available for bidding. Even if you do not win a painting,



Linda

Arline

Arline Goldstein, Sisters, blind contour, ink on Bristol.

I hope you will consider making a donation. Every contribution, large or small, makes a difference, and all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Although Linda is no longer with us, her legacy lives on through the words she shared with those she loved:

continued on page 58

HOMESTEAD LANDSCAPING INC.

SERVING THE NORTH SHORE FOR OVER 3 DECADES

**Let Homestead Transform
Your Backyard Into a Paradise
You'll Never Want To Leave.**

**Call Us Today
To Get On The Schedule
For Fall Plantings**

**Deer Resistant Perennials,
Shrubs & Trees**

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.homesteadlandscapinginc.com

**PATRICK JOHNSTON
631-588-5296**

LICENSED & INSURED • LICENSE #42485

Experience the List2Sell Difference

Personalized service backed by 62+ years of combined
real estate, legal, and financial expertise.

LONGFELLOW MLS#994599

Sold Above List Price
In 5 Days

San Reno Water View



BURLINGTON MLS#1013242

Sold Above List Price
In 3 Days

The Downsizing Experts



CAROL RODRIGUEZ-JARAMILLO, ESQ.

Licensed Real Estate Broker

OFFICE@LIST2SELLNY.COM

(631) 809-8886



MILITARY DISCOUNT
FOR VETERANS



LIST2SELLNY.COM



If your home is listed with another broker, this is not intended as solicitation.

AMAURY HERNANDEZ

Seniors Real Estate Specialist

TEAM@LIST2SELLNY.COM

(516) 578-8200



PROUD MEMBER OF
THE ROTARY CLUB
OF SARATOGA





St. James Celebrates the Avenue of Heroes

by Scott Posner

What a fitting Flag Day tribute. On June 14, the St. James Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Smithtown, VFW Post 395, the Sherwood Brothers American Legion and the St. James Fire Department joined forces to celebrate the opening of the Avenue of Heroes, a tribute of banners recognizing service members along Lake Avenue.

As Chamber Chairman of the Board, I was honored to serve as the emcee and share my thoughts on the debt we owe each and every service member for the freedoms they provide us all each and every day. The beating hearts of all our past, present and future service members pumps the blood of freedom that makes our country

special.

Town Supervisor Edward Wehrheim, a Navy Veteran himself, recognized service members at the event and expressed his deepest gratitude to them and their families. He shared that the banners along Lake Avenue represent the very best of our Community.

Special thanks to the entire St. James Chamber of Commerce board: Kathleen Weber, President; Mark Paris, Vice President; Meg Shutka, Treasurer; Jino Muckadackal, Secretary; Scott Posner, Chairman of the Board; Board members Debby Posner, Denise Davis, Mady Pisano and Joseph Bollhofer, Past President.

Additional thanks to Boy Scout Troop 7 for installing the American

flags along Lake Avenue. Thank you to Director of Traffic Safety, Mitch Crowley and his team, for the installation of the banners. Jen Luikart and Nicole Garguilo from Supervisor Wehrheim's office for all their work behind the scene to make this project possible.

Finally, thank you to our elected officials that were able to attend the event. Supervisor Edward Wehrheim, Councilwoman Lynne Nowick, Councilwoman Lisa Inzerillo, Councilman Tom Lohmann and Town Clerk Thomas D. McCarthy.

Next time you walk along Lake Avenue, remember to thank those recognized on the banners for the gift of freedom we get to enjoy and cherish each and every day.

PERSONAL ATTENTION AND DIGNIFIED SERVICE... OUR CONTINUING TRADITION



~ Home for Funerals & Cremations ~

~ In Honoring their Legacy ~

Deacon Kenneth J. Maher, Aelysche Marie Maher & Kenneth Maher, Jr.

Kerry J. Maher

Licensed Manager & Director

~ **ST. JAMES' ONLY FUNERAL HOME** ~

Serving All Surrounding Communities

Proud to Serve Our Veterans, Law Enforcement and Fire Service

Our State-of-the Art Building Offers:

Ample Easy Access Parking

Reception/Gathering Room

Spacious Chapels

Children's Room

829 Middle Country Road, Route 25, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5200

Proudly Serving Our Community Since 1961

PRE PLANNING FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS AVAILABLE



Galiano Wine Bar Paired Sommelier Wine Dinner

by Scott Posner

There are so many qualities that make St. James such a unique and special town. It's no accident that so many people choose to stay here generation after generation. Years ago, my mail carrier affectionately referred to St. James as the modern-day Mayberry. We have a true small-town feel, beautiful scenery, and convenient access to so much more. One of St. James' standout features is its outstanding collection of restaurants. It may take some time to try them all, but the mis-

sion, if you choose to accept it, is well worth the culinary adventure.

One of those exceptional restaurants is Galiano Wine Bar, located at 410 Lake Avenue. Recently, they hosted an eight-course wine pairing dinner that was nothing short of spectacular. Vinny and Stephanie Galiano were gracious hosts, welcoming a room full of enthusiastic guests.

Executive Chef Roger Martinez presented an exquisite selection of seafood, meat, and pasta dishes, each prepared with the creativity

and precision of a master artist.

Every course was thoughtfully paired with a wine selected by sommelier Arielle Ventirce. As she introduced each wine, Arielle described its characteristics with the artistry of a painter choosing colors for a canvas, explaining how each selection complemented and elevated the flavors of the accompanying dish.

I hope Galiano hosts another evening like this soon. It was a memorable night filled with exceptional food, outstanding wines,

plenty of laughter, and fascinating insights into the art of food and wine pairing.

Galiano Wine Bar is open Wednesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Visit www.galianowine.com to learn more or make a reservation.





Natalie Weinstein Design Associates

PO BOX 514 • ST. JAMES, NY 11780 • 631-862-6198
WWW.NATALIEWEINSTEIN.COM



Natalie Weinstein,
ASID Allied
Interior Designer,
Author, Columnist,
Motivational Speaker,
Media Personality

*From Montauk to Manhattan,
from renovation through decoration,
our firm has been the go-to destination since 1973.*

*For a personal in home consultation with Natalie
contact us 631-862-6198
or email us at info@natalieweinstein.com.*

Integrity - Quality - Mindful of Your Time & Budget



Gift Certificates
Available

A R O U N D T O W N

Downtown St. James: Small-Town Charm on Every Corner

My first impression of the St. James community came when I was looking for a gas station that still offered full-service gas. One of my neighbors told me there was one in St. James. I found the Gulf station and noticed Lake Avenue Deli across the street. Inside the deli, I discovered the two local newspapers, which became my way of staying informed about everything happening in the community.

When I needed to replace a watch battery, I was directed to The Jewelry Store on Lake Avenue. After becoming a customer, they were more than happy to help when I later needed a loose earring repaired.

Last year, I found myself standing in a pharmacy line that was nearly 20 people deep. The woman in front of me was understandably frustrated and asked if there was another option. I told her about

Spages Pharmacy and how its prices often undercut those of the larger chain pharmacies. Since then, I have continued to give them my business.

Behind Spages is Celebrate St. James, a wonderful local arts center and theater. The theater has been brought back to life under the stewardship of Natalie Weinstein. I met Natalie at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon last year, and she later invited me to the Chamber's new officers installation banquet, where guests enjoyed delicious treats from one of our local bakeries.

While learning more about the theater that evening, I met a friendly woman who invited me to the Community Coffee Hour at St. James Episcopal Church. For the

past year, I have enjoyed the warmth and companionship of the wonderful people there. The Books & Things Thrift Shop is another favorite stop. I never seem to leave without discovering a treasure to take home.

This past June, I attended the Strawberry Festival for the first time. It was a delightful outdoor

event, complete with fresh strawberries, homemade jam, and a wonderful sense of community.

I could go on about how fortunate we are to have King Kullen right in our downtown, but I fear I have already filled the page.

– Jamie Hanja,
Lake Grove, NY



The Atelier at Flowerfield

THE CROSSROADS OF ART AND COMMUNITY

**Learn more about
Atelier Art School & Gallery!**

Artist Demos • Classes • Workshops

**Visit us at the
Art Appreciation Deepwells Showcase
August 15, 16, 17**

**at Deepwells Farm
2 Taylor Lane, St. James, NY**

NEDVIN HOME TEAM

of SIGNATURE PREMIER PROPERTIES

Rowena Nedvin & Dave Nedvin

LAREBS

ASSOCIATE RE BROKERS

Rowena's Cell: 631.767.5221 • David's Cell: 631.767.5220



**Real Estate Brokerage
in Suffolk County**

**Small Team
in Smithtown**



**Trust us to market your home.
Now, more than ever, experience matters!**

PENDING



HEAD OF HARBOR. Magnificent 4,700 square-foot home set in cul-de-sac of other young homes. 4/5 BRs, 4 baths. High ceilings, hardwood floors, custom moldings throughout. Lovely property with in ground pool, outside kitchen. Sunroom, full basement, 3 car garage.

\$1,899,990.



FOR SALE



HUNTINGTON. Gorgeous 4 BR, 2 bath Colonial totally renovated. Like new hard floors. Garage, basement. Quiet street location. Just move in and enjoy! **\$829,990.**

PENDING



NISSEQUOGUE. If living by the water is your dream, this is the home for you! Located in beach community. Beautiful home with 4 BRs, 2 1/2 baths. Totally updated with panoramic views of the water. 2 car garage, basement. Set on 1/2 acre. Steps to the beach.

\$1,049,990.

PENDING



HAUPPAUGE. Move into this totally updated 3 BR, 2 bath home. Hardwood floors throughout. Brand new kitchen. Finished basement, garage. Set on beautiful property on a quiet street.

\$639,990.

SOLD



PLAINVIEW. Totally updated 3 BR, 1 bath Ranch. Full basement, level property, located quiet mid block location.

\$749,990.



7 W. Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787

631.360.2800

signaturepremiere.com

rnedvin@gmail.com • davidnedvin@gmail.com

Canadian Maritimes

by Irma Gurman

Trivia Question: What area in North America has the most lighthouses?

Answer: The Canadian Maritimes, with more than 750.

The Canadian Maritimes consist of three provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. They are known for their picturesque fishing villages, breathtaking coastlines, and rich history.

Halifax, originally home to the Mi'kmaq people, later became a major British military stronghold. While there, we toured the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site. Halifax was also the site of one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history. In 1917, the French cargo ship *Mont-Blanc*, loaded with explosives, collided with a Norwegian vessel in Halifax Harbour. The resulting explosion leveled much of the city, killing 1,782 people and injuring more than 9,000. One positive outcome of the rebuilding effort was the creation of the beautiful Halifax Public Gardens.

We were reminded of another tragic chapter in history at the Titanic Museum, where we learned the stories of many of the people who perished in the disaster. It is a deeply emotional experience to see personal belongings recovered from the wreckage, including a rocking chair and even a pair of shoes.

We then took a ferry to Cape Breton Island and enjoyed a boat ride on Bras d'Or Lake. Our goal was



whale watching, but the whales proved to be rather shy. Our very accommodating captain of the *Love Boat I* invited us to return to the pier a few hours later. We did, and this time the whales were willing to make an appearance. We truly had a whale of a time!

Peggy's Cove was probably the most photogenic and scenic stop on our trip. As we admired the famous lighthouse, a young Scottish woman stood nearby playing the bagpipes. The combination of the music, rugged coastline, and iconic lighthouse was unforgettable. I was so captivated that I later painted the scene.

Our next destination was Green Gables Heritage Place in Cavendish on Prince Edward Island, the inspiration for Anne of Green Gables. Although Anne was a fictional character, seeing her bedroom and walking through the surrounding countryside made the story come alive. Mark Twain famously called

continued on facing page



TRAVELS WITH IRMA



continued
the novel "the sweetest creation of
child-life yet written."

The Bay of Fundy tides and the
Hopewell Rocks, also known as the
Flowerpot Rocks, in New Brun-
swick are another unforgettable ex-
perience. At low tide, you can walk
on the ocean floor among the tow-
ering rock formations. Return just a
few hours later, and the same area
is submerged beneath as much as
fifty feet of water. Many people
have tried to outrun the tides, but



the tides usually win.

We also visited the home of Al-
exander Graham Bell. Although he
is best known for inventing the tele-
phone, he developed many other
remarkable inventions, several of

which are on display. Among them
is a metal detector that might have
been used to locate the bullet that
fatally wounded President James
Garfield. Bell was also a lifelong
continued on page 48

HANNETT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, Inc.



Let
HANNETT
CONSTRUCTION
Improve Your Home

From Big Jobs to Small
"We Do It All"

NEW HOMES | WHOLE HOUSE RENOVATIONS
SIDING | EXTENSIONS | ROOFING
KITCHENS | DORMERS | DECKS
WINDOWS | BASEMENTS

THOMAS M. HANNETT

631-585-1279

SINCE 1987 • LICENSED & INSURED

Village of Nissequogue Celebrates 100th Anniversary



The Village of Nissequogue recently celebrated its 100 anniversary. Village Mayor Richard Smith was joined by Smithtown Supervisor Ed Wehrheim to mark this significant event. The celebration ended up at Long Beach where the Smithtown Recreation Department's Summer Music Series kicked off.



AROUND TOWN

Lunch Among Friends: Building Connections One Meal at a Time

So many articles these days focus on ways to live a longer, healthier life. Research consistently points to one of the most important factors in longevity: meaningful social connections. Studies suggest that the more positive social interactions people have each week, the better their overall health and well-being. Loneliness and isolation can significantly reduce both quality of life and life expectancy. We simply weren't meant to spend too much time alone. Happiness is closely tied to connecting with others and maintaining an active social life.

At St. James Lutheran Church, we have taken that message to heart. Our goal is to encourage seniors, in particular, to get out of the house, meet new friends, and kick loneliness to the curb.

Last year, we launched a monthly gathering called LAF, which stands for Lunch Among Friends. Each



month features a different theme. Our most recent luncheon celebrated Hawaii with festive decorations and a delicious meal. After lunch, everyone enjoys a fun social

activity and the opportunity to meet new people in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

What began with just 20 attendees continued on page 58

NEW YORK STATE 2025
EMPIRE AWARD RECIPIENT



Eddie's
Power Equipment Inc
Est. 1966



FACTORY
TRAINED
TECHNICIANS
ON-SITE.



—Serving the community for over 60 years—

553 LAKE AVENUE, SAINT JAMES, NY 11780

Charles Shutka
— President —

631-584-6678

Jason Shutka
— Vice President —

REALTY WISE

The Upside to Downsizing: The Next Chapter, Not a Step Back

by Amaury Hernandez
Seniors Real Estate Specialist
and proud member of the
Rotary Club of Smithtown

For many homeowners, the family home represents years of cherished memories. It is where children took their first steps, birthday parties filled the backyard, and holiday dinners brought everyone together under one roof. So, when the conversation turns to downsizing, it is often met with hesitation.

Recently, I met a local couple who had lived in their home for more than 30 years. Their four-bedroom Colonial had once been bustling with activity. Today, their children are grown, married, and living in homes of their own. Yet every weekend was spent cleaning rooms that no one used, maintaining a large yard, and worrying about the next repair project.

Like many homeowners, they ini-



tially viewed downsizing as giving something up. But after several conversations, they began to see it differently. Instead of focusing on what

they would be leaving behind, they started thinking about what they could gain.

A few months later, they moved into a beautiful, smaller home nearby. The first thing they noticed was FREEDOM. They spent less time cleaning, less money on utilities and maintenance, and had fewer worries about replacing the roof, servicing multiple bathrooms, or keeping up with a large property.

What surprised them most was how little they missed the extra space. Their new home was thoughtfully designed, easier to maintain, and allowed them to remain close to the friends, family, restaurants, and community activities they loved. Rather than spending weekends taking care of their house, they found themselves taking day trips, visiting their grandchildren, and enjoying hobbies they continued on page 53

Closed for Lunch
Monday
& Saturday
Open for Dinner
4:30 PM

VOILA!

The Bistro

FRENCH AMERICAN
- ESTABLISHED IN 2002 -

244 LAKE AVENUE, ST. JAMES, NY • (631) 584-5686

VISIT US @ WWW.VOILATHEBISTRO.COM

Sundays
& Holidays
Private Parties
Only

**FREE
GLASS OF
WINE**

with any meal
Not to be combined
with any other offer.
Expires 9/30/26.

**OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER
SERVING LUNCH**

Tuesday-Friday 11:30-2:00
Ala Carte or 3 Course Prix Fixe \$29

RE-OPEN FOR DINNER
Monday-Saturday 4:30-Closed
3 Course Prix Fixe \$39

**10% OFF
ENTIRE
CHECK**

6 person maximum
Not to be combined
with any other offer.
Expires 9/30/26.

INSIDE / OUTSIDE DINING

SEE OUR TAKE OUT MENU ONLINE - WWW.VOILATHEBISTRO.COM

ST JAMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Celebrates

ST. James Day!

SUNDAY OCT. 4TH

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

- **MUSIC • FOOD • VENDORS**
- **SHOPPING • BOUNCE HOUSE**
- **CRAFTS • FACE PAINTING**
- **MECHANICAL BULL**

All Day Along Lake Avenue

From Woodlawn to the Train Station

**YOU MUST INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR SALES TAX
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY WITH APPLICATION**

ST. JAMES DAY CRAFTS & THINGS

- APPLICATION -

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 2026

• NO RAIN DATE • NO REFUNDS • NO EXCLUSIVES

ST. JAMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 631-563-8551

OFFICE USE ONLY -- DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

VENDOR # _____

SPACE # _____

DATE REC'D. _____

CHECK # _____

AMOUNT _____

PRINT CLEARLY

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

MERCHANDISE TO BE SOLD: (PLEASE NO NUISANCE ITEMS) _____

COMMENTS/ PLACEMENT: _____

You MUST Fill Out Completely the One That Applies to You:

1) NY State Sales Tax Resale # _____ (APPLIES TO ALL SELLING VENDORS)

"You MUST include a copy of your Sales Tax Certificate of Authority"

2) Special Reduced Rate (\$75.) - Nonprofit Tax Exempt #: _____ Signature _____

3) "I will not be selling anything, just handing out literature."

Signature _____ Name of Company _____

EACH SPACE IS \$125.00 (10 FT. SPACE) • \$150.00 if postmarked after 8/15/26

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: \$75.00 (Must Submit Exempt Nonprofit Status w/ Application)

FOOD VENDORS \$350.00 (Board of Health Certification Required) - Limited Spaces Available

NO Food Vendors will be accepted after 8/31/25 (NO EXCEPTIONS)

#OF SPACES: _____ AMT ENCL: \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE: The St. James Chamber of Commerce and Preferred Promotions have the right to refuse entrance to any vendor at their discretion (i.e., not following regulations, problems with other vendors, abusive behavior, unclean space, etc.). In the event you are not accepted, a letter will be sent to you. Your cancelled check is your confirmation of acceptance. A "VENDOR LETTER" will be sent out approximately 1 week before the show. You will need this letter to set up at the show.

HOLD HARMLESS:

"I agree to hold harmless the ST. JAMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC., the Town of Smithtown, PREFERRED PROMOTIONS, its officers, employees, volunteers, and other participants from any and all demands, claims and liabilities on account of any illness, injuries, losses and damage to property which may have been caused by or resulted from participation in the above event."

Signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

Make Checks payable to: ST.JAMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mail To: PREFERRED PROMOTIONS • 7 SHIRLEY ST. UNIT 8 • BOHEMIA NY 11716

ST. JAMES DAY!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4



A Beloved Hometown Celebration In The Heart of St. James.

Join us for one of St. James' most cherished traditions! St. James Day brings our community together for a full day of family fun, local pride, live entertainment, food, vendors, and activities for all ages. Thousands of residents and visitors gather to celebrate everything that makes St. James special.

Your sponsorship helps make this event possible, while giving your business meaningful visibility in front of a large, engaged local audience.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$2,500

- "Presented By" recognition on all St. James Day materials
- Logo featured prominently on event signage & marketing
- Banner placement at the main entrance
- Verbal recognition throughout the day by the band/ DJ
- Social media and website spotlight
- Opportunity for a business mention during the event
- Premium vendor space



GOLD SPONSOR \$1,000

- Logo on event signage and marketing materials
- Verbal recognition by the band and DJ
- Social media feature
- Vendor space

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR \$1,500 (Exclusive)

- Exclusive recognition as "Entertainment Sponsor"
- Logo displayed near entertainment and DJ areas
- Verbal recognition by the band and DJ throughout the day
- Logo on event marketing and website
- Social media feature highlighting your support of live entertainment
- Premium vendor space near entertainment

SILVER SPONSOR - \$500

- Name/logo on select event signage
- Verbal recognition by the band/ DJ
- Social media mention



COMMUNITY SPONSOR - \$250

- Business name listed on event signage
- Recognition on social media

WHY SPONSOR ?

- Reach thousands of local residents and visitors
- Support local families, students, and organizations
- Align your business with a cherished community tradition
- Strengthen your presence in St. James

Reserve your sponsorship today!

Email: info@stjameschamber.org | Phone: 631-584-8510

The St. James Chamber of Commerce proudly thanks you for supporting our community and helping keep this tradition alive.

Coffee Break

Art and Artists

Across

3. Painted an iconic Gothic couple
6. Photographer and filmmaker
11. Portrait artist with giant canvases
12. Pop Art pioneer
14. Concert venue for thousands
15. Decorative lettering art
18. Penned Little Women
20. Poet of resilience
21. Headliner on the marquee
23. Dramatic rush onstage
25. Art of movement
26. Surface for many paintings
27. Off script or off key
28. Purple Rain performer
29. Vaudeville performer's prop
30. Musical staff symbol
31. Lady Day of jazz
32. Repeated crowd refrain
36. Watch a concert online
37. Costume rack accessory
41. Art captured through a lens
43. Neo-expressionist icon
44. Nobel Prize-winning novelist
45. Span of a performer's influence
46. Photographer of LGBTQ life
47. Music that changed America
48. Master teller of the macabre
50. Art from assembled pieces
53. Author of Huck Finn
55. Master of paint splatter
59. Connection point in digital art
61. Purple Jimi Hendrix
63. Celebrated blades of grass
64. Quick preliminary drawing
66. Hollywood blonde icon
68. American realist painter
71. Devil Wears Prada fame
72. Trapper
73. Last act of a performance
76. Material used in folk crafts
77. Musical ending passage
81. Painter's support stand
82. The Boss
83. Home of many masterpieces
84. All-female band of the 1980s
85. All-night dance party
86. Guitarist's fretboard tool
87. Documented the Depression
88. Organ or bagpipe components
89. Smoothly connected in music
90. Ancient stringed instrument
91. Large wall artwork
92. Art made with brush and pigment
93. Actuality
94. Influential fashion photographer

Down

1. Folk singer and Nobel laureate
2. Trumpeter nicknamed Satchmo
4. Wrote of Dust Bowl migrants
5. Illustrator of Americana
7. Classical dance form
8. Realist painter of rowers
9. Pop star from Michigan
10. West Side Story composer
13. Color field painting pioneer
16. Composer of Rhapsody in Blue
17. The Man in Black
19. Live-stage performance
22. Impressionist of mothers and children
23. Drama sung throughout
26. Group of singers
33. Muralist who worked in America
34. Society portrait painter
35. Fired clay creations
38. Writer at Walden Pond
39. Star of Forrest Gump
40. Painted desert blooms
42. Queen of Soul
49. Carpentry tool
51. Board for mixing colors
52. Chronicler of the jazz Age
54. Art from carved or etched plates
56. Silent film comedy legend
57. Improvisational American music
58. Photographer of majestic landscapes
60. of Training Day fame
62. Picture made of tiles
65. Large ensemble of musicians
67. Art built from line
69. Painter of lonely diners
70. The King of Rock and Roll
74. Composer of Appalachian Spring
75. Author of The Old Man and the Sea
78. Three-dimensional artwork
79. Textile-making craft
80. Jazz orchestra legend
92. Functional clay art

Coffee Break

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

1	2		8		6			9
		6		7	1	8	2	3
7				4	2			5
6	7	1		2	3			8
3		5				2	1	
	4		1	9		6	3	
	6			3			5	
9		7				3		2
5		4		1	9		8	6

RIDDLES & TEASERS

August

Question 1:

How many times can you subtract 10 from 100?

Question 2:

A man is twice as old as his sister. He was 24 when she was 10. How old are they now?

Question 3:

A book is secured by a combination lock with three digits. The clue to open it says: "The first digit is four times the second. The third digit is three less than the first. Together, the digits sum to 12." What's the combination?

Answers on page 72

Scotty's Masonry

ST. JAMES, NEW YORK

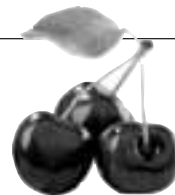
631.872.1076

All Phases of Custom Masonry

- ❖ Patios
- ❖ Outdoor Kitchens
- ❖ Fireplaces
- ❖ Walkways and Stoops
- ❖ Pool Patios
- ❖ Stone Walls
- ❖ Brick and Stone Veneer

Licensed and Insured
Established 1986





Cherries Offer Some Sweet Perks

Eating healthy, diverse food offerings is a step in the right direction for overall wellness. Foods rich in essential vitamins and minerals should be front and center in most people's diets, and one particular fruit is quite literally the cherry on top when it comes to nutritional value.

Cherries, which are small stone fruits (fruits that have a pit or seed inside), boast some impressive benefits. Michigan grows most of the sour cherries in the United States, while Washington, California and Oregon grow 90 percent of the sweet cherries. Whether they're tart or sweet, the nutritional benefits of cherries abound. Here's a look at some of the health benefits.

- High in antioxidants: Cherries are high in plant chemicals (polyphenols and anthocyanins) that have antioxidant properties. The continued on page 40Cleveland

Clinic says antioxidants fight free radicals, which can cause cell damage and contribute to chronic diseases. Cherries contain vitamins A, C and E.

- Reduce inflammation: These same plant chemicals also are vital in reducing inflammation throughout the body. Healthline says cherries can reduce inflammation by blocking inflammatory enzymes and lowering inflammatory markers. This is good news for people with arthritis or gout, who may find that consuming cherries or drinking cherry juice can alleviate symptoms.

- Promote restful sleep: Tart cherries contain key compounds that support better sleep, says WebMD. These include melatonin, serotonin and tryptophan. These natural chemicals help promote relaxation and sleep-wake cycles.

- Low glycemic index: Cherries

are low-glycemic index foods. The fiber from the skin facilitates a slow increase in blood sugar, which makes cherries a treat for those with diabetes when enjoyed in moderation. Research is underway to see if a healthy diet that includes cherries may reverse prediabetes, says the Cleveland Clinic.

It's always best to thoroughly wash cherries to remove any dirt and pesticide residue. WebMD says cherry pits naturally have small amounts of cyanide in them. One would have to eat a lot of crushed pits for them to be harmful, but it's best to spit out the pits. Pits should be removed before giving cherries to children. Select cherries that have bright green stems, plump fruit and a darker color, which have a better flavor profile.

Cherries are nutritionally sound foods that offer a number of health benefits.



**Full Service Planning
Design • Set Up
Production • Breakdown
Backdrops • Balloons
Centerpieces • Decor
Favors • Custom Swag
Desserts & More!**

Contact:
occasionsbyjt@gmail.com
occasionsbyjuliateresa



www.occasionsbyjt.com



Private Drum Lessons
with John Miceli

- All Levels from Beginner to Advanced
- All Styles from Rock to Jazz
- NYSSMA Preparation
- Annual Recital & Summer Jam

For more information
and scheduling, contact:
teachingdrums@yahoo.com



**LAW OFFICE OF
JOSEPH A. BOLLHOFER, P.C.**

Elder Law

Real Estate

Estate Planning and Administration

Proudly Serving the Community Since 1985

Joseph A. Bollhofer, Esq.

Member, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
(NAELA)

Past President, Chamber of Commerce

**291 Lake Avenue
St. James, NY 11780
(631) 584-0100**

www.bollhoferlaw.com • info@bollhoferlaw.com



P. DeBlasio Builders, Inc.

FINE HOMES & RENOVATIONS

Proudly Serving Nassau & Suffolk Counties for Over 30 Years



Residential • Commercial

- New Construction
- Renovations
- Design & Plans Services
- Construction Management
- Roofing, Siding, Windows
- Kitchens & Baths
- Outdoor Living Spaces

273 Lake Avenue
St. James, NY 11780

Tel: 631.584.5500

info@pdeblasiobuilders.com
www.pdeblasiobuilders.com

Member of the
St. James
Chamber
of Commerce

Licensed & Insured
Suffolk License 15543-H | Nassau License H18F6680000





HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE EVENT

More Than 580 Smithtown Households Safely Dispose of Hazardous Waste During Successful Summer Collection Event

The Town of Smithtown Department of Environment and Waterways, in coordination with the Municipal Services Facility, hosted another successful Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on Saturday, July 11, serving 581 Smithtown households. The event represented a substantial increase from the 420 households that participated during the Summer 2025 collection.

Residents safely disposed of 19,320 pounds (6.66 tons) of hazardous household materials that cannot be placed in regular curbside trash, helping to protect Smithtown's drinking water, parks, waterways, and the environment.

"The tremendous participation in this event reflects our community's shared commitment to protecting Smithtown's environment. I want to thank every resident who participated, along with the dedicated teams from the Department of Environment and Waterways, the Municipal Services Facility, the Department of Public Safety Fire Marshals, Radiac Research Corpo-

ration, and Reworld for their outstanding teamwork in providing a safe and successful event."

– Supervisor Edward R. Wehrheim

Materials collected for proper disposal included mercury, oil-based and flammable paints, gasoline, paint thinners, petroleum distillates, flammable solids, oxidizers, corrosives, acids, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, lithium batteries, battery acids, lacquers, and a variety of other hazardous household chemicals.

Reworld (formerly Covanta) distributed nearly 150 \$5 Dunkin' gift cards to residents who recycled potentially dangerous lithium-ion batteries, propane tanks, and mercury-containing devices, helping divert these hazardous items from the curbside waste stream. The event also recovered 59 propane tanks for proper recycling and disposal.

The Department of Environment and Waterways also provided residents with educational materials promoting environmentally responsible waste management, along

with eco-friendly reusable coffee K-cups and reusable shopping bags.

"The continued success of these collection events demonstrates that Smithtown residents are committed to doing their part to protect our environment, proper disposal of hazardous household materials prevents these substances from entering our waste stream and helps safeguard our drinking water, natural resources, and community for future generations. We encourage residents to continue choosing environmentally friendly alternatives whenever possible and to take advantage of these free collection events."

– Michael P. Engelmann, P.G.,
Solid Waste Coordinator

The event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Supervisor's Office, the Municipal Services Facility, the Department of Environment and Waterways, the Department of Public Safety Fire Marshals, Radiac Research Corporation, the Town's

continued on facing page



continued

licensed Household Hazardous Waste contractor, and Reworld.

The Town's next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 3. These events are open exclusively to Town of Smithtown residents, and proof of residency is required.

For additional information, please contact the Town of Smithtown Department of Environment and Waterways between the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at 631-360-7514.

DID YOU KNOW?:

Residents can also dispose of electronic waste, free of charge, at the Town Recycling Center located at 85 Old Northport Road. Electronic waste, such as computers, printers, TV's, monitors, automotive and household batteries, can be dropped off during regular hours for proper recycling.

FREE MULCH:

Mulch is also available free of charge to residents. Smithtown residents can line up for pre-packaged bags of mulch with a maximum of 10 bags per visit. We offer free loading of loose mulch into your pick-up or dump truck. A cover is required.

The Smithtown Municipal Serv

ices Facility is located at 85 Old Northport Road in Kings Park. Regular operating hours: Monday-Saturday from 7 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Expired medications should be brought to designated drop-off locations, including the Suffolk County Police Department 4th Precinct, located at 727 Veterans Memorial Highway in Hauppauge, or the Smithtown Department of Public Safety, located at 65 Maple Avenue in Smithtown.



Smithtown Rotary Highlights Local Organizations Making a Difference



Smithtown Rotary Club President Ron Rothman (right) welcomes John Kelly (left) of the Northwell Health's Military and Veterans Liaison Services.

John F. Kelly's journey of service began after a successful culinary career was cut short by a serious injury. Inspired by a strong family military tradition, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps at age 28, serving as a Sergeant and CBRN Defense Specialist with deployments to Haiti and Libya. After military service, he earned degrees in social work and dedicated his career to helping fellow veterans. Today, as Program Director of Northwell Health's Military Liaison Services, he leads programs and outreach efforts that connect veterans and their families with critical resources, support, and hope.

Northwell Health's Military and

Veterans Liaison Services provides comprehensive support to active-duty military personnel, veterans, reservists, National Guard members, and their families. Established in 2009, the program helps individuals navigate healthcare systems, access physical and mental health services, secure VA and disability benefits, and connect with employment, education, housing, legal, and community resources. Staffed in part by veterans, the program offers peer-to-peer support from individuals who understand the unique challenges of military service and transition to civilian life. Led by Marine Corps veteran Juan Serrano, the initiative has become a vital resource throughout Long Island and the New York region, assisting veterans regardless of their eligibility for VA services.

For more information please call 516-821-5140 or visit northwell.edu/veterans

Smithtown Rotary President Ron Rothman (right) welcomes Regina Napolitano (left) from the Breath of Life Center.

For more than two decades, the Breath of Life Center in Islandia has provided compassionate care and practical assistance to women facing unplanned or challenging pregnancies. As a nonprofit, faith-based organization, the center is dedicated to supporting expectant mothers and helping them navigate pregnancy and early parenthood with confidence and dignity.

The Breath of Life Center offers free pregnancy tests, one-on-one mentoring, parenting and childbirth education, breastfeeding and infant care classes, and referrals to com-



munity resources. Families can also receive essential baby items such as diapers, clothing, cribs, strollers, and other necessities. In addition, the organization provides postpartum support and temporary maternity housing for women who need a safe, stable place to live during pregnancy and after the birth of their child.

Since opening its doors in 2004, the center has remained committed to serving Long Island families by offering encouragement, education, and practical resources that empower mothers and strengthen families during one of life's most important journeys.

The Breath of Life Center is located at 1930 Veterans Memorial Highway, Suite 4, Islandia, NY 11749. For more information, call (631) 738-8829 or visit www.breathoflifecenter.org.



IN THE NEWS

Smithtown Rotary Members Visit Pal-O-Mine Equestrian to Learn About Its Life-Changing Mission

Members of the Smithtown Rotary Club recently visited Pal-O-Mine Equestrian, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals through therapeutic equine programs, education, and skill development.

During the visit, Rotary members learned about the remarkable work being done by Pal-O-Mine's founder & CEO, Lisa Gatti, and her dedicated team. Through the connection between people and horses, Pal-O-Mine helps children and adults with disabilities, veterans, first responders, and others facing personal challenges build confidence, develop independence, and experience the physical, emotional, and social benefits of equine-assisted activities.

Pal-O-Mine has also placed a special focus on supporting first responders and veterans, providing programs designed to help those who have dedicated their lives to serving and protecting their communities. This important work strongly aligns with the Smithtown Rotary Club's commitment to recognizing and supporting local heroes and strengthening the community.



Pal-O-Mine Equestrian Founder & CEO Lisa Gatti (center) with members of the Smithtown Rotary Club - Sister T, Herta Walsh, Lisa Lombardi and Ron Rothman.

Beyond its therapeutic programs, Pal-O-Mine also provides valuable vocational and life-skills training designed to promote independence and prepare participants for future opportunities. These programs include hands-on learning experiences such as gardening techniques, horticulture, animal care, teamwork, responsibility, and other practical skills that help individuals build confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

As part of its commitment to

continued on page 53

***Your Trusted St. James Jeweler
for Over 40 Years...***

***specializing in custom designs
and expert jewelry repair***

All work done on premises.



**LENNY
the Jeweler**

**40+ YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE**

TI SENTO BASSALI

GOLD • DIAMONDS • SILVER • WATCH BATTERIES



ST. JAMES JEWELRY

S H O P P E

483 Lake Avenue, St. James, NY 11780

631-862-6775

www.stjamesjewelry.com

Open Thursday-Friday 10-5 and Saturday 10-4



MEMBER OF THE
ST. JAMES CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Follow Us On



The Blackboard Bulletin



Student Leadership Skills Shine in The Knox Student Ambassador Program

At The Knox School, leadership is not simply taught – it is practiced. The Knox Student Ambassador Program provides students with an opportunity to develop leadership skills while helping prospective families experience the spirit of the Knox community.

Student Ambassadors serve as the face of Knox during admissions events and campus visits. Through a selective application process, students are chosen for their character, leadership potential, and ability to represent the school with professionalism, enthusiasm, and warmth. As role models within the school community, they lead by example both in and beyond the classroom.

Throughout the year, ambassadors lead campus tours, host prospective students during shadow days, assist at Open Houses, and support other admissions activities. Before stepping into these roles, selected ambassadors complete a comprehensive training program that includes a written examination and mock campus tour. While ambassadors learn important information about the school's history, programs, and traditions, authenticity remains a cornerstone of the program. They are not taught to deliver a scripted presentation; instead, they learn how to share their own Knox experiences with sincerity and confidence. Each ambassador brings a unique perspective to the role, helping prospective students and families connect with genuine stories about life at Knox and en-



vision the possibilities for their own journey within the community.

For Madison Simkus '28, becoming an ambassador was inspired by her own experience as a new student. "When I first came to Knox, all the students and teachers made me feel welcomed and comfortable in the community, like I was home," she shared. "I applied to be an ambassador because I wanted to help other students feel the same way when they came here."

For Usel Namgay '27, becoming an ambassador was a way to give back to the community that embraced her. Usel recalls helping a new student who was nervous on her first day. After spending time showing her around campus, she watched the

student grow more comfortable and confident. "Seeing her feel included made me happy because I knew I had helped make her first day easier," she reflected.

Through experiences that build confidence, communication skills, and a spirit of service, Knox Student Ambassadors embody the school's commitment to developing compassionate and purposeful leaders.

Families interested in learning more about The Knox School are encouraged to contact the Admissions Office. Limited spaces remain available for Fall 2026 enrollment. Campus tours are available throughout the summer. To schedule a visit or inquire about admission, please contact admissions@knoxschool.org or call 631-686-1600.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS



SHOP LOCAL

The Blackboard Bulletin



Caps Off to the Class of 2026



Smithtown High School East seniors turned their tassels and celebrated graduation on June 26, 2026.

photos courtesy of Smithtown CSD

The tassels have been turned, the diplomas have been earned, and the memories will last a lifetime. On June 26, Smithtown High School East seniors celebrated their commencement ceremony.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mark Secaur took pride in the achievements of the graduating seniors, while also praising the family support systems who helped them achieve this milestone.

"While this day is about you, please be sure to thank your parents and guardians for this is a great day for them as well. They have made countless sacrifices to make this day a reality," said Dr. Secaur.

Principal Paul McNeil told the graduation class, "You matured into responsible young adults who

set the bar for academic achievement and student conduct. You fully embraced our comprehensive high school program, participating in rigorous coursework, numerous electives, games on this very field, the Business Olympics, drama productions, and performances at Carnegie Hall. Next year, and in life, my challenge to you is this: set the standard by outworking those around you. Your success is largely predicated on your work ethic. Put in the time and work harder than everyone else around you!"

Honor Speaker Madeline McCullough, selected by her peers to speak, encouraged her classmates to take risks. "As we sit here in our caps and gowns, it feels like everything is ending, but in reality we're just getting

started," McCullough exclaimed. "Don't let time take away your ambition, your passion, and every unique part about you that got you to where you are today...So, classmates, family members, friends and faculty: congratulations, you got your second chance. The question now is, what are you going to do with it?"

After the congratulatory speeches and diploma distribution, the seniors then participated in the traditional moving of the tassels to indicate their becoming alumni of the Smithtown Central School District.



THE FINISH LINE

St. James General Store

continued from page 10
life-sized papier-mâché seagulls that Ms. Potts incorporated into a charming beach display, beautifully complementing the store's "Land and Sea" theme.

Whether you're heading off on vacation or enjoying a staycation close to home, I hope you'll make the St. James General Store one of your summer adventures. Stop in and discover for yourself what's happening at the St. James General Store.

Shadows Rise

continued from page 16
Revolutionary characters portrayed by the actors. Each winning bidder received a guided Tri-Spy Tour, generously donated by the Three Village Historical Society, connecting theater with the very landscapes where the Culper Spy Ring once carried out its secret mission.

For Celebrate St. James, *Shadows Rise* represents more than a successful production. It demonstrates how a community can preserve history, embrace innovation, and inspire audiences through creativity and collaboration.

Following its sold-out premiere, interest continues to grow from educators, museums, theaters, and community organizations eager to experience the production. With its immersive multimedia design and minimal staging requirements, *Shadows Rise* is ready for its next chapter.

Interested in bringing *Shadows Rise* to your theater, school, museum, historical society, or community venue? We'd love to share this unique production with you.

To learn more, contact Celebrate St. James at info@celebratestjames.org.

Travels With Irma

continued from page 31
friend of Helen Keller. He loved his home on Cape Breton Island and even suggested that people answer the telephone by saying "Ahoy!" Fortunately for us, Thomas Edison had other ideas.

There is so much to see and do in the Canadian Maritimes. From dramatic coastlines and charming fishing villages to fascinating history and unforgettable scenery, this northern wonderland is well worth the journey. Pack your bags and come discover it for yourself!



Licence #9504HI

www.morecraftconstruction.com

631-584-7010

From basic repairs to the house of your dreams ...
to everything in between.



With over 30 years of satisfied customers,
you can trust we'll get the job done right.

New Builds to Additions & Extensions

Siding

Insulated Vinyl Siding
Imitation Wood Shakes
Soffits & Fascia
Gutters & Leaders
Entryways

Windows

Vinyl Replacements
Bays & Bows
Specialty Shapes
Double Hung
Casements

Roofing

Complete Replacement
Re-Shingling
Repairs
Flashing

Owner Direct
No Sales People

**FREE DESIGN
CONSULTATION**

All Work
Guaranteed

MOSQUITOES IN FULL EFFECT!



**NATURAL
GARLIC
TREATMENT**



**NATURAL
PLANT BASED**



**SAFE
FOR FAMILY & PETS**



**REPELS
MOSQUITOES**



Scientific
EXTERMINATING

534 North Country Road, St. James, NY

**631
265 5252**

THIS PRECIOUS EARTH



Wyrd

by Jillian Davis

(Pronounced “weird”) Definition: A central concept in Old English and Old Norse, it represents destiny, fate, or the overarching, interconnected web of how all things – including nature and humanity – are bound together.

When was the last time you listened to the birds sing, or sat in the sun to watch the bees pollinate flowers? Life moves so fast these days. Survival and security are important. The problem is, once we’re stable, shouldn’t we be protecting the survival and security of those who aren’t?

Did you know Long Island has salamanders? I didn’t.

The Eastern Tiger Salamander is almost exclusively found on Long Island (within New York State). Heavy development, dumping, pesticides, off-roading, and the introduction of predatory fish to its breeding grounds render them critically endangered.

Within two blinks of an eye, a habitat is destroyed somewhere every day on this island. What are we doing? Chopping, digging, raz-

ing, draining... for profit. What will profit mean when our great grandchildren can’t breathe in the clean air under the night sky, or smell the ocean breeze at the shoreline? Hear the crickets, the frogs... catch fireflies?

If you can avoid using pesticides, herbicides, etc – please do so. They harm fireflies, and many other species. The reason we have pests in the first place is due to the loss or endangerment of their predators. How long will we keep spraying until it doesn’t work anymore? We are not getting to the root of the problem.

Why Wyrdness?

We all rely on each other... if other creatures suffer, so do we. We suffer from the illusion of disconnection, and that affects other creatures. In the separation of animal and man, through the illusion of hierarchy, we lose our true power; which rests in community.

Wilderness is a source of wonder, appreciation, and something to be grateful for. Every living thing that exists deserves to exist, and most

directly contribute to our well being in some way; whether it be for our survival or appreciation. The same could be said for any other species. Excess development, pesticides, etc... these things do not consider the lives of non-human creatures. Think about any invention or advancement humans have accomplished, and look to see if it is truly advanced and built towards a real, balanced future. Without bees and pollinating insects, we would cease to exist.

How Can We Balance?

Turf grasses (like Kentucky bluegrass or fescue) are non-native species. This means they did not evolve with the local caterpillars, bees, or other larvae that birds and pollinators depend on. Their shallow roots contribute to poor soil health, and leave you with a burden of high maintenance. When you choose native plants, you directly support thousands of native flora and fauna. Their roots have developed a relationship with the microorganisms of this soil for millennia, continued on facing page

THIS PRECIOUS EARTH

continued
so they grow well and replenish it.
This also means... less yardwork!

If you are set on a grass-like ground cover, there are plenty of native grasses to substitute. Alternatively, wild strawberries are an option too! There are so many options. Check out longislandnatives.com. If you really want to go all out, you could also look into agroforestry! It's a farming model that replicates a natural ecosystem.

For now, though, let's take small steps.



Image by DGCory on Pixabay

Native Wildflowers of the Month

- **Bee Balm** (Monarda: Fistulosa/Didyma/Punctata)

A stunning, unique wildflower in red, lilac, and spotted varieties. A saving grace for long-tongued bees, who can only pollinate long, tube-like flowers. Appreciated by hummingbirds. Host plants for many different moth species, who directly feed bats and unique native bird species.

Bee Balm also can be used as a culinary and medicinal herb! It tastes a bit like oregano, and is antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory. It can aid digestion and be used topically for insect bites. It also has mild

nervine properties, serving as a great calming tea.

- **Butterfly milkweed** (Asclepias Tuberosa)

A beautiful bright orange fiery cluster bloom. Vital host plant and food source for Monarch Butterflies,

a critically endangered species. Host plant for many other butterflies, too.

Every effort to conserve our natural American landscape goes miles forward for wildlife. When we protect their future, we protect ours, too.



EXTERIOR CLEANING SPECIALISTS

It's Spring Cleaning Season!

Roof Cleaning

No Pressure, Safe Foam Process Removal of black/green algae stains, moss and lichen.

House Washing/Softwashing

Siding, Decks, Patios, Fences

Deck Restorations Cleaning, Staining, Repairs

Gutter Maintenance Cleaning, Leaf Guards

Window Cleaning Streak-Free exterior glass cleaning, screen removal and wash

Call For
Your FREE
Estimates



631-387-2156
SqueakyCleanLI.com

PO Box 151, St. James • Licensed & Fully Insured



by Natalie
Weinstein,
ASID Allied

The Bedroom Retreat: Designing a Haven for Better Rest and Wellness

In our fast-paced, always-connected world, the home has become more than just a place to live; it is a sanctuary from external noise. While we often focus design energy on public spaces like kitchens and living rooms, the bedroom holds the ultimate power over our daily well-being. It is the one room dedicated entirely to personal recovery. Over my years of designing homes, I have found that the most successful spaces shift the focus from pure aesthetics to sensory design, transforming the bedroom into a luxurious, restorative retreat that actively promotes better rest and mental clarity.

A truly restful bedroom begins with layout decisions that subconsciously put the mind at ease. In interior design, spatial psychology tells us that how we orient furniture dictates how safe and relaxed we feel in a space. Whenever possible, position the bed in the “command position” – diagonal from the bedroom door, giving you a clear view of the entrance without being directly in line with it. This layout triggers an ancient, hardwired sense of security (and good feng shui).

Furthermore, prioritize visual symmetry. Flanking the bed with matching nightstands and balanced lighting creates an immediate sense of order. This visual harmony signals to the brain that the day is done and everything is in its place. Over the course of my career, I have consistently seen clients experience a noticeable shift in their morning routine just by making this simple structural adjustment. Finally, actively design against distraction. Keep televisions out of the bedroom entirely, or conceal them inside custom cabinetry or behind the now available photo screen. En-



sure that phone charging stations are tucked inside a drawer rather than sitting exposed on top of the nightstand, keeping digital temptation out of sight.

To support deep, uninterrupted sleep, bedroom design must respect our biological circadian rhythms. This requires a strict strategy for managing both natural and artificial light. Start with window treatments. A single, thin curtain is rarely enough. Instead, use a layered approach. Install sheer linen drapery closest to the glass to filter harsh daylight into a soft, romantic glow during the afternoon. Over that, layer high-quality, lined blackout drapes or shades that seal out morning sun and neighborhood streetlights.

Additionally, your choice of textiles heavily dictates sleep quality. Invest in high-quality, breathable bedding made from natural fibers rather than synthetic blends. For a crisp, cool feel during warmer months, choose 100% long-staple cotton percale or pre-washed Euro-

pean linen. Layering is key to both aesthetic depth and physical comfort. Start with your base sheet, add a lightweight waffle-weave cotton blanket for flexible warmth, and top the foot of the bed with a plush, airy duvet.

Our firm has spent years vetting textile manufacturers to find options that stand up to daily life while maintaining that five-star hotel texture. By prioritizing natural fibers, you allow air to circulate freely, preventing the nighttime overheating that disrupts deep sleep cycles. Stick to a soothing, sun-washed color palette – such as muted sages, soft terracottas, or warm mineral grays or crisp whites – to reinforce the organic grounded feel of your tactile choices.

By intentional tailoring of layout, light, and textiles, the bedroom ceases to be a mere utilitarian sleeping



space. It becomes a dedicated wellness retreat that restores your energy and elevates your daily life. Often, you do not need a full-scale renovation to unlock this potential. A focused, two-hour consultation with an experienced professional can entirely shift your perspective on what your house can do for you, revealing simple, transformative adjustments that align your home with your well-being.

Editor's Note:

Natalie Weinstein, ASID Allied, is an accredited designer, acknowledged business leader, entrepreneur, author, media personality and motivational speaker. Her interior design firm, Natalie Weinstein Design Associates, has been creating lifestyle changes in homes and public spaces, decorating for countless clients since 1973. For questions, please call 631-862-6198 or email us - info@natalieweinstein.com. Visit our website www.natalieweinstein.com

The Upside to Downsizing

continued from page 34
had postponed for years.

Financially, downsizing also created new opportunities. The equity they had built over decades provided additional resources for retirement, travel, helping family members, or simply enjoying greater financial security.

Of course, downsizing is not for everyone. Some homeowners love their larger homes and intend to stay for many years. But for others, especially empty nesters, retirees, or anyone looking to simplify life, a smaller home can offer something incredibly valuable: freedom.

The reality is that downsizing is not about moving backward. It is about right-sizing your life for where you are today. The goal is not to have less, but to have exactly

what you need while letting go of what you no longer do.

As our local communities continue to evolve, many homeowners are discovering that the next chapter can be every bit as rewarding as the one before it. Sometimes the key to living larger is simply living smaller.

If you've ever looked around your home and wondered whether all that extra space is still serving you, it may be worth exploring the possibilities. You may discover that downsizing isn't an ending at all. Instead, it could be the beginning of a simpler, more fulfilling way of life.

Always happy to answer your real estate questions:

— Team@list2sellny.com

Pal-O-Mine

continued from page 45
supporting organizations that make a meaningful difference in the com-

munity, the Smithtown Rotary Club recently provided a \$1,000 donation to Pal-O-Mine to help support the care and feeding of the horses that play such an important role in the organization's programs.

Lisa Gatti's vision and dedication have helped make Pal-O-Mine a tremendous resource for families throughout Long Island. The organization continues to demonstrate the powerful impact of compassion, inclusion, and community support in helping individuals reach their fullest potential.

The Smithtown Rotary Club was grateful for the opportunity to visit Pal-O-Mine, learn more about its mission, and recognize the dedication of Lisa, the staff, volunteers, and supporters who make this extraordinary work possible.

For more information about Pal-O-Mine Equestrian, visit www.pal-o-mine.org or call 631-348-1389.

ST JAMES RESIDENTS

ENJOY SPARKLING POOLS WITHOUT THE HASSLE!



NORTHWAY POOLS OFFERS

- **Reliable Professional Pool Cleaning & Maintenance**
- **Opening & Closing Services**
- **Weekly, Bi-Weekly & Monthly Vacuum Service**
- **All Repairs & Renovations**



CALL
631-862-8925

OR EMAIL
Northwaypools@gmail.com

Lifetime St James Resident
With 30 Years Plus Experience

**Loop Loc Cover
Dealer**

Debunking Five Common Social Security Myths

by Scott Posner,
CFP, A.A.M.S., CRPC, CPE

Social Security is often one of the most important income sources in retirement. Yet widespread myths about how it works can lead to confusion, unnecessary worry and poor planning decisions. Here's the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.



Myth 1: Social Security is going broke. You've probably heard this one, but the full picture is more nuanced. According to the 2026 Social Security Board of Trustees Report, if Congress does nothing, the program would need to reduce benefits starting in 2032, paying roughly 78 cents for every dollar owed.

But that's just one scenario. Congress could raise the combined payroll tax from 12.4% to 16.65%, which the trustees estimate would secure full benefits through 2100. Other options include eliminating the earnings cap subject to payroll tax or adjusting retirement ages.

Lawmakers have tools to address this.



Myth 2: Social Security will cover all your retirement needs. Think of Social Security as a financial foundation, not the full building. According to the Social Security Administration, benefits replace only about 40% of pre-retirement income for a median earner. That means you'll likely need to account for most of your retirement income yourself. Building a strong personal savings strategy now can help close that gap.

Myth 3: You lose benefits permanently if you keep working. Not true. Social Security does have an "earnings test" that can temporarily reduce benefits for people who claim early and keep working. If your earnings exceed a set annual cap – which changes each year – Social Security will withhold a portion of your benefits. But once you reach full retirement age, the Social Security Administration adjusts your monthly check higher to repay those withheld amounts over time.

Myth 4: An ex-spouse's benefits come out of your own. If you were married for at least 10 years and are currently unmarried, your former spouse may be eligible to collect on your earnings record, or you may be able to collect on theirs. Divorced spouse benefits can be up to 50% of the other person's full retirement benefit. But those payments don't affect yours. Your monthly benefit is not reduced by anything paid to an ex-spouse or even a current spouse.

Myth 5: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed. Recent legislation caused some confusion here. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you'll still owe taxes on a portion of your benefits.

The law also created a temporary deduction (available through 2028) for people 65 and older. Eligible taxpayers can deduct \$6,000 per qualifying filer if their modified adjusted gross income is \$75,000 or less for singles or \$150,000 for couples. The deduction phases out at \$175,000 for singles and \$250,000 for joint filers.

The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security.



Editor's Note:

Financial Focus is a monthly feature written by Scott Posner, CFP, CRPC, A.A.M.S., an investment representative with Edward Jones Investments. This 130-year-old firm has over 10,000 offices around the world with one here in town at 542 North Country Road in the Old St. James School House. Mr. Posner has serviced both personal and institutional investors for over 32 years. For more information or to request optics for future columns, call 631-862-2020.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Invest in your future Branch support opportunities

At Edward Jones, our commitment to our associates has made us one of the nation's leading financial services firms. We encourage work-life balance and continuous professional development. We offer an inclusive and diverse environment where everyone's different viewpoints are valued.

We are seeking an on-call branch office administrator to support our offices. This position provides customer service and supports our financial advisors on a temporary, as needed basis, and does not have regularly scheduled working hours.

The ideal candidate demonstrates exceptional client service abilities, critical thinking capabilities, effective communication skills, shows strong initiative, and is willing to learn and understand the financial services industry. You must be able to work on short notice, with flexibility to work in more than one branch location.



Edward Jones was named one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For® by FORTUNE Magazine in its annual listing.



Scott R. Posner, CFP®, CEPA®, AAMS™
Financial Advisor
542 North Country Rd Suite A
St James, NY 11780
631-862-2020

Position information

On-call branch office administrator

Hours:

Very Flexible

Location:

Saint James and surrounding locations

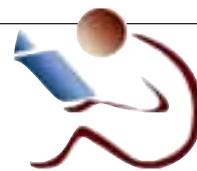
To be considered for this position, please contact:

Caroline Curry 631-862-2020

Edward Jones does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information or any other basis prohibited by applicable law.

*2024 Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For®, published April 2024, research by Great Place to Work®, data as of August 2023. Compensation provided for using, not obtaining, the rating. From Fortune. ©2024 Fortune Media IP Limited All rights reserved. Used under license.

HMR-02770-A EXP 30 JUN 2025 © 2024 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., LP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ABCSPAD



by Kimberly Kuethen

This morning I stopped by St. James Episcopal Church for its weekly Community Coffee Hour. If you've never been, I strongly suggest you stop in when you have the chance. I accompanied my father, who has been going since retiring a few months ago. The coffee was brewing, the conversation was flowing, and it was wonderful to hear stories about St. James dating back more than fifty years.

While I was there, I had the pleasure of talking with two women whose roots in this community run deep enough to have watched generations grow up. As we reminisced about businesses that had come and gone, our conversation naturally turned to the empty storefronts they had left behind. Before long, we found ourselves dreaming about what might someday fill those spaces along Lake Avenue.

Naturally, we tossed around ideas for more restaurants, bars, and boutiques. But somewhere along the way, I realized that the familiar pattern of storefronts had conditioned us to stop thinking beyond the obvious. Place a grocery store at one end, sprinkle in a dance studio, a new ice cream parlor, and a handful of trendy boutiques, and there you have the heart of St. James. Oh, and we can't forget the cherry on top: a brand-new 7-Eleven.

Nail salon. Pizza place. Dive bar. Gas station. Hair salon. Takeout. Repeat.

Yes, there are about two of everything on that half-mile stretch.

Hey, who doesn't love options?

The people love options.

Still, the ladies agreed that Lake Avenue needs something that reflects the character of our town. Something that belongs here. Something every resident can enjoy.

I'll admit there's probably a little personal bias in my suggestion, but hear me out.

A bookstore.

Bookstores are making a comeback. By the end of 2025, Barnes & Noble had opened sixty new locations, with another sixty planned for

The Last Bookstore

2026. Yes, I know there's one just a hop, skip, and a jump away at Smith Haven Mall, but I'm talking about a quaint, independent bookstore full of personality. One where I don't have to drive in the opposite direction from the beach, all the way to Lake Grove, just to pick up a summer read.

There are only about a dozen independent bookstores in Suffolk County. The closest, Global Language Reads in Port Jefferson, opened just last year and sits roughly eight miles away.

Indulge me for a moment. Maybe this little shop exists only in my imagination, but on a rainy Tuesday afternoon, I'd like to think it looks something like this.

You've vacuumed the living room three times already. The mall is probably packed. You don't feel like sitting in traffic because, let's be honest, some drivers seem to lose all common sense at the first sign of rain.

Then the light bulb goes on.

You grab your keys.

The brass bell above the front door chimes as you step inside, welcoming you with the comforting scent of cedar shelves, aging paper, a hint of vanilla, and fresh coffee brewing just a few steps away.

To your right, the shop dog is sound asleep beside the register, completely unbothered as the cashier pins flyers to a slightly crooked corkboard behind the counter. She looks up and greets you with a warm smile.

You smile back.

You recognize her immediately.

She was your high school English teacher.

Now happily retired, she works here a few days each week simply because she loves books. Without asking, she pours your usual coffee and sets it on the counter, knowing you'll settle up when you check out.

You thank her with a nod and take that first sip right in front of her, just to reassure her it's perfect, as always.

Looking around, you notice the shop is unusually busy.

"I guess this is the place to be today," you say.

She laughs.

"Oh, you know how it gets. The high school students had an SAT study group after school. I hope they remember to tell me if they're borrowing the prep books again. It gives me a chance to tidy up afterward."

"Tidy up?" you ask. "Oh! Poetry night is tonight?"

She smiles.

"No, honey. That's Thursday. Tonight the lounge is reserved for the dance moms' book club. They love having somewhere to gather while their daughters are at ballet. Book club tonight, poetry on Thursday, and don't forget the community book drive on Sunday."

You stand there for a moment, trying to keep track of it all.

She notices the look on your face. Years of teaching have made her an expert at reading expressions.

Unable to hide another laugh, she points toward the bulletin board.

"The schedule's right here, dear."

You glance over it in amazement.

My, how this place has grown.

Not only are there book clubs and poetry nights, but tutoring sessions, open mic nights, author signings, children's story hours, a launch party for a local writer's newest novella, coffee socials, and community gatherings stretching across the next three months.

"Take a picture if you'd like," she says. "Or check our Instagram. Thank goodness for the teenagers who work here. I leave all that 'content creation' to them."

As she fusses with a roll of double-sided tape, she begins hanging paintings created by students from neighboring schools. Front and center, a large table showcases stacks of New Arrivals. Beside it stands an antique armoire that you recognize from the antique shop down the street, now filled with gently used novels marked fifty percent off.

You've found some of your favorite classics there over the years.

continued on facing page

S U M M E R M U S I N G S

continued

Truthfully, you've never had trouble finding something wonderful in this little shop, whether it came from the employee recommendations, the best-seller shelf, the latest releases, or the community favorites.

Eventually, you make your selection and pay for your coffee and book.

By then, the dog has finally awakened from his nap. He ambles over, expecting the customary scratch behind the ears before you leave.

"See you soon," you say.

Just as your hand reaches for the doorknob, the woman calls after you.

"I meant to ask... do you think the Chief will dress up as Santa Claus again this year? The children absolutely loved it when he read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.'"

You smile.

Suddenly you're a child again, remembering how your parents brought you to the bookstore every December.

You begged for a new book every single time.

Somehow, they always said yes.

Maybe none of this will ever happen.

Maybe a bookstore couldn't survive. Maybe rents will continue to climb and taxes will become impossible.

But I'd like to imagine a little storefront somewhere on Lake Avenue.

A sleepy dog near the register.

Local authors displayed in the front window.

Students studying over coffee.

Neighbors lingering a little longer than they planned.

Communities are not built on numbers alone. They're built on places that bring people together.

And maybe, on a rainy Tuesday afternoon, a thirty-year-old woman who returned to her hometown after a decade away rediscovers her love of reading and wonders why she waited so long.

Every town deserves a place that reminds us we are more than con-

sumers.

I think St. James deserves one.

Editor's Note:

Kimberly Kuethen is a writer from St. James, New York, and an English student in the Honors College at Suffolk County Community College. After

spending a decade living outside New York, she returned to St. James with a renewed appreciation for the people, places, and stories that make the community unique. She enjoys writing about local history, literature, and everyday life, and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in English literature.

Alpine Pastry Shoppe

Viral Rainbow Cookie Donuts and Pignoli Rainbow Cookies!

Custom Cakes for Every Occasion

Large Selection of Gluten Free

20% OFF ANY PURCHASE \$5 MAXIMUM DISCOUNT
Excludes All Holidays
With coupon only • 1 per customer
Not combinable • Expires 8/31/26

New Dot Cakes!

59 Rt. 111, Smithtown (Village Center)
631-265-5610
alpinepastryshoppe.com

Logos for Mastercard, Visa, and Facebook are also present.

Background People

by Carol Giuliani

Last week, during one of those hot July afternoons when the heat seemed to rise from the pavement in shimmering waves, I stayed inside most of the day with the air conditioning running. Eventually, I went outside when the garbage truck made its slow journey down the street so I could bring my garbage pail back in.

As I stood in the heat, something told me to go back inside, grab several bottles of ice-cold water, and offer them to the three workers who had the unfortunate task of working on a day like that. They had been lifting heavy garbage cans since 5:00 that morning in the oppressive heat. When I handed them the bottles, their faces lit up with genuine appreciation. One of the workers smiled and said, "You don't know how much this means."

Before I could answer, my attention shifted to a neighbor who had forgotten to put out his garbage. He hurried from his house carrying a trash bag, handed it to one of the workers without so much as a greeting or a thank you, then turned around and walked back inside. It was over in seconds. The garbage collector accepted the bag without complaint and continued working as though he had become invisible.

That was the moment I began



thinking about "background people."

We are all aware of them, yet they quietly move through our lives, making everything function day after day. They blend into the background of our routines, becoming so familiar that we hardly notice them.

We have certain expectations of these background people. We expect them to provide the services we pay for, and some people's expectations are higher than others. I'm talking about store clerks, landscapers, garbage collectors, delivery drivers, mechanics, cashiers, and countless others. Every one of them has a purpose, and they quietly make our lives easier.

We depend on them every single day, yet we often fail, as my neighbor did, to see them as real people with lives, feelings, and emotions. It's almost as though they travel on

a revolving stage, passing through our lives, doing what they have to do, disappearing, and then returning the following week to do it all over again.

We rarely stop to think about their families, their worries, their dreams, or even, in the case of my garbage collectors, their aching backs. They become part of the scenery of our lives, almost as unnoticed as the sidewalks beneath our feet.

Think about the cashier who stands for eight hours scanning groceries. Or, in my case, the Amazon delivery driver, who probably deserves a Medal of Honor for carrying all those boxes to my front door in the sweltering heat.

I have always admired crossing guards who protect our children while standing on busy corners in every kind of weather. We've seen them in yellow raincoats, snow boots, and reflective vests, guiding children safely across the street, sometimes holding their little hands. Then there is the janitor who cleans offices long after everyone has gone home, the waiter at our favorite restaurant, or the young woman at Dunkin' Donuts who already knows exactly how I take my coffee.

And then there was someone who became especially important
continued on facing page

Arline's Art For A Cure

continued from page 22

"Live deeply, love fully, never take a single day for granted, and savor the time we are given. Tomorrow is a promise, but today is a priceless gift."

I don't know anyone over the age of 50 who hasn't had a suspicious spot examined, frozen, treated with Mohs surgery, or managed with a topical medication. Skin cancer is incredibly common, and early detection truly can save lives.

Please don't forget Linda. Re-

member her story, schedule your skin checks, and help us continue the fight against melanoma.

Lunch Among Friends

continued from page 33

ees has grown into a regular gathering of nearly 60 people. Some are members of our church, while many are from the surrounding community. A wonderful team of dedicated volunteers prepares the meal and hosts each event.

The cost is just \$10 per person. Come to one lunch and see if it's

for you! Lunch is served in our parish hall at 12:30 p.m. This fall's dates are Wednesday, September 16; October 14; November 18; and December 16.

We do ask that you register in advance at stjlc.com so we know how many guests to prepare for. St. James Lutheran Church is located at the corner of Second Avenue and Woodlawn.

Don't stay home. Come out, enjoy a delicious lunch, make new friends, and discover why so many people have made Lunch Among Friends part of their monthly routine.

S U M M E R M U S I N G S

continued
to me this week. On Wednesday, it was the mechanic at Firestone who repaired the alignment on my car. At that moment, he became one of the most important people in my life. Now that my car is fixed, I probably couldn't even remember his name. The same could be said of the nurse who cared for you in the hospital and became the focal point of your recovery.

The remarkable thing about all of these background people is that they never ask for compliments or applause. They simply do their jobs, day after day, often without anyone even looking them in the eye.

When I think about it, we know almost nothing about the stories they carry, and most of us never stop to ask. We're busy with our own lives, our own schedules, and our own problems. That's simply part of everyday living.

As a nurse, I learned long ago that every person has a story. Some stories are filled with joy. Others are marked by heartbreak. Some reveal such extraordinary courage that they would leave you speechless.

You never know what someone has lived through until you take the time to truly see them. We notice the job they do but often forget the person doing it.

A smile, a sincere thank you, or a bottle of cold water on a blistering afternoon may seem like small gestures, but kindness has a remarkable way of telling another human being, I see you.

Isn't that what all of us really want? To be seen. To



know that what we do matters. To know that we are more than just part of someone else's background, only called into focus when we are needed.

The irony, of course, is that every one of us is someone else's background person. Every day we cross paths with people, leaving tiny impressions on one another, only to forget those encounters almost immediately.

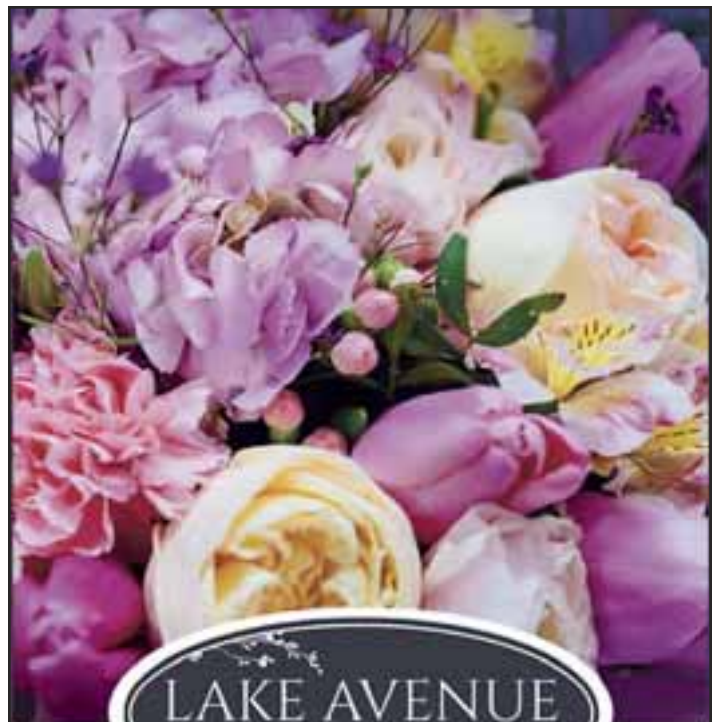
So the next time – and for me, that's always on Mondays and Thursdays – I hear the garbage truck outside my window, I won't think about the trash they're collecting. I'll think instead about the people lifting those heavy cans, working in the heat, and carrying on without recognition.

I believe that recognizing the value of another human being is one of the greatest forms of dignity and validation we can offer.

Perhaps there really are no background people in this life. There are only people we have forgotten to acknowledge as an important part of our shared humanity.



It's All Right Here In
OUR TOWN • ST. JAMES!



LAKE AVENUE
FLORAL & HOME

599 LAKE AVE SAINT JAMES, NY 11780
(631) 820-0200

www.lakeavenueflorallhomeshoppe.com

Summer Fruit Memories – 1956

by Carol Giuliani

When I look back on the joys of growing up during the much simpler time of the 1950s, I think about experiences involving modest family outings that led to a lifetime of wonderful memories. One of those memories was our summer trips to Belmont Lake State Park in Suffolk County, one with my mother's side of the family and another with my father's.

The purpose of these family get-togethers was to spend time together, have a barbecue, play games and sports, and go row boating on the beautiful tree-lined lake next to our picnic area. Everything was well planned, with each family assigned a food contribution, and there was always enough food for twice as many people.

The large, shiny, pink-and-green, ice-cold watermelon was carried in a colorful old rusty baby stroller, pushed by my father on a hot July day each year to our annual family picnic at Belmont Lake State Park in Babylon, Long Island. It was a wonderful meeting place for families, with a large lake where rowboats could be rented, numerous ball fields, trails, and picnic tables beneath magnificent old oak and pine trees.

We gathered there each year for a reunion with my father's family, most of whom lived in what we considered "the country" in Islip, Long Island. My mother always complained that Belmont was hardly the halfway point and that the drive was much easier for them than it was for us coming from Queens. Nothing is ever perfect, but somehow it worked.



The watermelon became part of our yearly ritual. It was always the same foods, the same place, and the same family, gathering together year after year on our own little middle ground.

The mother of all fruits was placed gently into the baby stroller like a tender child. It was always wrapped in towels to keep the coolness inside and to protect it from getting bruised. Moving it was almost like moving a piece of furniture, except you got to eat it in the end!

It was treated like a precious gift that would bring pleasure to everyone who respected it. Glistening drops of water rolled down its smooth rind as it emerged from the ice-filled cooler, leaving a trail on its way to the old wooden picnic tables that my mother always managed to decorate so they felt like home.

She would first pull a red-and-white checkered paper tablecloth from her magical picnic basket, one she had purchased at Woolworth's. My mother had the ability to take things out of that basket like Mary Poppins. She could feed twelve

people with complete place settings, and everything seemed to appear exactly when it was needed.

She always brought so much food that it seemed to last all day. She never forgot the mustard, ketchup, rolls, plates, hot dogs, hamburgers, or anything else we might need. Somehow, everything was always there.

Another family favorite was my mother's homemade potato salad, which she brought

every year in the same clear plastic bowl that spent the rest of the year on a shelf with the other designated "picnic" items.

Then, at the end of our barbecue meal, came the precious centerpiece of the picnic, the star of the show and the moment everyone anticipated: the cold, delicious watermelon, always large enough to feed the whole family.

It was sliced carefully and precisely with a special oversized knife used only once a year for this very purpose. My father expertly cut it, always knowing the exact position and angle that would produce the greatest number of beautiful slices. He took on this job every year, and no one ever challenged him. It was simply understood that Roger was in charge of the watermelon.

As was his tradition, he always tasted the first slice before anyone else. Then he would give a slight nod of approval, letting us know whether the sweetness hidden beneath that thick protective rind met his expectations.

I still remember taking that first bite of cold watermelon while

continued on page 75

S U M M E R M U S I N G S

by June Capossela Kempf

An eye-catching baby blue envelope, decorated with hearts and flowers, arrived in our mailbox. It was addressed to Aunt June and Uncle Ronnie. The return address was out of state and unfamiliar to us. After eagerly opening the envelope, we found two shiny index cards. The first said, "We're getting Married" on one side, with a drawings of candles, wedding cake and a champagne bottle. Under that, the name of our Godson, Gregg, who we haven't heard from since 2010, and someone named Grace. There were 4 blank horizontal lines on which the senders listed all the pertinent information, including the name of a Georgia catering hall. The next 2 lines gave two email addresses and the last instructed the recipient to RSVP by August 2, 2026. I flipped the card over and found more drawings and another announcement:

YOU'RE INVITED

It didn't take a moment to decide we were going to regretfully decline.

"You know they will be expecting a gift," Ron correctly said.

"We'll send something, I guess, probably a check in a card," I whispered as the tacky plot thickened.

A second postcard accompanied the first. This one carried an authentic US postal stamp on its shoulder which meant that all the information on it would openly travel through the postal system displaying our names, the number (of guests) attending and another reminder to RSVP by August 2nd.

At the bottom of the post card, there appeared a line asking to enter a song request and artist. How nice.

"When is the actual ceremony?" Ron asked.



Invitation Invoice

I flipped the cards around and couldn't find that info written anywhere. Then, I noticed a little business card still stuck in the envelope. I pulled it out thinking that the wedding date must be on this one. Instead it said: Honeymoon Wish – Your presence at our wedding is the greatest gift you could give us. No gifts are expected, but if you like, a contribution towards our honeymoon fund would be truly appreciated. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Did I say tacky?

Still, the wedding date was omitted. It looked like the happy couple was way past the honeymoon phase anyway.

I flipped the business card over and once again further instructions appeared – proving that bad taste has no limits.

"You can... Venmo Greg @..... or Cash app: Grace"

I don't do Venmo and don't even know what a cash app is. I stuffed all three cards back into the little blue envelope and set the whole business aside to give me a chance to sort this out. Then, I called Millie, my BFF for advice.

"You're just not up to the times," she laughed. "People are just not so

formal anymore. Think about it." She said, "When was the last time you got a thank you note from anyone?"

"I know, but this is way beyond that. Venmo us???"

"You could just ignore the whole thing and do nothing."

"But he is my godchild." I argued.

"When was the last time you heard from him?"

It didn't matter.

"Look, we are not attending the wedding, but we are sending a gift."

"How are you going to send a gift?" Millie asked.

"I'll write a check."

"To whom?"

"To the bride and groom," I answered.

"What if they don't have a joint account? How can they cash their gift?"

This was getting too complicated for me

"Maybe I'll send a gift card."

"For what?" she asked.

I didn't have a clue as to what their preferences and tastes were.

"Oh, I can't deal with this now Millie. All I need at the moment is a song title to put on this postcard and get it mailed so the happy couple can get a head count

We brainstormed back and forth, chatting about Generations X,Y and Z and the millenials until I could accept life as it is now.

The song title that I put on the card could be none other than Bobby McFerrin's *Don't Worry, Be Happy*.

Editor's Note:

June Capossela Kempf, of St. James, is the author of *Yo God Jay's Story* – a unique spin about raising a special needs child and *Lady of the Dollhouse* published by KeithPublications.com. She also writes essays and is the facilitator for the Adult Writers Group at the Smithtown Library.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

We are working hard to make Our Town more robust than ever and we would love to know your thoughts.

Please contact us at info@ourtownstjames.com and let us know what you think.



Suffolk County North Shore

Artisans

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Our Town is Online!

Access the QR code to see the comprehensive Calendar of Event Items, Directory Listings, and more.

Stay up to date
with Our Town!



August

Adults Roller Skating: Wednesday nights all month, 6-8pm, Adults 21+ Roller Skating in Greenport, Greenport American Legion, 121 Third Street, Greenport, NY 11944, www.greenportamericanlegion.org, 631-333-2644.

Beach Walk and Cleanup: Saturday mornings all month, 10am-12pm, AMSEAS Beach Walk \$ Cleanup at Hallock State Park, Hallock State Park Preserve, 6062 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901

Planetarium: Fri & Sat, 7-8pm AND 9:30pm Laser Show, Evening Planetarium Shows, Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum: 180 Little Neck Road, Centerport, NY 11721, www.vanderbiltmuseum.org, 631-854-5579

Music: Mondays 7-10pm, Musicians Night at Shandon Court, 115 East Main Street, East Islip, NY 11730, catering@shandoncourt.net, 631-581-5678

Children's Theatre: Until Aug 8, See website for show times, Sleeping Beauty, Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, www.theatrethree.com, 631-928-9202

Art Exhibit: Until Sept 13, Just

Powers: Long Island Biennial 2026, The Heckscher Museum of Art, 2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743, www.heckscher.org, 631-380-3230

Exhibit: Until Sept 13, The Seat of Action: Long Island in the American Revolution and Beyond, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.longislandmuseum.org

Family/Education: Sat Aug 1, 11am-4pm, Happy Birthday, Herman Melville, The Whaling Museum & Education Center, 301 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724, www.cshwhalingmuseum.org, 631-367-3418



Event: Sat Aug 1, The Liberty Clipper: Long Island's Tallest Ship, Harborfront Park, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, www.libertyclipper.com/portjefferson, 315-380-2920

Theater: Sat Aug 1, 2-4:30pm, The Heart of Rock and Roll, John W. Engeman Theater Northport, 250 Main Street, Northport, NY 11768, 631-261-2900, www.engemantheater.com

Music: Sat Aug 1, 8pm, The Warped Tour Band, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Music: Sat, Aug 1, 8pm, The Brooklyn Bridge, Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, www.theatrethree.com, 631-928-9202

Antiques: Sun Aug 2, 9am-3pm, Antique Flea Market, Antiques At Northport's Antique Flea Market, 404 Ft. Salonga Road, Northport, NY 11768

Music: Sun Aug 2, 5pm, Daybreak: The Music & Passion of Barry Manilow, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Children Summer Camp: Week Two: Aug 3-7, 9:30am-12pm, Tiny Explorers Summer Camp, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.longislandmuseum.org, 631-751-0066

Senior/Education: Tue Aug 4, 7-8:30pm, Virtual/In-Person, The Battle of Long Island, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org, 631-567-5079

Music: Wed Aug 5, 1pm, Young at Heart: Gershwin Songbook, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.thejazzloft.org, 631-751-1895

continued on facing page





Suffolk County North Shore CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Artisans



continued

Music: Wed Aug 5, 7pm, Jam Session - Hosted by the Frank Hanson Trio, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.thejazzloft.org, 631-751-1895

Art Exhibition: Aug 6-Sept 10, 10am-4pm, The Color of Light: Landscapes & Seascapes: A dual exhibition of local artists Anthony Davis and Ja, The Atelier, 2 Flowerfield, Suite 6 & 9, St. James, NY 11780, theatelieratflowerfield.org, 631-250-9009

Music/Festival: Thu Aug 6, 5-9pm, Riverhead's Alive on 25 Summer Block Party, Downtown Riverhead, Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, <https://aliveon25.lovable.app/>

Music: Thu Aug 6, 7-8:30pm, The New York Vendettas, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org, 631-567-5079

Family Activities: Thu Aug 6, 3-4pm, Summer Family Pop-Up - hands-on art and activity, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.longislandmuseum.org, 631-751-0066

Animals/Nature/Yoga: Thu Aug 6, 6:45-7:45pm, Goat Yoga Smithtown Historical Society, 211 E Main Street, Smithtown, NY, 11787



www.smithtownny.gov, 631-265-6768

Family/Education: Fri Aug 7, 12-2pm, Build-a-Boat Races!, The Whaling Museum & Education Center, 301 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724, www.cshwhalingmuseum.org, 631-367-3418

Music: Fri, Aug 7, 8pm, Walking The Line: A Tribute to Johnny Cash and June Carter, Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, www.theatrethree.com, 631-928-9202

Music: Fri Aug 7, 8pm, Texas Flood, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Country Line Dancing: Fri Aug 7, 5:30-7pm, Country Line Dancing, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org, 631-567-5079

Music: Sat, Aug 8, 8pm, Ted Vigil: John Denver Tribute, Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, www.theatrethree.com, 631-928-9202

Music: Sat Aug 8, 8pm, Glen Burt-nik's Summer of Love Concert, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Music: Sun Aug 9, 3pm, Fearless: The Taylor Swift Experience, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Art and Music: Sun Aug 9, 1-3pm, "Concert & Create with Serenade Duo", The Atelier, 2 Flowerfield, Suite 6 & 9, St. James, NY 11780, theatelieratflowerfield.org, 631-250-9009

Art and Music: Sun Aug 9, 1-3pm, Concert & Create with Serenade Duo, The Atelier, 2 Flowerfield, Suite 6 & 9, St. James, NY 11780, theatelieratflowerfield.org, 631-250-9009

Summer BBQ: Sun Aug 9, 12-3pm, Kyle Palmieri Foundation Summer BBQ, Greenport Harbor Brewing, 42155 Main Road, Peconic, NY 11958, www.my.onecause.com, 315-246-3766

Art/Teen Workshop: Mon Aug 10, 2:30-5:30pm, Intro to Oil Painting: Landscapes 4-day Workshop Instructed by Marlena Urban, The Atelier, 2 Flowerfield, Suite 6 & 9, St. James, NY 11780, theatelieratflowerfield.org, 631-250-9009

Music: Mon Aug 10, 7-8pm, Vinyl Listening Club, Connetquot Public

continued on page 64





Suffolk County North Shore

Artisans

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



continued from page 63
Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716,
www.connetquotlibrary.org
631-567-5079

Senior/Education: Tue Aug 11, 2-3pm, The Lost City of the Mayans, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Music: Tue Aug 11, 5-6pm, The Jazz Loft's All-Star Quartet, Art and Outreach at the Simon's Center for Geometry and Physics (SCGP) at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, www.thejazzloft.org, 631-751-1895

Music: Wed Aug 12, 5-7:30pm, Grooves on the Green, Station Yards, 9 Hawkins Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Music: Wed Aug 12, 7pm, Jam Session - Hosted by the Frank Hanson Trio, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.thejazzloft.org, 631-751-1895

Senior/Education: Wed Aug 12, 2-3:30pm, Nikola Tesla: The Making of a Modern Mind, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079



Senior/Education: Wed Aug 12, 11am-12:30pm, Long May She Wave, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Senior/Fitness: Thu Aug 13, 3:30-4:30pm, Fitness Dance, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Charity Event: Thu Aug 13, 3-5pm, A1 Cares Bowling for a Good Cause, Port Jeff Bowl, 31 Cherub Lane, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11777. <https://givebutter.com/bowling-for-ronald-mcdonald-r160bt>



Senior/Education: Thu Aug 13, 2:30-4pm, Virtual/In-Person, The Traitor & The Spy: Benedict Arnold & Major John Andre, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Carnival: Thu Aug 13-Sun Aug 16, 2026 Summer Carnival @ Breezy Park, Breezy Park, 19 West Rogues Path, Huntington, NY 11743, <https://newtonshows.com/upcoming-events/>

Music: Thu Aug 13, 6-7:30pm, Neil Diamond-Barbra Streisand Tribute, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY



11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Family Activities: Thu Aug 13, 3-4pm, Summer Family Pop-Up - hands-on art and activity, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Family Event: Fri Aug 14, 9-9:30pm, Adventureland Drone Show, Adventureland, 2245 Broad Hollow Road, Farmingdale, NY 11735, <https://adventureland.us/summer-entertainment>, 631-694-6868

Family/Education: Fri Aug 14, 12-2pm, Build-a-Boat Races!, The Whaling Museum & Education Center, 301 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724, www.cshwhalingmuseum.org, 631-367-3418

Music: Sat Aug 15, 3-5pm, 'Bowie Station' A Tribute to David Bowie (Soundswap Series), Sousa Bandshell at Sunset Park, 325 Main Street, Port Washington, NY 11050, <https://portwashington.librarycalendar.com> 516-883-4400

Music: Sat, Aug 15, 8pm, Beatlemania Now, Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY

continued on facing page



Suffolk County North Shore CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Artisans



continued

11777, www.theatrethree.com,
631-928-9202

Music: Sat Aug 15, 8pm, Larry McCray, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Theater: Sun Aug 16, 8pm, Chazz Palminteri's "A Bronx Tale", The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Senior/Music: Mon Aug 17, 7-8:30pm, Stringtopia: The Long Island Mandolin & Guitar Orchestra, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Senior/Education: Mon Aug 17, 2-3pm, Judith Sargent Murray: A Post-Revolutionary Feminist, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Senior/Music: Tue Aug 18, 7-8:30pm, Music Discussion: Wanderlust Songs, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Music: Wed Aug 19, 7pm, Jam Session - Hosted by the Frank Hanson Trio, The Jazz Loft, 275 Chris-

tian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.thejazzloft.org, 631-751-1895

Music: Fri Aug 21, 8pm, CeCe Teeneal's Divas of Soul, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Art Demonstration: Sat Aug 22, 1-3pm, "Dueling Demos" and raffle by local artists Anthony Davis and Jane McGraw-Teubner, The Atelier, 2 Flowerfield, Suite 6 & 9, St. James, NY 11780, theatelieratflowerfield.org, 631-250-9009

Senior/Education: Sat Aug 22, 10am-11:30am, All About Garlic: Planting, Harvesting and Curing, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Festival: Sat Aug 22-Sun Aug 23, 10am-5pm, Smithtown Craft Fair, 211 East Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787, <https://islandfairs.com/> 631-885-1267

Music: Sat Aug 22, 3-5pm, 'The John Fogarty Project' Plays the Music of CCR and John Fogerty (Soundswap Series), Sousa Bandshell at Sunset Park, 325 Main Street, Port Washington, NY 11050, <https://portwashington.librarycalendar.com> 516-883-4400



Music: Sat, Aug 22, 8pm, The One Hit Wonderers, Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, www.theatrethree.com, 631-928-9202

Children's Art Workshops: Mon & Tue, Aug 24 & 25, 9:30am-12:30pm, School's Out! Art's In! Summer Workshop for Kids - Workshop 1: We All Scream for Ice Cream! Sculptures, The Heckscher Museum of Art, 2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743, www.heckscher.org, 631-380-3230

Performance: Sun Aug 23, See website for times, The Wedding Singer John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main Street, Northport, NY 11768, www.engemantheater.com 631-261-2900

Music: Sun Aug 23, 8pm, 10,000 Maniacs, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Senior/Music: Mon Aug 24, 7-8pm, Acoustic Jam Session, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org 631-567-5079

Senior/Education: Tue Aug 25, 1:30-3pm, Ancient Wisdom: Stories and Myths of the Night Sky, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716,

continued on page 66



Suffolk County North Shore CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Artisans



continued from page 65

www.connetquotlibrary.org
631-567-5079

Children's Art Workshops: Wed & Thu, Aug 26 & 27, 9:30am-12:30pm, School's Out! Art's In! Summer Workshop for Kids - Workshop II: Painting Palette-Palooza, The Heckscher Museum of Art, 2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743, www.heckscher.org, 631-380-3230

Music: Wed Aug 26, 5-7:30pm, Grooves on the Green, Station Yards, 9 Hawkins Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Music: Wed Aug 26, 7pm, Jam Session - Hosted by the Frank Hanson Trio, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.thejazzloft.org, 631-751-1895

Senior/Education: Thu Aug 27, 7-8:30pm, Home Cooking for your Dog & Cat, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org, 631-567-5079

Music: Fri Aug 28, 7pm, Benise, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Music: Fri, Aug 28, 7-10pm, Sitting Ducks Trio at Port Waterfront, Greenport Port Waterfront, 104 3rd Street, Greenport, NY 11944

Metaphysical Fair: Fri, Aug 28, 6-10pm, New Moon Market: Oddities Curiosities, Food and More 620 Johnson Avenue, #4, Bohemia, NY 11716, 516-336-9547

Psychic: Fri Aug 28, 7pm, Benise, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343

Comedy: Sat, Aug 29, 8pm, Long Island Comedy Festival, Theatre Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, www.theatrethree.com, 631-928-9202

Craft Fair: Sun Aug 30, 10am-5pm, Farmingdale Craft Fair, 361 Main Street, Farmingdale, NY, www.nassaucountyfairs.com

Street Fair: Sun Aug 30, 10am-5pm, Nesconset Day Street Fair, Nesconset Gazebo Park, 127 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset, NY 11767, www.freebirdfestivalproductions.com, 516-220-8217

Music: Sun Aug 30, 8pm, Crystal Ship: The Doors Tribute, The Suffolk, 118 E Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org, 631-727-4343



Senior/Art Workshops: Mon Aug 31, 6-8pm, Fiber Arts Club, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org, 631-567-5079

Senior/Education: Mon Aug 31, 11am-12:30pm, Nations vs. States, Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716, www.connetquotlibrary.org, 631-567-5079

September

Art Exhibition: Until Sept 10, 10am-4pm, The Color of Light: Landscapes & Seascapes: A dual exhibition of local artists Anthony Davis and Ja, The Atelier, 2 Flowerfield, Suite 6 & 9, St. James, NY 11780, theatelieratflowerfield.org, 631-250-9009

Exhibit: Until Sept 13, The Seat of Action: Long Island in the American Revolution and Beyond, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790, www.longislandmuseum.org



Visit ourtownstjames.com
to see a complete listing of
2026 North Shore Art Events

ST. JAMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

**THURSDAY
AUG. 20TH**

*A Perfect Summer Evening
in Our Hometown!*

**STARTS
AT DUSK!**

**BRING
BLANKETS
& CHAIRS!**

COME EARLY FOR GAMES!



DEEPWELLS FARM COUNTY PARK
2 TAYLOR LANE (25A & MORICHES RD)

HEALTH NOTES

Ask Ron



Ron Villano, M.S., LMHC, ASAC, CCH is the leading expert in working through change. As a father who lost his 17-year old son in an auto accident, he always speaks from the heart. As a licensed mental health counselor, he guides others on how to work through difficult times. As a national speaker and author of The Zing, Ron has appeared on TV and radio throughout the world. He will help you to Embrace the Power of Change in your personal and professional life.

Dear Ron,

I have a teenage daughter whom I noticed compares herself to people on social media. She talks about making sure she has a certain trendy look or that she needs to have more things because "everyone has them." The hard part is that I catch myself doing the same thing to a certain extent. I look at friends, vacations and others and wonder why my life doesn't look like that. How can I teach my daughter to value herself when I seem to have the same issue?

— Setting the Right Example

Dear Setting Examples,

Social media, and now AI, usually shows the best moments and not how people worked their way there. To be an example to your daughter is about setting those realities while using on the on-line things as information rather than fact. When you find yourselves comparing, make it a new habit together to stop the scroll and ask a simple question... "What am I thankful for today?" These answers will anchor you back to what is real and then you can both take a moment to decide if what you are seeing on your phone is something worthwhile to pursue. Keep good ongoing conversations with your daughter about how to be self-aware and set her own self-value rather than letting anyone else set that standard. Real confidence doesn't come from likes and follows. It comes from knowing who you are, treating others well, and appreciating the life you are in control of building.

Editor's Note:

Ron Villano, M.S., LMHC, ASAC, CCH, is the founder and director of Family & Personal Counseling, located at 872 Middle Country Road in St. James. He is an author of the book *The Zing*, has appeared on national TV, along with appearances on the Verizon FiOS1 network. With offices in St. James, Bohemia, East Islip, Levittown and Masspeth and a staff of 20 therapists from all backgrounds – Family & Personal Counseling addresses individual and family concerns of all ages. For additional information call 631-758-8290 or visit www.FamilyAndPersonalCounseling.com and www.RonVillano.com to listen to his featured interviews.

• Fed Up?
• Overwhelmed?
• Discouraged?

WE CAN HELP!

family & Personal COUNSELING

FamilyandPersonalCounseling.com

631-758-8290 x 3

Bohemia | East Islip | Levittown
Middle Village | St. James | Telehealth

Sip, SHOP, DINE!

KEEP IT LOCAL

NORTH COUNTRY DENTAL CARE

Locally Owned & Operated
SINCE 1962

WE PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICES
TO HELP YOU GET THE SMILE YOU DESERVE

🦷 Cosmetic Dentistry

Porcelain Crowns
Teeth Whitening
Bridges
Veneers
Bonding
Inlays and Onlays
Invisalign
Dentures

🦷 Digital Impressions

🦷 Implant Dentistry

Placement and Restorations
Low Dose CT Scan On Site

🦷 Pediatric Dentistry

MEET OUR DENTIST



Dr. Thomas Vigliante

CALL US TODAY AT
(631) 584-5605
436 NORTH COUNTRY ROAD, ST. JAMES, NY 11780
Across from Vintage Steak House
www.SaintJamesDental.com

HEALTH NOTES



Empowered Living with Essential Oils Declutter Your Life!

by Terri Pace

We all have a space or place in our life in which the clutter overwhelms us. Maybe it is the hall closet jammed with coats you wear

only occasionally, or the pantry overrun with too much stuff after a trip to the grocery store, or the junk drawer in the kitchen...a perfect place for all the stuff you don't know what to do with!! Maybe it is your closet, home to all the "slightly tight" clothes you will wear someday soon or the outfit that has lots of good wear left in it but is no longer your style! Maybe for you, it is the basement, garage, or attic where things tend to accumulate without intention!

Frustrated!

So What Holds Us Back?

How do you feel when you walk past this space? If you are like most people, it does overwhelm us. Even the thought of it brings us a knot in

our stomach! We believe it would take such a big effort to go through it all, and given our busy lives, there is just no good time to tackle such a big project. Therefore, we ignore it as much as possible...and it keeps growing as does our frustration with it.

Maybe there is something valuable buried under the clutter and we feel frustrated that we cannot find what we are looking for in "that mess" and we feel it is out of control. And yet, we don't even know how to begin. Sometimes there is also an emotional attachment to the object, and we can't even figure out how to let it go, despite our best efforts to do so.

Let's Get Started!

There are some great resources to get you started! And once you get started, you will discover that it will positively affect all other aspects of your life...tidying up can transform your life, not just your space! In the book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* by Marie Kondo, the author suggests

that "Once you've experienced...a truly ordered house, you'll feel your whole world brighten...Not only will you never be messy again, but you'll get a new start on life."

Simple Solutions

1. Dedicate 15 minutes each day to tidying up that cluttered space. You'll be surprised at just how much you can accomplish in those 900 seconds!

2. Separate each object into categories and store it or move it out as quickly as possible after you do: Keep it; Trash it; Donate it.

3. For stuff you just are not sure what to do with, hold it and ask yourself: "Does this bring me joy." In this way, we change our perspective to focus on what we want to keep rather than what we want to throw away!

4. Apply some of the concepts from Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less, by Greg McKeow. "By applying a more selective criterion for what is essential, the pursuit of less allows us to regain control of our own choices so we continued on facing page



ADDITIONS • RENOVATIONS • CUSTOM BUILDING

We are a full service Design/Build & Remodeling Company servicing your community for over 40 years.

Call today for a **FREE** consultation



631.584.7817

333 First Avenue, St. James, New York 11780
www.vazac.com



Relationship Built on Honesty, Integrity and Trust



@vazaccontractingcorp

Just a little reminder...

Ad and Article
Deadline for the
September issue
of Our Town is:
**Thursday
August 13
12 noon**



HEALTH NOTES

continued
can channel our time, energy and effort into making the highest possible contribution toward the goals and activities that matter." This discipline pursuit of less is worthy of our attention and can easily be applied to our "stuff"!

How can aroma help with this effort?

Essential oils are naturally occurring, volatile aromatic compounds...nature's chemistry...a message carrying molecule.

Smelling is the fastest way to affect mood and the quickest way to get into the deepest parts of the mind-brain. There are smell receptors on EVERY organ of the body! As you inhale, aromatic molecules travel to the olfactory bulbs, which are linked directly to the emotional (limbic) seat of the brain. This is how inhalation creates an immediate emotional impact.

This is EXACTLY the influence we need when we are decluttering!

We created the Declutter Blend with Siberian Fir, Frankincense, Cypress, Wild Orange, Ylang Ylang, and Cinnamon to help influence

the emotional terrain! These essential oils help to free us from generational patterns, provide wisdom and discernment, then get us to act as we shift our mood to be more playful and abundant!

Wait until you smell this blend! You will decide easily, act quickly, and feel lighter and brighter in your next declutter project.

I invite you to join us on August 28th as we continue the conversation with some simple solutions which can empower you to tackle that decluttering project AND experience these essential oils can help with the process of discerning and letting go! <https://declutter2026.eventbrite.com>

Using information from *Emotions and Essential Oils*, we will pair certain essential oils with the different emotions that keep us stuck in our cluttered lifestyle and learn how to move through them to obtain successful outcomes!

What's Next?

Join us each month for a variety of free online workshops which focus on family health & wellness, mental health, and improved im-

mune function. Find information on online events and workshops here: <http://simplynaturalseminars.eventbrite.com/> No purchase necessary to attend!

You can also find a showcase of recordings on many different health topics on my Vimeo channel:

<https://vimeo.com/simplynatural>
Topics include: Increase Energy, Sharpen Focus, Breathe Easy, Men's Health, Women's Health & Hormones, Conquer the Blues, Top 10 Ways to Get the Body You Want, and many more!

Or contact me directly to schedule your free lifestyle overview and enjoy some free samples! I'm excited to help you create success with simply natural solutions for your unique health and wellness priorities. Call me 631-487-1627 or email me at simply.natural@outlook.com.

Essential oils are safe, therapeutically effective and very affordable. However, not all essential oils are created equal! Be an educated consumer and use only certified pure, tested grade essential oils for your family!

Support Your Local Merchants



DO YOU WANT TO EXPAND



YOUR THRIVE ZONE?

Own Your Health

with Wellness Lifestyles and Natural Products

Terri Pace
simply.natural@outlook.com

<https://oils.link/TerriPace>

Declutter Your Life
August 28th
at 7:00 pm

Coffee Break Solutions

Sudoku Answers

FROM PAGES 38-39

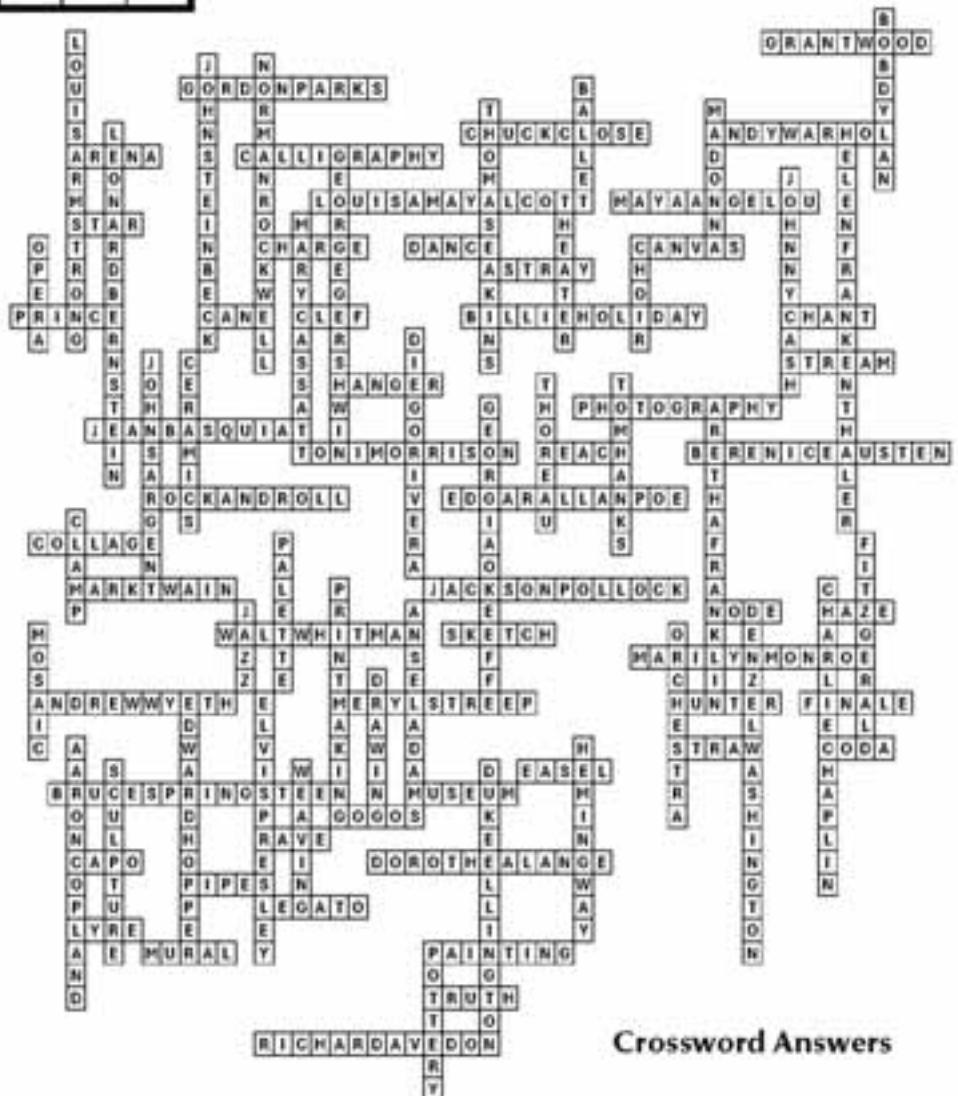
1	2	3	8	5	6	4	7	9
4	5	6	9	7	1	8	2	3
7	8	9	3	4	2	1	6	5
6	7	1	4	2	3	5	9	8
3	9	5	6	8	7	2	1	4
2	4	8	1	9	5	6	3	7
8	6	2	7	3	4	9	5	1
9	1	7	5	6	8	3	4	2
5	3	4	2	1	9	7	8	6

Riddles & Teasers Answers:

Answer for Question 1: Once. After that, you're subtracting from 90.

Answer for Question 2: The man is 34, and the sister is 20.

Answer for Question 3: The combination is 624. The first digit is four times the second (6), and the third digit is three less than the first (4). Adding them gives a total of 12.



Crossword Answers

Attention Business Owners - Have You Joined Your Chamber Of Commerce?

Grow Your Business with the St. James Chamber of Commerce!

Join a chamber that's as local and hardworking as you are. We're a small-town community of Owner-operated businesses—where networking feels like neighbors helping neighbors. Our board is 100% volunteer-run with no paid staff, and everything we do—from monthly meetings (always free and with dinner!) to community-wide events—is powered by local business owners just like you.

- ✓ Free monthly meetings with dinner included
- ✓ After-hours events that fit your schedule
- ✓ Free vendor tables & promo opportunities
- ✓ Referrals, visibility & community trust
- ✓ A strong voice with local government

*Join the chamber, volunteer,
and be part of something bigger.*

Together, we grow not just businesses—but our town and community spirit. Let's grow together—right here in St. James.

JOIN HERE



Shop Local - Support Our Members!... Support Our Town!

24/7 Foodmart Saint James
AJ's Garage
AJ Party Service
Alfresco Backyard Living
The Atlier
Azure Transportation
Barry Bros. Landscape Design
Benjamin Marc
Bodybar Pilates
Bonnie Glenn Homes Ltd.
The Brick Studio
The Bristol at Lake Grove
Capital Graphics of Long Island
Celebrate St. James
Caterina Valentina Salon
Chiropractic Healthcare of St. James
Coldwell Banker
American Homes Complete Property Care, Inc.
Competition Auto Group
Competition BMW
Competition Subaru
Creative Windows
Dance N Things
DeBarbieri Associates
Dowling Bros. Auto Body
Eddie's Power Equipment
Edward Jones Investments
Energy Fitness
Flowfield Celebrations
Fratello Law

Free From 9
Galiano Wine Bar & Restaurant
Genesis of Smithtown
Harbor Country Day School
Helping Hearts at Home
HH Coach Realtors
Island Fish & Reef Inc
Joseph A. Bollhofer, Esq.
K & T Foot Spa
Knipping & Klein Agency Inc.
Lake Avenue Floral
ICC Automation
JD Design Jeremy Dean
K & T Foot Spa
Kathleen Micozzi HH Coach Realty
Knipfing & Klein Agency
Lake Avenue Floral
Lesco Construction
Load Manager Inc.
Long Island Hearing
Maia Salon Spa and Wellness
M & T Bank
Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown
Michelina Cahill - New York Life
Mister Softee
Moloney Family Funeral Homes
Morecraft Construction
Next Generation Landscaping
Nissequogue Golf Club
P. DeBlasio Builders Inc.

Paris Electric
Philly Pretzel Factory
Rely Rx Pharmacy
RN 4 Medicare
Ron Villano Family & Personal
Counseling
Scientific Exterminating
Sequa Deli
Smithtown Library
Smithtown News
Smithtown Rotary Club
Sons of Norway Loyal Lodge #252
Spy Trail Distillery
St. Catherine of Siena Hospital
St. James Center
St. James Fire Dept.
St. James Funeral Home
St. James Jewelry
St. James Pasta & Pork
St. James Post Office
St. James Self Storage
Step by Step Podiatry
Team Rivera at Keller Williams
Thic Chic Boutique
Times Beacon Record News Media
Up In Smoke Barbecue
Vazac Contracting
WBR Plumbing & Heating

DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

The following is a list of advertisers who can be found in this issue of *Our Town • St. James*

ATTORNEY

Joseph A. Bollhofer, Esq.
291 Lake Avenue
631-584-0100
bollhoferlaw.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Repair | Parts | Gas
Mercedes Benz of Smithtown
630 Middle Country Rd.
877-862-7373
mbofsmithtown.com

St. James

Automotive Center
525 North Country Road
631-584-5798

BAKERY

Alpine Pastry Shoppe
59 Route 111, Smithtown
631-265-5610
alpinepastryshop.com

BEAUTY

Salon 230
556 10A North Country Rd.
631-862-7023

DENTIST

North Country Dental Care
Dr. Thomas Vigliante
436 North Country Road
631-584-5605

EVENT PLANNING

Occasions by Julia Teresa
occasionsbyjt@gmail.com

EVENTS

Family Movie Night
Goat
Thursday, August 20
Starts at Sunset
Deepwells Farm

EXTERMINATING

Scientific Exterminating
534 North Country Road
631-265-5252 X5

FINANCIAL

Branch Financial Services
Harlan J. Fischer
and Michael J. Brescia
21 Bennetts Road, Setauket
631-979-6000
branchfinancialsrvcs.com

Edward Jones Investments
Scott Posner, CFP
542 North Country Road
631-862-2020

FLORIST

Lake Avenue Floral & Home
599 Lake Avenue
631-820-0200

FUNERAL HOMES

Branch Funeral Homes
190 E Main Street, Smithtown
631-724-9500
551 Route 25A, Miller Place
631-744-9700
2115 Jericho Tpke., Commack
631-493-7200

St. James Funeral Home

829 Middle Country Road
631-584-5200

HEALTH | FITNESS

Family & Personal Counseling
Hypnosis and Weight Loss |
Grief Support
872 Middle Country Road
631-758-8290
FamilyAndPersonalCounseling.com

Simply Natural Solutions

Wellness Consultations
Terri Pace | 631-487-1627
simply.natural@optimum.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Closets by Design
800-293-3744

Eddies Power Equipment

553 Lake Avenue
631-584-6678

Hannett Construction

631-585-1279

Klaus Roofing Systems

631-910-6223

Morecraft Construction

631-584-7010

P. DeBlasio Builders

273 Lake Avenue
631-584-5500

Scotty's Masonry

631-872-1076

Triple H Contracting

631-230-1844

Vazac Contracting

333 First Avenue, Suite 1
631-584-7817

INSURANCE

SA Health Plans | Medicare
Sandra Altan
670 Middle Country Road
631-769-1584

INTERIOR DESIGN

Natalie Weinstein
Design Associates
455-459 Lake Avenue
631-862-6198

JEWELRY

St. James Jewelry Shoppe
483 Lake Avenue
631-862-6775

LANDSCAPING

Design | Maintenance
Homestead Landscaping
631-588-5296

MEDICAL

Premier Hearing Aid Center
22 Southern Blvd., Nesconset
631-972-5211
premierhearingaidcenter.com

MUSIC LESSONS

Drum Lessons
with John Miceli
email: teachingdrums@yahoo.com

REAL ESTATE

DeBarbieri Associates
406 North Country Road
631-862-7447

Daniel Gale | Sotheby's

Bonnie Glenn | 631-921-1494
Christa Glenn | 631-621-6763
81 Route 111, Smithtown

Daniel Gale | Sotheby's

Marianne Koke | 631-335-7111
81 Route 111, Smithtown

David & Rowena Nedvin

Signature Premier Properties
7 West Main Street, Smithtown
631-767-5221 | 631-360-2800

DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

The following is a list of advertisers who can be found in this issue of *Our Town • St. James*

List2Sell

631-809-8566
516-578-8200
list2sellny.com

Maria Orlandi

Compass Smithtown
631-697-0474

RESTAURANTS

Voila The Bistro

244 Lake Ave.,
516-584-5686

SWIMMING POOLS

Northway Pools

631-862-8925

Power Pool Care

631-979-POOL

Sundance Swimming Pools

631-862-1900



Summer Fruit Memories

continued from page 60
sitting on the peeling wooden bench beneath the shade tree. At that moment, it felt as though nothing in the world could possibly be better.

That watermelon became a symbol of summer, freedom from schedules, and the closeness of family traditions that we looked forward to every year.

"Never eat the rind!" my mother would call out every single time a slice was handed to someone. "You'll get sick."

Along with every slice of watermelon came a slice of my mother's pessimism. It was her annual mantra, much like her other favorite warning, "Don't go in the water until an hour after you eat."

These are the simple, warm memories of a lifetime ago, when families came together to enjoy each other's company on a warm summer day in a beautiful park on the south shore of Long Island. Looking back now, I realize it wasn't just the watermelon that made those picnics so special. It was the love, the traditions, and the joy of simply being together.

OFFICE FOR RENT

542 NORTH COUNTRY RD.
SAINT JAMES, NY 11780



2 offices and large reception area.
New heat and AC.

Call Debby for info. 631-523-1700

Luxury With Every Drive.

For more than six decades, our family-owned Mercedes-Benz dealership has proudly served the Long Island community with unparalleled dedication and expertise. At Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown we've built our reputation on a foundation of trust, exceptional service, and a commitment to exceeding our customers' expectations.

Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown

630 Middle Country Rd
St. James, NY 11780
877.862.7343
mbofsmithtown.com



EXPRESS SERVICE
WHILE YOU WAIT



PICK-UP &
DELIVERY SERVICE



COMPLIMENTARY
COURTESY VEHICLES

Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown



PROUD MEMBER OF THE COMPETITION AUTO GROUP
FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1962

Mercedes-Benz
of Smithtown

