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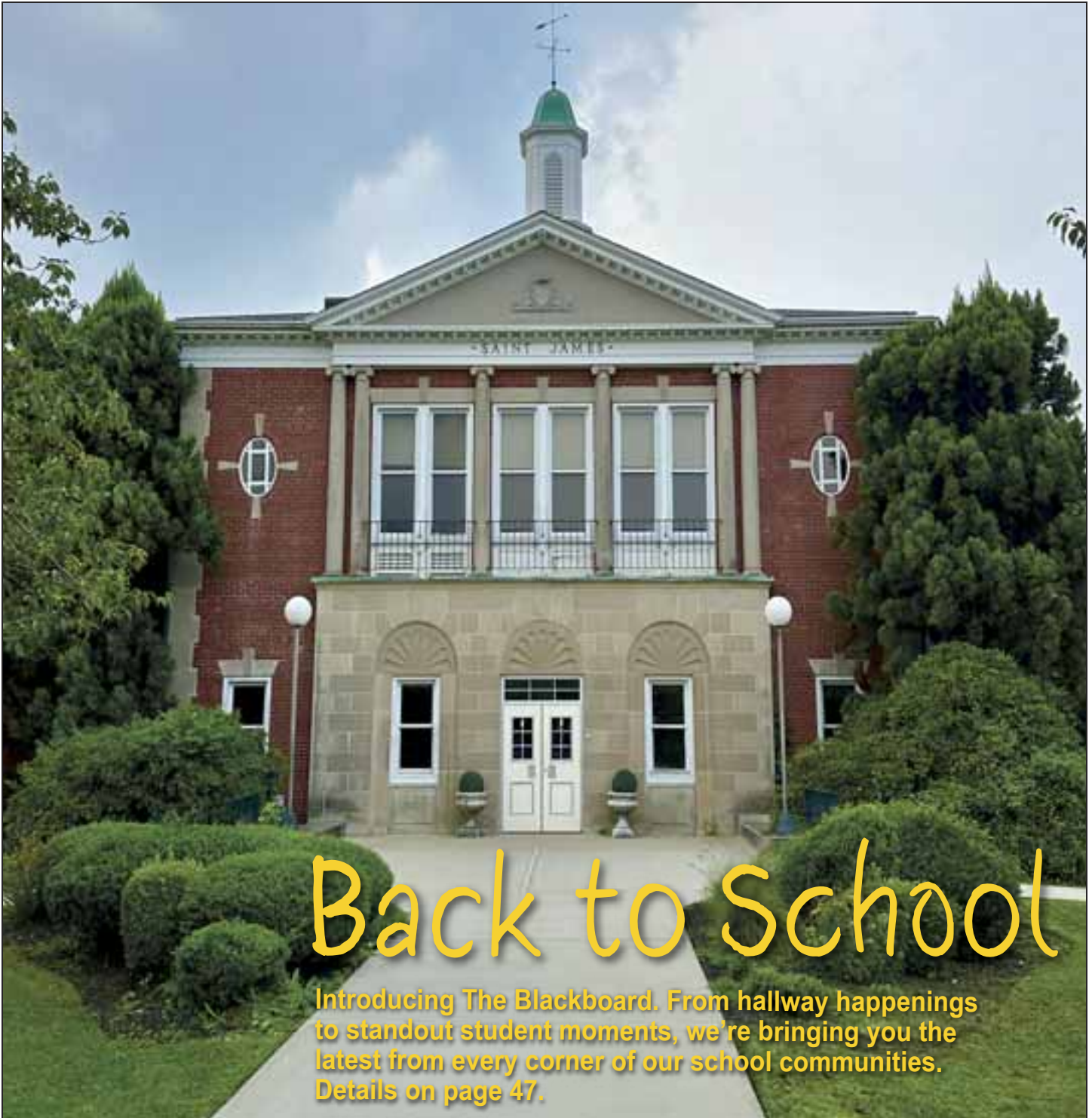
SEPTEMBER
2025

Volume 38
Number 4

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



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OUR TOWN

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PLEASE NOTE:

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Distribution takes place on **September 26, 2025.**

MERCHANT SPOTLIGHT

St. James BP - Service Center

"Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines!" Wait, not starting? Running a bit rough? Need some repairs, maintenance or restoration? Well, St. James BP (St. James Service Center) located at the corner of North Country Road and Moriches Road, has been serving the community for over 50 years!

Steve Bongiorno has never done anything else but work on cars. He started at just 14 years old. He now owns the business, which includes a four-bay garage, convenience store, bait and tackle shop and the BP gasoline service. Working with Steve in the garage are Mark, Jack and Eric, who had one of his rare days off during this interview.

Their reputation has spread far and wide with customers coming from the east end of Long Island to the upstate area. No wonder! What do they specialize in? You name it! Regular maintenance in order to keep your vehicle healthy for years to come - check. Every kind of engine repair - check. Plastics repair - check. Partial restorations - check. Full frame off restorations - check. The checks just keep on coming.

Walking around the garage shows the depth of their work and how deep their expertise runs. An



MG frame sits on the lift being restored. An older Toyota truck is in for maintenance. Vehicles of all sorts are there for some expert treatment. They've especially built a reputation dealing with the Land Cruiser. St. James BP are Toyota specialists and BMWs are also frequent guests.

So whether your car's tank is empty, your tank is empty, your fishing tackle box is empty or you need any sort of repair, maintenance or restoration, this is the place to go.

St. James BP Service Center is located at 525 North Country Road. Phone: 631-584-5798.



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556 North Country Road, St. James



Blissful Beauty, 466 Moriches Road, St. James

ACTIVE



35 Monterrey Drive, Saint James | 5 BD | 4 BA | 4,960 SF | \$1,499,000

Prestigious gated community with country-club amenities. Beautifully maintained colonial with gracious layout, two-story great room with fireplace, and gourmet chef's kitchen in one of Long Island's premier neighborhoods.

PENDING



4 Pheasant Run, Nissequogue
4 BD | 5 BA | 5,900 SF | \$5,375,000

Timeless sophistication meets the natural beauty of the Long Island Sound. Enjoy water views, and direct access to the shore. Classic architecture blends with modern luxury in an open layout featuring custom millwork, an in-ground pool, and refined finishes. Experience the best of waterfront living.

SOLD



601 Moriches Road, Nissequogue
6 BD | 6 BA | 5,000 SF | \$3,499,000

Newly constructed with the finest custom millwork and materials. This exquisite colonial sits on 2.55 pristine acres and is a masterpiece of opulent design and luxury living. Just over an hour from New York City yet near all the upscale amenities of The Village. Quaint shops, fine dining and vineyards.



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Celebrate St. James – Past-Present-Future

News From the St. James Community Cultural Arts Center

by Natalie Weinstein, President

Celebrate St. James is celebrating its Phase 1 of construction (roof and stage stabilization)! Thanks to a matching grant from the RDL Gardiner Foundation and two wonderful benefactors, we are on our way to creating the St. James Community Cultural Arts!



Former Art Gallery



Roof - Before



Exposing stage area



Roof Parking Lot - August 11
Roofing underlayment in preparation for metal roof



Steel supporting beam to stabilize second floor



**Stage open
to second floor**



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Now more than ever, the right agent makes all the difference — because in today's real estate market, experience isn't optional, it's everything.



Nissequoque, NY

All-brick estate on 10.6 acres with 700 ft. of private Long Island Sound shoreline. Features marble entry, floating staircase, wood floors, custom millwork, and 6 bedrooms. Highlights include banquet-sized rooms, 4 fireplaces, wine cellar, sun porch, gunite pool with pool house, and landscaped grounds with two seawalls. MLS# 861150. \$9,999,880.



St. James, NY

Stately 6-bedroom, 5.5-bath Colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac with 10 ft. ceilings, 2-story foyer, Brazilian cherry floors, spacious flowing formal rooms, sunlit living spaces, luxurious primary suite, and fully finished walk-out basement. Landscaped backyard with inground pool and lush gardens. MLS# 877560. \$2,149,000.



Head of Harbor, NY

Sprawling Ranch with extensive updates, set on 2.6 level acres near Stony Brook Harbor and Village. Offers an open floor plan with vaulted ceilings, wood floors, granite kitchen with stainless appliances, great room with fireplace, finished basement, and beautifully landscaped grounds. MLS# 874712. \$1,439,000.



East Islip, NY

Diamond 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath Colonial on a private fully fenced 1/2 acre lot. Features designer details, gourmet kitchen, great room with custom built-ins, formal dining and living rooms, and 2-car garage. Backyard includes in-ground saltwater pool, Trex deck, patio and fire pit. MLS# 896485. \$1,199,000.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

"I am truly grateful for the exceptional service Bonnie and Christa provided throughout the sale of my home. From start to finish, they were outstanding—professional, patient, and completely dedicated to making the process as smooth and successful as possible. They kept me informed every step of the way, always taking the time to answer my questions with care and making sure I felt confident and supported. Their genuine commitment to their clients is evident in every interaction. If you're looking for knowledgeable, dedicated, and caring realtors, I highly recommend Bonnie and Christa."

- Lindsey Gelling

Experience Counts. Results Matter.



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Head of Harbor, NY
MLS# 847931. \$2,699,000.

PENDING SALE



Head of Harbor, NY
MLS# 884127. \$1,249,000.

PENDING SALE



Nissequogue, NY
MLS# 878416. \$2,799,000.

JUST SOLD



Nissequogue, NY
MLS# L3574321. \$1,349,000.

PENDING SALE



Nissequogue, NY
MLS# 803187. \$945,000.
Listing Provided by Douglas Elliman

PENDING SALE



Smithtown, NY
MLS# 862437. \$969,000.

JUST SOLD



St. James, NY
MLS# 822612. \$1,450,000.

PENDING SALE



St. James, NY
MLS# 872153. \$1,099,000.

PENDING SALE



Stony Brook, NY
MLS# 891102. \$550,000.

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The Right Agent Makes All The Difference.

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AROUND TOWN

From Sonar to Sirens – The Life of Marty Thompson

by Amy Biondi

For more than four decades, Marty Thompson has worn two uniforms; each stitched with service, sacrifice and unshakeable love for his hometown and community. As a veteran police officer and dedicated volunteer fireman, Marty has spent a lifetime answering the call – whether it was a helping hand, a safety check, life impacting emergency or smoky chimney. But ask him about it and he will simply reply, “It’s what you do for your community.”

Marty may have arrived in Saint James as a sixth grader with a Brooklyn accent but still doesn’t feel that qualifies him to be a “Saint James Blue Blood.” Born in Bay Ridge in a predominately Irish/Norwegian/Puerto Rican community, Marty often rode the old steam locomotive out east to Saint James to visit his grandmother who lived in a



small bungalow on Cambon Avenue, eventually moving here permanently with his family. Over the next sixty plus years he would become one of its most dependable protectors, serving as both a police officer and volunteer fireman.

From a young age Marty was

captivated by the stories of valor beneath the sea, thanks to the television series *The Silent Service*, which chronicled the daring missions of World War II submariners in the Pacific. Determined to follow in their wake, he joined the Navy Reserve at just 16 years old, setting his sights on submarine and sonar school. His time in the Navy not only fulfilled a childhood dream but also sparked a new calling: public service on land. After completing his active duty, Marty began taking civil service exams for both police and fire departments, eager to continue serving his community. He would remain in the Naval Reserve for an impressive 26 years, laying the foundation for a life dedicated to duty, discipline and protection.

Though the NYPD was the first to call him, Marty held out for a closer
continued on page 14

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AROUND TOWN

The Life of Marty Thompson

continued from page 12
post with Suffolk County, which soon followed. When the New York Fire Department reached out, he faced a tough decision, but his love for the uniform and the call to law enforcement won out. He spent two years working with the District Attorney's office, but his heart remained with the 4th Precinct, where he spent the majority of his 30 plus year career, ultimately retiring as a respected lieutenant. He fulfilled his dream of being a fireman by joining the St. James Fire Department, where he became one of only three members to have held every rank – from Lieutenant to Commissioner. Even after retirement he still continues to service the community working as a part time police officer in the Village of Head of the Harbor, where he is a familiar and respected presence to residents and passersby alike.



When asked about his greatest influences, Marty fondly recalled his "Sea-Daddy" from the Navy – Jim Thompson, a first-class petty officer and fellow sonar technician. Jim quietly mentored Marty through

example rather than authority. He was the first to instill in him the value of doing something right – not just getting it done. The two remained close for years until Jim's passing. On a deeper, spiritual level Marty credits a woman named Vera Manuel with shaping his understanding of Jesus Christ, a gift that has stayed with him throughout his life.

When he is not working, Marty Thompson can be found fishing, golfing or hunting – often splitting his time between Florida in the winter and his lake house up north. For him, there has never been a bad time to drop a line, especially when reminiscing about casting off at Cordwood Park or Stony Brook Harbor. His approach to hunting is rooted in respect for nature – he only hunts what he consumes and teaches hunter education courses

continued on page 72

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697 Short Beach Road, Nissequogue | Available – \$7,200,000.
Soundview Haven is situated on 11.2 acres of verdant lawn, lush plant life and mature trees in the picturesque Village of Nissequogue. Perfectly nestled on the property with magical views of the Long Island Sound and 332 ft. of beachfront, this stunning Estate is truly one-of-a-kind. MLS# L3587428.



263 North Country Road, Smithtown | Available – \$649,000.
Welcome to this beautifully updated Ranch-style home offering comfort, character, and convenience. Inside, find refinished wood floors and freshly painted interiors. This home features a guest suite ideal for multigenerational living, making it as practical as it is charming. MLS# 884806.



32 Kings Park Road, Commack | Available – \$739,000.
Charming and well-maintained Split Level home featuring a bright living room with wood floors and crown molding, a remodeled kitchen, and a cozy den with a wood-burning fireplace. Includes 3 bedrooms, a partial basement, new gas heating and central air, and a new cesspool. MLS# 895767.



26 Grove Avenue, Saint James | Pending – \$1,599,000.
New construction Hampton-style Colonial on a flat half acre of property. Carefully designed, embodying luxury in every room. The open floor plan is well suited for the avid entertainer as well as for everyday comfortable living. You will immediately notice the details the moment you enter. MLS# 852840.



2 The Spout, Smithtown | Pending – \$1,200,000.
Tucked away on a beautifully landscaped acre of flowering trees and carefully planned gardens, this Yablonski-built Farm Ranch is near both Hamlets of Smithtown and Saint James. This home merges character with modern updates to offer a space that's both stylish and welcoming. MLS# 875664.



284 Bow Drive, Hauppauge | Pending – \$759,000.
Discover the charm of this classic Colonial home which offers the perfect blend of comfort and convenience. The home offers newer roof, central air and gas heat. The backyard features a deck and heated salt water inground pool surrounded by concrete patio, great for relaxing. MLS# 859439.



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Thank You!
TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE
DEEPWELLS MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025
RED, WHITE & BLUE JAM - *You Rock!*
What an incredible day at Deepwells Mansion!

We at the Deepwells Farm Historical Society are overwhelmed with gratitude after another amazing Music Festival! As a 100% volunteer-run organization, it's truly remarkable what we're able to accomplish together—with just a few dedicated board members and a small but MIGHTY group of volunteers. We simply couldn't do it without you!

The love we all share for this historic mansion was on full display on July 12th—in every detail, every smiling face, and in the incredible turnout! It was a beautiful day filled with...
Community, Music, and Joy.



A huge thank-you to the outstanding bands who lit up our 'porch' stage: Vinyl Revival, Black and Blue - Rolling Stones Tribute, Stoned Temple Project, and "Freebird" The Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute—you all brought your A-game and delivered a spectacular show! And to Don Audio Sound, thank you for keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes all day.

Special thanks to Bryan Preble, for his powerful and heartfelt performance of the Star-Spangled Banner—you kicked off the day with pride and spirit! We are also incredibly grateful to Eddy's Power Equipment of St. James, LaVita Massage in St. James and CLS Sales of Holbrook for your generous support and donation. And thank you to Rich Balter Photography for capturing the spirit of the day so beautifully.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to Suffolk County for their continued partnership and stewardship of this historic property. It's through this collaboration that we're able to host events like these, helping raise funds to preserve and maintain Deepwells Mansion for generations to come.

Thanks to our vendors, our raffle kids and to everyone who came out, donated, bought raffles, or simply showed up - Your support fuels everything we do! And to the St James Chamber of Commerce who is always there to lend a helping hand. Together, we're preserving the past and creating unforgettable memories for the future—right here at Deepwells.

With heartfelt thanks,
The Deepwells Farm Historical Society

An Historic Home Gets an Historic Renovation



Nestled in the picturesque pines and lush landscape of St James lies the historic estate of Deepwells Farm. Built in 1845, the original estate covered over 50 acres, encompassing the still existing St James General Store, and the two 125-foot deep, brick-lined wells from which it's name is derived. The mansion, once home to former New York City Mayor William J. Gaynor, was constructed in the vein of 19th-century Greek Revival architecture and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Over the years, through both private and public ownership, the house endured periods of disrepair. In the 1980s the house was acquired by Suffolk County and slowly re-

stored it to its former glory.

In 2007, the County employed full-time employees to oversee and maintain the house, but eventually budgetary constraints forced the county to remove those employees. The plan was, once again, to close the house. The

Park Commissioner at the time, Ron Foley, addressed a number of concerned citizens and shared the bleak news about the mansion's future. He opened the door for a co-operative arrangement between the County and a local organization willing to support the property.

Motivated to prevent the mansion from slipping back into its state of extreme disrepair and a desire to continue to see the property used for the benefit of the community, the Deepwells Farm Historical Society was formed. The County was a crucial partner in the venture and guided the



group through the transformation. The Historical Society is an all volunteer group that is in contract with the county to run, maintain, repair and utilize the property. Deepwells Farm County Park, as it became known, is owned by the County and under the responsibility of Suffolk County Parks and Historic Services, led by Richard Martin. This almost two decade-old relationship has proven to be an ideal partnership between government and private citizens.

Now for some BIG news!

The Historical Society has been very busy with extensive repairs to the mansion's interior and exterior over the past few months. (See pictures). One of the most exciting projects is the restoration of the corner at 25A and Moriches Road.



Under careful guidance of the County, they will be reclaiming the overgrown corner and restoring it to a much more accurate representation of

the past. This will result in making that crucial space in St. James much more attractive. Construction and landscaping began in August.

These and other projects are funded by the efforts of the Deepwells Farm Historical Society Board of Directors. The board includes

continued on facing page 20

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\$1,349,000.



MOUNT SINAI ELEGANT POST MODERN "WATERVIEW"

Diamond ++ brick colonial, quality thru-out. custom moldings, HW floors & high ceilings (9', 11' & 18'), grand 2 story entry foyer, large gourmet EIK w/granite, maple cabs & SS appls. First floor primary suite, FLR & DR w/frplc. Home office w/private entrance. 4 BRs, 3 full baths, 2 half baths. full bsmnt, low line septic. Two 275 gal oil tanks. Andersen thermo windows w/transom windows. CAC, 200 amp electric w/generator hook up only, hydronic heating. 3 car side entry garage. One level acre, large koi pond w/2 waterfalls, cul-de-sac. must see!

\$1,700,000.



SMITHTOWN VILLAGE OF THE BRANCH "CUSTOM CONTEMPORIZED COLONIAL"

Two story entrance foyer, vaulted ceilings, two car side entry garage & 3/4 unfinished basement. This 3 BR, 2 1/2 bath home has a den w/wood burning fireplace & large EIK. Two zone Burham furnace w/Riello head, CAC, 200 amp electric, public water. Arch. roof +/- 5 years old, inground sprinklers, cedar wood & fieldstone siding, blacktop half circular driveway, large bi level rear deck & level private evergreen screened rear yard, cul-de-sac.

\$885,000.



ST. JAMES "CUSTOM VICTORIAN STYLE"

6 BR, 5 bath Colonial. Custom mahogany front door. FDR/hardwood floors. 9' ceilings. Updated open chefs EIK w/granite tops, Viking cooktop, double convection ovens. Central air, central vac, 200+ amp electric. Bsmnt. 3 car det. garage. Bucolic level fenced rear yard.64 acre. Covered Lanai, Trex decking. Nat. Grid gas heat. So much more! Potential M/D w/proper permits. Must see!

\$1,275,000.



STONY BROOK "MEDICAL OFFICE CONDO"

Prestigious brick bldg in medical park. Former periodontist office, includes office furniture & high end Interior finishes. Reception area, waiting room, 3 exam rooms, office & lab room. 1.5 baths. Full basement, partially finished. Gas heat, CAC, Ample parking. Diamond condition.

\$329,000.



ST. JAMES "TOTALLY RENOVATED COLONIAL"

3 BR, 2.5 bath home with primary suite on 1st floor, 2 large BRs on 2nd floor, on .25 acre, with Azek front and vinyl siding, thermopane windows, architectural roof, covered front porch with Trex decking. Wide plank wood floors, brand new Shaker style kitchen cabinets and quartz counter tops with new SS appls. New LED hi-hat lighting, 2 new bathrooms, nat. grid gas heat, Navien hot water, rear Trex deck. 200 amp electric, blacktop driveway, unfin. basement. Whole house fan. Must see!

\$749,000.



CALL FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS

An Historic Home Gets An Historic Renovation

continued from page 18

Scott Posner, Denise Davis, Karen Richardi, Amy Biondi, Denise Wladyska, Kathy Weber and Katrina Hayward. Their efforts have supported the following projects; shutter restoration, interior floor refinishing, carpet replacement, flag pole replacement, east garden restoration, lawn restoration behind



house, outdoor sprinklers, attic window grate restoration, cupola restoration, fence replacement along Moriches Road, ongoing window repairs, new hot water heater, new sinks and toilets in bathrooms, purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), front garden restoration, hedge trimming, event seats (replaced twice), all new lights in the General Store (which the Historical Society has included in it's responsibilities, new exterior LED lighting, driveway stone replacement, regraded and repaired drainage around the west side of the house, interior decorative rosette restoration and replacement, ongoing plaster repairs, new basement stairs, replace signif-

icant amount of exterior siding, new mahogany ramp behind the house and tread repair on east side of house, internal lighting upgrades in kitchen and dining rooms and much more to come. As notes by board member Scott Posner, "having responsibility for an old house entails endless maintenance!"

Among other events, the Historical Society produces the annual Haunted House that provides a significant portion of the revenue needed to accomplish their goals. This event has grown over the years from 1 volunteer to well over their current members of 100. Thanks to this incredibly dedicated group of volunteers, they are able to accomplish a great deal at Deepwells.

The mission of the Historical Society is to ensure that



of Commerce for their continued support through the years. The Historical Society is very proud of the public and private

partnership that has helped Deepwells flourish through time and that will hopefully continue in the future.

DEEPWELLS MANSION

2 Taylor Lane

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Follow on Facebook at Deepwells Farm Historical Society for more information.



Deepwells remains a Cultural Center for the community, keeping an open window to the past while utilizing the property for the benefit of the residents of St. James and Suffolk County. The group is thankful to the St. James Chamber



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AROUND TOWN

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The St. James General Store – A St. James Treasure

by Scott Posner

Back in the day, permission slips from Elementary School were eagerly presented at home in order to make the annual “big” trip to the St. James General Store. The trip today from East Northport to St. James seems much smaller. However, the grandness of the General Store remains. We emptied our piggy-banks and filled our pockets with the change that would then be used for a myriad of fabulous old-time candy.

The St. James General Store is a jewel in our town. First opened in 1857 by Ebenezer Smith, a descendant of Richard “Bull” Smith, it remains the longest running store in America. Its location, in the heart of St. James, had about thirty houses that were mostly concentrated along Moriches Road, Three Sisters Road and Harbor Hill Road.

In the 1840’s, Ebenezer lived in the hamlet of Smithtown known as Sherawogge. He headed west with an assortment of goods packed on horseback to trade with Native Americans and settlers in the Mississippi River Valley. After building a successful store out west called the Ebenezer and Everett’s Store, he returned home to Sherawogge, which was by then called St. James in honor of the local Episcopal Church.

Much of the history of St. James during this period is associated with the store. Here, the residents purchased yard goods, kitchen wares,



medicine, shoes, horse medicine, tobacco, groceries, hardware, and more. Since the Post Office was located within this store, it became a central meeting place where the townsfolk gathered to wait for the mail, catch up with the local gossip and keep in touch with the world. There were even parties, dances and seasonal celebrations held in the large upstairs room. When the first telephone in the village was installed at the store, it became even more of a community center.

THE EARLY RESIDENTS

Most of the early settlers of St. James were farmers. The soil was rich in the area and crops thrived in

the fields. Some families, however, made their living by cutting cordwood and hauling it down to the dock at the end of Cordwood Path, a site that is still a short distance from the store. Others harvested shellfish, particularly scallops, soft clams and oysters taken from Stony Brook Harbor. They shipped their catch by schooners to New York City.

Many men also served as captains and sailors on various trading vessels. A cargo of shellfish or cordwood was taken to New York City and traded for the City's abundant horse manure brought back to enrich the farmer's fields. There were also some who worked at shipbuilding. Whatever their labor, these families depended upon the General Store for goods and services.

THE CELEBRITIES

In 1873, the railroad arrived in St. James. Immediately, there was fear that the area would fall into the hands of land speculators. That fear, however, never materialized. Instead, a diverse cast of personalities from New York City discovered St. James.

According to local history, Willie Collier, a famous silent actor and playwright was enjoying a bicycle trip from New York City with a few friends. They all stopped to rest in St. James and found the area to be charming. Mr. Collier eventually set

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The St. James General Store – A St. James Treasure

continued from page 24

up a summer estate and many famous people followed his lead.

The old store ledgers show the names of William Gaynor (Mayor of New York), Stanford White (world famous architect), Frank McNish, Lionel Barrymore, Virginia Lee and Joe Flynn (actors). Later these early stars and personalities were followed by others such as Ethel and John Barrymore, Lillian Russel, Maud Adams, Buster Keaton, Myrna Loy, Ruth Roman, Irving Berlin and Heavyweight Champion James J. Corbett. These and many other celebrities signed in at the register of the old General Store, mingling with the farmers, fishermen and tradesmen of the town. In more recent years, James Earl Jones filmed a Bell Atlantic commercial on the front porch of the St. James General

Store.

As the calendar turned from the 1800s to the 1900s, Everett Smith, Ebenezer's son, ran the store. He was a man who could be as colorful a personality as his ancestors. Everett was a prominent Republican and saw to it that all Republican parades commenced from the front porch of the store.

There is also a story that Everett Smith, as a courtesy, stepped outside to deliver mail to women on horseback who did not want to dismount from their horses to go into the store. After a while, he tired of dashing in and out of the store. He posted a sign stating; "People on horseback must enter store for mail." One day, a woman entered the store for her mail – on horseback!

An additional old story tells us that architect Stanford White frequently used the telephone to conduct his business. One day, a storm arose quickly while he was at the store. He finished his call and stood quietly on the porch to watch the lightning. Soon, he walked away and when he was a safe distance from the store, a bolt of lightning struck the phone he had just used.

INTO MODERN TIMES

In 1940, Everett Smith passed away. His father-in-law Karl Ericson, assumed the duties of storekeeper.

Mr. Ericson maintained the store until he was ninety years old.

In 1959 Louise and Andrew Havriski saved the store from a fate as a residence. They maintained the integrity of this landmark with business and service to the community including the preservation of an historic establishment destined to become a living bridge between past and present. In 1980, the store was owned by John and Eleanor Oakley who were also aware of its historic nature. They were concerned that this landmark would become destroyed or misused.

In July of 1990 the 133 year-old general store was purchased in a joint preservation effort between the Suffolk County Department of Parks and New York State. The State bestowed a \$110,000 grant to make the purchase possible.

Today, the store reflects a period between 1880 and 1910. Sales women dressed in Gibson Girl outfits are eager to answer questions about the store's history or to point out the many museum pieces that highlight the rooms. Artifacts from the Victorian time period line the shelves, mingled with the large assortment of merchandise for sale. There are displays of ledgers and old photographs in museum cases. The St. James General Store is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

continued on facing page



A R O U N D T O W N



continued

Throughout the years the old store has resisted the changes of progress. It is unchanged structurally since 1894. The original counters and cases, the post office, coffee grinder, tea canisters, pot belly stove, barrels, old checkerboard, and many other items remain to permit visitors to look at the Long Island of the Nineteenth Century.

Today, the store is in the capable hands of "Store Keeper" Stephanie Potts who joined the staff 2 years ago. She is in the center of the photo with team members Bernadette Davis, who joined the staff in 2006. Pat Rohr has been with the store since 1991. Also, behind the counter, you will find Madeline Hoffmann and Doris Cavutu who both have been with the store since 1990. They are a very dedicated crew who all LOVE working at the store and eagerly welcome visitors of all ages. The other photo shows veteran store employee Madeline Hoffmann with new employee, St. James' own Emily Moylan.

When asked what makes the store such a special place, they enthusiastically shared that walking through the door is a wondrous step back in time. A magical place where the bedlam of today is replaced by the nostalgia of a time long past. Where every sense will be engaged – the sound, the smell and the feeling will convince you that a time portal has opened up before you.

Want proof that a true marvel still exists? Find your way over to the St. James General Store. Step in and explore the 2 floors of merchandise dispersed among an impressive display of antiques – helping to keep the past alive. You can even see where the mail was sorted and get a feel for the life the store brought to a very young St. James.

The St. James General Store is located at 516 Moriches Rd., St. James, NY 11780. They are open 7 days a week from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

For information call (631) 854-3740 or you can visit www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Parks/Historic-Sites/St-James-General-Store



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AROUND TOWN

Remembering the Tennis Legend From St. James

by Richard B. Smith

The next time you either go to, or drive by, Gaynor Park in St. James, take notice of the tennis courts that have been beautifully restored by the Town Parks Department. These courts are the landmark of the legend that once practiced here decades ago as a young boy, and rose to the top ranks in tennis.

There have been many gifted athletes from St. James over the years, some who have gone on to be highly successful collegiates, and others who have pursued professional careers. But there is one whose great achievements are little



In this photo; Embree Rockwell, Charles D. Miller, Gene Scott, Richard B. Smith – future Mayor and authors of this article, and Leighton “Pate” Coleman at the dedication of the new tennis courts at the Knox School in the early 1980s.



remembered today in St. James.

Eugene “Gene” Scott, born in 1937, was a gifted all-around athlete. He graduated from Yale in 1960, and while there, was a varsity letterman in soccer, ice hockey, lacrosse and tennis. It was his mastery in tennis that carried him to international acclaim and earned him entry into the Tennis Hall of

Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.

Although excelling in many sports, it was tennis that was his true love. As a young boy, Gene would wait for his father to get home from work to take him to Gaynor Park to practice his game until darkness fell. He would occasionally write of those early years, continued on page 30

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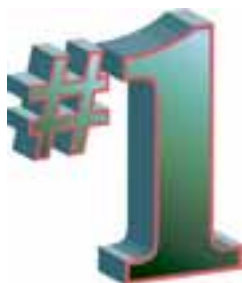
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Remembering the Tennis Legend From St. James

continued from page 28
playing with his father on the old cement courts with a chain link fence net at Gaynor Park.

For most of his playing career, Gene competed as an amateur, only turning pro in 1968 at the age of 31. He competed in his first tournament in 1951 at the young age of 14. Truly a prodigy. Gene reached his highest U.S. ranking in 1963 at #4 and by 1967 was ranked #11. Among the major tournaments he competed in, Gene reached the semi-finals of the 1967 U.S. National Championship (which became the U.S. Open the following year) and three years prior in 1964, reached the quarterfinals of the French Open.

As a member of the U.S. Davis Cup Team during the 1960s, he was friends with, and a roommate with, Arthur Ashe. In 1963, his singles and doubles victories helped the U.S. team win the Davis Cup that year.

Well into his 60s, Gene remained a highly competitive player, maintaining a high ranking within his age group. In 2002, he competed in, and won, the USTA Men's 65 Clay Court Championship. Two years later, in 2004, he won the USTA Mens 65 Grass Court Championship. He followed that success by winning the International Tennis Federation Mens Super Senior World Individual Championship in the age 65 division.

Besides his decades-long playing career, Gene was a major and influential contributor within the tennis world. He was the founder, editor and publisher of *Tennis Week*, the industry bible. He was foremost a champion of players at all levels and worked to expand access to the game for all interested. In his editorials, he would occasionally write of his experience as a boy playing with his father in the old courts at Gaynor Park. He was considered the "conscience of the tennis business."

Always a great ambassador for tennis, Gene was asked to create an



ATP tournament in Moscow. Working with Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia at the time, he founded The Kremlin Cup, a mid-level ATP tournament which ran from 1990 to 2021. He was also the director of numerous tournaments in New Jersey and New York. In 1969, he was a co-founder of the National Tennis League and mentored young players, including John McEnroe and Vita Gerulaitis.

For older readers who might remember the 1973 "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs held in the Houston Astrodome, Gene was a television commentator along with Howard Cosell, Frank Gifford and Rosemary Casals.

Having earned a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1964, Gene was also a practicing attorney with his practice in New York City, somehow finding time for his tennis activities and for his family. Gene's immediate family included his wife Polly, and their two children, Lucy and Sam. His mother, Dorothy, was a writer, and his father, Lytton, was the treasurer of the Eastern Tennis Association in the 1960s. In the early 1960s, Lytton served as the mayor of Nissequogue village.

Gene's grandfather Dr. Eugene Sullivan was the inventor of Pyrex glassware and was the Chairman of Corning Glassworks.

What a career-world ranked player, tournament director, author, publisher, commentator and mentor – always spreading the good news about tennis for over five decades. Sadly, Gene passed away in 2006 at the age of 68 from amyloidosis. Two years later in 2008, Gene was inducted in the contributor category into the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) in Newport, Rhode Island. His widow, Polly, with family present, gave a most meaningful acceptance speech highlighting not only his major accomplishments, but his ardent, tireless work for the sport of tennis. Since 2006, the ITHF annually presents the Eugene L. Scott Award to an individual who embodies Gene's ethical commitment to the game and who has had significant impact on the tennis world.

Let us work on having our Town Parks Department place a memorial plaque at the Gaynor Park tennis courts to honor the ten year old boy who took the lessons he learned on them to unimaginable heights.

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Japan

Why visit Japan? One reason is that it is halfway around the world, but it is 180 degrees different from the western world. It looks different, sounds different, and its culture is different.

We arrived in Tokyo's Ginza, which is very much like Times Square – crowded, ultra modern and neon. We visited a department store where we were transfixed by the beautiful and artistic displays of food.

That afternoon, we visited the Meiji shrine where we witnessed a

Shinto ceremony. Religion in Japan is evenly divided between the two main faiths, Shintoism and Buddhism. Shinto rituals involve worshipping ancestors and nature. Buddhism's basic tenets are belief in the Four Noble Truths, and the goal of Buddhism is to overcome suffering caused by desire.

On to Mount Fuji, also known as Fujiyama which is 12,388 feet high and so majestic. We were lucky to have a beautiful clear day and saw it in all its glory.

We spent a night at a ryokan.

After removing our shoes and donning special slippers, we changed into our yukatas (robes) and were treated to a fabulous kaiseki dinner.



Then we went to the onsen (hot spring bath where men and women bathe in separate areas. You undress and leave clothes and bath towel in a basket. You wash thoroughly, then go to the communal big soaking pool. No modesty here – and no photographs either!

We visited a workshop in Hakone where an artisan made beautiful objects out of marquetry. He layered different types of wood using an ancient painstaking process.

continued on page 34



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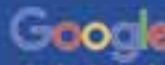
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Japan

continued from page 32

The Hakone Openair Museum exhibits the world's greatest artists such as Dubuffet, Calder and Picasso in a magnificent mountain setting.

Another experience – a bullet (shinkansen) train ride to Kanazawa. The spotless train has reserved seats and is extremely efficient, keeping a schedule to the minute.

We walked around the beautiful city and visited the Kenruen Gardens and the Kanazawa Castle and attended a tea ceremony after which we walked around the Higash-Chaya District where there are many old wooden structures and geisha tea houses.

We feasted at the huge Omi-cho food market and tasted squid jerky and shaved dried seaweed.

Shirakawa is a mountain area with gashi-show style steeply



pitched roofs which protect the houses from the winter snows. They cultivate silk worms here and we made sticky rice buns from scratch, actually grinding the rice into flour.

Kiyoto is the original capital of Japan containing gorgeous temples, such as the Golden Pavilion.

The bullet train took us to Hiroshima, the final lap of our trip. After visiting the beautiful torii at Miyajima, we spent the afternoon at Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park which contains a museum, a cenotaph and a Children's memorial. We were touched to see the Genbaku Dome, the one building left standing to remind us of the devastation.

Our adventure over, this is part of a haiku that I wrote:

Gardens, temples, shrines
Rocks reflect in still water
The young green of spring
Japan, lovely land
Now in our hearts forever
Treasured memories

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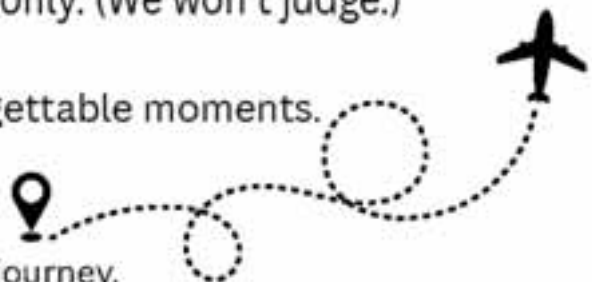
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AUNT MEME'S WISE WORDS

"Stay Out Of Trouble"

This common "Meme" phrase was far from simple. After talking to six people that heard this phrase time after time, we realized that each one of us had a far different interpretation. When I received that message it came with a glint in her eye and a raised eyebrow. My inter-

pretation? Be less afraid of a bit of trouble – get your hands dirty and don't sweat the small stuff.

Someone else took it as relationship advice. Another heard it as a warning to be careful and take care of themselves.

Amazing how a short sentence



delivered by a wise woman can have so many interpretations.

Moral of the story? **"STAY OUT OF TROUBLE"** can have many meanings. It always made each of us feel better knowing that Meme was looking after us and on our side. An example we should all be inspired to follow.

We all need an Aunt Meme in our lives to help guide us with their love, concern, kindness and experience. While we lost Aunt Meme some years ago, her words continue to live on and her knowledge is still being shared by those who knew her best. If you have a question for Aunt Meme feel free to email us at info@ourtownstjames.com and your questions will be answered by the Aunt Meme trained panel of experts.



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know?

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Smithtown Rotary Club News



Each year the Rotary Club serves dinner to campers and staff at Camp Pa Qua Tuck, a Rotary camp for disabled individuals located in Center Moriches. "Service Above Self" is the Rotary motto and they deliver!

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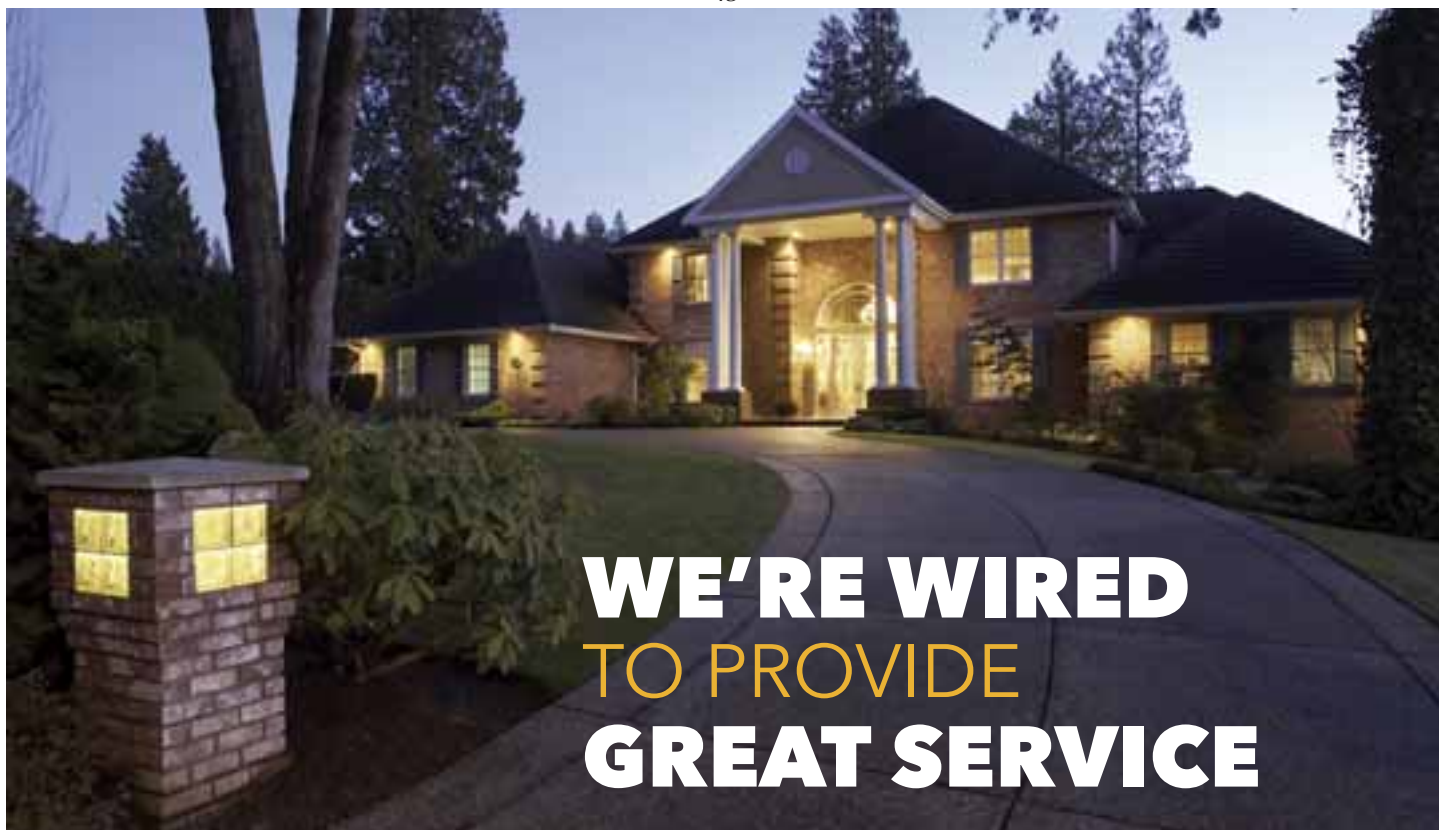
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Pets For Adoption at Smithtown Animal Shelter

Adopt Goldie & Kate

Meet the fabulous mother/daughter duo Goldie & Kate! These exquisite beauties both boast stunning tabby coats; Goldie's is white with magnificent shades of brown, and Kate's is white with stunning hues of gray, giving her a unique and ex-

otic look. Goldie (mom) is approximately four years old, and her daughter "Kitty Kate" was born less than a year ago.

Upon first introduction, you will quickly learn that Goldie adores people and is incredibly outgoing and friendly. She will not hesitate to



approach you enthusiastically, seeking attention and good petting behind her ears. It takes Kate a little longer to warm up. She'll quietly observe her mom interact for a bit until she decides to approach for some love and affection, too. It is extraordinary to witness the endearing dynamic between this beautiful mother and daughter and how much joy they have to offer one lucky family.

This pair will warm your heart and offer a lifetime of cherished memories to share. They are bonded and need to be adopted together. Both would likely fit perfectly in most homes, including those with older children, possibly cats, and calm dogs. Goldie is diabetic and will need a home that can manage that. They both have FIV, which is a minor issue.

If you are interested in meeting Goldie and Kate please fill out an application to schedule time to properly interact with your prospective soul mates in a domestic setting. All of the felines at the Shelter are current on vaccines and have received a full workup (blood work, continued on page 46

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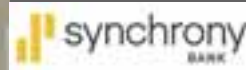


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Colleen has been a professional designer for over a decade. She is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). As a Senior Design Consultant, she has helped hundreds of families across Long Island with their home organizing needs. 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.



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YOU CAN HELP

Pets For Adoption at Smithtown Animal Shelter

continued from page 42
Feline HIV & Leukemia tested,
physical exam etc) by a board certi-
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Foster Opportunity:

If you have no other pets or
young children at home, and are

looking for a way to serve your
community, please consider signing
up to be a foster. Foster parents pro-
vide temporary care for cats,
kittens, and dogs in their own
homes. Some animals need as little
as two weeks of care, while others
may need care for extended periods

of time.

Download the Foster Application
at: <https://www.smithtownny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4325/Foster-Application>



Thinking About Adoption:

The Smithtown Animal Shelter's primary concern is finding the perfect home for each animal that finds his/her way to us. The Animal Control Officers and Kennel Attendants at the Smithtown Animal Shelter will go out of their way to ensure both the rescued and rescuer are made for one another.

Where applicable, residents with other pets can arrange to bring four-legged family members to the shelter or set up an at home meet & greet to see how your prospective family member does with other family, pets and the household itself. Please allow an hour minimum to meet and interact with your potential new family member.

Visitor hours at the Smithtown Animal Shelter are currently Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.. (Sundays and Wednesday evenings: by appointment only). To inquire about the Pet of the Week or to meet your potential soulmate, please call the Smithtown Animal Shelter at 631-360-7575.

For more information regarding our rescue animals available for adoption visit: TownofSmithtownAnimalShelter.com

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Back to School

with

The Blackboard

Introducing Our Town's newest spotlight, a feature celebrating the people, projects, and pride across our K-12 classrooms. From hallway happenings to standout student moments, The Blackboard brings you stories that capture the spirit, energy, and accomplishments of our schools.

Each month, we'll shine a light on the institutions that not only teach, but also inspire and shape the next generation. More than classrooms and textbooks, these schools are the heartbeat of our community, sparking curiosity, fueling creativity, and building character. They guide students toward discovering their passions, mastering skills for a changing world, and carrying values that last long after the final bell rings.

This month's edition features a **welcome message** from our K-12 community leaders and **directory of Long Island colleges and universities**, complete with in-depth profiles of the exceptional institutions right in our backyard, offering a closer look at the opportunities awaiting our future graduates.

Continued on next page



Welcome message from Smithtown Central School District

The Smithtown Central School District is excited to welcome students for the 2025-2026 school year. The district will open its doors for learning on Sept. 2! It's the beginning of a new year full of opportunities to learn, grow and connect.

To stay updated on the happenings within the SCSD, please follow us on social media – X, Instagram and Facebook @smithtowncsd or visit us on our website, www.smithtown.k12.ny.us.

Smithtown Central School District

Accompsett Elementary, 1 Lincoln St, Smithtown, NY 11787, 631-382-4155,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Accompsett-Elementary-School

Dogwood Elementary, 50 Dogwood Dr, Smithtown, NY 11787, 631-382-4255,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Dogwood-Elementary-School

Mills Pond Elementary, 246 Moriches Rd, St James, NY 11780, 631-382-4305,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Mills-Pond-Elementary-School

Mt. Pleasant Elementary, 33 Plaisted Ave, Smithtown, NY 11787, 631-382-4355,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Mt-Pleasant-Elementary-School

Smithtown Elementary, 51 Lawrence Ave, Smithtown, NY 11787, 631-382-4505,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Smithtown-Elementary-School

St. James Elementary, 580 Lake Ave, St James, NY 11780, 631-382-4455,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/St-James-Elementary-School



Tackan Elementary, 99 Midwood Ave, Nesconset, NY 11767, 631-382-2675,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Tackan-Elementary-School

Accompsett Middle School, 660 Meadow Rd, Smithtown, NY 11787, 631-382-2305,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Accompsett-Middle-School

Great Hollow Middle School, 150 Southern Blvd #1, Smithtown, NY 11787, 631-382-2805, www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Great-Hollow-Middle-School

Nesaquake Middle School, 479 Edgewood Ave, St James, NY 11780, 631-382-5105,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Nesaquake-Middle-School

Smithtown High School East, 10 School St, St James, NY 11780, 631-382-2705,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Smithtown-High-School-East

Smithtown High School West, 100 Central Rd, Smithtown, NY 11787, 631-382-2905,
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Schools/Smithtown-High-School-West

Continued on next page

Eat • Drink • Shop • Live



Local

The Blackboard Bulletin

Continued from page



Welcome message from Harbor Country Day School

Harbor Country Day School is a nonprofit, independent private school for children ranging from preschool through eighth grade in Suffolk County, New York.

Harbor students approach learning with confidence that only comes from feeling deeply connected to their teachers. They embrace the rigor of a challenging curriculum because they are taught how to work with purpose, and how to refine self-advocacy skills.

Opportunities for public speaking, community service, athletics, cross-divisional mentoring programs, upper school leadership retreats, and social-emotional learning programs help students realize their full potential as individuals and as leaders. When they leave Harbor, students are fully prepared to master the challenges of secondary school, college, and life beyond.

Harbor is fully accredited by NAIS (the National Association of Independent Schools) and is a member of the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS).



Private: Harbor Country Day School

Harbor Country Day School, 17 Three Sisters Rd, St James, NY 11780, 631-584-5555 www.hcdsny.org



Welcome message from The Knox School

Founded in 1904, The Knox School has been a trusted name in education for more than 120 years and is proud to call the hamlet of St. James its home since the 1950s.

Today, Knox's scenic waterfront campus is recognized as a community landmark, welcoming day students from Long Island's surrounding areas and boarding students from across the nation and around the globe.



The Knox School serves learners in grades 6–12,

along with a postgraduate year, offering a rigorous academic program paired with a strong focus on personal growth. Rooted in compassion, Knox's mission is realized through a personalized, student-centered approach made possible by its intentionally small size—allowing individualized attention, fostering close student-faculty relationships, and ensuring every learner feels seen, heard, and valued.

At Knox, compassion isn't just a word—it's how we teach, coach, and care for our students. Whether a student's passion lies in business or law, science or humanities, arts or athletics, we provide the guidance and opportunities to help each one shine. Our mission is

clear - prepare students for top universities and empower them to become confident, purposeful leaders ready to make a meaningful impact on the world.

With a rich history, a close-knit community, and a commitment to cultivating academic excellence, leadership and self confidence in every learner, Knox remains a cornerstone of education on the North Shore of Long Island. Families are invited to visit campus during the Fall Open House, Saturday, October 18 from 10am-1pm to see how Knox helps students become who they were meant to be.

For more information, visit www.knoxschool.org or call 631-686-1600 to schedule a tour.

Private: The Knox School

The Knox School, 541 Long Beach Rd, St James, NY 11780, 631-686-1600 www.knoxschool.org



The Blackboard

LI Colleges and Universities

Public Colleges and Universities:

Farmingdale State College: Farmingdale State College is the largest college of applied science and technology in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, with nearly 10,000 students and 47 degree programs focused on emerging, high-demand and relevant careers. 2350 NY-110, Farmingdale, NY 11735, P. 934-420-2000. www.farmingdale.edu

Stony Brook University: Stony Brook University is a public research university that offers more than 200 undergraduate programs and more than 140 graduate and professional programs. Stony Brook has over 25,500 students enrolled at the university, which has over 15,000 employees and over 2,850 faculty. 100 Nicolls Road, Stony Brook, NY 11794 P. 631-632-6000. www.stonybrook.edu

South Hampton location: 39 Tuckahoe Road, Southampton, NY 11968. P. 631-632-8000.

Suffolk County Community College: Member of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, is the largest and most comprehensive community college in New York State. The college operates three campuses: the Ammerman Campus in Selden, the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood and the Eastern Campus in Riverhead. Suffolk serves more than 26,000 credit students and thousands more in English language, workforce, and continuing education programs. A leader in open access and academic excellence, the college offers over 100 degree and certificate programs. Ammerman Campus, 533 College Rd, Selden, NY 11784. P. 631-451-4110. www.sunysuffolk.edu

Private Universities:

Adelphi University: Adelphi offers exceptional liberal arts and sciences programs and professional training, with particular strength in Core Four-Arts and Humanities, STEM and Social Sciences, the Business and Education Professions, and Health and Wellness. 1 South Ave, Garden City, NY 11530, P. 800-233-5744. www.adelphi.edu

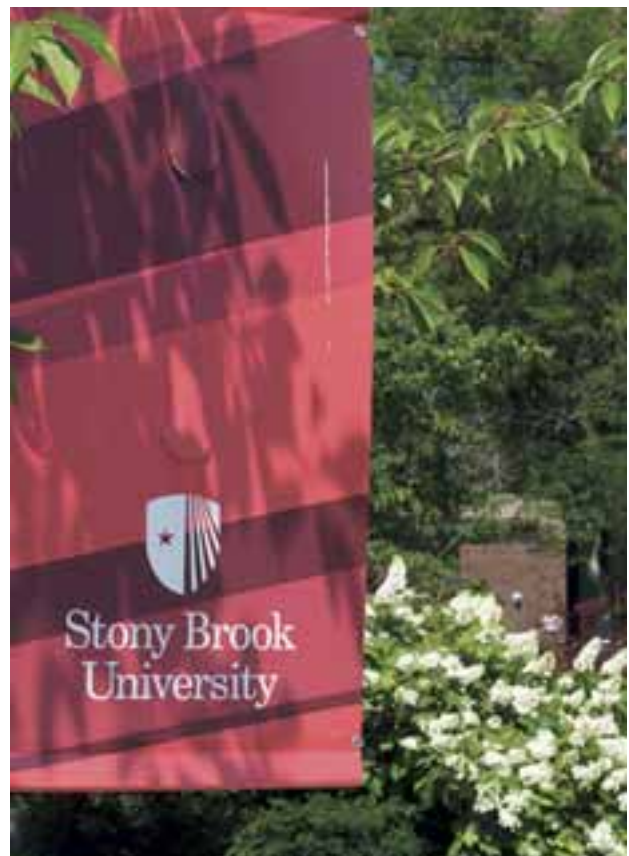
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory School of Biological Sciences: Home to eight Nobel Prize winners, the private, not-for-profit Laboratory employs 1,000 people including 600 scientists, students and technicians. The center offers advanced training in biological sciences. 1 Bungtown Rd, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724, P. 516-367-8800. www.cshl.edu

Hofstra University: 1000 Hempstead Tpke, Hempstead, NY 11549, P. 516-463-6600, Hofstra University

is a medium, 4-year, private technical college. This coed college is located in a suburban setting and is primarily a residential campus. It offers certificate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. This college has an acceptance rate of 68% and a graduation rate of 68%. Known for its strong programs in law, journalism, and business. www.hofstra.edu

Long Island University (LIU): Long Island University (LIU) is a private university with campuses in Brooklyn and Brookville, New York. It offers over 500 academic programs to its 16,000 students. 1 University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11201, P. 718-488-1000. www.liu.edu

Molloy University: Molloy University is a private Roman Catholic university in Rockville Centre, New York.[2] Initially founded as a school for women, it is now co-educational. It provides more than 50 academic undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs for over 4800 students. 1000 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Centre, NY 11570, P. 516-323-3000. www.molloy.edu



The Blackboard

LI Colleges and Universities

NY Institute of Technology (NYIT):

NYIT offers over 65 undergraduate majors and 14 graduate degree programs including architecture, physical and occupational therapy, life sciences, pre-medical studies, nursing, computer graphics, engineering, computer science, education, culinary arts, hospitality management, communication arts, advertising, interior design, telecommunications, accounting and business degrees. Northern Boulevard, Valentines Lane, Old Westbury, NY 11568, P. 516-686-1000, www.NYIT.edu

St. Joseph's University, New York: A Catholic university with campuses in Patchogue and Brooklyn. SJNY enrolls approximately 3,300 students and boasts a 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio that provides individual attention in an open, supportive atmosphere. St Joseph's offers over 40 undergraduate majors, numerous minors, and several Masters degree programs. 155 W Roe Blvd, Patchogue, NY 11772, P. 631-687-5100. www.sjny.edu

Touro College and University System:

Touro is a full-service university with 19,000 students across 35 different schools and colleges. Touro offers a comprehensive undergraduate program, schools in both law and business, doctoral programs in psychology and Jewish studies and boasts five medical schools. Campuses located in Manhattan, Nassau University Medical Center, Brooklyn and Central Islip, www.touro.edu

Webb Institute: Webb Institute is a private college focused on engineering and located in Glen Cove, New York, United States. Each graduate of Webb Institute earns a Bachelor of Science degree in naval architecture and marine engineering. 298 Crescent Beach Rd, Glen Cove, NY 11542, P. 516-671-2213. www.webb.edu

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Gallery North Hosts 60th Annual Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival Featuring Regional Artists, Musicians

Gallery North is pleased to announce the 60th Annual Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival, a two-day event hosted every September. With over 100 exhibitors, this outdoor festival provides a diverse selection of affordable, exciting, original paintings, prints, photography, ceramics, pottery, woodwork, glassware, artisan created jewelry, handmade crafts, decorations, clothing, and so much more! The event will take place on September 20 and 21 and will be free and open to the public.

The Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival hosted by Gallery North has featured some of the finest art and craft from regional artists and artisans over its long 60-year history, making it a vital part of the regional art community and a significant tradition for the public. Keeping with the event format of past years, the Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival will include art in a vast range of media, as well as delicious and exciting food vendors, raffle prizes, and an area devoted solely to kids' activities. In addition, Gallery North is teaming up with WUSB 90.1 fm/107.3 fm Stony Brook, NY this year to present live musical performances. The WUSB Music Stage will feature five music groups each day of the festival, some of which will be featured on WUSB Radio in advance of the Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival. A second music stage will also feature acoustic performances. Art show awards and recognition will also be granted for Best in Show within several categories, including woodcraft, fiber art, glass art, jewelry, painting, photography, pottery, printmaking, and more. Our 2025 judges will include Deborah Katz, a contemporary painter and curator of the Alfred Van Loen Gallery, South Huntington Public Library;



Jason Paradis, contemporary artist and Art Department professor at Stony Brook University; and

contemporary artist, Jo Wadler. All award winners will be featured in Gallery North's Winner's Circle exhibition in 2026.

Art matters to our community. This important, two-day event is a celebration of the arts on Long Island and affirms that the artists who live here envision our region as a place where impactful art experiences contribute directly to the quality of life for everyone and are embraced as essential for the entire community.

The Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival will be situated outside along North Country Road in Setauket, between 25A and Ridgeway Avenue, and on the grounds of Gallery North (90 N. Country Rd, Setauket). Working together, Gallery North and WUSB will provide this wonderful, community event for the benefit of the Three Village community, as well as Long Island's creative communities. The event is

proudly sponsored by the Field Family, Toast Coffee + Kitchen and the Study by Toast, Fluffy Puppy, Glynn, Mercep & Purcell LLP, East End Investigations and Security, Village Art Collective, The Bench, DJ's Clam Shack, Three Village Kitchen & Bath, Village Automotive Center, the Three Village Rotary Club, Elaine's, Tasty Frosty, Costco, Southdown Coffee, and Gallery North's Board of Trustees.

Gallery North is a public, not-for-profit, fine art gallery promoting the region's finest contemporary regional art and craft. Established in 1965, Gallery North is located in the beautiful and historic area of Setauket, Long Island, and focuses on contemporary art in a variety of disciplines, including painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. Exhibits explore the diversity and vitality of the arts on Long Island, while classes, workshops, talks, and annual festivals involve community members in the lively process of art making. Next door, in The Studio at Gallery North, the community is provided with a diverse selection of educational programming, including classes and workshops in a variety of mediums, such as watercolor, life drawing, papermaking, as well as printmaking, done in house on our printing press. For more information, visit gallerynorth.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, or Twitter (@gallerynorthli).

Dressing For the Occasion

by June Capossela Kempf

Have you noticed? People are not dressing up anymore. No matter where you go, you can hardly tell if folks are wearing glorified sweat-pants or their comfy pajamas in public. Part of me disapproves and part rejoices. Afterall, this trend saves me money and valuable time getting ready to go out. My sneakers are cool, and my Grateful Dead T shirt still fits. I'm ready to roll.

Back in the day, great care was taken to make sure the appropriate clothes were chosen for important events. Worshippers were expected to wear their 'Sunday best' to services. Saturday nights were devoted to planning the proper attire to be worn the next day. For me, as a child, that meant picking out a modest dress, making sure it was freshly cleaned and pressed. In addition, black patent leather shoes needed to be polished and frilly white 'princess' socks had to be white and bright. We girls also wore clean white gloves to hold our prayer books. Most importantly we were required to cover our heads with a neat looking hat. If by any chance, we arrived at church without a hat, an usher would stand by the door and hand out used caps to set upon your noodle - without any

thought to hygiene. Although those rules may be gone forever, I wonder how the clergy deals with some of the gruesome get-ups that grace the pews in houses of worship lately.

When I asked my pastor, "Did you see those kids wearing torn short-shorts today in church?" she answered, "Our membership is shrinking as it is. I am just happy to get people through our doors."

So, I guess now-a-days, it's okay to dress casually for Sunday services as well as more fashionable events.

At a wedding reception we attended recently, the bride and groom did dress up - to a point. He wore a tuxedo and boutonniere. She, a veil and beautiful bouquet. They strolled down the aisle in all of their finery, but a closer look revealed that instead of uncomfortable shoes, they wore glittering black and white sneakers on their feet.

After spending over \$300.00 on a dress and matching footwear for the affair, I was amazed to see that some of the guests wore studded jeans and high heels and some wore flowery muumuus and sandals. Anything goes! Anywhere! That also applies to attending funerals, where hardly anyone wears black other than the funeral direc-

tor. And when going to the doctor's office, we only care about the condition of our underwear.

No fuss- No muss is the rule of the day, unless you are going to work in the garden. There, very strict dress codes still apply. If a

gardener chooses to ignore them, he or she may be setting themselves up for a dark future far worse than having a bacteria laden cap shoved on their heads. They could wind up pushing up the daisies.

Planning your garden ensemble must be undertaken as carefully as selecting your Sunday clothes was back in the day. Preparing for the event can take up tons of time and effort if you want to be safe and sound.

First rule: Cover up! Wear loose fitting clothing and long white pants with deep pockets. The light color deflects sunrays away from you and the deep pockets are needed to carry essentials like tissues, lozenges and your phone.

Religiously apply high UV sunscreen and bug repellant to all exposed areas. If possible, order arm protectors from Amazon. They come in decorative motifs if you wish to make a fashion statement amongst your squash and egg-plants. You can also find matching garden gloves on that same site.

On your feet, garden boots or supportive shoes to keep you upright in slippery mud. However, in case you do fall and can't get up, be sure to have a water bottle attached to your hip to save you from dehydration. Last, but not least, you'll need a wide brimmed sun hat. A hi-tech version can be ordered online too. It comes with two sun powered fans, a light and your name stenciled on the brim. However, if your order is indefinitely delayed, look in garage sales for a bonnet like gardeners wore in simpler times. One with a crown deep enough to hold six wet cabbage leaves to keep you cool as a cucumber in today's dressed down world.

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.



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!



September

Art: Tuesdays & Fridays, 12-5pm, and Saturdays & Sundays 11:00am-5:00pm, Wendy Klemperer: Wrought Taxonomies – Animal Sculptures, Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum: 180 Little Neck Road, Centerport, NY 11721, www.vanderbiltmuseum.org 631-854-5579

Art: Until Sept 14, All of Me with All of You: LGBTQ+ Art Out of the Collection, The Heckscher Museum of Art, 2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743, www.heckscher.org 631-380-3230

Art: Until Sept 15, 10am-4pm When Women Wore Whales Sag Harbor Whaling & Historical Museum, 200 Main Street, Sag Harbor, NY 11963 www.sagharborwhalingmuseum.org

Art: Until Sept 21, The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art, Featuring works from Louis Comfort Tiffany, Gustav Klimt, Louis Majorelle, and Alphonse Mucha, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Art: Until Sept 28, 10-7pm Contemporary Artist Gavin Zeigler, Green-

port Harbor Brewing Company's Greenport Tasting Room, 234 Carpenter Street, Greenport, NY 11944, www.greenportharbor.com 631-477-1100

Art: Until Oct 19, Gatsby at 100, Celebrating the centennial year of F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Art: Until Oct 25, Fri and Sat 10am-4pm, Sculpture in the Garden: Sarah Sze at Landcraft Gardens Landcraft Garden Foundation, 4342 Grand Avenue, Mattituck, NY 11952, www.landcraftgardenfoundation.org/on-view-now/ 631-298-7216



Art: Until Dec 21, Giants and Gems: The Largest and Smallest from LIM's Collection, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Art Demo: Tues Sept 2, 8-10pm, Suburban Art League presents Free Demo with Sharon Pearsal, Syosset Woodbury Community Center 7800 Jericho Tpke, Woodbury, NY 11797, www.oysterbaytown.com

Gala: Wed Sept 3, 6pm, Gatsby

Gala, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Craft Workshop: Wed Sept 3, 10am-1pm, Sound Avenue Stitchers Get-Together, The Stitchers meet at the Hudson-Sydrowski House meeting room on the first Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome to join, just come on by! Hallockville Museum Farm, 6038 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, New York 11901, 631-298-5292

Music: Wed Sept 3, 1pm, Young at Heart: Blame it on the Bossa Nova, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895

Music: Wed Sept 3, 7pm, Jam Session, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895

Art and Environment: Thu Sept 4, 7-9pm, Bonsai Workshop at the Greats of Craft (LIC), the Greats of Craft - LIC, Long Island City, 10-15 43rd Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101, www.greatsofcraft.com 718-489-9874

Film: Thu Sept 4, 7pm, The Gardens of Piet Oudolf, An immersive and complex documentary on the continued on page 56



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Suffolk County North Shore Artisans CALENDAR OF EVENTS

continued from page XX
world's most celebrated garden designer, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Art: Thu Sept 4, 5:30-6:30pm, Art in the Garden, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. Free! www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Music: Thu Sept 4, 7pm, The Jazz Loft Big Band w/ Special Guest Akiko Tsuruga, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 30-6751-1895

Music: Fri Sept 5, 8pm, Stevie-Mac, Suffolk Theater, 118 E. Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org 631-727-4343

Music: Fri Sept 5, 6pm, Guitar in the Garden, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895

Music: Fri Sept 5, 7pm, The Sinatra Project: Unplugged & Intimate, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895

Art: Fri Sept 5-Sept 28, 12pm-4pm, BAFFA Art Gallery presents Light from Darkness, BAFFA Gallery, 47 Gillette Avenue, Sayville,



NY. www.baffa.org 631-589-7343

Music: Fri Sept 5, 8pm, Stevie-Mac, The Suffolk: 118 E Main St, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.info@suffolktheater.com 631-727-4343

Music: Sat Sept 6, 8pm, Best of Eagles, Suffolk Theater, 118 E. Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org 631-727-4343

Art: Sat Sept 6, Meet the Masters Art Workshop: Rene Magritte, East End Arts, 141 East Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.eastendarts.org 631-369-2171

Music: Sat Sept 6, 8pm, Best of the Eagles, Suffolk Theater, 118 E. Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org 631-727-4343

Book Fair: Sat Sept 6, 8am-5pm, LIM's Inaugural Book Fair Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. Free! www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Literary Event: Sat Sept 6-Sun Sept 7, 12-5pm, 11th Annual Culper Spy Days, view a rare surviving letter dated November 8, 1779, between Benjamin Tallmadge and Robert Townsend, Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. Free! www.longislandmuseum.org

631-751-0066

Music: Sat Sept 6, 7pm, The Sinatra Project: Unplugged & Intimate, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895

Workshop: Sun Sept 7, 10am-12pm, Original Character Card Design for Teens, The Reboli Center, 64 Main Street, Stony Brook, NY, 11790, www.rebolicenter.org 631-751-7707

Music: Wed Sept 10, 7pm, Jam Session, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895

Performance: Thu Sept 11-Oct 26, Come From Away, John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main Street, Northport, NY 11768. www.engemantheater.com/mainstage 631-261-2900

Music: Fri Sept 12, 8pm, Tonight's the Night, Suffolk Theater, 118 E. Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org 631-727-4343

Music: Fri Sept 12, 8pm, Tonight's the Night, Suffolk Theater, 118 E. Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901, www.thesuffolk.org 631-727-4343

Fair: Fri Sept 12-14 10am-5pm, Long Island Fair, Old Bethpage Restoration, Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage, NY 11764. continued on facing page



Suffolk County North Shore Artisans CALENDAR OF EVENTS

continued

Bethpage,
www.oldbethpagevillagerestoration.org 516-572-8400

Boat Race, Sat Sept 13, 8:30am-5pm, 11th Annual Port Jefferson Dragon Boat Race Fest, Harborfront Park, 118 W Broadway, Port Jefferson, NY, 11777, www.sccbsa.org/dragon 631-924-7000x116,

Art: Sat Sept 13, 12-5pm, Draw Out, Join for a day of creativity! The Heckscher Museum of Art, 2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743, www.heckscher.org 631-380-3230

Craft Fair: Sat Sept 13 (rain date Sept 14), 8am-4pm, Antiques Fine Arts and Crafts Fair, 28265 Main Road (Route 25), Cutchogue, NY, 11735, www.oldtownartsguild.org 631-734-6382

Craft Fair: Sat Sept 13-14, 10am-4pm, Eastern Long Island Quilters Guild (ELIQG) Annual Quilt Show, Hallockville Museum Farm, 6038 Sound Ave., Riverhead, 11901, www.eliqg.com

Tattoo Exploration: Sun Sept 14, 1-4:00pm, The Human Canvas, L. Bailey, tattoo artist and illustrator of Gilded Fox Gallery and Lauren LaBella of the Pearl Tattoo & Fine Art Gallery Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790.



www.longislandmuseum.org
631-751-0066

Music: Wed Sept 17, 7pm, Jam Session / Opening Reception - Harbor Jazz Festival, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790.

www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895

Art: Thu Sept 18, 7pm, Free Zoom Lecture: The History of Costumes and Fashion with Beth Drucker, The Atelier at Flowerfield, 2 Flowerfield Suite 6 & 9, St. James, NY 11780 www.theatelieratflowerfield.org 631-250-9009

History/Craft: Thu Sept 18, 5:30pm, Back to School Fun! Visit



the one-room schoolhouse for hands-on-history fun, plus paint your own slate board masterpiece. Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, NY 11790. Free! www.longislandmuseum.org 631-751-0066

Performance: Sat Sept 20, 7:30-9:30pm EastLine Theatre presents The Hours Are Feminine, BACCA 149 N. Wellwood Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757, www.eastline.ludus.com 516-749-5047

Music: Sun Sept 21, 3-4:30pm, Jazz! At the Barn presents Sam Dillon, Conklin Barn, 2 High Street, Huntington. www.jazzatthebarn.com



Art: Sun Sept 21-Oct 22 8am-5pm, Artist Ron Becker Presents: Solo Exhibit of Landscape / nature paintings at Shelter Rock Art Gallery, Shelter Rock Art Gallery, 48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset, NY 516-627-6560

Art/Music, Sat and Sun, Nov 20 and 21, Art and Music Festival, Gallery North, 90 North Country Road, Setauket, NY 11733. www.gallerynorth.org 631-751-2676.

Music: Wed Sept 24, 7pm, Jam Session, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895

Celebrate: Thu Sept 25, 5:30 - 9:30pm, 1950-2025: Celebrating the Vanderbilt's 75th Anniversary, Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, 180 Little Neck Road, Centerport, NY 11721, www.vanderbiltmuseum.org 631-854-5579

Music: Thu Sept 25, 7pm, Interplay Jazz Orchestra, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895.

Art: Thu Sept 25-Oct 18, 11am-6pm, Fotofoto Gallery presents "A Group Exhibition of Photographic Works by Artist Members", Fotofoto
continued on page 58

Suffolk County North Shore Artisans CALENDAR OF EVENTS



continued from page 57
Gallery 14 W. Carver Street, Huntington, NY, 11743,
www.fotofotogallery.org
631-549-0448

Fair: Sept 27, 10am-Sept 28 5pm
Country Fair, Hallockville Museum Farm, 6038 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, New York 11901,
631-298-5292

Art: Sun Sept 28 OPENING - Emma Stebbins: Carving Out History The Heckscher Museum of Art, 2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743, www.heckscher.org
631-380-3230

October

Music: Wed Oct 1, 1pm, Young at Heart: Ella Fitzgerald- Great Women in Jazz, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org
631-751-1895.

Music: until Oct 26, Sat & Sun, 2-4pm, Music Throughout The Village - Port Jeff, Musicians will be placed in multiple different locations throughout Port Jeff Village, Port Jefferson, NY, 11777, www.PortJeffChamber.com
631-473-1414

Music: Wed, Oct 1, 7pm, Jam Session, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790. www.thejazzloft.org 631-

751-1895.

Music: Thu, Oct 2, 7pm, Put Up Your Dukes! TJL Big Band Presents Duke Ellington, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790.
www.thejazzloft.org
631-751-1895.

Music: Fri, Oct 3, 7pm, Put Up Your Dukes! TJL Big Band Presents Duke Ellington, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790.
www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895.

Music: Sat, Oct 4, 7pm, Put Up Your Dukes! TJL Big Band Presents Duke Ellington, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790,
www.thejazzloft.org 631-751-1895.

Craft Fair: Sat Oct 4 (rain date Oct 5), 9am-4pm, Fine Arts and Crafts Fair on Cutchogue Village Green 28265 Main Road (Route 25), Cutchogue, NY, 11735
www.oldtownartsguild.org
631-734-6382

Art: Sat Oct 4-Oct 19 12-4pm, BAFFA Art Gallery presents Big Works, BAFFA Gallery, 47 Gillette Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782,
www.baffa.org 631-589-7343

Street Fair: Sun Oct 5, 10am-5pm, Bethpage Street Fair, 356 Broadway, Bethpage, NY 11714,



NY 11780
<https://nassaucountyfairs.com>
516-442-6000

Music: Sun Oct 5, 5pm, Emerson Legacy Concert - Goerke/Watkins, Staller Center for the Arts Stony Brook, 100 Nicolls Road, Stony Brook, NY 11794,
www.stallercenter.com,
631-632-2787

Craft Fair: Sun Oct 5, 11am-5pm, St James Day, Lake Avenue, St James, NY 11780, 631-563-8551

Art: Tues Oct 7 8-10pm, Suburban Art League presents Free Art Demo, Syosset Woodbury Community Center, 7800 Jericho Tpke, Woodbury, NY 11797,
www.oysterbaytown.com

Music: Wed Oct 8, 7pm, Jam Session, The Jazz Loft, 275 Christian Avenue, Stony Brook, NY 11790.
www.thejazzloft.org
631-751-1895.

Visit
ourtownstjames.com

to see a
complete
listing of
2025

North Shore
Art events



2025 *Haunt Dates*
OCT. 17 & 18 OCT. 24 & 25
OCT. 31 -Halloween! & Nov. 1

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At Deepwells Farm County Park - Intersection of 25A and Moriches Rd., St. James





by Natalie Weinstein,
ASID Allied

While summer was a time for relaxing and vacationing, for many, it was also a time to take stock of homes and lives. My recent consultations with new clients were about updating to meet current lifestyles. Many felt they were in a time warp and it reminded me of a PBS national television special I did called "Change Your Home and Life with Natalie Weinstein." The premise was, and still is, that your home is an extension of yourself. It can empower you or diminish you. Often our busy lives put "tending to our homes" at the bottom of our to-do list. Then after years of neglect, indifference, accumulated clutter or lack of funds, something clicks and we know it's time for a change. Change, for many people, however, is very difficult. We like our stuff, or generations of family stuff, or "stuck with our kid's stuff", or the "maybe we might need it someday" stuff –

Time for a Change

and... stuff happens!

Last week's visit to a new client was the ultimate validation for me. As we walked through her home to assess what would stay, and what would go as we update, I thought I recognized some of the older pieces which didn't really fit with the direction in which we were heading. She revealed to me, after the fact, that they had come from her Mom's home years ago. They were pieces that no longer fit with her Mom's then choice of contemporary (I should have recognized them because I actually designed Mom's house and now her daughter was figuring out how to make her Mom's stuff work in her new design!).

Sometimes change is needed, rather than wanted – a parent or child moves back home, a busy household is now an empty nester's dwelling, or someone now lives alone, by choice or circumstance. None of us are exempt, because living brings us challenges, choices and crossroads whether in our homes, offices, or lives.

Many of you may know of my commitment to create and design a

community cultural arts center for St. James in the historic Calderone Theatre building. As president once again of Celebrate St. James, the organization that makes its home there, this massive project, has for me, taken on a life of its own, literally consuming mine. I have been advised by many dear to me to choose one full-time job! How to choose between two things you love? In your home and in your life? Just as I advise my clients that a choice doesn't have to be all or nothing, I decided on a compromise. Learn more next time.



Editor's Note:

Now offering – Fall master classes for students & homeowners!

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Alfresco Backyard Living	Kathleen Micozzi HH Coach Realty	Dr. Raymond A. Semente, Chiropractor
Barry Bros. Landscaping	Knipping & Klein Agency	Smithtown Library
Bay Shore Moving & Storage	Lesco Construction	Smithtown Rotary Club
Blissful Beauty Wellness	Load Manager Inc.	Sons of Norway Loyal Lodge #252
Joseph A. Bollhofer, Esq.	Long Island Hearing	Spy Trail Distillery
The Bristal at Lake Grove	Long Island Shed Builders	St. Catherine of Sienna Hospital
Capital Graphics of Long Island	M & T Bank	St. James Center
Chiropractic Healthcare of St. James	Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown	St. James Fire Department
Christine Stevens Daniel Gale Realty	Metro Physical & Aquatic Therapy	St. James Jewelry
Coldwell Banker	Micheline Cahill New York Life	St. James Pasta & Pork
Competition Subaru	Mister Softee	St. James Post Office
Creative Windows	Morecraft Construction	St. James Self Storage
Dance Arts Development Center	Over South Real Estate	Sts. Philip and James - Council 12839
Dance 'n' Things	Rowena Nedvin - Signature Premier	of the Knights of Columbus
DeBarbieri Associates	Properties	State Farm/James Winter
Dowling Bros. Auto Body	Nissequogue Golf Course	Stony Brook Medicine/Community
Eckardt & Eckardt	O'Hara & Company	Medical Group
Eddies Power Equipment	P. DeBlasio Builders	Stroll Nissequogue
Edward Jones Investments	Paris Electric	Teachers Federal Credit Union
Energy Health & Fitness	Peach And Pine	Thic Chic Boutique
Enspire Design Group	Philly Pretzel Factory	Times Beacon Record News Media
Fratello Law	RJK Gardens	Total Family Dentistry
Galiano Wine Bar and Restaurant	RN 4 Medicare	Up In Smoke BBQ
Genesis of Smithtown	Rely Rx Pharmacy & Medical Supplies	Vazac Contracting
Helping Hearts at Home	Renewal by Andersen	Victorian Fence
ICC Automation	Salad-icious	WBR Plumbing & Heating

Let a Financial Advisor Help You Plan for Life's Curveballs

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

No matter what stage of your life you're in – caring for children, working toward retirement or planning your legacy – unforeseen events like a job loss, a major illness or even a stock market drop could derail what you're working so hard to achieve financially.

With your future at stake, you may want to get guidance from a financial professional who can develop a personalized financial strategy to help you navigate life's curveballs.

Here are specific ways a financial advisor can help.

- *Create a customized long-term strategy.* This is the first step to weather unforeseen events. You may have several long-term investing goals – your retirement, your child's education or perhaps a dream vacation. A financial advisor can help you build a strategy specific to your goals and risk tolerance. This will include prioritizing those goals, building a path toward each and pivoting your strategy as markets shift and needs change.

- *Set realistic expectations.* Successful investing requires discipline and patience – most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Start by setting realistic timelines to reach each of your goals. And don't be surprised if you need to make trade-offs, like working an extra year to help fund your retirement dream home. It's realistic to expect you'll hit some bumps in the road. Perhaps the markets will drop and the value of your portfolio may follow. (It's also realistic to expect they will rebound, as they have historically. Of course, past performance of the markets is no guarantee of what will



happen in the future.) A financial advisor can help you keep your emotions in check no matter what comes your way and stay focused on the long term, knowing you have a customized strategy in place.

- *Diversify your investments.* The foundation for your portfolio is your asset allocation, or how you divide your assets among stocks, bonds, cash and other investments. Different investments behave differently in various market conditions, so maintaining a good mix can help better weather market fluctuations than putting “all your eggs in one basket.” Finding the right diversification mix, and keeping it balanced despite what the market does, can get complicated, but it's almost second nature for a good financial advisor. All investments do carry risk, and asset allocation doesn't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

- *Keep a long-term outlook.* It's easy to become distracted by the latest headline, expert prediction or market swing. However, if these events don't change your long-term outlook, there probably isn't a reason to make changes to your strategy. In fact, these declines often present good opportunities if you're a long-term investor, so use them to your advantage – your financial advisor can show you how.

- *Keep your emergency savings well-funded.* This is your “rainy day” fund, and an unexpected event may constitute a rainy day. For most people, maintaining three to six months of total expenses in emergency savings is appropriate. The specific amount depends on factors like your risk of unexpected expenses or temporary loss of income,

and how much you value being confident that you can weather financial emergencies. A financial advisor can help you determine what your emergency savings should look like.

Unexpected events are part of life. You can't predict them, but you can prepare for them. No matter what is going on around you, having a professional by your side can help set you up to navigate them confidently.

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



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HEALTH NOTES

Getting a Hearing Test May Be Good for Your Memory

by William Kent

If you want to help your memory and cognitive performance, you may want to get a hearing test and if necessary treat your hearing loss. There is a growing body of research that shows a definitive link between hearing loss and cognitive function.

According to Brandeis University Professor of Neuroscience Dr. Arthur Winfield, effortful listening due to unaddressed hearing loss is associated with increased stress and poor performance on memory tests. His research shows that even when people with unaddressed hearing loss perceive the words that are being spoken, their ability to remember the information suffers, more likely because of the draw on their cognitive resources that might otherwise be used to store what has been heard in memory. This is especially true for the comprehension of quick, informational complex speech that is part of everyday life. "Even if you have a mild hearing loss that is not being treated, cognitive load increases significantly," says Winfield. "You have to put so much effort just to perceive and understand what is being said that you divert resources away from storing what you have heard in your memory." As people move through middle age and their later years, as Winfield suggests, it is reasonable for them to get their hearing tested annually. If there is a hearing loss, it is best to take it seriously and



treat it.

A number of studies have come to light over the past few years showing a link between hearing loss and dementia. Specifically, a pair of studies out of John Hopkins found that hearing loss is associated with accelerated cognitive decline in older adults and that seniors with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. We have been spreading this information for a number of years now and I strongly believe that these facts are important for patients and their care takers to keep in mind when forgetfulness becomes apparent. Many experts believe that interventions, like hearing instruments, could potentially delay or prevent dementia. Research is ongoing.

Other studies indicate that maintaining strong social connections and keeping mentally active as we age might lower the risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's ac-

cording to the Alzheimer's Association. Also interesting is the Better Hearing Institute research shows that people with hearing difficulty who use hearing instruments are more likely to have a strong support network of family and friends, feel engaged in life and meet up with friends to socialize. Some even say that using hearing instruments has a positive effect on their relationships.

In our lifetime many of us have ups and downs in relationships and in either physical or mental health. The idea is to control the negative effects which we are faced with so it does not have a long lasting or serious effect on our lives. We should pay attention and listen to what our body is telling us, and take whatever step that is necessary to arrive at what one feels is the correct treatment. From a hearing standpoint it's simple, get a hearing test. For most, an annual audiometric evaluation is covered by health insurance, often with little or no out of pocket expense. Think about it and then listen to your body... it's speaking. All you have to do is... listen.

Editor's Note:

William Kent is the Founder and Director of Long Island Hearing, an Audiology and Hearing Instrument Practice established in 1985. With offices in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, they can be reached at 1-800-698-5200 for more information or to schedule an appointment.



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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,

How can I feel better when life is just dumping all over me? People tell me so many empty things like: it could always be worse; look on the bright side. Or they give their own stories about the stuff in their lives which matters less to me. I just want to get out of my own way and let things go. I've seen a number of people who just appear to have it all together and I'm just feeling so stuck in neutral. Is there really anything I can do to start feeling better about

things? – Stuck in Neutral

Dear Stuck in Neutral.

So first I would say to take a look at how you are feeling and consider getting some additional professional help. But to give you some fresh perspectives grab onto to this one: things are rarely (never) what they appear to be. People may seem to have things together but when you take a look behind their mask, they've got things going on just like you do. Now take a look at what is being said to you. Most of the time, their replies about about sharing the moment with you from their point of view. So looking from a broad perspective, if you want to take some first steps out of your own way, begin to see what you have going on as just the stuff for you to work on... a fact in your life right now. And as you begin to work through, all this stuff will begin to shape a new story of perseverance and eventual success as you face the challenges and make it through!

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 Massapeeth 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.

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HEALTH NOTES

DIYs for Back to School Success

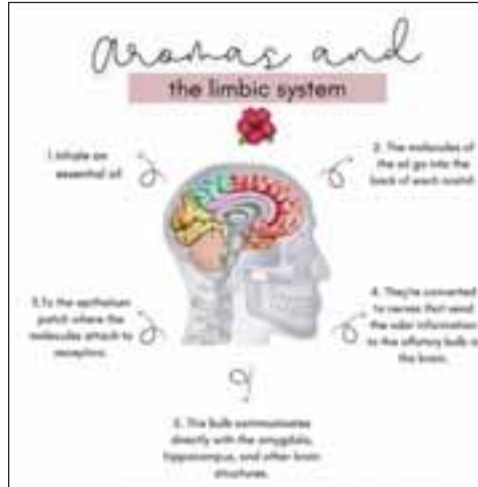


by Terri Pace

Can you believe the stores are already featuring Back to School sales and specials!? Wait, wait, summer isn't even over yet!

Summer is filled with leisurely or easier mornings, fun activities during the days, and restful sleep after a long and wonderful day. Who wants that to end!?

Although we might resist September's focus on back-to-school and the return of a rigid daily schedule, there are so many things we can do to ease the transition... for both children and parents/care-givers alike!



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This bulb communicates directly with the amygdala, hippocampus, and other brain structures.

Harness this power of essential oils aromatically with a diffuser. Here are some great choices for your diffuser this September:

- Diffuse Peppermint to increase concentration and focus with the ever uplifting Wild Orange to help kids stay on track!*

- Diffuse Frankincense and/or Cedarwood when anxiousness hits and let the entire family benefit from its grounding aroma.*

- Diffuse the onGuard blend to clean and purify the air.* This blend continued on facing page

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HEALTH NOTES

continued
offers targeted, immune-supporting benefits backed by science!

- Litsea is also an immune system hero that cleans the air and can also help with skin blemishes when applied topically.

Kids Room Diffuser Blends

- 3 drops of Wild Orange and 2 drops of Vanilla essential oils will create a sweet and happy environment for your child.

- 3 drops of Spearmint, 2 drops of Bergamot, and one drop of Vanilla essential oils will invigorate and inspire confidence.

Smells Like Food Blends

- Root Beer – Combine 4 drops of Wintergreen with 3 drops of Citrus Bliss blend.

- Fruit Loops – Combine 3 drops of Lemongrass, 3 drops of Green Mandarin, and 1 drop of Tangerine essential oils.

- Cinnamon Rolls – Combine 2 drops each of Cinnamon, Cassia, and Cardamom essential oils.

Brain Oils

- Bergamot, Lavender, and Lemon essential oils help to support healthy levels of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure, motivation, and reward.*

- Adaptiv blend, Basil, and Magnolia essential oils help to modulate

cortisol, one of our stress hormones.*

- Oils that help support healthy levels of serotonin, a neurotransmitter link to mood regulation, sleep, and digestion, include Wild Orange, Clary Sage, and Neroli.*

DIY Solutions

- Ear Discomfort – Combine one drop of Basil, Lavender, and Tea Tree essential oil and massage into ear lobe and behind the ear every 3-4 hours for children and every 2 hours for adults.*

- Head Tension – 1-2 drops of Frankincense pressed to the roof of your mouth and/or apply PastTense blend to the temples, back of the neck and base of the skull.*

- Scratchy Throat Relief – Combine one drop of Ginger, two drops of Copaiba, and 3 drops of Lemon essential oils with a teaspoon of your favorite local honey.*

Let this September be the year of an easy transition and a joy-filled back to school experience.

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O B I T U A R I E S

Faith L. Cook (née Naigraw)

May 3, 1949 - July 18, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Faith L. Cook, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and friend, who departed this life peacefully on July 18, 2025 at the age of 76. Faith was the beloved daughter of Walter and Edith Naigraw. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother Dennis Naigraw, and her sister Patricia Pess. Born and raised in Queens, New York, Faith embodied the strength, humor, and resilience that defined her generation. She was a woman of deep faith, guided throughout her life by her devotion to the Lutheran Church, where she found both solace and community.

For over 50 years, Faith shared a devoted marriage with her beloved husband, Ed. Together they built a life full of love and laughter. She was the proud mother of two daughters, Tara and Jennifer, whom she raised with tenderness, unwavering support, and a healthy dose of her signature sharp wit. Her love only deepened as her family grew to include four grandchildren – two spirited little girls, Vivien and Vale-



rie, and two older, wonderful grandsons, Gilbert and Preston – each of whom brought her immense joy and pride.

Faith was a talented artist and craftswoman, but her greatest work of art was the impact she had on generations of children as an assis-

tant teacher for nearly 30 years at St. James Lutheran Preschool. In the classroom, she was a patient guide, a steady presence, and a quiet champion of young minds. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched, both in and out of school.

Although she appeared quiet, Faith had a sharp wit and a wonderful sense of humor – always ready with a quick one-liner that could catch you off guard and bring laughter to the room. She also had a special gift for making the everyday magical. Faith created joyful traditions that her family will always cherish, especially the road trips, which became treasured memories and reflections of the love and care she poured into family life.

Faith is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Edward Cook; her daughters Tara Cavanagh and her devoted husband Frank, and Jennifer Quiles and her devoted husband Gilbert Jr.; and her cherished grandchildren Gilbert III, Preston, Vivien, and Valerie, who were the joy of her life. She will be remembered for her love of family, her generosity, and the quiet strength with which she supported those she loved. She created a home filled with laughter, kindness, and hand-crafted joy. And she leaves behind a family who adored her, friends who cherished her, and a community forever shaped by her grace.

She was one of a kind, and she will be missed beyond measure.



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AROUND TOWN

The Life of Marty Thompson

continued from page 14
focused on gun safety and ethical practices. "Integrity is the only thing that can't be stolen from you," he says. "It has to be given up."

Marty admits it's not always easy being the bearer of bad news, perhaps in the form of a cell phone or

speeding ticket, but tries to approach the task with discernment and compassion knowing its part of the responsibility he has taken on. To him, law and order means little without compassion – and it's that balance that defines his service. And in moments when circum-

stances are dire and every second matters, a steady presence makes all the difference. It is in those times of urgency that calm leadership is needed most, and the value of having a man like Marty Thompson around become crystal clear.

Marty says that his greatest accomplishment isn't found in a badge or a title, but in choosing his wife of over 50 years, Gwen – a partnership that has brought him three marvelous children and seven adorable grandchildren ranging in age from 4 to 26. Despite all he's seen and done, he remains a student of life grateful to have been "the guy in the right place, at the right time with the right training." Though he's been honored by both the County and the Town for his decades of service, Marty does not seek recognition. He hopes simply to be remembered as someone who did the right thing and was there when people needed him. A life of quiet integrity and dedication to others is the legacy he's proud to leave behind.

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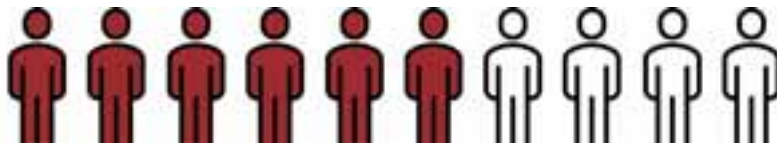
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Owned & Operated by
The Vigliante Family

Branch

FUNERAL HOMES

Funerals & Cremations

As Fall Approaches, Don't Fall Behind

Whether you're tidying closets or turning over a new leaf, it's also the perfect season to take care of your final wishes.

Here's a simple checklist to help you get started:

- ☐ Have you documented your final wishes?
- ☐ Have you explored preplanning options?
- ☐ Have you discussed your plans with loved ones?
- ☐ Have you chosen a funeral home you trust?

Don't fall behind.
Get ahead with peace of mind.



Call or visit BranchFH.com today for a FREE, no-obligation consultation

Let Our Family, Serve Yours.

Four Generations of Hope, Guidance & Compassion



John Vigliante
4th Gen.
Funeral Director

Henry Vigliante
3rd Gen.
Funeral Director

Paul Vigliante
4th Gen.
Funeral Director

Hudson

OUR CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

Branch Funeral Home of Smithtown

190 East Main St., Smithtown, NY

631.724.9500

Branch Funeral Home of Miller Place

551 Route 25A | Miller Place, NY

631.744.9700

Branch Funeral Home of Commack

2115 Jericho Turnpike, Commack, NY

631.493.7200

Cut out and mail to any Branch Funeral Home location for more information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I am interested in learning more about:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Funeral Services | <input type="radio"/> Advance Planning | <input type="radio"/> Hudson the Certified Grief Therapy Dog |
| <input type="radio"/> Cremation Services | <input type="radio"/> Creating a Unique Memorial Service | |
| <input type="radio"/> Veterans Benefits | | |

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