

# The *Tide*

## of MORICHES & MANORVILLE

9th Year, Issue 5, DECEMBER 2019

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Photo by Pamela Morrison



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# Christmas caroling: A lost art or treasured tradition?

BY PATRICIA KALOSKI

I tend to get nostalgic around the holidays, remembering Thanksgivings and Christmases gone by that are now safely tucked away in my photo album of memories. I'm quite certain I've romanticized many of these recollections, likening them to a scene from one of Hallmark Channel's unapologetically sweet and sappy holiday movies. But one memory that is true to the real thing is Christmas caroling with family and friends when I was a young girl.

It was a tradition started by my mom, one she took very seriously. There were weekly practices, complete with song sheets and a keyboard player. After mom was satisfied with our performance, we gorged ourselves on homemade hot cocoa, brownies and cookies.

When the big night arrived, we would bundle up from head to toe and then hit the neighborhood streets, pulling a red Radio Flyer wagon that contained a kerosene heater and more of mom's cocoa. The reception we received from the homes where we sang our very best "fa la la la" was overwhelming. I recall smiles, laughter, tears, and offers of money, treats or a warm drink. So, it got me thinking – does anyone Christmas carol anymore?

In my quest for information, I decided to post on a few local Facebook Community pages asking if anyone still went Christmas caroling. To my dismay – but pleasant surprise – I got quite a few responses from folks who are keeping this centuries-old tradition alive.

Caroling is reported to have started thousands of years ago in Europe, but not necessarily as a Christmas tradition. Rather, pagans used carols – a word meaning a dance or song of joy and praise – all year long for important celebrations such as the Winter Solstice. Fast-forward a couple of hundred years or so, and you find early Christians adopting pagan celebrations and using them in the observation of Christmas. In 129, it is said that a Roman bishop ordered that a song known as "Angels Hymn" be sung at Christmas services. It seems that the idea caught on over the next several centuries and by the 700s, Christmas carols were being written and sung. However, these early carols didn't gain much popularity as they were penned in Latin. St. Francis of Assisi changed all of that in 1223, when he began writing nativity plays in Italy, in which the actors sang carols in native languages so that spectators could join in.

Caroling continued to gain popularity throughout Europe, especially in France, Germany, Italy and England. But when the Puritans came to power in England in the 1640s, the celebration of Christmas and the singing of carols almost ceased completely, according to many Christmas history websites. It wasn't until Queen Victoria and Prince Albert took the throne in 1837 that Christmas once again became a treasured holiday, with the introduction of the decorated Christmas tree, gift giving and much more. It's also when Christmas



South Bay Bible Church in East Moriches will carol with parishioners on Friday, Dec. 13, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Courtesy photos

caroling as we know it began, much like scenes from Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol." People would gather in the streets or go from house to house singing carols to wish their neighbors good cheer.

Christmas enthusiasts maintain that caroling has gone by the wayside over the years, partly because one cannot assume a neighbor's religious proclivity. They also cite safety concerns as a contributing factor in the demise of caroling. But here in Center Moriches and the surrounding communities, it seems the tradition lives on. From scouting troops, to school musicians, to families and friends, people are still getting their carol on.

## Where are they caroling in Center Moriches?

Twenty-five Center Moriches middle and high school music students will perform some of the season's favorite carols at the annual Chamber of Commerce Tree Lighting Ceremony, on Friday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m., at the King Kullen Shopping Plaza. Then, on Friday, Dec. 20, student musicians will embark on their annual Holiday Tour, explained middle school band director Sara Greene, which will start at Clayton Elementary School, where the group will carol from classroom to classroom. Joined by high school band director, Paul Conefry, the group will then move on to Main Street, where they will carol at a handful of local retail shops.

"Our music department strives to spread holiday cheer through music," Greene noted. Her grandfather, Edward Pinto Sr., was also a music teacher, and Greene has fond memories of Christmas caroling

with him throughout the neighborhood. "All those years, performing alongside my sister, cousins, aunts, uncles, parents and grandfather, spreading holiday cheer to those in the community is one of my most cherished childhood memories."

South Bay Bible Church in East Moriches will also carol with parishioners on Friday, Dec. 13, from 7-8:30 p.m., said pastor Martin Hawley. Carolers will congregate at the church at 578 Montauk Highway before heading out to the community for "some good old-fashioned Christmas caroling to

help spread Christmas cheer," Hawley said. Carolers will give each home they visit a candy cane with a gospel message attached.

Girl Scout Troop 251 of Center Moriches will spread holiday cheer when they Christmas carol on Sunday, Dec. 21. According to co-troop leader Michelle Mitchell, the group has been caroling for the last several years. They have visited a nursing home and an assisted living facility, so this year they plan to Christmas carol in their local neighborhood.

"Our girls love to sing and even though they are getting older, are eager to put smiles on some neighbors' faces to spread the spirit of Christmas. They love the idea of helping others, which is what Girl Scouts is all about," said Mitchell.

But it's not just organized groups that are caroling; there are local folks who plan to gather with friends and family to carol during the holiday season as well. Every Christmas Eve, Diane Mastrole eagerly awaits the arrival of her neighbors, who traditionally go caroling on their block in East Moriches.

Meanwhile, Christian Migs of Mastic has been sharing in a 30-year Christmas caroling tradition for the last five years. The crowd ranges in age from 60 years old and younger; some years there may be as many as 30 carolers who visit at least 20 houses, where they sing a set repertoire of holiday favorites. "Everyone gets in the spirit. It's a great time and super fun," said Migs.

So be on the lookout this holiday season for Christmas carolers in your neighborhood! Rumor has it that other scouting troops will sing at Oasis Rehab Center in Center Moriches. If you live in the community commonly referred to as the "the Berries," also in Center Moriches, you may be treated to a rendition of "Deck the Halls" or maybe "Good King Wenceslas." And if you plan to do some last-minute holiday shopping at East Moriches Hardware on Main Street the Saturday before Christmas, you might be lucky enough to enjoy some carolers there as well. ■







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# Annual parade of lights

Fire department to host annual event that brings thousands

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

The Center Moriches Fire Department is hosting its annual holiday parade of lights on Saturday, Dec. 14. The event starts at 6 p.m. and will make its way through Main Street.

"Hopefully, the weather holds out for us and we have a good parade down Main Street," said ex-chief of the department Bill Renzetti, chair of the parade committee.

The parade will start at Montauk Highway and Lake Avenue in front of King Kullen, then head toward Ocean Avenue. Renzetti said it's a family-oriented parade, which attracts thousands to Center Moriches each year. There are around 100 community groups involved, including fire departments, EMS, scouts, and more. And of course, Santa will be making an appearance aboard a Center Moriches fire truck at the end of the parade.

"It's always about giving back to the community," Renzetti added.

There's a committee of about 10 people behind

**The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches will host the annual Christmas tree and menorah lighting on Friday, Dec. 6 at the Center Square Shopping Center.**

the scenes planning the parade, and about 15 who help it run smoothly on the day. Judges will be on hand looking closely at all the floats to see who will earn a trophy. Some of the awards include best fire/EMS apparatus, best community group, and more. This year's judges are Miriam Gillies and Brookhaven supervisor Ed Romaine.

For more information on the parade, contact 631-878-0089 or [parade@Centermorichesfd.com](mailto:parade@Centermorichesfd.com). ■

## 2018 winners:

**Best Girl Scouts Float** - Girl Scouts Troop 1556

**Best Cub Scout Float** - Troop 221 Den 4

**Best Fire / EMS Float** - Yaphank Fire Department

**Best Appearing Fire Truck** - Ridge Fire Department

**Best Community Float** - Holiday Beach Property Owners

**Best Overall Float** - Helping Makes You Happy



Santa will make his annual appearance at Center Moriches Fire Department's annual holiday parade.

Courtesy photo

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# Donate a toy or two this season

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

The holiday season is a time people spend thinking about the gifts they will give loved ones. You can give a special gift to someone you don't know who really needs it this holiday season, by donating to a location near you.

### Helping Makes U Happy

Keith Caputo's nonprofit has toy collection boxes in several local businesses. You can find them at TJ's Hero Shop in Mastic Beach, Raelenes Hair Studio in East Moriches and Waterdrinker Farms in Manorville. The toys will be distributed by HMUH to local families in need.

### Moriches Community Center

The Moriches Community Center is collecting all types of donations for families in need this holiday season. You can make a monetary donation to the Santa's Workshop

program, which allows MCC to purchase food and toys to distribute. You can also bring your own toy to their headquarters at 330 Frowein Road to be donated. You'll also be able to help shop for and wrap gifts for families. For more information, contact [info@morichescommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@morichescommunitycenter.org).

### Clayton Huey Elementary

In partnership with the Town of Brookhaven INTERFACE program, Clayton Huey Elementary in Center Moriches is collecting toy donations for families in need. Until Dec. 20, you can drop off a new, unwrapped toy to the Main Office.

### Center Moriches Library

The Center Moriches Library will again be hosting the Toys for Tots program. There is a donation box in the entrance hallway where you can place a new, unwrapped toy. The library will accept donations until Wednesday, Dec. 18.



## New Christmas tree for vets park

Last month, local residents led by the Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches planted a new evergreen tree at Soldiers and Sailors Park in East Moriches. The tree came from upstate and will be lit in the coming weeks. Jim Svendsen, an East Moriches businessman that wanted to give a special gift, donated the tree.

Photo by Robin Leuthardt

Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches  
*Center Moriches 18th Annual*  
**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
*Parade*  
**Sunday, March 15th, 2020**  
**Starting at 2:00 pm**  
*Main Street, Center Moriches*

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**Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches**  
**St. Patrick's Day Parade Dinner**  
**Friday, March 13, 2020**  
*Honoring*  
**2020 Grand Marshals Thomas & Elsie Tebbens**  
*Rock Hill Country Club in Manorville at 7:00 PM*  
**Tickets are \$65 per person**  
*Included buffet dinner, open bar, music and entertainment with Irish Step Dancers*  
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- Past Recipient of "Citizen of the Year" award from the East Moriches School District
- Past Recipient of "Volunteer of the year" award for the Moriches Rotary Club



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# BSA Troop 29 East Moriches Historical Hike

Scouts and family members from BSA Troop 29, East Moriches, hiked the Historical Trail in lower Manhattan. The nine-mile trek included stops at Saint Marks in the Bowery, and the Federal Reserve Bank on Liberty Street. The scouts and family members of Troop 29 explored and discovered many of the historic landmarks that are scattered throughout New York City. Troop 29 scouts visited the first tenement building, the first steel-framed building in Manhattan (Cooper Union) and cultural locations that included Chinatown, Little Italy, and Greenwich Village. The Kintecoying Lodge No. 4, an Order of the Arrow lodge for the Boy Scouts of America, developed the materials of the historical trail that the scouts followed

over the course of six to seven hours. Wandering to the numerous locations, 44 in total, provided ample opportunity to explore architecture, critical locations (such as the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and Trinity Church) and colonial locations from a very different time. Imagining the lower part of Manhattan when Wall Street was an actual wall, or when Canal Street had a canal, or where Adriaen Block erected his four huts after his vessel burned in 1613, became a challenge as we wandered between all the buildings and skyscrapers. The scouts of Troop 29 and their family members immersed themselves in the history of Manhattan. They look forward to the accompanying Revolutionary War Historic Trail in Northern Manhattan. ■



## Incumbents sweep town elections

On Nov. 5, election results revealed that town incumbents won across the board in Brookhaven Town. Supervisor Ed Romaine was re-elected to his fourth full term with just over 61 percent of the vote, over his opponent William Ferraro. Earlier that day, Romaine started off with his usual breakfast at the Moriches Bay Diner. "The reason we ran is so that we can govern, make Brookhaven move forward so we can fix the finances and get rid of the zombie homes, and do the things necessary to build a better town and the things that are right for the Town of Brookhaven," Romaine said on election night. Councilman Dan Panico was re-elected with an overwhelming 72 percent of the vote. Panico spent the day with his 5-year-old son Grant, who was with him to celebrate later in the evening as well. Suffolk County Legis. Rudy Sunderman (District 3) was re-elected for his second term with just over 62 percent of the vote. But Democrats held control of the county Legislature, despite a flipped seat in District 8. Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone was re-elected to his third term with 55.42 percent of the vote.

-Glenn Rohrbacker and Nicole Fuentes

# The Christmas Shop at



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## Keith's Corner



## Happy Holidays!

Helping Makes U Happy is ready for a busy month, and we are so fortunate to have so many who want to help alongside us.

On Dec. 4, we will be the recipients of a food drive at the first annual Handmade Market from 7-9:30 p.m. at Little Miss Sew It All in Manerville. Pallets and Pickets on Main Street in Center Moriches will have a food donation box in their awesome store, where people wanting to help us help others can donate non-perishables during the month of December.

On Dec.12, founder Keith Caputo and his mom Cassy will be the guest speakers at the Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council's End of 2019 meeting and luncheon in Hauppauge. A toy collection to benefit HMUH's efforts to give children a happy holiday will also take place.

Of course in the midst of everything, we'll be building our float, hoping to delight children and adults at the CMFD's Holiday Parade of Lights, which takes place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. Our friends at Waterdrinker Family Farm are planning to do a toy collection and a glove tree, and the proceeds of those will come to HMUH to benefit local families. The Longwood Girl Scouts are having a Holiday Ball on Dec. 18 and have kindly offered to collect donations of winter hats and gloves there to benefit our charity as well.

We will have toy collection boxes at Raelene's Hair Studio in East Moriches and TJ's Heros in Mastic Beach to help ensure that no child is left without this holiday season. We will continue our coat collections at Carlos Pizza in Manerville, IGHL Headquarters in Manerville, The North Face at Tanger Outlets, Riverhead, and Royal Laundromat on Moriches Middle Island Road in Manerville so that we may keep donating coats to schools, pantries, homeless shelters and street ministries. Thanks to all of these folks and Bloom Learning Center in Moriches, we were able to donate over 140 coats to people in need last month. Royal Laundromat is generously washing the coats for us, free of charge, at their newly updated laundromat. This is why we love local businesses so much—they are all about wanting to help others in our communities. We shop local as often as we can and hope you will, too!

As we do every year, we will be adopting families referred to us by the schools for holiday gifts and food baskets. And because Santa's helper, a.k.a. Keith, loves music as much as helping, and loves supporting other organizations who do great things, we'll be a sponsor at The Butterfly Effect Project's Motown Night on Dec. 27.

Thank you for your support of Helping Makes U Happy this year—it means the world to us. Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season filled with all the things that bring you joy!



## Friday, December 6

**Tree Lighting** – Ring in the holiday at Center Square Shopping Center, 552 Montauk Hwy., Center Moriches, 7 p.m. Call 631-874-3849.

## Saturday, December 7

**Sermon Series** – South Bay Bible Church, 578 Montauk Hwy., East Moriches will start a new 3-part series, “Why Christmas? The Backstory Behind the Main Story,” and discusses the unbelievable, impossible promise, made 2,090 years before Christmas Day. Services are held every Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m. Visit [www.southbaychurchli.org](http://www.southbaychurchli.org).

**Sleigh Rides & Santa** – The Town of Brookhaven holiday event at Longwood Estate in Ridge features a visit with Santa, train display, crafts, pony rides and more, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fee: \$5 per child, ages 12 and under. To register, call 631-924-1820.

## Friday, December 13

**G.F. Handel's Messiah** – The Choral Society of the Moriches in collaboration with The New Inlet Chamber Orchestra will perform at St. John the Evangelist RC Church, 25 Ocean Ave., Center Moriches, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door or online at [www.moricheschoral.org](http://www.moricheschoral.org).

## Saturday, December 14

**Holiday Cookie Fest** – Get your favorite homemade cookies at East Moriches United Methodist Church's annual cookie sale, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Buy by the pound, boxed or on plate; gift wrapping available. Many handcrafted holiday gifts on display. Try some homemade pickles, jams or quick breads. Church located at 370 Montauk Hwy., East Moriches. Call 631-878-0887.

**Santa and Mrs. Claus** - Meet and greet

with everyone's favorite couple at VFW Post 414 located at 437 Montauk Hwy., Center Moriches, 6-9 p.m. Unwrapped toy donations collected to be donated to veterans' families in need. Hot dogs and chips provided. Call 631-878-4908.

## Sunday, December 15

**Holiday Gift Wrapping** - Holiday time can be stressful, but wrapping presents shouldn't be! So bring your unwrapped gifts to Center Moriches Library Sunday, Dec. 15, 2-4 p.m. or Thursday, Dec. 19, 6-8 p.m. to use the supplied giftwrap station, complete with tape and ribbon to wrap holiday presents. For CMOR cardholders only. To register, call 631-878-0940.

## Wednesday, December 18

**Mastic Peninsula History** - The Historical Society will meet at the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Library, 7 p.m. Call 631-281-7347 or visit [www.mphistorical.org](http://www.mphistorical.org) or email [mastichistory333@gmail.com](mailto:mastichistory333@gmail.com).

com for more information.

## Sunday, December 22

**Ed and Jean Costello's Holiday Extravaganza** - Join certified appraiser Ed Costello as he presents a sampling of different types of antiques with a holiday theme in this fun, historical, and informative seminar. Door prizes will be presented, and each person may bring in ONE item for a free appraisal. (No coins, bills, or stamps) To register, call 631-878-0940.

## Tuesday, December 24

**Candlelight Service** – East Moriches United Methodist Church at 370 Montauk Hwy., East Moriches, will hold a Christmas Eve service with hymns, carols and choir anthems at 9 p.m. Call 631-878-0887.

## Events...

**Toys for Tots** - Center Moriches Library will again be hosting the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Place donations of new, unwrapped toys in the box

located in the entrance hallway. Help make a child's holiday a little brighter. Donations accepted until Wednesday, December 18. Visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org) to learn all the ways you can give.

**Mitten Tree** - Moriches Library is collecting new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to give to people in need in the community. Hang donations on the mitten tree located

near the Adult Reference Desk. Donations accepted until Friday, December 20. (Teens who bring in donations should stop by the Teen Department to receive an hour of community service).

# Moriches - Years Ago

Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

## 75 Years Ago December 1944

The Eastport grammar school honor roll was led by fourth-grader led by Joy Powell, with an average of 95 percent. Others on the honor roll for the first quarter include Joseph Abrams, Vincent Sachek, Mary Solomon, Sherwood Goldstein, Shirley Powell, Esther Goldstein, Donald Brady and Robert Brown.

The senior class of the Center Moriches High School held a formal Christmas ball with a four-piece orchestra and festive decorations and refreshments. Among the students in charge are Audrey Stiefel, Sam Meyer and Raymond Rumph.

Walter L. Whitman, executive vice president and cashier of the Eastport National Bank, was elected president of the Suffolk County Bankers and Clearing House Association.

Mrs. Howard Carlough of Center Moriches received a letter from her son, Stephen Carlough, United States Coast Guard, who took part in the invasion of the Philippines.

Staff Sgt. Donald W. Hulse, of Moriches, was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in action against the enemy as a radio-gunner with a Mitchell bomb group, which is now attacking enemy troops and supplies in close support of the Allied forces north of Florence.

Mr. and Mrs. John Romanowski, of East Moriches, celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary by entertaining guests on Thanksgiving Day.

Sgt. Joe Plox, former baseball star of Eastport High School, is enjoying a 10-day furlough at his home. He has been serving as an aircraft carrier in the United States Navy.

Pvt. Freda Borok, of Center Moriches, is a recruit in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and is now at Camp Lejeune, N.C., for training.

Marcus Flaherty, of East Moriches, spent several days in New York City this weekend purchasing reconditioned radios and vacuum cleaners for the Christmas trade.

The Eastport High School girls basketball team has been having afternoon practices in preparation for competition. Members of the team are Helen Lashuk, Lois Swezey, Charlotte Scott, Betty Cowan, Alice Cowan, Dorothy Baden and Irene Babinski. Their coach is Miss Monschein.

A surprise shower was given to Miss Ruth Schoener at the Center Moriches Presbyterian Church recreation room following choir practice by members of the Sunday School and the choir. A large white umbrella hung over the decorative table. Miss Schoener will be married on Dec. 16.

Margaret Kay, blood donor chairperson of the Center Moriches branch of the American Red Cross, was honored at a luncheon held by the organization and received an Army-Navy E-pin.

Hudson Darrow and his son, Richard, of East Moriches, attended the Madison Square Garden poultry show and won second prize for Black Giant Cockerel and hens and a bantam.

The industrial arts classes at Eastport School are arranging for outside decorations for the high school at Christmas time. Those on the committee are Alex Mazarakis, Walter Johnson, Walter Crennan, George Griffett, Michael Stachnick, Roy Wilson, Paul Daniels, Alice Cowan, Catherine Sowiak and Ardith Richmond.

Playing in December at the Center Moriches Theatre: Cary Grant and Ethel Barrymore in “None But the Lonely Heart”; June Haver and Dick Haymes in “Irish Eyes are Smiling”; Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire in “Holiday Inn”; Joel McCrea and Betty Field in “The Great Moment”; and Spencer Tracy and Robert Young in “Northwest Passage.”

## 50 Years Ago December 1969

The Choral Society of the Moriches continued its 31-year tradition of ushering in the Christmas spirit with the full strains of Handel's “The Messiah,” under the direction of Josef Lemmon, who conducted over 50 voices and orchestra, with Mildred Hawes as choral pianist. Over 400 persons attended. Soloist included Carol Jurgielewicz of

Moriches; Philomena Vigliotta of Center Moriches; and Dorothy Owen of East Moriches.

The Senix Building, located on Main Street in Center Moriches, which at one time housed the famous Moriches Hotel, Center Moriches Post Office and a branch office of *The Long Island Advance*, was demolished. Property has been proposed as the site of a nursing home and a modern office building.

Eastport High School's soccer team concluded one of its most successful seasons under coach Neil Stam. Forward James Green was named to the All-Suffolk first team and halfback Paul Ferguson was voted to the All-League V team. To honor the team, the school held a testimonial dinner in the school's dining hall.

Center Moriches Junior High Mathletes maintained their first-place position in their league by defeating Southold and Longwood. Points for Center Moriches were earned by Erica Neuhoff, Francis Cuomo, Mark Herrmann and Lisa Bowditch.

Can you spell the word “chaise?” That was the word that earned Jane Zuker, a seventh-grade student at East Moriches School, first place in a spelling bee held at East Moriches School. Jane will now advance to the regional spelling bee.

President Henry S. Carmer paid tribute to resigning board member, Mrs. Lewis F. Foster, at a meeting of the Center Moriches Public Library Board.

Girls in Mrs. Martha Huson's first-grade class in East Moriches School performed as part of the school's annual Christmas show.

Five Center Moriches High School students were awarded New York State Regents scholarships by the State Board of Regents. They are: Roberta Norger, Susan Smith, Mary Ann McLean, Joseph Lieb, Bruce Kronman, David Muller, Danny Adkins and Margaret Bryner.

Jane Jones of East Moriches is in charge of publicity for the home economics club at Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kan.

Playing at local theatres in December: Jack Lemmon in “April Fools”; Christopher Lee and Shirley Eaton in “Kiss and Tell”; and Ron Moody, Shani Wallis, and Mark Lester in “Oliver!”



## Opinion

# Why you should shop small this season

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

Small Business Saturday was on Saturday, Nov. 30 this year. The holiday tends to be an afterthought of the Christmas-shopping marketing discussion. It's like the holiday shopping season's "middle child." You spend a lot of time planning for Black Friday: where you'll go, what the best deals are and how to avoid getting trampled. While you do that, you're also thinking about what you can get for an even better deal without leaving your house come Cyber Monday. Left behind is Small Business Saturday, where your neighbors and friends put themselves out there to give you quality products that you'll love.

Shopping small not only supports your community, but helps it thrive. A Maine study reported that for every \$100 spent at a local independent retail store, \$58 is generated for the local economy, compared to just \$33 for a chain store. And a 2015 study says that the consolidation of larger retail companies has contributed to the increasing wage gap in the United States, while shopping locally strengthens the middle class. Other studies have shown a positive correlation among civic engagement, community well-being and a thriving local market.

But it all comes down to the first point: These shop owners are your neighbors and

friends. Their income goes toward putting their daughter through college or their son in piano lessons. Your money goes toward supporting the other neighbors and friends whom they employ. There are several new stores on Main Street this year, like AJ Sunflower Boutique, Pallets & Pickets, and the Daily Grind Cafe.

Last year, shoppers spent a record \$17.8 billion at independent stores and restaurants on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, according to research by American Express and National Federation of Independent Businesses, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization.

"When shoppers spend their hard-earned cash at local small businesses, the money stays local and the community thrives," said NFIB state director in New York, Greg Biryla. "With the support of local consumers, independently owned shops and restaurants continue to help Main Streets stay vibrant while also ensuring that tax dollars and jobs stay where they should — right in your neighborhood."

Make a plan to support your community by shopping small. And make that commitment extend from Black Friday weekend all the way through your gift-giving holiday.

### Donate to those in need

This month, please take a moment to donate to those in need. Imagine all the people we

could feed if everyone with an extra dollar or two dropped off a few cans and boxes of nonperishables. Even a \$10 donation could help feed a family that might not otherwise have a

meal this holiday. Now that Thanksgiving is over, make the choice to extend your thankfulness. Visit page 6 to see local places accepting toy donations for the holidays.

## Police blotter

### Center Moriches

Tools were stolen on Nov. 22 from a trailer parked in a driveway on Edwards Street.

Someone threw paint thinner on a Main Street storefront on Nov. 11.

### East Moriches

Someone damaged two garage doors at a Bittersweet Lane home on Nov. 16.

### Eastport

Fishing poles and a chainsaw were stolen from a shed on Eastport Manor Road on Nov. 19.

### Manorville

A Kawasaki quad was stolen from a home on Fairfield Manor Drive on Nov. 21.

## CRIMESTOPPERS

### Man gets 16 to life for CM robbery

Suffolk County district attorney Timothy D. Sini announced the sentencing of a Patchogue man to 16 years to life in prison for an attempted robbery at a 7-Eleven in Center Moriches in October 2018.

Joseph Allgood, 50, of Patchogue, was convicted by a jury on June 21, 2019 of two counts of attempted robbery in the second degree, a D violent felony. Due to Allgood's criminal history, he was deemed a mandatory persistent violent felony offender by the court. He was sentenced by Suffolk County Court Judge Philip Goglas to 16 years to life in prison.

At approximately 1:57 a.m., on Oct. 31, 2018, Allgood entered a 7-Eleven, located at 632 Main Street in Center Moriches, lunged at the clerk and demanded money from the register. When the attendant did not immediately comply with the demand, the defendant grabbed for the register and a fight ensued. Allgood pulled out a box cutter during this period and began to stab and slice the victim.

Another employee came to the victim's aid and the defendant began stabbing and biting both employees in an attempt to be released. One of the victims picked up a pizza cutter

and used it to cut the defendant's head until he finally released the box cutter. During the altercation, a silent alarm was pressed notifying the police. The defendant was arrested at the scene and all parties were taken to the hospital for minor injuries.

### Woman injured by overturned vehicle

Suffolk County Police Seventh Squad detectives are investigating a single-vehicle crash that critically injured a woman in Manorville on Nov. 20.

Blanca Vilma Soyos-Cordon was driving a 2002 Mitsubishi Montero westbound on Sunrise Highway, west of Exit 59, when she lost control of her vehicle and it overturned at approximately 9:05 a.m.

Soyos-Cordon, 22, was taken via ambulance to Stony Brook University Hospital in critical condition. There were no other injuries reported.

The vehicle was impounded for a safety check. Anyone with information about the crash is asked to call the Seventh Squad at 631-852-8752.

### Dogs rescued from freezing temperatures

Suffolk County Police rescued six dogs from freezing temperatures in Manorville on Nov. 12. Seventh Precinct officers responded to a 911 report of dogs left outside unattended at 10:40 p.m. When the officers arrived on the scene, a non-residential area on Toppings Path near County Road 111, they found six unattended dogs, two on chains and four in cages, without adequate access to shelter. The temperature registered 25 degrees Fahrenheit, and the water in the dog's bowls was frozen.

Police rescued the dogs—three beagles and three bloodhounds, ranging in age from 1 to 5 years old—and transported them to Animal Emergency Service, located at 280-L Middle County Road in Selden.

Anyone with information about the dogs is asked to call the Seventh Precinct Crime Section at 631-854-8726.

## Moriches Bay Garden Club

### Holiday party coming up

Several members attended a leadership conference at the Bethpage Restoration Welcome Center last month. It was a good opportunity to meet gardeners from all over Long Island and to get ideas for future programs.

A holiday party later this month at Trumpets wraps up the Garden Club's 2019 program. Our last project was collecting a trunk-load of toys and gifts and donating them to the toy drive at the Moriches Community Center.

Longtime member Linda Brown is moving to Florida. Linda is a master gardener, was a past president of our club and this year was our field trip coordinator. We wish her and her family good luck.

The MBGC is also sponsoring a member of BSA Troop 414, Steven Rosche, who is working toward his Eagle Scout project.

-Maureen Pollack

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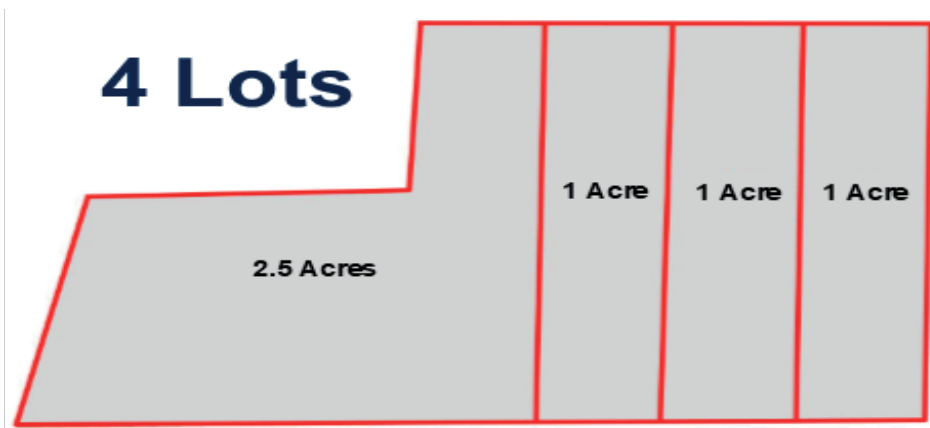
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