

OCTOBER 2020 | 9th Year, Issue 10

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## **Jewelry maker**

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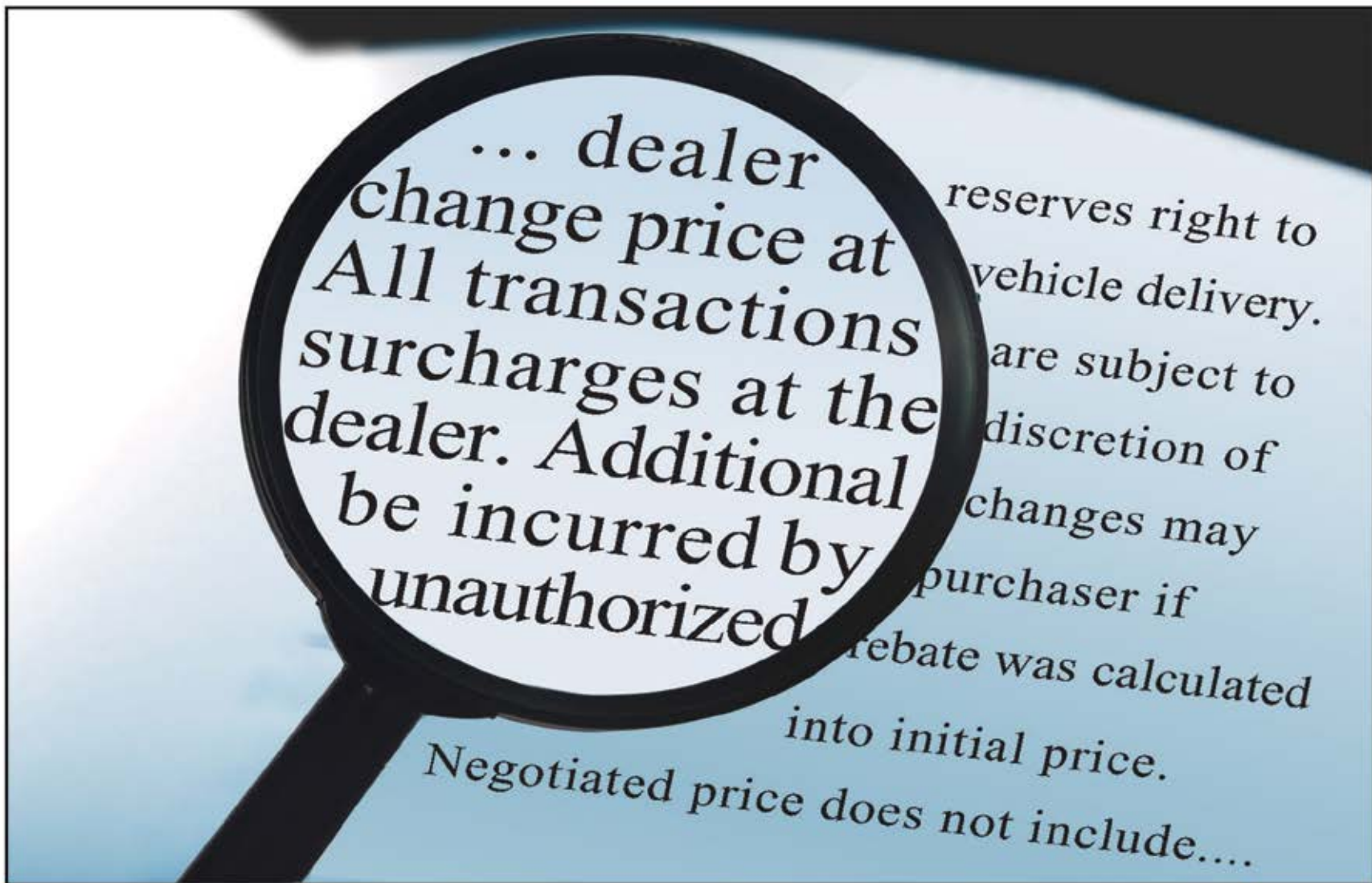
## **Special Olympics athlete in ad campaign**

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## **Haunted house happenings**

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# R.E.D. on Main Street

## Handmade jewelry with a community feel

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

Rebecca Dolber has been making jewelry for 15 years, but it started out as just a hobby.

“My first craft fair was actually here in Center Moriches,” said Dolber, a Center Moriches resident. “I was living in New York at the time. I went home, and I felt comfortable there.”

And Dolber did well. She started participating in several various craft fairs, including Alive After Five in Patchogue, and displaying and selling her work.

Dolber made some big decisions while working in the television industry in New York City.

“I just really loved doing this. I moved back to Long Island,” Dolber said. “I got myself a website on Etsy. I was selling on my website, and then I built out a wholesale account. That is what enabled me to do it full time.”

In a matter of four years, Dolber accrued 18 stores on Long Island, including yoga studios, surf shops, boutiques, and small art collectives.

“They weren’t necessarily pop-up [businesses]. A lot of them were established businesses,” she said. “I would say, to build up to that number, it took about four years. It is a short amount of



Rebecca Dolber opened her pop-up jewelry business on Main Street in Center Moriches. Dolber has presented and sold her jewelry at various craft fairs, including at Alive After Five in Patchogue.

time. I could be selling anything. What I love is the connection with people. When I started reaching out to other small local business, I pitched myself of that same vein. It was just an immediate connection with people. I have often found that people want to support you if you just give them the opportunity. They did, and they continued to buy from me.”

When opening R.E.D., which is Dolber’s initials, she stressed the point that everything in the store is handmade by

herself within the establishment.

“Nothing is brought in from China or other places, or marked up to sell to the community. In addition to having a really good quality to it and a really good energy behind it, everything can be customizable.”

Dolber sizes bracelets and customizes focals, for example.

“You are getting a tailored experience,” she said. “You don’t really hear of that a lot these days.”

R.E.D. is a pop-up shop, and Dolber said her short-term plan is to stay put in the location on Main Street through the holidays.

“What happened was that, with the pandemic, I, like a lot of businesses that I sell to, couldn’t open,” Dolber said. “And then once we were able to open, it was very hard to buy a new inventory.”

The wholesale part of Dolber’s business really dropped off, along with the fact that for the past three years, she popped up at Silly Lilly Fishing Station, which is another local business in East Moriches.

“I had my studio in there from Memorial Day through Labor Day. With the pandemic, everything had to be moved outside to open air, so I lost my spot there,” she said. “A few of the different arms of my business went from 60 to zero.

Dolber knows the owner of the building, and she was able make some space for her storefront.

“I kind of had that as an office space [at Silly Lilly] to work out of year-round. When everything changed, I knew that I needed something that was more walk-in accessible,” Dolber explained.

With a new location to practice and sell her handmade crafts, Dolber is surely an ingrained member of the Moriches community. ■

# Former slave home becomes historical treasure

BY SAM DESMOND

A local treasure, the Mary E. Bell house, is being recommended by the Town of Brookhaven for nomination to be listed on the state and national register of historic places.

Built in 1872 by former slaves that had settled in the Farmingville area, the Mary E. Bell house remained in family ownership by Bell’s daughter until 1993. Mary E. Bell died in 1923 and a local church renamed their congregation after her, the Bell AME Zion Church in Center Moriches.

The house fell into disrepair and was threatened with demolition in 2009, when it was taken over by the Town of Brookhaven.

Under the wing of the Town of Brookhaven, the house underwent massive renovations, including a new roof, new siding, and new foundation.

The Ketcham Inn Foundation has been hosting visitation services of the home since it was declared a Brookhaven landmark in 2011.

“Once history is gone, you cannot replace

it and not everything old can be saved, but this property was certainly deserving. Thanks to Bert Seides and the folks at the Ketcham Inn Foundation for their stewardship, and everyone who helped in the restoration,” said Councilman Dan Panico.

Supervisor Ed Romaine recalled delightfully passing the Mary E. Bell house every day, as he lives down the block from the historical home. “Our emphasis [in nominating the house to the historic register] is to preserve history and make it available to the public,” he said.

Once on the state and national registries, of which there are more than 120,000 throughout New York State, any future work or improvements made to the home will have to be reviewed by the Preservation League of New York. ■

**Built by former slaves in 1872 and owned by the descendants of that family until 1993, the Mary E. Bell house is a treasured piece of history that will now be on state and national registries to be preserved for generations to learn about.**

Chris Shaljian





KEITH'S CORNER

# Keith works together on 'Faith & Blue'

Our favorite month of the year is here—October! So many great things happening—a little differently than what we are used to maybe, but still happening! Pictured to the right is HMUH founder Keith Caputo with pastor Mike Jankowski of the Harbor Church and 7th Precinct SCPD COPE officers, all working together on “Faith & Blue,” part of a national event bringing together law enforcement and the communities they serve. The Faith & Blue event will be held outside at Harbor Church in Center Moriches, on Oct. 9 from 4-7 p.m. There'll be a pig roast, games for kids, K-9 demonstrations and much more! Another fun, helping event will be HMUH presents: Keith's Crazy Birthday Wonderful Wheel of Winning. This is a Facebook virtual auction for charity. Everyone knows how much Keith loves his annual HMUH Chinese auction, which cannot take place this year due to the pandemic. It's our hope that the virtual auction will enable us to help all the families referred to us for Thanksgiving and Christmas, so please, if you are on Facebook, look for the group with that name and join up! There'll be amazing prizes

plus holiday decor, and gift cards to help you get a jump on your holiday spirit and shopping! As the nights get chillier, HMUH will once again be collecting coats, hats, scarves, gloves and hoodies for the homeless. Please put those unwanted items aside for us when you are cleaning out your closets. We are also collecting unwanted new and gently used shoes. If you're looking for a good Halloween scare, visit spooky-walk.com and purchase your tickets for the Haunted Drive-Through, benefiting Camp Paquatuck, the camp for children with special needs. And last, but certainly not least, our fearless leader Keith turns 40 on Halloween. His original wish—a casino-night event which would raise funds for helping (no gifts) —had to be postponed. His second wish is an amazing birthday parade. We hope many of you will help us to make that wish come true! Dress up your kids, yourselves, your cars and drive by Keith's home: 44 Hawkins Ave., Center Moriches, starting at 11:30 a.m. on Halloween morning. Let's give some happy to the man who does all the helping! Have a safe and happy month, all!



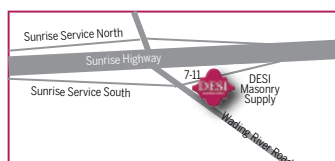
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# Brookhaven Lab celebrates launch of 'dream machine' collider

Local, state, and federal officials commemorate beginning of decade-long project

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

Many stakeholders in Brookhaven National Laboratory's upcoming Electron-Ion Collider project came together recently to celebrate the official launch of the initiative. In January, the U.S. Department of Energy named Brookhaven Lab the site for the project, out of a pool of the country's top research facilities.

"BNL has the talent, the technology, and the track record to make the most of this national project," said Sen. Chuck Schumer. "The lab is used to taking on big projects, critical research, and the most serious questions science can pose. This multi-billion-dollar federal investment on Long Island will guarantee Brookhaven National Lab continues to be a world-class research facility for the next generation."

Schumer also highlighted the jobs the project will bring to Long Island, both in construction and engineering, as well as the scientists who use the machine. The project is estimated to have a \$2 billion investment in the lab and its surrounding infrastructure. New York State has also

committed to investing \$100 million over the next six years toward the project.

"This cutting-edge project will inject billions of dollars and an extensive number of jobs into our communities, all while churning out scores of scientific discoveries that help us understand the world around us, harness the untapped potential of the natural world, and from human health to our national security and beyond, benefit nearly every aspect of our lives," said congressman Lee Zeldin.

The EIC Collider will essentially act as a subatomic microscope, which scientists will use to study the building blocks of visible matter. The EIC will be on the heels of the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, a 2.4-mile circular magnetic beam accelerator which has been in use for almost 20 years. According to operations professionals at the lab, the RHIC will be replaced with the EIC within the next five years, when construction is slated to begin. The EIC will be in the same tunnel as the RHIC, but performing different tasks. The lab expects the EIC to be operational in the early part of the next decade.

Experiments using the EIC will look at quarks and gluons, the fundamental pieces of atoms, and how they relate to one another, are arranged, and their connection to larger matter. All findings stemming from the EIC will be available through openly published research to scientists, industry



The Electron-Ion Collider will be built in Brookhaven Lab's existing Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider tunnel, which circulates 2.4 miles on the lab's Upton campus.

ADV/Rohrbacker

professionals, and academia.

"I have no doubt that this project is in the right hands and I am looking forward to all the discoveries that will be coming out of [the team]," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

Technology used in the creation and use of the EIC, as well as the discoveries that come out of it, could have major impacts in the fields of health, technology, security, and more. BNL is also partnering with Jefferson Labs in Virginia, which will have a major role in the development and execution of the project.

According to Diane Hatton, project manager for the EIC, one of the first phases of review on the project was completed last week by a panel of experts, and the team received feedback that they were on track to move into the next phase of design.

"The EIC will maintain leadership in nuclear physics and accelerator science and technology with impacts on our technological, economic, and national security," said Doon Gibbs, Brookhaven National Lab director. ■

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# A haunted woods drive; a scary stroll at Gateway

The Gateway offers three ways to scare yourself this Halloween

BY LINDA LEUZZI

Be afraid. Be very afraid.

We could add another warning, but that would be redundant.

It would also be true.

The Gateway is pulling out all the stops this year, offering three possibilities to scare yourself silly: a haunted 1.63-mile drive-through called The Forgotten Road at Southaven County Park; a 15-minute walk-through, Brigand's Run, at The Gateway in Bellport; and movies that will make your heart race (families will see a more benign film earlier – the frightening ones start at 9 p.m.). The movies are at their drive-in movie parking lot.

The macabre events started this month, Friday, and Saturday, 7 to 11:30 p.m., then continuing with these times adding Thursdays through Sundays after Columbus Day. Tickets went on sale Friday, Sept. 19.

Make sure you buy tickets beforehand, as they are sold on a time slot. So for The Forgotten Road, if you don't have one before you get to Southaven Park's entrance off Victory Avenue, you won't get in.

What can brave hearts expect?

"The story is very intriguing," explained executive creative director Paul Allan. "It's like watching an episode of 'The Walking Dead'."

A podcast guides you. Projections, LED lights, and other atmosphere-enhancing features will cast eerie glows.

Fifty actors will lurk in the woods. Don't worry, though. They won't get you.

"But you'll be concerned," said Allan, tongue-in-cheek, of the 30-minute journey.

Visitors start at an old camping area and

proceed to a cemetery between the tombstones; then the site opens up to a picnic area.

Uh oh! Along the way, the woods have eyes, like creatures watching you.

Which ones?

You'll have to use your imagination.

Add a gravedigger's shack and a deserted carnival area. "This is a cool séance area, like Pandora at Disney World," Allan said, pointing to spot marked on the map he's

using for logistics. Staffers will direct parking. The Gateway will have security; county park rangers will also be on the premises.

Allan said when the COVID situation continued longer than everyone thought, causing the postponement of their summer season, his team started brainstorming. In August, he reached out to Eric Schwartz, director of media results for Connoisseur Media. Connoisseur is the media partner with Gateway. Schwartz and Allan have been working together for 20 years.

"We talked about COVID and I said, 'Why don't we do a drive-in and make it fun?'" Schwartz recalled. "We were trying to rack our brains to continue the best haunt on Long Island without 30 to 40 people in the house. There's no better creative team than Gateway, probably in the country."

Allan mentioned the possibility of also using radio jocks breaking into the story line.

Legis. Rob Calarco (D-Patchogue) helped nail the park usage in place and arranged a couple of Zoom meetings to seal the deal with Suffolk County Parks commissioner Philip Berdolt. "I think that's why they were excited about it," Allan said. "It will expose more people to that park."

Calarco said that Connoisseur Media



The Gateway's executive artistic director Paul Allan demonstrates "Fluffy," one of the blood-curdling beasts on Brigand's Run. It's one of The Gateway's three offerings this year, including a haunted drive-through at Southaven County Park.

ADV/Leuzzi

## Brigand's Run at The Gateway will make your hair stand

By LINDA LEUZZI

You start at the side tent on The Gateway grounds, then walk through a dark, threatening alleyway of twisted woods and lurking ghouls.

"For the walk-through, we'll be utilizing a lot of the haunted house outdoor section, re-themed as undead pirates," said Gateway creative executive director Paul Allan. "And it will be open the same dates and times as the drive-through." (Friday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 3, then continuing with these times adding Thursdays through Sundays after Columbus Day.)

Tickets went on sale Friday, Sept. 19.

"We're only selling in groups of four or more, so a couple going would have to pair up. And it has to be done in advance; you have to purchase your time slot. No tickets will be sold at the site."

J.P. Baker was making sure an otherworldly automation creature was in fine frightening order along the walk.

Spoiler alert: We're only providing a couple of peeks.

Then there was Fluffy, the scariest, biggest, blood-dripping-from-his-teeth wolf you ever saw around the corner.

Allan worked Fluffy as a demonstration. It lunged. Pretty beastly, even if you knew Allan was behind it.

"When he comes out, invariably, people fall down," he said, looking at a small fenced area that will prop you up.

As for the movies, The Gateway is moving to double features. "Families can watch 'Frankenweenie' at 7 p.m.; then for example, 'The Texas Chainsaw Massacre' at 9:30 p.m." They'll be starting out with "The Shining."

had reached out looking for ways to partner with the county and mentioned Gateway, and that they were looking to offer their fabled haunted house event this year in a different fashion.

"I thought we could be a good resource, so we set up a conference call to discuss it," Calarco said. Smith Point was mentioned at first, "but I thought it would be cool to have a drive-through in the woods," he said. "I suggested Southaven Park. And it came together." On Sept. 9, the legislature gave The Gateway permission.

"For us, and I know our parks department was excited. With the pandemic and with entertainment places being impacted, this was an opportunity to work with a well-respected organization and give people some normalcy. They wouldn't be able to do it indoors."

Allan said some venues are opening regular haunt events with safe distancing.

"This is a new concept and we seem to be the first ones offering it," he said, adding that he knew of less than a handful of other drive-throughs in the country as well as Japan.

"If you want something different," he said, "that's safe and inside your car, this is another option." For more information, go online at [thegateway.org](http://thegateway.org) or call 631-286-1133. ■

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# Fall fun put on hold

BY PATRICIA KALOSKI

A cold pint of German lager and a piping-hot Bavarian pretzel; a stroll through the annual street fair to visit your favorite arts and crafts vendor; picking out the perfect Halloween costume for the annual March of the Goblins – each of these activities is synonymous with traditional fall activities enjoyed by residents in the Moriches Bay community this time of year, but like most everything else, these fall-time favorites have been dramatically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of press time, several autumn events and activities had been cancelled due to coronavirus, including the Moriches Rotary Club's annual Oktoberfest and the Moriches Chamber's Fall Arts & Crafts festival. Even the fan-favorite March of the Goblins Halloween trick-or-treating event is a no-go.

"It's depressing and frustrating," said Gerry Sapanaro, Chamber of Commerce treasurer. "It's the first time in many of our events' histories that we've had to cancel."

But New York State executive orders pertaining to the COVID-19 virus have made it impossible for large gatherings to take place, with a limit of 50 people per gathering still in effect. That means annual favorites such as the Rotary Club's Oktoberfest, usually held at the end of September on the grounds of the Moriches Bay Historical Society in Center Moriches, have been cancelled. Notice of cancellation was posted on-site weeks ago, announcing the date for Oktoberfest 2021, which is Sept. 24-26.

Oktoberfest attracts thousands of people, said Rotary Club vice president Peter Traina—2020 would have marked its 12th-consecutive year. "With the COVID crisis ongoing, we didn't want to jeopardize the safety and health of the community. There are always several hundred people in the beer tent at any given time and we didn't want to take a chance, also for the safety of our Rotarians and volunteers," Traina said.

The chamber's Fall Arts and Crafts fair has been a staple in downtown Center Moriches for more than 30 years, Sapanaro said, but for the first time since its inception, will not be held. Chamber president Julie Pratt said board members racked their brains for ideas on how to implement the fair, but "it was just not possible to organize," she said, because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Especially heartbreaking, Pratt said, is the cancellation of the Halloween trick-or-treating event, the March of the Goblins. Held every Halloween along Main Street for more than a decade, Pratt said business owners look forward to dressing up in full costume to pass out treats to eager trick-or-treaters.

"It's thousands of kids," noted Pratt.

"Our members keep asking us if it's possible to have it, but it's just not possible to organize."

Sapanaro and Pratt said the absence of these annual happenings have a significant impact on local businesses and merchants along Main Street, who benefit from the throngs of people who visit downtown Center Moriches this time of year for fall festivities. They say no downtown events means fewer people eating at area restaurants and shopping in downtown stores.

Cindy Dwyer, owner of Pallets and Pickets, had just opened the doors to her new store located at 376 Main Street in early October 2019, so having the fall street fair a few weeks later was a huge advantage, she said.

"We had a lot of walk-ins during the fair and not only sold a lot of items, but also took orders for custom work. It was fantastic," said Dwyer. "We are very disappointed about the cancellation of this year's fair. It was wonderful to see Main Street so alive during last year's fair."

Event cancellations have also had a devastating effect on the budgets of these local community nonprofit organizations. The chamber, for example, estimates that their budget is down by at least 50 percent, mostly because their 2020 fundraising events have been nixed due to COVID-19. It began in March when the chamber had to postpone its annual St. Patrick's Day dinner-dance and parade, followed by the spring arts and crafts festival held in June, and now the fall street fair and festival. Sapanaro said the chamber has exhausted most of their funds for 2020, but fortunately, have been able to cover the costs of programs and scholarship funds.

One question that has been looming as funds have dwindled over the last several months is, what will downtown look like this holiday season? The chamber pays for the festive decorations that adorn Main Street, including the holiday lights, while their sister organization, the Downtown Beautification Organization, decorates the lampposts. The cost to do both is more than \$10,000, noted Sapanaro. Fortunately, thanks to the generosity of Puccio Electric, Christmas in Center Moriches won't be cancelled, mused Pratt. Mark Puccio has committed to stringing the lights—as his company has done for more than 20 years—no matter the chamber's budget.

"We will have Christmas in our town!" said Puccio. "If this can help make people happy during this messed up time, then why not? I love the Christmas spirit, and I believe in helping as much as I can. I love everyone in this town."

The chamber is in the process of planning an event to kick off the holiday season in downtown Center Moriches, which may include photo opportunities with Santa Claus somewhere on Main Street. The specific details and date have yet to be decided. ■



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# Hoping sports companies will 'brand' Special Olympians

Campaign kicks off this week in support of Special Olympics athletes

BY LINDA LEUZZI

Getting a gold medal in bench press is not an easy task.

But Daniel Fletcher, 32, from East Moriches, has won a gold medal as first in his weight class for bench press in the Special Olympics Nationals. He's also received a silver medal in deadlift as second in his weight class. Besides these and other accolades, he participates in a total of nine sports. Fletcher, whose practice schedule alone is worthy of a gold medal, also works as an attendant at Bowlero in Sayville.

But he's not featured as an athlete on any sports-brand ads as famous athletes are. Neither are any other elite Special Olympians.

That's what Special Olympics New York is hoping to change as they kick off their "Your Brand Here" campaign, challenging sports companies to get onboard.

Fletcher, one of three Special Olympians chosen for the campaign, is the only Long Islander. Two others, Izzy Brinkerhoff from Albany and Genesis Duran from New York City, are also a part of the campaign.

"We have many corporate sponsors, but we don't have that big brand name with sports sponsorships," said Stacey Hengsterman, president and chief executive

officer of Special Olympics New York, the largest chapter in the country.

"I really do think people will say, 'I never thought of that.'"

Hengsterman, the mother of a Down syndrome child, noted that Special Olympics athletes already feel some sort of isolation, but when COVID hit this year, "It took away their training classes and competitions and we had to drastically change our budget," she said.

Special Olympics New York wound up offering a six-week virtual program and resources for athletes.

"So we had no idea when we asked sponsors for support, [what would happen] even with not having our gala [they turned 50 this year], games and going virtual," she said. "I think people really appreciated what we were doing and saw the athletes in a new light."

That fueled the campaign. It will be featured on the Special Olympics New York website and through social media. Daniel's parents, Edna and Warren Fletcher, will tell you that Special Olympics is Daniel's own society. Warren is a coach for the nine sports Daniel

trains in; Edna coaches also.

This is a quick version of Daniel's training commitment before COVID.

He powerlifts at Gold's Gym in Smithtown; in golf, he trains at Dix Hills Golf Course; softball is at Mount Sinai in Heritage Park. There's floor hockey at Commack Middle School, basketball at Christ

Special Olympics New York serves more than 67,000 athletes – children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities. It provides year-round sports training and competition in 22 sports; partners with nearly 250 schools statewide to offer Unified Sports, where students with and without intellectual disabilities compete as teammates and work to improve athlete health. Because all Special Olympics New York programming is provided free to athletes and their families, the statewide nonprofit also coordinates hundreds of fundraising events per year



Special Olympian Daniel Fletcher, of East Moriches, who works at Bowlero in Sayville, was chosen as the only Long Islander in Special Olympics New York's "Your Brand Here" campaign.

Courtesy photo

the King Church in Commack, bowling at Bowlero in Sayville, boxing at New Village Park in Holbrook, then equestrian training at Saddle Rock Ranch in Middle Island, where his Eagle Scout project—a mounting block—is located.

"It teaches me to train and train hard, helps me to get strong, makes me happy, lets me make friends and helps me celebrate," said Daniel.

He still celebrates, but COVID put a crimp in the on-site training sessions.

Edna and Warren provide most of the transportation, but when COVID hit in March, weekly evening virtual meetings were set up.

"The athletes have been able to say hi, how they are doing, and how their week is going," Edna said. "Prior to that we will do a 10-to-15-minute exercise video." Edna

has incorporated weekly jokes; Warren sometimes initiates a sing-along to lighten up the sessions.

"If anyone had a birthday, they would do a drive-by," she said.

The photo session that ultimately had Daniel drinking an unnamed sports drink in the ad campaign with a barbell at his feet took place last month at the Cross Island YMCA in Queens.

"Daniel had on a patriotic robe and socks, and his blue singlet from the national games," she said of some of his attire. His call name is Mr. U.S.A.

P.S.: He gave out American flags to everyone at the shoot.

"He will tell other people to consider joining Special Olympics," Edna said. "He's a local messenger and goes around talking to people about what it is." ■

## More early voting sites, more time to submit absentee ballots in Suffolk County this year

BY KATE NALEPINSKI

While the coronavirus pandemic has presented an array of challenges this voting season, it has also sparked new state initiatives to ease the voting process.

Nancy Marr, president of the League of Women Voters in Brookhaven, said this year, Suffolk County legislators have announced plans to increase its number of early voting sites.

There will be 12 early voting sites in Suffolk this year: Brookhaven, Islip and Huntington will have two sites, while East Hampton, Southampton, Southold, Riverhead, Smithtown and Babylon will have one.

Moreover, state officials announced earlier this month that voters can bring their completed absentee ballots to county election boards now, or to early voting sites, as early as Oct. 24. Suffolk County

currently has 336 polling places.

During a coronavirus briefing Sept. 8, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Twitter that the executive order will "allow absentee ballots to be returned to drop boxes without a wait at 300-plus locations statewide."

In Suffolk, voters can drop their absentee ballots off at the Suffolk County Board of Elections office in Yaphank on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or at any of the 336 early voting or general election polling sites during operating hours.

However, Marr said that due to a delay at the country level, some absentee ballots have yet to be distributed.

"A lot of people are saying, 'Well, I sent in my application, but I haven't heard anything,'" she said.

This has produced some concern from the public that their vote may not be counted, Marr said.

"It's recommended that people sign up

to receive an absentee ballot, and then as soon as they get the ballot, they should return it to the Board of Elections at one of the early voting sites," she said.

Marr said she believes the pandemic has helped community members obtain absentee ballots more readily than in years past. She said that this year, there has been a "greater effort to reach people" through social media and other websites, as well as more opportunities to register online and get information.

Earlier this month, the New York State Board of Elections added a webpage for voters to quickly apply for a mail-in ballot.

The deadline to register to vote in the state is Oct. 9. More information can be found at suffolkvotes.com.

A nationwide organization with chapters around the country, the League of Women Voters aims to educate and

empower voters. The Brookhaven chapter has collaborated with local libraries – most recently the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Library and the Patchogue-Medford Library – to offer general voting information to the public. ■

### The three ways to vote in this year's general election:

- On Election Day, November 3, 2020, at your local polling place.
- From October 24th through November 1st, during the early voting period, at one of the 12 early voting locations throughout the County.
- By Absentee Ballot, which can be submitted electronically, by mail, in person, by email, by fax or by phone.





## Free care packages for seniors

Oasis Rehabilitation & Nursing recently held a free event handing out care packages to local seniors. The event was to reconnect with people who have been unable to attend previously popular events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pictured is staff of the facility with Councilman Dan Panico.

Courtesy photo

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# Bellone says 'last chance' to feds

## Suffolk Transit at risk to lose significant funding

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

With counties across New York asking in unity for federal disaster relief funding in order to pay for the ongoing response to COVID-19, Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone expressed that 19 bus routes across the county will be nixed.

"As we put forward this budget, there is not going to be a part of this budget that involves discretionary spending that will not be impacted as a result of Washington's failure to act here," Bellone said at a press conference alongside officials from Suffolk Transit Service. "We are going to see impacts on public health. We are going to see impacts on public transportation."

Tuesday, Sept. 22, was Long Island Car-Free Day as well.

"I have taken Suffolk Transit to come to work on Car-Free Day to highlight the importance of public transportation to our economy, to the people of Suffolk County," he said. "When you want to think about the importance of that, think about what we have had to go through during COVID-19: drivers who were driving these buses throughout the pandemic when they didn't know, we didn't know, the science wasn't even there about what the potential impacts were going to be. These are people who took risks to keep the essential parts of our economy going."

Bellone pointed out that essential workers frequently rely on the county bus system. With 19 routes being cut, that could mean the loss of a job or one's lack of ability to reach the grocery store in a reasonable amount of time.

"These cuts would go into effect in the budget that we will be putting forward midway through the budget year. On an annualized basis, these cuts would produce about \$18 million in savings," Bellone said, implying an at least multi-year cut of this regard.

John Corrado, president of Suffolk Transit, said Suffolk County needs a transit system.

"We didn't lose the percentages that our neighboring counties and the city lost. We lost about 40 percent of our riders during the pandemic," Corrado said. "But [riders are] coming back now, and people need our system."

"We move about 5 million people, trips, per year. And these cuts would be devastating, but also devastating to the folks who are trying to use our road systems. Can you imagine putting those trips back onto the roads in cars and what have you?" he added.

The executive's office collaborates with other county executives around the state on a regular basis, especially during the pandemic. Orange and Onondaga counties tuned in to a Zoom conference with Bellone. Bellone, Orange County's executive Steve Neuhaus and Onondaga County's executive Ryan McMahon, were ultimately unified in their stance on the necessity of federal disaster relief.

"One thing that we have communicated consistently over these months is the need for the federal government to provide disaster assistance directly for states and local governments to help us battle the pandemic and to ultimately be able to recover from it," Bellone said. "The counties literally are the governments that are on the front lines of this. We are the governments that are doing public safety and public health."

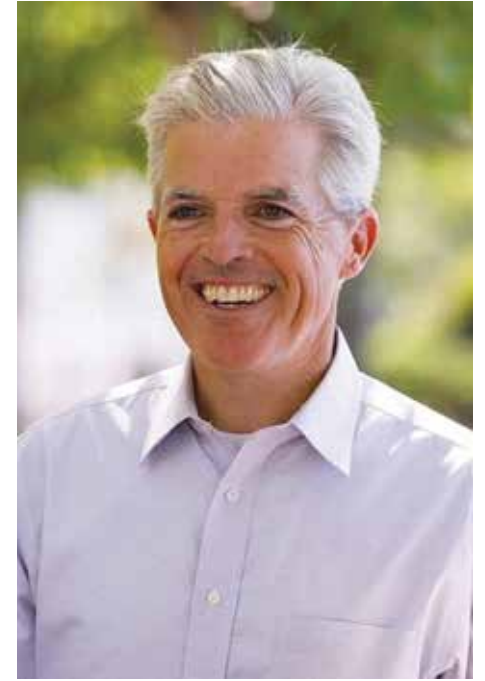
McMahon shares Bellone's financial concerns. Although he reports his upstate county's positivity rates never reached the peaks of Suffolk County or Orange County, he said the burden was absolutely evident.

"What the federal government is potentially doing is creating one of the largest unfunded mandates that we have ever seen. If we were making the decisions on shutting down, reopening, restarting, we would need to live with those decisions," McMahon said.

He expressed that Suffolk County's accomplishment in flattening the curve was "remarkable."

In Orange County, the brunt was felt a bit more than his upstate colleague.

"We were providing our nursing homes — not the county ones, the private ones — with 75 percent of their personal protective equipment. We were even providing hospitals with N95 masks, gowns. You name it. We were buying coffins," Neuhaus said. "We were buying ventilators. We have had to buy body bags because the ones that they provided were not quality. The most incredible things that the



Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone announces that 19 bus routes will be lost if federal disaster relief funding does not reach the county — and soon.

general public probably doesn't realize that were on the desk of the county executives in order to get through this is really astounding."

The three county executives met via Zoom publicly in July as well, calling on the federal government regarding the same issue. ■

## EDITORIAL

# Let's see Special Olympians on sports ads

We were contacted by Special Olympics New York about their new campaign, which will hopefully encourage sports brands to use Special Olympic athletes in their ads.

It's called "Your Brand Here" and features three Special Olympians who have excelled time and again in competitions. One is Daniel Fletcher, who is the only one from Long Island, specifically Suffolk County in East Moriches; he works in Sayville, which we wrote about this week.

The pitch is a long time coming and challenges brands to change their mindset: they're quick to support top athletes and major sports figures, but fail to recognize or support Special Olympians.

The two Special Olympic women and Fletcher are prominently featured in ad-like visuals, highlighting their specialty sport along with the logo, "Your Brand Here."

If you don't know about Special Olympics, it's a nonprofit organization that started 50 years ago in New York that serves 67,000 athletes, children,

youths and adults with intellectual disabilities. In normal times, it provides year-round sports training and competition in 22 sports and partners with nearly 250 schools statewide. The programs are free to the athletes and their families.

During COVID, they offered virtual programs.

The athletes train arduously and compete in national and regional games.

And, they are top athletes.

Special Olympics New York CEO and president Stacey Hangsterman said they're funded by corporate sponsors, but no big-name sports product sponsor has reached out as of yet to include one of the athletes. That's what this campaign is all about.

"I really do think people say, 'I never thought about that,'" she said.

Lots of things are changing.

So if you're a big brand, please think of this and feature them.

You will become a hero to these Olympians and to your customers.



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# Fall is in the air

With the growing season over and cooler weather on the way, all our members are enjoying the last of the blooms before fall chores are upon us: raking, raking and more raking. Sharon Ott and Lori Silverman report that the youth program at the Yaphank Children's Garden is over. This year they focused on square-foot gardening. The wrap-up party was a scavenger hunt through the herb garden to find herbs for the pizza they made.

Last month's guest presenter, Luke Gervase, included a slide show of invasive plants in our local waterways. He also spoke about shoreline stabilization and restoration. Caroline Schnabl, from the Long Island Native Plant Initiative, brought handouts about invasive plants we should avoid and native plants we should encourage.

Lillie Brown, Diane Tuttle, Betty Ronston and Maureen Pollack brought flowers and herbs from our gardens to Eileen DeRicco's house to decide on our entry for the National Garden Club Second District flower show, held in Greenport. A collection of herbs that included fennel, thyme, parley, tarragon, rosemary, lavender and sage arranged on a

piece of driftwood was the final decision (pictured).

Take a minute to enjoy this lovely autumn weather; there's still time to go apple picking.

-Maureen Pollack



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## HIGH TIDE TABLES FOR LOCAL WATERS - OCTOBER 2020

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Sept. 27 - Oct. 3														
<b>Moriches Bay</b>	4:54 AM	5:16 PM	5:50 AM	6:08 PM	6:37 AM	6:52 PM	7:19 AM	7:33 PM	7:57 AM	8:11 PM	8:32 AM	8:47 PM	9:06 AM	9:24 PM
<b>Moriches Inlet</b>	4:15 AM	4:37 PM	5:11 AM	5:29 PM	5:58 AM	6:13 PM	6:40 AM	6:54 PM	7:18 AM	7:32 PM	7:53 AM	8:08 PM	8:27 AM	8:45 PM
<b>Smith Pt. Bridge</b>	7:10 AM	7:32 PM	8:06 AM	8:24 PM	8:53 AM	9:08 PM	9:35 AM	9:49 PM	10:13 AM	10:27 PM	10:48 AM	11:03 PM	11:22 AM	11:40 PM
October 4 - 10														
<b>Moriches Bay</b>	9:38 AM	10:01 PM	10:10 AM	10:40 PM	10:42 AM	11:23 PM	11:20 AM	—	12:11 AM	12:07 PM	1:04 AM	1:03 PM	2:00 AM	2:03 PM
<b>Moriches Inlet</b>	10:17 AM	10:36 PM	10:54 AM	11:19 PM	11:33 AM	—	12:05 AM	12:16 PM	12:55 AM	1:04 PM	1:49 AM	1:59 PM	2:49 AM	3:02 PM
<b>Smith Pt. Bridge</b>	11:54 AM	—	12:17 AM	12:26 PM	12:56 AM	12:58 PM	1:39 AM	1:36 PM	2:27 AM	2:23 PM	3:20 AM	3:19 PM	4:16 AM	4:19 PM
October 11 - 17														
<b>Moriches Bay</b>	3:00 AM	3:08 PM	4:02 AM	4:13 PM	5:02 AM	5:15 PM	5:57 AM	6:12 PM	6:47 AM	7:03 PM	7:35 AM	7:53 PM	8:23 AM	8:42 PM
<b>Moriches Inlet</b>	2:21 AM	2:29 PM	3:23 AM	3:34 PM	4:23 AM	4:36 PM	5:18 AM	5:33 PM	6:08 AM	6:24 PM	6:56 AM	7:14 PM	7:44 AM	8:03 PM
<b>Smith Pt. Bridge</b>	5:16 AM	5:24 PM	6:18 AM	6:29 PM	7:18 AM	7:31 PM	8:13 AM	8:28 PM	9:03 AM	9:19 PM	9:51 AM	10:09 PM	10:39 AM	10:58 PM
October 18 - 24														
<b>Moriches Bay</b>	9:11 AM	9:33 PM	10:02 AM	10:29 PM	10:57 AM	11:28 PM	11:55 AM	—	12:30 AM	12:54 PM	1:31 AM	1:53 PM	2:31 AM	2:51 PM
<b>Moriches Inlet</b>	8:32 AM	8:54 PM	9:23 AM	9:50 PM	10:18 AM	10:49 PM	11:16 AM	11:51 PM	—	12:15 PM	12:52 AM	1:14 PM	1:52 AM	2:12 PM
<b>Smith Pt. Bridge</b>	11:27 AM	11:49 PM	—	12:18 PM	12:45 AM	1:13 PM	1:44 AM	2:11 PM	2:46 AM	3:10 PM	3:47 AM	4:09 PM	4:47 AM	5:07 PM

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## AROUND TOWN

## Saturday, October 3

**Free Drive-In Movie** – The human-service organization Brighter Tomorrows will hold a fundraiser drive-in movie event, showing Disney's "Moana" at the Patchogue Family YMCA, 255 W. Main St., Patchogue, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Tickets are free, but donations are appreciated. For tickets and information, visit [www.brightertomorrowinc.org](http://www.brightertomorrowinc.org).

## Friday, October 9

**Outside Game On** – Teens can join Mastics, Moriches, Shirley Community Library at 369 Neighborhood Rd., Mastic Beach to play Cornhole, Kan-Jam, or giant board games, 5-6 p.m. Weather permitting. Masks and social distancing required. To register, call 631-399-1511.

## Sunday, October 25

**College Fall Open House** – St. Joseph's College, 155 West Roe Blvd., Patchogue, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register, call 631-687-4500 or visit [www.sicny.edu/liopenhouse](http://www.sicny.edu/liopenhouse).

**Huntington's Disease Virtual Walk** – The society's New York/New Jersey region will host the Long Island Virtual Team Hope Walk. Team Hope is HDSA's largest national grassroots fundraising event to support the fight to improve the lives of people affected by HD and their families. A virtual walk is a real walk, but participants get to choose their own course. Event link: [www.nynjreg.hdsa.org/about/2020-long-island-virtual-team-hope-walk](http://www.nynjreg.hdsa.org/about/2020-long-island-virtual-team-hope-walk).

## Of Note ...

**Child Care Program** – Parents in need can reserve a spot for quality childcare programs offered by Colonial Youth and Family Services, Moriches. To find out more, call 631-281-446 or visit [www.colonialyfs.com](http://www.colonialyfs.com).

**Virtual Career Edge Job Readiness** – The newly created Dress for Success® Program is designed to assist women seeking employment or a better job. This program is offered free of charge to clients. Classes are Wednesdays, September 16 through October 28, 2020. To register, call 631-451-9127 or email [brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org](mailto:brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org).

**Domestic Violence** – Is a loved one attacking you physically, verbally or emotionally? Contact the L.I. Against Domestic Violence. 24-hour hotline: 631-666-8833. Tell them, they'll listen. For more information, visit [www.liadv.org](http://www.liadv.org).

**Skillport Online Trainings** – Dress for Success® Brookhaven offers comprehensive e-Learning with a library of over 8,000 courses,

available 24/7. To register, call 631-451-9127 or email [brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org](mailto:brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org).

**Dress for Success Brookhaven** – The organization is pleased to offer appointments for Virtual Suitings with curbside pickups at their Farmingville location. They also provide one-to-one career coaching, resume reviews, practice interviews, and more. They can work with clients via email, phone, or virtual sessions to make every effort to meet each individual's needs. Anyone in need is invited to call 631-451-9127 and leave a clear message with who you are; what you need; and the best way for us to reach you. You can also email [Brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org](mailto:Brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org). Access a wide range of information about what is available by viewing United Way information at [www.211.org](http://www.211.org).

**Brainfuse Adult Learning** – The Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Library has a free online center for adult learners. Access the center online at [www.communitylibrary.org](http://www.communitylibrary.org). Live online help available from 1 to 11 p.m. weekly. On the website, select Learn New Skills: Aca-

## YEARS AGO

## 75 Years Ago

OCTOBER 1945

The United States Marine Corps is well represented by Moriches-area servicemen, and sometimes, pleasant meetings in the course of distant duty have occurred. Recently the following "soldiers of the sea" met up in Guam: **Pfc. Robert Hamilton** of Eastport; **Pfc. Benjamin Rutkowski** of Center Moriches; **Pfc. Walter Chornoma** of East Moriches; **Cpl. Albert Zeneski** of Center Moriches; and **Pfc. Eugene Havens** of Center Moriches.

The Missionary Society of the East Moriches Presbyterian Church met at the home of **Mrs. Oliver Hammond**.

The Learn How Club, sponsored by the PTA of the Moriches School, held its first class this month. The sewing class is under the supervision of **Mrs. William Parr** and **Mrs. J. Galbraith**, and **Mrs. J. Arnzen** and **Mrs. A. Baker** are in charge of the cooking club.

The wives of the East Moriches firefighters met at the fire hall and formed the Ladies Auxiliary of the East Moriches Fire Department. The officers are **Mrs. Walter Ruland**, president; **Mrs. Edward Ringhoff**, vice president; **Mrs. Frank Anton**, secretary; and **Mrs. Walter Kanas**, treasurer.

The Peg-a-Ways gave a card party recently at the home of **Miss Florence Terry**, of East Moriches. Prizewinners were **Mrs. Gilbert Benjamin**, **Mrs. Fred Martin**, **Mrs. Helen Howell**, **Mrs. Allen Brown**, **Mrs. William Hall**, **Mrs. Ina Raynor**, **Mrs. Theodore Hallock** and **Mrs. C.D. Terry**.

**Katherine E. Beers**, of Woodlawn Avenue, East Moriches, has been promoted from first lieutenant to captain in the Women's Army Corps. Her company is awaiting its deployment to Tokyo.

**Mr. and Mrs. Percy Havens**, of Senix Avenue, Center Moriches, celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on Oct. 2.

**Mrs. Gifford M. Pearson**, of Hawkins Avenue, Center Moriches, who has served as the advertising and business representative of the *Moriches Tribune* for the past year, has now taken over the duties of covering the news of Center Moriches, succeeding **Mrs. Lewis Foster** as correspondent.

**Lt. Comdr. Calvin Harris** and **Mrs. Harris**, and **Mr. and Mrs. Al Gardiner** caught some sizeable fluke with fly rods boating at East Moriches, weighing 12, 11, 8 and 7 pounds, respectively.

**Mrs. Ida Smith**, **Mrs. Gladys Rogers**, **Edward Fanning** and **Mrs. Amy Sinnickson** were in charge of the voter registration for the north side of Center Moriches and **Mrs. Alice Edwards**, **Mrs. Thelma Piper**, **Sidney Penny** and **Benjamin Tooker** had charge for the south side.

**Adam Soroka**, of East Moriches, gave a duck dinner for his duck pickers at his home. Each picker was presented with a duck and a \$5 bonus.

A family reunion and birthday party was held at the home of **Mr. and Mrs. J.A. O'Connell** of Tuthill Street, East Moriches, in honor of Mrs. O'Connell.

**Walter Sinuk** is home in East Morich-

es, having been discharged from the Army at Fort Dix, N.J., after nearly three years overseas with the 2nd Armored Division, taking part in six campaigns and serving in Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

**Frederick H. Muller** has sold his chicken farm in Moriches to **Isadore Streb- el** of Center Moriches. Mr. Muller has moved his law offices to Center Moriches and is now located over the Ace pharmacy on Main Street. Mr. Streb- el in turn has sold his house on Clinton Street to Mr. Muller.

Playing in October at the Center Moriches Theatre: "**The River Gang**," starring Gloria Jean and John Qualen; "**Duffy's Tavern**," starring Bing Crosby, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy Lamour and Alan Ladd; Joan Crawford in "**Mildred Pierce**"; and Robert Alda as George Gershwin in "**Rhapsody in Blue**."

## 50 Years Ago

OCTOBER 1970

Saturday was Community Sweep Day in the Center Moriches area, where various merchants and chamber members swept the section of sidewalk in front of their places of business. Among those who partook were **Sally Heller** in front of her store, South Bay Sales Inc.; **Gus Stout** of August Stout Jr. Real Estate and Insurance; and **Babe Donadao**, who swept around the front of his gas station located on Main Street.

**Rev. John Byron** has recently been appointed to serve as pastor of the

East Moriches United Methodist Church.

William Floyd High School students are preparing for their production of "The Fantasticks" to be held the first week of October in the high school auditorium. Cast members include **Joe Curly**, **Bill Cento**, **Dave DeB- atto**, **Donna Petrucci**, **Bruce Petrucci**, **Jim Casciano** and **Sal Taboada**.

Center Moriches High School principal **Zollie W. Privett** congratulated three students at the school who received letters of commendation honoring them for their high performance on the 1970 National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The students were: **Barbara Kennedy**, **Raymond DeMatteo**, **Paul Runyan** and **Harold Abrams**.

**Ed Ringhoff**, president of the East Moriches Board of Fire Commissioners, presented the keys of a new 1,000-gallon Ford pumper Sunday to Engine Co. No. 1 **Capt. Walter Robinson**.

**Anthony Klonaris**, of Shirley, described the art of violin making in a program presented by the Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts in the music room of the James Wilson Young High School in Bayport.

Playing in October at local United Artist theatres: **Barbra Streisand** in "**Hello, Dolly!**"; **Walt Disney's "The Love Bug"**; **Burt Lancaster**, **Lee Marvin** and **Robert Ryan** in "**The Professionals**"; and **Mae West**, **John Huston** and **Raquel Welch** in "**Myra Breckindridge**."

Compiled by Vanessa Graniello



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# Back to the bay

Despite fundraising difficulties, nonprofits persist in mission to restore oyster wildlife

BY KATE NALEPINSKI

The pandemic has shifted the path for many of us, and it has also changed the journey of the local oyster's return to the Great South Bay.

By returning oysters and oyster shells back into the bay, habitats can be replenished.

Local nonprofit organizations involved in oyster habitat restoration have adjusted their procedures to ensure safety for volunteers, restaurateurs, baymen and oyster farmers amid the pandemic.

Maureen Dunn, water quality scientist of Seatuck Environmental Association of Islip, established Half Shells for Habitat Oyster Recovery Program in 2018. Through the program, Seatuck volunteers recover used oyster shells from local restaurants to restore oyster habitats.

As concerns for COVID-19 increased



Save the Great South Bay volunteer Jim Kanzler releases oysters into the Great South Bay in August as part of the Save Great South Bay's Oyster Project.

and the outbreak spread, the nonprofit feared there may be sanitary issues associated with volunteers touching used shells. Group members determined they had to reduce their efforts for safety reasons, and by mid-March, it decreased its shell intake from restaurants by about 90

percent, Dunn said.

Nearby nonprofit organization Save the Great South Bay rolled out a new program this summer to help oyster farmers and restaurateurs who have been struggling from the pandemic.

"We were worried for their financial

futures," said STGSB executive director Robyn Silvestri.

Through STGSB's Oyster Project, the nonprofit purchases excess oysters and inventory from farmers and repurpose them into the bay's no-harvest zones. The oysters also improve the quality of bay water through natural filtration. The group has already released approximately 7,000 oysters in the bay, Silvestri said.

Sister organization Friends of Bellport Bay, which also partnered on the Oyster Project, primarily functions outdoors — which has allowed most of their restoration efforts to continue, said president and director Thomas Schultz.

The group, which was created to help improve the water quality of Bellport Bay, partners with a local hatchery to purchase hundreds of bay oysters, which are grown and later released when they reach the appropriate size.

To donate to the nonprofits mentioned, visit: <https://friendsofbellportbay.org/take-action>, <https://savethegreatsouthbay.org/about-us/contact/>, [http://ginomacchiofoundation.com/?page\\_id=1956](http://ginomacchiofoundation.com/?page_id=1956) and <https://www.seatuck.org/support.> ■

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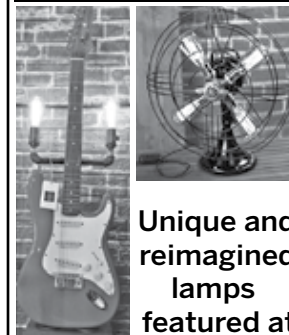
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