

# the Tide

OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

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13th Year, Issue 4

## ‘Blij dat je hier bent!’... in the colorful, wonderful, magical Netherlands!

### Waterdrinker’s Long Island Tulip Festival

“Blij dat je hier bent!” is Dutch for “Glad you are here!” It’s a greeting you will hear at the 2024 Long Island Tulip Fest at Waterdrinker Farms.

“And this year, we have two farms,” excitedly shared owner Marc Weiss. “Twice the fun—Manorville and Riverhead!”

Millions of tulips are blooming this year at both locations.

“It almost feels magical,” Weiss continued. “We plant in November and

they come up in April. There is an adage used at Disney that says, ‘It’s not the magic that makes it work... it’s the way we work that makes it magic!’ Our tried and true, old-fashioned farming methods equate to a lot of hard work. But to see the looks on the faces of the families who visit us

makes it all worthwhile... especially the little kids!”

As the world slowly emerges from the cocoon of indoor living, there’s no better time to embrace the rejuvenating power of fresh air and nature’s beauty. Amid the hustle and bustle

See **TULIP FESTIVAL** on page 9



The tulips are blooming at Waterdrinker Farm. From around April 12 to around May 5, the grey of winter seems to almost miraculously change into a sea of color during the annual Tulip Festival. Visitors are encouraged to follow their Weekly Bloom Reports on [www.water-drinker.com](http://www.water-drinker.com) to really get the max enjoyment from your visit. (Warning: Tulips are poisonous to cats if ingested).

Photo courtesy of Waterdrinker Farms



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# Spring Thoughts from Okula Tree Care of Center Moriches

Between last years drought and a very uneven winter where temperatures fluctuated from 5 to 50 degrees; growing conditions for trees and shrubs have caused serious consequences.

Weather, insects, soil conditions and diseases all play a part in treating & maintaining a healthy landscape.

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### When's the best time to prune, shape and fertilize your shrubs?

Now is the perfect time to get your shrubs like Azaleas, Laurels, Boxwoods, Rhododendrons, Green Giants, Leyland Cypress and Arborvitae ready for the season ahead. Having professionally trained people from a responsible and caring company will insure positive results.



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# Boat dumper in Manorville gets town fines as county ups dumping fines

BY LINDA LEUZZI

It's gonna cost you dearly if you illegally dump.

On Feb. 29, Timothy Hughes of Shirley, who was charged with illegally dumping a 24-foot boat in the Pine Barrens in Manorville earlier in the month, pled guilty in Suffolk County's 6th District Court in Patchogue. Hughes will pay a \$5,000 fine and \$1,300 for the cleanup.

Assistant Brookhaven town attorney John Doyle related the town's process that targeted Hughes; the boat was dumped off Exit 69 on the Long Island Expressway, he said.

"The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department responded first when it was notified by the Pine Barrens Commissions, which has cameras in the woods and gave them access to the video. There's a camera there because it's a known dumping ground. There's a pavement leading to the rural area and this particular road also leads to a power grid."

Assistant chief deputy sheriff Michael Smith explained their role.

"We have a Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council; it's a 26-member agency that participates," Smith said. "The task force enforces state and county regulations in the Pine Barrens—that is, dumping, encroaching, clearing, any violation in the Pine Barrens. The Pine Barrens Enforcement and Compliance team has various cameras throughout the Pine Barrens and our common dumping spots are patrolled regularly. Some report to computers and the footage comes off the still image. Depending on where it is, one of the officers will typically follow up. You can approach the person responsible



This boat, dumped in Manorville, was hauled away by the Sheriff's Office.

Courtesy photo

with the picture in hand."

Doyle said there were also calls from passersby who noticed the boat.

Dumping incidents in the woods are more common than they should be, Doyle said. Also, in the wetlands.

"We have cameras there, too," he said.

"Some people dump yard waste, some construction debris. We upped the fines in 2022 in the town sanitation code. The fine now is a minimum of \$2,000 in the Pine Barrens."

Just recently, Suffolk County raised fines for dumping on public lands: \$15,000 for individuals; \$25,000 for corporations. Whistleblowers are awarded more also—a third of the fine amount.

Doyle credited the Sheriff's Office. "It was their hard work that broke the case," he said. "We prosecuted it, and we try to keep those communication lines open."

Boats of all sizes including paddle boats, old cars, trucks, refrigerators,

and mattresses are not uncommon finds, he said.

The boat was picked up and disposed of. "Hughes surrendered himself to the sheriff," Doyle pointed out. "The cleanup and fines are worked out typically in district court," he said. "They give you six weeks to pay from the conviction and can come to the window of the courthouse."

"People now know that it's an expensive crime. There are all sorts of legal ways to dispose of items legally." ■

# Resident seeks to keep the community 'beautiful'

BY NICOLE FUENTES

"Every day I run and walk in our beautiful hamlet, but my heart sinks at the sight of garbage along our streets—everywhere!" said East Moriches resident Doug DeFeo.

To combat this, last month, DeFeo took his kitchen garbage bags and a grabber and went out to do something about it.

"I walked two miles, for four hours, and collected 11 bags of garbage and four huge tires," he said, walking around Railroad Avenue along the train tracks, Culver Lane, West Lane, Pine Street, and Montauk Highway. "But I know it'll come back—and is still everywhere you look."

His hope is to get the interest of other local residents to encourage them to go out and spend some time keeping their neighborhood clean—even if it is just their own front yards.

"It could actually make a difference," he said, hoping others will join him. "I believe this is important on many levels: we live here—this is our home, and if we don't take care of it, who will?"

His thinking, he said, is how residents care for their streets is a direct reflection of them. He also recognized during heavy rains, trash washes into the storm drains and goes into the bays, impacting wildlife.

"Many years ago, there was a growing concern about the amount of litter in our communities, but that concern seems to have diminished and no one seems to care," he said, thinking of the impact it will have on children. "I want people to care again, and all it takes is picking up the trash."

Those interested in helping DeFeo



Pictured is what DeFeo collected in a just a few hours out in his neighborhood, including tires.

Courtesy photos

with his mission or cleaning the streets can send photos and information to [liascnib@gmail.com](mailto:liascnib@gmail.com) and be featured in an upcoming edition!

## THE GREAT BROOKHAVEN CLEANUP

Every spring, individuals and groups join the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest organized cleanup, beautification, and community improvement program. This program is sponsored by

Teachers Federal Credit Union.

Over the last decade, over 50,000 Brookhaven residents joined tens of millions of volunteers in more than 15,000 communities across America to pick up more than 750 million pounds of litter and debris, beautify over 500,000 miles of roadway, and clean up more than 500,000 miles of rivers, lakes, and seashores in their communities.

This year's cleanup will take place on Saturday, May 18—free gloves, bags, and T-shirts will be provided. To sign

up visit: <https://brookhaven-public.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/26085>. For more information call 631-451-6222. ■



# The story and success of the Moriches Bay Red Devils

BY PATRICIA KALOSKI

When a group of local dads started a travel youth baseball program more than a decade ago, they may have never imagined its success or the positive impact it would have on players, families, and the community as a whole.

Some 10-plus years later, the Moriches Bay Red Devils Baseball/Softball Organization is still going strong, growing from a small grassroots effort to a thriving enterprise that offers competitive baseball and softball opportunities for children ages 8 to 14.

The Moriches Bay Red Devils started from humble beginnings in 2012, with just one team. Founder, Center Moriches resident Ed Morris Jr., was a former all-star high school baseball player from Eastport, who grew up playing baseball in school as well as with the Moriches Bay Little League. When his children came of age to play, Morris, along with some other dads, decided they wanted to branch out to establish a more competitive program that would include travel tournaments. They formed the Moriches Bay Tides, comprising players from Center Moriches and East Moriches.

After a few seasons, Morris and fellow coaches realized there was an opportunity to start a viable program with multiple teams, and under their leadership, the Moriches Bay Red Devils organization was born. In their first year, the Red Devils consisted of an 8U and 9U team.

"Moriches Bay Little League was the perfect way to introduce a child to the game of baseball," reflected Dave Kaloski, coach of the original Red Devils 8U team. "It gave every child, regardless of their athletic ability, the opportunity to learn the sport."

To that end, tryouts were held with teams selected upon performance. Uniforms were ordered and regular practice schedules established to get ready for the upcoming season when teams would compete in the Town of Brookhaven's summer baseball program.

"The kids worked hard," he said. "They would practice for and play Little League games during the week and then

have practices and games for the travel program. We were a new organization with new coaches and players. We really had no idea what to expect."

But the hard work paid off, and in the first season, the 8U and 9U teams won many games, and by their second season, clinched championship titles. The organization flourished under its leadership and its reputation grew throughout the community, and before long, multiple teams were added as the original players got older. In 2023, the first softball teams were introduced to the Moriches Bay Red Devils.

"When the girls finished their eighth-grade season, they wanted to keep playing, but many leagues are located out west, are high pressure, and have big costs," said Moriches Bay Red Devils softball coach Kerry Coonan. "We worked with the Red Devils program to bring back softball locally as a travel program."

Fellow coach and Red Devils Softball director Jennifer Juers added, "Boys have always had the medium to go to the next level from Little League and girls didn't."

Coonan and Juers approached the Red Devils about starting a softball team and said they were welcomed with open arms. The program has achieved great success in a short amount of time, said Juers, with a total of five participating teams, which includes an anticipated 14U team for the fall season, along with 12, 10 and 8U teams.

"The goal of the organization was—and still is—to bring high-quality baseball and softball instruction and play to the kids of Center Moriches and East Moriches at a price that is affordable to our residents," explained Josh Foster, an original 8U coach, who now serves as organization president and is coach of the 11U team.

These philosophies took root when the decision was made to send the 12U team to Cooperstown in August 2019, a rite of passage for many young baseball players. Knowing the cost would be significant between tournament and hotel fees, coaches and parents band-



ed together to create fundraisers that would help offset costs. These included a fall leaf-raking initiative, where players and coaches raked countless yards in Center Moriches and East Moriches, for a donation. Fundraising efforts have continued over the years with clam-bakes, football pools, and car washes, all of which support the overall program.

Another important goal, Morris said, was to bridge the gap between youth baseball and JV and varsity high school baseball programs, so there would be a natural and easy transition for players. Many of the Red Devils travel players have gone on to play in high school, and some even at the college level. This year's CMHS varsity baseball team includes members of the original Red Devils travel team.

The Red Devils isn't just about playing baseball, said coaches: the organization is also committed to community service projects, led by Red Devils secretary, treasurer, and social media manager, Jessica Curtain.

"I love the sense of family that each team has," said Danielle DeRosa, former Red Devils treasurer. Her son Gavin has graduated through the program and is a member of the high school varsity team. Her daughter Grace is on the U team. "I

love having other parents who want their kids to be good humans first and have fun playing ball. I love the coach and athlete relationships; my kids have great role models to look up to."

For more information about the Moriches Bay Red Devils, contact Foster at 516-680-7356; Curtain at 631-603-6514; or visit (20-plus) Moriches Bay Red Devils Baseball/Softball Organization | Facebook, or @moriches\_bay\_red\_devils. ■



Courtesy photos

## Student Leaders set up 5K series

Next two races will be held in May

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Last month, The Student Leaders group at Center Moriches High School hosted the first of three in the annual 5K "Using our Voices Mental Health Run Series."

The first race, this year, was held on Saturday, March 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. starting at Neville Park, 9 Canal Street, in Center Moriches. The kids' run (ages 5-10) started earlier at 8:45 until 9 a.m.

The event is held in partnership with the North Babylon and Connetquot school districts. The second and third in the race series will be held in those areas on May 11 and 19.

The race serves as a follow-up event to P.S. I Love You Day. P.S. I Love You Day is held the second Friday of February as a day meant to spread love, decrease bullying, and promote mental health awareness.

Center Moriches School District, according to the district, believes in students being a part of the change process and genuine inclusivity through student



A total of 300 people registered for the first of the 5K series.

Courtesy photo

engagement. The goal is to share important messages about reducing stress and anxiety, building relationships, and supporting students' mental and physical health through movement.

Junior race directors include Center Moriches High School students Isabella Rayburn, Destiny Blackwood, Chloe Raupp, Angelina Buttigieg, and Gabby DeAngelis.

They were in charge of leading the event in hopes of bringing people together for fun, music, running, walking, and raffles.

High school senior and one of the junior race directors, Rayburn explained

that their main goal of the series is to spread awareness about mental health and how exercise can improve mental health.

"Our student leader group continues to do great work, and I am beyond proud to be a part of it and to have been a junior race director," she said. "It was so rewarding that the amount of time we put into this run series paid off."

The support, she said, was overwhelming, surpassing their goal of 300 registrants. The first of the series had a total of 330 registrants. The race also included several vendors and mental health resources.

### WINNERS

**First Place**  
Daniel Shaw-Town, of Center Moriches with a 6:20 time.

**Second Place**  
James Mintel, of Center Moriches, with a 6:31 time.

**Third Place**  
Troy Donnelly, of East Islip, with a 6:36 time.

The race directors were also charged with finding the vendors as well as the mental health resources, and visiting every class in the high school, middle school, and elementary school, putting countless hours into the series.

"On behalf of myself and principal Marissa Mangogna, we are incredibly proud of our junior race directors and student leaders for their leadership skills, their hard work, and for the amazing things they do every day," said Katy Forman, the head organizer and the assistant principal of Center Moriches High School. "We were so impressed by all of our staff involvement, all of our students, and our families. Amazing!" ■

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Spring is in the air and it's time to spring clean everything! We're offering some refreshing Spring Specials including treatments to brighten and hydrate your skin, deep clean your pores, and remove unwanted hair from your face and body. The time to freshen up is now because spring is here and... woohoo...summer is coming to Long Island!

### Springtime Refresh with Hydrofacial

This popular facial is the ultimate springtime clean up! Our Hydro Glow (Hydrofacial) is a gentle form of microdermabrasion (exfoliating the top layer of skin) using a vacuum tool to gently suction and unclog pores for a truly deep clean. And then using a pressurized stream of water, your skin is infused with serums to moisturize, brighten, plump, and protect. Spring Special prices: Hydro Glow for \$179 (45 mins) or Hydro Glow Deluxe for \$199 (Deluxe includes 15 minutes of LED Light Therapy for a total treatment time of 60 mins).

### Brightening Facial

Our Brightening Facial is 75 minutes of anti-aging, brightening and relaxation. This luxurious treatment reduces dark spots and smooths away fine lines and wrinkles with a three step exfoliation process, facial massage and a soothing brightening mask. This is one of our most popular and well loved facials! \$165

### Get Rid of Unwanted Hair

Are you tired of waxing, plucking, tweezing, and shaving? Tired of ingrown hairs, razor bumps and irritation? Finding an effective and safe hair removal solution can be frustrating. Waxing and shaving are temporary and time consuming, and can result in bumps, redness and irritation. Electrolysis is permanent, but painful. The good news is that there's a better way to deal with unwanted hair: Laser hair removal with the Aerolase NeoElite. The NeoElite (our laser of choice) is the gold standard for permanent hair reduction - making Ocean Spa Beauty and Wellness the best place for comfortable, effective, and affordable laser treatments. Our laser is gentler and less painful than traditional lasers, requiring no skin cooling or numbing creams. The treatment targets the hair follicle itself, preventing hair from regrowing in the treated area. This means that you can enjoy hairfree skin for weeks after your first treatment, with a permanent reduction of hair after 6-12 treatments.

### The Time for Laser is Now!

Everybody knows that the best time to get ready for summer is...in the winter! But it's not too late to start your laser hair removal journey. We are offering a "Beach Body Bundle" that includes the bikini line (6 sessions) and the underarms (6 sessions) for \$850 (12 sessions total). If you start now, you can be well on your way to having a "hair free care free" summer! All laser hair

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# Moriches Bay Garden Club prepares for new season

Club is 'always' seeking new members

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Moriches Bay Garden Club currently has about 30 active members, with plans to expand. It's not just about flowers, but also about fun and friendship—while also learning and growing, literally and figuratively.

"We are always looking to expand our club," said first vice president and retired teacher Patti Chieffo, who joined the club just prior to COVID. "You don't have to be a master gardener to join. You just have to appreciate the beauty everyone can find in our gardens and in nature."

According to president of the club, Debbie Cannarelli, a retired art teacher at Eastport Elementary School, she always wanted to join the club but was always busy with her career.

"It wasn't until I retired that I was able to join 16 years ago, at which time my family opened Bay Gardens in East Moriches," she said of her journey into the club.



Members of the MBGC enjoying a lunch at Bayard Cutting Arboretum in the fall.



A photo of the MBGC at their holiday luncheon at Trumpets on the Bay.

Courtesy photos

Since the Moriches Bay Garden Club was founded in 1974, it has been informing members of the many different aspects of gardening and agriculture.

"It is a hobby, a passion, and a gift," Cannarelli said. "You plant and get rewarded with beauty, shade, flowers, and food for us and nature. Our members enjoy the conversation, camaraderie, and compassion for the community and environment."

The MBGC recently hosted their first meeting of the year on March 21 at the Center Moriches Library. During the event, a speaker from the Cornell Cooperative Extension spoke about gardening with deer.

Meetings used to be held in a nearby

church, and since the pandemic have moved to the Center Moriches Library, with most meetings being held outside on a location. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 1 p.m. There are no meetings in January or February due to weather.

Future meetings include: a tour of a private rhododendron garden in April; in May, there will be a focus on pansies; a tour of the rose garden at the Southampton Library will be for June; a trip to Peconic Herb Farm for July; and their annual flower show will be held in August.

And, don't forget their 50th anniversary celebration Tea/Chinese Auction at Camp Paquatuck in September; then

## Moriches Bay Garden Club Officers

Debbie Cannarelli, President  
Patti Chieffo, First Vice President  
Betty Ronston, Second Vice President  
Rita Sepenoski, Recording Secretary  
Colleen Carbonari, Corresponding Secretary  
Betty Lemyre, Treasurer

they will hold a succulents and pumpkins class in October and a houseplants speaker will come in November. Also, they hold their holiday luncheon at Trumpets on the Bay in December.

Members Rita and her husband, John Sepenoski, own a farm in Peconic. They invite the club every year the first week in December to make wreaths, swags, centerpieces, etc., for the holidays.

"We will have more information on these meetings and the 50th anniversary celebration in future articles," said Chieffo. "Stay tuned."

In addition to the club's educational meetings, they also contribute to the community by participating in the Great Brookhaven Cleanup and the Memorial Day parade. Every year, the club also awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a student pursuing a major in horticulture.

Those interested in joining the club should contact president Debbie Cannarelli at 631-258-3657 or debcan@gmail.com. Dues are \$40 per year and go towards running the club. The club is also always looking for new speakers or places to go. ■

# Rewilding grows at the Havens Estate

BY C. E. PARRY

An approach to landscaping that's taken root in Suffolk County has established a home at the Havens Homestead in Center Moriches. Its team of master gardeners work to recreate garden beds with indigenous plantings, many of which can be traced to the 1740s when seeds were purchased by the Ketcham Inn proprietors.

Their submission for a planned 1200-square-foot addition was among 11 winning grant proposals submitted to Rewild Long Island's 2023 competition. Through this and other initiatives, the nonprofit Port Washington organization works to establish beautiful, easy-to-maintain gardens for homes and public spaces like the Sands Point Preserve and the Nassau County Museum of Art.

Part of an effort to revitalize and sustain healthy waterways that support fish and local wildlife, rewilding promotes better landscaping choices through education, example, and outreach. It discourages the use of artificial fertilizers on lawns and farms to reduce nitrogen runoff that seeps into groundwater and flows into bays and streams, poisoning fish and wildlife and increasing algal blooms.

As the name suggests, rewilding negates efforts to artificially control the natural environment.

It is modeled on a massive ecological experiment by architect Isabella Tree and her husband, Charlie Burrell, who stopped using long-established, but largely unsuccessful, techniques to manage Knepp, their 3,600-acre dairy farm in Sussex, U.K. They gave up the dairy,



MT/Parry

opting instead to allow nature to retake fields, meadows, and woodlands. Twenty years on, the result is an inspiring, healthy biodiversity, including wildlife species not seen in England in 600 years.

Locally, Jane Corrarino, one of the Havens Estate's master gardeners, cites the importance of soil health to a successful garden project. It starts with the elimination of commercial fertilizers.

In a mutually beneficial, symbiotic relationship, the naturally occurring fungi attached to the root of a plant is a source of nutrients specific to its needs. The strength of artificial fertilizers shuts down the natural process, creating a "plant on steroids" effect that overwhelms and weakens it.

Instead, she recommends an annual consultation with the Cornell Cooper-

ative Extension in Riverhead (631-727-4126), where you can get compost, have a soil pH test, and specific options to improve your soil quality.

Rewilding also means a shift toward native plants. Plants that grow naturally are adapted to the features of that environment. Unlike nonindigenous species, they thrive with minimal care and little or no maintenance. They help sustain native pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, thus supporting an ecosystem.

When leaves remain through winter, dormant larvae like caterpillars and bee eggs laid in hollow twigs hatch in spring. We lose valuable insects that help feed birds, fertilize crops, and create honey and more when we indiscriminately remove yard material, or do so too early. Leaves also provide nutrients for the

soil. Using wood chips instead of mulch reduces weeds. Paths laid with pine needles are an attractive alternative to painted or paved surfaces.

To this end, the gardens at the Ketcham Inn contain plants authentic to its history, including kitchen garden plantings from 1740, traced from invoices for purchases from Bartram's Nursery in Philadelphia and Prince Nursery in Flushing, N.Y. Great care was taken to ensure authenticity, respect tradition, and support the environment. Tours are available. Visits are encouraged. ■

## For more information:

ketchaminnfoundation.org;

(516) 712-0996

"Wilding" (2018); "Wilding: How to Bring Wildlife Back, An Illustrated Guide" (2024). Isabella Tree.

L.I. Native Plant Initiative (LINPI); POB 1279 Hampton Bays, N Y 11946: info@linpi.org.

Rewild Long Island: rewildlongisland.org; info@rewildlongisland.org; (516)206-0608.

Save The Great South Bay: Bay Friendly Yards program, savethegreatsouthbay.org; (646) 827-0733.



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18 MONTH INTEREST FREE FINANCING!

# Explore this summer with library passes

Visit museums for free

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Tickets to museums can be pricey! But as a Center Moriches Free Public Library member, that doesn't have to stop you from visiting them.

The library is now offering a variety of museum passes that allow patrons to enter the venue for free, including Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Children's Museum of Manhattan, Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium, the Fire Island Lighthouse, the Vanderbilt Museum, and so much more!

"We've made reserving museum passes simpler than ever. It's as simple as a click of the mouse or calling us on the phone to schedule a day to use the pass," said Jessica Ceramello, head of teen services and librarian in charge of the pass program. "We have such a wide variety of passes that there is something for everyone to enjoy, from toddlers to seniors. Staff is always available to help answer any questions."



## Library of Things

Did you know the library also has items available for borrowing besides just books? The CMLibrary's "Library of Things" includes items ranging from electronics, games, museum passes, instruments, and more.

Items include blood pressure monitors, a CD player, pliers, a bingo set, an air compressor, cake pans, a coin sorter, a Cricut, giant games, kindles, lawn signs, lawn games, an Xbox, projectors, sewing machine, and so much more!

Loan periods vary depending on what device is borrowed. The library also charges late fees on items in this collection. This collection of non-traditional library items can only be borrowed by Center Moriches cardholders.

VISIT: [centermoricheslibrary.org/books-movies-more/library-of-things/](http://centermoricheslibrary.org/books-movies-more/library-of-things/)

## Available Passes

- Museum Passes  
 Brooklyn Botanic Garden  
 Children's Museum of Manhattan  
 Children's Museum of the East End  
 Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium  
 Cradle of Aviation  
 Empire Pass  
 Fire Island Lighthouse  
 Harbes Farm Barnyard Adventure  
 Intrepid, Sea, Air & Space Museum
- Long Island Children's Museum
  - Long Island Explorium
  - Long Island Maritime Museum
  - Long Island Science Center
  - Montauk Point Lighthouse Museum
  - Museum of Modern Art
  - Nassau County Firefighters Museum
  - Whaling Museum & Education Center
  - Old Bethpage Village Restoration
  - Old Westbury Gardens
  - Parrish Art Museum
  - Raynham Hall Museum
  - Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
  - South Fork Natural History Museum & Nature Center
  - Southold Historical Museum
  - Vanderbilt Museum
  - Walt Whitman Birthplace

Museum passes can be reserved for the current or following month, subject to availability, and must be handled by an adult (18 years or older). Reservations can be taken online, at the Children's Desk, or by phone.

Select dates from the calendar, then print the passes from home. However, some passes are not print-on-demand eligible and will require pickup/return at the library.

Visit their website at [centermoricheslibrary.org](http://centermoricheslibrary.org) and click on the Books, Movies & More link and click on Museum Passes.

Additionally, the library has also recently purchased a pass to the Southold Historical Museum Library, which will be available this month. The pass grants two adults and their minor children free access to the Southold Historical Museum, including entrance to the Maple Lane Complex and the Nautical Museum at Horton Point Lighthouse.

"Your Center Moriches Library card allows you to access so many more things than books, DVDs, and what you typically think of as 'traditional' library services," said library director Marcie Litjens. "Taking advantage of the museum pass program allows to you enter these local venues at no cost and have a fun day out, and make memories with family and friends without putting a strain on your monthly budget."

She also noted that getting a library card is easy and free of charge!





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Dates: August 6, 7, 8 • Time: 7:00pm – 9:30pm • Camp Fee: \$150

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# TULIP FESTIVAL: To open soon

FROM PAGE 1

of modern life, we often find ourselves ensnared by the monotony of daily routines and confined within the four walls of our homes.

However, as the tulips begin to bloom and spring beckons us outdoors, it's time to seize the opportunity to reconnect with the natural world and revitalize our spirits. Soil helps us get our serotonin fixes!

Previous guests have described the vibrant colors of the Tulip Festival as a "kaleidoscope of hues," as millions of tulips burst into bloom. "Mesmerizing" is how Caroline Gilmartin, of Center Moriches, described it.

"I know people visit here from the city and even New Jersey and Connecticut, but we are so fortunate to have Waterdrinker in our own backyard!" continued Gilmartin. "Great for the kids to just run around... love this place!"

From around April 12 to around May 5, the grey of winter seems to almost miraculously change into a sea of color, as far as the eye can see.

"When they actually bloom is still up to Mother Nature," according to Weiss. "Visitors are encouraged to follow our Weekly Bloom Reports on [www.water-drinker.com](http://www.water-drinker.com) to really get the max enjoyment from your visit."

This year, visitors will also be invited to take an enchanting journey through Dutch culture at Waterdrinker's Tulip Festival. In Manorville, "Little Amsterdam" is introduced: an immersive experience played out in three parts. First up is the Tulip Tunnel, a captivating walk-through a museum narrating the rich history of Amsterdam and Tulip Mania, set amidst the stunning backdrop of blooming tulips (right in the middle of the fields!). Next up is Tulip Town, a charming miniature village where visitors of all ages can feel like giants, surrounded by colorful cottages and winding pathways. And finally, if you are visiting on the weekend, ride the Tulip Train, guided by our very own Farmer Frank. But during Tulip Time, Frank becomes our resident Bestuurder—yet another reminder we are participating in a celebration also held over 3,600 miles away in the Netherlands!

Discover fascinating facts and insights about these exquisite flowers while enjoying a leisurely ride through nature's colorful canvas. It's an experience that combines education with

relaxation, perfect for families and nature enthusiasts alike. Whether you're drawn to history, nature, or simply seeking a fun-filled outing, there's something for everyone to enjoy at the Tulip Festivals at both farm locations.

At Manorville, the excitement doesn't end with tulips; there's a whole world of adventure waiting to be explored. Visitors will discover barnyard animals including some "cousins" from across the world, like Sulcata tortoises and Nigerian dwarf goats. From mini-golf and cornhole to wooden play areas and jumbo jump pads, there's no shortage of activities to keep kids entertained for hours.

At both Manorville and Riverhead

(the former Garden of Eve Farm), you'll find countless photo spots perfect for capturing precious moments with the whole family, including vintage cars, old bicycles, tractors, and flower displays. After all the action, unwind at Long Island Farm Brewery at both locations! Find Tulip Fest on tap, a Dutch pilsner inspired by the Tulip Festival, along with a wide assortment of beer, cider, and wine on tap.

"Sometimes the world around us gets overwhelming for people," shared Weiss. "That's why that quote from Lady Bird Johnson from so many years ago is still quite relevant: 'Where flowers bloom, so does hope!'"

Photos courtesy of Waterdrinker



PREDICTED  
OPENING DATE  
APRIL 12TH - MAY 10TH

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# TULIP FESTIVAL

---

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# CM Schools bond vote fails for the second time

Bond results include  
434 no to 277 yes

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Earlier this year, the Center Moriches School District presented a modified and scaled-back \$13.9 million proposal. The revote took place on March 19 at the Clayton Huey Main Street gym and resulted in another failure with 434 no votes to 277 yes votes.

“While we are disappointed the community did not support our recent bond proposal, we certainly understand why our residents are sensitive to increases in local property taxes,” said superintendent of schools Dr. Ronald Masera.

The board of education, he said, will now reflect further and make determinations on a path forward to address the necessary repairs to their infrastructure.

Projects, in the revised bond proposal, were to include sidewalks, asphalt, American Disabilities Act compliance, security upgrades, boiler replacement, and crawl-space abatement at Clayton Huey; and sidewalks, asphalt, auditorium renovation, roof replacement, boiler and storage tank replacement, security upgrades, interior renovations relating to health and safety, window/wall replacement, and outdoor track replacement at the middle school/high school.

According to the district, due to the smaller scaled projects the proposal was expected to be completed within two to

three years, depending on state permitting.

The district also noted that all included projects were aidable at the 78 percent building aid rate. The cost equates to \$0.22 cents on the dollar to get all projects completed. The estimate on taxpayers was about \$200/average taxpayer in total at conclusion of all work.

The school district hosted the original \$45 million bond vote on Oct. 24, 2023, for two phases of projects, including major building upgrades as well as a turf football field. The vote ultimately failed, with 341 yes votes to 610 no votes for Proposition 1, and 258 yes votes to 690 no votes for Proposition 2.

For more information on the revised proposal visit: <https://www.cmschools.org/district/bond>.

File photo



## 2024 BOND RE-VOTE

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# Purim and Passover traditions

## Jewish Center of the Moriches

BY C. E. PARRY

On Sunday, March 17, children from the Jewish Center of the Moriches worked alongside their parents to prepare hamantaschen, the traditional three-cornered Purim pastry filled with poppy seeds or sweet jam.

According to rabbi Margie Cella, Purim, celebrated this year on Saturday, March 23, through Sunday, March 24, is a joyous holiday to commemorate the efforts of Esther, an ancient Queen of Persia, to empower her people to defend themselves against the efforts of Haman, an evil prime minister who tried to annihilate them.

Like Passover, which occurs four weeks later, Purim is a reminder that freedom is precious. It includes tasks, foods, readings, and activities that foster connection to congregants' faith and community.

As the religious leader of the Moriches Jewish community, Rabbi Cella finds activities like preparing the hamantaschen useful, both to forge connections within a family and to teach valuable religious lessons that preserve traditions. Here, the children's participation making hamantaschen is part of their religious instruction.

Rabbi Cella explained that since Israelis began as farmers in the desert, many of their traditions involve food. Each holiday has specific foods included, except Yom Kippur, which is about fasting and atonement.

For Purim, there is a reading of the Book of Esther with its detailed story of



Haman's plot against the Jews, Esther's cousin Mordechai's exhortations that she act, and her successful campaign to bring about her people's deliverance. Traditionally, one gives money to at least two poor individuals, gifts of food to others, and participates in a festive feast that includes wine and costumes, symbolic of Esther's initial need to hide her Jewish identity before Haman's defeat.

The food preparation for Purim is also preparation for the more extensive food making that is an integral part of Passover.

Recounted in the Book of Exodus, the first half of the story describes the Egypt-

tian enslavement of the Jews. The Seder, a meal to observe the first night of Passover, draws from commandments to the people as they are liberated: to eat unleavened bread; to make a sacrifice on the first night; and to prepare and consume a meal. The rituals continue as a reminder to successive generations of the hardships faced and the deliverance that followed.

The Seder plate's six spaces each hold a symbol: bitter herbs represent slavery; the mixture of fruit and seeds, the mortar used for brick making, part of the toil of enslavement; a green vegetable dipped in salt water is the hope of renewal mixed

with tears; a shank bone symbolic of a ritual sacrifice; a roasted egg, the rebirth in freedom. The meal includes four cups of wine to drink in joy, and matzoh, the unleavened bread.

In her explanation of the traditions, Rabbi Cella was quick to point out the themes that connect both holidays: freedom is precious; tasks empower people; empowered people can deliver themselves from oppression. And, as an educator as well as spiritual leader, her choice to use the hamantaschen as an opportunity for instruction was met with grace and humor among the participants.

Looking down at a plate of cooling pastry, a rueful Tracy Koison, shook his head.

"We're going to have to practice at home," he sighed. ■

MT/Parry





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4/7 to 4/13	Moriches Bay	7:01 AM	7:27 PM	7:50 AM	8:14 PM	8:39 AM	9:01 PM	9:28 AM	9:48 PM	10:20 AM	10:38 PM	11:15 AM	11:31 PM	-----AM	12:12 PM
	Moriches Inlet	6:22 AM	6:48 PM	7:11 AM	7:35 PM	8:00 AM	8:22 PM	8:49 AM	9:09 PM	9:41 AM	9:59 PM	10:36 AM	10:52 PM	11:33 AM	11:47 PM
	Smith Pt. Bridge	5:43 AM	5:57 PM	6:41 AM	6:54 PM	7:34 AM	7:46 PM	8:21 AM	8:30 PM	9:02 AM	9:10 PM	9:38 AM	9:46 PM	10:12 AM	10:21 PM
4/14 to 4/20	Moriches Bay	12:26 AM	1:09 PM	1:23 AM	2:06 PM	2:19 AM	3:04 PM	3:17 AM	4:02 PM	4:16 AM	4:58 PM	5:11 AM	5:48 PM	5:59 AM	6:30 PM
	Moriches Inlet	-----AM	12:30 PM	12:44 AM	1:27 PM	1:40 AM	2:25 PM	2:38 AM	3:23 PM	3:37 AM	4:19 PM	4:32 AM	5:09 PM	5:20 AM	5:51 PM
	Smith Pt. Bridge	2:42 AM	3:25 PM	3:39 AM	4:22 PM	4:35 AM	5:20 PM	5:33 AM	6:18 PM	6:32 AM	7:14 PM	7:27 AM	8:04 PM	8:15 AM	8:46 PM
4/21 to 4/27	Moriches Bay	6:42 AM	7:09 PM	7:21 AM	7:43 PM	7:57 AM	8:16 PM	8:32 AM	8:47 PM	9:07 AM	9:19 PM	9:44 AM	9:53 PM	10:26 AM	10:35 PM
	Moriches Inlet	6:03 AM	6:30 PM	6:42 AM	7:04 PM	7:18 AM	7:37 PM	7:53 AM	8:08 PM	8:28 AM	8:40 PM	9:05 AM	9:14 PM	9:47 AM	9:56 PM
	Smith Pt. Bridge	8:58 AM	9:25 PM	9:37 AM	9:59 PM	10:13 AM	10:32 PM	10:48 AM	11:03 PM	11:23 AM	11:35 PM	-----AM	12:00 PM	12:09 AM	12:42 PM
4/28 to 5/4	Moriches Bay	11:16 AM	11:28 PM	-----AM	12:13 PM	12:28 AM	1:14 PM	1:31 AM	2:15 PM	2:34 AM	3:17 PM	3:38 AM	4:20 PM	4:42 AM	5:19 PM
	Moriches Inlet	10:37 AM	10:49 PM	11:34 AM	11:49 PM	-----AM	12:35 PM	12:52 AM	1:36 PM	1:55 AM	2:38 PM	2:59 AM	3:41 PM	4:03 AM	4:40 PM
	Smith Pt. Bridge	12:51 AM	1:32 PM	1:44 AM	2:29 PM	2:44 AM	3:30 PM	3:47 AM	4:31 PM	4:50 AM	5:33 PM	5:54 AM	6:36 PM	6:58 AM	7:35 PM

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# Girls flag football team crushes it!

## East End Athletics hosts winter league

BY NICOLE FUENTES

East End Athletics is a recognized 501(c)3 charity organization, official NFL Flag and USA Football-affiliated team led by president/founder Ali Adlah. This winter, they hosted their first indoor flag football winter league, which featured an all-girls flag football team, at KK Athletics in Farmingville.

The winter league brought together young athletes from various age groups.

“The ambiance was electric as families, coaches, and fans cheered on the teams, especially the All-Girls Team,” said Adlah of the success. “For East End Athletics, this marked a significant milestone, extending its commitment to providing inclusive sporting opportunities year-round.”

Among the standout moments was the crowning achievement of the first-ever 12u All-Girls Flag Football Team, who not only secured championship rings, but were also invited to Randall’s Island for a tournament.

“The crowning moment for the 12u All-Girls Team came with the presentation of championship rings, a symbol of their dedication, teamwork, and outstanding performance throughout the league,” he said.

The team, under the mentorship of coaches Adlah and Coach Brian, have become trailblazers, breaking barriers and inspiring future generations.

“It gets more girls involved in the game of football. Another option of a sport for



Ali Adlah pictured with Diana Flores and her former teammate Phoebe Schecter at the Atlanta summit last year, promoting Females in Football.

girls is tremendous for them. It’s a growing sport!” said Coach Brian.

Two top players from the team, Kaleesi Adlah and Ava Andersen, were then both invited to the winter league at Randall’s Island for the first-ever Flag Football Tournament. They plan to attend that tournament this year.

Ava scored her very first tournament touchdown, making a significant contribution to their victory against an all-boys team.

“The cheers echoed on Randall’s Island as Ava’s accomplishment under-

scored the team’s collective spirit and determination,” added Ali Adlah of the experience.

“Getting that touchdown was the greatest feeling,” Ava added.

His daughter, Kaleesi Adlah, caught several key passes, driving the team forward and setting the stage for their winning touchdown.

“Her strategic plays and agility on the field demonstrated not only individual skill, but a commitment to the team’s success,” he said.

“We’re not going to win every game, but at least we’re in the game,” said Kaleesi.

As East End Athletics looks back at the success of its winter league and the achievements of the 12u All-Girls Team, the organization remains dedicated to creating opportunities, breaking barriers, and fostering a love for sports that transcends stereotypes, said Ali Adlah.

Now, he looks forward to the spring season.

“It’s not just about wins and championships; it’s about empowering young athletes to believe in their potential and reach new heights in the world of sports,” he added.

East End Athletics will begin their 2024 spring flag football season with the focus on their travel team, including a coed 13u division, coed 10u division, and their very first 12u all-girls national travel flag football league.

The coaches have also entered in the first NFL flag football regional qualifier hosted by the New York Jets on May 4 and 5. They hope to qualify for the NFL’s new, elevated championship tournament to celebrate the best of the



The two top players from the team, Ava Andersen and Kaleesi Adlah. Courtesy photos

best across the youth flag football world, domestically and globally.

The NFL Flag Championships, a first-of-its-kind tournament hosted by the NFL, ESPN, RCX Sports and Omaha, will take place in Canton, Ohio, at the Pro Football Hall of Fame on July 19-21 and will feature the very best of girls and boys youth flag talent.

Follow them on Facebook at East End Athletics and on Instagram at East\_End\_Athletics.

Those interested in joining one of their flag football teams can reach out to coach Ali at [info@eastendathletics.com](mailto:info@eastendathletics.com). ■



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# Rising up from childhood trauma

## Career coach launches new book

BY LINDA LEUZZI

Deborah Brown-Volkman wants people unhappy in their jobs to successfully make a career jump and succeed. Especially after experiencing childhood trauma, like she did.

The East Moriches career coach for over 20 years has just debuted her book, "Childhood Trauma. Some Rise. Some Fall."

"The book was 58 years in the making," Brown-Volkman said during a *Tide* interview in her home. "This is my sixth book. I haven't written a book in almost 20 years. In the meantime, I had a son and did a tremendous amount of healing work.

"There are two pieces to getting back up," she said of childhood trauma, "inner harmony, which is healing, and outer growth, which is goals."

"Childhood Trauma. Some Rise. Some Fall" is 118 pages with simple, practical examples and suggestions that most people have at their disposal, but don't know or realize how to utilize. Easy to read, it also chronicles Brown-Volkman's journey.

In spite of abuse at home, Brown-Volkman was an achiever who got a B.A. in marketing from Hofstra University, then worked in sales and marketing for high-powered companies like CitiBank in Manhattan and smaller startups on Broad Street for 12 years.

"I loved it," she said. "I was young, in my 20s, living in the city with two room-



East Moriches resident Deborah Brown-Volkman with her new book, "Childhood Trauma. Some Rise. Some Fall." MT/Leuzzi

mates, and it was awesome."

What wasn't awesome was an explosive temper. While good at jobs and known for an amazing work ethic, "I was emotional and combative," she said. "I didn't communicate my needs or boundaries until I'd explode and yell at co-workers and would send emails I shouldn't have. I never got fired because I did great work."

The pileup of shameful feelings urged her to seek a change. A flyer arrived in the mail at her apartment offering life coaching classes at The Annex. That was the defining moment. She wanted to help others.

"I signed up for evening and weekend classes for three and a half years and was working full-time," she said, "then took a part-time job, eventually left, and started coaching."

Her first client was a nanny. "She loved the family she worked for; it was hard for her to go, but she eventually went into marketing," recalled Brown-Volkman.

Coaching these days is mostly via Zoom. She has professional certified coach certification from ICF, the International Coaching Federation.

Clients come to her "because they're unhappy in their career, are unfulfilled, and their self-confidence is lower because of it. They're uncertain and afraid and don't know what to do with it." She's helped at least a thousand find their way.

Without rancor, but surprising grace and understanding, she frankly described her background in her book and during the interview.

Brown-Volkman's dad started hitting

her when she was 5. It was always after he drank after work. The abuse continued to age 15. Her mother was complicit; she called her husband with, "You can't believe what the girls did today," handing over the discipline of her daughters.

Then she challenged him with, "Is that the best you can do?" which then fueled emotional abuse.

Not understanding a lot of things about life caused her to operate in the corporate world on her own and not ask co-workers for help. After all, her mother wasn't an ally regarding the family abuse. So that mounted her frustrations.

And she wasn't open to feedback; it wasn't an option when feedback at home was a smack or a taunt.

Eventually realizing feelings and aspects of herself needed to be faced, the author chose a spiritual route, personal healing methods, and helping others. "Inner harmony gives you inner strength," she said. "Outer growth makes you stronger."

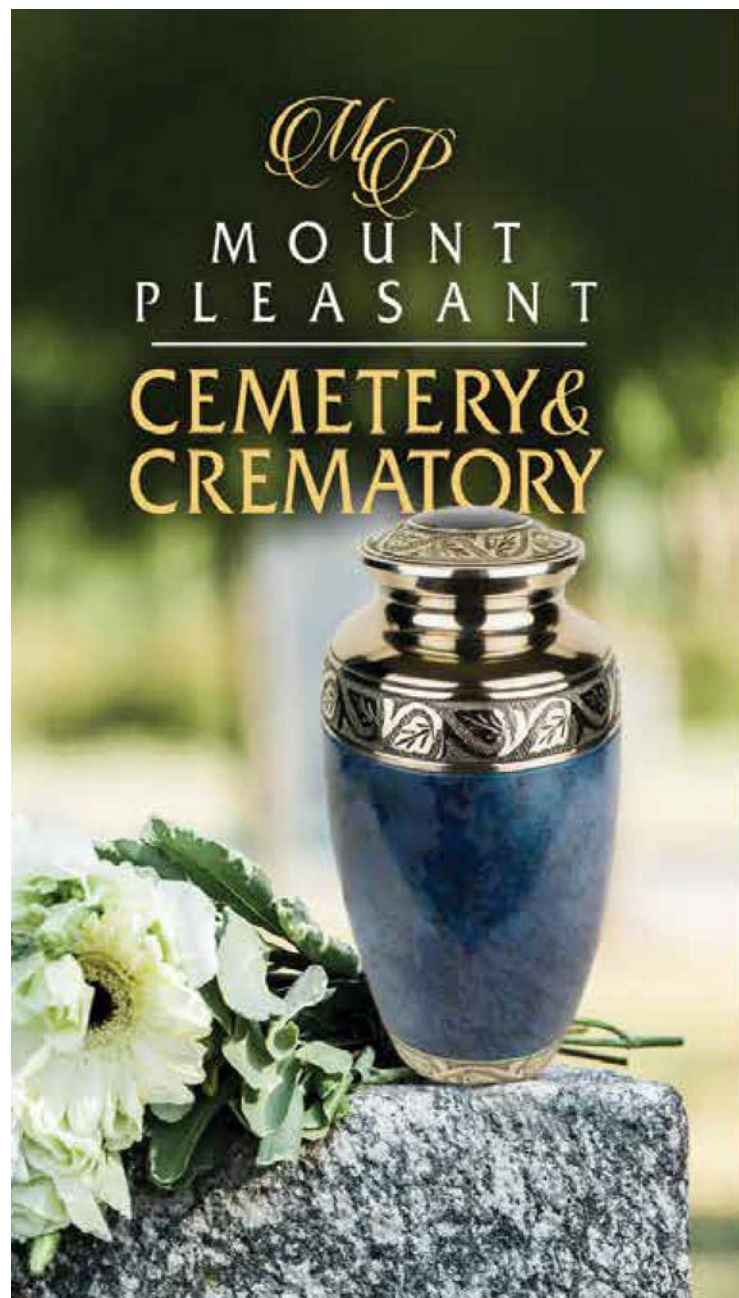
Like achieving your goals. One at a time, which are outlined in the book.

Brown-Volkman, who lives near Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck and is the Rotary Club of the Moriches president entering her fourth year, said, "If you're going to do this work, you're going to change, like getting your resume ready and your plan of attack."

Who gets back up?

"It's inner determination. You decide you've had enough and are more afraid to stay where you are than leave."

Sidebar: Deborah Brown-Volkman's book is on Amazon. Her website: <https://www.surpassyourdreams.com>. ■



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# Spring has sprung at Helping Makes U Happy!

This means we'll be preparing to put together comfort cases for neglected and at-risk children.

Typically, we do 225 comfort cases annually, and the cases are new backpacks filled with items such as a fleece throw, toiletries, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hairbrushes/combs, children or adult coloring books, small packs of crayons and/or colored pencils, a small age-appropriate toy (elementary or teen), and a journal and pen.

Starting off our collection is Renee DiMeo, pictured with Keith Caputo, who generously collected items at her release party for her new album, "Burn."

We will be collecting items through the month of April. All donations and collection drives of new, unused items

are appreciated!

We will be supporting the Center Moriches Red Devils Polar Plunge team at Splish Splash on Saturday, April 13, as well as the Center Moriches PTO Spring Gala Basket Auction on April 13 in the CM High School gym. We'll be promoting our upcoming scholarships for high school seniors. If you have a senior who has volunteered with us, please encourage them to apply, and making plans for a free Mother's Day event for little ones at our 1 Neville Street building on Saturday, May 4.

For more information on the Mother's Day event (limited to 20 spaces) and our annual Mother's Day raffle prize, contact us on Facebook, email us at [helpingmakesuhappy@gmail.com](mailto:helpingmakesuhappy@gmail.com), or call/text 631-848-9008. ■



Renee DiMeo, pictured with Keith Caputo and Rachel Miller.

## MORICHES CHAMBER NEWS

# Moriches Chamber update!

The St. Patrick's Day Gala was a wonderful evening celebrating their 2024 grand marshal, George Keller.

"We would like to thank all of the chamber members, friends, and family who attended this event," said chamber president Jackie Osborne. "We would like to also thank the Rock Hill Country Club for hosting the gala."

The event also featured some great entertainment, including Jimmy Osborne and the Chain Reaction band and the school of the Irish Stepdancers.

Also being honored at the gala was their Irish Princess, Ally Demateo. Ally is a current senior at Center Moriches High School and is the valedictorian of her class. Outside of school, she is a member of the senior dance company at Stage Door School of Dance. She was selected to be a member of the 2023 New York All-State choir. She is a working actress and is represented by DDO Artists Agency. This fall, she will be going to college to pursue a B.F.A. in musical theater.

St. Patrick's Day wouldn't be without great pipe bands. The chamber's first-place place winner was the Rosin Dubh Pipe Band. Winners of the St. Patrick's Day parade float contest were Moriches Field Brewery, in first place; Bukley's Irish Pub, in second place; and Marcos Marin Service, in third place.

"What a spectacular day to have a parade honoring our grand marshal, George Keller," said Osborne. "We'd like to thank the community for coming out and cheering on our local parade participants, as well as supporting our local businesses."

She also thanked elected officials Ed Romaine, Suffolk County executive; Dan Panico, Brookhaven Town supervisor; Jim Mazzarella, Suffolk County legislator; Karen Dunne Kesnig, councilwoman;

and Louis Marcoccia, receiver of taxes.

As always, the chamber encourages community members to shop local and patronize their many businesses. Please visit the chamber website for information on upcoming events.

If your organization is having an event, you can post it on the chamber's website. Also visit their Facebook and Instagram and "like" their pages.

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Samantha Naples

Sami will be graduating this June, a year earlier than anticipated after completing her coursework in three years. Sami plans to attend Suffolk County Community College majoring in business administration to obtain her associate's degree. She'll then pursue her bachelor's at a four-year college, majoring in finance. Sami has been on the varsity cheer team throughout her high school career; she has also participated in winter track and girls flag football. Sami has volunteered as a coach with Moriches PAL Cheer for five years. Sami is an active member of DECA and has participated in various competitions. ■



# SUNATION grants a wish for Manorville boy

Scott Maskin, of SUNation, partnered with the Marty Lyons Foundation to use solar to help fund wishes.

Bentley, of Manorville, is battling bone cancer. At 11-years-old, Bentley got injured playing football. That is when they found the bone cancer. When Bentley's story reached and touched so many communities on Long Island, SUNation was excited to make the introduction to the Marty Lyons Foundation.

The Marty Lyons Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to granting wishes to seriously ill children, partnered with

SUNation to help fund more wishes.

For every SUNation install, the company has pledged a \$500 donation to the foundation.

"Sitting on the board of the Marty Lyons Foundation has really opened my eyes to what a big impact a small amount of effort can make on a child and their family during a hardship," said SUNation co-founder Scott Maskin. "If I can help bring more awareness to the foundation and put smiles on kids' faces with solar, I will."

Last month, Bentley's application for a

wish was approved.

The mission of the Marty Lyons Foundation is to fulfill the wishes of children ages 3 to 17 who have been diagnosed as having terminal or life-threatening illnesses.

"We are unique in that we will grant a second wish to a deserving child," he added.

To learn how going solar can not only save you money but help grant wishes, go to [www.SUNation.com/MLF-partnership](http://www.SUNation.com/MLF-partnership)

-Nicole Fuentes



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# Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day

BY C. E. PARRY

An annual party to which all are invited, the Center Moriches St. Patrick's Day Parade, now in its 20th year, drew crowds of happy celebrants, many wearing traditional Kelly green, who lined Main Street awaiting the chamber-sponsored

festivities.

Neither the weather nor the parade would disappoint. Following a deluge the day before, the sun shone brightly on the enthusiastic gathering lining the street.

At 2 p.m., the sound of bagpipes floated ahead of the smart-stepping, spright-

ly contingent of kilt-clad pipers, who followed grand marshal George Keller, along with several of his predecessors, county executive Ed Romaine, Lee Sinnickson, Joe Townsend, Gerry Sapanaro and Art Gerhauser.

They were joined by Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico, a charming Irish

princess, numerous local business and political leaders, scout troops, our Center Moriches Fire Department, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The end was only the beginning as the celebration adjourned to continue the party after the parade. A fine day to be Irish. And a fine way to recognize it. ■



# Rotary Club of Seatuck Cove hosts annual 4 Leaf Clover Run

BY KRAIG KLEIN

The Rotary Club of Seatuck Cove hosted its eighth annual 4-Leaf Clover 5K Run/Walk marathon on Saturday, March 23.

The event began outside East Moriches Middle School at 9 a.m. Runners began at Adelaide Avenue outside the school, crossed through Montauk Avenue and Eastview Avenue to run up Toledo Avenue, and then returned to East Moriches Middle School. The event raised money that will be used to fund scholarships for students attending high schools in the East Moriches and Eastport school

districts.

"As a nonprofit, we do community service," said Rotary Club of Seatuck Cove founder and charter member, Wendy Walsh-DeMaria. "With that in mind, we have a vested interest in what our youth needs, what our seniors need, and how we can help our neighbors."

According to member Roseann Gen-carelli, some of the money will go towards scholarships, and the remaining will go towards the different things they do year-round to help people, such as giving backpacks to children that cannot afford them, giving out Thanksgiving

dinners, and at Christmastime, if money provides, the club adopts a senior and two families with children for.

The top male and female runner that had the fastest time were individually highlighted at the end of the event. Jack Mikula was the fastest male runner with a time of 18 minutes and 22.58 seconds, while Lily Strebel was the fastest female runner with a time of 19 minutes and 28.22 seconds. Additionally, runners were also divided into age groups based on intervals of 10, and the top three runners of each age group were honored. A total of 187 individuals registered to par-

ticipate; about 167 runners were present on the day of the marathon itself.

"We work very closely with a running club [for the marathon]," Rotary Club of Seatuck Cove member Ruben Reyes said. "We [also] advertise; we put up sponsorships, [and] with the sponsorships, we get T-shirts designed [that participants can receive]."

The Rotary Club plans to host another 4 Leaf Clover 5K marathon next year.

"I'm already planning for a... bigger audience," Reyes said. "I would love to possibly have some food trucks in the future." ■

All photos Mt/Klein



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