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MAY 2024

13th Year, Issue 5

Methodist Church to host cemetery dedication ceremony

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Center Moriches Methodist Church will be hosting a dedication ceremony for the renovation of their 1800s cemetery.

The event will be held on June 22 at 10 a.m. at the cemetery located at 464 Main Street, in Center Moriches.



Pastor Tracy Moore now hopes to contact and invite any and all of the descendants of those who were originally buried in the cemetery.

"In preparation for the dedication of this wonderful collaborative effort between Dylan Brown, the soon-to-be Eagle Scout's team, and the trustees of Center Moriches United Methodist

Church, I hope to make contact with any descendants of those who were originally buried in the cemetery," said Moore.

Earlier this year, local Boy Scout and Eastport-South Manor High School senior Dylan Brown conducted his Eagle Scout Project at the cemetery, fabricating, supplying, and installing



perimeter fencing and an entrance to the arbor for the centuries-old cemetery.

"I wanted to be able to give back to the community that I was a part of in my troop for the last decade, and I wanted to also be able to exercise my duty to God, which is one of the many important things to do as a scout," said Brown. "The project allowed me to work with the many people that I otherwise would not have been able to, and I'm glad I ended up going forward with it."

The project, he said, began around October of last year and was recently completed in March. The project was fully funded by his family at a total cost of just over \$500.

His project also included hand painting all the engraved lettering on all the tombstones.

Additionally, the church trustees managed the entire renovation, aiding in the fencing pole installations, replanting the tombstones, and providing land clearing, topsoil, and grassing operations.

Courtesy photos

See **DEDICATION CEREMONY** on page 12

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next month** PAGE 6

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playoff run** PAGE 24

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Scoring a first with commercial kelp farm

BY LINDA LEUZZI

Sue Wicks tackled 40-mile-an-hour winds straight out of the east with a cold, sleety rain while harvesting kelp on Moriches Bay, the day of her interview.

Her kelp and oyster farm, 3 acres, is right off Terrell River County Park in East Moriches. “My dad, Bill Wicks, was a bayman and he always said, ‘Yeah, everyone wants to work on the water in August. But you have to go to work every day. If people can’t count on you, you’re off the list.’ This is a job that’s not a hobby. It’s having your head down and nurturing something.”

Wicks is the founder of Violet Cove Oyster Company, utilizing floating cages for her shellfish charges, but has also embraced raising kelp. “I have the first kelp permit in New York State and am the first commercially doing it,” she said.

She has been working with and encouraged by Wendy Moore of Lazy Farms Inc., but Brookhaven Town and Suffolk County officials as well as others have enthusiastically jumped on board with the kelp concept.

“Kelp is a winter crop,” she explained. “We planted at the end of November on long ropes,” she explained. “We have 50 of those lines this year, so from November to May around now, with more sunlight and warmer temperatures, they start to explode. It’s like baby lettuce right now, so we harvest some of it for food. The rest, I’ll wait until the end of the season for organic farmers.”

Early Girl Farm at Isabella Rossellini’s Mama Farm, in Brookhaven Hamlet, uses Wicks’s kelp.

“I took it to Micari Vineyards in Mattituck,” she said. “Joe is a cheerleader and has become a friend. He’s told me ‘I know it’s beneficial.’”

For the drying process, “we take the entire 100-foot line, bring it in and take it to a drying rack. It loses about 70 percent of the weight, and then we bring it to a



Sue Wicks, founder of Violet Cove Oyster Company, displays her love of kelp. She is the first commercial kelp grower in New York State. Courtesy photo

dehydrator and grind it to flakes and put into vacuum-sealed bags.”

Then there are the oysters that she tends to, pulling up the cages after a year, with a lot of nurturing in between. “We’re oyster farmers and I’m on the boat, harvesting my oysters, too. Now I’m delivering them,” she said, driving to the next customer.

“I have a temporary lease with Brookhaven for three years,” she said. “They’re helping me with a space in Mastic Beach.”

“Sue is a licensee for the town for our aquacultural operation for oysters and kelp,” said Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico. “That kelp will be dried in Mastic Beach at the former Violet Cove area, and we’ve identified a spot at the end of our town highway yard for the containers to be used for the final drying stage to create a new kelp industry.”

“Kelp, as it grows, sucks up so much nitrogen, and when you take it out of

the water, people eat it; it’s used in the production of cosmetics and fertilizer.”

Panico said he had spoken to the agricultural advisory board and made those farmers aware of the potential. “They all seem interested. I’m hoping to bring them to a Brookhaven farmers’ gathering to talk about the possibility,” he said.

Tim Rothang, chief of staff to Legis. Jim Mazzearella (R, C, Moriches), explained Suffolk County’s involvement.

“We’re looking at the former Violet Cove property in Mastic Beach,” he said. (The Violet Cove site had a restaurant that closed in 2008. Superstorm Sandy destroyed the property in 2012 and Suffolk County demolished the building in 2022. The cove is intact.) “We would enter into an agreement for her use. It’s a county-owned property, and we have a goal to eventually develop it for community use, for passive recreation. But in the meantime, she has to have an area to dehydrate it, and needs a structure

and dehydrator. We’re working with the town to find an alternative location for the dehydration process. Kelp has a lot of benefits, and Sue has committed to us that she’d be willing to donate her time and help for community education and benefits.”

It’s been a long haul, several years’ worth, getting agencies on board who didn’t have knowledge or experience with kelp farming. “I called the Army Corps of Engineers because it was taking two years for permits being issued,” she said. Her contact there admitted, “we don’t even know how to do this,” and it took another six months with an outside agency to help, she said.

“Now other farmers are calling me to help with the process.”

“You have to keep the faith. I’ve had people wanting it to happen like Wendy Moore, Dan Panico, Jim Mazzearella and Ed Romaine all saying, ‘We’re going to make it happen.’”

Wicks played at Rutgers University in the mid-1980s and became an All-American and Player of the Year. She signed with the WNBA in its inaugural year and is a Women’s Basketball Hall of Famer and former sports ambassador for the U.S. State Department.

Did her athleticism help with the hard work?

“There are some parallels,” she admitted. “I love physical work. The WNBA is exploding now, and we were the pioneers. I wasn’t making money then and I’m not now. My dream then as a basketball player was to bring attention to the game and the women playing, and my dream now is that growing kelp makes me happy and will help the planet.”

She cited her hope.

“I’m not alone,” she said. “With my aquaculture lease, it’s Dan Panico. We need the town to pass a resolution for an aquaculture program. The production from Moriches Bay is greater than any other bay from Long Island.” ■

Helping to establish kelp farms

BY LINDA LEUZZI

Wendy Moore had a hand in helping Sue Wicks develop her kelp farm.

She is also doing it for others.

“Last fall, I drafted a slide deck explaining the infrastructure needed for processing kelp,” Moore said of her company, Lazy Point Farms. “I sent it to the oyster growers in Islip. I also sent it to growers in Brookhaven, but told those in both towns, you should share it with your local leaders so they could advocate for this. Islip Town wanted to see reliable harvests, some landing of a lot of kelp, before they committed. But Brookhaven Town started working right away with Sue.”

“Wendy is working with Sue Wick,” confirmed Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico. “I was introduced to Wendy last year at the Mastic Beach Conservancy meeting at their annual gala, and in doing research, this felt like a no-brainer expansion of aquaculture. We’ll allow her to place the containers for a final drying stage at the town highway yard. We’ll be drawing up an agreement through our law department; we’ve identified the area, and there will be a nominal fee.”

In 2020-21, Moore reached out to Wicks and asked if she wanted to grow kelp.

“At the beginning, we were reaching out to growers,” Moore said. “Any grow-

ers who could get permits in waterways. David Berg helped us. (Berg is a coastal science and aquaculture consultant and heads up DLB Planning LLC.) He used to work on the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan for the Long Island Regional Planning Council and has a background in



Wendy Moore’s daughter Emily Moore with kelp. Her mother and father, Wendy and Justin Moore, started Lazy Point Farms LLC to generate kelp farms. Courtesy photo

aquaculture. We worked closely together for three years; [Berg] has a lot of connections and helped forged matchups. Then we were starting to get emails from people.”

“With regard to permitting, he has the best command for that. I send growers to him for help.”

Moore explained the procedure.

“The first thing is preparing the permit paperwork and getting that to the three different agencies because the turnaround is long,” she said. “Then you have to identify your site ability—for example, are you in a place with enough water flow. Stephen Schott, a marine botanist at the Cornell Cooperative Extension, has a good knowledge of where kelp can grow and if it will work or not.”

Gear includes kelp lines, lines that are submersible, and spools or PVC pipes.

“You have to dive for the source tissue or reproductive tissue in the fall,” Moore said. “The kelp tissue, once water is cooler, is brought up. Then it’s like a lab procedure for tissue that releases spores. They’re very tiny and microscopic. You attach them to a very thin string, wrapped around the spool. That fits in the tank and stays for five weeks.” It’s all done in hatcheries, including town hatcheries, Hart Lobster in West Sayville, and also Cornell Cooperative Extension around November.

“When they are ready, the farmer

picks them up,” she said. “You have anchors and lines, and it grows by itself over the winter.”

In terms of the Brookhaven Town agreement, “I drafted a grant agreement,” Moore said. “They find the land, facilitate where it goes, and I buy all of the equipment. The agreement with Sue, I think they are leasing the property to Sue for her to use it.”

The equipment is staging equipment, a two-phase processing.

“We need to dry it as quickly as possible and get it into flakes or powder for later,” said Moore. “You can spray it on plants to increase the benefits, like at a winery, or into the soil in powder or flakes.”

The kelp initiative started when Moore and her husband, Justin, came up with how to best make a positive impact during the pandemic. They were living in Amagansett at that time.

They formed Lazy Point Farms LLC and now live in Hudson Yards. Their LLC provides structural, educational, and logistical support to advance sugar kelp farming.

“We were working hard on developing a farm, but the lack of a local leasing program forced us to pivot. We still wanted to support this work, but the more we learned, the more we realized our efforts would be more efficient if we spent them on resources.” ■

Pit orchestra makes for bigger and better production

CM Theater preps for season without current seniors

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Center Moriches High School's theater spring production of "Newsies" was a full-blown hit, nearly selling out all three productions even on Super Bowl Sunday. But this year had one thing different than previous years, and that is the live performance of the pit orchestra.

The Disney show was presented from

Feb. 2 to 4 with over 12-year director Nancy Harkin, assistant director Pat Campbell, music director Phil LoPinto, and choreographers Katie Lemmen and Anna Morceri. In charge of the pit orchestra was conductor Sara Greene.

"The show was magical; the community was so supportive and it was so well done by the pit and the actors," Harkin said, noting they plan to use the pit orchestra every year moving forward as this year's production was one of her best.

The pit orchestra, according to pit band member Alex Babzien, is a club comprising both high school and middle-school students rehearsing specifi-

cally for the show. In previous years, the club would perform during the middle school theater show, but this year was the first year at the high school. They have about 30 members playing brass, wind, and percussion instruments.

Alex Gilroy, a senior who played Catherine in the production, said that the addition of the pit band made it easier for the actors with timing on the tracks by having a conductor.

"It really brought the show to life, hearing it in front of you instead of through speakers," she said.

"Energy wise, the pit band brought so much energy, bringing the show to a

whole new level," added Harkin.

This theater company produces one show per year.

This year's production also featured a total of 17 seniors, which will be a loss surely felt next year, said Harkin.

"We lose 17 seniors this year, so next year will be a rebuilding year for us," she said. "It will still be just as great with our pit band members—it's been a big transition for us."

Next year's musical is to be determined, but will show earlier in March. For more information or to follow the productions, visit their Instagram page at ***. ■

Quotes from the CM theater seniors:

TJ LACLAIR, who played Jack in "Newsies": "It was just a blast being part of the show. It opened up my eyes—I didn't want to ever be an actor. It's something I have a knack for, and I want to help out the middle schoolers, the new generation coming. It's really gratifying."

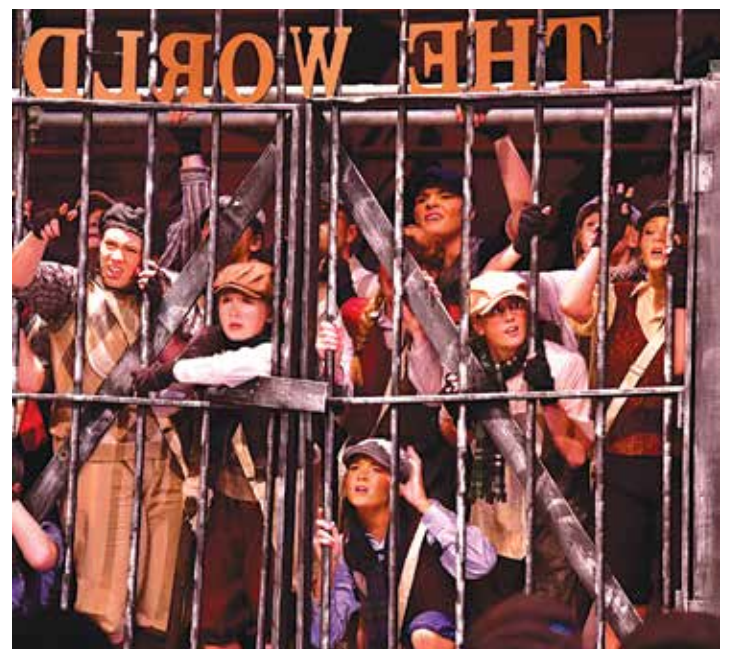
ALEX BABZIEN, pit band member: "It was a lot different for people in pit—it was so fulfilling and it's sad to let it go."

ALEX GILROY, who played Catherine in "Newsies": "It's been really amazing—we've grown up with these people and these shows. [I will be] leaving behind a lot of friends and not doing a show with these same people again, but I will be coming back to watch my friends in younger grades next year and the year after."

GEORGIA KUZMECH, who played Race in "Newsies": "I have been doing this high school show since sixth grade. For me, it was just amazing closing this wonderful chapter of my life and journey to college with all these wonderful friends, and to share it with the younger actors—spreading the joy of this."



Courtesy photos



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Great Gun Anglers ready for fishing trips



Annual shark tournament revamped

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Moriches Anglers will host their annual Shark Tournament on June 22 at 6 p.m. At the event, there will winners and raffles.

This year, the club will be limiting the sharks to only threshers due to their edibility.

"We don't want to just catch sharks and kill them for no good reason," said president of the club Evan Goldstein.

Additionally, new this year, they will be expanding the tournament to allow for both inshore and offshore categories (though boats can participate in both categories, if they wish). For the inshore category, the largest legal fish by weight of all eligible species will be the winner. Eligible fish species include striped bass, bluefish, weakfish or fluke.

For the offshore category, the largest thresher shark or bluefin tuna will be the winner. This is the first year they included bluefin tuna.

"We hope this will include a lot more people," he said, explaining this is the biggest fundraiser for the club.

The cost to join the tournament is \$300 per offshore boat and \$100 per in shore boat.

The mandatory captains meeting will be held the day prior on June 21 at the VFW on Main Street in Center Moriches.

This year will be the second year under the new name since the Great Gun Anglers merged with the Moriches Anglers to form a whole new club. The goal of the club is to promote the conservation of local marine fisheries while also combining honest sportsmanship with competitive sport fishing.

"As a new unified organization, one thing that we wanted to maintain was the long legacy of our annual fishing tournaments," said member Tim Markart.

In 2023, they held the inaugural Chet Wilcox Memorial Fluke Tournament as well as their annual Shark Tournament. Both tournaments were very successful.

"However, for 2024, we wanted to create more excitement and improve the tournament[s]," he added. "This is when we decided to combine and expand these two separate tournaments into the single 2024 Great Gun Moriches Anglers Inshore and Offshore Fishing Tournament."

"Seems like every year, we're building," Goldstein added.

He anticipates about 50 boats participating this year. Last year, participants caught a 275-pound thresher shark.

For club information please contact Evan Goldstein at (914)804-5875 or (631)878-6019.

TAKE A VETERAN FISHING

Then, on Saturday, July 27, The Moriches Anglers once again host their annual Take a Vet Fishing trip.

During the event, vets will be treated to a day of fishing with all bait, tackle, and boats supplied by the club and local volunteers. Then, it's back to the dock for a barbecue.

Members of the Great Gun Moriches Anglers will provide all supplies and coordinate the fishing trip, including bait and polls as well as the boats.

Registration for veterans will begin at the Brooklyn Dock at the foot of Union Avenue in Center Moriches at 7:30 a.m.

Last year, about 45 veterans participated; this year they expect about 50.

"We couldn't be doing this [if] it wasn't for our veterans," Goldstein said of the reason behind the event. "It's the veterans that allow us to have our freedom. We own those guys everything—this is just our little way of being able to give back." ■

TOURNAMENT DATES

Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m. there is a mandatory captains meeting and signup. This will be held at the Rock Hill Country Club in Manorville, 105 Clancy Road, Manorville.

Saturday, June 22 is the actual tournament, which will be held from 6 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The weigh-ins will be at the Union Avenue dock in Center Moriches.

All fish weigh-ins need to be completed by 6 p.m. sharp. No exceptions!

If unsafe weather conditions prohibit anglers from participating in the offshore category, refunds will be distributed. Details to be provided at the captains meeting.

The club is also in the process of setting up an online registration and electronic payment via their Facebook page for all future events and tournaments.

PRIZES

The prizes will be determined by the total number of entries in each category (inshore and offshore) less 10 percent for club operating expenses.

**First Prize: 50 percent
Second Prize: 30 percent
Third Prize: 20 percent**

For any questions about the tournament or the club go to the Great Gun Anglers Facebook page.

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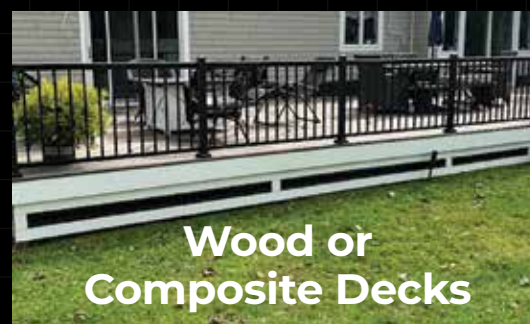
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18 MONTH INTEREST FREE FINANCING!

Attend summer camp at LI Game Farm

Wildlife sustainability foundation to host special sessions

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Foundation for Wildlife and Sustainability recently announced summer camp programs for children aged 4 to 13 at the Long Island Game Farm in Manorville. Camp Zoom will run from July 1 through Aug. 8 as a specialized summer camp allowing campers to be immersed in nature with outdoor exploration, games, crafts, and other hands-on activities.

The camp will be led by director Shannon Swanson, who said the camp will offer campers a sense of wonder while also instilling respect for nature and wildlife.

“Camp Zoo is an adventure,” said Swanson. “I grew up going to the Long Island Game Farm. I’ve come full circle now as the education coordinator, and I’m excited to see children enjoy some of the experiences I did when I was a kid.”

Sessions include Zoolympics, stepping into the role of a zookeeper, exploring the natural world, discovering animals through picture books and interactive experiences. Campers will also have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the animals, including Madagascar hissing cockroaches, wallabies, donkeys, goats, and more.

“I love that we are getting kids back to nature! Teaching them about animals and the environment, so that they respect the earth and can give back to it,” LI Game Farm president Melinda Novak said of the camp.

Camp session dates, times, and prices vary.

Space is limited and advance registration is required. Visit wildlifesustainability.org/camp-zoo for more information. For more information, visit wildlifesustainability.org, or contact executive director Tricia Snyder at psnyder@wildlifesustainability.org.

MORE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Mother’s Day May 12

Mom’s discount admission \$15. Plus, raffling off jade plants for moms.

Extreme Raptor Show on Main Stage Memorial Day Weekend

May 25, 26, 27. 11:30, 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Included in admission. Featuring birds of prey like you have never seen before: eagles, hawks, falcons and owl. An exciting, educational and entertaining half hour show by master falconer Jonathan Woods, as seen on Animal Planet, The Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, National Geographic, Explorer, The Today Show, Good Morning America, The Early Show, Fox News Channel, CNN, ESPN, PBS, CBN and TBN. Rain or shine.

Senior Social Club Returns

Senior citizens ages 62 and older are invited to Long Island Game Farm to visit the animals, explore the grounds, and attend presentations on rescued animals, wonders of wool, birding, nature photography, and more in the newly renovated Woodland Hall. This program will take place on the second and fourth Friday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning April 12. Seniors enjoy a discounted admission of \$10 on Senior Social Club days.

Wild Treasures Market: Begins Sunday, June 9

Beginning June 9, a monthly flea market is coming to Long Island Game Farm. The Wild Treasures Market will feature vendors selling their vintage and not-so-vintage antiques, crafts, art, home and garden items, and more. The market will take place on the second Sunday of each month through October. Early bird buyers can visit from 8 to 9 a.m. The general public is invited to visit from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No admission after 3 p.m.

Family Fun Day: Thursday, Aug. 22 (rain date Aug. 23)

The Game Farm will have a full array of special activities, shows, and surprises. The event will take place on Thursday, Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rain date is Friday, Aug. 23. Ticket sales opening on the website soon.

Annual Fundraiser: September

The second annual fundraiser will enable the Foundation for Wildlife Sustainability to support the work of the Game Farm as part of its own mission: deepening the connection and understanding between humans and nature. Date and details to come.

55 Years in 2025!

The Long Island Game Farm will be celebrating 55 years of offering families a natural environment where they can learn about wildlife and animals through education and entertainment in 2025.

Many people have visited the Game Farm throughout the course of its long history, and everyone has a story. The Foundation for Wildlife Sustainability is collecting these stories and photos on

behalf of the Game Farm, with some selections to be included in a commemorative book. Stories can be submitted online at wildlifesustainability.org.

All events will take place at Long Island Game Farm, located at 489 Chapman Boulevard, Manorville, New York 11949.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR WILDLIFE SUSTAINABILITY

The mission of the Foundation for Wildlife Sustainability, Inc. is to connect people with wildlife and the natural environment through awareness activities and engaging experiences, and to support the work of the Long Island Game Farm.



The camp offers campers a sense of wonder while also instilling respect for nature and wildlife. Courtesy photos



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Additional service offerings include hardscape and pool design, including complete plans and 3D renderings, project management, landscape lighting, drainage solutions, plant healthcare

including tick and mosquito control and commercial snow management.

Owner, Greg, is a 2004 graduate of NYIT with a degree in Architecture with a focus on construction management.

"I've always loved designing, being outdoors, and seeing what we drew up, come to life," he said.

His love for masonry came from a young age, working side by side with his late father, who was a mason.

"Having been hands on, really gives you a sense of appreciation for all the team members do on a daily basis," he added.

GP also lives and shops in Center Moriches with wife Deb and children Enzo, 8 and Ari, 7 who both attend Clayton Huey Elementary. Deb has become an intricate part of the company as

well after her selling her prior venture. With her business expertise she has organized and helped streamline office operations.

In addition to Greg, operations are managed by General Manager Joe Walsh, Roric Walter Project Manager, Bob Mitterando Sr. Acct Manager, Jeanie and Amber as office leads.

"It takes a team," Piccas.

Combined, GP Managers have well over 75 years combined experience in the green industry.

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"Customers hire us because we have the answer and resources to handle all their needs," said. "We've gotten a call for racoons in the attic! Although we

didn't personally handle, we have our trusted partners to aid in these cases."

"At the end of the day, our customers trust us to the work, and do it right," he added. "It's important to choose your contractor wisely. Although its an easy business to get into, many companies fail due to in-experience and poor customer service after a few short years."

With over 22 vehicles on the road daily, he said, you are sure to see their clean trucks with green fenders all over, taking care of your neighbors. ■

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Owner Greg Picca operates one of the largest landscaping crews on the East End offering full service. Courtesy photos

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DEDICATION CEREMONY: Local scout renovates cemetery

FROM PAGE 1

Courtesy photos

Are you a descendant?

Those who are related to any of listed persons, or know someone who is, please TEXT Rev. Moore at 1-973-214-6171 to identify yourself and share any additional information or questions.

- Mary Frances Clark died in 1832.
- Mary Clark died in 1837.
- Capt. Moses Clark died in 1841.
- Egbert Edwards died in 1843.
- Gilbert Edwards died in 1845.
- Charles Hulse died in 1871.
- Isaac N. Osborn died in 1832.
- David R. Overton died in 1843.
- Phebe Russel Penny died in 1850.
- William Penny died in 1847.

- Ryder Sith died in 1870.
- Randolph Smith died in 1849.
- Sarah E. Smith died in 1840.
- William Smith died in 1854.
- Terry died in 1855.

The Project



Soon to be Eagle Scout Dylan Brown completed the project funded by his family.

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Saturday, May 18, 2024

KEEP BROOKHAVEN BEAUTIFUL and Keep America Beautiful, Inc., in cooperation with Supervisor Panico and the Town of Brookhaven, invite you to join the 26th Great American Cleanup™. Every spring, individuals and groups join the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest organized cleanup, beautification, and community improvement program. The volunteers know that they really make a difference, and the results are dramatic! The communities look clean and beautiful, and there is a sense of hometown pride and accomplishment. 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.

So, don't wait for someone else to do it... pick a location...and volunteer for this year's Great Brookhaven Cleanup! Join thousands of Brookhaven residents to help make Brookhaven... a cleaner, greener, more beautiful Town!

Register your individual or group participation online at brookhavenny.gov

Pick up your FREE gloves, bags & T-shirts during normal business hours: May 6 to May 17 from 9am - 4:30pm

For your convenience, we are also offering two dates with evening hours: Tuesday & Wednesday, May 14 & 15 from 4:30pm - 8:00pm at Town Hall, 3rd Floor Department of Recycling and Sustainable Materials Management.

APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY & MUST BE MADE DURING THE REGISTRATION PROCESS.

Please register online at www.brookhavenny.gov or call the Town of Brookhaven Department of Recycling and Sustainable Materials Management at 451-TOWN to explore your best option for participating in this worthy community event.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to be part of the 16th Annual Great Brookhaven Cleanup - May 18, 2024

Post your photos on Instagram using #DoBeautifulThings

- Identify a specific site that you would like to improve.
- Visit the site to plan your event and get permission from the property owner if necessary.
- Possible activities:
 - Litter cleanups on streets, parks, playgrounds
 - River, lake and scashore cicanups
 - Nature trails, woodland trails and field cleanups
 - School cleanups
 - Commercial Site / Shopping Center cleanups
 - Beautification / community improvement projects
- Recruit family members, friends or neighbors to help.
- Join your friends to help us fight dirty!

Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Karen Dunne Kesnig presents a Special Recycling Event

**E-Waste Collection paper shredding and Drug Take Back
June 1, 2024 9:00am – 1:00pm
at Eastport South Manor Junior - Senior High School
543 Moriches – Middle Island Rd**

Recycle your old electronics! Please do not bring carbon monoxide/smoke detectors, light bulbs or batteries.

Recycle your sensitive papers! Please remove any rubber bands, binders, clips and any hard covers.

Shed the Meds! Dispose of your pills and prescriptions safely and securely collected by our local Sheriff's department.

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Karen Dunne Kesnig
Councilwoman
District 6
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kdunnekesnig@brookhavenNY.gov



Daniel J. Panico
Brookhaven Town
Supervisor
631.451.6502



Dunne's first 100 days

Councilwoman reflects and looks forward

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Councilwoman Karen Dunne Kesnig took Dan Panico's District 6 vacated seat with overwhelming numbers last year.

Last month, she interviewed with the Tide of Moriches reflecting on her first 100 days in office and looked forward at her remaining term.

During election season, Dunne said her first goal was to learn as much as she possibly can about the most important issues she needs to deal with. She also promised to take a look at the Neighborhood Road redevelopment in Mastic Beach.

The first thing she noticed while in office, she said, is how well her staff works with the community in guiding them to the proper resources.

"I am just amazed at how many constituent issues there are in this district and how incredibly well my staff has dealt

with them," she said.

The largest accomplishment, she noted, was dealing with the flooding issues that were exacerbated in her area with early-year storms.

"We had more flooding than normal with major rain storms, particularly in Mastic Beach," she said, noting her constituents were contacting her office in need of help.

In Mastic Beach, she noted, they are also still working with the master developer for the redevelopment of Neighborhood Road. Beechwood is currently in contract with multiple properties.

An ongoing issue she has also dealt with is litter and trash.

"On a daily basis we are dealing with quality-of-life issues and trying to get help for people; it's the most important thing," she said. "People just want to be heard." If the Town of Brookhaven is unable to help, she said, she has been guiding her constituents to the proper place, either with the county or state.

She has also been meeting regularly

with local civic organizations, including the chambers of commerce and Patter-squash Creek Civic, as well as attending ribbon cuttings and fire department installations.

"We have been going over all the different issues; [they are] wonderful and proactive at doing things themselves," she said of the civics, noting they have plans for cleanups in the community.

Lastly, she noted, she is proud seeing renovations at the Mastic-Shirley train station come to fruition. In the coming weeks, she said, the town historian will also be working with the MTA to implement 14 photos around the shelter. Earlier this year, the MTA announced plans for a new shelter for passengers at the Mastic-Shirley Long Island Rail Road station. The shelter will replace the existing station building, which has reached its useful life. The work is expected to be completed this winter.

However, her largest personal accomplishment in office was helping residents in Manorville with cut trees from a beetle

infestation. The trees, she said, were an eyesore causing multiple residents to call. Under her direction, the department of public works chopped the cut trees down, creating a better view on Moriches Middle Island Road.

Looking forward, Dunne said she is eager for the town's recycling events, which will take place on June 1 at the Eastport-South Manor High School. Recycled materials accepted include paper for shredding, electronics, and even a drug take-back program.

"We are going to make it a bit of a competition," she said, hoping her district collects the most recycled materials.

Dunne will also be visiting ESM for an assembly on recycling and will be sponsoring a pizza or ice cream party for the class that collects the most.

She is looking forward to over three more remaining years in office.

"I am enjoying this job a lot more than I anticipated," she said, also thanking her staff members for making the transition smooth. "This job certainly is not boring."



Homeless in Moriches

Winter on the Street (The first in a three-part series about being unhoused in our community)

BY C. E. PARRY

The sudden mid-January chill forced most living beings to seek shelter.

Few ventured out to Center Moriches' main shopping areas. What traffic there was moved quickly through the frigid air.

News reports included warnings of frostbite risks to those who lingered too long outside in the 20 degree, and lower overnight, temperatures. Municipalities opened their warming centers in an effort to offer respite to those who needed it.

The woman crouching on the cold cement next to the refuse container outside CVS sought to make eye contact with the infrequent passersby entering the store. Few returned the gesture. A single SUV approached the curb and paused

long enough for the driver to lower her window. Was the woman okay? Did she need a blanket? The offer declined, the conversation ended and the driver went on her way.

Another ventured near, hoping to engage her a bit more, perhaps to offer some warm food or a kind word.

Wrapped in blankets, her bagged belongings cushioning her against the cold metal bin, the woman smiled, revealing several missing teeth but warm, friendly eyes.

"I had a head injury," she said. "Just came out of a coma. The rest of my things are at the shelter. But I don't belong there."

There are no laws against sudden cold snaps or vagrancy in Suffolk County. Poverty isn't a crime. Whatever circumstances had led to her being outside when others were not, one can only guess. But a similar scene playing out in front of a CVS several villages west had prompted calls to police when the man was said to be aggressive.

At least three people, two women and a man, spent time in and around Center Moriches this year facing issues related to homelessness. The woman in front of

CVS appeared during some of the most extreme weather we'd had to date.

Her odyssey through the next days took her up and down Clinton Street, along Railroad Avenue, nearly as far as Nettie's Bakery. At times, she pushed a shopping cart laden with her belongings, her face burnished red from the biting wind, her arms tugging the cart over the uneven, unyielding pavement.

Clearly, she was struggling. And the struggle was increasing.

NANA's House (Never Alone—Never Afraid) operated a shelter on Railroad Avenue until they went out of business last year. An occasional car parks in the driveway of what outwardly appears to be a single-family residence. While it may have been the shelter, she mentioned she was not inside it on the coldest days.

Near the end of January she sat, crumpled against the caved in section of rusting a chain-link fence that borders a dilapidated property south of Sunrise Highway, 1.9 miles from CVS. A young man leaned down and spoke with her, her face raised to him.

Their conversation, and what happened to her next, remain a mystery. ■



Next: Homeless in Moriches: Navigating the system.

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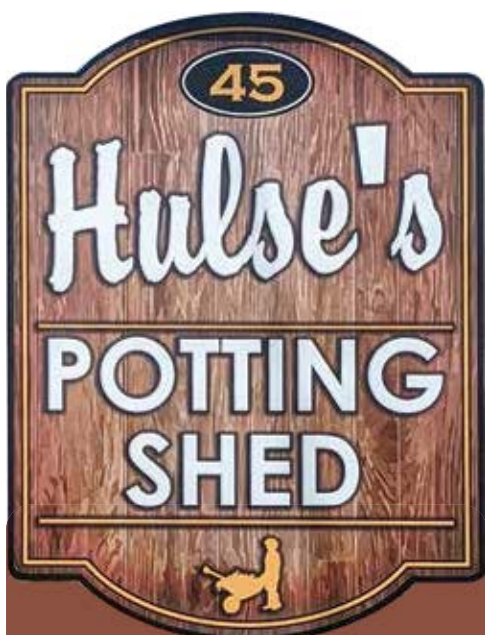


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An appreciation of Clayton Huey

January 17, 1931 -
March 3, 2024

BY C. E. PARRY

Public school education used to include good citizenship lessons. For the children who attended Center Moriches schools between 1955 and 1986, those lessons included a role model named Clayton Huey. When he died at home on March 3, 2024, he left behind a lifetime of contributions to his family, friends, neighbors, and this community.

Schools are different today. Contemporary school districts often hire administrators from outside the community. But in the mid-1950s, when he was hired as a physical education teacher and coach, schools were small communities of educators who often socialized together, advancing in their careers within the district and nurturing their families.

As he continued teaching, Clayton completed a degree in administration at NYU and became principal at Center Moriches Elementary School, hiring and guiding teachers as well as students. Later, as school superintendent, he oversaw the entire Center Moriches School District, including its winning Red Devils soccer team.

Despite these commitments and the demands of a loving family, he still found time to help Camp Paquatuck grow and thrive, so that hundreds of deserving special-needs children and their families could enjoy summer activities in a country setting.

In retirement, Clayton's house lights went on early so he could catch a round of golf, continue his consulting work for local school districts, or tend his immaculate lawn and garden.

On occasion, he might even tend a neighbor's. Once, when end-of-year schoolwork so overwhelmed a neighbor that her lawn was not mowed that week, Clayton's tractor-mower somehow found its way across the street and over her front lawn.

But when his own lawn became too much for him to keep up, he floated the idea of selling the home he and Joan had bought as a newly married couple. Their children, Michael, Jim, Leeann and Laura were grown and off with their own families and careers. The new construction at Walden Pond looked appealing. But Joan wouldn't hear of it. She loved her home and her neighborhood. And there they stayed until Joan's death in August 2020.



Together they lived long enough to see their children and their grandchildren grow and thrive as adults, and see the community where their married life began grow and change as well.

As an educator, Clayton Huey knew the power of a good example. He knew well how much children learn from watching the actions of their parents, peers and teachers. Longtime residents and former students, most well into middle age, still refer to him as Mr. Huey. Those who grew up under his influence could not have asked for a better role model; our community could not have asked for a better educator, friend or neighbor.

The people of Center Moriches thank you, Clayton Huey, for your dedication to their children and your contributions to our community. Yours was a life well spent, an example to follow.

And a presence we will miss.
"So fill to me the parting glass / And drink a health what'er befalls / Then gently rise and softly call / Good night and joy be to you all." - "The Parting Glass," a traditional Scottish/Irish tune often sung at wakes. ■

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Memorial Day parade to take place on Main Street



The Moriches annual Memorial Day parade will take place on Main Street for a solemn remembrance. Veterans are asked to come and march, joining other organizations honoring all brothers and sisters who proudly served and have died.

The parade will take place on Monday, May 27 at 9 a.m., with lineup at 8 a.m., starting at Lake Avenue and Main Street.

The parade will proceed east along Main to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. A ceremony will then be held.

“Memorial Day is a special day,” said Center Moriches VFW Post 414 commander Bobby Galbraith. “It’s a day to remember and honor all those who served and have now passed away. We honor them with this special ceremony so they’ll never, ever be forgotten.”

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5/5 to 5/11	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SAT P.M.
Moriches Bay	5:42 AM	6:14 PM	6:37 AM	7:04 PM	7:29 AM	7:51 PM	8:19 AM	8:38 PM	9:09 AM	9:25 PM	10:01 AM	10:14 PM	10:56 AM	11:06 PM
Moriches Inlet	5:03 AM	5:35 PM	5:58 AM	6:25 PM	6:50 AM	7:12 PM	7:40 AM	7:59 PM	8:30 AM	8:46 PM	9:22 AM	9:35 PM	10:17 AM	10:27 PM
Smith Pt. Bridge	7:58 AM	8:30 PM	8:53 AM	9:20 PM	9:45 AM	10:07 PM	10:35 AM	10:54 PM	11:25 AM	11:41 PM	-----AM	12:17 PM	12:30 AM	1:12 PM

5/12 to 5/18	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SAT P.M.
Moriches Bay	11:52 AM	-----PM	12:00 AM	12:47 PM	12:53 AM	1:40 PM	1:45 AM	2:32 PM	2:36 AM	3:24 PM	3:28 AM	4:15 PM	4:21 AM	5:04 PM
Moriches Inlet	11:13 AM	11:21 PM	-----AM	12:08 PM	12:14 AM	1:01 PM	1:06 AM	1:53 PM	1:57 AM	2:45 PM	2:49 AM	3:36 PM	3:42 AM	4:25 PM
Smith Pt. Bridge	1:22 AM	2:08 PM	2:16 AM	3:03 PM	3:09 AM	3:56 PM	4:01 AM	4:48 PM	4:52 AM	5:40 PM	5:44 AM	6:31 PM	6:37 AM	7:20 PM

5/19 to 5/26	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SAT P.M.
Moriches Bay	5:13 AM	5:49 PM	6:02 AM	6:30 PM	6:46 AM	7:08 PM	7:27 AM	7:43 PM	8:07 AM	8:19 PM	8:46 AM	8:56 PM	9:28 AM	9:37 PM
Moriches Inlet	4:34 AM	5:10 PM	5:23 AM	5:51 PM	6:07 AM	6:28 PM	6:48 AM	7:04 PM	7:28 AM	7:40 PM	8:07 AM	8:17 PM	8:49 AM	8:58 PM
Smith Pt. Bridge	7:29 AM	8:05 PM	8:18 AM	8:46 PM	9:02 AM	9:24 PM	9:43 AM	9:59 PM	10:23 AM	10:35 PM	11:12 02	11:12 PM	11:44 AM	11:53 PM

5/26 to 6/1	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SAT P.M.
Moriches Bay	10:15 AM	10:26 PM	11:09 AM	11:21 PM	-----AM	12:07 PM	12:19 AM	1:04 PM	1:17 AM	2:01 PM	2:15 AM	2:58 PM	3:15 AM	3:56 PM
Moriches Inlet	9:36 AM	9:47 PM	10:30 AM	10:42 PM	11:28 AM	11:40 PM	-----AM	12:25 PM	12:38 AM	1:22 PM	1:36 AM	2:19 PM	2:36 AM	3:17 PM
Smith Pt. Bridge	-----AM	12:31 PM1	12:42 AM	1:25 PM	1:37 AM	2:23 PM	2:35 AM	3:20 PM	3:33 AM	4:17 PM	4:31 AM	5:14 PM	5:31 AM	6:12 PM

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Barn Again Farms opens for the season

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Twelve-year-old Moriches farmer Matt Gartelman recently celebrated his season opener in late April. His farm stand is now open this May at 87 Bernstein Boulevard with an official schedule on his Instagram page.

The stand will feature local flowers, fresh fruit, and vegetables grown in his very own garden; plants and garden-grow kits; fresh eggs, honey, garden décor, and deer-out repellent.

"We will have everything you need to start your garden," he assured. "We're going to have all sorts of beautiful spring flowers and plant starts from our farm."

But best of all—he will be bringing along his baby animals, including two baby goats, some ducks, and maybe even some rabbits. The goats—as are all of his animals—were recent rescues from a local farm and will only be about five weeks old by the start of May.

He said that a new addition this year,

aside from the grow kits, will be local honey from his new beehive. His honey should be ready throughout the summer.

Last year, Matt shut down operations in October, and by December he was already gearing up for the 2024 spring season.

Throughout the winter, he films videos for his YouTube channel, visiting local farms for content and ideas. By January, he said, he was already in the greenhouse and his basement prepping seeds. In February through May, he then started warm-crop seeds.

"The main thing is making sure people get the best quality plants when they get from us," Matt said of his process and local flower supplier.

Varieties to be made available at his stand will include peas, watermelon, beans, beets, cabbage, dill, pumpkins, and peppers among others—though, his best-sellers are eggplants, tomatoes and cucumbers. New offerings this year are squash, corn, and he will be selling his sunflowers, too. Prices range from a single veggie at about \$2 to \$4 up to \$20 to \$30 for a flat.

See **BARN AGAIN FARM** on page 21

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BARN AGAIN FARM

FROM PAGE 20

“Another new product will be my cherry tomatoes [in] hanging baskets; the tomatoes will be falling over the sides, but that will be later in the season,” he said, anticipating his ideas.

The farm, he said, is committed to sustainable and responsible farming practices. They use natural fertilizers and pest-control methods to ensure the crops are healthy and free from harmful chemicals. Also, the animals are raised in spacious and clean environments, with plenty of access to fresh air and sunshine.

A full May schedule will be available as of May 1 and can be found at barnagainfarm.com or on Instagram @barnagainfarm. Dates are subject to change without notice. ■

ABOUT FARMER MATT

Matt moved to the Moriches in 2022 from Wantagh in Nassau County with his family, seeking a life with more outdoors and space. As a first-generation farm manager, he found just that in Center Moriches by creating and co-owning Barn Again Farm. He lives on the just under 2-acre farm, located at 87 Bernstein Boulevard, with his parents and older brother and sister.

FOLLOW MATT

YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok: @barnagainfarm
Website: barnagainfarm.com



Courtesy photos



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MORICHES CHAMBER UPDATE

Hometown Heroes Project



The Chamber of the Moriches was proud to help support a Hometown Heroes Program started by three eighth-grade students from Center Moriches Middle School.

Addison Raupp, Kristin Luna, and Adrianna Loesch came up with the idea to honor our veterans in a very special way.

As part of their eighth-grade project, they teamed up with the Hometown Heroes Program to recognize the service and sacrifices made by our servicemen and women.

Participants in the Hometown Heroes Banner Program will be able to honor their hometown hero who is currently serving or has served in the U.S. military, and is or was a resident of Center Moriches by sponsoring and purchasing

a custom banner.

The banners will be displayed on the light posts along Main Street. At this time, the students have raised over \$4,000 to help sponsor the banners.

Boy Scout Troop 23 has volunteered to put up the banners and the chamber will help maintain the banners.

The chamber would also like to thank Rich Raupp, father of Addison, for his exceptional direction and unwavering commitment in steering this project to its successful completion.

A huge thank you to Addison, Kristin, and Adrianna for initiating the Hometown Heroes project, a heartfelt tribute honoring our veterans.

“Your dedication to recognizing and celebrating their sacrifices is truly commendable,” said chamber president Jackie Osborne.

The banners will be displayed by Memorial Day.

New business: The chamber would like to welcome new businesses, including PAL Football, Chris Vazques, Michele Moodt, Brian Levey; Samantha Bisagni, Compass Realty; Kelly from KCollections Photography.

Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers

Every year, our chamber selects a member who exemplifies outstanding dedication and commitment to their community to be honored as our Member of the Year.

This year we are proud to present Roseanne (Ro) Gencarelli, from Moriches Bay Deli, with our Member of the Year Award!

Gencarelli’s service on the chamber’s



board has been exemplary, demonstrating outstanding dedication and leadership.

Gencarelli is also president of the Sea-tuck Rotary. At a dinner hosted by the BCCC, we were able to honor Gencarelli with several awards.

“We are immensely grateful for Ro’s invaluable contributions and the remarkable job done in furthering the mission of our chamber,” Osborne said. “We also appreciate the positive impact that she has had on her community. Congratulations!”

Meet this year’s Irish Princess: Allie DeMatteo

Allie submitted the winning essay for our 2024 Irish Princess. Allie DeMatteo is a current senior at Center Moriches High School and is the valedictorian of her class. Outside of school, Allie 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. Allie is a working



Courtesy photos

actress and is represented by DDO Artists Agency. This fall, Allie will be going to college to pursue a BFA in musical theater.

COMING UP: The Chamber of Commerce Spring Fair will be held on Sunday, June 9. If you would like to be a vendor, please sign up on our website moriches-chamber.org. There will be vendors, live music, food trucks, and more.

The next chamber meeting will be held at the Moriches Community Center on Frowein next to the high school on May 14 at 6 p.m. Thank you to Oasis Rehabilitation and Nursing for sponsoring our meeting. ■

CM PTO hosts Taste of Spring

BY KRAIG KLEIN

The Center Moriches Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) hosted the Taste of Spring Gala event at the Clayton Huey Elementary School on Saturday, April 13.

The Taste of Spring Gala was hosted in the school’s main street gym from 3 until 7 p.m. During the event, the Center Moriches PTO hosted a basket auction that raffled off various baskets of items. The auction raised funds for the Center Moriches PTO and is the group’s third basket auction.

“We wanted to do something different than the typical basket auction,” said volunteer coordinator Cindy Kubley.

A video posted on the Center Moriches PTO’s website listed some of the gala’s offerings, such as multiple 10-night stays

at Caribbean vacation resorts, tickets to entertainment venues like the Long Island Aquarium, and gift certificates to Long Island restaurants such as Riverhead’s Jerry and the Mermaid restaurant.

Other items that were auctioned off during the event included a kayak and jewelry. A 50/50 raffle was also held at the end of the event, where the winner took home \$270.

“We didn’t sell tickets [for people] to get in,” Center Moriches PTO treasurer Jennifer Maklary said. “If people wanted to participate in the [raffles], they bought tickets.”

Auction items were separated into “red ticket” and “yellow ticket” categories. Attendees could buy a sheet of 10 to 11 red tickets for \$20 and a sheet of 11 yellow tickets for \$5. They then could

place the tickets in plastic boxes corresponding to the items they hoped to win. For an additional dollar, attendees could also buy a “clapper” item that they could use to make noise if they won one of the raffles.

“This is our largest fundraiser,” Center Moriches PTO board member Stephanie Holgerson said.

Holgerson sold raffle tickets during the event.

“We rely on volunteers to help us plan and organize [for the Taste of Spring Gala],” Kubley said. “It takes a huge concerted effort to make it happen, but we are dedicated parents trying to fund-raise for our school. We rely on flyers and word of mouth, plus [social media] to advertise.”

The Taste of Spring Gala also included music broadcast by a DJ, face painting,

and arts-and-crafts projects for children. Dishes such as Manhattan clam chowder and penne alla vodka were also sold to attendees. Students from Center Moriches schools had donated food, including cupcakes, cookies, and rice cereal treats.

“The soup was donated by Atlantic Seafood,” Kubley said. “[Other food] was [from] Mama Bella’s, which is in Medford.”

The PTO’s goal was to raise at least \$15,000 for school-related activities. The Center Moriches PTO is currently planning events for teacher appreciation and a field day, as well as a book fair and holiday boutique.

“We’ll probably skip [the Taste of Spring Gala] next year, just to give people a break,” Center Moriches PTO president Leck Mayer said. “We’re thinking about doing it every other year.” ■

MT/Klein



Don't miss the Anthony Parlato Memorial 5K



The Anthony Parlato Memorial 5K is a great way to kick off the summer by supporting the Moriches Community Center. The run will be held on June 1 at 9 a.m. at Neville Park.

The run will benefit all Moriches Community Center camps and programs for the summer and fall. This summer, they will host three camps to help get students active during their time off.

“By honoring Anthony and Kathleen, everyone can help continue to carry on programs for the youth in the community,” said co-director of the community

center Sonny Saguto.

Last year, over 60 runners participated. Kaleb Kemper and Delaney Kleinman were declared the overall winners of the race, which raised nearly \$8,000 for the center's youth programs, according to its website.

The event, now in its 20th year, was renamed in honor of Anthony Parlato. The local basketball coach was an integral part of the community center when it was formed over two decades ago and became its vice president. ■

File photos

KATHLEEN JOHNSON



Kathleen Johnson, Selfless Community Leader, Dies at 68.

Surrounded by loved ones in the house she made a home, it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Kathleen Johnson on April 18, 2024. She was 68 at the time of her passing.

Kathleen was born on March 13th, 1956, in Andover, Massachusetts to Edward (Ed) and Margaret (Peg) Johnson. She was the oldest of three children, followed by her brother, Michael, and sister, Gail. After moving to New Hampshire, she attended Phillips Exeter Academy in one of the first years that women were admitted. As a teenager, she was an avid field hockey player and volunteered at local hospitals as a candy striper. After high school, she attended the University of New Hampshire, graduating in 1978 with a degree in Business Administration. At UNH, Kathleen was president of her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega. While completing her undergraduate degree, Kathleen would spend her summers working in Montauk, NY. In 1977, during the summer of her junior year, Kathleen met her husband, Michael Mark Ushko. After college, Kathleen and Michael moved to Queens, New York. Kathleen would spend the next decade working in the advertising industry at McNamara, Clapp & Klein in New York City.

In 1986, Kathleen and Michael were wed at a ceremony in Exeter, New Hampshire. They celebrated their honeymoon by taking a road trip through France. From tasting the champagne of royal weddings in Épernay to touring the fields of Provence, Kathleen and Michael's trip as newlyweds would spark a lifelong passion of traveling together.

In 1990, Kathleen had her daughter, Emily Paige Ushko, after which she left the advertising industry. In 1993, the Johnson-Ushko family relocated to Center Moriches, New York. Shortly after arriving to Center Moriches, Kathleen would combine her entrepreneurial spirit and creative pursuits (sewing, handed down from her mother, Peg) to found Emily's Treasures, a custom children's clothing and party costumes company.

In Center Moriches, Kathleen,

Michael, and Emily not only found a home, but a community. She was a member of the School Board for Our Lady Queen of Apostles and the Co-Coordinator of Environment and Arts at St. Peter & Paul Church. On Thursdays, it was not out of the ordinary to see Kathleen zipping around town delivering Meals on Wheels to the elderly. This would be a tradition for more than three decades. With a smile, a warm heart, and patience for those around her, Kathleen had her finger on the pulse of Center Moriches.

It was undeniable that anyone who met Kathleen understood her devotion to her family and commitment to bettering her community. In 2000, Kathleen, along with Anthony Parlato III, became Co-Executive Directors of the Moriches Community Center. Through the years, Kathleen worked tirelessly to help shape the small center into a thriving not-for-profit organization that delivers support, aid, and opportunities for people of all ages and creeds. From organizing Thanksgiving and Christmas donations to the Center Moriches annual 5k Walk and Run, Kathleen, along with dozens of others, cultivated kindness in Center Moriches, day by day, year by year.

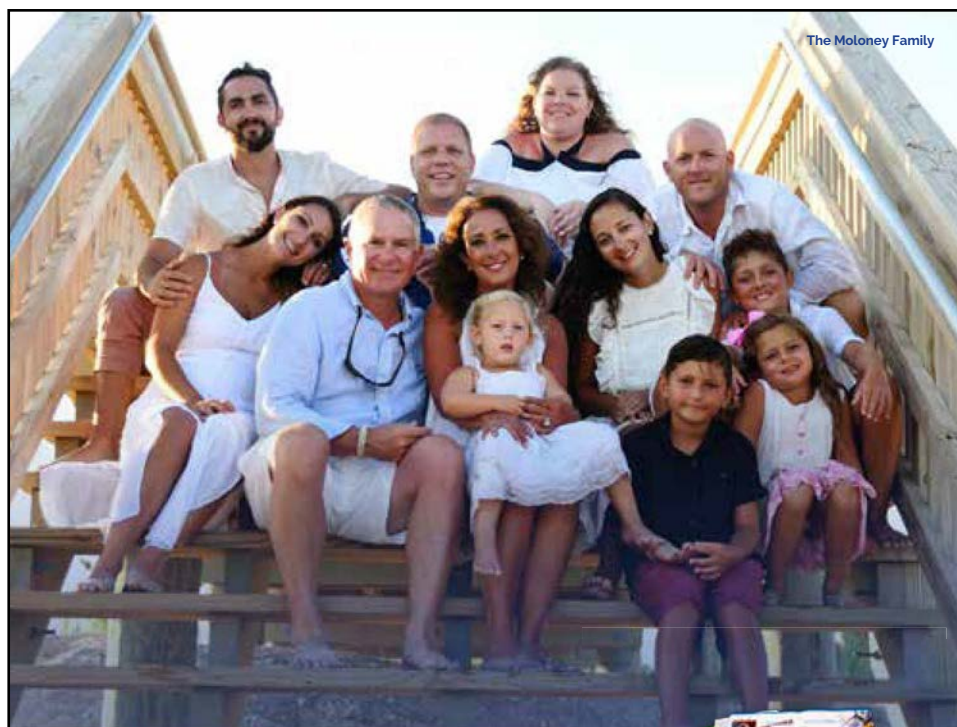
In 2019 The Moriches Community Center realized its dream and settled at a permanent home at 313 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, New York. It is here that Kathleen's beloved after school program began to thrive, ensuring a permanent place for school-age children to have a safe and creative environment to find themselves. After more than twenty years of service to the center, Kathleen retired as Director in 2022, with her mentees, Sonny Saguto and Michael Valentine, becoming the next generation to lead.

Kathleen's desire to better the world extended to her personal interests. Gardening was one of her great passions. She took immense pride tending to her flower beds around the house and cultivating her vegetable garden. She loved to bake and decorate during the holidays. It was not out of the ordinary to receive one of Kathleen's handmade pies when you moved to Center Moriches, celebrated an achievement of life, or grieved with others during times of adversity.

Kathleen was an avid fisherwoman and clammer. Along with her husband and friends, she spent her summer days on Moriches Bay enjoying the sail, sea, and time with good people.

Last, but not least, one of Kathleen's best attributes was helping others, especially in finding their creative outlets. She taught sewing classes to teens and helped start an art program called the Moriches Art Alliance with best friend Chris Cohen.

Kathleen touched the lives of so many people through her outreach and friendships. It is with this in mind that, in lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks that donations be made to The Moriches Community Center. A memorial will be held to celebrate Kathleen Johnson's incredible life at a later date.



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the Tide SPORTS

ESM girls lacrosse looking to prove the doubters wrong

BY GARY HABER

“Prove them wrong.”

That’s the slogan this year’s Eastport-South Manor High School girls lacrosse team adopted after a lower-than-expected preseason ranking.

It’s a bad move to anger a shark, and this year’s squad is a dangerous combination of senior veterans and underclassmen that makes the Sharks a tough opponent for any team that faces them.

The preseason ranking provided the team with some extra incentive to make a return trip to the playoffs and a deeper run than last season when they lost to Smithtown West in the postseason.

Perennially one of Long Island’s top programs, the Sharks are 3-5 in games through April 18. They have seven regular-season games remaining, which leaves time to accumulate wins and make the playoffs.

“We’re trying to find our identity and we’re slowly finding it,” Sharks head coach Rebecca Thorn said.

The Sharks want to be known as a scrappy team that out-hustles oppo-

nents, plays as hard as it can, and has each other’s backs, said Thorn, who is in her 13th season at ESM and was a stand-out lacrosse player at Hofstra.

Under Thorn’s leadership, the Sharks have become one of Long Island’s top programs.

Thorn guided ESM to seven Suffolk Class B championships and state Class B championships in 2015 and 2019. More than 75 of her players have gone on to play at the college level.

This year’s team is predominantly ninth and 10th graders, with a handful of juniors and seniors in key roles.

Goalie Ashley Langdon, a Johns Hopkins commit, anchors a strong defense.

Amanda Sweeney, a Cincinnati commit; Caylin Luciano, a Florida commit; and Emma McLean, a Loyola Maryland commit, key the Sharks’ offense, which scored 27 goals during a three-game win streak against Center Moriches, Babylon and Miller Place. Sweeney leads the team with 16 goals in the first eight games.

Katelynn Murtha, a ninth-grader, is another of the Sharks’ stars on offense. Murtha has scored 11 goals. ■

ESM



ESM Lacrosse

Courtesy photo

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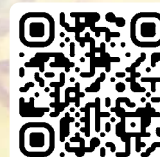
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Mother's Day Wishes
From Our Family to Yours



KEITH'S CORNER

Don't forget to remember the vets

The month of May starts and ends with us honoring veterans and the memory of veterans who have served our country.

Pictured are Keith and Cassy Caputo at the annual free Helping Makes U Happy Memorial Day Breakfast, which we host at VFW Post 414 in Center Moriches.

The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. on Memorial Day and ends at 8:30 a.m., so there's enough time for all to line Main Street and support the 9 a.m. parade.

The breakfast is open to members of the VFW post, their families, and community members/families who have served/are serving in the military.

If you have any questions about this event, please call or text us at 631-848-9008. Other events happening in May are our HMUH Yard Sale to be held on May 4 (rain date, May 5) at 1 Neville Street, Center Moriches.

There will be a bake sale and Mother's Day Raffle at the yard sale as well, all to raise funds for feeding families referred to us this summer. On May 11, we are hosting a by-reservation-only free Mother's Day event for 20 children

ages 2-5 and their moms. Big thanks to Pete Olivieri (DJ Daddy O) for the character donation and Hampton Coffee for the iced coffee!

This event filled up the first day, so look for it next year—if it goes well, maybe it will grow. We are proud to be sponsoring the "Our Community Salute" event at Sunset Harbor on May 15, which recognizes high school seniors entering the military upon graduation.

For the first time ever this year, HMUH is excited to be offering a scholarship not only to a graduating senior entering college, but also separate scholarships for Center Moriches students entering the military and trade school!

On Sunday, May 19, we'll be showing our support at the "Aubrey" fundraiser being held at the Hagerman Fire Department for an 11-year-old girl in the area battling leukemia.

Don't forget to look for the Home Town Hero banners that will be placed along Main Street mid-May and which, I hope, will be a gentle reminder to show up at the Memorial Day parade.

See you there! ■



Courtesy photo

Student of the month

Taylor Metzler, a senior at Center Moriches High School, was named the March Moriches Chamber of Commerce Business Student of the Month.

Taylor is actively involved in sports and extracurricular activities and is in the top 20 of her class. Taylor is a member of the National Honor Society, English Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, Math Honor Society, and Social

Studies Honor Society.

She is on the varsity girls lacrosse team. As a varsity lacrosse player, she has been awarded to the All-Rookie team (10th grade), Extra Effort Award (10th grade), and Section XI All Tournament Award (11th grade).

In 2022, her lacrosse team won the Suffolk County Championships, Class D for Center Moriches. Recently, Taylor

MORICHES BAY GARDEN CLUB

Hello to all of our fellow gardeners!

BY PATTI CHIEFFO

Since spring's arrival, I'm sure many of you have taken advantage of some of those warm, sunny days and gone out into your yards and started preparing your gardens. It's a great feeling to appreciate the beauty of nature any time of the year, but especially in the spring with so much to look forward to.

At our March meeting, Roxanne Zimmer, Ph.D., from Cornell Cooperative Extension, spoke to our club about gardening with deer, a topic everyone is interested in. She spoke about four strategies which I will share with you. However, keep in mind that deer are opportunistic eaters (as many of you already know) and if they are hungry, will eat anything! That being said, keep these strategies in mind.

1. No deer candy: Don't put the plants and flowers deer love to eat in a place where they have easy access to them.
2. Make better choices: There are many plants that deer don't like. Some of those include daffodils, bleeding heart, hellebores, ferns, common foxglove, columbine, yarrow, most ornamental grasses, catmint, lavender, black-eyed Susan, coneflower, but-

terfly weed, dusty miller, marigolds, celosia, and aster.

3. Physical barriers: There are several different kinds of fences that can be put up around a plant, a garden, or your yard.

4. Other deterrents include human hair, Irish Spring, Zest, hot pepper spray, fabric softener sheets, predator urine, Deer Off, and Deer Out.

Remember, nothing is deer proof all the time! They may not eat your lamb's ear today, but when their favorite treats are not available, that lamb's ear and other flowers and plants are going to look pretty tasty.

The Moriches Bay Garden Club invites you to join us at any of our meetings. We meet the third Thursday of each month. Some of our upcoming meetings include planting pansies, the rose garden at the South Hampton Library, the Peconic Bay Herb Farm, our flower show, and our 50th anniversary tea/Chinese auction to be held at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck in Center Moriches. Join us for one of our meetings. We'll be happy to see you!

If you're interested, please contact our president, Debbie Cannarelli at (631) 258-2657 or debgcan@gmail.com. ■

attended the Section XI Student Athlete Leadership Conference.

Taylor is an active Girl Scout and has earned her Silver Award focusing on how to prevent bullying in elementary schools. She and her fellow Girls Scouts created a video to share with the fifth-grade students at Clayton Huey Elementary and were able to create a whole week of activities.

She has attended various community service events with her troop, such as holiday shopping/gift wrapping for the Center Moriches Community Center and Helping Makes U Happy, as well as volunteering at St. John's Evangelist Catholic Church.

Taylor also volunteers for MYO during the winter months at the youth girls lacrosse clinics (K-6) to help young players develop their skills.

Taylor will be attending Bloomsburg University in the fall, where she will be playing DII Women's Lacrosse and will be pursuing a degree in finance. ■



Courtesy photo



Published Monthly at 20 Medford Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772 631-475-1000

Established 2011

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Publisher, 2011-2018

J. TERRY TUTHILL
Publisher, 2018-Present

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Letters policy: Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Letters must be 300 words or less, in good taste and not libelous, signed and include a daytime telephone number for confirmation of authorship. Our email address is ADVletters@optonline.net.

AROUND TOWN

Sunday, May 5

New Sermon Series – The South Bay Bible Church's new teaching series, "Faith that Works: Delivering Practical Christianity in the Book of James," will be presented Sundays, 9 and 11 a.m. Visit www.southbay-churchli.org or call 631-909-8241.

Tuesday, May 7

Networking Event – Strictly Business at Middle Country Library, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is a free event to network, promote and build businesses in Brookhaven and the surrounding areas. Join over 75 vendors, discover local products and services, connect with potential customers and network with community organizations. Open to the public. Visit www.strictlybusinessradeshow.com.

Saturday, May 11

Afternoon Tea – The Presbyterian Church of the Moriches, 263 Main St., Center Moriches, will host its annual tea with fresh baked scones, assorted finger sandwiches, desserts, and choice of tea, noon to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Shop their Mother's Day gift shop and buy chances for the Ladies' Favorite Raffle. Call 631-878-4480.

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day – The largest one-day food drive in the nation where food donations are collected by USPS mail carriers. How to observe: Volunteer

your time at your local post office to sort food gathered for the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Visit either of the following sites for more information on how to participate: www.nalc.org or www.usps.com. Use #StampOutHungerFoodDrive to show your support for this worthy cause!

Sunday, May 12

Mother's Day – A day to honor mothers, motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

Monday, May 13

Cooking Demo – Join Chef Rob at Center Moriches Library and learn how to make Skillet Shrimp Fajitas and Turkey Taco Dip. Two sessions: 2-3 p.m. OR 6-7 p.m. Register online or call 631-878-0940.

Saturday, May 18

Coin & Stamp Appraisal – Stamp and coin expert Frank McAlonan will be at Mastic Beach Library to tell you if you have rare or valuable stamps or coins, 1-3 p.m. Register online or call 631-399-1511, ext. 1028.

Thursday, May 30

Book Discussion – The Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Library's book group will meet to talk about "Hello Beautiful," by Ann Napolitano, 2:30 p.m. Register online or call 631-399-1511, ext. 1028.

Of Note ...

Food Pantry – The Jewish Center of the Moriches, 227 E. Main St., Center Moriches, has a food pantry on the front lawn of the temple. The community is invited to take items for free from the pantry and encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to it.

Knitting Classes – The Jewish Center of the Moriches will hold 5 knitting classes on Wednesdays, beginning May 1. Fee: \$18 includes all. To register or get more info, call 631-874-4928 or visit www.jewishcenterofthemoriches.com.

Cat Spaying Season – Most feral kittens are born in spring, therefore rescue and community cat groups recommend pre-emptive spaying in February. Two local providers: Brookhaven Animal Shelter 300 Horseblock Rd., Medford. Call 631-451-6950. Services: Voucher for FREE spay/neuter at Integrative Veterinary Therapies, Ridge. Must call clinic at 631-924-7700 for an appointment once you have a voucher. Clinic at Kent Animal Shelter, 2259 River Rd., 631-727-5731, ex. 2 or visit kentanimalshelter.com. Services \$90 includes spay/neuter surgery, rabies vaccine, ear tip.

Tell Us About Your Event – We print local events free of charge for the towns of

Moriches, Center Moriches, East Moriches, and Manorville, for our "AROUND TOWN" section. For inclusion, please submit information by no later than the 15th of the month prior to the event.

Pay Your Taxes Online – Brookhaven taxpayers can now access their Real Property Tax Statements. View, print and/or pay taxes. Choose online credit card or checking account payment. Visit <http://brookhaven.org> for details.

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. Access a wide range of information about what is available by viewing United Way information at www.211.org.

YEARS AGO

75 Years Ago

MAY 1949

An exhibition was given by the Center Moriches Home Bureau group at the Woman's Clubhouse, featuring the entire year's work, handmade by the members. **Mrs. Herbert Ludeman** displayed a galaxy of hats; **Mrs. B. Jacobsen** displayed her handbags; and handmade gloves were shown by **Mrs. Joseph O'Connell**.

Judith Bremer, of Moriches, a graduating class student at St. John the Evangelist School in Center Moriches, placed first among 345 scholars taking examinations for Seton Hall High School, and will receive a full four-year scholarship to the institution.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Malutka, of Center Moriches, were married at St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church.

Mrs. Alice Lukert and daughter, **Gwen**, spent the day in New York, where Gwen had an interview for her entrance to Tufts College.

The spelling bee winner at Eastport Elementary School was fifth-grader **David Raynor**. This is the third time he has won.

Mrs. Roger F. Criado will retire as chairperson of the Center Moriches Home Bureau Unit, a post of which she has held for 20 years.

Arlette Rafuse, of Manorville, and a senior at Eastport High School, took top honors in the essay contest held in conjunction with the Eastport Flag Day celebration. **Joyce Warner**, also a member of the senior class, took second place.

Four Center Moriches High School students—**John Keane**, **Jacqueline Hait**, **Margaret Biolis** and **Henry Liede**—saw the wheels of town government turning when the group was shown around Brookhaven Town Hall by supervisor **Philipp A. Hattemer** and his assistants.

Commodore **Harold J. Townsend** of Union Boulevard, Center Moriches, is among the local residents who are sparking the revitalization of the Moriches Yacht Club.



May 1974: Getting ready for the second annual American Country Fair at the Bay Auto Center, East Moriches, are members of the Southeast Brookhaven Unit of the American Cancer Society (from left to right): Diane Skarka, Florine Ingeneri, Rose Mauro, Phyllis Rino, Mary Muller, June Cosentino, Gloria Rosata, May Yuen and Frankie Mauro.

Playing in May at **The Center Moriches Theatre**: William Bendix and James Gleason in "The Life of Riley"; Joseph Cotton and Jennifer Jones in "Portrait of Jennie"; and Robert Ryan and Audrey Totter and "The Set-up."

50 Years Ago

MAY 1974

Women will dominate the academic scene at Center Moriches High School's graduation ceremonies in June with the announcement that **Frances Cuomo** will be the class valedictorian and **Eric Neuhoft** and **Pamela Richter** will share the title of salutatorian.

Residents of the rural hamlet of Manor-

ville have formed the Manorville Community Ambulance Company, spearheaded by lifelong Manorville resident and volunteer firefighter **Perry Stafford**, along with committee members **Bunny Stafford** and **Mrs. Marie Gilmartin**. There will be a glass demonstration and sale in June at the home of **Mrs. Natalie Douksza** of Silas Carter Road, for the benefit of the newly formed company.

The fourth annual United Hot Rod Association's Spring Nationals were held at the New York National Speedway in Center Moriches. Among the cars appearing will be **Jim Shore's** Fireball Vega, **Rob Tallent's** Gold Coast Duster, and "**Fast**" **Eddie Shartman's** new Mustang II Pro stock.

The third annual Scout Exposition was held at the Mastic Fireman's Field. Among

the expo chairpersons are advisor **Charles Fossett**; general chairperson **Nancy Hegyi**; secretary **Ruth Moeller**; tickets, **Ted Polanski**; and publicity, **Kay Schumacher**.

John Misiano, of East Moriches, is helping to put together a journal for the Hamptons Hospital and Medical Center memorial dance as part of the event committee.

The Moriches Bay Garden Club celebrated Arbor Day by planting a sweetgum tree in the same location where a tree had been planted when the historical society building was across the street as part of Havens Estate. Among those who attended the tree planting were **Mrs. Rudolph Grimminger**, treasurer of the Moriches Bay Garden Club; **Gordon Hackney**, president of the Moriches Bay Historical Society; and **Mrs. John Newhouse**, president of the Moriches Bay Garden Club.

There are several local homes that are undergoing restoration, including the 1830s-era Cephas Tuthill house, in Eastport, now owned by **Mrs. Rudolph Grimminger**; and the home of **Elwyn Benjamin**, nestled in the Benjamin Town Historical District in East Moriches, now owned by **Mrs. Ruth Jost**.

The Center Moriches Free Public Library is featuring this month a display of antique bottles collected by Center Moriches resident **Mrs. Frances Chartuk**, whose hobby has led her to amassing over 4,000 bottles, ranging from the 1850s to the 1920s.

The Chorus of the Peconic was judged the best intermediate singers at a New York area division preliminary contest held in Mount Vernon. The group includes **Pete Thomas** and **Andy Alberti** of Mastic Beach, and **Emory Tuttle**, **Bob Tillinghast**, and **Bob Penny**, of Eastport.

Raymond Busch was named the King Bee at his Beverly Court, Moriches, home when a patch he designed was chosen as the official emblem of the Sunrise District Expo '74, as a member of Mastic Boy Scout Troop 168. His brother, **David**, brought home a trophy of his own, when the Cub Scout took top honors in the Mastic Beach Pack 121 Pine Wood Derby.

Playing in May at local United Artists Theatres: "The Sugarland Express," Easy Rider, "Blazing Saddles" and "Badlands."

Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

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