

JANUARY 2021 | 10th Year, Issue 1

# the Tide

OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

## SNOW DAY!

Little Leo Paganica, 1, of Manorville enjoyed his first snow ride aboard his red sled and outfitted in a red checkered jacket and cute little hat.

Courtesy photo

### Beloved pet goat missing

PAGE 3

### Local drowning sparks community support

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### Take a look back with our Year in Review

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 7 Tyne Road  
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# Have you seen this goat?

## Beloved pet José stolen

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Keep an out for this white goat with black markings, for he was recently believed to be stolen from East Moriches.

Baha, of Baha Farms, known for seasonally selling vegetables and firewood in the winter at his farm stand near the former Lufker Airport, lost his beloved pet goat, José, on Dec. 8. He believes it to be stolen and has cared for the animal for over three years.

“I don’t understand why somebody would steal my pet,” Baha said with a broken heart. “José was my best friend. Please be good to him. But please bring him back to me.”

Joined by his friend and local East Moriches resident Tammy McGann, the search for the missing goat has gained traction with over \$1,800 in a “no questions asked” reward for the return of José.

“Money keeps coming in from more people,” McGann said. “This is a really big loss for Baha. He loved that pet like family. If anyone has the goat, I will come and get him.”

She said the goat has a few brown

markings and weighs about 150 pounds, though frequently went for rides with Baha in his van, and must have been coerced into a vehicle when taken.

“I know José is crying right now,” she said. “He loved his owner.”

To contact McGann if you have seen the goat or wish to return it call 631-278-7713. ■



José, a white-and-black pet goat, was recently stolen from his East Moriches home. His owner, Baha, of the Baha farm stand, is distraught.

Courtesy photos

## Center Moriches native participates in general quarters drill

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) 3rd Class Dean Madigan, from Center Moriches, uses a naval firefighting thermal imager to locate simulated hotspots during a general quarters drill aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS *Princeton* (CG 59), in the Arabian Sea, Nov. 27. *Princeton* is part of the Nimitz Carrier Strike

Group and is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and Pacific through the Western Indian Ocean and three critical chokepoints to the free flow of global commerce.

Randall Waszynski



Courtesy photo





## A virtual Folkie Fest in January

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

An ongoing concert series with local acoustic artists, in the spirit of folk music as envisioned by the late Pete Seeger, will be hosted by the Moriches Community Center on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. Tune in to enjoy the listening space and support live, local singer-songwriters sharing their work.

Tickets can be purchased on Moriches Community Center's website for any amount. The recommended amount is \$15.

The theme for the show is "Firsts." Performers will play three acoustic pieces that they have crafted, with at least one of them being a first of some kind — whether it is the first time performing the song, the first song the performer wrote, or some other sort of "first."

All proceeds are divided among the artists. The purchase of tickets before



Folkie Fest, hosted by the Moriches Community Center, is a virtual event slated for Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.

File Photo

the New Year were qualified for a matching grant benefiting the Moriches Community Center, with the generous assistance of an anonymous donor. Additionally, donations are gratefully accepted. Folkie Fest T-shirts in various colors are also available for purchase for \$20 each.

Considering the pandemic, the upcoming

Folkie Fest will be virtual. Therefore, the raffle for Long Island Cares: the Harry Chapin Food Bank will not be held. It is also encouraged to send donations in their direction.

Moriches Community Center invites those interested to view previous performances on the event's YouTube channel.

Folkie Fest is an informal organizer of small listening events highlighting local singer-songwriters and supporting local 501(c)3 organizations such as the Moriches Community Center and Long Island Cares: the Harry Chapin Food Bank in the spirit of folk music as defined by Pete Seeger. ■

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# Remembering Joseph Rera

## Community comes together in support

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

No family nor community is ever prepared for a tragic loss, especially the death of a high schooler.

When Joseph Rera died on Nov. 6 at Cupsogue Beach County Park in Westhampton Beach, Center Moriches responded with undoubted support.

### CENTER MORICHES

And among the first to mention is a particular core group of Rera's peers. Trudging through grief, Rera's closest friends have spearheaded various projects and fundraising events as their way of providing support.

"It really has built us up to be stronger than what we are," said Jacob Ducoing, who has been friends with Rera since they were in third grade. "Everyone knew Joe somehow, whether he was your friend or just a kid you saw fishing. Everyone knew Joe, and everyone loved him."

Ducoing organized a GoFundMe for the purpose of restoring Union Avenue Dock in Center Moriches and renaming it Joseph Rera Memorial Dock. This is a spot where Rera and his friends would fish regularly.

The money will go toward a plaque in Rera's tribute as well as a filet station. Brookhaven Town councilman Dan Panico and his office are involved in making this happen. Said work on the dock is anticipated to begin this upcoming March.

James Debler, another member of this core group of peers, formed fundraiser in order to pay for Rera's memorial service.

Debler, who met Rera when they were in kindergarten, often fished alongside Rera at the Union Avenue Dock, Cupsogue Beach County Park as well

as Kahler's Pond (also known as Mill Pond) in East Moriches. Paul Loguerccio, another peer, said that the group really connected through fishing.

"That was our big thing," Loguerccio said. "We always loved to go to docks. And we'd go on his dad's boat, too. That was always really fun."

Loguerccio expressed that he helped out with the aforementioned fundraisers in addition to several others, including the community's annual Turkey Bowl fundraiser. This year, the proceeds went to Rera's family. Several other fundraisers had proceeds go toward causes related to the Rera family, including one at Dairy Queen in Medford, Hurricane Grill & Wings in Manorville, and Druerk's True Value in Center Moriches.

"Some of these stores and places aren't even in our community," Loguerccio said, pointing out the widespread support for this cause.

Chris Winslow is a history teacher at Center Moriches High School and had Rera in his U.S. history class. Additionally, Winslow knows the whole core group because he taught them in seventh grade, too. He also coached some of them in football, lacrosse or both.

Even further, Winslow is a longtime ocean lifeguard at Great Gun Beach in East Moriches, which is fairly close to Cupsogue inlet.

"I have known [Rera] very well for all these years, and that is what influenced me to get involved," Winslow said, explaining that he took two personal days from work to go out looking for Rera's body in the inlet on his Jet Ski.

Winslow was accompanied by Sean Spiller, who is also an ocean lifeguard. Spiller is a retired police officer, as well as Rera's previous scoutmaster when he was in Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Additionally, Spiller has gone on fishing trips, camping trips and various family outings alongside the Reras through the years.

"[Winslow] and I put in quite a few



Joseph Rera's memorial service occurred in December.

Courtesy Photos

hours, unfortunately, just trying to see if his body was still able to be recovered," Spiller said. "A lot of people don't want to go searching knowing what you are going to find. That, unfortunately, was part of my job. It was dealing with what a lot of people didn't want to see. For me, it was probably too close to home, but it's Joseph. If we could have brought him home sooner, that would have helped us all."

Beginning Nov. 6, Rera's closest friends experienced firsthand dealing with a huge loss. Winslow, other teachers, administrators and psychologists expressed initial concern for isolation behaviors. Grief counselors were brought in to help these high schoolers through this tough experience.

"I came up with the idea that, if the parents were cool with it, that every week I would spend one day with them and we would hike. I knew keeping them together keeps them talking," Winslow said. "About two weeks after we lost Joe, every week, we started meeting up outside of school on our own time. We would just do different hikes through the woods, down the beach and whatnot and just talk to have them explain what they are struggling with. It just turned into this awesome outing where we have about nine kids who come every week. They just got closer and closer. Then they started really looking forward to it."

However, on Dec. 4, the group hit a bump in the road when Rera's body was found.

"It was kind of like going back to ground zero... starting all over... because it just brought everything back," Winslow said, who expressed now that his mission is spreading awareness of this tragedy. "Setting up safety equipment down at the inlet, in the spring possibly have clinics for fishermen to push this whole agenda of wearing life jackets and personal flotation devices... because no one does. Most fishermen are just wearing waders."

"If Joe had a lifejacket on, he very well probably would have survived," Winslow added.

Winslow said it is notable that Rera's friends were very happy that they found him, considering that they would all say, "We just want him to come home," before he was found.

All in all, this is a stressful situation for those in this core group, as well as many other peers and individuals in the community close to Rera. Peers, as well as Winslow, expressed how Rera's comical side is key to include in his memory.

"Every time we were in a stressful or sad situation, he would always say something to make us laugh and lighten up the situation," said Colin Leslie, another member of this group of friends. "That is the best quality he had. He always made us laugh." ■



Spearheaded by Joseph Rera's peers, Union Avenue Dock in Center Moriches will be renamed Joseph Rera Memorial Dock.



Rera's peers raised funds outside Druerk's True Value in Center Moriches.



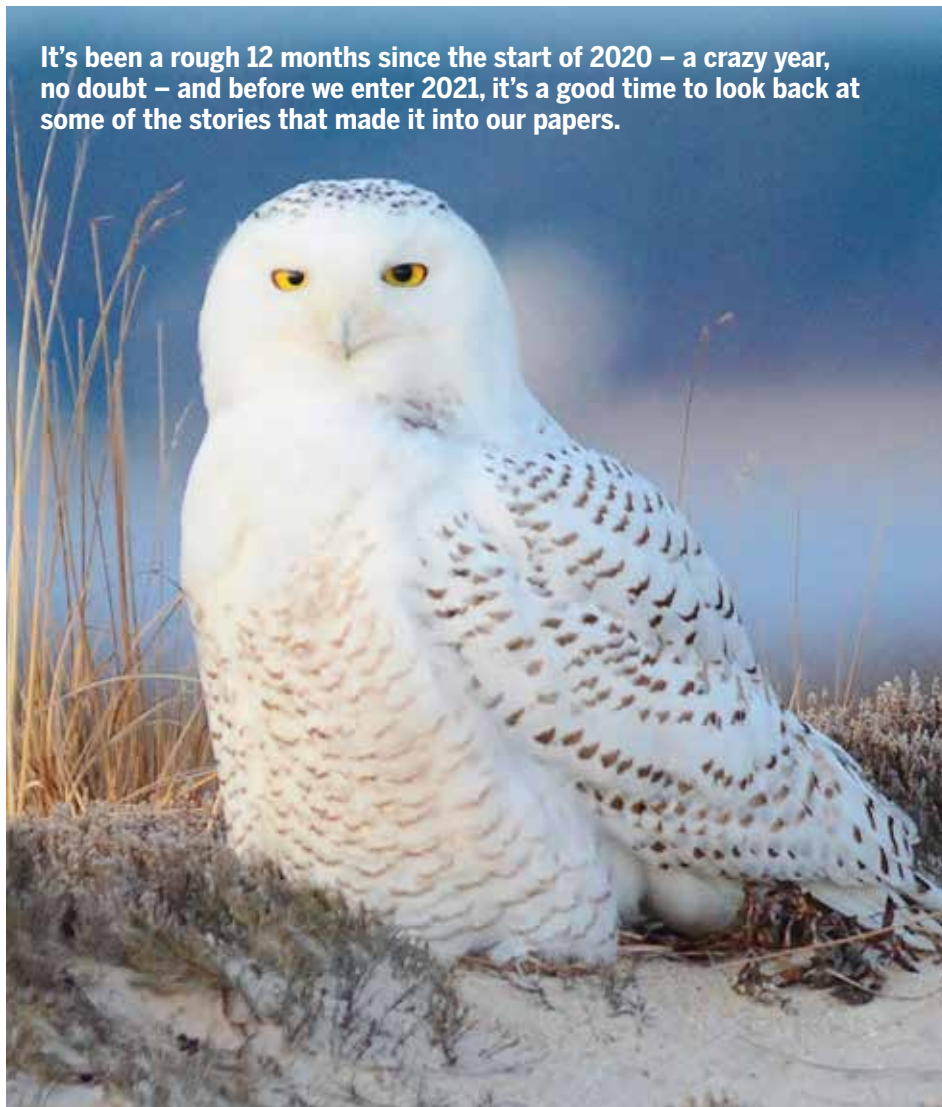
They also organized a fundraiser outside Dairy Queen in Medford.



# A look back: 2020 in review

BY NICOLE FUENTES

It's been a rough 12 months since the start of 2020 – a crazy year, no doubt – and before we enter 2021, it's a good time to look back at some of the stories that made it into our papers.



## January

We started off the year unknowing of what was to come. We featured this beautiful photo of a snowy owl that visited the South Shore taken by local photographer Paul Peluso. We also introduced last year's St. Patrick's Day grand marshals Elsie and Tom Tebbens, and St. John's held a heartfelt candlelight vigil for Thomas Valva after he was left to die in frigid temperatures in his own garage.

## February

The Center Moriches Middle School band placed first at the News 12 Long island Sounds of the Season and our local Lidl officially opened. The Moriches was also blessed with a new Spanish restaurant, La Buena Vida.

## March

The anticipated St. Patrick's Day parade was cancelled due to COVID regulations. We were also talking about the importance of being counted in the 2020 census with nine things to know, and Keith Caputo was already gearing up for his holiday fundraiser. We also had

a lovely reader photo submitted of this deer by local photographer Doug DeFeo.



## April

True to 2020 form, we were unable to print in the month of April due to COVID-19.

## May

Wow, April showers sure did bring May flowers with this front-page cover

of a plow in a field of tulips at Water-drinker Farm. A Center Moriches business owner also switched gears from creating a backyard game to making PPE.



## June

Things began looking up by June. Class of 2020 seniors, the first group to deal with the effects of the pandemic, academically, celebrated their year's end by making the most of it, and others in the community began celebrating the now-familiar quarantine birthdays with car parades. Local shops were also beginning to fight to reopen in full.

## July

Summer was in full swing with drive-in movie nights at St. John's and libraries began to reopen in Phase 3. The Moriches Community Center also announced new ways to enjoy the summer with modified events.

## August

In August, we offered a few of our favorite local summer beers. We also talked to students who were preparing to return to school during the "new normal." Nancy Goroff also won the Democratic nominee to face Rep. Lee Zeldin, though she didn't fare so well in the November election. Keith Caputo was at it again, selling his tie-dye masks.

## September

The Long Island Game Farm welcomed these lemurs from Madagascar as part of their integration with the Center for Environmental Education and Discovery in Brookhaven Hamlet. We also covered a local veterans' fishing trip and the Town of Brookhaven hosted their first annual Snapper Derby in honor of Keith Romaine at the Union Avenue Dock in Center Moriches.



## October

This month, Rebecca Dolber opened her pop-up jewelry shop R.E.D. on Main Street in Center Moriches after presenting her items at various craft fairs including Alive After Five in Patchogue. Also, the Mary E. Bell House was registered as a National Historic Site.

## November

It was Election Day, a historic one at that, electing our first woman vice president Kamala Harris. Locally, the downtown beautification organization talked about keeping Main Street beautiful with their flower baskets for the holidays.

## December

Last month, the town was able to preserve more parcels for open space and a sign commemorating the Masury Ballroom was installed. The Moriches Community Center also began seeking donations for its Santa's workshop and a local Boy Scout group helped clean up Terrell River. Lastly, the acquisition of the Hawkins House parcel at 1431 Montauk Highway in Moriches was finalized by Suffolk County and the Town of Brookhaven. ■





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# Windows of the holidays



Love of Country on Main Street in Center Moriches featured a nutcracker and finished in the top 5.

MT/Waszynski

## A decorating contest among storefronts

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

A window-decorating contest featuring the Main Streets of the Moriches, Center Moriches and East Moriches was a big hit this year. With 19 businesses submitting applications to be judged, the event has had its most participants the last two years than any years before.

The award created by the Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches is in the name of Dr. William Savino, who was a dentist on Main Street in Center Moriches for over 50 years. For the holidays, the dentist's office would go

above and beyond in the decorating department in the storefront windows.

Savino passed away in recent years, and his daughter Judy Savino, also a dentist, remains on Main Street in Center Moriches. Judy Savino contin-



Artistic Choreography on Main Street in Center Moriches was named the winner!

ues to decorate the storefront windows during the holidays.

"The chamber of commerce board of directors thought it would be a nice way to honor the efforts that my father spearheaded to try to get other businesses to decorate their storefronts for the holidays," Judy Savino said, adding



With two large windows, Artistic Choreography was able to set up an extensive display.

that last year was the inaugural year for the contest. Although the dentist's office on Main Street is well decorated, the window was not submitted into the contest and was not judged.

Of the 19 eligible storefronts, though, winners were selected in the first week of December. Savino explained that the original plan was to announce the winners at the chamber's Christmas meeting, but that event was canceled due to the pandemic.

And the winner is Artistic Choreography on Main Street in Center Moriches! ■

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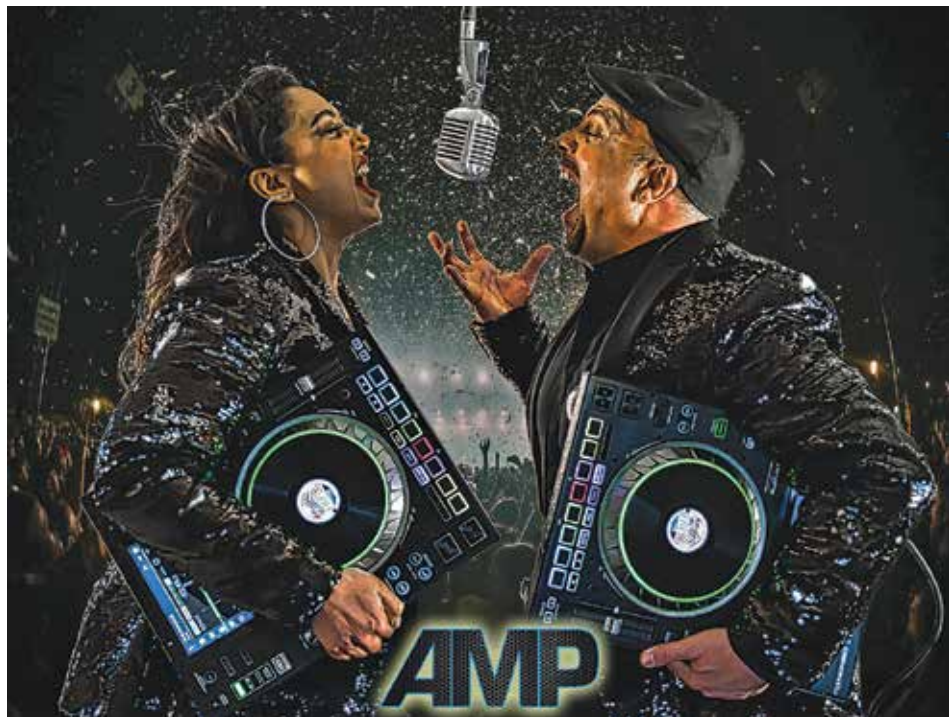
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# The wedding singers



Wedding singers and East Patchogue couple Jimmy and Ana Salvemini have recently launched their new business, a DJ/Band Hybrid, looking to offer a fresh take on the wedding industry.

Courtesy Photos

## Couple forms new DJ/Band Hybrid business

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Jimmy Salvemini and his wife, Ana, have performed at over 1,000 weddings and all over the world, married after years of performing together and now live in his East Patchogue family home. After years of deliberation and with some much-needed pandemic “downtime,” they finally birthed, so to speak, their new business: AMP DJ/Band Hybrid, this fall.

Having been in the wedding industry for over 20 years, Jimmy said it was time to revamp it. Most couples, he said, have a hard time deciding whether to hire a DJ or a band; thus, the idea was born to merge the two for an all-inclusive package.

“When you’re getting married it’s hard

to choose, DJ or band. This is totally different—the ‘marriage’ of those two things together,” Jimmy said.

“We just want to give them the best. It’s like cookies and ice cream. Why do you have to choose?” Ana added jokingly.

Their business model comes with packages, though options are customizable, including their signature package which includes four members, three lead singers, rotating DJs and a live drummer who also sings.

“We are completely customizable to the clients’ needs,” she added, noting that they can add pieces or take some out. “We are the complete entertainment.”

The Salveminis also offer lighting and photobooths, as well as the unique option to have a personalized, written and produced wedding song. A quick questionnaire and they can create a completely custom and unique personal love song as a keepsake.



Jimmy was discovered by Luther Vandross after an appearance on “Star Search” in the 1980s. He then went on to write and produce Jimmy’s first album, “Roll It.”

Jimmy is a career musician who was found some years ago by Luther Vandross after being featured on “Star Search,” and has even performed for singer, songwriter and producer George LaMond, freestyle and salsa singer. Vandross has also been known as an in-demand background singer for Chaka Khan, Bette Midler, Diana Ross, David Bowie and more. He wrote and produced Jimmy’s first album in 1986, titled “Roll it.” Jimmy grew up in East Patchogue and graduated from Bellport High School in 1988. He currently sings at weddings on the weekends and at nursing homes from Brooklyn to West Hampton during the week.

“It’s really cool to be a part of the beginning of something in people’s lives, then at a different stage of people’s lives when music can be so healing,” Jimmy said of his current career.

Ana, also a career musician, has performed at weddings and traveled the world as the background singer for the famed Gloria Gaynor. Her last gig was on tour with Gaynor in Cuba this last February. She grew up in Glen Cove and after a brief period in Pennsylvania, returned to Long Island in St. James.

Joining them is soulful singer, recording artist, and producer Tony Pruden. Early in his music career, Pruden was signed to Next Plateau Records. More recently, Pruden and Jimmy co-wrote

the song “Weak” for intern LaMond, which is available on all platforms. Also joining them as drummer and background vocalist is Jamie Betty, who has been a part of the music industry for over 20 years.

Jimmy and Ana met about 15 years ago at a karaoke night. They went on to perform in a number of different wedding bands together and were married about four years ago. They live in East Patchogue with their three rescue dogs.

“We went to rescue one and came out with three,” Ana laughed. “It’s ironic that we chose a pandemic to open this business, but we were at a point in our lives where we took a look and [reflected] on what we wanted our lives to look like at the end of this tunnel,” she added, noting the limited work they have had since the pandemic.

Though currently restricted due to the pandemic with limited gatherings, AMP DJ/Band Hybrid is taking on clients for the 2021-’22 wedding season. For more information or to book a party, visit their website [www.ampdjbandhybrid.com](http://www.ampdjbandhybrid.com) or take a look at their social media.

“We are so excited for this new business; it’s really about making other people’s dreams come to fruition,” Jimmy added, explaining that they came up with many ideas during their own wedding planning. “It feels good to be a part of other people’s journey together.” ■

## She sang with Gloria Gaynor live from Times Square

East Patchogue local and career musician Ana Salvemini sang “I Will Survive” live from Times Square with Gloria Gaynor on New Year’s Eve.

“It [was] pretty huge,” Salvemini said. “It’s such an empowering song for so many different reasons. I feel really blessed to be a part of it.”

Salvemini has been singing with Gaynor for

the past seven years. She has traveled around the world to countries including Russia and Cuba. She was brought on as a backup singer after watching her perform live at the former Emporium in Patchogue and auditioning shortly after. ■

Courtesy photo





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## KEITH'S CORNER

## Happy New Year!



Here's hoping 2021 brings us health and happiness and an end to the pandemic!

2020 was such a different year for helping, in every sense of the word, and yet you all really stepped up to the plate and we will be forever counting our blessings.

The month of January is when we focus on our Super Bowl Party raffle fundraiser, which raises money for scholarships for high school seniors. Helping Makes U Happy loves helping students pay for college and we will still be offering our usual \$1,000 scholarships at four local high schools, the Martha O'Brien Hometown Scholarship and the new Joseph Rera Memorial Scholarship.

For only \$5 a ticket – the same price year after year – you can be entered into a chance to win one of two new 55-inch TVs (which comes with a Best Buy Geek Squad protection plan), food for 12-15 people generously donated annually from TJ's Hero's Mastic Beach and which includes appetizers to desserts

(plenty of leftovers for a small group), paper goods and a football.

We will also be holding a small Chinese auction and 50/50 to help raise additional funds for the scholarships. Tickets will be available beginning in early January and the winners will be drawn on Jan. 29 so you have time to plan for our delivery on Super Bowl Sunday.

You may purchase your tickets online through our website, [www.helpingmake-suhappy.org](http://www.helpingmake-suhappy.org), or the Facebook group HMUH Presents: Keith's Krazy Birthday Wonderful Wheel of Winning. You can also always contact us at 631-848-9008 to make arrangements to purchase tickets in person, or if you have any questions.

During the month of January, we will also be collecting gently used coats. Look for our coat collection box at Carlos Pizza in Manorville. As always, we thank you for your support – we couldn't do the helping things we do without you! Stay safe and well.

## PEOPLE

## Riley Corpac Set to Graduate from East Stroudsburg University

Riley Corpac from Patchogue (11772) is among the 447 students who received degrees from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania on December 19, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional ceremonies could not take place, but all degrees will be conferred upon completion of coursework.

ESU will share messages from Kenneth Long, interim president; Nancy VanArsdale, Ph.D., professor of English and president of ESU's chapter of the Association of Pennsylvania State Colleges & University Faculties (APSCUF); Christina Steffy M'20, graduate student speaker; and Dushan Chacon '20, undergraduate student speaker.

Along with their remarks, a video presentation including photos submitted by graduating students was created, along with a digital copy of a commemorative booklet. All can be found at the celebra-

tion website, [www.esu.edu/celebrate](http://www.esu.edu/celebrate).

Students will receive a copy of the commemorative booklet via mail, along with a graduation tassel and any honors cords they have earned.

A total of 327 bachelor's degrees, 112 master's degrees and eight doctoral degrees will be awarded.

East Stroudsburg University, one of the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, opened in 1893 as East Stroudsburg Normal School. Today, ESU is a comprehensive university in northeastern Pennsylvania offering 58 undergraduate programs, 21 master's programs and two doctoral program. Over 6,000 students are enrolled for the high quality, affordable, and accessible education ESU provides. Nearly 30,000 ESU alumni live in Pennsylvania.

## LETTERS

## Kudos for COVID budget

Kudos are in order for Town Supervisor Ed Romaine and the Brookhaven Town Board. During this pandemic crisis, where municipal revenue shortfalls are widespread and employment remains at 7 percent, Brookhaven Town has taken the necessary, but never easy, steps to reduce the financial burden facing its residents. While municipalities across the nation look to substantially raise taxes to offset COVID-19-induced deficits, Brookhaven Town has chosen to limit spending and reduce its workforce. Furthermore, they are introducing creative ways to generate additional revenue by looking to repurpose abandoned and/or tired commercial properties that may harm the surrounding community. The establishment of "floating zones" will spur economic development, leading to job creation, improved home values and, most importantly, provide a means of reducing the tax burden for the residents of Brookhaven. As Town

Hall creates a Long Island model for others to follow, a hat tip is in order.

**Kyle Strober**  
Hauppauge

*Association for a Better Long Island*



**Community members set up a Christmas Tree at Webby's Beach in Center Moriches for the holiday season. Pictured are Jennifer Johnson-Kohler, Steve Druke and Melanie Mesiano Freyre. Their efforts together brought this community tree to this community plot.**

MT/Waszynski

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## AROUND TOWN

### Sunday, January 17

**New Sermon Series** – The South Bay Bible Church's new three-week teaching series, "Overcome Your Worst Enemy – YOU: Achieving Your Greatest Potential," will be presented Sundays, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 at 9 and 11 a.m. Visit [www.southbaychurchli.org](http://www.southbaychurchli.org) or call 631-909-8241.

### Monday, January 18

**Virtual Programs for Teens** – Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library offers virtual programs geared for teens: Craft Programs on Mondays, Trivia on Tuesdays, Jackbox Games on Wednesdays, and Virtual Game On, Fridays. Or just stop in

and pick up a craft kit to do on your own time. The library also offers opportunities for community service hours for students in grades 7-12. For more information on all of these programs, check out the program calendar online at [www.communitylibrary.org](http://www.communitylibrary.org) or call 631-399-1511, ext. 365. The library can also be found on social media.

### Wednesday, January 20

**Gentle Chair Yoga** – Join Center Moriches Library and instructor Susan Semerade for gentle, yet effective yoga that can be done in a chair if support is needed, online, 11 a.m. to noon. To get the link to join, register at [www.centermorchestlibrary.org](http://www.centermorchestlibrary.org) or call 631-878-0940.

### Saturday, January 23

**Job/Career Counseling** – Adults, ages 18 and older can talk with career counselor Stephanie Loviglio for help with resumes, interviewing strategies, job searches, and other career concerns. Appointments held via the telephone. When registering, provide your email and telephone number in order to receive resume templates and other career resources. To register, call Tara Moran at 631-399-1511 ext. 240, or email [tmoran@communitylibrary.org](mailto:tmoran@communitylibrary.org).

towels, pens and crates, and flea/tick preventatives. Please call 631-533-2PET (2738) or email [info@rsvvpinc.org](mailto:info@rsvvpinc.org) to arrange a pickup.

**Gamblers Anonymous** – Are you or someone you know living with a gambling problem? Call 631-297-6166 for help. Covering all areas of Long Island, Sunday-Friday.

**Free Foreclosure Prevention Counseling** – Long Island Housing Services Inc., will set you up with a HUD approved counselor who will help you explore available programs. Visit [www.LIFairHousing.org](http://www.LIFairHousing.org) or call 631-567-5111, ext. 383 for more information.

**Puppy Raisers Needed** – Canine Companions for Independence trains assistance dogs for people with disabilities. Volunteers are needed to mold pups into responsive adult dogs. For more information, call 631-561-0217 or visit [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org).

**Adult Mentors** – Colonials Youth and Family Services is looking for adults who want to show an example of community involvement and pride. To get involved, call Ray Hopp at 631-281-4461.

**Parent Leadership Initiative** – PLI is a community network empowering parent advocates for children. Evening weekly meetings held in Brookhaven Township. For more information, call 462-0303 or visit [www.childcaresuffolk.org/parentleadership](http://www.childcaresuffolk.org/parentleadership).

### Of Note ...

**Connecting with Seniors** – The RSVP Telephone Reassurance Program makes daily phone calls to seniors living in the community. If you have a loved one or know of someone living alone who could benefit from a daily phone call, call 631-979-9490 or visit [www.rsvpsuffolk.org](http://www.rsvpsuffolk.org).

**Exploring Faith** – South Bay Bible Church is excited to announce the launch of a new Starting Point Group on Jan. 14. The 8-week

online program features a small conversational group where the curious can find answers to questions about God, life, and faith. Meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. Register at [www.SouthBayStartingPoint.com](http://www.SouthBayStartingPoint.com) to get a program workbook. Call 631-909-8241.

**Free Food for Seniors** – The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is offering free food for seniors age 60 and over who meet income guidelines. Food packages include cheese, milk, starches, cereals, juices, canned fish, meats, vegetables and more. Call 631-

491-4156 for information.

**Send Us Your Events** – The Moriches Tide prints community events for Moriches, Center Moriches, East Moriches, and Manorville in our "AROUND TOWN" section, free of charge. For inclusion, please submit event via email to: [LIAproduction@optonline.net](mailto:LIAproduction@optonline.net) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to event.

**Pet Supplies Needed** – RSVP Inc. Animal Welfare & Rescue Group is in the need of wet and dry dog and cat food, chews, blankets/

## YEARS AGO

### 75 Years Ago

JANUARY 1946

The children of the Moriches area have been enjoying fine skating on the bay this month. **Neva Olson**, of East Moriches, gave a skating party to **Mary Robinson**, **Aino Carman**, **Virginia Howell**, **Joan Edwards**, **Donald Johnson**, **Thomas and John Raynor**, **Skippy Fields** and **Carl Olson**.

**Cpl. Freda Borok**, of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, has returned to Quantico, Va., after spending the holiday with her parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Morris Borok**, of Center Moriches.

**Barbara Joyce Mottola**, daughter of **Pfc. and Mrs. James Mottola**, of Eastport, entertained her cousins in honor of her 4th birthday.

Thirteen may sound like an unlucky number to some folks, but that doesn't go for **David Edwards**, who can count his 13th term as chief of the Center Moriches Fire Department, having been reelected at the annual meeting.

The East Moriches Stamp Club, meeting at the home of **Leonard Alden**, discussed the topic, "Texas, Its Geography, History and Stamp Issues." Special prepared talks were given by **Frank Robinson**, **Harold Dunlap**, **Patricia Lukert**, **Josephine Huson** and **Leonard Alden**, followed by a stamp-swap and inspection of one another's collections.

**Marion Davis**, a beautician at the Eyteb on Madison Avenue, New York City, will

start study of the viola at the Institute of Musical Art this month.

**Mrs. George Kanas**, of East Moriches, is temporarily employed at Pitney's trout hatchery in Eastport.

**Pfc. Richard F. Alfred**, of Eastport, was honorably discharged from the United States Army on Jan. 1, at Ford Dix, after three and a half years of service, of which 18 months was spent overseas in the European theatre.

A son was born to **Mr. and Mrs. John Walkman**. Mrs. Walkman is the Moriches postmaster, and **Mrs. Edith Buckheit** is acting postmaster in her absence.

At the monthly meeting of the East Moriches Fire Company, with chief **Edward Ringhoff** presiding, there were 40 in attendance, and two new members were added: **Pfc. Walter Chornomo** and **Walter Ptashnik**.

The annual Ladies' Night of the Rotary Club of the Moriches was held at Sunrise Inn, Eastport, under the auspices of **August Stout Jr.**, program chairman. The ladies enjoyed a fine dinner, a Broadway floor show, and dancing to music from Bill King's orchestra.

**Mrs. Roswell Hallock**, of Center Moriches, entertained the Book Club, including **Mrs. Lawrence Smith**, **Mrs. Gibson Howell**, **Mrs. Russell Henderson**, **Mrs. Clarence Howell**, **Mrs. Charles Alden**, **Mrs. Alvah Tuttle**, **Mrs. Harold Chapman**, **Mrs. Joseph Fitzpatrick** and, all of Center Moriches.

Playing this month at the Center Moriches Theatre: Gary Cooper in "The

**Adventures of Marco Polo**"; Fred Astaire and Lucille Bremer in "Yolanda and the Thief"; Errol Flynn and Alexis Smith in "San Antonio"; Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon in "Wuthering Heights"; John Wayne in "Dakota"; and Dick Powell in "Cornered."

### 50 Years Ago

JANUARY 1971

According to librarian **C.G. Donnelly**, the Center Moriches Public Library supplied Center Moriches borrowers with 33, 799 books and handled 3,132 of their requests for information during 1970. A total of 36,921 books, magazines, newspapers and phonograph records were obtained for Center Moriches residents by the library.

Center Moriches has a new doctor, **Eugene Savin**, a general practitioner, located in the professional building owned by **Dr. Joseph F. Calabro** on Main Street.

**Murray Stark** wished the best of luck as the new owner of Steiner's Lumber Yard Inc. in Center Moriches. Mr. Batz took over and will change the name of the company to Lawrence Lumber Co. The business has served the Center Moriches area since 1928.

**Cathy Muller**, **Cindy Kuech** and **Deborah Greenberg**, representing Girl Scout and Brownie troops from East Moriches and Eastport, participated in a successful toy drive for the children of Suffolk State

School in Melville. The toys and scouts were transported to the school by **Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Alden** of East Moriches.

Nine students were among the students of **Mrs. Elsie Pierce's** orchestra at William Floyd School who won a position at the upcoming Long Island String and Suffolk County music festivals. They are **Pat Busick**, **Mary Biondo**, **Kim Pisciotta**, **Audrey Pia**, **Patricia Howard**, **Robert Langellotti**, **William Graeser**, **Linda Lehecka** and **Deborah Lehecka**.

Five members of the Choral Society of the Moriches took part in singing "Te Deum" by Bruckner at the New York Philharmonic Hall at Lincoln Center. They are **Joseph Harvey**, **Jerome Kelley**, **Josef Lemmen**, **Arthur Scholtz** and **Carolyn Trimborn**.

**Dana Bowditch**, of Center Moriches, was one of the winners of a drawing for prizes at the annual Center Moriches Camera Store free gift sweepstakes. Gifts included a tape recorder, binoculars, walkie-talkie, radio, camera kit and other item worth over \$200.

Playing in January at local United Artists Theatres: Dustin Hoffman and Mia Farrow in "John and Mary"; and Peter Sellers and Goldie Hawn in "There's a Girl in My Soup."

*Compiled by Vanessa Graniello*





Newly amended county Septic Improvement Program will ease costs for low-to-moderate-income homeowners, ultimately improving water quality for bodies of water like the Great South Bay. MT/Leuzzi

## Amended grant assistance for Resident Wastewater System

BY LINDA LEUZZI

County Legis. and presiding officer Rob Calarco is hoping that the newly amended county grant assistance program for installing residential Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Systems (IA/OWTS) via the Septic Improvement Program will help make the transition from cesspools easier for low-to-moderate income households in the New Year.

“Our program provided a homeowner with up to \$20,000, but the state requires an engineer’s stamp and that could cost another \$5,000,” said Calarco. “So we

expanded the grant another \$5,000 for the engineering costs, which is income based, for low-to-middle income residents.”

Calarco explained the bump up.

“The state requires a licensed professional for the design, installation, and approval of the final process.” Engineering costs can tally between \$2,000 to \$5,000. “So the recently amended the program allows engineering costs to be covered for those whose income is up to 80 percent of the area median income. That could be up to \$70,000 a year for a single homeowner, up to \$130,000 a year for a family of four.

“Before New York State augmented money, the county funds for the pro-

gram only covered half. The state passed a bond act to fund these replacement systems and since Suffolk County was the only county in the state to start the program, we got the bulk.”

Calarco said county administration took a look at the program after a resident in the Mastic area had to do a rebuild after Superstorm Sandy.

“I think we were not ultimately able to help them, [because it was too expensive] and that sparked the amendment,” he said.

“We’re really talking about a large percentage of middle-class households, but for some, replacement costs with an IA/OWTS can be prohibitive. The whole idea is so everyone in Suffolk County

can make the conversion,” Calarco said.

All new construction will require the new system starting July 2021. Brookhaven Town had already passed codes that required a new system if construction was within 500 feet of wetlands.

There’s been a slow but increasingly steady increase since the program started in 2017. “We started July 7 that year and eight were done,” said Calarco’s chief of staff Eva Greguski. “We did 50 in 2018. In 2019, there were 253 installed; in 2020, there were 357. So we’ve done 668 as of December. And 42 percent replaced existing cesspools.” ■

## Grant for coastal environmental education

Supervisor Ed Romaine announced today that the Town of Brookhaven has been awarded a 2020 Long Island Sound Futures Fund ([www.longisland-soundstudy.net](http://www.longisland-soundstudy.net)) matching grant to fund the town’s Coastal Environment and Community Resilience Education Program. The town will match the \$8,799 grant with \$4,450, making the total conservation impact \$13,249. The grant combines funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

“The Long Island Sound is vital to the ecology and economy of Brookhaven Town and it is our goal to pre-

serve it for future generations,” said Romaine. “Thanks to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant, we will continue to increase public awareness and encourage participation in our environmental protection efforts in the town.”

The Town of Brookhaven’s yearlong Coastal Environment and Community Resilience Education Program will run from Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021. The goal is to foster conservation by bringing people to the Long Island Sound or by bringing the Long Island Sound to the people. The town’s Environmental Educator will conduct presentations paired with hands-on activ-

ities tailored for each audience at public libraries throughout the Town of Brookhaven. Presentations and tours will include detailed descriptions of the intricate balance of the coastal ecosystems, the wonderful flora and fauna on the shore, dunes and salt marsh, and the positive and negative impacts of human activity in these places.

The program will also include informative, guided tours of Cedar Beach in Mt. Sinai, including the town’s Marine Environmental Stewardship Center and shellfish and eel grass restoration projects. There will also be nature tours for people of all ages and hands-

on conservation programs with the Junior Environmental Stewards at Mt. Sinai Harbor and West Meadow Beach in Stony Brook. The series will create more sustainable and resilient communities by increasing knowledge and engagement of the public in the protection and restoration of the coastal environments of Long Island Sound.

For more information about the Town of Brookhaven Coastal Environmental Education Program and Marine Environmental Stewardship Center, visit [www.BrookhavenNY.gov](http://www.BrookhavenNY.gov). ■



# What's the vaccination plan?

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo recently updated New Yorkers on the state's Vaccination Administration Plan and the establishment of Regional Vaccination Hubs to help

## SUFFOLK COUNTY

facilitate vaccinations once Phase 2 of the state's plan begins in early 2021. Additionally, the Governor announced that the state has launched the Vaccinate New York campaign and website to provide the public with information about, and help instill confidence in, the vaccine and the state's administration plan. To help ensure New Yorkers are able to access the vaccine at no cost, the Department of Financial Services has also issued a directive to New York health insurers to immediately cover, without cost-sharing, approved COVID-19 immunizations and their administration.

"This is the most ambitious governmental operation ever undertaken, but we are New Yorkers, and we always set the bar high," Cuomo said. "We want to be the first COVID-free state and that means remaining diligent. It's about logistics, and supply, and most importantly it's about public education and access. Remember, we need to have 75 to 85 percent of the population vaccinated to actually win this war. That's why we have not only launched the Vaccinate New York campaign and website to help instill public confidence in the vaccine, but we also have taken steps to ensure no New Yorker will have to pay a penny to get vaccinated. New Yorkers have already paid more than their fair share for COVID, but by staying united, tough and smart, we will reach the light at the end of the tunnel."

### Regional Vaccination Hubs

The Regional Vaccination Hubs, led by local hospital systems, will work with community leaders to develop regional vaccination networks which will guide vaccine administrations once enough doses are in hand to commence the next phase of the state's vaccination administration plan. Under the state's plan, the second phase of administrations will be focused on essential workers and individuals in the general public who are most at risk.

As part of this effort, each Regional Vaccination Hub coordinator will develop a plan for administration pursuant to the state's guidelines for Phase 2 of vaccine administration and submit it to the state Department of Health for approval.

In developing these Regional Implementation Plans, each hub is being directed to work with local stakeholders and the community itself to not only build trust in the vaccine, but ensure each plan is tailored to meet each region's unique needs. For example, the needs of communities in the North Country will vary greatly from the needs of New York City. All plans must allow for efficient and expedited delivery and administration of the vaccine, and be based on a fair and equitable strategy which focuses

on communities with lower vaccination rates and poorer health outcomes. Plans must be submitted to the state by the first week of January to ensure they are in place and ready to be activated once enough doses of the vaccine are in hand to begin Phase 2 in late January.

Regional Hub coordinators on Long Island will be Northwell Health Systems.

### Vaccinate New York website and awareness campaign

The Vaccinate New York website is the first step in the state's campaign to educate New Yorkers on the vaccine. It provides New Yorkers with a one-stop location for accurate and up to date information on the vaccine, safety, distribution priorities and a number of other details. Upon accessing the site, New Yorkers will find not only general information about the vaccine, but also a detailed frequently asked questions section that provides facts about the vaccine's safety and efficacy. This informa-

tion is critical to help instill confidence in the vaccine and to educate the public on it. Information on New York's Clinical Advisory Task Force, which approved the FDA's decision to move forward with the vaccine for New York late last week, and on New York's Vaccine Distribution and Implementation Task Force are also available on the website.

### New Yorkers can access the website by visiting [www.ny.gov/vaccine](http://www.ny.gov/vaccine).

New York health insurers directed to cover COVID-19 vaccine at no cost

The New York State Department of Financial Services has issued a circular letter to New York-regulated health insurers directing them to immediately cover, without cost sharing, approved COVID-19 immunizations and their administration. This action supports the COVID-19 vaccination administration program announced by the Governor and the New York State Department of Health in advance of the initial deliv-

ery of vaccines to New York.

The guidance is consistent with New York Insurance Law, which requires New York-regulated insurers to cover preventive immunizations without cost-sharing under health insurance policies and contracts, as well as the federal rules interpreting the immunization requirements of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Federal rules require COVID-19 immunizations and their administration to be covered when provided by out-of-network providers for the duration of the public health emergency. Health care providers that participate in the Center for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccination Program must agree to administer a COVID-19 immunization regardless of an individual's ability to pay or health insurance coverage status, and may not seek reimbursement from the immunization recipient. ■

## Important Vaccination Information

- **170,000 New Yorkers.** New York State has received an initial allocation of 170,000 doses of the Pfizer-developed vaccine.
- **The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses.** The second dose must be administered three to four weeks following the first.
- **New York State health insurers will be instructed to cover COVID-19 vaccinations.** No New Yorker will have to pay a penny to get the vaccine.
- **The first New Yorkers to receive the vaccine will be:** High-risk hospital workers, nursing home residents, nursing home staff, followed by all long-term and congregate care residents and staff, EMS workers, other health care workers, coroners and medical examiners. **Staff at every hospital will have access to the first vaccine allocation.**
- **The State has identified Regional Vaccination Hubs to develop vaccination networks ahead of Phase 2.** The second phase of administrations will focus on essential workers and individuals in the general public who are most at risk.
- **New York has launched a COVID-19 vaccination website.** Find accurate and up to date information on the vaccine, safety, distribution priorities and more.

Visit [www.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](http://www.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov) for more info.

Courtesy photo



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