

Garrison Man is New President of Support Connection

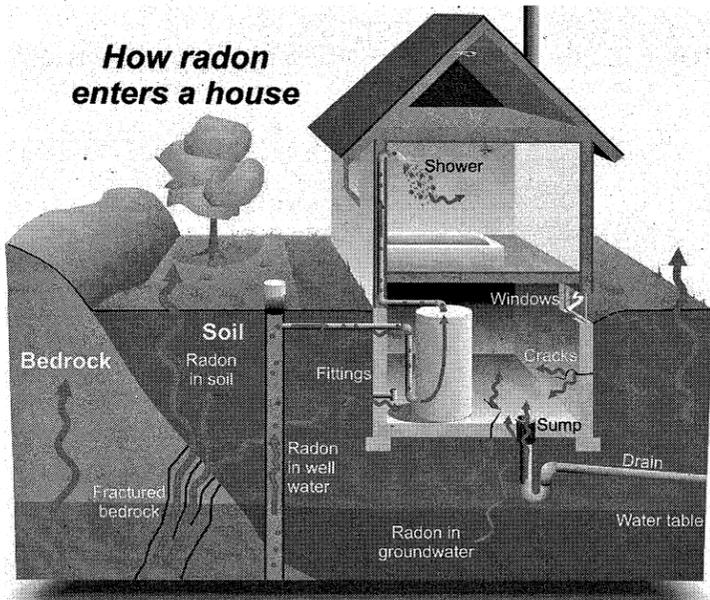


Image courtesy of www.prospecinspector.com/radon.html.

Radon Risk in Putnam Remains High

January is designated as Radon Action Month by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The risks of radon exposure tend to be higher during the cold winter months, when homes are more tightly closed up or sealed. Radon is a colorless, odorless gas and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the U.S.

For those who smoke, it increases the risk of cancer.

"Radon occurs naturally in the environment, and Putnam County is located in an area found to have high levels," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. "Testing your home is a good idea."

According to the New York State Department of Health, 32 percent of homes in Putnam are estimated to have radon levels high enough that steps should be taken to fix the problem.

"Radon definitely contributes to the high lung cancer death rate in Putnam County," said Interim Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat. "Smoking is not the only cause. To find out if you have high radon levels, the only way is to test your home. We always advise residents to perform tests."

Radon develops from the radioactive decay of uranium or thorium in the soil and it can seep into homes or ground water. If the level within a home tests high, action can be taken to

reduce it. Repair costs vary, and sometimes a simple solution can correct a problem. New homes can now be built using radon-resistant construction.

Radon testing kits are inexpensive and easy to get. The state health department sells testing kits by mail for \$11 (including a lab testing fee), or they can be bought at local home and hardware stores. Test kits remain in the home for a few days and then are sealed and mailed in for analysis.

Results are usually returned to the homeowner within a few weeks.

For more information about radon, or to order a kit, visit the New York State Department of Health website, or the New York Radon Information website at http://ny-radon.info/NY_general.html.

The mission of the Putnam County Department of Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, is to improve and protect the health of the community, composed of nearly 100,000 residents. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, emergency preparedness, environmental health protection, family health promotion and health education.

For more information, visit www.putnamcountyny.com or Facebook and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

his days as a street officer, among his most difficult cases were 20-year-olds who got hooked on opioids as teenagers and "are now disowned by their parents, they have no friends left, they don't have a job," he said. "It slowly takes away their whole life. It suffocates them."

Police are using all available resources to prosecute illegal dealers, Suppa assured, but "it's going to take a broad effort from the community itself - from all corners of society," he said.

Brewster resident Connie Hussy, a technician in a nearby pharmacy and a monitor in the middle school, said journalists are a vital tool in sharing stories of families crippled by addiction, as well.

"We're not in the media lime-light here," said Hussy. "It doesn't get publicized. There needs to be more of an awareness."

Support Connection, Inc., a Yorktown-based not-for-profit organization that provides free support services to people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, recently announced that its Board of Directors has elected Gary Wawrzycki as president.

As a lifelong resident of Garrison, where his parents also still live, Wawrzycki has strong ties to the Hudson Valley. For the past five years he has been the regional banking branch manager for the Shrub Oak branch of Wells Fargo Bank, and or 12 years prior to that he was a premier banker and a manager for Wells Fargo Bank.

He holds a bachelor's degree in economics and sociology from SUNY Albany, and a master's in business administration from the Lubin School of Business at Pace University.

Wawrzycki joined the Support Connection Board of Directors in 2017, but has been actively involved in supporting the organization since 2013, when he met Executive Director Katherine Quinn at his branch. He got involved with the annual Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer, and invited other bank employees and customers to do get involved, as well.

In 2014, Wawrzycki was instrumental in nominating Support Connection for a Wells Fargo Community Connections grant, which the organization received three years in a row. Since 2015, he has been on the planning committee for Support Connection's annual benefit golf outing. In 2017, he spearheaded a fundraising campaign for the Support-A-Walk,



Gary Wawrzycki

which involved more than 30 Wells Fargo branches across Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties.

Wawrzycki said he is happy to be on the Board of Directors and to serve as president.

"I believe in the work that Support Connection does," he said. "I've seen the direct and positive impact they have on a daily basis on the lives of women and families affected by breast and ovarian

cancer."

Support Connection's Board of Directors also elected the following officers: Vice President Denise D'Amico of Shrub Oak, Treasurer Dave Sacarny of Armonk, and Secretary Janet DeVito of Danbury.

The Support Connection Board of Directors is a diverse group of dedicated volunteers who devote their time and talents to helping the organization fulfill its mission. The board includes people whose lives have been impacted by cancer, as well as business leaders and members of the community. In addition to providing governance for the organization, the board works to raise funds and pursue resources to enhance and sustain Support Connection's programs and services.

Founded in 1996, Support Connection, Inc. is based in Yorktown Heights, but through a toll-free hotline and website serves people throughout the country. To learn more, call 914-962-6402 (toll-free 800-532-4290) or visit www.supportconnection.org.

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Discussion on Opioid Addiction Continues

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Meanwhile, however, local residents are feeling the crisis. Attendees of last week's meeting were visibly impacted by the agenda's opioid discussion, which diverted from typical administrative and education-related topics.

"It's an ongoing issue," said Deputy Bryan Suppa of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. "It's not just young kids that are having this drug crisis, there are people in their 50s and 60s. It's sad because it's all demographics, all ages, all ethnicities."

Suppa recalled that during

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