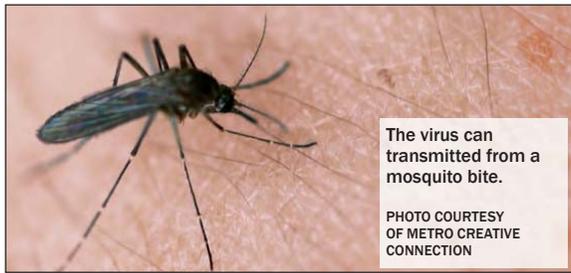


First case of Zika virus confirmed in Putnam County



One Putnam County resident has been confirmed positive for Zika virus and a second additional case is being tested, according to the Putnam County Department of Health.

Both residents had recently travelled out of the country. The current case count in New York State is 16 confirmed infections.

“We are working with our local physicians and the New York State Department of Health to monitor and test residents with recent travel to a Zika-affected area,” said Dr. Michael J. Nesheiwat, interim commissioner of health. “Symptoms of Zika infection are usually mild. Male travelers without symptoms do not require testing. However, all pregnant women—with or without symptoms—who have travelled to a Zika-affected region should be tested, because of a link to microcephaly or other birth defects.”

Zika virus, which is spread by

infected mosquitos, has been appearing around the continental United States, mostly in travelers who have visited a Zika-affected area. One lone case in Texas is being investigated in a sexual partner of a traveler from one of the affected areas.

The situation regarding Zika virus has been changing as new information develops. The Centers for Disease Control have set up a dedicated website at cdc.gov/zika and the New York State Department of Health has established a Zika Information Line: 1-888-364-4723.

Testing is currently not available through commercial laboratories. Residents who have travelled to an area with Zika infection should contact their personal healthcare provider who will work with the Putnam County Department of Health to facilitate the proper testing procedure through the state Department of

Health laboratory at Wadsworth Center. Wadsworth is one of only three state laboratories in the country equipped to perform the screening and confirmatory tests of Zika antibodies and other related viruses.

To date local transmission of Zika infection has been identified in 30 countries and territories, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Caribbean. Further spread in the region may occur. Prior to 2015, outbreaks of the virus had occurred only in areas of Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. Last May the first confirmed cases were reported in Brazil.

For more information, visit the PCDOH website at putnamcountyny.com/health or visit the social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth.

[Editor's note: This information was provided by the Putnam County Health Department.]

Carmel police make two felony arrests in January

Carmel police made two unrelated felony arrests last month—one for grant theft auto and another involving drug possession.

Police said that on Jan. 7, they arrested Joseph Bruan, 26, of Carmel and charged him with fourth-degree grand larceny and third-degree burglary—both felonies.

The arrest stemmed from an investigation into a burglary that took place last October.

Police Chief Mike Cazzari said that Bruan entered a residence on Fowler Avenue and removed car keys and other items from the home. He used the keys to take a car that was parked in the driveway.

Bruan was released on his own recognizance and was due back in court at a later date.

On Jan. 28, police say a traffic stop led to a felony arrest. At around 9:45 p.m., police said they pulled over Catherine Donohue, 25, of Purdys for having a headlight out. The investigating office said Donohue then tried to hide prescription drugs that had been in her purse under the car seat.

She was charged with tampering with physical evidence, a class E felony, as well as seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a misdemeanor. She was also charged with unlawful possession of marijuana, a violation, and received a vehicle and traffic law citation for the headlight.

She was issued an appearance ticket and is due in court on Feb. 22.

Mahopac man busted for selling drugs out his home

A Mahopac man faces multiple felony drug charges after police say he was arrested for selling heroin and other drugs from his Lake Ossi-area home.

Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith said that in January, a deputy assigned to the Sheriff's Department Narcotics Enforcement Unit (NEU) developed information that a Mahopac resident was selling narcotics from his home on a regular basis. The deputy was able to make contact with the subject and arrange on several occasions to purchase heroin at the residence.

Smith said that during the course of the investigation, the deputy applied for and received a search warrant for the suspect's home. On Feb. 10, members of the NEU executed the search warrant and arrested Kyle Novotny, 21, in his home at 44 High Lane.

Novotny was charged with two counts of third-degree criminal

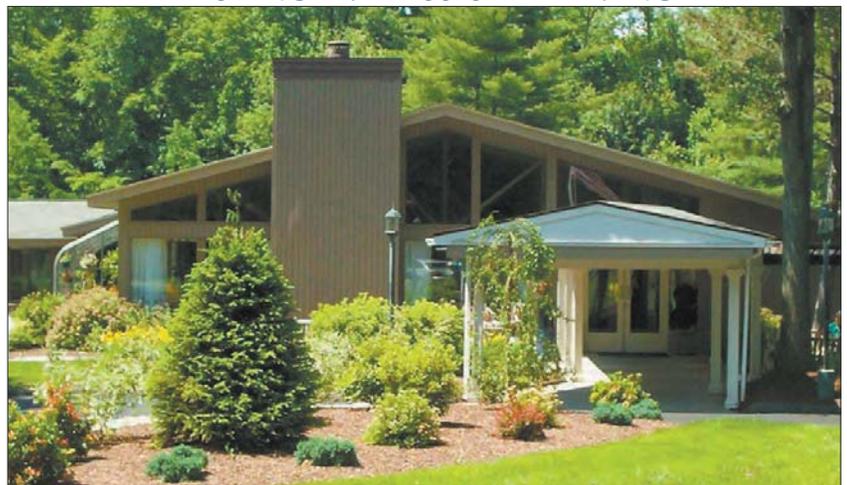
sale of a controlled substance; five counts of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance; two counts of fourth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance; and one count of fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, all felonies. He was arraigned before Carmel Town Justice Joseph Spofford and sent to the Putnam County Correctional Facility without bail pending a future court appearance.

Smith said that the execution of the search warrant resulted in the recovery of quantities of heroin, cocaine, MDMA pills, oxycodone pills, digital scales and cash. The sheriff noted that Novotny has prior criminal convictions for the sale and possession of narcotics.

If found guilty of the felony charges, he could face 25 years in prison and a fine of up to \$30,000.

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