

## Health Dept. Commends Putnam Eateries

By ERIC GROSS

Owners and representatives of 135 food establishments were on hand last week at Tilly's Table in Southeast when the Putnam Health Department conducted its 12th annual Food Operator's seminar.

Chefs, caterers and proprietors of the county's restaurants and delicatessens, food shops and institutional food services were honored for their achievements while learning about the latest trends in the food industry.

Topics discussed during the two-day seminar included Restaurant Branding and Social Media, Power Outages and Food Safety, Avoiding Food Safety Violations, Food Waste Reduction, and Dining Trends such as Paleo, 30 Clean and Gluten Free.

BOCES Culinary students, under the supervision of chef/instructor Christina Holic, demonstrated safe knife skills and food preparation.

A number of awards were presented to restaurants and organizations that went above and beyond the call of duty.

Six Commissioner's Gold Awards for operational excellence, the Health De-



PHOTO BY ERIC GROSS

Sal Zuccaro is presented with his award for 42 years of outstanding customer service by Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat and Public Health Sanitarian Lisa Seymour.

partment's highest and most stringent honor, were distributed to The Arch Restaurant and its owner George Seitz; Austin Road Elementary School in the Mahopac School District and its provider, Aramark Food Service; Countryside Kitchen and its owners Lee and Christina Vataj; Brewster School District's John F. Kennedy Elementary and

Henry Wells Middle Schools and its cafeteria supervisor Cathy Ashe, and the Carmel School District's Matthew Paterson Elementary School. Commendation Awards for Excellence were awarded to Mia's Pizza and its owner Dante Mazzotta and the North Brewster Deli and Market and its owner for the past 42 years, Sal Zuccaro.

## Mahopac Synagogue To Recognize Putnam's Emergency Responders

By ERIC GROSS

Emergency responders from across the county have been invited to Temple Beth Shalom in Mahopac Friday evening to be commended and congratulated for serving residents of Putnam morning, noon and night, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Rabbi Sarah Freidson, spiritual leader of the synagogue, advised the firefighters, EMS personnel,

ambulance corps members, police, paramedics, 9-1-1 dispatchers and others involved in the emergency services profession: "We appreciate the extraordinary service you provide to those who live, work and play in our communities. In recognition of the wonderful men and women who support, protect and help us, we will honor these public servants both volunteer and career at our Friday evening worship service and collation

at 7 p.m." Putnam's Commissioner of Emergency Services Kenneth Clair thanked the rabbi and the entire Temple Beth Shalom congregation for recognizing the efforts of the emergency services providers. He encouraged representatives of each fire department, ambulance corps, EMS agency and police department from Carmel to Cold Spring to attend the service.

## BOCES Regional Crisis Team Receives Kudos

By ERIC GROSS

When tragedy strikes and young people are affected, BOCES Regional Crisis Team is pressed into action.

In March, a child was killed in Putnam Valley after a large tree fell onto his home during a violent snow storm.

Although schools were closed at the time, the team members were notified and summoned for support.

Putnam Valley Middle School psychologist Jason Kane told a meeting of the team last Tuesday at BOCES headquarters in Yorktown Heights: "I cannot tell you how much we appreciated having people on standby ready to assist our children and the entire community."

The team was founded in 1999 and is comprised of social workers, psychologists and guidance counselors who volunteer their time to provide counseling in times of crisis.

Putnam's Commissioner of Mental Health and Social Services Michael Piazza noted that a tragic event such as the loss of a student, teacher or staff member often results in a "ripple effect throughout a community. School districts are often disrupted by the trauma of a severe weather event, accident or safety threat, leaving students and staff unable to effectively concentrate or learn."

Piazza also advised the panel that Putnam was working to create its own mobile crisis unit.

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## Putnam Marine Corps League Elects Officers For 2018

By ERIC GROSS

The Putnam Marine Corps League, a veterans' organization whose members served in the Marine Corps during both peace and wartime, has elected officers for 2018.

Richard Gleason will serve as Commandant, while Charles Kaplax is elected Senior Vice; Dwight Keith-Junior Vice; Anthony Bochicchio-Judge Advocate; Dan Lynch-Paymaster/Adjutant; Jim McGuire as Chaplain and John Sullivan as Sergeant at Arms.

The Putnam Marine Corps League was founded in Cold Spring in 1966. One of the group's founding members, Albert Ireland, received nine Purple Heart medals, the most ever awarded to a member of the U.S. Armed Services.

Ireland, a resident of western Putnam County, was wounded five times in World War II and four times in Korea.

In 2015, based on the recom-

mendation of the Veterans' Honoree Selection Committee, the Sheriff's Department dedicated one of its patrol boats in his name.

Longtime Marine Corps League member and past commandant John Duncan noted the organization is active year round.

"We participate in the annual Toys for Tots Drive; as well as Memorial Day, Veterans' Day and Flag Day ceremonies and the Bob Palmer Project. Eagle Scouts are recognized by the league with Outstanding Citizen Awards. Members also make regular visits to the Castle Point Veterans Hospital while always supporting active duty Marines and their families while deployed."

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Carmel Veterans' Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Marines or corpsmen who have served honorably may apply for membership.

## Drugs and Guns Found In I-684 Traffic Stop

By ERIC GROSS

Two Connecticut men are facing lengthy state prison terms following their arrests by Brewster State Police for weapons- and drug-related charges.

Kurtis Leduc, 36 and Omar Wilson, 37, both of Waterbury, were charged last Tuesday night after their car was stopped on I-684 in Southeast for speeding.

Troop K Public Information Officer Trooper A.J. Hicks said, when questioning the occupants of the auto, police allegedly observed a handgun sticking out from beneath the driver's seat.

Troopers recovered a loaded Glock 23 semi-automatic pistol along with 4.5 ounces of cocaine.

The pair was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, criminal possession of a firearm and criminal possession of controlled substances.

Following arraignment in Patterson Town Court, both men were remanded to the Putnam Correctional Facility in lieu of \$20,000 bond pending future court action in Southeast.

The top charges are Class C felonies, carrying maximum 15 year state prison terms if found guilty.

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