

New Electronic Cards for WIC Program

Putnam County residents can now shop for WIC food using a new electronic benefit card. The card, which looks like an ordinary debit or credit card, allows a more discreet shopping experience and eliminates delay at check-out. The card also can ease the "roll-over" of unused benefits, so that shoppers can take full advantage of the nutritional benefits the WIC program provides.

"A well-balanced meal of healthy foods is an important part of caring for young children," said County Executive MaryEileen Odell. "This new technology will make the WIC program more accessible to families in our county

who need extra assistance, without having to endure any stigma. This is a very welcomed change." The first eWIC purchase occurred in Albany last April. The system started in Putnam last December as part of a planned roll-out across New York State.

"The importance of good nutrition for proper childhood development and overall good health cannot be emphasized enough," said interim Health Commissioner Michael J. Nesheiwat, MD, who encouraged residents who think they may qualify for the program to get more information. For example, a family of four earning \$46,000 a year can qualify for

WIC benefits.

Residents can learn more about qualifying for WIC by going online at www.health.ny.gov/wic, or by calling or visiting one of the two Putnam County WIC offices. One is located at the main office of the health department at 1 Geneva Road. The second is at 121 Main Street in the Village of Brewster. Appointments are preferred, but not required. Call 845-808-1337 for the main office, or 845-808-1416 for the village location.

The mission of the Putnam County Department of Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), is to

improve and protect the health of the Putnam County 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, please visit our County website at www.putnamcountyny.com; or visit our social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

St. Pat's Parade Committee Host Grand Marshal Installation Dinner



On Friday, February 1, the Northern-Westchester Putnam St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee had their Grand Marshal Installation Dinner where they inducted Carmel resident Bill Dowling to be the Grand Marshal for the 43rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Endowed with a natural love and respect for his Irish heritage, Bill was an active member of the Emerald Association of Putnam County and the West-Put Gaels, where he was selected Gael of the Year in 1995. He also served on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee for several years.

Bill has been an active member of Our Lady of the Lakes Knights of Columbus 6318 since 1975, where he served as Inside Guard, Outside Guard, Lector and Sergeant-at-Arms; he also served on the Board of Directors for many years. He has devoted many years to the Schmidt-Tangredi Squires, our local chapter of the Knights of Columbus youth

group, involving boys 13 to 17 years of age.

Bill is looking forward to marching down Route 6 with his family on parade day.

Please come out and celebrate Irish

heritage and being an American at the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 10 in Mahopac. For more information and to register to march in the parade visit our website at www.saintpatricksdaysparade.net.

Mahopac Football Player Signs on with Pace University

Reahl Allen, Mahopac High School senior, signed his letter of intent today to play football for Pace University as a student athlete for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Some of Allen's athletic achievements include,

- Junior Season: All-League; Putnam County All-County
- Senior Season: Player of the Year - Receiver for Section One Class AA North; All League; All Section; Section One Exceptional Senior Game Participant

"I'm most proud of Reahl's development as a student athlete and as a young man over the last year in particular. He has

really shown that he's ready for the next step in his college career," said Dominick DeMatteo, Mahopac Football Coach.

Allen's parents, friends, teachers, counselors and team mates were in attendance of his letter signing, as well as Coach and Superintendent of Schools Anthony DiCarlo.

"On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire District, we congratulate Reahl and his parents. He really embraces what it means to be a student-athlete and he's nothing but class on the field and in the classroom. He really exemplifies what it means to be the 'Mahopac Way,'" said DiCarlo.



The **PUTNAM Examiner**

Adam Stone
astone@theexaminernews.com
Publisher

David Propper
dpropper@theexaminernews.com
Editor-in-Chief

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