

## Around The County

### A Look Back To Yesteryear



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE CORRIGAN

A trio strolls down Gleneida Ave.

BY ERIC GROSS

Can you identify this trio? While the scene might resemble a Humphrey Bogart gangster movie, it is not.

The photo was taken along Gleneida Avenue in downtown Carmel. At the top left is the old Grand Union supermarket, currently home to Radovich and Dean Music. There are cars parked along the main thoroughfare, which was later converted to

Cornerstone Park, and the building the trio is walking past was the former Carmel movie theater adjacent to the historic Putnam Courthouse.

Check that 1940s style, which included double-breasted suits, fedora hats, short ties, wing-tipped shoes and cigars.

Who are these gentlemen? If you have any idea who they may be drop us a note at putnam144@aol.com or give us a ring at 225-2233.

### Fighting Hunger One Step At A Time

BY ERIC GROSS

Putnam's CROP Hunger Walk, which organizers say will "help end hunger one step at a time," takes place Sunday in Mahopac.

The five-mile walk begins at the Lake Mahopac United Methodist Church on Route 6 at Mt. Hope Road at 2 p.m.

In addition to fighting hunger worldwide, the Putnam walk will support the efforts of the Putnam Community Action (CAP) Food Pantry as well as the Gilead Presbyterian Church Food Pantry in Carmel.

Last year, some five dozen walkers raised in excess of \$10,000 through the Putnam walk.

This year's walk is sponsored by the United Methodist Cooperative Parish, Gilead Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion.

Additional information regarding the walk is available by calling 628-6144.

## Neighbors Have Coffee with a Cop

BY VIRGINIA CALIFANO

In the first Coffee with a Cop initiative last Wednesday, Cold Spring Officer-in-charge Larry Burke sat down in Cupoccino Cafe for a hot cup of joe and some conversation with his neighbors.

The program, developed by Putnam County Sheriff Robert L. Langley Jr., is meant to bring law enforcement and the people they serve together through friendly and honest communication, and took place countywide last week.

In Cold Spring, Burke is in his fifth year of service. He spent over 25 years as an officer in New York City, and "did a little bit of everything," he said. He spent much of that time working in undercover narcotics in the Bronx.

In the village, most of the issues he deals with are about parking.

"People here wave at me now. It took me awhile to transition to that from the city," he said with a laugh.

When asked what has been his favorite part of the job, Burke said he is proud of the



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA CALIFANO

Officer Larry Burke chatted with locals in the first Coffee with a Cop program last Wednesday in Cold Spring.

work that local law enforcement is doing with Haldane.

"We are teaching the kids why we do the things they do. We make sure they know their rights. And we want to make sure that they can come and talk to us. If we get on a one-to-one basis and treat them as young adults instead of kids, they may feel more comfortable telling us about a

problem," he said. Burke has been part of law classes at Haldane, where students analyze cases from the prosecution and defense sides.

Elsewhere in Philipstown, Sheriff's Deputies met with the public at the B&L Deli on Route 9, having lively discussions with both adults and children who stopped by over the noon hour.

## Preventing Lead Poison in Putnam

Some of Putnam's oldest structures are found in the villages of Brewster and Cold Spring – but along with their historic value, many of the buildings have dangerous lead-based paint.

Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, Putnam County Commissioner of Health, told members of the county legislature at their monthly meeting last week that, due to the Health Department's special initiative, brochures have been developed concerning the dangers of lead-based paint on children that are being distributed by building inspectors in the two municipalities to those seeking permits to renovate existing structures.

The week of Oct. 21-27 has been declared as Lead Poisoning Prevention Week across Putnam.



PHOTO BY ERIC GROSS

Legislator Amy Sayegh (right) and Dr. Michael Nesheiwat discuss lead poisoning at last week's meeting of the Putnam Legislature.

Nesheiwat told the legislators and a small gathering at the historic Putnam Courthouse: "The major source of lead exposure is the dust from deteriorating lead-based paint or renovations to houses or childcare facilities built before 1978."

The commissioner noted that while individuals with lead poisoning "often exhibit no symptoms, lead interferes with normal brain development and is associated with permanently reduced IQ, learning disabilities, behavioral disorders as well as being cited as an indicator of decreased lifelong learning potential."

Legislator Amy Sayegh called it "vital that all Putnam residents, especially parents and child caregivers, become aware of the dangers of lead poisoning and seek appropriate screening of their children as a preventative measure."

-Eric Gross

## Independence Party Backs Gashi for State Assembly

BY ERIC GROSS

The NYS Independence Party recently endorsed Vedat Gashi, the Democratic challenger to 94th District State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, a change from the last election, in which it endorsed the incumbent.

Frank Mackay, chairman of the Independence Party, called Gashi an "independent voice that is needed at a time when our communities and nation are very divided. Leaders must be elected who value people over party."

Gashi said he was "honored and thrilled to have the support of the Independence Party. Partisan politics is a bridge to nowhere. I look forward to working with people from all sides to do what's best for our district."

Gashi's name will appear on the Democratic, Working Families, Independence and Women's Equality lines on Nov. 6, while Byrne is seeking reelection with support of the Republican, Conservative and Reform Parties.

## Sound the Alarm: Fire Prevention Week

BY ERIC GROSS

County officials declared this week Fire Prevention Week in Putnam, encouraging residents to plan and prepare for emergencies.

The Putnam Legislature approved the resolution at its full meeting last Tuesday evening, endorsing the philosophy: "Look. Listen. Learn. Every second counts. Plan two ways out!"

Assistant Commissioner of Emergency Services Robert Lipton told the lawmakers and a small gathering at the courthouse: "In a fire, seconds are critical. That can mean the difference between escaping an inferno unscathed or having family members' lives end in tragedy. Every resident of our county must 'look' for places where fire could start. They must 'listen' for the sound of

a smoke alarm and 'learn' two ways out of every room."

Lipton encouraged all residents to discuss evacuation plans with their families: "Plans should be drilled into everyone until they become familiar with the procedures. Once safely outside, everyone should wait for the fire department to arrive, and never re-enter a burning building to retrieve personal items or a pet."

Legislator Neal Sullivan encouraged all homeowners and entrepreneurs to install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their residences and places of business. Sullivan also praised Putnam's volunteer firefighting force.

"We are blessed in our county to have such fine men and women answering the call morning, noon and night," he said.

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BY ERIC GROSS

Domestic violence continues to plague Putnam County.

County lawmakers proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at last week's full meeting of the Putnam Legislature.

Ann Ellsworth, executive director of the Putnam Women's Resource Center, told the nine-member governing body and a handful of residents attending the forum: "One in three women and one in four men have been victims of some type of physical violence by an intimate partner during the past year, while 72 percent

of all murder-suicides nationwide involve an intimate partner, with 94 percent of these murder-suicides being female."

Last year her center, located in Mahopac, served 2,154 men, women and children who were victims of either domestic or sexual violence.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino noted that domestic violence also affects business and the economy since "one in five employed adults is a victim, and women make up 46 percent of the workforce, resulting in eight million lost work days nationwide or \$2 billion in lost wages and \$4 billion spent in medical and mental health care costs due to this epidemic."

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## CAP Elections Take Place Next Wednesday

Putnam Community Action Program's (CAP) annual Advisory Committee elections take place next Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the CAP office in Brewster.

Committee members assist the nonprofit with outreach and fund raising while also reviewing community issues that are relevant to the mission of community action.

Members of the Advisory Committee serve one-year terms.

Those interested in serving are asked to contact Judy Callahan or Marissa O'Leary at 278-8021.

Voting will take place next Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

-Eric Gross

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