

Exit Marking Changes Made To I-84

BY ERIC GROSS

The familiar exit markings of 17 to 21 along Interstate 84 in Putnam County are a thing of the past now that the New York State DOT has completed a project to upgrade existing signage.

In addition to improving the visibility of the signs, both during the day and at night, the DOT has changed exit numbers from the current consecutive pattern to mile-based exit numerals.

Lance McMillian, Regional Director of the DOT, said the new exit numbers are based on the distance from the Pennsylvania state line to the interchange rather than being consecutively numbered.

For example, the Ludingtonville Road exit in Kent, formerly Exit 17, has now

been designated as Exit 58 since the interchange is 58 miles east of the Pennsylvania state line.

The former Exit 18 (Lake Carmel) has been reclassified as Exit 61; Exit 19 (Carmel-Southeast) has been changed to Exit 65; Exits 20 and 21 in Brewster have also been renamed as Exits 68 and 69 respectively.

The change occurred on Friday with no state notification to Putnam's emergency services providers.

EMS Commissioner Ken Clair was driving along the interstate when he observed the new signage and contacted the county's 9-1-1 Center to notify each of the departments' serving the interstate.

"It would have been nice to have received a phone call," said Clair.

Sifting Through the Sands of Time

Courier Archives

6/3/1910, 109 years ago



CHANGE OF RATES A NEW INCREASE IN RAILROAD FARES TO TAKE EFFECT JUNE 28, 1910

The monthly commutation tickets on the Putnam Div. between Brewster & New York have been increased from \$12.45 to \$14.85. From Carmel to 155th St. they have been increased to \$14.85 from \$12.45, and from Mahopac they have been increased to \$14.65 from \$12.45.

The family tickets between 155th St. and Brewster have been increased from \$37.85 to \$42.00. From Carmel they have been increased to \$42.00 from \$36.20 including the elevated R.R. tickets. Tickets for 155th St. without elevated R.R. tickets can be purchased for \$36.20.

From Mahopac the family tickets have been changed from \$35.40 to \$36.80.

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WORD of the WEEK

Hoopla

excited commotion : to-do

CUNNINGHAM'S CORNER

WIC Program on the Block

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

Deuteronomy 15:11, English Standard Version

One of the things about irony is it often passes completely, entirely unnoticed. As it has done at the Putnam County Legislature while lawmakers discuss chopping the WIC program from county health efforts and offloading it to a non-profit.

A mere two and three months ago, lawmakers lined up to support a resolution to oppose the state Reproductive Health Act, which aims to codify Roe vs. Wade within the state of New York. County lawmakers supported this resolution of opposition by 8-1. Legislature Nancy Montgomery of Philipstown was the lone outlier.

But alas, our commitment to infants goes only so far, and not one baby step farther. Once the babies are actually

DOUGLAS CUNNINGHAM

here, the county's desire for involvement in their care shifts to simple dollars and cents. The Legislature — *the exact same Legislature* — that two months ago wanted to be involved in decisions usually made by a woman and her husband/partner and her doctor, today does not want to be involved. At all. Even if the child and mother are hungry. I'm at a loss. These are, remember, (figuratively, go with me) the same child and the same mother we were talking about two months ago.

Just try to conceive of this:

The babies that are here cost too much. Who knew?

The program at issue, the Women, Infants, Children program, is designed to provide "federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk," according to the Agriculture Department's Food and Nutrition Service.

The vast majority of the program's costs are paid via a federal grant of \$437,000 yearly in any case. The program cost Putnam about \$125,000 in expenses beyond that grant money in 2018, and a projected \$100,000 this year. But no one, so far, has suggested the program is full of waste, or any misspending or wrongdoing. In fact, knowing the county Health Department as I do, I expect it's probably administered pretty efficiently as these programs go. So far, all we have is that WIC costs more than county government takes in, by about \$100,000 or \$125,000 a year.

If we need to save \$100,000 — and who doesn't want to save \$100,000? — I would bet that the long-suffering residents of Putnam could easily and rapidly come up with some suggested cuts. Heck, I could walk into Doug's Pub next door, and I bet he'd come up with \$200,000. Plus a cheeseburger, but I'd have to pay for that.

In any case, I would prefer, and I'm sure most you would, too, that every household had a well-paying job, or two well-paying jobs, that would easily provide for the many and expensive needs of an infant. And, failing that, that private, responsible and generous charities would fill

the gap. But I think we need to be clear that in some number of cases, neither of those circumstances is present. At the end of the day, we're talking about whether babies of 4 months or 6 months old, or children of 2 or 3 years old, and their mothers, have enough nutrition. At what surely is a critical time in their lives.



I appreciate that county officials are trying to save taxpayer dollars. And it is refreshing whenever a government does not view those dollars as an endless supply. Putnam County's government, relative to many, has by and large adopted this approach.

But from here, offloading the WIC program is a stretch too far. If this is what we've come to in Putnam County, things are far grimmer than even I had thought. If we can't feed hungry children, 2 or 3 months old, and their moms, what good are we?

And readers, in the meantime, let's help the county out. The goal is to save \$100,000 and keep babies from going hungry. Send me those ideas, editor@pcnr.com. I'll forward them to the proper authorities.

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What I'm listening to these days:

Sometimes, it takes a twist of perspective, maybe an outsider's viewpoint, to really illuminate an issue. Especially if you think you already have a great handle on our lunar exploration and Apollo efforts, take a listen to *13 Minutes to the Moon*. It's a fascinating podcast from BBC World Service about the tremendous effort, begun under President Kennedy, to put astronauts on the moon by the end of the decade. It's inspiring and stirring to hear, again, what was accomplished, now in a different frame and with the perspective of time.

Also: I've returned to 99% *Invisible*. Two episodes in particular I commend to your attention: First, *Weeding is Fundamental* (episode 354), about how libraries thin out their book collections. As someone who is now struggling with culling our own assortment of books, this one especially tugged at my heartstrings. Also, *Play Mountain* (episode 351). So much good stuff in here: The internment camps for Japanese in World War II. How kids really play. Why our playgrounds, for decades, channeled their play into rote, perhaps dull, activities. How New York City continually, relentlessly, rejected this fantastic idea for a playground. Anyway, good stuff.

Douglas Cunningham is editor of the Putnam County News and Recorder, in Cold Spring, and of the Putnam County Courier. Reach him with complaints or suggestion, and yes, advertising requests!, at editor@pcnr.com, or 845-265-2468.

Stabbing Under Investigation In Brewster

A patron of the El Pueblo Restaurant on Main Street in Brewster was stabbed on Memorial Day evening and the assailant escaped.

Brewster State Police handled the investigation with the assistance of the Putnam Sheriff's Department and Brewster Village Police. Information released by authorities is sketchy but sources reported the assailant, a Hispanic man described to be in his 50s, ran from the night spot and fled.

The victim was taken by Brewster FD Rescue Squad personnel to Danbury Hospital with what were described as non-life threatening injuries.

The stabbing was the second at the El Pueblo in as many months. Troopers have asked anyone with information regarding the assault to call Brewster State Police at 279-6161 or Troop K Headquarters in Millbrook at 677-7300. All calls will be kept confidential.

—Eric Gross

High Achievers

Curry College is proud to announce that the following students have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2019 semester.

David Keogh of Mahopac

Jasmine Rodulfo of Patterson

Matt Trainor of Stormville

RACHEL FLANAGAN FROST ATTORNEY AT LAW

Are you and your family protected?

When was the last time you looked at your will? Has it been reviewed by an attorney? Do you know how to locate the original documents? Or, better yet, have you ever hired an attorney to draft your will, power of attorney or health care proxy? Has the thought crossed your mind that it may be time to get your estate in order? Are you familiar with the changes in law that may have an impact on your overall estate and planning for the future? Have you thought of Medicaid planning and probate avoidance?

If interested in a free review of your estate plan and consultation, call Rachel Flanagan Frost, Esq., (in home appointments available upon request).

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Sally & Tai

Sally: Sally is a beautiful 3 year old girl with a shiny black coat. She has a lot of energy, but will still love to be by your side quietly. All she is wishing for is a new loving home. You can meet Sally and friends any day 10-3.

Tai: Tai is a beautiful cat who is just one of the many wonderful cats and kittens who are waiting for their forever homes. Meet all the guys and gals any day 10-4:15.

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