

Don't Let Home Turn Into Bat Cave

By Eric Gross

Putnam County Health Department officials are urging the public to take extra caution when removing air conditioning units, as the occurrence of bats increases in the fall.

Erin Ray Pascaretti, health department epidemiologist, reported last week “22 people have received post exposure rabies treatment for cases involving bats in 2019. Five of those received medication after the bat was caught and tested positive for rabies while the remainder received the unpleasant rabies treatments after being exposed when either the bat escaped or could not be tested.”

Bats can potentially carry and transmit rabies and other diseases and can enter a home by squeezing through a gap as small as a half-inch and when windows are opened to install or remove air conditioning units, a gap is created between the window sash. Pascaretti called the capture of a bat “critical. If one is found in your home and it is captured unnecessary treatments will be avoided as long as the bat tests negative for rabies. More than 75 percent of our treatments may have been avoided if the bats were captured and tested negative.”

Across Putnam, 443 rabies investigations were conducted by the health department in 2018 with 94 animals tested and 16 people treated for “reasonable exposure probability.”

In 2017, 45 people underwent the rabies inoculations following exposure.

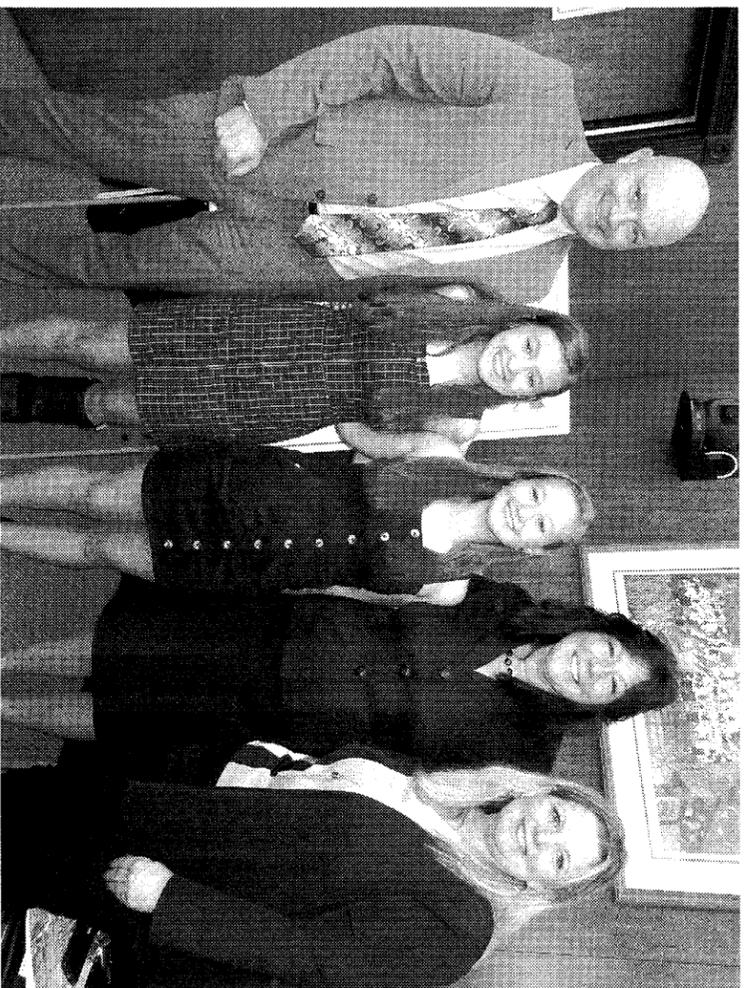


Photo by Eric Gross
Alexandria Waters and her twin sister Keiko are congratulated by State Senator Sue Serino as Putnam Valley High School Principal Sandy Invereri and Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Luft look on.

By Eric Gross

Four students from Putnam County have been recognized by the New York State Senate for their academic achievements and commitment to community leadership.

Castriona Fee and Ashley

Haines, both from Haldane High School in Cold Spring were acknowledged as were twins Alexandria and Keiko Waters of Putnam Valley High School.

“going above and beyond to play unique roles in their schools. These young adults have distinguished themselves not only academically but with their commitment to improving the school community. I am excited to see where the future takes them.”

News tips & submissions welcome: editor@pcnr.com

Three Putnam Bridges Among 25 Worst In Region

By Eric Gross

Three Putnam bridges have the inauspicious distinction of making the top 25 list of the worst bridges in the region.

The list was compiled in a report

issued last week by the Washington, DC-based National Transportation Research non-profit that used federal data to rate all of the 2,551 bridges that are 20 feet or longer. Of those, 329 were rated as poor/structurally deficient.

Putnam's trio includes the Canopus Creek Bridge in Philipstown, Metro-North Railroad Bridge on Route 6 in Brewster and the Peekskill Hollow Creek Bridge on Oscawana Lake Road in Putnam

Valley.

The Top 25 also consists of nine bridges in Westchester, five in Orange County, three in Ulster County, two each in Rockland and Columbia counties and one in Dutchess.

Carolyn Kelly, Director of Research for the organization, called on New York State lawmakers to provide additional funding at the state level to address the “deteriorated bridge conditions as well as the transportation system as a

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3	5	2	4	8	6	9	7	1	3	5	2	4	
8	7	4	9	1	5	2	6	9	8	7	4	9	

Puzzle Answer

whole.”

At last Thursday's meeting the Putnam Legislature's Public Services Committee, the approved a resolution calling for the issuing of \$800,000 in bonds to remove and replace the Road Bridge in Southeast.

The county will be reimbursed through federal funds as well as state funding in conjunction with the State Marchiselli Program.