Firing Back: Former Putnam Commissioner Sues County, Odell

By David Propper

Though Putnam County is already moving ahead with its plan to find a new Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner, the Patterson resident who once occupied that position is suing the county to reclaim his old job.

Former emergency services commissioner Adam Stiebeling has filed a lawsuit against the county in Putnam County Supreme Court, arguing he was illegally let go by County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who is the only other defendant in the lawsuit filed on Jan. 30.

The suit, reviewed by The Putnam Examiner last week, claims Odell wrongly relieved Stiebeling of his duties as the head of emergency services because she did not get the county’s Legislature to also approve the removal.

According to the lawsuit, Odell wrote to Stiebeling, “as you are already aware, your term of office expired on December 31, 2014” and then went on to write, “I am therefore writing to advise you of the fact that I am not appointing you to the position of Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services for another term.”

But the suit claims those statements are “materially false” and “materially misleading” because when Stiebeling was originally appointed back in Dec. 2012, the duration of his term was never set to a specific time, contrary to what Odell asserted. Because a specific time frame was never established, according to the suit, Odell would need two-thirds of the defendant in the lawsuit filed on Jan. 30.

Hay to Seek Reelection for Southeast Supervisor

By Janine Bowen

When Town of Southeast Supervisor Tony Hay took office in 2012, he planned to do “one (term) and out” but as he enters into what would have been the final year of his only term, he has had a change of heart.

Earlier this week, Hay announced that he has decided to run for a second term upon requests from residents and a realization that there is still work that he can accomplish in the town. The former Putnam County legislator points to marked improvements within the town.

Snow Beautiful! Freezing Putnam Braces for More Winter Weather

By David Propper

Freezing temperatures continued to force Putnam residents to bundle up into this week, as Old Man Winter’s wrath on the weather doesn’t appear to be waning anytime soon. This week the county can expect more snowfall, particularly today (Tuesday) and this weekend, according to extended forecasts. Temps will continue to dip into the teens and even below zero later in the week, though the wind chill will make it feel even colder. While there doesn’t seem to be much of an upside to the miserable weather, at least photos of snow nestled on Lake Gleneida with the center of Carmel in the distance makes for a pretty picture. Besides that, the official start of spring is about a month away.

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Legislators Leaning Toward Styrofoam Ban in All County Buildings

By David Propper

A polystyrene ban in all Putnam County governmental facilities took possibly one of its final steps toward becoming a reality last Thursday, when legislators voiced support for the legislation after hearing from styrofoam lobbyists who were hoping to sway an already resolved legislature to halt the brakes on a ban of polystyrene products within the county government.

"I think the health is more important than anything," Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra said. "And the environment is an indication of our health so let's keep it good."

Approving the law would be a trademark piece of county legislation passed by Scuccimarra, who represents District 1 and has been advocating for the polystyrene ban for almost a year. The legislation would prohibit the use of polystyrene products in all county buildings, including the county office building and all senior center locations. Once current inventory runs out, the county would transition to paper products.

Other legislators seemed favorable to the idea and most even committed to the ban before the presentation during last week's committee meeting. No legislators spoke out against the proposed law during the discussion.

Legislator and vice-chairwoman Ginny Nacerino said she thinks it's "good for Putnam County to lead by example" in voicing her support for the ban.

One lobbyist to speak against the ban, Mike Levy, who is director for the plastics food service packaging group of the American Chemistry Council, said many of the health fears associated with polystyrene are unfounded. No person has been ever found to fall ill from polystyrene, Levy claimed, in the 50 years the product has been out there.

Levy also downplayed how alternative products are better than polystyrene. He said other substitute products used in other municipalities haven't led to better environmental conditions.

"The idea that a biodegradable product would be better than a non-degradable product whether it's polystyrene is not necessarily true," Levy said.

Other lobbyists for polystyrene noted that it actually takes more than twice the energy to make a paper cup than it takes to make a foam cup, noting a foam cup is 95 percent air and 5 percent natural resources. A paper cup also contributes five times as much waste than foam.

"Foam often gets a bad rap but when you look at the actual science behind it head-to-head, it's actually a better environmental choice," Paul Poe of Dart Container Corp. said.

"So by banning just food service packaging you're only getting rid of ten percent of the foam in the waste room where residents drop off their styrofoam at the city's recycling center and it is picked up by Dart Containers."

"By banning just food service packaging you're only getting rid of ten percent of the foam in the waste room where a recycling program, you're able to capture 100 percent," Cassidy said.

A few Putnam residents advocating for the ban spoke up during the meeting like Mahopac resident Jerry Ranvitzky and Philipstown resident Paula Clair.

"I would hope the ban at the county government level would expand to the rest of the county," Cronin said. "This is a national trend and a national trend for a very good reason."

Following the meeting, Steve Rosario, a Putnam resident of the American Chemistry Council, who seemed resolved to the fact that the ban was set to go through, said he felt the county was "losing an opportunity" to recycle styrofoam responsibly and pointed out much of the complaints raised stem from problems caused by people.

"And how to be responsible with a product so it doesn't end up in the litter, so it doesn't end up in our waterways because it really is a behavioral problem," he said. "If it's in the water, it's because some human did something that they shouldn't have done."
Walker Clears Air Over Rumors Concerning Emergency Services

By David Propper

As a search for a new Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner moves forward, legislators and other county officials looked to quell rumors about the future of the Emergency 911 Call Center in the wake of former emergency services commissioner Adam Stiebeling being relieved of his duties.

During a Protective Services Committee meeting Wednesday, legislators prodded deputy county executive Bruce Walker about whether or not the dispatch center is going to be moved to and controlled by the Sheriff’s Office.

“I know I met with my fire department and they have grave concerns about a takeover of the sheriff’s department and have well documented their reasons why,” Legislator Ginny Nacerino said.

Nacerino said she believes fire departments across the county have similar reservations about that rumored possibility and all for “valid reasons.”

But Walker dismissed that as simply speculation and a decision about moving the 911 center was never ironclad.

And the reason there’s been no dialogue with this legislature is because there was never a decision made to do anything with the 911 center,” Walker said. “Did we put a team together? Absolutely. Did we look at it? Absolutely. Did there was never a decision made to do dialogue with this legislature is because the 911 center was never ironclad.

But Walker said it was put “on the shelf” as a possible consolidation and that’s where the proposal stopped. Walker added there are probably ten other areas where the county is doing similar analysis, something that is regularly done by county officials to save taxpayer’s money.

Walker also pointedly denied any construction has been done in the sheriff’s office in connection with the future of the 911 call center after Protective Services Chairman Roger Gross read a letter into the record that alleged such renovations are underway.

“The’s clearly misinformation,” Walker said, noting no one from the highway department as been at the sheriff’s office to take measurements or get work completed.

Undersheriff Peter Convery also stood up during the meeting and said no construction has been done at the sheriff’s office as been at the sheriff’s office to take measurements or get work completed.

Nacerino described the legislature as being “in limbo” because it has constituents coming to lawmakers for answers over the future of the 911 center and they have nothing concrete to tell them. She encouraged the executive branch to be as open and transparent about any proposed plan sooner, rather than later.

“I know it’s early but I think the administration and the executive branch needs to know that everybody in this audience is very concerned and they are the experts in their field,” Nacerino said. “Have they been engaged in what their opinions are or what their expertise is or what they can offer for a solution.”

Walker reiterated what County Executive MaryEllen Odell explained to a large mass of first responders during a Jan. 10 meeting that there were no imminent plans to streamline the services and that it had only been discussed. No changes would be made about the future of the 911 call center until a new commissioner is selected, Walker said.

On the search for a new commissioner, Walker said it continues to move forward as interim commissioner Bob Lipton currently fills that void.

Walker said more than 30 candidates applied for the commissioner’s position and now a search committee comprised of several different stakeholders will weed out the possible replacement for Stiebeling. Personnel director Paul Eldridge is leading the committee.

It was decided during the meeting that no legislator would be part of the search committee because it’s a conflict of interest since that same legislator must vote on the appointment, once the final candidate is chosen by Odell.

There was talk of having that legislator recuse himself from the vote to approve the new commissioner, but because the legislature needs a super-majority of at least six lawmakers to sign off on Odell’s choice, that notion was dismissed.
George Fischer Middle School Robotic Rams Take First Place

The George Fischer Middle School Robotic Rams took 1st place in the Robot Design category at the F.I.R.S.T. Lego League (FLL) Regional Tournament at LaGrange Middle School on Saturday February 7th.

The coach, Tony Sottile, a technology education teacher in Carmel said Matt Wilcha (gr. 6) and programmer Chris Figura (gr. 8) were “locked in. Their synergy in redesigning and reprogramming the robot to accumulate 115 points propelled the team from 10th place to 3rd place in the Robot Performance category.”

In the Core Values presentation, team members Danielle Shanny (gr. 5), Renaldo Stroud (gr. 5) and Will Groundwater (gr. 8) explained how the team cooperated with each other in deciding which missions to accomplish and how they designed the robot.

In the Project presentation Hailey Sango (gr. 8) and Joe Henshaw (gr. 5) showed that Jeopardy is a fun and competitive way to teach students since it’s interactive and competitive.

The team took home the “gold” when Owen Carmody (gr. 8) described their brilliant programming in the Robot Design category. Chris Figuera, with help from the others programmed the robot to use color and light sensors to maneuver around the playing field. The judges were impressed with how sophisticated the programming was. The most exciting part of the day occurred when the crowd erupted after the robot successfully shot a ball into the goal for 60 points. This is the 3rd time Carmel won the Robot Design category award.

The team members include: 8th graders Hailey Sango, Owen Carmody, Chris Figura, and Will Groundwater, 7th grader Sophia Mederer, 6th graders: Matt Wilcha, Michael Shanny and Ben Gormley, 5th Graders: Joe Henshaw, Ryan Calhoun, Danielle Shanny, and Renaldo Stroud.

Hay to Seek Reelection for Southeast Supervisor

Hay to Seek Reelection for Southeast Supervisor

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the town since he defeated former Southeast supervisor Michael Rights in a GOP primary in 2011.

“I want the ship to be in a little bit better shape before I let someone else take the helm again,” said Hay.

During his first term in office, Hay said his biggest achievement has been getting the town back on sound financial footing. In 2012, the town only had $98,000 in the bank, explained Hay and by then end of 2014, he had helped increase that account balance to just about $1 million. In addition, Hay explained that when he took office, the town was not very computer savvy but in the last three years, he was able to implement a variety of computerized programs in various town departments utilizing limited funds.

He credits his ability to stretch a dollar and restore the town’s financial health to his upbringing.

“We didn’t have much money and I had to make ends meet with very little and I’m used to something like that and that’s one of the reasons I guess people want to see me here,” he said.

A former business owner, Hay sold his store and retired in 2007 but that doesn’t mean he’s looking to take it easy. He noted that he often comes into the office as early as 5 a.m. and has been known to stay past 10 p.m. and even work Saturday and Sunday. His dedication, he believes, is the reason town board meetings are running smoother than ever and the fighting that used to exist between town board members has been eliminated.

Hay has also been supervisor of the town through the controversial Crossroads 312 project, in which a vote for the zoning change for the proposal is scheduled for this Thursday. Hay has voiced his opposition to the project.

Although the election is still months away, Hay acknowledges that he will likely face some competition for the seat but said that he aims to continue to be the supervisor who represents all Southeast residents. He characterized himself as a person who will always listen and help when he can.

“I like to work, what am I going to do,” questioned Hay. “I know if I retire I’m not going to be working as hard as I do now,” he continued.
Merandy, Molloy to Square Off for Cold Spring Mayoral Seat

By David Propper

As five different candidates jump into the fray that is the Cold Spring election cycle, the only certainty known before the results roll in a month from now is, regardless of who wins what, the village board is set to be comprised of a completely different make-up of local lawmakers.

With the trio of current mayor Ralph Falloon and sitting trustees Bruce Campbell and Stephanie Hawkins all deciding not to seek reelection, village voters will decide between two mayoral candidates and three trustee candidates running for two seats, marking a new chapter in a village government that represents roughly 2,000 residents.

Headlining the campaign season are mayoral candidates Town of Philipstown board member Dave Merandy and village planning board chairman Barney Molloy. Though rather silent now, it seems it’ll only take a matter of time before the race reaches a boiling point of contention with both having starkly different viewpoints on how to run the village.

In interviews, both Merandy and Molloy have each alleged that the other candidate has a conflict of interest leading up to the March 18 election, with Molloy even suggesting Merandy should resign up to the March 18 election, with Molloy on how to run the village.

Merandy is once again a village resident. The three residents running for two open trustee positions are Marie Early, who is running with Merandy, Robert Ferris, who is running with Molloy, and Fran Murphy who isn’t running with anyone.

Merandy, who was born and raised in the village, said he has longtime ties to Cold Spring and with his past experience on the Haldane school board and Philipstown town board, he believes he’s capable of taking on more of a leadership position.

After moving about three miles out of the village once he graduated high school, Merandy is once again a village resident. Issues he said facing the village include the sewers and dams, as well as the village firehouse.

While Merandy has roots dating back to his childhood in the village, Molloy has lived in Cold Spring for only three years, but that hasn’t stopped him from immediately immersing himself in civic activities.

Most notably, Molloy has been the chairman of the planning board as it continues to navigate its way through the Butterfield project, which has been a hot topic on the west side of Putnam County long before he arrived. Before moving to Cold Spring, he lived in northern Westchester, participating in governmental and non-profit efforts for 25 years.

Issues for Molloy include protecting the boat club going forward and finding a way to fund upgrades to the village firehouse. He believes he has the experience needed to smoothly run village operations.

“You have to look to a candidate who has managerial experience, who has skills, who has worked in a myriad of different roles,” Molloy said.

Though the race is in the early stages, the two experienced politicos aren’t shy about lobbying shots at each other.

Merandy said it strikes him as “odd” that no one has brought up that Molloy is currently in a relationship with current Cold Spring trustee Cathryn Fadde, who ran and won a village board seat, along with Michael Bowman, last year.

If Molloy is elected, Merandy firmly called that personal relationship between Molloy and Fadde a “conflict of interest.” Molloy scoffed at Merandy’s assertion, noting there is nothing in state or municipal law that “even speaks to that” and then countered that Merandy is married to Hawkins, though she isn’t running for reelection. (Merandy said the two would never run for the same board since they tied the knot.)

He also said Merandy moved into the village just a couple weeks ago where Hawkins lives and if he is running for a Cold Spring seat, he should resign from his Philipstown town board seat.

“Realistically I hope he would have been a little bit more involved and little bit more present in the village than just recently as two weeks ago,” Molloy said.

But Merandy actually said he’s better educated on what faces the village and with years of public service under his belt in the area, he’d hit the ground running if elected.

“He’s been involved in some of the village stuff. He hasn’t been around that long,” Merandy said of Molloy. “I’m probably more aware of a lot of things.”
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nyp.org/hudsonvalley
By Tiffany Jansen

Kenny Hogan has been in the carpeting and flooring business for more than 40 years. "I didn't go to college," says Hogan, who got his start as an installer for the family carpeting business. "That wasn't a thing that was really done in the 70s. Back then, you worked with your hands."

In 1992, Kenny opened Kenny's Carpet One Floor & Home in Carmel. The store carries a wide selection of carpet, vinyl, ceramic and porcelain tile, pre- and unfinished flooring, window treatment, area rugs, and laminate - everything you need to redo your home, whether you decide to do it yourself or have it installed by the folks at Kenny's.

When you walk through the doors of Kenny's Carpet One, you'll be welcomed by a greeter who will get your information and ask questions in order to pinpoint what it is you're looking for based on your needs and lifestyle.

Then, Kenny's team of trusted installers, each one vetted and trained by Hogan himself, will come to your home to complete the project. "We're going to do what you ask us to do, not convince you to pile on materials and services," says Hogan. 

"Ever hear the saying about going the extra mile?" Hogan continues. "Everyone thinks they do it, but not everybody does."

For Hogan, that extra mile begins after the sale. "If you're not happy, we don't go away. We're here until you're happy with what we do." In fact, Hogan's reckons that he makes more money and garner's more business based on what happens after the sale than he does on the sale itself. That could mean reinstallation, replacing or restoring damaged or worn flooring, offering financing, or sharing maintenance tips and tricks on the company's blog or social media accounts.

Kenny's Carpet One is an independently owned and operated branch of Carpet One Floor & Home. Located at 246 Route 52 in Carmel, NY, Kenny's services Putnam, Dutchess, Fairfield, and Westchester Counties. Visit www.kennyscarpetonecarmel.com for opening hours or call 845-225-4330 for a free estimate.
Community Basketball Shootout – Opportunity to Fundraise!

If you are interested in raising money for your club, team, church, organization or any non-profit organization in Putnam County, there is an opportunity available on Saturday March 7 at Carmel High School. Carmel Rotary and the Carmel High School Interact Club will be sponsoring the 8th Annual Basketball Shootout.

Obtain a pledge form, sign up some sponsors – either with a per-basket or flat donation, come to the ‘shootout’ and do your best. The shooters’ organization keeps 80 percent of the proceeds and 20 percent goes to Carmel Rotary to enhance their community work, such as the

Pushups Challenge in Mahopac Looks to Set World Record for a Cause

Families battling pediatric cancer gain support thanks to Pushups for a Purpose, an event hosted by Training for Warriors Mahopac and the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund on March 1.

For every push up completed, $1 will be donated to the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, a nonprofit whose mission is to support families battling childhood cancer with financial, emotional and practical support.

The group will attempt to set a world record for the most people doing pushups around the world at the exact same time in March. The Training for Warriors network has more than 29 countries participating in the challenge.

"We are thrilled to receive the support of Training For Warriors surrounding this record-breaking event," said Keli Coughlin, Executive Director of The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund. "It is truly inspiring to work with such caring and committed people that support our cause to be there for families tackling childhood cancer."

To participate in Pushups for a Purpose, guests can attend the Training for Warriors Mahopac 429 Stillwater Rd, Mahopac NY, 10541 at 11 a.m. The challenge will take place at 12:31 p.m. Guests will also be able to enjoy food, music and giveaways.

For more information, contact info@tfwmahopac.com or call 914-71-9068.

Obituaries

Patricia Gilvey

Patricia Gilvey died at her home in Mahopac, on Thursday February 12. She was born in Ithaca, NY on November 22, 1954 the daughter of the late Barbara and John Gilvey. She moved to Mahopac at 4 years of age and attended school in Mahopac, graduating from Mahopac High School in 1972. She earned her degree in computer sciences at Mercy College. Earlier in life Patricia worked at Caldor’s, Readers Digest and as a programmer for a NY City software company. She went on to work at Jilco and part time at Macy’s while also taking care of her elderly parents until their death this past year. She enjoyed traveling and was a supporter of the New York Jets. Her real passion was her relationships with her lifelong friends. She is survived by her sisters Barbara Jeanne Talbot (Robert) and Mary Tierney (Frank), her brother, John Gilvey (Wendy), 12 nieces and nephews and Brian and Allison Eagen children of her deceased partner Darryl Eagen.

George D. Bennett

George D. Bennett a lifelong resident of Mahopac, died on Thursday February 12, at the age of 81. He was born in Kent, NY on May 3, 1933, the son of Delmer and Gertrude Bennett. George served in the US Navy and was the owner of George Bennett Carpenter Contractor, Inc. He was an antique car enthusiast and was a member of the Model A Ford Club of Westchester and the Cadillac LaSalle Club. On September 11, 1954 he married Olive Britton at the Lake Mahopac United Methodist Church. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Susanne Bennett-Berlinger and her husband Carmine of Fishkill, NY, George D. Bennett Jr. and his wife Camille and David J. Bennett and his wife Monica, all of Mahopac and Jean Murray and her husband Brian of West Hartford, CT, his grandchildren, Christopher, Jennifer, Bryan, Daniel, Michelle, Jacqueline, Caroline and Margaret, his great granddaughters, Charlotte and Emily and his brother Delmer. His sister, Kay Cromarty died earlier.
GHP Office Realty Announces $6 million Capital Investment Program

GHP Office Realty, LLC, a major owner of office, flex and retail properties in the tri-state region, is pleased to announce that an extensive $6 million capital program is underway. The 26-acre campus, now known as the Northern Westchester Executive Park, is a 220,000 square foot property consisting of 2649 Strang Boulevard, a 68,000 square foot, three-story medical office building. 2651 Strang Boulevard is a one-story 150,000 square foot technology/medical/laboratory/call center building, which also houses Mercy College’s Yorktown Campus.

The renovation work at 2649 Strang Boulevard has commenced and will include a new state-of-the-art fitness center for tenants of the Park as well as a cafe that will serve breakfast, lunch, and other hot and cold items. The newly renovated common areas of 2649 Strang, which boasts a beautiful three-story atrium, will have new wood flooring, carpeting, wall paper, paint, updated stairways and railings and new elevator lobby areas. There will be new signage throughout the Park. 2649 Strang’s current tenant roster contains some of the highest quality healthcare providers such as ENT & Allergy Associates, Hudson Valley Hematology, North Shore-Long Island JHS, Northern Westchester County Dental, Hudson Valley Oral Surgery and Dialysis Clinic, Inc. Vacant suites have been renovated and are currently availables of 1,000 square feet up to 12,000 square feet.

Renovations have also commenced at 2651 Strang Boulevard, a one-story flex building, which is also home to Mercy College’s Yorktown campus, including demolition of 100,000 square feet of flex, office, medical, lab, technology and call center space with a very low loss factor. New windows and a state-of-the-art heating and ventilating system are being installed, earning the building an EnergyStar rating. Utility costs to tenants will be drastically reduced and approximately 30 percent lower than other similar buildings in the market. Also available for tenants of 2651 Strang will be monument signage, exclusive entrances and awning branding. There is currently 5,000 square feet up to 100,000 square available for lease.

For more leasing information please contact Andrew Greenspan at (914) 641-4346, andy@ghpoffice.com or Jamie Schwartz at (914) 641-4345, jschwartz@ghpoffice.com.

GHP Office Realty is a division of Houlihan-Parnes Realtors, LLC, which is presently one of the New York area’s leading owners, operators and purchasers of suburban New York commercial space.

GHP Office Realty has acquired, financed, redeveloped, leased and managed more than 6,000,000 square feet. Regionally, the partners presently own and manage buildings in Westchester and Rockland Counties, New York, in Fairfield County, Connecticut, in Bergen County and Princeton, New Jersey, and in Fort Worth, Texas. Privately funded and well-capitalized, GHP Office Realty is stable, strong, and poised to flourish in the coming years of real estate recovery. For more information, please contact Andy Greenspan at 914-642-9300 ext. 346 or by email at: andy@ghpoffice.com

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1 A playing card or new luxury housing in Yorktown
6 Absolutely hate
11 Backing for an exhibit
12 Boxing need
13 Enlightened
14 Black bird
15 Electronic machines
17 In ___ parts
19 UN workers’ assn.
20 ___ vs. Wade
21 Type of tree
23 One of the Bobbsey Twins
24 Nurses’ org.
25 Sub
27 Your math teacher would dine at this Peekskill restaurant.
28 ___ Street Grill
30 Mentally quick
31 Prepare to surf
35 European river
36 Put into effect, as a proposal
37 Violin maker, for short
38 Moorland in “Jane Eyre”

Down
1 Steeped beverage
2 Served like sushi
3 Cable channel
4 Unite
5 "The magic word"
6 Staring

7 Color of suede shoes of song
8 You need it for a website
9 Covering
10 Trust
16 Indian megalopolis
17 “After ___” Mariah Carey
18 Deeper in content
20 Echoing devices
22 Dough
26 Fuel cell component
28 Hipbone parts
29 Transmit
32 ___ long way
33 Fix upon
34 Highest

Crossword by Myles Mellor
Answers on page 14

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county Legislature to terminate Stiebeling, which she never sought.

“Odell exceeded her authority and acted in a manner contrary to law, all to (Stiebeling’s) detriment,” the suit states.

In an interview, the attorney for Stiebeling, Michael Sussman, said this argument surrounds the premise of “who can do what to who.” A court date is set for March 6 in the courtroom of Justice Victor Grossman, though the attorneys may not have to appear on that date.

“Just so it’s clear, at this point he was not terminated for any cause, he was not terminated because he wasn’t doing his job,” said Sussman, who also noted Stiebeling has support from the emergency services community. “This is not about his job performance and we’re not going to get into a debate about that because that was not the reason. The reason given was because your term expired.”

Under county charter, according to the suit, there is no set term of office for the Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services and no resolution or local law has ever been passed by Putnam establishing such a term.

“He wants to be reinstated to his position,” Sussman said in the interview. “He wasn’t properly terminated and incident to that he wants whatever back pay he’s owed.”

An audio recording of the Dec. 27, 2012 meeting in which Stiebeling was named commissioner indicates Stiebeling was unanimously appointed to the leadership role, though no time was set at that meeting when his term would expire. In the official 2012 resolution written out, it doesn’t have a specific start and end date established.

Odell, who made the controversial decision shortly after starting her first full term, was out of the county and could not be reached for comment. Previously, she had given little insight into why she made the determination to not allow Stiebeling to continue as commissioner.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell, along with Putnam County, is being sued by former Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Adam Stiebeling in an effort to get his old job post back within the county.

Attorney Andrew Negro of the county’s legal department declined comment because the litigation is ongoing. Legislature Chairman Carl Albano also declined comment, citing the ongoing litigation. James Randazzo, who is representing the county, could not be reached.

Essentially, the lawsuit contends Stiebeling should still be allowed to go to work as the head of emergency services everyday, like he has for the past few years.

“Odell has barred (Stiebeling) from performing his duties, has disallowed him from entering his office and has returned to him personnel items maintained at his office,” the suit states.

continued from page 1

African-American Carmel basketball player accused the suspended Mahopac player of directing a racial slur toward him during a Jan. 7 basketball game. The Mahopac player was suspended due to a rough elbow used during that game against the same Carmel player as an investigation ensued into the allegations.

Monahan said no evidence was found to confirm the Mahopac player used a racial slur, but he told the suspended player that he was still barred from all sports activities the rest of the year because of rough physical play.

While the administration told the player he was being suspended for rough play not representative of the school district, Sussman said Mahopac boys basketball coach Jim Harter never mentioned anything to the player during the game that is subject to the controversy and wasn’t even called for a flagrant foul.

Assigned to guard a taller, more athletic basketball player, Sussman said physical play could be expected to make up for the height differential.

“Was it a rough elbow thrown, I think it was,” Sussman said. “But that’s not the sort of thing normally that yields a suspension for the rest of the year for the rest of your high school career. I’ve been doing this kind of work for 30 plus years and I think it’s way excessive and as I said it is very vague.”

Sussman said he fears that last year’s incident, in which eight Mahopac students were suspended for sending out racist tweets during a Mahopac-Mount Vernon basketball game, resulted in his client’s suspension. Because of that past history only a year removed, Sussman believes Section I, the governing body of high school sports in the region, has applied pressure to the Mahopac athletic program.

“I think that he’s been made a scapegoat,” Sussman said. “I think it’s very unfortunate.”

Sussman said he did talk with the attorney for the district, Ralph DeMarco, in hopes of convincing him to reason with the school board, but instead, the board opted to “set a dangerous precedent” by supporting the administration.

“What it says is regardless of the rules, we may not have any rules, we’re still going to suspend you,” Sussman said. “You didn’t violate any rule but we have some general roving authority to suspend you, which is difficult.”

Sports Editor Ray Gallagher and Staff Reporter Janine Bowen contributed to this report.

Firing Back: Former Putnam Commissioner Sues County, Odell

Player Squashed by Board of Ed.

APPENDIX
When I was younger and forced by the lack of money to be a do-it-yourselfer around the house and in the garden, I dreamed of the day when I could employ others to do all that sweaty labor to maintain and upgrade everything that needed to be done.

That day came a long time ago, and I considered myself lucky that I had more time available to pursue other dreams.

But just last weekend, surprisingly, I found myself with a free Saturday for the first time in several years where I was caught up on all my assignments and just itching for something to do around the house. More than just itching, starving.

As it happens, my wife and I were in the process of furnishing a new room that was able to make use of a small Shaker-like style table, which was long overdue. We had decided to sand the table top, legs and drawer front with the stripper, let it do its thing for 15 minutes, then wiped it off with old rags. After sanding first with the medium grade Sandblaster, then the fine, I stained the wood with Minwax and let it dry for an hour. Then I simply applied the polyurethane and, after less than four hours, I found it was completely dry. With the fine Sandblaster, I rubbed down the imperfections, which did a pretty good job on all the flat surfaces. For the turns on the legs, I used fine steel wool.

The end product looked so good that I thought I could be ready for the finishing wax coat, but I realized that I had forgotten to buy Butcher's Wax. However, my favorite secret weapon around the house for repairing scratches also provides a wonderful final refinishing coat. That is Kiwi Shoe Polish. I thinned it with brown wax and applied it to the tabletop, legs and drawer front with a paintbrush. After it dried to a sheen, I brushed it with a teak oil and polished it with a soft cloth. The result was a beautiful new table, shiny and smooth with a wonderful final refinishing coat. That is wonderful final refinishing coat. That is wonderful final refinishing coat. That is wonderful final refinishing coat.
School & Camp Guide

Six Harvey Students from Putnam Earn Academic Honors

The Harvey School in Katonah has announced the names of the students who have earned academic honors for the first marking period of the winter term. Several area residents have been recognized for earning a 4.0 or higher (Cavalier Scholar), a 3.7 or higher (Headmaster’s List), or at least a 3.3 (Honor Roll). The Harvey School is a coeducational college-preparatory school for students in grades 6 through 12.

Julia Frisch, grade 11, Brewster, Cavalier Scholar
Jojo Greenwood, grade 10, Mahopac, Honor Roll
James Jackson, grade 9, Carmel, Headmaster’s List
Mark Siegel, grade 12, Mahopac, Honor Roll
Thomas Smith, grade 11, Brewster, Honor Roll
Pierce Steinberg, grade 9, Mahopac, Headmaster’s List

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The Putnam Examiner
February 17 - February 23, 2015

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A group of young children reached out recently to thank those responsible for removing all of the snow from town and county roads in Putnam. Youngsters registered in Camp Herrlich’s Before and After School programs chose to celebrate the ‘unsung heroes’ in area highway departments by creating special Plow Packs for the drivers.

The project came under the direction of Matthew Paterson Elementary School Site Director Beth Mahoskey, Camp Herrlich After School Program Site Director Doreen Smith, and Kent Elementary School Site Director Heather Duben. The Before and After School participants ranged in age from kindergarten through 8th grade and their families contributed to the undertaking by donating the items to be assembled in the Plow Packs.

"Each Plow Pack contained things like snacks, bottles of water, packs of tissues, hand warmers, and other items that we thought would help our highway department workers get through the long shifts ahead of them in a winter that is forecasted to be cold and snowy," said Mahoskey. "The students also wrote thank you notes that were included in the bags."

The children assembled 100 gift bags that were then delivered to the highway departments for the towns of Kent, Carmel, and Patterson, and Putnam County.

"All of our highway workers, whether the county team or the crews in our towns, were well deserving of the thoughtful thank you gifts from the children," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. "These drivers have a huge task in front of them each time they go out in a storm. How nice that they’ll have some extra goodies on hand as they plow us out."

"The bright blue bags were received with gratitude and students enjoyed giving back to the people who help keep us safe on the roads," said Camp Herrlich Program Director Jessica Vanacoro, LMSW. "Many thanks to everyone who contributed!"
Happenings

Register Now:
10 Day Weight Loss Challenge: Take a 10 Day Vacation From Processed Foods. This program is certified Organic, Vegan, it is a Non-GMO Super Transformation. Expect to: Lose 5-20 lbs Guaranteed, Lose Inches, Reset Your Metabolism, Eat Healthy & Be Healthy. Must register by Feb 28, WLC begins March 9. For more information call: Diane 914-843-8745.

Join us for the Third Annual “A Full House for Opportunity” Charity Poker Classic presented by Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association. The tournament will be held Saturday, March 21st at the HVCPA building on 15 Mt. Ebo Road, Brewster. Two $10,000 W SOP 2015 Main Event Seats in Las Vegas will be awarded! We are an official satellite location for the W SOP. All net proceeds to benefit the Opportunity League Park – all ages, all abilities, one community. $250 donation, Register online at http://www.hvcpa.org/sites/poker and for more info: 845-878-9078 x 4115

Vendors Needed for Indoor Community Tag Sale on May 16th. Do a little Spring cleaning and reserve a spot to sell your items. Patterson Recreation Center. 65 Front Street. Patterson, 845-878-7200

Ongoing:
Tuesday’s:
Certified Application Counselor from Open Door will be available to answer questions and make appointments for consumers to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Brewster Public Library. Walk-ins are welcome, but to schedule an appointment, please call 914-502-1478 or email insurancerecovery@ odfmc.org. For more information about either of these services, call the Brewster Public Library at 845-279-6421

Wednesday’s:
In-Stitches Knitting Club at Reed Library (845-225-2439). Wednesday mornings 10:30 a.m. to noon and Thursday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Beginners and experienced knitters and crocheters are welcomed in this fun and friendly group.

Thursday’s:
Foreclosure Counseling will be offered by Putnam County Housing Corporation (PCHC), 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. If you’re facing foreclosure, PCHC may be able to help. PCHC, a HUD-certified Housing Agency, offers free confidential counseling to assist you in negotiating with your mortgage company. Brewster Public Library, Walk-ins are welcome, or call 845-225-8493 ext.201 to schedule time.

Reed Memorial Library presents, Beginning Yoga and Crafts for children ages 3 - 5, Thursdays 10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Feb. 5-March 5th. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat or large towel if you have one. Call to Register 845-225-2439

Sunday’s:
Winter Farm Market
This season, the Winter Market will be open every Sunday until May 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Winter Market footprint will be located in the lower level of the HVCPA building (15 Mt. Ebo Road South, and we are proud and excited to showcase vendors including: Vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, jams, bread and baked goods (gluten free too!), eggs, mushrooms, food artisans and specialty items from local growers and producers.

Cancer Support:
Cancer Support Available: Support Connection, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that provides free, confidential support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, offers a wide range of free support groups women with breast and ovarian cancer. Groups focus on topics pertaining to living with cancer through all stages of diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment. They are offered in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess, and by toll-free teleconference. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Save the Date:
Saturday, March 7
Basketball Shootout Please join us in shooting baskets at Carmel High School. Just get pledges from your friends and family and shoot for charity. It only takes 10 minutes to shoot baskets. Come any time between 9 a.m. and noon. https://www.crowdfire.com/2015BasketballShootout

No. Westchester / Putnam St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Eastbound on Route 6, Mahopac. Step Off Time: 2 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15
17th Annual Hudson Valley Food & Wine Experience. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Benefiting the Putnam/Northern Westchester. Women’s Resource Center

Friday, March 20
Mahopac Knights of Columbus presents: The Chiclettes. New York’s premier girl group performing hits from the 60’s to today. Putnam County Golf Course. 187 Hill Street Mahopac, NY. Doors open at 7 p.m. / Show at 8 p.m. $37 per person pre-order / $40 at the door

Hot buffet included / Cash Bar For tickets and information call Mike at 914-837-2368 or Tom at 914-329-3099. Proceeds benefit Knights Scholarship fund and community charities

Tuesday, February 17
Putnam CITC’s VetCorps Project’s VA Information Session: 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Carmel VA Outpatient Clinic located at 1875 Route 6, Provident Bank, (2nd Floor) Carmel. Registration is not required. Walk-ins are welcome BUT spaces are limited. To register or for questions, please contact VetCorps Prevention Coordinator, Chauntel Wright, at 845-225-4646 or at putnamvetcorp@gmail.com. Do not miss out on this opportunity to receive help and care that you and/or your family deserves.

Thursday, February 19
Playing Songs for Hope” Kathleen Kruz & Friends Benefit Concert for Ann’s Place. Kathleen Kruze, along with Steve Clarke on bass, James Moss on percussion, Adam Cyr on sax and special guest, Joe Carter, Brazilian jazz guitarist, will perform together. (snow date of Feb. 26) in a benefit concert for Ann’s Place, “Playing Songs for Hope.” The concert will be held 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Ann’s Place, 80 Saw Mill Road, Danbury. $20 per person includes the concert, dessert, and coffee. Visit www.annsplace.org to purchase your tickets today.

Friday, February 20
Photographs by Pal GYOMAI & Paintings by Erica Hauser: Digital artist and photographer Pal GYOMAI moved to the United States in 1983 from his native Hungary. He has resided in Putnam County for the past 31 years. A self-taught photographer, GYOMAI expresses his artistic visions by combining ‘straight’ photography with the endless possibilities of Adobe Photoshop.

Opening Reception – Meet the Artists, Friday, February 20, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Additional Studio Hours: noon – 2 p.m., Saturday, February 21, Saturday, February 28, Sunday, March 1. Studio Around the Corner, 67 Main Street, Suite 101. Brewster. 845-365-8330.

Dialed To The Cities: New York City, Los Angeles, Miami, Phoenix, Chicago, and Texas, by Putnam County Housing Corporation. For more information, call Putnamvetcorp@gmail.com. Do not miss out on this opportunity to receive help and care that you and/or your family deserves.

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Putnam Valley senior G Ryan Basso scores the 1,000th point of his three-year varsity career in the Tigers’ 54-34 opening-round win over visiting Valhalla in the Section 1 Class B tournament where Basso’s family members (inset) were on hand to witness his becoming the first male in PV history to hit the milestone. Basso joined Kristi Dini and Christine Kemp as the only 1,000-point scorers in school history... see Boys’ Hoops Notebook.