

FREE! TAKE ONE WITH YOU!



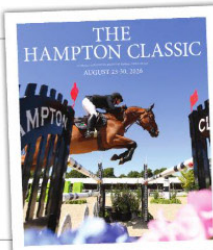
REPEAT:

The Writers once again defeat the Artists in 78th annual charity softball game. **A15**



WISE WOMEN:

The Neo-Political Cowgirls revisit 'Hamlet' through the eyes of the witches. **B1**



JUMPING IN:

Looking ahead to a big week of show jumping action. **INSIDE**

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Winner, Winner!

The Amagansett Fire Department Chicken Barbecue was held on Sunday. Firefighters volunteered their time to make for an enjoyable afternoon. The Ladies Auxiliary was on-hand to help, as well.

KYRIL BROMLEY

MONTAUK ART SHOW MARRED BY WEEKEND THEFTS

Police investigating five cases of stolen art

BY JACK MOTZ

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East Hampton Town Police are pursuing five larceny cases after a handful of pieces of artwork valued in the thousands of dollars were stolen from the Montauk Art Show, which was taking place on the green over the weekend.

The thefts, which were said to have occurred between the evening of August 13 and the morning of August 15, mark the second year in a row in which hardship has befallen the artists who put their works on display. Last year, a drunk driver plowed through the tents, causing thousands of dollars in damages.

"The paintings are unique, one of a kind — they're irreplaceable," Montauk Artists Association Vice President Donna Corvi said.

A total of 14 works, including paintings and photography, were stolen from six artists who had their works on the green. Corvi did not yet want to disclose the exact value of the pieces, but did allow that the number would classify the crimes as a class D felony.

See **ART**, Page A12

COMMUNITY CENTER, ONE YEAR LATER

Montauk Playhouse celebrates a thriving space for activities

BY HOPE HAMILTON

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Nearly a year ago to the day, on August 15, 2025, the Montauk Playhouse hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the years-in-the-making community center, featuring the Sarah and Maurice Iudicone Aquatic Center and the multi-use Cultural Center.

The historic building, which was first acquired by the Town of East Hampton in 1999 and saved from demolition, has housed

the Montauk Community Center Foundation since 2006. The foundation, according to the Playhouse website, "was founded with a mission to save the historic Montauk Playhouse and transform it into a vibrant home for arts, education, athletics and human services."

For the following two decades after purchase, the main goal had been raising money to build a community center based on the needs and wants of Montauk residents, by employing

See **PLAYHOUSE**, Page A8



A standing ovation for Hamptons JazzFest at the Playhouse.

COURTESY ELLEN DIOGUARDI

Mixed Feelings On Parking at Springs Library

BY JACK MOTZ

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Residents of Springs are split over the plan to construct a parking lot behind the hamlet's library, with some arguing that the lot would be a fix to the perennial parking problems in the "Heart of Springs" and others sounding the alarm over stormwater runoff into adjacent wetlands.

See **PARKING**, Page A9



The Montauk Playhouse from above.

JACKIE CAMERON

PLAYHOUSE: *One Year After Opening, Nonprofit Looks at a Promising Future*

FROM PAGE A1

fundraisers such as the wildly successful annual Ocean Swim Challenge (est. 2008).

Now that the doors are officially open, the staff of the Montauk Playhouse are excitedly looking toward the future of the organization and what it can provide.

Jennifer Carney Iacono, President of the MPCCE, spoke in a recent interview about the success of the past year and all the events to look forward to.

"It has been an incredibly busy year, with a lot of work behind the scenes for both centers," Carney Iacono said. "The end of 2025 into 2026 was very much focused on Imagine Swimming getting open — once that was done, the board simultaneously pivoted our mission."

Their new mission being, of course, to operate the space.

"We spent the spring getting ready for the Cultural Center," Carney Iacono explained. "We set up our business model" — a blended revenue stream with income from rentals, programming, donations and grants — "and figured out what works best."

By the fall, Carney Iacono said, they'll be fully off and running with enhanced programming.

What is now the multi-use Cultural Center was originally planned to be a fixed-seat theater, similar to Sag Harbor's Bay Street Theater or East Hampton's Guild Hall. However, plans changed over time as that started to make less sense from a community perspective.

From years of surveys from Montauk residents about the types of events they'd want to see at the Playhouse, it's clear that they are craving variety, Carney Iacono said.

"Theater and cultural arts broadly writ — from performance, to music, to art installation — is still part of what Montauk wants," she said. "But they don't want just one thing; they want multiple programming pillars."

These four pillars, according to Carney Iacono, are art, performance, wellness and education.

Performing and visual arts is already being well-explored at the Playhouse. The Cultural Center launched the summer season with two sold out musical performances: a cello performance by Ani Kalayjian in the atrium, presented by Music for Montauk, and a performance by the Conrad Herwig Quintet in the main hall, presented by the Hamptons Jazz Festival.

In terms of wellness, Carney-Iacono said aside from the events that go on in the aquatic center, which include swim lessons, lap swimming, family swim and aqua aerobics classes, programming might include winter-friendly options such as pilates and tournament-type activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**AUGUST 22
7 P.M.**

A Special Evening with
Nancy Atlas & Inda Eaton

**AUGUST 27
5 P.M.**

The Montauk Supreme
Table Tennis Tournament

**SEPTEMBER 19
8 A.M. TO 6 P.M.**

Speedcubing at the
Playhouse Rubik's Cube /
mechanical puzzle
competition

**OCTOBER 10
DETAILS TBA**

The Long Island Comedy
Festival's First Annual
Montauk Comedy Festival

For more information and to
purchase tickets to any events,
visit montaukplayhouse.org.

"We have a table tennis tournament, for example, coming up in September," Carney Iacono said.

Education is perhaps the biggest and most versatile programming pillar, as it engages so deeply with the community and its diverse needs.

"In June, we had Columbia Business School approach us and say they would like to hold a leadership program here for a week, which they did," Carney Iacono said. "It was one of our very first uses of the space while East Hampton Town finished working in the Cultural Center, and certainly not the last."

Carney Iacono said the Playhouse is in talks with a nonprofit fisherman safety organization, The Fishing Project, to contract next spring for enhanced water safety programming for local fishermen.

Recently, a local community board started using the Playhouse as their monthly meeting room, because their members are all over the place.

In the Aquatic Center, kids from several local organizations including Project Most, Pathfinder Day Camp, and the Montauk and Amagansett Schools came in for swimming lessons.

"Montauk has become kind of a global thing — people want to be able to connect in a lot of different ways," Carney Iacono said. "We try to complement and support all of the different people and audiences that might use the space. Above all, we want to extend the experience in Montauk for year-round service to its residents, not just for the summertime."

Twomey Latham

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