

Port Washington Times



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Lightning sparks blaze in Port

78 firefighters responded to call in the midst of last week's storm

BY JESSICA PARKS

The Port Washington Fire Department extinguished a house fire in the midst of the lightning storm last Wednesday night.

Lightning struck 11 Birchdale Lane and ignited a fire in the home's basement, as determined by an investigation by the Nassau County fire marshal's office.

The fire was contained to the basement and the rear portion of the first floor and was brought under control within an hour, said Chris Bollerman, public information officer of the Port Washington Fire Department.

There were no injuries to civilians or any of the 78 Port Washington volunteer firefighters who responded to the 9:05 p.m. alarm.

Firefighters operated under the supervision of Port Washington Fire Chief Thomas Golden during the height of Wednesday's storm, Bollerman said.

He said firefighters had to cut into the cement basement ceiling and the last unit returned from service at 12:36 a.m.

The Port Washington Fire Department was provided mutual aid by the Roslyn Fire Department, Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department and Albertson Fire Department.

The department received 13 calls between 7 p.m. and midnight of which eight were fire calls and five were for emergency medical services. Bollerman said the Port Washington Fire Department handled all but the two fire calls that came in after the Birchdale Lane fire, which was the department's 11th call.

"The men and women of the Port Washington volunteer fire department performed wonderfully under adverse weather conditions, saving the home of one of Port Washington's residents," Bollerman said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PORT SUMMER SHOW

Luca Bombardiere as Gabey and Sarabeth Schiff as Ivy in a classic ballet pose for Port Summer Show's production of "On the Town."

Port Summer Show presents 'On the Town'

BY JESSICA PARKS

Port Summer Show returns for its 46th year with a production of "On the Town," a musical centered around three

sailors finding love on a brief 24-hour leave in New York City.

Port Washington students from grades 7 to 12 bring the production to life as members of the cast, crew and about 80 percent of the orchestra. They

are guided by professional directors and choreographers.

Jason Summers serves as the director and is celebrating 16 years with the program this summer.

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Port Summer Show presents 'On the Town'



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSE VINCENT

Port Summer Show returns with a production of "On the Town."

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He is the artistic director of Westchester's Sandbox Theatre and has worked as a director, choreographer, teacher and performer throughout New York and the greater metropolitan region.

"On the Town," which features a musical score by Leonard Bernstein, was chosen as the production because of the strong musical talent recognized in this year's cast.

Students participating in the show

typically stay involved until they graduate from high school and some even come back to help out in the summers during college.

This year Schreiber High School graduate Emma Goldman returned from

her first year of college to serve as the assistant director of the show. She is one of the many students who participate in Port Summer Show after continuing to pursue theater in college.

Port Summer Show began in 1972 when Port resident Kathe O'Connor wanted to do something about the lack of creative activities during the summers in Port Washington. She happened to voice her sentiment to Pam Meadows, a professional director and performer, who repeated it to her husband, Ron Meadows, a successful producer.

And just like that, Port Summer Show kicked off its first season with a production of "Anything Goes" at the John Philip Sousa Bandshell.

Last year's performance was "Curtains," and other past productions were "All Shook Up," "Sweet Charity" and "Shrek."

This year's performances are Aug. 1-3 at 7:30 p.m. at Schreiber High School's auditorium with a Sunday matinee on Aug. 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for children 12 and under.

Veterans and their spouses are invited to attend Saturday night's performance for free, with the ticket cost underwritten by the Peter and Jeri Dejana Family Foundation. A special "Armed Forces Medley" will be performed to honor members of the armed forces in attendance, who will also be presented with commemorative pins.

Ticket proceeds will be used to fund future Port Summer Show productions.

G.N. fashion entrepreneur dies

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said. From there, he rose to vice president of sales, then president in 1969, and became an owner.

"When he had something to say, he definitely knew how to hold a microphone," Bill Spitalnick said.

Palm Beach Inc., which by that point owned Evan-Picone, ousted Spitalnick "for cause." Spitalnick told Women's Wear Daily at the time that there was "a

dispute," but the decision for him to leave was a mutual one.

Spitalnick & Co. began in 1983, with Cynthia Steffe recruited to design the brand. The first collection, according to Women's Wear Daily, "took a dramatic step away from the gray flannel suit and prim bow-tie blouse" prevalent at Evan-Picone in favor of sleeker and more colorful looks.

He then founded the sportswear col-

lection Juliana around 1994, Bill Spitalnick said, as the retail environment became more driven by accounting than receptive buyers, which in turn led to greater stress on vendors.

This involved using connections and bringing clothing collections into people's homes as a show, he said, a "very risky endeavor" that required a "tremendous amount of sampling" and inventory.

"When he recognized that challenge,

he went into a completely different business," Bill Spitalnick said. "He opened a business that sold women's clothing directly to the consumer."

In addition to founding fashion ventures, Spitalnick also helped two synagogues in their beginnings.

"It's good to recognize that my dad was one of the original founding members of the Great Neck Synagogue, he was a leader in the community, and he also helped the Westhampton synagogue, which required a lot of help," Bill Spitalnick said.

But while Irving Spitalnick took on many ventures, Bill Spitalnick said his father "never missed a meal." He also fondly recalled trips to the warehouses growing up, seeing the Knicks ("even in the tough years," he noted), and how people would stop by their home in the afternoon for a bite after golf or tennis.

Spitalnick retired in 2008 after selling the business so he could help his wife, Ruth, who suffered from a stroke, Bill Spitalnick said.

In addition to his son, Spitalnick is survived by his wife; two other sons, Arthur and Robert; a daughter, Bonnie; 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Roslyn scandal heads to Toronto

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was far from entertaining," the Oct. 3 letter said. "A former superintendent and several accomplices conspired to steal approximately \$11.2 million meant for our children's education. The scandal shook our community

deeply."

The full cast includes Ray Abruzzo, Peter Appel, Annaleigh Ashford, Rafael Casal ("Blindspotting"), Catherine Curtin, Hari Dhillon, Stephanie Kurtzuba, Kathrine Narducci, Jeremy Shamos, Stephen Spinella, Jimmy Tatro, Welker

White and Alex Wolff ("Hereditary").

Makowsky, Fred Berger ("La La Land"), Brian Kavanaugh-Jones, Eddie Vaisman, Julia Lebedev and Oren Moverman co-produced "Bad Education." Cory Finley ("Thoroughbreds") directed it.

Eye on Port

'ON THE TOWN'

Port Summer Show presents "On the Town," a musical centered around three sailors looking for love, throughout the weekend at the Schreiber High School auditorium. Shows are Aug. 1-3 at 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee on Aug. 4 at 2 p.m.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOE DEMARINO AND LINDA NUTTER



From left: Port Summer Show's Lori Lee, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 1819 member Jerry Tedeschi, VFW Commander John Fiore, American Legion Post 509 member and Dejana Family Foundation Grant Administrator Jim Avena, American Legion member Jeremy Devine and Port Summer Show's Sam DeMartino.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBIE GRECO COHEN