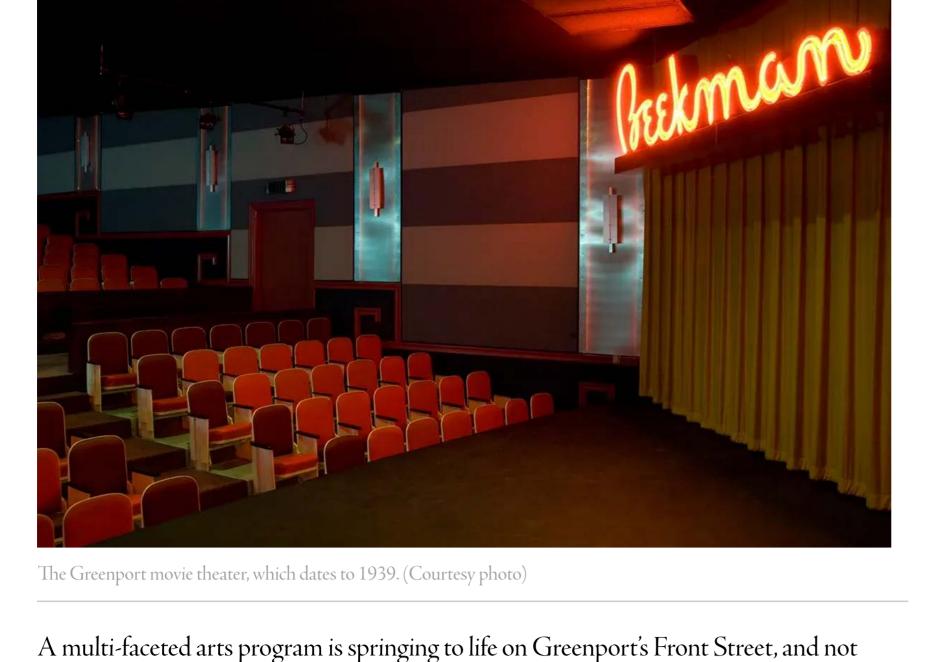


**09.19.2023 FEATURED STORY** 

## Across the Moat: Movies and more as North Fork Arts comes alive at Greenport Theater By Susan Carey Dempsey



coincidentally, it marks the latest rebirth of the storied theater that has endured on that

spot for decades. It is now the home of the North Fork Arts Center, bringing together programs to encourage the artistic bent of children, senior citizens, new arrivals to the North Fork and those whose families have sustained life in these communities for generations.

Infused with the energy of a hands-on board of directors, the Center has been created as a nonprofit, giving a home to programs that started as concepts and are now about to flourish. The driving force for the group is Tony Spiridakis, who's had a successful career in filmmaking. His commitment to bring the Center into being persuaded the theater's

owner, Josh Sapan, that the time was right to donate the theater that will be its home.

Mr. Sapan, a Shelter Island resident, has led AMC Networks for decades, recently stepping down to pursue other passions. One of them is captured in a book he published, "The Third Act," exploring how people — famous and not so — followed

soul and capability of Tony Spiridakis is a wonderful next act for it," Mr. Sapan said. His donation of the theater is the linchpin that has allowed the group to anchor these programs in the North Fork Arts Center,

occupations, avocations or volunteer work.

"Seeing the theater become the North Fork

Arts Center led by someone with the spirit,

their careers by embarking on new

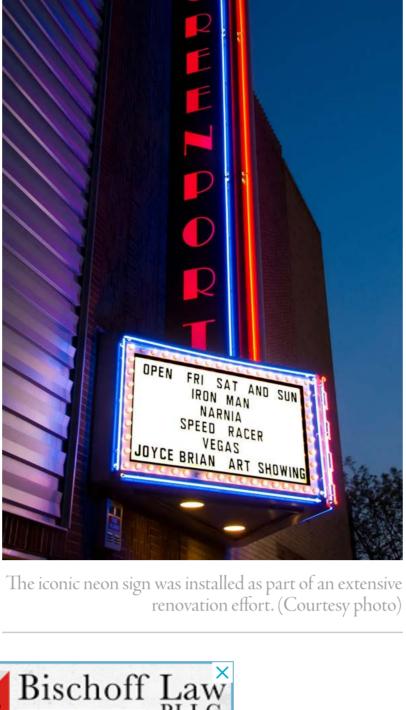
giving it the critical mass to have an impact on the surrounding communities. I help people navigate the law.

I would love

to have the

opportunity to

guide you too.





Teeny Awards for their performances. This will be a new step, bringing the students together to take advantage of "a creative clubhouse," he said. The Center has reached out to John Kaasik, who's directed school musicals for several years at the Shelter Island School, to begin to discuss their plans. "It's nice to see more theater coming to the East End," Mr. Kaasik said. The Center will seek to be not only a resource that will span the different cultures throughout the community, but inter-generational as well. Mr. Spiridakis has shared his

of board members to offer guidance in auditioning, voice, scene study and more. Each of

the schools has its own drama program, and they compete against each other for the local

citizens write their own life stories as if they would be captured on film. He visited the theater recently with a group of board members to discuss the launch of the Arts Center with the Reporter. Board member Paul Henry spoke of the many people who have had successful careers, finding a way to give back to the community through the new arts program. He will share his own background in puppeteering as well as a course

in animation, for youths age 16 and under in the summer months. "It's a win-win," he

own expertise as a volunteer working with residents of Peconic Landing, helping senior

said. Seeing these efforts come to fruition is "exhilarating," said Phyllis Ehrlich, another board member who's an author, editor, producer, and former senior executive at The Walt Disney Company, Turner Broadcasting and Time Warner. Joel Ehrlich, a former actor and senior executive at Marvel Films, who co-chairs the

advisory board, said they had received an enthusiastic response from people willing to

There is a full roster of programming planned for the upstairs theater, which has 300

North Fork community didn't just speak, it roared," Mr. Henry said.

share their expertise, from law, publishing, entertainment and other creative fields. "The

Quinn to do standup comedy, and Chazz Palminteri to share his experiences in movie making. "We'll pull more in," he said, "to share their passions." It will also offer a home to the Brooklyn Ballet, for a three-week spring residency where they can develop their choreography.

seats. Mr. Spiridakis plans to draw upon his network of show business contacts, like Colin

life plan community. **PECONIC** LANDING

Experience resort-style living at New York's only equity-based

Call (631) 557-6696 to schedule a visit



chosen in coordination with the local community.

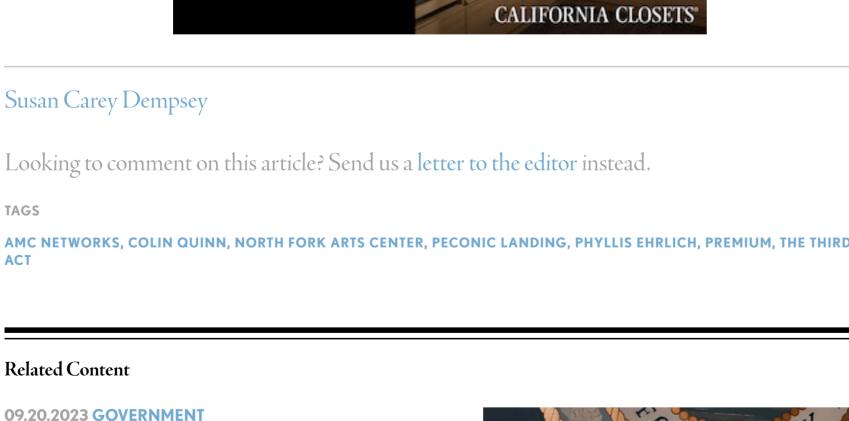
then, so did the North Fork Arts Center not so long ago.

MAKE ROOM FOR ALL OF YOU

families throughout the community have joined their support to the effort, contributing to a \$1 million fundraising campaign. "We plan to have a Founders Wall to honor all the people who have contributed," said Mr. Spiridakis. So far, there are 600 of them, in all size donations. Eventually, coming full circle, the Greenport Theater is expected to show first-run films once more, by the summer of 2024. It may seem like an ambitious goal right now, but

"The local businesses are very happy," he said. Not only businesses, but individuals and

**BOOK NOW** 

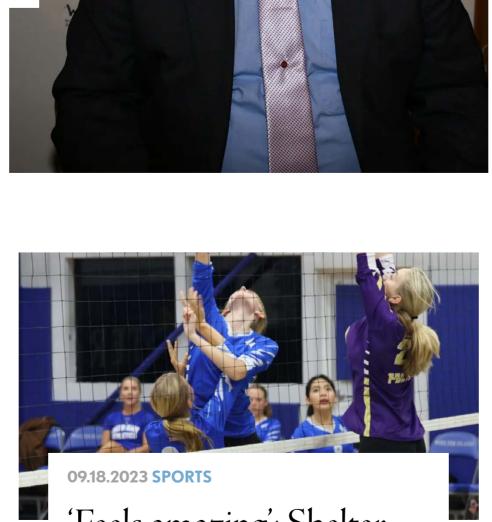


Supervisor proposes \$15.76 million 2024 budget: Promises sharp cuts will be identified ■

**TAGS** 

**Related Content** 

At a special meeting Tuesday afternoon, Supervisor Gerry Siller presented his budget proposal for 2024 that currently totals \$15.759...



**PECONIC** LANDING 'Feels amazing': Shelter Island volleyballers notch first league win of season Setting and striving for goals is an important part of athletics. When the Shelter Island varsity volleyball team brainstormed... **09.18.2023 AROUND THE ISLAND 09.17.2023 AROUND THE ISLAND** 

Mattituck, NY 11952

Celebrating Hank Williams at

the Shelter Island Library

Shelter Island **SECTIONS** A publication of Times Review

News

Police

E-paper

Subscribe

Shelter Island preps projects for

**09.19.2023 AROUND THE ISLAND** 

wheels

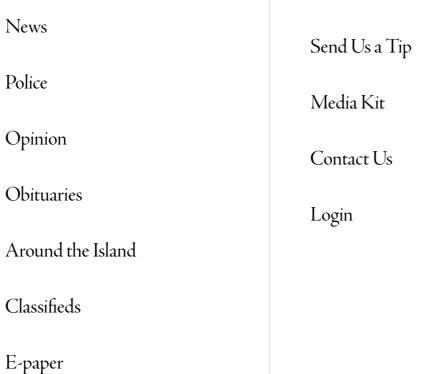
**09.18.2023 GOVERNMENT** 

FEMA aid

Shelter Island joy on

© 2022 Times Review Media Group. All Rights Reserved.

Media Group



Write the Editor

New tour launched by the

Society: Every Monday from

Shelter Island Historical

**History Center** 



Bischoff Law PLLC

Joan H. Bischoff

I help people

navigate the law.

Real Estate • Business

Elder Law • DWI

Call (631) 948-0234

MAKE ROOM FOR ALL OF YOU Get started today with a complimentary design consultation. **BOOK NOW** MAKE ROOM FOR ALL OF YOU complimentary design consultation. **BOOK NOW CALIFORNIA** 

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS®



MAKE ROOM FOR ALL OF YOU



TERMS OF USE PRIVACY POLICY ACCESSIBILITY

0

**SUBMIT** 

Site made in collaboration with CMYK