

Competition

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

CompetitionAuto.com

Long Island Road Trips

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INFINITI

MERCEDES-BENZ

SPRINTER

SUBARU

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877.752.7327
599 Middle Country Rd.
Saint James, NY 11780
COMPETITIONBMW.COM



631.361.4636
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Long Island Road Trip: Choose Your Own Adventure

A road trip can present its own set of challenges and opportunities, so we did the planning for you!

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Blue is one of the easiest colors to customize because of its versatility. It can shift towards gray or green and can be shaded lighter or darker.

Publisher's Letter

It's easy to find reasons to get out and explore Long Island. Fall is the perfect time to hop into one of our remarkable vehicles and discover all of the things that make this island so great.

I try to seize every opportunity I can to take a drive, whether to work or on a getaway weekend out east.

In this issue we will share our adventures across Long Island in one of each of our four makes of vehicles. Our road trip stories are the definition of making work fun!

I had the great pleasure of piloting the spectacular Mercedes-Benz AMG GT Roadster through the North Fork vineyards, the village of Greenport, and to Shelter Island.

My wife and I enjoyed a scrumptious dinner at the North Fork Table & Inn and a top-down drive into the sunset on our way back home, a day that we will not soon forget.

My colleagues shared their road trip adventures through the George Washington Spy Trail in a BMW; the Subaru adventure took them to Long Island's best spots to visit with four-legged friends; and our INFINITI QX80 adventure wound through Southampton to Montauk Point.

I learned about some great new Long Island locations to enjoy for my next road trip.

In addition, this issue of Competition Magazine includes stories about our customers, our community, our pets, the Competition family, and of course, our cars!

We believe you'll enjoy this issue and we are so glad to include you.

Warm Regards,
Jeff Rubin, Director of Operations





THE HISTORY OF COMPETITION AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

HOW ONE MAN'S COMPETITIVE SPIRIT BUILT A FAMILY AUTOMOTIVE EMPIRE

Joe Buzzetta is the founder of the Competition Auto Group, Long Island's leading family-owned and operated dealership group, which includes Competition BMW of Smithtown, Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown, Sprinter, Competition Subaru, Mercedes-Benz of Huntington and Competition INFINITI.

A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

Joe's spirit of competition comes from a long and successful career of championship sports car racing that began in the 1950s while he was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, serving our country in the U.S. Army.

His racing career spanned from 1958 to 1969, where he had a very visible presence on racetracks in Europe and

the U.S., when professional sports car racing was reaching its zenith.

His reputation as a serious, competitive driver led Porsche to offer Joe the coveted position as their first American factory driver. And he delivered, steering Porsche to the pinnacle of race car dominance from 1965 to 1969.

In 1967, Buzzetta experienced the most exciting moment of his career, when he crossed the finish line in first place at Nürburgring, Germany's most prestigious sports car race.

The Nürburgring is an extremely demanding track that requires full concentration. After 1,000 kilometers (more than 600 miles) of racing through the twisting track, including 176 turns per lap, Buzzetta gave Porsche their first overall win in more

than a decade, all the sweeter because the race was on their home turf.

But Buzzetta was not only a championship race car driver; he also proved to be an astute businessman.

IN THE BEGINNING: THE BELLA VISTA

In 1956, Buzzetta's father, John, opened Bella Vista, a restaurant in Centerport on the north shore of Long Island. The restaurant was located at the intersection of roads frequented by a burgeoning group of sports car club members who would travel to eastern Long Island for weekend rallies. They began congregating in the parking lot, regaling each other with their auto adventures, and then stayed to enjoy a meal.



Joe had recently returned from his stint in the Army and was working at the restaurant as a bartender.

Oscar Rubio, a frequent patron at the Bella Vista, was a well-known hot-rod mechanic who owned a repair shop in Smithtown called Competition Engineering. Rubio and Joe became friends and decided to go into business together.

Though Joe's father was upset that his son was leaving the restaurant business, he lent his son the money to finance his dream.

THE FIRST DEALERSHIP

Joe had a great mind for business and knew that in order to be successful, they needed to sell more than mechanical services, so they began to buy and sell used cars. Joe had a connection with Max Hoffman, a well-known importer and distributor of luxury European automobiles, who offered Joe an opportunity to open a Porsche/BMW dealership in Smithtown. They also struck a deal with Datsun.

In 1970 Mercedes-Benz approached Joe about opening a dealership with the caveat that a new 8,000-square foot building be constructed on Jericho Turnpike in Smithtown. He also had to agree to give up the Porsche dealership in the deal.

In the late 80s, Oscar and Joe parted ways, with Joe left to operate the dealerships, which were flourishing.

THE FAMILY

Joe and his wife Valerie, raised three children, Joe Jr., Jim and Nancy, in St. James.

"My parents had a work ethic that was ingrained in us, says Nancy.

"There were no Euro rail tours for us. They wanted us to see how the business worked."

As a teenager, Joe Jr. began working at almost every job to learn the automotive business from the ground up, including the parts and service departments.

He moved into a sales position at Competition INFINITI, then was promoted to sales manager and then named General Manager at INFINITI.

In 2001 Joe left INFINITI to be the General Manager at Competition BMW, where he now oversees both Competition BMW and Competition INFINITI.

Joe's expertise was pivotal in acquiring many of the dealership properties that comprise the Competition Auto Group, which have allowed them to expand and become a dominating force in the Smithtown automobile corridor.

Nancy became a Certified Public Accountant after graduating from the University of Vermont, and at the behest of her father, returned to Long Island in 1993. Working in the accounting department, Nancy got a bird's-eye view of how a car dealership operates, saying, "All roads go through accounting."

Nancy oversees the operations at Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown, Sprinter and Competition Subaru.

Nancy possesses a skill set that is unique to anyone on Long Island. She is an expert in high horsepower luxury cars, as well as an accomplished equestrian who enjoys training young horses and rescues.

Jim earned a finance degree from college and worked in investment and commercial banking for several years before joining the family business.

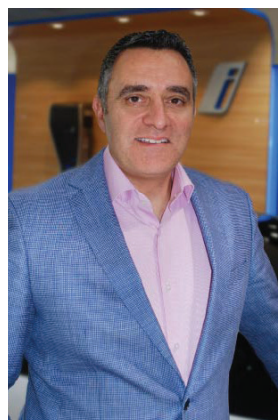
For the past 25 years, Jim has been instrumental in the growth of the group and today oversees Mercedes-Benz of Huntington. He is proud of the fact that the company has become a successful multi-generational business run by the Buzzetta family and includes his 26-year old son, James Buzzetta, Jr., who has been working at the dealerships for 10 years.

"Joe, Nancy and I have a deep respect for our father and for each other. We all pull our own weight in the business and get along really well."

"It's pretty remarkable to have all the siblings actively involved in a family venture, working toward a common goal," Jim says.

With a successful career built on making split-second decisions behind the wheel, Joe Sr.'s instincts made him a man who runs his own race.

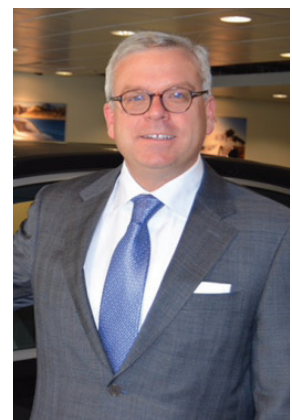
Joe Buzzetta is in competition with no one.



Joe Buzzetta Jr.



Nancy Buzzetta



Jim Buzzetta





NEW TECHNOLOGY THROUGHOUT THE STORE

Multiple Charging Stations

...

18 Service Bays

...

State-of-the-Art Hunter
Revolution Tire Changer



VISIT THE *NEW* COMPETITION SUBARU TODAY!

36,000 Square Feet

...

The Largest Inventory on Long Island

...

Eco-Friendly & Pet Friendly

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CompetitionSubaru.com

COMPETITION BMW PROUDLY SUPPORTS

THE GUIDE DOG FOUNDATION OF SMITHTOWN



How your donation can help The Guide Dog Foundation of Smithtown

\$25

Provides water dishes,
a leash and a collar

\$50

Feeds one dog for
two months

\$75

Provides a year's supply
of heart-worm preventative

\$100

Goes towards a specially
designed harness

\$250

Provides vaccinations
and vet exams

\$500

Goes towards travel costs
for incoming students

Learn more about The Guide Dog Foundation of Smithtown and their mission at GuideDog.org

GUIDE DOG FOUNDATION

INSIDE EVERY SERVICE DOG BEATS THE HEART OF THEIR PUPPY RAISER

The mission of the Guide Dog Foundation of Smithtown is simple—to provide guide dogs and training, free of charge, to people who are blind or visually impaired.

The training process can take up to two years to complete, but almost half of the dogs don't make the cut, mainly due to a temperament that's too high-strung or too calm, or for health reasons like hip problems or poor eyesight.

The ones that do graduate and become guide dogs significantly improve the quality of life for people who are blind, have low vision or other special needs.

The cost of breeding, raising, training and then pairing them with the right person is over \$50,000, but volunteer puppy raisers who have been properly trained, can make a tremendous difference in the outcomes for their puppy student.

Every donation raised makes a difference in helping to provide care for the dogs during their training and to advance the foundation's mission in the local community.

The foundation needs volunteers to answer phones, walk dogs and give tours, and most importantly, they need puppy raisers.

"We are grateful for the support we receive from Competition BMW. Funding is vital to continue our mission and comes from individual donors, community fundraising, sponsorships and events that we do, many in partnership with Competition BMW,"



Guide Dog Puppy Seeking a Puppy Raiser

says Jaime McGrade, Community Fundraising Events Manager of the Guide Dog Foundation.

Because of the Competition BMW guide dog events, some clients have volunteered to become trained as puppy raisers.

Puppy raisers take the puppy in at about 8 weeks old. They socialize the puppy, teach basic obedience and care for them until they are about 14 to 18 months old.

It's the job of the puppy raiser to take the puppy with them everywhere they go so they become comfortable in every situation. The more the puppy is socialized, the less training they will need later on.

After they are between 14 and 18 months old, they are returned to the

organization to begin their certified training program and then are matched with a blind person, creating a team that will give them greater independence and create a bond that makes ordinary moments extraordinary.

Often the person paired with the dog is so grateful for the gift, they make sure to keep puppy raisers updated on the positive ways their work has changed their world.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering for the foundation, visit GuideDog.org.



THE 2019 INFINITI QX50 MAKES CROSSOVER *HISTORY*

Engine

4 Cylinder Turbo
2.0 Liter

Horsepower

268 @
5600

Torque

280 @
4400 RPM



*“The inspiration for the **INFINITI** brand has been to create cars for people, not just make machines.”*

-KARIM HABIB-

EXECUTIVE DESIGN DIRECTOR FOR INFINITI

Fuel Economy

City 24/Highway 31
Combined 27 MPG

Transmission

Automatic
XTronic CVT

Wheels

19" aluminum-alloy
All-season run-flat tires



INFINITI FACTS

Competition INFINITI is one of the **top three** producing dealerships in the United States.

The INFINITI badge is designed with two lines that lead to a horizon, as the brand aspires to new horizons in the automotive industry. It also represents traveling the open road towards INFINITI.

INFINITI VC-TURBO

THE WORLD'S FIRST PRODUCTION-READY VARIABLE COMPRESSION RATIO ENGINE

The VC-Turbo is one of the most advanced internal combustion engines ever created.

It is an inspired fusion of two worlds and combines the power of a high-performance 2.0 liter gas engine with the torque and efficiency of an advanced diesel powertrain.

The VC-Turbo engine from INFINITI responds to the car's driving conditions and continuously adapts.

Transforming on demand from 8:1 for high performance to 14:1 for high efficiency.

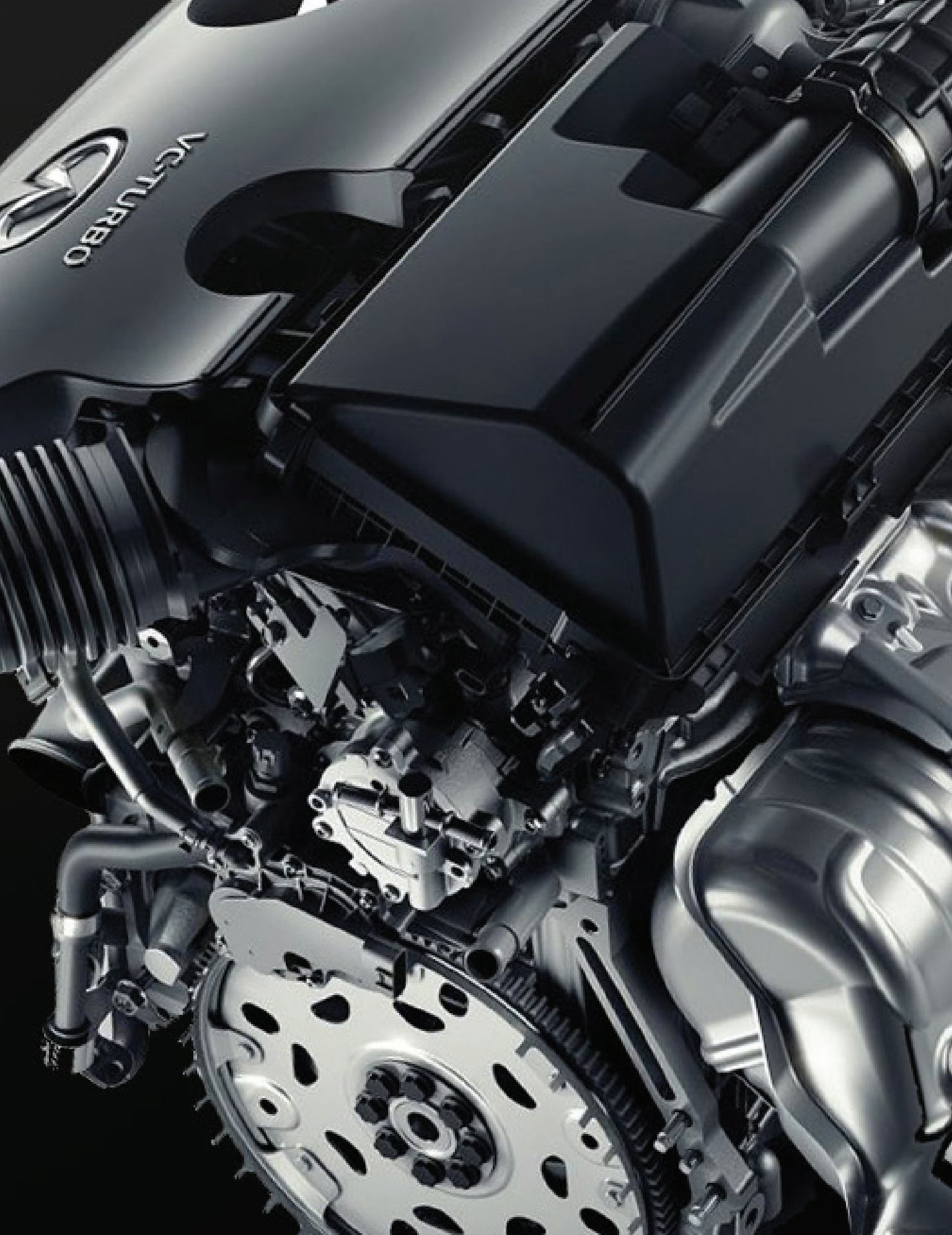
Performance when you need it, ultimate efficiency when you don't.

A New Breed of Engine features lower fuel consumption, increased efficiency and higher output than comparable non-VC engines.



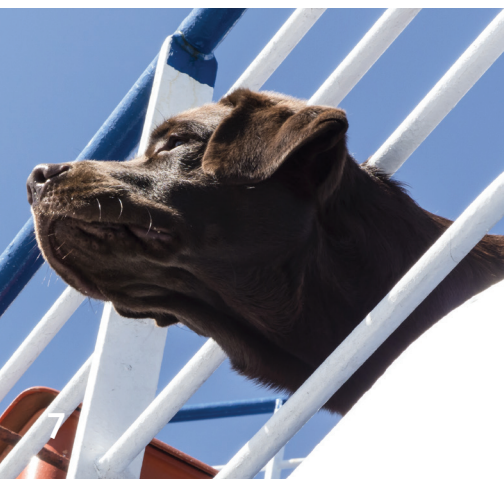
VC-TURBO STATS

4 Cylinders	288 lb/ft Max. Torque
8:1-14:1 Compression Ratio	Weights 137 kg
Turbo Charged Intake	300+ & Counting Patents
268 hp Max. Power	20 Years in Development



PAW PATROL

PET-FRIENDLY PLACES ON LONG ISLAND



There are plenty of places on Long Island that welcome and cater to canines, including the Competition Auto Group. We've compiled a list of dog-friendly destinations that are perfect for you and your pup.*

According to Nancy Hassel, President and Founder of American Pet Professionals, a Long Island-based organization that unites all pet professions: "Dog 'parents' expect to be able to bring their dogs with them on outings, leashed and well behaved of course! Many local businesses are rolling out the red carpet for pets, and there are experts available to help non-pet businesses become pet-friendly." AmericanPetProfessionals.com

1. VINEYARDS

Baiting Hollow Farm Vineyard
Bedell Cellars
Croteaux Vineyards
Duck Walk Vineyards
Harmony Vineyards
Macari Vineyards
Martha Clara Vineyards
Osprey Dominion Vineyards
Palmer Vineyards
Shinn Estate Vineyards
Whisper Vineyards

2. BREWERIES

Blue Point Brewing
Destination Unknown Beer Co.
Great South Bay Brewery
Greenport Harbor Brewing Co.
Jamesport Farm Brewery
Long Ireland Beer Company
Oyster Bay Brewing Company
Port Jeff Brewing Company
Saint James Brewery
Sand City Brewing Co.

3. RESTAURANTS*

Applebee's
Bahama Breeze Island Grille
Country House
eatMOSAIC
Johnny Rockets
Outback Steakhouse
Pentimento
Tim's Shipwreck Diner

4. FAST FOOD

Bonappetito Pizzeria Ristorante
The Clay Oven
Roger's Frigate
Shake Shack
Sweet 'n' Savory

5. HOTELS

The Blue Inn at North Fork
The Garden City Hotel
The Inn at Fox Hollow
The Maidstone
Oheka Castle
Residence Inn by Marriott LI
Viana Hotel & Spa

6. PARKS

Avalon Park & Preserve
Belmont Lake State Park
Blydenburgh County Park
Camp Hero State Park
Cathedral Pines County Park
Cedar Point County Park
Coindre Hall/West Neck Farm
Cow Harbor Park
Dix Hills Park
Edgewood Oak Plains Preserve
Fire Island National Seashore
Gardiner County Park
Heckscher State Park
Hither Hills State Park
Jerome Ambro Preserve
Makamah Nature Preserve
Phragmites Park
Prosser Pines County Park
Setauket-Pt. Jeff. Sta. Greenway
Southards Pond Park
Southaven County Park
Sunken Meadow State Park
Twin Ponds Park
West Hills County Park

7. BOATS/FERRIES

Blue Crush Charters
Bridgeport & Port Jefferson Ferry
Hamptons Boat Rental
Orient Point Ferry

8. PET EVENTS

Barking Brunch at The Refuge
LI-Dog Pack Walks
DogFest Long Island
Dog Cruise on the Capt. Lou
LI Ducks Bark in the Park

9. NATIONAL RETAIL STORES

Abercrombie & Fitch
Ann Taylor
Anthropologie
Apple
Barnes & Noble
Bath & Body Works
Bebe
Bloomingdale's
Costco
Foot Locker
Free People
Gap
Hobby Lobby
The Home Depot
Lowe's
LUSH
Macy's
Marshalls
Michaels
Nordstrom
Old Navy
Pottery Barn
Restoration Hardware
Saks Fifth Avenue
Sephora
Tiffany & Co.
TJ Maxx
Urban Outfitters

**Many chain stores and restaurants (including ones on this list) leave it up to the manager to decide whether their individual locations allow dogs or not. The best way to ensure that you can bring your pooch inside is to call ahead and ask.*

RIDING HIGH

The 2019 BMW X5 xDrive 50i



All-Wheel Drive

0-60 MPH
4.6 seconds

Gas Mileage

Combined: 19,
City/Highway: 17/22

Horsepower

456 HP @
5250-6000 RPM

Transmission

8-speed STEPTRONIC
Automatic with Sport
and Manual Shift Modes

Engine

4.4-liter TwinPower
Turbo V-8

Torque

479 Lb-Ft @
1500-4750 RPM

Top Speed

155 MPH

Towing Capacity

6,603 Lbs

The X5 was the first SUV released by BMW to bear a BMW badge. Now in its fourth generation the 2019 X5 xDrive 50i has new design features and some nifty improvements.

The 2019 X5 xDrive 50i is longer, wider and taller, thanks to its first-ever factory available 22-inch wheels. The X5 xDrive 50i also is available with a new suite of infotainment and driver assistance technology.

Confidence never detours. The leader. The style maker.
The benchmark. *The 2019 BMW X5 xDrive 50i.*

GENIUS. (jēnyəs, noun)

THE ABILITY TO REDUCE THE COMPLICATED TO THE SIMPLE



"We're here to make sure your experience at Competition BMW is relaxed and non-stressful. We will answer all of your questions and try to make your driving experience as fulfilling as possible."

Jorge Urrea-Vallejo
Competition BMW
BMW Genius

If you're not sure how to operate a feature on your BMW or want to expand your knowledge from basic to tech-savvy, Competition BMW Geniuses are available to guide you through the latest engineering improvements and digital innovations.

BMW Geniuses are specially-trained product experts who can help familiarize you with all aspects of your BMW, before, during and after your purchase.

Whether it's something as simple as how to pair your phone to your vehicle or more intricate, like getting real-time traffic reports to make your commute a little less stressful, our BMW Genius team can show you how to do it, or do it for you.

"We are your first line of communication," says Jorge Urrea-Vallejo, Competition BMW Genius.

When you first meet with a Competition BMW Genius, you will likely be asked about your lifestyle and driving habits.

"It's almost like a needs assessment," Jorge says. "We want you to relax and enjoy yourself with no sales pressure. Geniuses don't sell cars, we welcome customers so they have an easy, more fun time in the showroom."

Using the latest IT tools, a Genius can give you a virtual look of the BMW you have in mind, then they can help you visually customize the vehicle and then locate it for you.

"We'll go through the different vehicle models and options to help you find the car that best suits you," says Jorge.

After narrowing down your search, a Competition BMW Genius will recommend that you take a test drive.

"Think of us as your co-pilot when you take a test drive," Jorge says.

When you're ready to take delivery of your new BMW, a Genius will be your point of contact.

"We are happy to meet you wherever it's convenient for you," Jorge says.

"We facilitate the delivery of your BMW, and review all aspects of the vehicle. And, if you still have questions afterwards, we can schedule an Encore Delivery where we will re-examine your vehicle's features and go over any questions you have."

"We are at your service. The better you know your BMW, the more you can fully experience and enjoy the benefits of owning the Ultimate Driving Machine."



Mercedes-Benz of Huntington

At Mercedes-Benz of Huntington, we understand the importance of community involvement. It helps our community prosper, our local businesses grow, and it gives us the opportunity to meet many wonderful people who live in our area.

Jim Buzzetta, Vice President of Competition Automotive Group dedicates an extraordinary amount of his time to our community. He sits on several boards and volunteers for many non-profit organizations. Jim and the entire Mercedes-Benz of Huntington family are dedicated to the community—donating gifts for raffle prizes, supporting local businesses, and sponsoring events.

We are thankful for your continued loyalty to our business and look forward to building lasting relationships in the years to come!



PRODUCT CONCIERGE SPECIALIST

speSH(ə)ləst/ HIGHLY SKILLED IN A SPECIFIC FIELD



"I am lucky that I get to interact with a lot of nice people who are excited about their new car and are really happy to work with me."

Connie Lamberson
Mercedes-Benz of Huntington
Product Concierge

Mercedes-Benz of Huntington is committed to providing an amazing experience for their clients throughout the entire car buying process.

A crucial component is the Mercedes-Benz product concierge, who is typically the last person the customer interacts with at the close of the sale.

Mercedes-Benz product concierge specialists are required to attend an intense training program so they have a full understanding of all the features that each vehicle offers.

Connie Lamberson was a sales advisor for Mercedes-Benz of Huntington when she was asked by management to join the product concierge team in January 2018.

"They wanted me to be the last person the client dealt with," she says. "I think it's my soothing Texas accent."

Since there are so many technological innovations and intelligent features in Mercedes-Benz vehicles, patience is key.

"We like to give the same attention to detail explaining this new technology to our clients as the Mercedes-Benz engineers gave to designing the cars," she says.

Connie helps set up services on the vehicle, along with anything else that might be required or needed at the time of delivery.

In fact, there might be more than one way to operate a feature, so Connie makes it a point to demonstrate how those options work as well.

"My job is to ensure that the client has a positive experience with their new vehicle, and I enjoy every minute of it."

She reveals the most common question she's asked is how to program the garage door opener.

"Sometimes clients might have more questions because of the complexity of some of the features, so I will arrange to meet with them for a second delivery," she says.

If a customer is in need of additional assistance, Connie can access a variety of resources to answer any questions a client might have.

"It is my job to provide the best experience I can to our clients. I love giving them the confidence and a sense of security in how to operate their Mercedes-Benz efficiently," she says.

For Connie, her position as a product concierge is a perfect fit.

"I am lucky that I get to interact with a lot of nice people who are excited about their new car and are really happy to work with me."

Proud to Support Our Military Heroes



From Left: Russell & Artemis (Veteran & Service Dog), Mercedes/Subaru Rep, Cassandra (Paws of War, Dir. of Community Relations), Mercedes/Subaru Rep, Joe & Riley (Veteran & Service Dog), Christopher McNamara (Air Force Veteran & Paws of War supporter), Allen & Millie (Veteran & Service Dog).



SPONSORED BY



Mercedes-Benz
of Smithtown



SUBARU
Competition Subaru of Smithtown

PAWS OF WAR

HELPING VETS & SAVING PETS

On this day, Robert Misseri, President of Smithtown-based non-profit Paws of War, got a little more than he bargained for as the Paws of War headquarters and training facility was bustling with activity.

Eleven black lab puppies had arrived from Louisiana the day before. The identical pups, all about 20 weeks old, were rescued from a southern dog pound at the 11th hour from certain death.

Through a volunteer Paws of War network, Misseri set up transportation to deliver the puppies to Long Island, and was busy making arrangements with local foster families for the dogs to be evaluated and cared for.

If the pup is selected as a Paws of War adoption candidate, he or she will be trained to be a psychiatric service dog, a therapy considered to be a new frontier in treating PTSD, by training dogs to perform task-oriented commands, and as an important by-product, provide emotional support to the veteran dog owner.

"We don't know if these particular puppies are purebred, as we are limited when it's a rescue, but this was a unique find. These puppies were going to be put down. Many shelters in the south get puppies like this all the time, and they euthanize them," Misseri says.

Misseri couldn't let that happen. "These puppies represent purpose and hope to many Long Island veterans."

"The key is to match the dog with a veteran."

"Each dog is given a numbered collar that coincides with their personality.



Lionel Bauman, Veteran and volunteer with Mr. Wrinkles, Paws of War service dog.

Some dogs don't want to be around other dogs, so we know what veteran is going to work best with that particular dog. We look at which one has the lowest energy, and the highest energy.

Some of them might not make it as a service dog at all," he says.

Misseri has seven approved applicants, all local Long Island veterans, waiting for a young dog. If the other four puppies are not selected, they will go to a general adoption.

Most veterans are referred to Paws of War by their personal physician, from the Veterans Administration, or other veteran agencies or organizations.

"Typically, service dogs were used to help guide the blind, the deaf or people with significant immobility problems. These dogs provide psychiatric help for veterans with PTSD. They will be trained to calm them down and do other tasks, like remind them to take

medication, or wake them up from night tremors. They also assist veterans with balance issues resulting from Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)," says Misseri.

The need for these service dogs is evident just by looking at the statistics.

Long Island has the largest concentration of veterans in the state of New York and is home to the Northport Veterans Hospital, one of the largest medical facilities in the country.



Between 11-to-20 percent of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), according to the US Department of Veteran Affairs. They also report that on average, 22 US veterans commit suicide each day.

PTSD is an invisible injury to a human, but it is not invisible to a dog. As a person's heart rate and breathing increases, the body produces adrenaline. A dog who is trained to recognize these symptoms will react to them, sometimes even before the veteran is aware of what is happening.

Trained service dogs can help them recognize the symptoms, often before they have even begun. Having a trained dog is a way for them to get a better handle on their problem and manage post-trauma life.

Even something as mundane as going to the movies can be terrifying for someone with PTSD.

The dark, crowded theatre where only whispering is allowed could be a deal breaker for a veteran, who would rather stay home than venture out into the unknown.

While the puppies played in the training area, a Paws of War veteran named Russell, and his service dog,

Veterans with dogs showed significantly lower levels of PTSD, including depression, nightmares and social anxiety, along with a higher level of emotional well-being.

Artemis, stopped in to say hello to Robert. Russell told Robert that he had recently attended a Jones Beach concert and during the concert began to have a panic attack. He said Artemis sensed his distress and sprang into action leading Joe through the crowd, out of the venue to a waiting ambulance.

The dogs can provide a sense of space and security, can soothe a panicking vet and provide a reason to get out of the house—even if only for a walk.

Some doctors view the dogs as a complement to conventional therapy.

Paws of War has a list of veterans waiting for a service dog. Not everyone wants a puppy, many prefer an older dog.

Before taking over the reins at Paws of War, Misseri, who has a background in animal rescue, was bringing dogs back from Afghanistan and Iraq to reunite them with their veteran owners.

“When we placed our first dog with a veteran, he could not leave the house without the dog and the dog wasn’t properly trained.

We started training the dog so he could take the veteran to public places. The veteran admitted to us that he was about to take his life and that the dog saved him.”

“These veterans have suffered a great deal and many of them have chronic pain from injuries they sustained while in service. Many were given a significant amount of pain pills and now are trying to cope without them and are going into depression because of the pain,” Misseri says.

Recently, Misseri reunited a veteran, Army Spc. Zack McIntyre with his dog, Mimi, who was left in Afghanistan when he returned to the US.

When once many of the veterans would isolate themselves, they are now going to dog parks, meeting up with other veterans and their dogs and socializing.

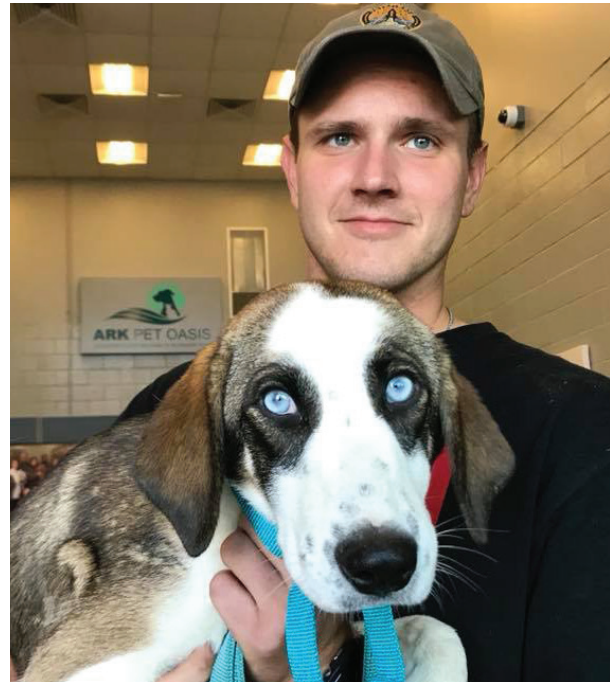
Part of the Paws of War vetting process is to check out the veteran’s social media profile. Misseri says that most were not on social media, but not long after they got their dog, they were posting pictures and creating pages with their dog’s name.



John Wallace, Veteran, Robert Misseri, President, Paws of War, Lee Kirschenheiter, volunteer.



Army Spc. Zack McIntyre waiting to be reunited with his dog Mimi, at JFK Airport.



Zack with Mimi.

"We've seen significant reductions in medications, depression, suicide, and an increase in family life and employment. We have veterans that were unemployed for 4 or 5 years and a year into having a dog, they are working," Misseri says proudly.

There is more to this organization than matching dogs to veterans. Another is fostering, an integral part of the training process.

Successful foster families have experience training dogs and are not required to be a veteran. There is other criteria that is required, depending on the dog and the circumstance.

"It really depends on each individual case," Misseri says. "We do some of our testing around kids, other dogs and cats. Sometimes we want that, sometimes we don't."

The organization is also in need of volunteers who have a passion and love for animals and people.

"We need people to help us at the medical treatment facilities and public access places to monitor the progress

of how the veteran is working on a daily routine with their dog. We need volunteers who can interact with other people and know how to ask the right questions and can gather data from the hospital training. It's a great opportunity to work with veterans from the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan."

With all of these challenges, Misseri says the biggest one is making sure there is enough money to keep the operation running smoothly.

"We have veteran's applications pending for more dogs. We can get the dogs, but it boils down to finances. We are the grunts, we don't have a fundraising person on staff, so we rely on our donors reaching out to us and corporate sponsorships to keep us going. We rely on our volunteers too, so it's not easy," he says.

Misseri is very grateful to Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown for hosting a fundraiser

for Paws of War, raising more than \$6,000 for the organization, which will be used toward veterinary care, food, training and care for the service dogs.

It costs about \$20,000 per dog to train, so there is a continual need for funding. Misseri is pleased that his organization has placed over 70 dogs with veterans, but there is always more to do.

"There is constant follow up. It's 'mandatory without consequence' that the dogs are brought back for training once a week."

"They want to come and they actually look forward to it, because they get to see other veterans in the program and it gets them out of the house," Misseri says.

"They are doing things that they would not normally do, and Paws of War is really having a positive impact on their lives."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
DONATING, VOLUNTEERING
AND FOSTERING, GO TO
PAWSOFWAR.ORG**

MERCEDES MAN

MICHAEL CONTILLO

*"Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz /
My friends all drive Porsches, I must make amends /
Worked hard all my lifetime, no help from my friends /
So Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz."*

~Janis Joplin

Michael Contillo of Old Westbury is a top client of Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown, with the purchase of a staggering 56 Mercedes-Benz vehicles from that dealership.

"Fifty-six cars! I finally know how many it is," Contillo says, smiling.

Contillo, founder and CEO of Liberty Mechanical Contractors, one of the nation's leading sources of plumbing for mechanical installation, consultation, maintenance and fabrication services, was born in the Fordham section of the South Bronx. After he graduated from Mount St. Michael High School, he planned on studying law at Iona College, but those plans changed.

"I took a job as a plumber's helper. I was making 90 cents an hour, and I never looked back. I realized I could make money as a union plumber," he says.

In 1968, Contillo and his business partner, Joseph Deglomini, founded De-Con Mechanical Contracting which grew into Liberty Mechanical, now employing over 500 Local One plumbers.

"Now, Liberty is my smaller business," he explains. "Whatever money I made in the plumbing business I invested in commercial real estate, and together with the Simone family, we now own about 6,000,000 square feet of commercial space."

The Best or Nothing

Contillo's car of choice was a Cadillac diesel, but the gas shortage in the 70s resulted in such long lines that it finally took a toll on his good nature and made him explore other vehicle options.

Contillo was living in Dix Hills at the time and went to Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown because the dealership was close to his home.

"I bought my first Mercedes there in 1980 and I've been buying there ever since," he says. "All of our business is done over the phone."

For almost 40 years, Contillo has driven the top-of-the-line S Class AMG and GLS.

A true Mercedes-Benz aficionado, Contillo does not compromise when it comes to his family and what they drive.

"I make it mandatory that my daughters have to drive a Benz. Why? Safety. There's nothing better than a German car," he says.

Contillo even had Rich Coviello, general sales manager at Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown, purchase a Mercedes from a California dealer for his daughter who lives on the west coast.

Luxury Knows Its Place

"I drive a lot. I like to drive. All of my cars are used every single day," he says.



Right now, there are six Mercedes-Benz, two Porsches and a Rolls Royce parked on the driveway of Contillo's palatial home.

"I like new cars. There are no old cars here. I lease for two or three years, then I get the same car every time. An S-Class, black with blacked out wheels," he says.

"I've been doing business with Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown for 38 years, and for me, it's all about Rich Coviello and Bob Vella in the service department," Contillo says.

His loyalty to Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown runs deep. Contillo says he has a good friend who owns a Mercedes-Benz dealership, but he will only do business with Smithtown.



"There's another dealer five minutes from here, but I don't buy from them either," he says. "The price of the car is basically the same, but I stayed with Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown all of these years because of their customer service. They are just wonderful. There is no reason for me to go somewhere else."

"It all comes down to sales and service. I don't want to go to the dealership, so to have somebody like Rich, who puts up with me and my ideas, and of course, Bob Vella—it's a wonderful system," he says.

When a new car is delivered, Coviello brings Matt McMahon, Mercedes-Benz Product Specialist, to explain the car's features.

"Matt is wonderful," Contillo says. "He goes through all of the car's features with my wife and daughters."

Unlike Any Other

Contillo is a bit of a Renaissance man, too. His beautiful home is influenced by Palazzo architecture inspired by the Italian Renaissance.

His tough exterior belies the fact that he has a penchant for cats. He's been studying martial arts for 35 years, earned a 4th degree Black Belt and is also a golfer.

As for modern technology, Contillo prefers to do business the old-fashioned way.

"I talk to people. I don't send emails or texts. I have no need to," he says.

Contillo says he is a voracious reader who never misses an issue of the *Wall Street Journal*, and enjoys periodicals and historical books.

"I don't watch a lot of television, except for *Fox News*," he says.

When he's not reading, he likes to garden. The potted plants and flowers dotting the landscape at his home were all planted by Contillo.

He is well-versed in cuisine, too.

"I eat out every night of the year, except for Thanksgiving," he says.

Contillo has his Mercedes GL 450 at the ready in anticipation of inclement weather.

"I have the GL winterized in case of a snowstorm so I can drive to dinner," he says.

He has a few favorite restaurants, especially Limani in Roslyn, and for the best Italian food, his top picks are Franina Ristorante in Syosset and 388 in Roslyn.

Kiss My "S"

As far as operating his companies, Contillo has no plans to slow down.

"I like business, and I like what I do. I drive into the Bronx every day. We own properties in the city, plus I stop in to my plumbing business."

Contillo has his succession plan laid out and says his daughter, a Wharton graduate who is an attorney with an MBA in real estate finance development, will take care of the family business in the future.

In the meantime, retirement is out of the question.

"Retirement doesn't exist in this life. We own a home in Palm Beach and go there from time to time, but I like making money and being in the game. I don't collect art, I collect money. I know plumbing and real estate."

Contillo also knows Mercedes-Benz cars numbers 57 and 58 will be arriving on his driveway very soon and that they are only a phone call away.



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AT YOUR SERVICE

THE WEATHER FROM FALL TO WINTER CAN QUICKLY GO FROM *MILD* TO *WILD*

The change of seasons is a good time to inspect the exterior and interior of your vehicle carefully for any wear and tear that requires attention. Check with your Competition Auto Group Service Department for the recommended service for your particular vehicle.

Here are some tips to help you get your car ready for the changing seasons.

DETAILING

Detailing can help protect your vehicle from the salt and sand used during harsh northeast winter weather. Having your car detailed makes it easier to spot any potential problems like chips in the paint, which can lead to rust corrosion problems, before they become expensive to fix.

The interior can also benefit from preventative maintenance. Carpets that have ground in dirt and sand should be thoroughly cleaned and vinyl that has been untreated during the hot summer months should be treated to prevent cracking.

BRAKES & TIRES

Autumn leaves and winter frost are road hazards that require good stopping power from your brakes and tires.

Checking tire pressure (which can drop quickly when the weather cools) and treads to ensure they are fully inflated and free from punctures should be done weekly. Fall is also a good time to rotate your tires (where applicable.)

OIL & FILTER

If the oil is dirty or you're at your recommended oil change time, change the oil.

FLUIDS

Poor performance and/or engine noises usually indicate low fluid levels, which if ignored, can lead to major repairs. Be sure to check your engine oil, anti-freeze and coolant, transmission, brake and power steering fluids once a week. Many fluids need replacement flushes periodically.

BATTERY

Cold weather can wear your battery down. A fully-charged battery is a necessity during the winter. Check your battery connections once a month.

LIGHTS & WIPERS

If your windshield is not clear when using wipers, it's time to change them. Walk around your car and check headlights, tail lights, parking lights, brake lights and emergency flashers. Replace them immediately if needed.

DEFROSTERS

Driving with fogged-up windows is an accident waiting to happen. Check front and rear window defrosters to ensure they are working properly.



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN

Encouragement and Support
Help Children Reach Their
Full Potential

Missing Milestones

Every child has individual learning abilities, and it can be disconcerting when you sense your child is developing differently than his or her peers. You might notice your child is not reaching certain milestones when compared to an older sibling's development, or even when compared to other children of a similar age.

If there are concerns, it may be time to discuss them with your pediatrician, who will likely recommend that your child be evaluated.

A Unique Focus on Learning

Sometimes children's needs are better served in a more focused or non-traditional environment, where learning is combined with individual instruction, and activities are facilitated by trained faculty who are educated to recognize and understand each child's unique capabilities.

Through a solid foundation of learning while supporting their mental, physical, emotional and social development, Alternatives for Children encourages success through focused assessment and the creation and implementation of individual learning plans, with teachers and clinical specialists working together with each child to reinforce positive outcomes.

A History of Caring and Commitment to Children

"We have served well over 20,000 Long Island children during our 30-year tenure,"

says Dr. Marie Ficano, Executive Director of Alternatives for Children.

"We serve about 600 children a year across our sites and provide them with the programs and services they need."

Alternatives for Children began as a small therapy-based program at St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson in 1998. The program soon expanded and was known as St. Charles Educational and Therapeutic Center, which ultimately was renamed Alternatives for Children. There are four locations on Long Island, serving a diverse population of children and their families, in Aquebogue, East Setauket, Dix Hills and Southampton.

Ficano explains that the local school districts conduct an independent evaluation for children between the ages of three and five, and the results determine what, if any, services the child needs.

Since each child is different, some might require a half or full day of a program, while others may need individualized therapy. Certain children are medically frail and must be accompanied by a nurse, which necessitates additional therapies.

"We provide a whole spectrum of services," she says.

“

"Our programs have a great reputation. We are often the first choice for families and school districts."

-Dr. Marie Ficano, Executive Director



SMART & State-of-the-Art

All therapists are licensed by the State of New York, and the curriculum is approved by the New York State Education Department.

"Our programs have a great reputation," Ficano says. "We are often the first choice for families and school districts."

Alternatives for Children is equipped with superior technological provisions, from cutting edge computer labs and tablets to SMART boards in every classroom. In the listening center, Alternatives for Children provides interactive lessons where children are able to wear earphones to hear stories.

"We have all kinds of adaptive and modified equipment for children who have difficulty hearing or seeing, and pointers for those who don't have the dexterity to point themselves," she explains.

A Sensory Room for children on the autism spectrum has specialized applications geared toward their needs.

"It's very soothing in here. We play soft music, some of the equipment lights up and they have to stretch to reach the light in physical therapy, so it's not so regimented. It's one-on-one in this room," Ficano explains.

The center offers a Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy gym, vision, speech and music therapy, and a technology center with a dedicated specialist who ensures that each child's iPad is individually programmed.

There are also centers focused on science, literacy, reading, math and technology.

An outdoor play area is located on one side of the building with an adaptive playground. On the other side is a beautiful Memory Garden in honor of children who have passed. Ficano says it's a special place for families and faculty to reflect and remember these children.

Daycare for Typically-Developing Peers

Alternatives for Children also provides traditional day care for children as young as six weeks-old.

According to Ficano, in a typical situation, these children will move into an integrated class when they are three years-old, as their goal is to have 50/50 integration of special needs and typically-developing peers in the class. All children learn sharing, taking turns and self help skills.

"Each child has an individual education plan, and we tailor that plan to the school. Our goal is to move the child across that continuum in the least restrictive environment and be integrated into their public school. We have many success stories with the data to back it up," she says.

Commitment from the Community

Support from their board of directors plays a huge role in the success of Alternatives for Children. Chairman of the Board, Frederic Mendelsohn, MD, is board-certified in Neurorehabilitation and Neuroimaging, and was formerly affiliated with St. Charles Hospital. Peter Lessing of Lessings, Inc., a family-owned catering juggernaut, is one of the newer board members.

Jim Buzzetta, Vice President of the Competition Auto Group, who oversees their Mercedes-Benz of Huntington dealership, joined the Board of Trustees in 2005. Jim, who volunteers his time on several boards, has been the driving force for their fundraising efforts, especially the hugely successful annual Alternatives for Children Classics and Sports Car Rally.

"Being involved helping AFC has really been an honor. It's a big organization with a lot of complexity. Dr. Ficano and the staff are so dedicated and hardworking—it's an inspiration."

Ficano says there is still much to do to make their budget. "We went six years without any increase in funding from



“

"Being involved helping AFC has really been an honor. It's a big organization with a lot of complexity. Dr. Ficano and the staff are so dedicated and hardworking, it's an inspiration."

-Jim Buzzetta, Board Member, Chairman of the Alternatives for Children Classics and Sports Car Rally

the state. It was really hard, but like other non-profits, we are being asked to do more with less. That's why these fundraisers are so important."

Buzzetta concurs with Dr. Ficano and adds, "We rely on the government to set our rates and fund us in a timely fashion, and we are highly regulated as a school that aids disabled children. There always needs to be a balance between taking care of the kids and following our mission, while staying financially healthy long-term."

"It's fascinating and really challenges my business knowledge. I am happy to share my experience with the board and help navigate the health and future of the school. It's very fulfilling, and at AFC you truly believe that you make a positive impact in the success of the school, and thus the children, Jim says."

Be the Best You Can Be

As Ficano walks through the halls of the center, she passed several staff members and faculty, all holding hands with a child and wearing a smile.

It is that type of environment that allows children and their families to walk into a haven of learning and love, secure in the knowledge that they will receive top-notch care and an education in an atmosphere that encourages them to do the very best they can.

AlternativesforChildren.org

TWIN AIR, INC.

SUPERIOR SERVICE WITH SPRINTER

Twin Air, Inc. provides residential and commercial HVAC service across Long Island.

Tom Lotito founded Twin Air in 1987, naming the company after his twin sons, Brian and Chris. The boys took over the business after Tom Sr. retired seven years ago.

"We're a small, family company, but are big on quality. That's why we drive Mercedes-Benz Sprinters," Brian says.

"The Sprinter was the only van with good gas mileage. We were getting 9 miles per gallon with our Fords and Chevys, but with Sprinter diesels, we're getting mileage in the 20s," he adds.

Twin Air now has a fleet of four Sprinter vans and is ordering a 2019 very soon.

Each Twin Air, Inc. Sprinter is immaculate inside and out.



Twin Air Inc. Sprinter



"We treat our customers' homes like we treat our Sprinter vans," Brian says proudly.



Brian and his Twin Air Inc. Sprinter

Brian gives many reasons why a Sprinter is different and more efficient than a van or pick-up truck:

Sprinters are easier to work out of, it's like night and day from a van or truck.

Jamie Lynn Ryan

When you provide high-quality work, you want to drive a high-quality vehicle.

My customers love what I drive and are proud that we own Mercedes-Benz vehicles. It's cool.

When it comes to reliability and carrying capacity, the Sprinter is a clear winner.

We customize our Sprinter vans with chrome wheels and grill pieces to really dress them up.

Brian customizes the interior with shelving from R.W. Shelving that suit his needs perfectly.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

LONG ISLAND ROAD TRIP

A road trip can present its own set of challenges and opportunities, so we did the planning for you!

We've created an itinerary of four fun-filled routes for you to
Choose Your Own Adventure!

35 

Adventure #1

North Fork Trail to Greenport

43 

Adventure #3

Hamptons to Montauk

39 

Adventure #2

The George Washington Spy Trail

47 

Adventure #4

Long Island Parks

For your safety and peace of mind, make sure your vehicle is in top condition before hitting the road. Check out our service specials on page 26 for preventative road trip maintenance tips, and always make sure to have the proper tools to change a flat and check your spare tire.

We've also included some apparel and gear you might need for each adventure, all sourced from Competition Auto Group's lifestyle boutiques.

We suggest dressing in layers on a road trip, no matter the weather. Spare some trunk space for a cooler filled with water and snacks, a blanket and an umbrella, and you'll be ready for anything!



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[NORTH FORK, NY]



CUTCHOQUE DINER

For those who prefer old-school diner fare, the vintage Cutchogue Diner is a community landmark housed inside a retro Kullman Dining Car, ca 1941.

27850 Main Rd. Cutchogue

BEDELL CELLARS

Bedell is committed to small batch winemaking, both red and white. Their wines were selected to be served at the 2013 US Presidential Inauguration.

36225 NY 25 Cutchogue

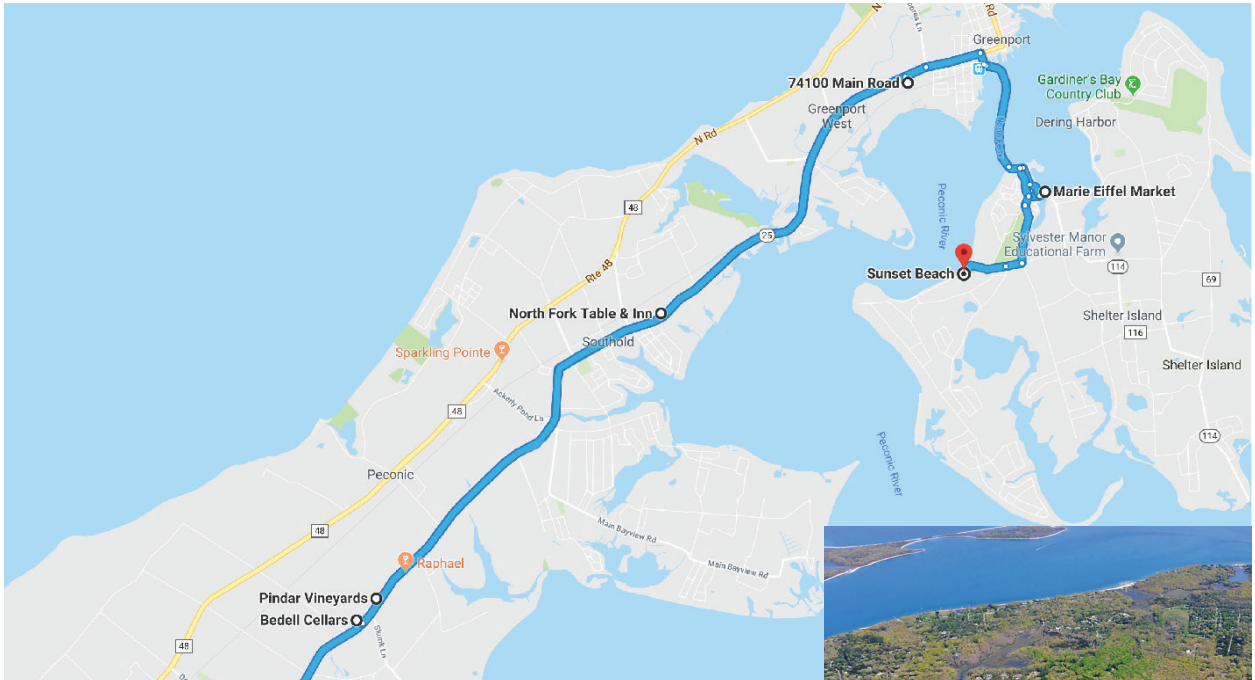


NORTH FORK TABLE & INN

Stop for lunch, or if you're in a hurry, the North Fork Food Truck serves local and seasonal fare. *Mercedes-Benz AMG-GT.*

57225 Main Rd. Southold





VILLAGE OF GREENPORT

A bustling waterfront town with lots to see and do. Don't miss Lido, a unique boutique with one-of-a-kind treasures from around the world. Or, visit WM. J Mills & Co., America's oldest sailmaker.

132 Main St. Greenport

JESS OWEN CAROUSEL HOUSE

This 1920s vintage carousel is located in Mitchell Park.

74100 Main Rd. Greenport



SHELTER ISLAND

Take a seven-minute ferry ride from Greenport and get lost on the country roads dotted with picture-perfect Victorian architecture.

MARIE EIFFEL MARKET

Organic market and cafe that serves French-inspired cuisine, produce and groceries.

184 N. Ferry Rd. Shelter Island





PINDAR VINEYARDS

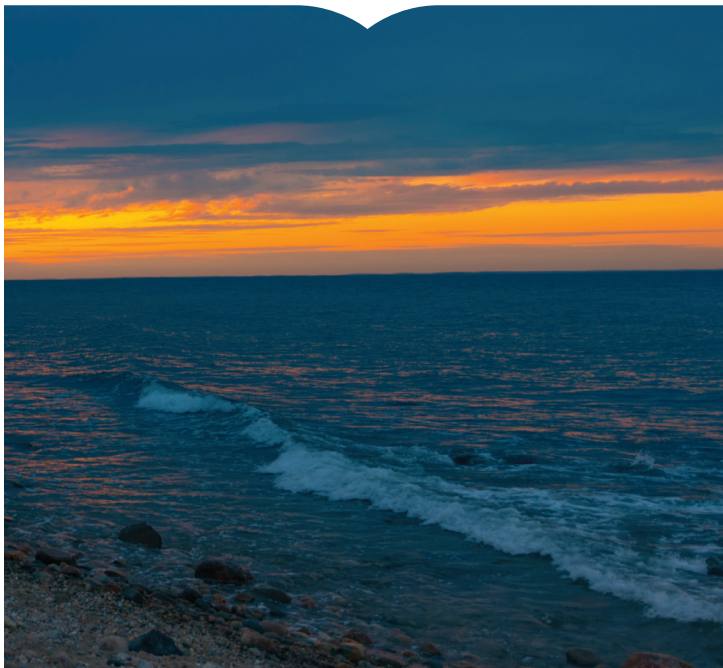
Situated on more than 500 scenic acres, Pindar is Long Island's largest vineyard, and produces 70,000 cases of wine a year.

Mercedes-Benz AMG-GT.

37645 Main Rd. Peconic

SUNSET BEACH

Head over in late afternoon for a front row seat to a gorgeous sunset.



Mercedes-Benz Classic Shopper

This durable shopper bag is versatile and timelessly fashionable with a large, zippered main compartment, interior pocket and embroidered logo on the front. Made of 100% polyester. **\$31**



Mercedes-Benz Men's Fleece

Mercedes-Benz three-season, full-zip fleece jacket, made of 100% polyester, with Star on left sleeve, In Black. **\$137**



Mercedes-Benz Quilted Jacket

The epitome of both practicality and fashion, this black quilted Mercedes-Benz jacket with subtle purple accents is as warm as it is gorgeous. **\$219**





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BMW ADVENTURE

The Washington Spy Trail honors many Long Islanders, some famous like Nathan Hale and unnamed others, who gathered information from the British and secretly passed the intelligence on to Gen. George Washington.

[GEORGE WASHINGTON SPY TRAIL, NY]



NATHAN HALE MONUMENT

The monument honors Hale's sacrifice for gathering intelligence on the British forces. Hale was captured and hanged at the age of 21.
Rt. 110 and Mill Dam Rd. Huntington.

STONY BROOK GRIST MILL

Built in 1699. When the original mill and dam washed out in 1751, a new mill was erected using beams from the original structure. During the Revolutionary War, grains ground at the Grist Mill were taken by the British to feed their soldiers.

100 Harbor Rd. Stony Brook



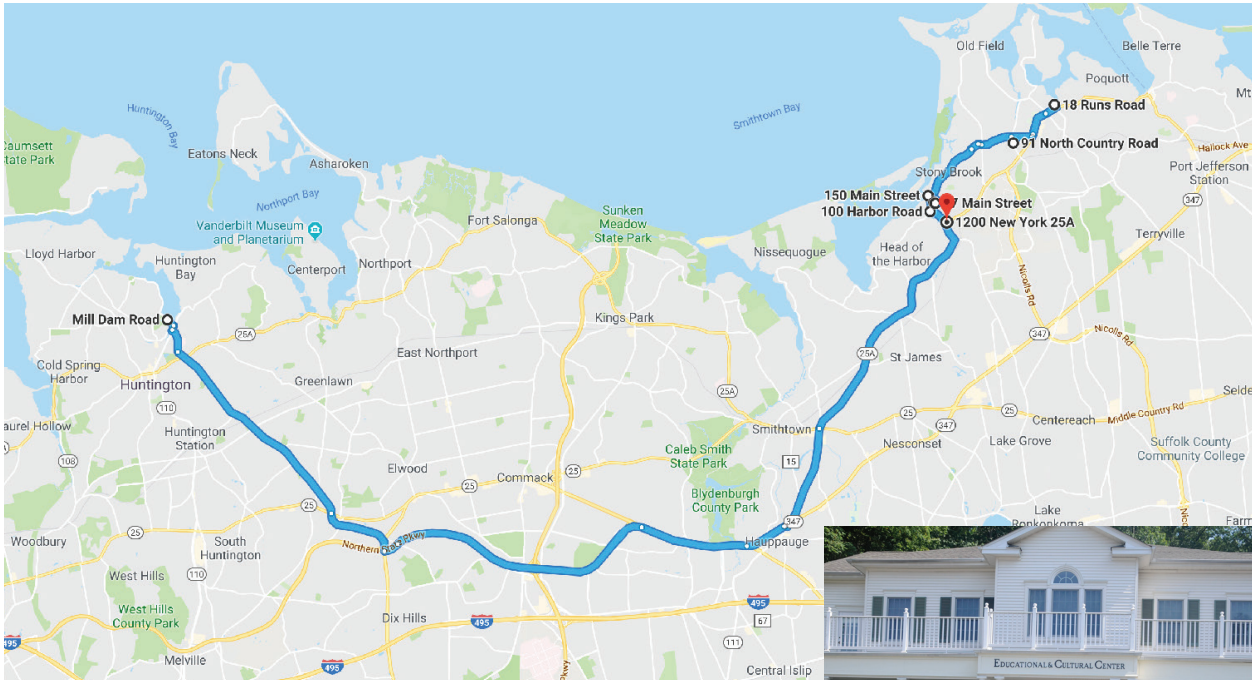
THOMPSON HOUSE

Built in 1709. Dr. Thompson was a member of the Long Island Militia during the War and served on the Committee of Safety of the Town of Brookhaven.

Thompson made surveys of Setauket and Stony Brook Harbors to determine safe routes for the arriving troops should the necks of the harbors fall to the British.

91 N. Country Rd. East Setauket





STONY BROOK VILLAGE CENTER

35 Specialty shops and seven restaurants offer visitors a respite along with outstanding shopping in a Colonial setting. Watch for the mechanical eagle atop the Post Office flap its wings on the hour.
111 Main St. Stony Brook



WARD MELVILLE HERITAGE ORG.

WMHO protects and preserves historic and environmentally sensitive properties deeded by Ward Melville. *BMW M5*.
97 Main St. Stony Brook

THE BREWSTER HOUSE

Dates back to 1665. During the Revolution, Joseph Brewster operated a tavern out of his home, where he entertained British troops.
18 Runs Rd. Setauket





THREE VILLAGE INN

Built in 1751 by Richard Hallock, the Inn has retained much of its history (there are tunnels believed to have been used for the Underground Railroad.) It has amenities of a luxury hotel along with award-winning chef Guy Reuge.

150 Main St. Stony Brook

LONG ISLAND MUSEUM

Known for its collection of over 200 carriages and its extensive array of work, and over 4000 other paintings, sculptures and prints.

1200 NY-25A Stony Brook



BMW Active Cooler

The perfect travel companion to keep beverages and food chilled. Easy-access compartment with padded shoulder support, includes two freezer packs. **\$49**



BMW Motorsport Cap

White five-panel cap with embroidered BMW logo on the front. The back is embroidered 'Powered by M.' Metal clip with embossed BMW logo and variable size adjustment. **\$34**



BMW Ladies' Sweatshirt

Soft knit jacket made of high-quality wool for a perfect fit. Two-by-two knit cuffs and a stand-up collar will keep you cozy. Easy-glide two-way zipper. **\$89.99**



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INFINITI ADVENTURE

Referred to as "The End" by locals, the Hamptons and Montauk are known worldwide as a paradise for the rich and famous.

[SOUTHAMPTON, NY]



THE BIG DUCK

A Long Island landmark, the Big Duck was originally built in 1931 by farmer Martin Maurer as a shop to sell ducks and duck eggs. The Duck's eyes are made from Ford Model T tail lights. *INFINITI QX-80*
1012 NY-24 Flanders

BRIERMERE FARMS

A family-owned farm since 1959, everything, including their famous pies, are made from scratch. Open all year.

INFINITI QX-80

4414 Sound Ave. Riverhead

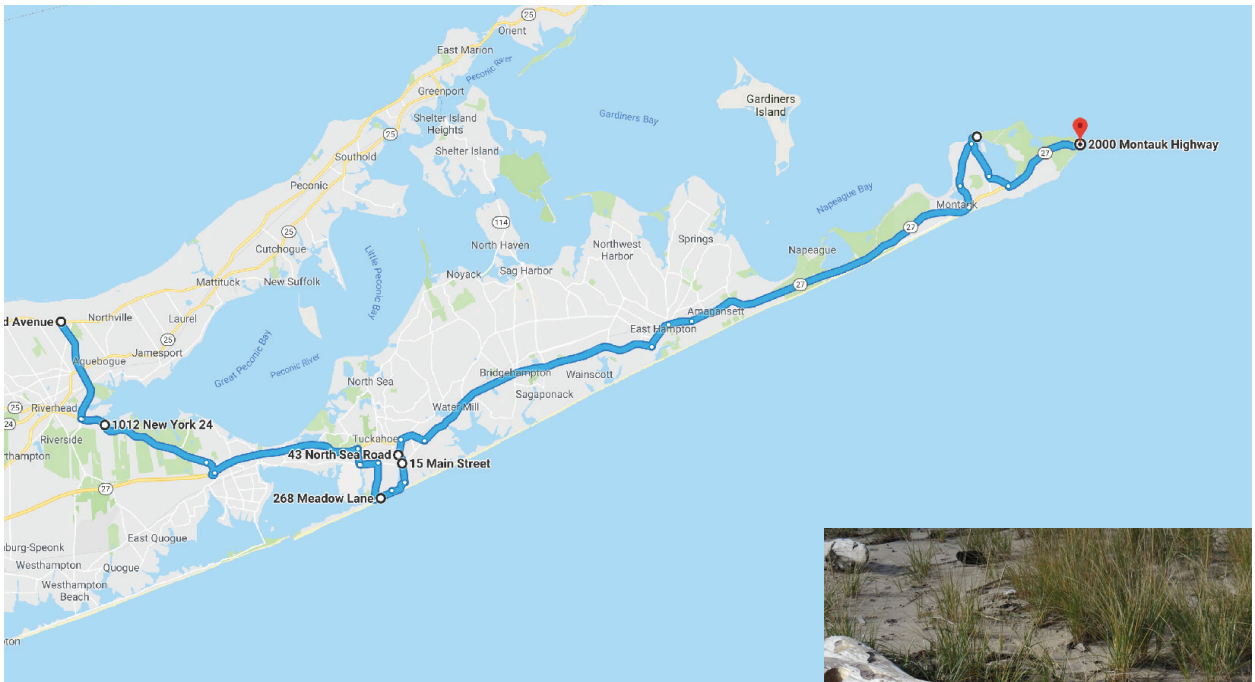


COOPER'S BEACH

Consistently named one of America's Top 10 Beaches by Dr. Beach, marvel at the pristine white sandy beach with a backdrop of historic mansions.

268 Meadow Ln. Southampton





TATE'S BAKE SHOP

Famous for their crunchy and delicious cookies, baked right here on Long Island.

43 N. Sea Rd. Southampton

HILDRETH'S DEPARTMENT STORE

The original "Home Goods" store, Hildreth's is one of the oldest department stores in the US.

15 Main St. Southampton



MONTAUKET

A cliffside bar with the best views in Montauk.

88 Firestone Rd. Montauk

THE LEIBER COLLECTION

Considered by many to be the Hampton's best kept secret, visit and find out why.

446 Old Stone Hwy. East Hampton



Courtesy of the Leiber Collection



GOSMAN'S DOCK & FISH MARKET

This "foodies paradise" offers a mix of local seafood and gourmet treats.

500 W. Lake Dr. Montauk

MONTAUK POINT LIGHTHOUSE

The End.

2000 Montauk Hwy. Montauk



INFINITI Men's Softshell Jacket

Men's 3-layer performance stretch soft shell jacket with zippered pockets with garages. Thermal retention shock cord at hem. **\$81.95**



INFINITI Power Bank 4000

Satin aluminum portable power bank is the perfect companion for any smartphone. With output port and charging cable. **\$29.75**



INFINITI Picnic Blanket

This chic blanket is ideal for any outdoor outing and will keep you comfortable and dry wherever you go. Easily rolls up with velcro closure with convenient carrying handle. Waterproof PVC backing. **\$24.95**



Purchase at INFINITILifestyle.com

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SUBARU

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SUBARU ADVENTURE

You don't have to go to Splish Splash to enjoy water parks on Long Island. We truly are lucky to live in such a vibrant place, alive with flora and fauna.

[SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY]



COLD SPRING HARBOR STATE PARK

Discover the vessels docked along the harbor as you spend a few hours under the sky navigating through the different shades of blue water. Instructors are on site to guide you as you explore a variety of birds, marine and plant life.

95 Harbor Rd. Cold Spring Harbor

AVALON PARK AND PRESERVE

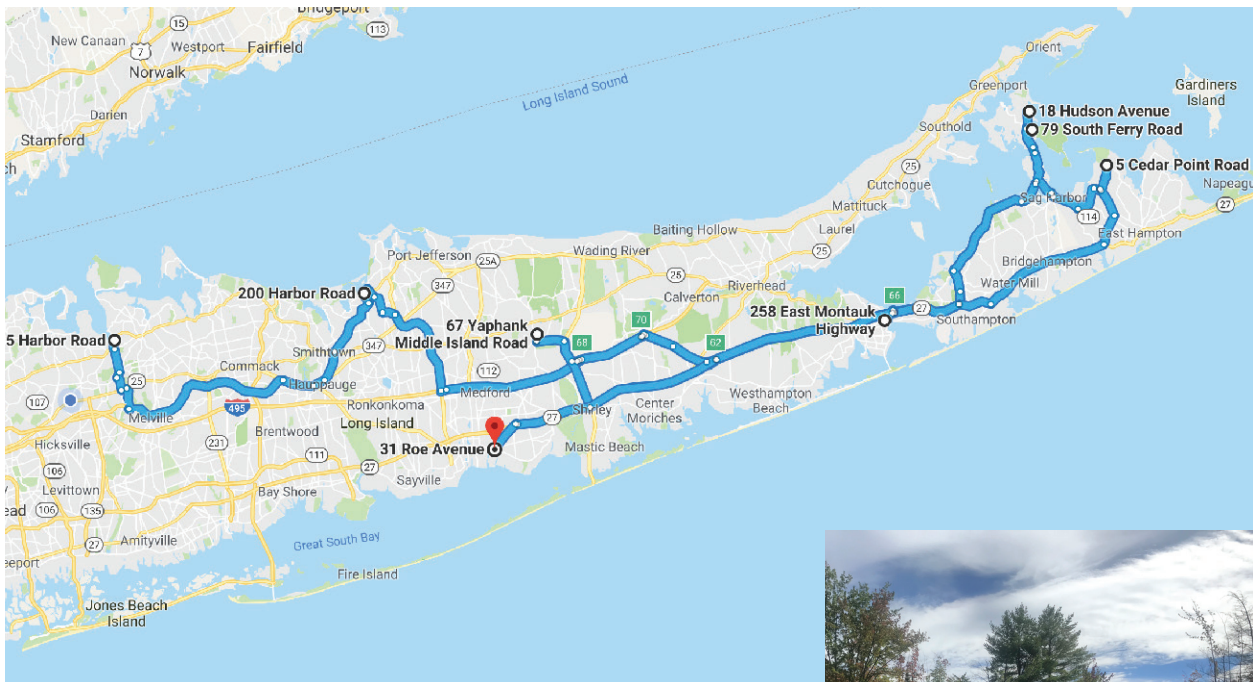
This 140-acre tract of fields, forests and walking trails is owned by the Paul Simons Foundation, dedicated to preserving native plant communities.
200 Harbor Rd. Stony Brook



COECLES HARBOR

Kayaks can be rented from Shelter Island Kayaks for a whole different perspective of the quaint habitats.
18 Hudson Ave. Shelter Island

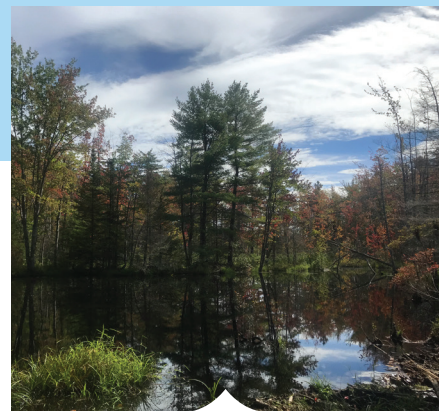




PROSSER PINES NATURE PRESERVE

Rated the “Prettiest Hike for Your Dog,” by Doug Gelbert, author of *Doggin’ Long Island*, Prosser Pines Nature Preserve encompasses the largest white pine forest on Long Island. Although rather small at 50 acres, the trails are carpeted with pine needles and the trees stretch ahead as far as you can see.

67 Yaphank Middle Island Rd. Middle Island



MASHOMACK PRESERVE

Located on the SE tip of Shelter Island, enjoy miles of coastline and 2,300 acres full of animals, creeks, and woods open for exploration.

79 S. Ferry Rd. Shelter Island

CEDAR POINT COUNTY PARK

This 607-acre park has commanding views of Gardiner’s Bay and lots of opportunities for swimming and hiking.

5 Cedar Point Rd. East Hampton

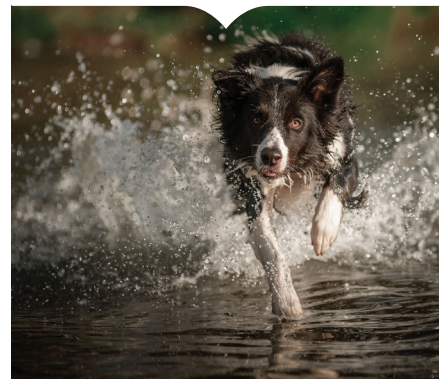




Photo Courtesy of Cowfish

COWFISH HAMPTON BAYS

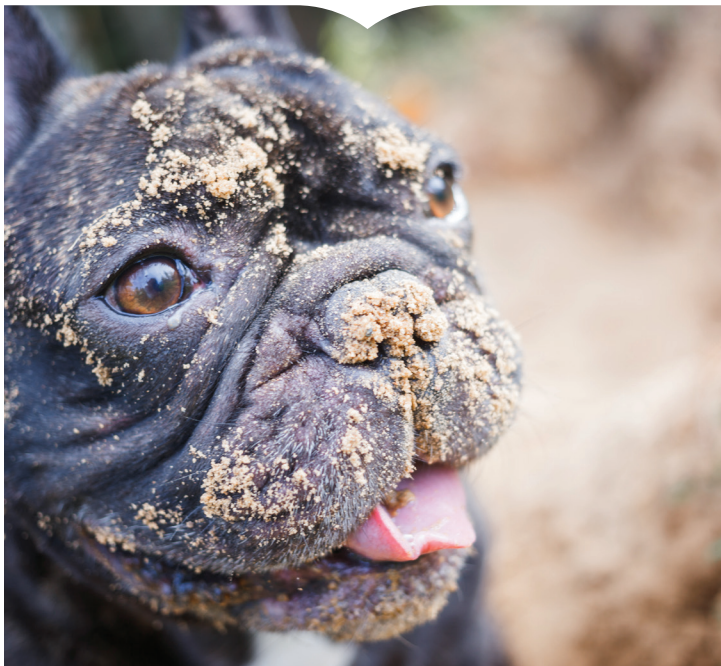
Rustic furnishings pair seafood and sushi with canal views. Open all year, this is a great spot to stop and have a delicious meal.

258 E. Montauk Hwy. Hampton Bays

MUD CREEK DOG PARK

Located on the Great South Bay in East Patchogue, Mud Creek is Long Island's only official off-leash beach, open sunrise to sunset, 7 days a week.

341 Roe Ave. East Patchogue



Subaru Pet Portable Bowl

Keep your pet hydrated while on the road. Waterproof fabric bowl unzips to form a portable bowl for water or pet food. With Subaru logo. Orange. **\$4.50**



Subaru Chair, Cooler, Umbrella

Double folding chair design with two water-resistant speakers, 12-can insulated cooler, cup holders in carry case with shoulder strap. **\$141.50**



Subaru Youth Road Trip Hoodie

Soft, Jersey-lined hoodie with drawstrings and front pouch pocket. Rib-knit cuffs and waistband. Royal Heather Blue **\$27.50**



ROAD TRIP TRIVIA

At the Competition Auto Group, we like to think that some great conversations happen in the car, with family and friends.

Whether you're driving cross country or locally, it's the people you travel with that make the journey worthwhile.

We've assembled some questions that you might not normally ask each other, to hopefully make for some laughs and thought-provoking answers!

Enjoy the ride!

If you could take a month-long road trip, what would be your route?

If you had to pick a new first name, what would it be?

What's the most beautiful place you've ever been?

If you had to live in a different state, what state would it be?

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

What is your favorite family traveling tradition?

Would you rather spend five days exploring Disney World or NYC?



Where is someplace that you'll never travel to again?

Where is the most relaxing place you've ever been?

Would you rather climb a mountain or deep-sea dive?

If you could time travel, where would you go?

What is your favorite part of travel?

What is your favorite family vacation?

Where is the farthest place you've ever traveled in a car?

DESTINATION DELICIOUS

BASIL CAFE



Basil Café celebrates the cuisine of the Mediterranean with a variety of textures, flavors and colors, in a cozy and casual atmosphere.

Owner and chef Ray Akhlaghi and his wife Arezoo, who oversees the front of the house, are originally from Iran and brought with them the rich flavors of the Mediterranean.

"In 1996 we moved to Germany, where Ray studied to become a Chef," Arezoo shares. The couple relocated to Boston and worked for the Marriott for a few years, Ray as an Executive Chef and Arezoo in hospitality, before settling in St. James and opening the Basil Café in March 2017.

The café gives off a laid-back vibe inside, and outside you can dine al fresco when the weather allows, in a romantic garden of greenery.

In a relatively short time, the Akhlaghi's have amassed a loyal following of satisfied foodies.

Ann Sutter, one of their regular customers, was very enthusiastic about sharing her dining experience at Basil Cafe.

"Most restaurants start out strong and then fade. They have kept on going strong. Ray and Arezoo do a great job of making everything unique," she says. "Ray is just amazing. The food here is always delicious."

Exotic flavors and aromas spring from the open kitchen, where you can catch a glimpse of the open flame as Ray prepared grilled kebabs.

Instead of a bread basket, pita bread with pesto and tangy parmesan cheese was served that had a delicious bite and was very tasty.

A favorite appetizer, according to Joe our server, is sautéed eggplant with crushed walnuts and blackened mint. Served with pita bread, the eggplant literally melts in your mouth.

We sampled some other freshly-made appetizers including shrimp kebabs served with fresh vegetables and a chili mango sauce. The dish was outstanding, and the perfectly grilled shrimp dipped in the sweet-spice sauce was the perfect combination.

For our entrée, the word "succulent" gets tossed around far too often, but it's the only way to describe Basil Café's lamb shank that literally falls off the bone.

The lamb was served with jeweled rice, named for its beautiful colors. Caramelized onions, almonds, pistachios, orange zest, Persian barberry, cumin and saffron over fluffy basmati rice, was bursting with flavor.

We finished with Warm Bread Pudding, Ray's signature dessert that not only tasted delicious, the aroma of cinnamon made your mouth water even before you lifted your fork.

Small plates deliver big flavor at this establishment.

At Basil Café, you can bring your own bottle of wine to enjoy with your meal. Arezoo shared that many of their customers call ahead to request a special tasting menu, which Ray enthusiastically creates. They bring their own wine for a delicious evening out.

Authentic, healthy, rich in spices and naturally delicious, Basil Café serves Mediterranean food that loves you back.

Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday, 12-9 pm

Friday and Saturday, 12-9:30 pm

Sunday, 4-9 pm

Monday, Closed

413 Lake Avenue,
St. James, NY 11790
631-862-4444

Open for Lunch & Dinner
Reservations Suggested

*“Authentic, healthy,
rich in spices and
naturally delicious,
Basil Café serves
Mediterranean food
that loves you back.”*



Cornish Hen with
Jeweled Rice

Lamb
Shank

BLUE ON BLUE



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2019 SUBARU OUTBACK



2019 INFINITI Q70L 5.6 LUXE AWD



2019 MERCEDES-BENZ COUPE CLA 250

BLUE...

THE COLOR OF THE SKY AND THE SEA.

Blue is one of the easiest colors to customize because of its versatility.

It can shift towards gray or green and can be shaded lighter or darker.

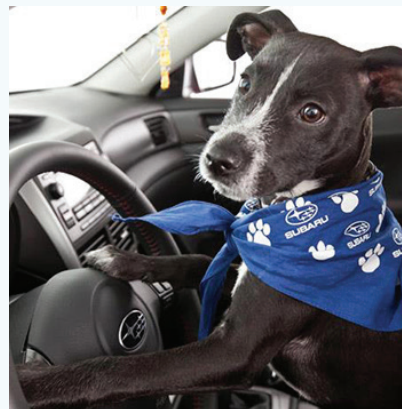
Car buyers are loving blue and its popularity has soared because of the many hues and finishes available.



BMW Motorsport Chronograph Watch

Premium chronograph motor-sport design with matte stainless-steel case. The base of the white leather strap is in M Red. Water-resistant to 328'.

\$299 ShopBMWUSA.com



Subaru Royal Blue Dog Bandana

An essential accessory for your furry family member. Royal blue, made of 100% cotton.

\$2.95 Parts.Subaru.com



INFINITI Brooks Brothers Dress Shirt

100% Supima pinpoint cotton is virtually wrinkle-free. Button down collar, center back pleat, and left chest pocket. Signature shirring, pearl buttons with INFINITI logo on right sleeve.

\$100 INFINITILifestyle.com



Mercedes-Benz Cork Bottom Tumbler

This cork bottom tumbler's vacuum construction will preserve your beverage's temperature and gripping cork bottom will keep its position. Available in blue or grey.

\$25 LifestyleCollection.mbusa.com



Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Golf Umbrella

This unique square-shaped golf umbrella offers amazing coverage with a 62" diameter. Vented wind protection with ultra-strong fiberglass shaft and ribs. Comfortable gel handle.

\$38.30 LifestyleCollection.mbusa.com

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