

enjoy refreshments and the lecture "North Shore Long Island: Country Houses, 1890-1950" by Paul J. Mateyunas, 7 tonight at the Hoffman Center, below, 6000 Northern Blvd., East Norwich, \$10, 516-922-8676, plantingfields.org.



The **Wantagh Halloween House** is doing a food drive to help Long Island Cares; visitors can donate nonperishable food and other items, and walk the scary grounds and house for free today through Friday, 5-10 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m., at 1632 Wantagh Ave., Wantagh, 516-776-2341, licares.org.

Check out "Whispering Corridors," a Korean horror film followed by a Q&A tomorrow, 7 p.m., at Charles B. Wang Center Theater, Stony Brook University, \$5, 631-632-4400, stonybrook.edu/sb/wang.



tree!

Boris Riskin discusses and signs his book "Deadly Bones: A Jake Wanderman Mystery" at Best Bargain Books, tomorrow, 7 p.m., 217 Middle Country Rd. (Centereach Mall), Centereach, 631-737-7777, bestbargainbook.com.



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WHAT'S NEW? Have you seen something new — a shop, restaurant or night-spot — open in your neighborhood? Tell us about it, and you might see it in these pages. **E-MAIL YOUR TIPS TO** exploreLI@newsday.com



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Old-fashioned variety? These stores stock it

BY PAT BURSON
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Several old-fashioned general stores still exist on Long Island. Step inside, and you'll return to a simpler time. They stock wooden toys and antique games, knitting needles and sewing notions, housewares and lace curtains. You might find soda pop in glass bottles, or jams and jellies in Mason jars — and store clerks who know the regular customers' names.

Here are four worth visiting:

Buckingham Variety Store

WHEN 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday
WHERE 36 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay
INFO 516-922-4822, buckinghamvarietystore.com

Buckingham's has been a fixture in downtown Oyster Bay hamlet for more than 60 years. Harriet Dorfman, an Oyster Bay Cove resident and customer for the past 19 years, says she goes there for things such as clean-



Buckingham's Variety Store is the go-to place for hard-to-find items in downtown Oyster Bay.



The St. James General Store has shelves of jams and jellies in glass jars and a book room upstairs.

ing supplies, buttons, flip-flops in the summer, gifts and duct tape. "It's the go-to store. The stuff that you're going to find here, you're not going to find anywhere else."

STOCKS Cut-to-order darkening window shades (from about \$10) and sheets of plastic for table coverings (\$2.29-\$5 a yard); white, glossy-finish gift boxes (\$1-\$5) and lamp shades (\$5-\$30) are among the store's most popular items.

Rose's General Store

WHERE 327 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff
INFO 516-277-1044, rosesgeneralstore.com

With its tin ceiling and original pine floors, the store is housed in a 130-year-old building that used to be a bookstore. It has been popular for decades with neighborhood kids, who'd bring their old ice skates to trade up to the next bigger size.

STOCKS Owners Rose and Chris Post carry a collection of old-fashioned toys, ranging from 1950s-style windup robots (\$9-\$30) to lightweight, balsam-wood airplanes and gliders (\$2.79-\$3.59). There are more than 800 varieties of candy, including paper strips of colorful candy buttons (\$1.50), Sifer's Valomilk (\$2.50), Nut Goodie (\$1.50) and Mary Janes (15 cents).

Four Star Variety

13 Hewitt Square, East Northport (also in Bay Shore, Farmingdale and Northport)
WHEN 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday
INFO 631-757-8377

This is the place to buy a mop for your kitchen or patio furniture for your yard, says manager Genevieve Ayers, 27, who has worked at the family-owned store since she was 17. "We really try to stay true to that old variety store feel, but also bring in fresh product for those new customers and younger customers," she says. **STOCKS** Besides staples such as socks, school supplies and greeting cards, the store carries Gooseberry Patch cookbooks, cedar-filled dog beds and Thomas & Friends trucks and trains for toddlers (\$6.99-\$27.99).



Rose Post at Rose's General Store in Sea Cliff, which carries more than 800 varieties of candy ON THE COVER Some of the new, retro-looking toys at Rose's

St. James General Store

WHERE 516 Moriches Rd., St. James
WHEN 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily
INFO 631-854-3740

Built in 1857, the store is on the U.S. Interior Department's National Register of Historic Places. It has an old-time feel, with shelves of jams and jellies in glass jars organized under individual labels, and an upstairs book room. **STOCKS** Everything from wooden yo-yos and pop guns (about \$4) to porcelain tea sets

(\$9.99-\$30), loose lavender (\$1 a scoop) and honey from an apiary in Southampton (\$7.95-\$11.95). There's also the ever-popular sock monkeys (\$6.95-\$17.95), nib writing pens (\$4.95-\$5.95 and vintage-style hats and gloves (\$9.95-\$39.95). And candy, including the perennial favorite molasses pops (\$1.10). "Those are the best!" says Justine Kirschenheuter, 19, of Smithtown, there on a recent day with her sister Heather, 15.