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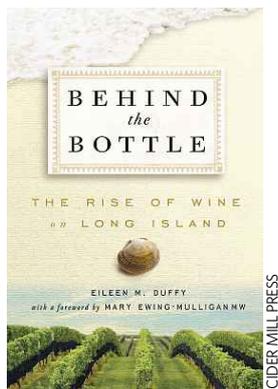
WEEKEND EVENTS Find things to do with the kids newsday.com/events



here's to

Raise your glass to Eileen M. Duffy as she speaks about and signs copies of her book **"Behind the Bottle: The Rise of Wine on Long Island"** at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead. Duffy profiles noted Long Island winemakers and wineries and discusses the industry's growth. Wine and cheese and admission to current exhibits included. Call to reserve.

INFO 631-727-2881, ext. 100, suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org
ADMISSION \$5, books for signing will be available for \$20



CIDER MILL PRESS

LI's own

Blue Öyster Cult, a hard-rock and heavy-metal band that was formed on Long Island in 1967, performs live Friday at Riverhead's Suffolk Theater. Doors, bar and restaurant open at 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m.

INFO 631-727-4343, suffolktheater.com
ADMISSION \$65-\$79



BLUE OYSTER CULT

now online

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newsday.com/thingstodo



BRUCE GILBERT

Kendall Goss of West Babylon lobs a beanbag in a new cornhole league at Mulcahy's Pub in Wantagh last week.

Players are in a hole new league

Beanbag game cornhole gets organized as bar sport

BY DAVID J. CRIBLEZ
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Cornhole is getting a league of its own. The classic lawn game involving two boards and a handful of beanbags has become enough of a pastime that leagues have formed to play formally.

"Anyone can do it at any ability," says Sal Farruggia, owner of LI-Kick, a social sports network hosting cornhole leagues at Mulcahy's Pub in Wantagh and 89 North Music Venue in Patchogue. "If you haven't tried, it's not difficult to pick up. In 10 minutes, you can know everything you need to start playing."

HOW IT WORKS

Two rectangular boards, which are angled on a slant and have one hole, are separated 27 feet apart. Teams of two take turns tossing beanbags across the room, trying to

CORNHOLE LEAGUES

WHEN|WHERE 7 p.m. Tuesdays through April 3 at Mulcahy's Pub in Wantagh and 7 p.m. Mondays (new season starts March 19) at 89 North Music Venue in Patchogue. 21 and over.
INFO 516-500-1386, li-kick.com
ADMISSION \$120 per team

get them in the hole (3 points) or simply on the board (1 point). The first team to 21 points captures a round. To win the game, a team must take two out of three rounds.

"Cornhole is getting very popular. We figured, why not start a league?" says Rich von Rauchhaupt, Farruggia's partner. "It gives you an opportunity to go out, meet other people, grab a drink and have a good time."

Teams play four to six games a night, with each game taking about 10 minutes. The season is seven



BRUCE GILBERT

Tom Pratt of Amityville and Alex Suvanich of Bellerose react to a toss in the new cornhole league being promoted by LI-Kick at Mulcahy's Pub.

weeks long, with the final week done as a March Madness-style bracket tournament. The winning team gets a prize like a bar tab at Blue Point Brewery.

TOSSIN' TIPS

At a recent Tuesday night at Mulcahy's, players are working through game strategies.

"You need to throw it lightly, nice and loose," says Vinny Roszkowski, 27, of Franklin Square, who plays for team Dilly Dilly. "If you try too hard, you are going to overthrow it every time. It's important to let it fly!"

Anthony Fasano, 32, of Deer Park, from the Toss Me Slowly team, adds, "Generally, I try to lob it up pretty high with a lot of force on it."

Over on court three, the Cornstars are having a moment. The team of Melissa Haapanen, 40, of Brentwood and Kathryn Andreolli, 40, of Lindenhurst may be first-timers, but they are getting the hang of it.

"Come on, Kat. Show them how it's done, girl!," shouts Haapanen in support. The toss is up, the bag lands on the board, then has enough juice to slide a few inches and drop in the hole. The duo shares a celebratory high-five.

"That felt amazing," Andreolli says. "I didn't even think about it. I just tossed it."

SOCIAL OUTLET

LI-Kick promotes playing sports in a social atmosphere, whether it be cornhole, kickball or coed soccer. While there's lots of action and competition, that's not the sole focus.

"Social sports aren't about winning and losing games," Farruggia says. "It's more of a way to have fun on a weekly basis with your friends plus meet new people in a fun and

active environment."

When Rosemary Bair, 24, of Bellmore came home after graduating from SUNY New Paltz, she had to start over in the social department.

"All my friends are all over the place, so this was a great way to meet people in my county," she says. "Everybody here is nice and personable."

Toniann Lordi, 31, of Centereach attributes her current thriving social life to LI-Kick.

"This is like family to me," she says. "I have made nine amazing girlfriends here. I don't know what I'd do without them."

BAR GAMES

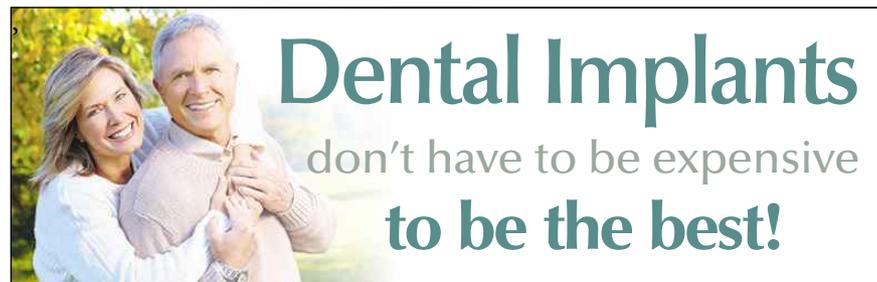
In addition to cornhole, Farruggia holds different bar challenges each week while teams are waiting to get on a court. On this night he's doing "Face the Cookie," in which a cookie is placed on your forehead and you have to use facial muscles only to move it down into your mouth.

Pointing to his head, Farruggia smiles and says, "I got a million ideas up here!"



BRUCE GILBERT

A player who goes by Linda Fireball111 gets a high-five from teammate Joe Corso.



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