

BEYOND SOCCER

WORLD CUP HOST CITIES FROM NEW YORK TO SEATTLE HAVE SO MUCH MORE TO DO FOR VISITING FANS. HERE'S A PEEK AT THEIR TOP ATTRACTIONS. **B7**

Sunday

Staten Island Advance

ANGIULI & GENTILE
DIVORCE ATTORNEYS
RESTART

'IT'S REALLY A LABOR OF LOVE'

Former Islander and his partner run a 5-star B&B in Maine



The Camden Windward House, only a short walk from the scenic Penobscot Bay in Camden, Maine, is owned by former Eltingville resident Dan Hall and his partner, Matt Dempsey. Photos by Ann Marie Barron, Staten Island Advance

A graduate of Farrell HS and CSI, he was a retail manager until his heart was stolen by an 1854 inn on Penobscot Bay.

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A leap of faith nearly 10 years ago — against the well-meaning advice of just about everyone they knew — put Dan Hall and Matt Dempsey at the doorstep of their dream.

In 2017, Hall, who grew up in Eltingville, along with his life partner, Dempsey, left their careers behind, put their home and savings on the line and purchased The Camden Windward House, an 1854 Greek Revival home in the tranquil coastal town of Camden, Maine.

Today, in the charming five-star bed and breakfast just steps from the center of the picturesque town, the couple cooks, gardens, repairs, decorates and constantly improves the home, which features nine guest rooms and is a short walk from shopping, dining on Maine's famous lobster, sailing and hiking. And they do it all while making guests feel as welcome as long-lost family.

"We always had ideas of owning property — a historic home — and refurbishing it and having the garden space," Hall said.



Says Hall, right, with Dempsey: "We always had ideas of owning property — a historic home — and refurbishing it and having the garden space."

"At home we did our renovations and our gardening in the evenings, but it was really just a private oasis. We wanted to do something where we could incorporate what we love and make an impact on other people."

Hall, a Monsignor Farrell graduate who holds a master's degree in education from the College of Staten Island, had been working for more than 20 years in retail management in 2016, while Dempsey, his partner of 20 years, had a successful career in information technology (IT).

GAINING DIRECTION

Their shared dream of owning an inn seemed out of reach until retirement. **SEE MAINE, A5**

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

If you're afraid to fly it, is the flag still a symbol of American unity?

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Hi Neighbor, I thought I followed the quirks of politics in America pretty closely. Until dinner one evening with a few friends in the Road House.

Over bourbons and burgers, I learned a few of my buddies, all patriotic on various levels, fear flying the American flag. Really.

It's not that they disrespect our country. It's that they are afraid of their neighbors.

I did not know this. It knocked me back a few steps.

"I gotta look this up," I thought. "Is this really a 'thing'?"

Turns out, it is a "thing." A "thing" brought on, or exacerbated, by the arrival of Donald J. Trump on the political stage in an America that has become more polarized than ever.

It's such a "thing" that it has a name.

Vexiphobia.

Others might call it Trump Derangement Syndrome.

If you have it, seeing an American flag waving from your neighbors' house triggers panic attacks, rapid heartbeat, extreme distress...

Or labels you a member of the MAGA movement.

"I follow the Rule of Three," Harry from Great Kills told us between bites of his burger. "I don't discuss religion, politics and money ... Getting along with neighbors who put out orange cones to save their parking spot ... that's hard enough."

Harry went on ... "I don't want to be tied to any movement, let alone the MAGA bunch. Better to just have a 'Welcome to Our Home' flag in the front yard."

(By the way, names have been changed to protect the fearful.)

"We took our flag down," Natalie of Oakwood admitted.

Natalie is a student of American history. "Neighbors started questioning what side of the political aisle we were on."

There was a time this would have shocked any American to their core. **SEE LALINE, A3**

PORT RICHMOND

Sweet legacy

After more than 75 years under the Dorman family, Philip's Candy Store has new ownership, but its century-old traditions will continue. **A4**

STATEN ISLAND

Milestone gala

The Richmond County Bar Association marks its 115th anniversary during a gala attended by nearly 500 members of Staten Island's legal community. **A12**

