



**Skelly, Glen Cove's friendly skeleton**  
Page 3



**Tifereth Israel thanks Garcias**  
Page 7



**Fireworks light up Morgan Park**  
Page 10

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Will Sheeline/Herald

**ANGRY CONSTITUENTS LINED** up outside the federal courthouse in Central Islip to call for U.S. Rep. George Santos' resignation.

## George Santos makes second appearance in federal court

By **ROKSANA AMID & WILL SHEELINE**  
of the Glen Cove Herald

At U.S. District Court in Central Islip on June 30, embattled U.S. Rep. George Santos made his second appearance to address a range of criminal charges against him.

Looking subdued and meek in a gray suit and bright red tie, Santos addressed Judge Joanna Seybert only twice, in barely audible responses: "Yes, Your Honor."

Ryan Harris, the lead federal prosecutor, told Seybert that the government had 86,000 pages of documents to substantiate its case, and that he had provided them to Joseph Murray, Santos' attorney. Murray, who said he had

been working closely with the prosecution, asked Seybert for additional time to review the documents, requesting that the next court date be no earlier than the end of August. The judge agreed, and scheduling Santos' next appearance for Sept. 7.

In May, Santos was released on a \$500,000 bond and surrendered his passport after he pleaded not guilty to 13 counts of wire fraud, money laundering, theft of public funds and making materially false statements to the U.S. House of Representatives. Although he had stated that he would rather face jail time than release the identities of the bond's co-signers, the court unsealed their identities: Santos'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Smoke shop zones debated at city hearing

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
ramid@iherald.com

Smoke shops appear to be everywhere these days, and most appear to be doing a brisk business.

Nadeem Bashir, of Queens, opened RNJ Smoke & Cigars on Glen Cove Ave last month. Bashir said he used most of his savings to get the shop up and running, and he hopes it will help support his family, which includes five children.

But his timing may not have been the best. On June 27, a week after Bashir opened, the City Council held a public hearing to discuss rezoning hemp and paraphernalia shops. The hearing will remain open until the next council meeting on July 25.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss a proposed local law that would restrict or prohibit commercial uses believed by the council to be detrimental

to the health, safety and welfare of Glen Cove residents, and particularly children. After the city Police Department fielded complaints last year from concerned residents that shops were selling illicit products such as marijuana

**S**hops shouldn't sell anything illegal, and how does it hurt me asking someone for their ID?

**JUAN NOGUERA** customer service representative, RNJ Smoke & Cigars

to minors, an investigation last June resulted in a total of 10 arrests at Shore Vapes, on Glen Cove Avenue, Up in Smoke Head Shop and Smoke Smart 191, both on Forest Avenue, Unique Tobacco, on School Street, and N3 Smoke and Cigar Shop, on Glen Street.

Juan Noguera, a customer service representative for RNJ Smoke & Cigars, said he had heard about the legal troubles the other shops are facing, and added that he believes that any kind of illicit sales to minors — whether it be cannabis or drug paraphernalia — isn't worth the trouble.

"Shops shouldn't sell anything illegal, and how does it hurt me asking someone for their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

# Congressman's next hearing set for Sept. 7

July 6, 2023 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

father, Gercino Dos Santos, and his aunt Elma Santos Preven. Neither secured the bond with cash or property, although both relatives are being held accountable for the congressman's compliance with the terms of his release.

In recent weeks, Santos has dismissed the charges as a "witch hunt," and said he would continue to represent his constituents in the 3rd Congressional district. If convicted of just the primary charges, Santos could face up to 20 years in prison.

He declined to address the press following the hearing, and walked with his head down to a parked car. Two unidentified Santos supporters yelled at reporters, alleging mistreatment of Santos as they walked to their cars.

But louder voices from angry constituents, from groups like Concerned Citizens of NY-03 and Empire State Voices, were heard outside the courthouse. Many protesters called for Santos' resignation while brandishing signs that read, "George Santos lied to us."

The demonstrators said they weren't surprised that Santos left without addressing the media or his constituents. "I think honesty matters, and we're being shortchanged," Eric Swenson, of Oyster Bay, said. "I want to do all that I can do to make sure that there's no 'con' in Congress. We don't need someone who's afraid of their constituents."

Richard Osthoff, the Navy veteran who accused Santos of stealing money from a fundraiser for his sick dog, has said he would like to see Santos jailed

after authorities finish their investigation. When Osthoff contacted Santos three weeks ago to discuss the matter, he said, Santos claimed he didn't know him.

"You have a dark soul!" Osthoff yelled as Santos walked to his car. "You killed my dog."

Osthoff said he never met with Santos in person, and that their exchanges were mostly calls and text messages. Osthoff said that Santos looked surprised to see him in the courtroom, and that he caught the attention of Santos' lawyer as well.

Jody Kass Finkel, a coordinator of Concerned Citizens of NY-03, spoke to reporters after Santos made it clear that he wasn't going to. Finkel claimed that the Republican Party's continuing support of Santos is a disgrace.

"So who can fix this, since Kevin McCarthy is too weak to do it?" Finkel said. "The New York state Republicans can make the Santos problem a priority, and force McCarthy and their colleagues in Washington to address it. But so far we have only received lip service."

Finkel said she didn't believe Republicans when they said they were outraged and wanted Santos out of Congress. If they really felt that way, she said, they would have expelled him by now.

"We fully expect George Santos to go to prison," Finkel said. "But that doesn't solve our immediate problem. We are now six months with the charlatan as our congressman, without any meaningful representation. So why has Santos been allowed to remain in Congress? He serves on no committees — he's impotent in Congress."

**We don't need someone who's afraid of their constituents.**

**ERIC SWENSON**  
Oyster Bay



Will Sheeline/Herald

**RICHARD OSTHOFF FOUGHT** back tears as he described how Santos allegedly defrauded him of the money needed to save the life of his service dog, Sapphire.

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# A spooky display, no matter the holiday

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
ramid@iherald.com

If you've traveled along Walnut Road, right between Taco Bell and Glen Cove Hospital, you've likely met Moishe, or Skelly, a 12-foot-tall plastic skeleton. He stands proud, dressed up for every holiday and special occasion as a fun surprise for his neighbors. He's a bone-a-fide star.

Maybe you remember him as Cupid for Valentine's Day, maybe you saw him as Moses parting the Red Sea, or maybe you've had the chance to see him dressed as Uncle Sam for the Fourth of July. The massive Halloween yard decoration first hit the market in 2020, and now stands in the front yard of Danielle Reiss and Adam Sontag's house, greeting onlookers as they pass by on foot, or in their cars.

"One of the kids I babysit has a fit every-time I drive over there because it scares him," Facebook user Jen LaRocca, said. "Thanks Skelly."

Although Skelly might startle a few passersby's, most of the feedback they've gotten has been good. He's put smiles on a lot of our faces. No one has a bone to pick with him.

"I like seeing how they dress him each month," Leslie Brussel said on Facebook. "They're very clever when they do it."

Skelly's audience is primarily children, and he's proved to be quite the landmark for those getting to know the area.

"My youngest always needs to point out the big skeleton every time we pass by," Erin Elizabeth said. "He's three and is highly aware of where we are strictly by the whereabouts of that big skeleton."

Finding clothes for big boned wonder can be difficult. Reiss and Sontag typically find clothes for Skelly, who wears a size 5X, online, or they'll craft outfits for him by hand.

"Sometimes I'll see anything that's comically large, like that large flower that he had in his hand for Valentine's Day and Mother's Day," Reiss said. "I got that from the CVS because they just happen to be selling large flowers. A lot of things come from Amazon because you can just type whatever you want. really specific, and they'll have it."

The New Jersey transplants bought the house in 2021, and heard about the home's past as a depilated structure, and then a day care center. Although a skeleton is known as a symbol of death, the big-boned structure has breathed a new sense of life into the home.

Before Skelly, the couple had a lot of people who would pull over in front of the house, thinking it's a shoulder because of the curvature of the road. People don't pull over as much because they now understand that it's a residence.

"What's really funny is once in a while, the police will pull someone over," Sontag said. "And then those people have to suffer the shame of having a 10 to 15 minute long traffic stop in front



**SKELLY CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING** with a litged turkey by his side.



**STANDING TALL AND** holding the Pride flag, Skelly celebrates Pride month in June.

of a gigantic skeleton, like Moses, which is pretty funny."

The couple decided to keep Skelly up year-round to get the most out of the hundreds they spent on him, but they've also formed new friendships along the way. Reiss recalled a surprise visitor, who delivered a card to say how much

Skelly meant as a favorite fixture in the neighborhood.

"I was like, a new friend just literally knock on my door," Reiss said. "We sat down and we talked for a bit. They had just basically written us this card to say, 'thank you for having this cool skeleton.' Now we're friends."



**SKELLY'S COSTUMES ARE** typically made by hand or bought online. Finding clothes for the sized five-large figure can be a challenge.

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### Taking Back Control with a Living Trust

In the fall of 1990, some thirty plus years ago, your writer first heard of the proposition that if you set up a living trust your estate doesn't have to go to court to settle – the so-called probate court proceeding for wills. Having spent the previous eleven years as a litigation attorney, and having faced numerous problems probating wills, this sounded too good to be true.

At the time, some of the best estate planning lawyers were in Florida. Perhaps you can guess why. In any event, off I went to Florida to train as an estate planning lawyer and, upon returning, closed the litigation practice and founded Ettinger Law Firm in April 1991, to keep people just like you, dear reader, out of probate court.

The reason I was so excited about the living trust, and continue to be so to this day, is the concept of taking back control from the courts and government and giving it back to you and your family. After all, who doesn't want control over their affairs?

When you go to court, who's in charge? The judge, right? Now tell me, does the judge always act in your best interest? Does the judge ever make a mistake? And when the judge says jump, you know what the answer is!

Not only do you pay considerably for this privilege, but it can take many months and often years to complete the probate court proceeding. Meantime, houses cannot be sold, bank accounts accessed, or investment portfolios managed – at least without the judge's permission which involves additional time and resources to request. Of course, that permission may be denied as well.

With a living trust, your trustee (formerly your "executor" under the will) may act immediately upon death to sell the house, pay the bills and handle the investments – no permission required! An additional benefit is, in the event you become unable to handle your affairs later in life, your trustee may take over by simply getting a letter from your doctor showing you are incapacitated.

Essentially then, a living trust gives you back control.

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## GUEST COLUMN

### On his rocker

**A**s a kid our Israeli friend, Evan Tzur, would always preface every remark and response with the line "just a minute."

Beyond that linguistic idiosyncrasy (or maybe because of it) growing up we used to joke that Evan had rocks in his head. Truth be told, while Evan may not have had rocks in his head, he sure had rocks on his mind.

Having decided at the age of 12 that he wanted to be a geologist, Evan made rocks a rock-ribbed part of his life that after "just a minute" he was happy to share.

Thus, following a brief stay in Far Rockaway, he moved to Rockland County and vacationed in Colorado (the Rocky Mountain state).

Though he loved to Watch Rock Hudson at the Roxy, he favorite movie (and squirrel) was "Rocky."

His favorite songs were "Rock of Ages" and "Rock-abye Baby," while his favorite treats were rock candy and ice cream (Rocky Road, of course).

One of his heroes was Knute Rockne and his walls were adorned with paintings by Norman Rockwell.

Lounging in his Rockports with his "Rockweiler" beside him, Evan would sit in his grandfather's rickety chair, sipping a seltzer on the rocks, listening to rock music, rock and roll and (on rare occasions, "Rochmanoff") before stepping out to the Hard Rock Café or Rockefeller Center with his girlfriend, Roxanne.

With his trademark "just a minute," Evan never rocked the boat. Even when things got a little, if you will, rocky, he never hit rock bottom. Claiming that when you fell off a (rocking) horse, you had no choice but to wait a just a minute and then remount in order to take off like a ... rocket.

One snowy winter's day, while Evan was spreading rock salt on a real rocky road, I asked him to explain his fascina-

tion with rocks.

After asking me to wait "just a minute," he replied that rocks were the epitome of strength. In a world of fragility, rocks were a symbol of stability and fortitude. Rocks were like the human spirit: you could build a foundation upon them that could endure forever; yet hard as they were they could still be chipped and even broken.

Rocks were like a family or an idea: one giant, united mass of matter eventually reducing itself to grams of sand that still contained the essence of their source even as the spread far and beyond.

Finally, and after another "just a minute," he concluded that at an early age rocks had demonstrated to him how life was to be believed. It seems he was passing by as three even younger boys were sitting before a huge heap of rocks.

One boy collected several rocks and just pushed them about pointlessly and aimlessly. The second boy took his batch of rocks and immediately began to throw them at birds, cars and the first boy. The third boy, meanwhile, assembled a large pile of various rocks and proceeded to build a little house with a stone fence and a roadway.

It was then, Evan insisted, that he realized that, while for others they might be other things, for him rocks were to be the medium through which he was to decide whether his was to be a life that was aimless or harmful or constructive.

After that conversation I still couldn't understand why such a Rock of Gibraltar, such a rock-steady fellow who was so rock-solid in his beliefs began almost every sentence with "just a minute" ... that is until I discovered that in Evan's native Hebrew "just a minute," was, as I should have guessed, "rock rega."

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### Unreserved Judgment



RON GOLDMAN

## GLEN COVE HERALD

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# Glen Cove considers rezoning smoke shops

July 6, 2023 - GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ID?" Noguera asked. "It doesn't. I don't know why some people don't do it, because the \$20 from a minor isn't worth it. We just make it easier for adults to enjoy their lives."

At last week's hearing, City Attorney Tip Henderson said that the City Council believes that exposing children to a drug-conducive atmosphere and culture promoted by smoke shops has an adverse effect on their growth and development, and the businesses should therefore be subject to tight restrictions.

The proposed law, Henderson explained, addresses the sale of cannabinoid hemp and drug paraphernalia. He explained that the measure would not prohibit their sale, but rather would restrict it to certain parts of the city that are no closer than 1,000 feet to a school, church, park or playground, and prevent shops from being within 500 feet of one another.

"We worked on this for several months with the SAFE agency," Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said, referring to Substance Abuse Free Environment, an organization dedicated to eliminating alcohol and substance abuse in Glen Cove. "This has been a response to multiple discussions with parents who have reached out to me requesting something like this."

It's not quite clear which areas of B-2 zones — which are designated commercial districts — will be affected. Henderson explained that there are several B-2 zones in the city, and the new law could complicate their borders. A part of Carpenter Street, for example, is within one of the zones, but could be too close to the Landing Elementary School if the law were to pass.

Maps detailing the exact areas in which shops could operate under the proposed law will be made available at the next public hearing.



Roksana Amid/Herald

**A WEEK AFTER** Nadeem Bashir opened RNJ Smoke & Cigars, the City Council held a public hearing on June 27 to discuss rezoning hemp and paraphernalia shops. The hearing will remain open until the next council meeting on July 25.

Panzenbeck said that the smoke shops that are already open in the city "are enough," and that she had received a multitude of emails from parents with concerns that more will open.

As a teacher and parent, she said, she felt the need to act quickly.

The public input at the meeting appeared to mostly

favor the restrictions.

"My stance remains the same," SAFE member Bruce Kennedy, a Glen Cove resident, said. "The National Institutes of Health has concluded that these types of businesses in a community result in disproportionate adverse health impacts to young people due to greater access and exposure to these types of products and their advertising."

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# Congregation Tiferith Israel thanks its heroes

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Oftentimes we are so busy in our own lives that we tend to forget about the people around us. It's easy to take others for granted, especially those who often go unnoticed, making sure the needs of others are met. That's why Congregation Tiferith Israel paid tribute to two of their unsung heroes, Armando and Rosario Garcia, rather than honoring one of their widely known members. Over 150 members of the congregation came together to honor the hard work and dedication to service the couple have lovingly poured into the congregation and its facilities.

The Garcias are caretakers for the synagogue. They maintain cleanliness and the building's general maintenance. They are the ones who cut fruit and vegetables in the kitchen, clear paths to walk through snow and ensure the spaces for Sunday school classes are clean and safe for the community's children. The Garcias have made a difference for 10 years.

"They kept this place open," Rabbi Irwin Huberman said. "There was never any doubt of the role that they play in our lives, never mind the cutting of vegetables and serving everything on platters and making sure the chairs are here during Covid. They were literally lifesavers; they were here every single day."



Roksana Amid/Herald

**CHRIS, LEFT, ARMANDO,** Rosario, and Steven Garcia are thankful for the recognition their family has received from Congregation Tiferith Israel. They consider the house of worship to be their second home.

The couple's journey to the hearts of the congregation started when they came to America in the 1980s seeking refuge from the civil war in El Salvador. When they settled in Glen Cove, Armando took a job as a busboy and food runner, and Rosario worked as a nanny and housemaid.

But they knew a successful life in America meant overcoming their language barrier. They talked to locals and took vocational classes at the Boards of Cooperative Educational Service, while working their full-time jobs to support

their two sons, Chris, and Steven.

"I'll never forget my dad one time saw a McDonald sign, and he said, 'what is two for one mean,'" Chris Garcia recalled. "I was seven years old, and my dad said 'Chris, you gotta eat man, you gotta be nice and strong.' My dad sat there and watched us; I knew he was hungry."

At one point, Armando was laid off from his job as an electrician. The couple were referred by a close friend to work at Congregation Tiferith Israel.

Chris Garcia recalls when his family faced their darkest times, both financially

and emotionally, and that the house of worship was there to help. They helped Garcia find tutors, and he credits their help for his education. CTI isn't just a synagogue to the Garcia family; they consider it their second home.

When Chris was on the cusp of graduating from SUNY Old Westbury for his masters, he recalls feeling tired as he was nearing the end of his dissertation. He was also frustrated and considered finding a job in labor. Seeing how he felt, Armando reminded him of the opportunity his parents didn't have.

"My dad said, 'You see these hands that are bruised? They're hurt, and have calluses, my body hurts, and everything hurts,'" Garcia recalled. His father continued. "We're not rich. I'm not going to leave you with cars, money, properties. You didn't come this far, just to be that. You gotta be greater than that. Greater than us, and greater than what we never got, because we came here with nothing."

Garcia said his parents instilled a strong work ethic in him and his brother. They were taught to never be complacent in their lives, and to always strive to do better and be better people.

"I have learned a lot from the members on how to be very happy," Armando said. "Rosario and I have always loved CTI like it was our own home. I am a perfectionist, and I always want CTI to look and be the best."

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# Getting mental health help when needed most

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The term “mental health” is often misunderstood, with many often thinking it’s limited to having a mental illness or being mentally ill.

But mental health is about how good people feel emotionally, and the behaviors associated with them. It helps determine how people handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices.

Just like how people take care of their bodies, they also need to take care of their mind and emotions. More often than not, people don’t think of their mental health until it is something they must deal with.

In fact, a Truth in Medicine poll released last year by Oceanside’s Mount Sinai South Nassau, found that 36 percent of Long Island residents say they or their adult family member faced challenges accessing mental health services care, like simply getting an appointment.

Limited access to health insurance is often the biggest challenge in accessing such care, county officials said. A recent town hall by Nassau County’s mental health, chemical dependency and developmental disabilities services department held at Nassau Community College, shared some of the options people might have, health insurance or not.

The gathering outlined a plethora of resources available within the county beginning, of course, with calling 911 for medical, police, fire, or rescue emergencies. But there’s additional help available — 988 — for confidential emotional support involving thoughts of suicide or any other emotional distress.

For those seeking to seek help in-person, Nassau County offers more than 50 resources, organization that have pledged to help the community, even if paying for those services might be an issue.

One of those newest resources set to begin next year is with the Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Services. Jaclyn McCarthy, the center’s division director, said there’s often a genetic component for poor mental health, where people may be predisposed to developing some of the inabilities to manage stress or difficult situations in their life. Environmental factors, as well as sleep deprivation, or social factors like unstable relationships or substance abuse, can influence someone’s need to seek treatment.



Jaclyn McCarthy

But McCarthy also notes people often don’t seek help because of the stigma associated with addressing mental health. For instance, cultural taboo can deter people who desperately want to better themselves.

“People don’t feel as though they are going to be perceived in the same way by family or friends — or their employer — if they say that they’re struggling,” McCarthy said. “So people don’t speak up about it, and people don’t access the resources. But part of what all of us here today are really here to talk about is how to stand up and talk about it, and allow people to feel more comfortable with it so that we can help reduce that stigma for everyone.”

Treatment is different for every person, but individual therapy is a standard practice for those seeking help. McCarthy notes treatment is assessed on a spectrum to cater to each person’s needs.

## Five Mental Health Resources in Nassau

- Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Services – Projected to open in early 2024
- Family Treatment and Recovery Center – (516) 746-0350
- Long Island Addiction Center – (516) 788-6449
- Mercy Recover House – (516) 868-2244
- The Charles Evans Center – (516) 622-8888

“We ask what do they want to get out of these sessions, and what are their biggest struggles so that we can help tailor intervention specifically for them,” she said. “Not everyone needs to take medication or is even encouraged to take it. It depends on their situation.”

Patients seeking treatment for substance use or behavioral issues hang on to the patterns and habits that don’t suit them because they’ve used them to cope with their stress,” McCarthy said. A major part of a patient’s treatment is to help them understand that relapse can potentially happen.

“We try to help them identify it before it happens so that they can put their coping skills in place prior to struggling with a relapse,” she said.

“We all want the same goal. We all want to make sure that individuals have help for whatever they need help within the moment, when they’re ready for that help.”



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# Magical display at Morgan Memorial Park

July 6, 2023 – GLEN COVE HERALD

**T**he evening sky at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove was filled with fireworks, celebrating July 4, America's Independence Day.

The magical evening reflects on the history of the country, and the mounting tension between the nation's original 13 colonies, whose population were considered subjects of the King of England.

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain. The event eventually led to the formation of the United States.

Fireworks have been a part of cultural celebrations for hundreds of years, and the founding fathers were quick to adopt it as a show of patriotic pride.

Independence Day fireworks are a tradition that first originated in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777.

That day, there was a ship docked in the harbor with 13 gunshot salutes representing the 13 colonies, and fireworks began and ended with 13 rockets. Fireworks were also set off by the Sons of Liberty over at the Boston Common that night as well.

—Roksana Amid



Tab Hauser/Herald photos

**THE NIGHT SKY** shimmered with a magical display of lights for all to enjoy.



**FIREWORKS BLAZED THROUGH** the evening sky to remind the nation of the events that occurred in 1776.

**THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY** dazzled onlookers at Morgan Memorial Park.

**RED, WHITE, AND** blue, colors of the United States flag, sparkled in the evening sky.

# STEPPING OUT

## Cruising through summer

### Oyster Bay welcomes back

# Cruise Night

By Will Sheeline

Car shows are a summertime staple. You'll find them most everywhere. One that certainly attracts attention — from locals and car enthusiasts from all over — is Cruise Night. The most popular car show on the North Shore is back, and folks from across Long Island have begun making their weekly pilgrimage to Oyster Bay each Tuesday to enjoy the sights and sounds of cars from every decade.

A vast range of vehicles are on display, from Ford Model Ts to 1960s Thunderbirds and exotic Maseratis and Lamborghinis. According to George Hanley — who has participated with his 1969 Ford Mustang Mach 1 for more than a decade — it's not just the cars that draw people, but the sense of community among the car lovers that makes Cruise Night unique.

"The cars are a good reason, but the old friends are also a fun thing to run into," Hanley says. "It's a nice night. It's not rowdy. It's a real good old-fashioned car show."

Wandering through Audrey Avenue in the heart of the hamlet is something to behold. Visitors are surrounded by the beautifully refurbished and lovingly cared-for cars, with bright paint jobs and popped hoods. The aromas of beer from the local brewery and cigar smoke waft over. Music played on the street lends a lively backdrop.

The event, organized weekly by the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce, also puts the lovely and historic hamlet on display. From the classic architecture and small-town feel, to the numerous restaurants and stores of all sorts, Cruise Night offers car enthusiasts — and those who drop by — to check out the scene. Not just the vintage cars, but an opportunity to enjoy the many amenities Oyster Bay has to offer.

Whether you want to take a break from the heat and pop into Theodore's Books to browse their wide collection, or get a bite to eat at local favorites like Taby's Diner or 2 Spring, the evening is not just a celebration of great cars, but a showcase of Oyster Bay itself. Ravin Chetram, vice president of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich chamber, says it doesn't just put the hamlet on the map, but strengthens the many local businesses by drawing crowds to the community.

"It's such a great event, it really brings people out to enjoy Oyster Bay



- Every Tuesday, through Sept. 13, from 5 p.m. to sunset
- Free entry
- Audrey Avenue, Oyster Bay



during the summer," Chetram says. "Cruise Night is just one of those things that makes our community so special."

This year also marks the first time that Cruise Night is partnering with Rallye BMW, which has taken on a more active role in the hamlet since the recent closure of Oyster Bay BMW. Nick Soldo, Rallye's senior client advisor, and his team are on-site, pleased to be involved with the community.

"We're here for everybody," Soldo says. "We want to make a bigger presence in Oyster Bay for both the clients of BMW, and the residents of Oyster Bay."

Kim Mancuso/Herald photos

**Top: Debbie Dugan and her 19-year old dog Sammy drove from Glen Head in her 1951 Chevy pick-up.**

**Bottom left: Danny Grella, right, and his son Donato came out from Glen Cove and had a great time at Cruise Night.**

**Bottom right: Cruise Night is Shangri-la for car enthusiasts.**



### Cold Beer on a Saturday Night

It's always 5 p.m., somewhere, so get into the vibe with Jimmy Kenny and his band. They'll provide the soundtrack for an evening of summer fun, playing the best of Jimmy Buffett, Kenny Chesney and Zac Brown, as well as country favorites, summer pop, yacht rock, reggae, and tropical classics. The Long Island-based band has been delighting audiences with their beach country sounds for more than 12 years. Popular up and down the Northeast coast — from Maine to Maryland — their appealing mix of singalong hits and feel-good, easy living vibes always gets everyone in the groove. Get that 'toe-in-the-sand while wasting away with a margarita' feeling and party on with Paul C. Cuthbert (aka Jimmy Kenny) on lead vocals and acoustic guitar, Linn DeMilita (aka Lovely Linn) on lead and backing vocals, Luis Rios on lead guitar and backing vocals, Frank Stainkamp on keyboards and backing vocals, drummer Mike Vecchione, and Dan Prine on bass.

Saturday, July 8, 8 p.m. \$35, \$25, \$20, \$15. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [ParamountNY.com](https://www.ParamountNY.com).



### Swingtime Big Band

Those vibrant sounds of the swing era can be heard at the Madison Theatre, when Swingtime returns with another high-octane concert. Since their 2012 debut performance here, Swingtime is proud to have become known as the Madison's 'house band.' Their 'homecoming' includes a host of swingin' hits from the Great American Songbook — all connected to the concept of 'home.' The band expertly recreates the music of Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Harry James, and Gene Krupa, along with their engaging vocalists saluting such legendary singers as Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, and the immortal Frank Sinatra. Swingtime maintains its tradition of celebrating the 100th birthdays of the iconic musicians who created this quintessential American art form — their 2023 centennial spotlight is on the amazing trumpeter, composer/arranger and bandleader Thad Jones.

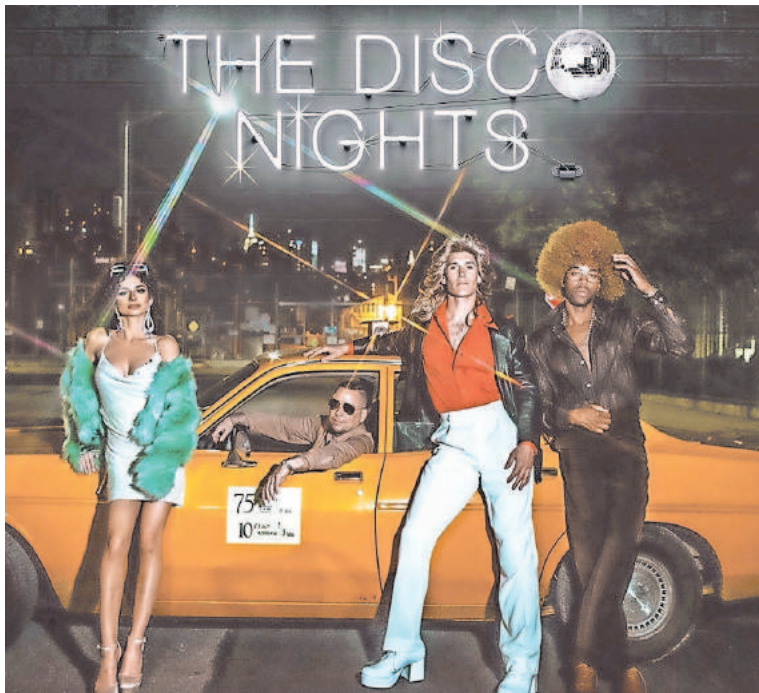
Sunday, July 9, 3 p.m. \$30-\$40. Madison Theatre, Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. [MadisonTheatrenY.org](https://www.MadisonTheatrenY.org) or call (516) 323-4444.

# THE \$ SCENE

July 7

Those disco nights  
Get your boogie

on with The Disco Nights, appearing on The Paramount stage, Friday, **July 7**, 8 p.m. If you like The Bee Gees, Donna Summer, Chic and the whole Studio 54 soundtrack, you're going to love The Disco Nights. Everyone will feel like dancing at this tribute to an unforgettable era. Relive those "Saturday Night Fever" moments with this dynamic act, featuring vocalists Alessandra Guercio, Jerome Bell and Adam Bastien from "American Idol" and "The Voice." They're backed by one of the tightest bands around, veterans of the New York City music scene. The band includes Musical Director and Billboard charting superstar JJ Sansaverino on guitar, Stanley Banks on the bass, Etienne Lytle and Patrick Firth on the keys, Damon DueWhite on the drums, and Danny Sadownick on percussion. Throw on top of that a load of super-fun choreography, audience participation, props and costumes — and you have a party that audiences don't want to leave. The beat goes on and on, with over-the-top renditions of the decade's most vibrant songs as Studio 54 comes to life once more. \$35, \$30, \$25, \$15. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



### Art talk

Join Nassau County Museum Director Charles A. Riley II, PhD, for a Director's Seminar, Sunday, **July 9**, 3 p.m. He'll discuss "Oscar Wilde: The Critic and His Artists," examining the endlessly fascinating author who was connected to a glittering circle of artists. His friends included Toulouse-Lautrec (who painted his portrait on the eve of his legal demise), the Pre-Raphaelites Burne-Jones, Morris and Millais, Whistler and Sargent (his neighbors on Tite Street in London's Chelsea), and the naughty prodigy Aubrey Beardsley. Participation is limited; registration required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

July 6



### On exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's exhibition, "Eye And Mind: The Shin Collection," highlights the extraordinary collection masterworks assembled by 31-year-old connoisseur Hong Gyu Shin, an internationally recognized figure in the global art world. He shares his treasures, including works by Whistler, Lautrec, Boucher, Daumier, Delacroix, Klimt, Schiele, Balthus, Warhol, de Kooning, Gorky and many other important names from art history provocatively juxtaposed with the painting and sculpture of our own time from both Asia and the West. On view **through July 9**. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

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### Splish Splash... Animal Baths

Hang out with some Long Island Children's Museum's "residents," Saturday, **July 8**, 1:30-2 p.m. Join an animal educator in the Yellow Studio in the Feasts for Beasts Gallery to learn what goes into the care of LICM's animals. Observe animal bath time. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

### Dancing in the Street

Dancing in the Street, an annual series of free dance evenings in the streets of Oyster Bay, has returned every to the hamlet every **Friday in July** and **the first two Fridays in August**, from 7 to 9 p.m. Organized by the Oyster Bay Main Street Association, music and dance instruction will be provided by DJ and dancer Louis Del Prete. For more information, call (516) 313-1683 or contact diane.writes4@gmail.com.

### Summer sounds

Mike Carrozza and the Trip Kings as rock West Harbor Memorial Beach, **Friday July 14**. Presented by the Bayville Village Arts Council. 1-199 W Harbor Dr. in Bayville. For more information contact papny@aol.com or (917) 880-6618.

### Pokemon Parade

Bring the kids to a Pokemon Parade at the Whaling Museum, Friday, **July 7**, noon and 2 p.m. Discover how whales, sharks and other marine animals inspired some of the most iconic Pokemon, how to play a unique version of the card game, and design and create your own Pokemon and an exclusive card to go with it. 301 Main St., in Cold Spring Harbor. For more information call (631) 367-3418.



### Morgan Park Summer Music Festival

Enjoy "100 Years of Broadway," Neil Berg's homage to New York's musical theater with top Broadway vocalists, **Sunday, July 9**, beginning at 7 p.m., at Morgan Memorial Park. Germaine St., Glen Cove. For information, call (212) 315-4118 or contact mpsmfpress@gmail.com.



### Family Bat Walk

Stroll Old Westbury Gardens with Gabriel Willow, a New York City-based urban naturalist and environmental educator, Saturday, **July 8**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. He will lead a walk through the gardens to listen and look for bats while discussing bat ecology and conservation. All ages are welcome. Space is limited and reservations are required. Rain date is **Saturday, July 15**. 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information contact (516) 333-0048 or visit OldWestburyGardens.org.

### On stage

Plaza Theatricals brings the iconic musical "Rent," back to the stage, Friday, **July 21**, 7:30 p.m. The acclaimed reimagining of "La Vie Boheme," loosely based on Puccini's opera and set on East Village streets, fire escapes, tenements, and cafes. This groundbreaking roller coaster ride depicting the joys and sorrows of an eclectic, diverse group of young artists and activists is always captivating. It's performed at the Elmont Library Theatre, 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$35, \$30 seniors. Elmont. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit PlazaTheatrical.com.



### Mindful mornings

Practice the "art" of looking at art at Nassau County Museum of Art, Thursday, **July 27**, 10-11 a.m., with NCMA Director of Education Laura Lynch. Mindful looking invites you to observe, question, and calmly reflect in a relaxed and supportive environment free of distraction. It's an opportunity to experience and enjoy the art in the galleries or sculpture garden, together, making personal connection. \$10. Space is limited and registration required. Also Aug. 3. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

### Library Walking Club

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, **every Thursday**, at 10 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome and attendees are encouraged to walk at their own pace, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at GlencoveLibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

### Senior Lunch Program

Enjoy visiting friends, with a delicious lunch and chair yoga, at the popular senior program hosted by Mutual Concerns, **every Tuesday**, at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, at 253 Glen Ave., in Sea Cliff. Those interested in joining the lunch program can call Peggie Como at (516) 675-7239.

### Having an event?

Items on The Scene page are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to thescene@liherald.com.

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Roksana Amid/Herald

**EMILY JUNKER, LEFT**, and Gracie Donaldson Cipriano, right, discussed the many aspects of the city's comprehensive plan. Cipriano asked insightful questions about the planning process, while also sharing her ideas on how to make the city better.

## City plans for its future

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

**C**ity hall echoed with residents eager to share their thoughts on plans for the city's future. Families, business owners, senior citizens and those involved in the performing arts, just to name a few, eagerly addressed the issues that mattered most to them.

The public attend its first workshop on June 29 to discuss the city's smart growth comprehensive plan, which helps to establish goals, recommendations for future development land use, infrastructure and services.

BFJ Planning, a consulting firm in Manhattan, has been hired to assist the city to develop its comprehensive plan update. A comprehensive planning committee made up of a cross section of the community prepares the plan. The city council, city staff, the Glen Cove Community Development Agency, residents; civic, environmental, and community-based organizations; business owners; property owners; and other City of Glen Cove stakeholders will all have a say in how the city adopts their plan.

Glen Cove's Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2009, but many municipalities try to update their comprehensive plan every 10 years to ensure the plan reflects current demographics, planning efforts, and development context.

The plan will account for the changes that have occurred in recent years, including large-scale redevelopment in the downtown and waterfront areas, and for current trends such as commercial real estate market changes resulting from the pandemic. It will also address the population growth from 2010 to 2020. Glen Cove increased their population by 5.2 percent over the last ten years.

Residents like Eileen Coles talked about how inspired she was by environmental practices she's seen in Europe and hopes to bring some of those progressive strategies to her home city. "We need to continue environmental cleanup of our brown fields, especially Glen Cove Creek, progressive and intelligent recycling for our city's recycling and e-waste policies. Which involve the larger apartment build-

ings, supermarkets, and our schools."

Coles said she'd also like to see more solar powered infrastructure and widespread support for electric cars on top of many other progressive environmentally friendly projects.

Phyllis Burnett helps Glen Cove seniors get to and from their doctors' appointments via the Senior Center's medical transport busses. "We have the worst public transportation system in the universe to me," Burnett said. "The busses stop a certain time of night. We're a destination location, so people come in for the entertainment and leave, there is no way for people to get around."

Burnett said she contacted the county's bus system, only to be told by the department that her idea won't be considered.

One of the ambassadors of the city's comprehensive plan, Dr. Maxine Cappel Mayreis, the chamber's vice president, represents the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce. She is gathering input from different businesses in the community who can't attend meetings. One of the main issues that people expressed was affordable housing for young people to buy. Others asked her about repairing the golf course wall, which was destroyed during hurricane Ida.

Mayreis also addressed a similar observation to Coles when she detailed finding multiple vaporizer pens, which are battery powered pens used to smoke tobacco or marijuana. Mayreis found numerous amounts littered in parking lots and initially mistook them for cosmetics.

"Anytime I go home I bring back pocket-fulls of them," Mayreis said. "I hope there would be a good recycling program for these."

Frank Fish, a principal of BFJ planning, heard the community's insight into shaping the future of the city. "We heard the needs of seniors tonight and the needs of the youth, both for facilities and activities and housing. We heard a lot on transportation and parking, and all of those things will be covered in the plan."

A survey will be available at [GlenCoveComprehensivePlan.com](http://GlenCoveComprehensivePlan.com) for the community to provide their input.

Hard copies will be available for seniors and upon request.



Tim Baker/Herald photos

**THOUSANDS OF VISITORS** made their way to Eisenhower Park on July 1 to listen to some good tunes put on by Pete Mancini and the Hillside Airmen and see some colorful fireworks.

# Lighting up the sky on the Fourth of July

**T**he sky above Eisenhower Park's Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre was aglow on July 1 as thousands of people enjoyed the annual TD Bank "Celebrate America" event.

Visitors young and old donning red, white and blue all comfortable on their respective blankets or chairs enjoyed the show leading up the pyrotechnic spectacle put on by Fireworks by Grucci.

Fireworks by Grucci dates back to 1850 in Italy, when the family began experimenting with pyrotechnics. The Gruccis brought the company to Elmont after immigrating to the U.S. in 1870.

As a new edition, the prelude included a drone and laser light show. Different shapes were displayed in the sky, much to everyone's amazement. The night's tunes were brought to attendees by the winner of the county's recently concluded Battle of the Bands competition, Pete Mancini and the Hillside Airmen.

After the show everyone turned their attention to the sky to see colorful bombs explode in the sky as America marks another year.



**DYLAN PALHA, FAR** left, 5, with his siblings Liam, 10, and Natalie, 6, from Seaford enjoyed the show.

**MEGHAN MCGINTY FROM** Brentwood and Aiden Colbert from North Babylon were not messing around with their patriotism for this Fourth of July celebration.



**VISITORS WERE MESMERIZED** by the show put on by Fireworks by Grucci.

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## OPINIONS

## How many ways can the Mets disappoint us?

**S**en. Daniel Patrick Moynihan famously said that “being Irish means knowing that somewhere, somehow, the world is going to break your heart.”

The sports world equivalent of this Irish fatalism is being a Mets fan. I say this with all the authority of someone who has stood with the Mets since their opening day of spring training in 1962. That inaugural Mets team went on to lose a modern-era record 120 games — a record that still stands, and that was immortalized by New York’s classic wordsmith and blue-collar raconteur, Jimmy Breslin, in his



**PETER KING**

masterful work “Can’t Anybody Here Play This Game?”

In fairness to the ‘62 Mets, however, there was no reason to expect an expansion team to do well, since its roster comprised players rejected by all the other teams in the major leagues. Just seven years later, the 1969 Mets, under the leadership of manager Gil Hodges, stunned the baseball world by defeating the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles in the World

Series. A dynasty was born!

Or so Mets fans thought. Instead, what we hoped would be a dynasty came undone. Johnny Murphy, the Mets’ general manager and the chief architect of the championship team, died of a heart attack in 1970. Then, in April 1972, Hodges, the team’s heart, soul and unquestioned leader, suffered a massive heart attack and died.

Except for a late-season surge that got the Mets into the 1973 World Series, their fans had to endure more than a decade of mediocre, losing baseball. Nothing personified the fans’ frustration and despair during those uninspiring days and years more than the front-office decision in 1976 to trade away Tom Seaver, perhaps the greatest pitcher of his era, for nonentities. That was a white flag of surrender.

Our hopes rose again in the early 1980s, when Frank Cashen took over as general manager, creating an outstanding farm system that produced the likes of Dwight Gooden and Darryl Strawberry, and making trades for future Hall of Fame catcher Gary Carter and MVP first baseman Keith Hernandez. This time Mets fans were convinced that a dynasty had been created, as the squad, under

Manager Wally Backman, finished a close second in the National League East in 1985, won a classic World Series over the Red Sox in ‘86, finished second again in ‘87 and captured a division title in ‘88.

But this bubble burst as well, with the precipitous decline of superstars Gooden and Strawberry, brought on by cocaine addiction.

Our hopes soared yet again in 1992, when the Mets gave mega-dollar contracts to stars including Bobby Bonilla, Vince Coleman, Bret Saberhagen and Eddie Murray. Pre-season experts had the Mets winning it all. Instead, the “Best Team Money Could Buy” failed miserably, winning only 72 games and finishing in fifth place in the NL East.

Fast-forward to 2015 and 2016, when the team assembled a young pitching staff of Matt Harvey, Jacob deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and Steven Matz, which appeared to have unmatched and limitless potential. Once more, we Mets fans were thinking dynasty. Instead, the star hurlers were all beset by arm injuries, and now they are no longer even with the team.

This year it was all going to be different. Building off last season’s 101 wins, owner Steve Cohen added future Hall of

Fame pitcher Justin Verlander to a staff headed by another future Hall shoo-in, Max Scherzer, and the incomparable reliever Edwin Diaz. Combined with slugger Pete Alonso, batting champion Jeff McNeil and established stars Francisco Lindor, Brandon Nimmo and Starling Marte, this seemed to guarantee at least a solid playoff berth, if not a pennant and a World Series title. Expectations were the highest they have been in years.

Instead, Diaz wrecked his knee celebrating a victory by Puerto Rico in the World Baseball Classic, and Verlander and Scherzer were sidelined by injuries, and still aren’t pitching near what was expected of them. The team’s hitting has yet to get untracked, and the bullpen has no depth. Bottom line: As of last Friday, the Mets were in next-to-last place in the N.L. East, 17-1/2 games behind the first-place Atlanta Braves.

I know the season is barely half over, and miracles happen. But it looks like another disappointing summer ahead of us. How many times can the Mets break their fans’ hearts? Pat Moynihan might as well have been talking about our team. As for me, I’m afraid I’ll never learn. I’m hanging in there.

Let’s go, Mets!

*Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security.*

## Malaria, mobs and other travel buzz-kills

**I** have begun to worry about malaria, and I’m taking malaria prophylaxis, even though I’m not about to leave for a safari or the wilds of Myanmar anytime soon.

I’ll wager, right now, that I am the *only* non-traveling person in our entire reading area who is taking malaria prophylaxis. The disease is not endemic to the U.S., so



**RANDI KREISS**

why take a preventive? (Explanation to follow.)

Even those who don’t venture beyond the bridges and tunnels, and don’t fancy foreign travel, know there are places in this world where the Anopheles mosquito carries malaria. It threatens 3.4 billion people, half

the world’s population, almost all of whom live in developing countries. The disease killed some 650,000 people last year. You get a bite, a few days later your fever spikes and you begin to shake with bone-rattling chills. In many countries, there is no treatment available; people suffer and die.

Here on Long Island, we have relatively benign mosquitoes that crash our backyard barbecues, tormenting those who forget to use repellent. For decades they have been no more than a nuisance. But recent-

ly (and this is what got me thinking), there has been serious concern about the mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus, a disease the bugs contract from infected birds.

Last week, in an effort to mitigate that threat, Nassau County sprayed vast tracts of the South Shore during the overnight hours. Go, big government!

In the past, there have actually been small, isolated outbreaks of malaria in the U.S., caused by healthy mosquitoes biting sick people who carried the malaria parasites from their travels. The mosquitoes then bit other humans, spreading the disease. Those outbreaks were all easily contained, because we have a relatively efficient public health system.

While West Nile is a homegrown problem and our government is effectively addressing the threat, malaria is out of control in many areas of India, Southeast Asia and Africa.

We’re planning a trip to India and Africa later this year. Our doctor is adamant about requiring malaria prophylaxis. The best choice is Malarone, he says. Unfortunately, Malarone and I have a history. Several years ago, I took it when I traveled to Cambodia. On the fifth day of taking the pill, I got really sick. I figured it was the pill, and stopped taking it. I felt better with-

in hours, and I didn’t get malaria, although I traveled for two more weeks through India. This led me to the logically flawed conclusion that I don’t need protection from malaria.

The doctor believes I may have gotten sick from something other than the medication. So he suggested I take Malarone for 10 days while I’m home and safe in my own neighborhood. Thus, the malaria prophylaxis. So far, so good. If the test goes well, I’ll take the pills every day during the trip. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, even the prophylaxis is only 90 percent effective, and travelers who visit African game parks are advised to wear cover-up clothing and to use repellent with DEET.

All this anticipatory medication has made me rethink the entire enterprise of foreign travel these days, especially to places like India and Africa. Fear of mosquitoes, I realize, is a metaphor for all the dangers of such travel. When I read the newspaper, I realize that malaria is probably the least-worst thing that might happen on a trip to sub-Saharan Africa. Is there a vaccine against al-Shabaab?

It’s easy to make the argument for staying stateside. And some of our friends and

**A**ll this medication has me rethinking the entire enterprise of foreign travel.

**Randi is on a brief leave.  
This column was originally  
published Sept. 4-10, 2014.**

family are urging us to reconsider our plans. Here at home we have clean food, pure water and relatively safe streets. There is good oversight of public services and infrastructure and transportation. Our doctors are well trained and available. There’s no Ebola.

On the other hand, you probably won’t see a rhino in the wild unless you travel, and you definitely won’t see Cape Horn or the lemurs of Madagascar.

I think the desire to travel beyond the I-95 corridor, the willingness to put up with inconvenience and risk and cost and medications, has to do with one’s basic philosophy of life. Or perhaps it’s just foolishness; I’m not sure which. Maybe it even has to do with one’s sense of mortality. We can play it safe, or we can seek out new experiences. I find myself thinking about people who live in Mumbai or Mombasa, and I want to see what their lives look like up close. I want to see the colors of another culture. I want to see the children’s faces.

After all, you and I won’t get to do this dance again. While we’re out on the floor, shouldn’t we kick up our heels?

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Summer traditions aren't always safe traditions

**F**ireworks are a fun summer spectacle the whole family can enjoy. Millions across the country gathered to watch these colorful displays light up the night sky last weekend and on Tuesday, and similar shows will continue all summer.

Unlike some other parts of the country, however, New York does not allow the purchase or use of fireworks by anyone who is not a licensed professional with a permit.

Not that this law stops anyone, however. It may be illegal to buy, use, sell or transport fireworks in the state, but it's not hard to make a quick run to a nearby state like Pennsylvania or Massachusetts, where buying them is legal, and simply bring them back home.

"I know many New Yorkers are eager to celebrate Independence Day this year, but we must ensure our celebrations are safe and fun," New York Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez has said. "Around this holiday, the biggest threats to safety are very close to home. The Fourth of July is one of the holidays with the highest number of accidents."

No matter how they're obtained, these pyrotechnics can be extremely dangerous. Every year, nearly 10,000 people around the country — many between ages 20 and

24 — are treated for fireworks-related injuries. That's one every hour of every day. The injuries can range from minor to severe burns and lacerations to the loss of limbs and, in rare cases, even death.

While the use of firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, spinners and other fireworks is illegal and highly discouraged, there are still far too many people willing to take the risk. That's why the state's Division of Consumer Protection advises anyone handling fireworks take necessary safety precautions:

- Follow instructions on the packaging.
- Keep a supply of water nearby.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never attempt to relight a "dud."
- Never, under any circumstances, point or throw fireworks toward anything or anyone.

In some parts of the state, ground-mounted and handheld sparklers — known for their shower of colored sparks and crackling sound — are permitted outdoors, provided they meet guidelines governing the amount of pyrotechnic material inside. But that doesn't mean these sparklers are harmless and safe for children to use. They can heat up to 800

degrees — hot enough to melt gold — and can easily set fire to clothing or hair.

In Nassau County, it is illegal to use, possess or sell fireworks — including sparklers. Doing so without a permit can be punishable as a misdemeanor or felony, and can include fines of \$1,000 or more, and possibly even jail time.

Not only are fireworks illegal to use and own, but they are also a nuisance for neighbors and pets. Loud noises can traumatize animals, and in some instances even set off car alarms. The incendiary devices can also lead to property damage and fires in addition to injuries.

Let's face it, nobody wants to spend a summer night in the emergency room — or weeks of the summer in a hospital burn unit. Parents should talk with their children about the hazards that can occur when handling illegal fireworks.

To protect yourself and your family, celebrate responsibly by attending one of the dozens of licensed fireworks displays conducted by professionals across Long Island.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder also remind all of us that in the event that illegal fireworks are taking place in your neighborhood, call your local police precinct.

## LETTERS

### Our work continues in Albany

To the Editor:

It's no secret that over the last several years, Albany's one-party rule has been taking the state in the wrong direction. Higher taxes, increased spending, new mandates, and policies that favor criminals over community safety are just some of the actions forced on Long Islanders by Gov. Kathy Hochul, the New York City politicians who control the State Legislature and their supporters in Albany.

Fighting for our communities and standing up for the issues that matter most to us is exactly why I wanted to serve as a state senator. Throughout the 2023 legislative session, that's exactly what our team did.

We began the year by introducing the Rescue New York agenda — a comprehensive plan that provides sensible, common-sense solutions to fix the serious problems confronting our state. The plan would make New York safer, stronger, more affordable and more free. It would repeal the disastrous, broken cashless bail law that created a revolving door for criminals and prioritized them over law-abiding residents. It

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TWITTER.



## OPINIONS

# Threats to LGBTQ crowd loomed large this Pride month

Each June, the LGBTQ+ community proudly celebrates our strength, unity and visibility during Pride month. From Hewlett to the Hamptons, Long Islanders joined their LGBTQ+ neighbors once again last month to honor our historic

struggle for equality.

As usual, Long Island and New York showed up for Pride, but for many in our community, this year felt different.

A wave of bills targeting our rights have garnered widespread attention and outrage, sparking a

dangerous rise in anti-LGBTQ+ incidents locally and nationally. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, nearly 500 such bills have been introduced in state legislatures so far this year.

In contrast, New York leaders are taking meaningful action on behalf of our community. Flanked by queer icons and elected officials from across the state, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed legislation into law that will safeguard protections for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers — just moments

before marching in one of the world's largest Pride celebrations.

While state leaders remain steadfast in their support, a largely unknown fight over our rights is currently playing out in federal courts, and it could have a devastating impact on the health of LGBTQ+ people here on Long Island.

In March, a decision by a federal judge in Texas, in *Braidwood Management v. Becerra*, ripped away no-cost preventive health care from over 150 million Americans. If the decision is allowed to stand, health insurers will no longer be required to cover preventive screenings for serious conditions including HIV, cancer and heart disease.

In particular, the decision struck down access to PrEP, a life-saving medication that reduces the risk of contracting HIV from sex by 99 percent. PrEP is a key prevention strategy for ending the HIV epidemic in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Siding with the plaintiffs — a group of anti-LGBTQ+ business owners — the judge found that the Affordable Care Act's coverage of PrEP violates religious freedom, which will allow individual

insurers to deny access to it.

The Braidwood ruling came a month before the entire Long Island congressional delegation voted for a default plan that could have put 2.3 million New Yorkers at risk of losing access to Medicaid.

Both the Braidwood decision and the nation's near-default on its debt make clear that Long Islanders' care is under attack. Unfortunately, when given the chance to show independence and protect vital health services, U.S. Reps. George Santos, Anthony D'Esposito, Nick LaLota and Andrew Garbarino instead fell in line with the House leadership's devastating proposal.

This is a critical moment for the LGBTQ+ community, and the changes brought on by Braidwood present an existential crisis. Our community is disproportionately affected by HIV infections. Researchers at the Yale School of Public Health found that the ruling could result in more than 2,000 entirely preventable HIV infections in the next year.

Here on Long Island, access to PrEP is crucial. Recent reports show that Nassau and Suffolk counties have the highest suburban rates of HIV infection in the state. A staggering 5,300 Long Islanders

live with an HIV/AIDS diagnosis.

If the Braidwood ruling is allowed to stand, many LGBTQ+ Long Islanders, especially those struggling to make ends meet, people of color and people with disabilities, will instead decide to forgo basic preventive services like PrEP simply because they can no longer afford them. While 66 percent of eligible white people in America are prescribed PrEP, just 16 percent of eligible Hispanics and 9 percent of eligible Blacks are prescribed the lifesaving drug. The Braidwood ruling will inevitably worsen existing disparities in New York and on Long Island.

Legal experts have highlighted that the Braidwood case was brought on by opponents of the ACA. Despite 79 percent of Americans supporting no-cost preventive care, Republicans in Congress continue to wage a war against the ACA, even as 214,000 New Yorkers rely on it.

On Long Island, we need Santos, D'Esposito, Garbarino and LaLota to stand up against this dangerous and deeply unpopular ruling. If they don't, LGBTQ+ Long Islanders and our families will have to fight for our right to access life-saving health care next Pride Month.

*David Kilmnick, Ph.D., is the president and founder of the New York LGBT Network, and assistant professor and chair of the Online MSW Program at the University of South Florida.*



**DAVID  
KILMNICK**

**O**ur state leaders are supportive, but it's another story in the federal courts.

## LETTERS

would also cut taxes for residents, control state spending, and create jobs by improving New York's worst-in-the-nation business climate.

This plan is essential to change many of the factors that are leading New York in the wrong direction — reckless criminal justice policies, runaway spending, and high taxes — and we will continue to fight for its passage.

We protected our suburban quality of life and worked in a bipartisan manner to defeat Hochul's plan to override local zoning laws and force the construction of high-density, high-rise housing within a half-mile radius of Long Island Rail Road stations. Under this proposal, residents of single-family houses would have seen apartment buildings put up next to their houses, eliminating our communities' ability to determine for themselves how they grow, and virtually destroying the suburban character of our neighborhoods — the very reason many of us decided to live here in the first place.

Faced with the latest state budget in 13 years and spending that has increased by 35 percent under one-party rule in just five years, we spoke out, and voted against some other completely misguided proposals that are moving the state in the wrong direction, including Hochul's plan to ban natural gas in newly constructed homes; congestion pricing, which is just another tax on commuters; the Clean Slate Act, which enables convicted felons to hide their criminal backgrounds; public financing of campaigns; legislation providing free health care benefits to illegal immigrants; and radical changes in election laws and the way Long Islanders cast their votes in local elections.

We continued the fight for more affordable water for South Shore residents by introducing legislation to provide state funding for the South Nassau Water Authority to fulfill its mission to study, negotiate and report on a possible transition from Liberty Water, a private, for-profit company, to public water so voters can make an informed decision — just as the

## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Well over a century old and still going strong — the Mansion at Glen Cove

state is already providing for the North Shore Water Authority for the same purpose.

We successfully delivered much needed funding for local food banks to address food insecurity in our communities, a serious problem that is being worsened by sky-high inflation that is driving up food prices.

These are just a few of the actions we took this year

to put our state back on the right track. The session may be over, but our work isn't done. We will continue standing up for the issues that matter most to our communities and hard-working taxpayers.

STATE SEN. STEVE RHOADS

*Rhoads, a Republican, represents the 5th Senate District*



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