

# HERALD



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VOL. 32 NO. 32

AUGUST 3 - 9, 2023

\$1.00



Adrienne Daley/Herald

## A toast to the feast

Last weekend's Feast of St. Rocco — the Best Feast in the East — was a hit once again, with plenty of rides, games and food. This year's event also included magic shows and an evening of fireworks. More photos, Page 10.

# Now a sixth contender for Santos seat

By **WILL SHEELINE**  
wsheeline@liherald.com

George Santos seems to be entrenching himself in his congressional seat representing the North Shore and parts of Queens. But one Glen Head resident believes he has what it takes to not only kick the embattled congressman out of office, but also keep the seat in Republican hands.

Mike Sapracione, a retired New York Police Department detective and the owner of a private security company, declared his candidacy for the seat last week, becoming the sixth challenger to officially announce against Santos.

Sapracione served in the NYPD between 1980 and 2000, reaching the rank of first-grade detective — the highest rank obtainable in the NYPD. He worked as part of the Rudy Guiliani administration he

says helped turn New York City from the country's murder capital into one with the lowest murder rate in the country.

"I was there in the mid-'90s when crime was running rampant, and I was all part of that

**W**e're lacking people reaching across the aisle and not worried about what their own personal agenda is, or what their party's agenda is.

**MIKE SAPRAICONE**  
congressional candidate

turnaround in crime," Sapracione said. "I worked very closely with the (police) commissioner's office, the deputy commissioner's office, when murder was rampant in the subways and on the streets."

In 1993, Sapracione found a new way to keep people safe with a startup, Squad Security. He describes it as an international business specializing in "high-end corporate, technology, entertainment and complex logistical security services."

Over the years, Squad Services has worked with everything from local businesses to Fortune 500 companies, Sapracione said. An important aspect

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Council's new restrictions on smoke shops have public support

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
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The Glen Cove City Council unanimously passed a new law on July 25 that restricts the establishment of tobacco stores, commonly known as vape shops, in certain areas in the city, which, council members said, will help reduce young people's access to tobacco, vaping and drug paraphernalia.

Vaping products include electronic cigarettes and pipes, vape pens and similar devices, and vape liquid.

Since the first public hearing on the law on June 27, the city had modified the range in which vape products may be sold. It initially prohibited stores within 1,000 feet of houses of worship, schools, day care centers, playgrounds and parks. But Tip Henderson, the city's attorney, concluded that the restriction "obliterated any areas that could allow for a facility like this to be established." He helped to redraft a new law, which the council approved last week, which kept the restricted 1,000-foot distance for schools, but otherwise reduced it to 500 feet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Another Republican ready to replace Rep. George Santos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of those efforts was to continue working with law enforcement officers, employing as many as 600 active or retired officers in the United States and Canada.

"It was kind of a natural move from being a police detective to kind of doing security," Sapraticone said.

"I found my little niche in the world was always to only use active or retired law enforcement."

Sapraticone — originally from Queens, lived in Seaford, and currently residing in Glen Head — decided to run due to two pressing concerns. One was the news about Santos, who, following the reveal that he had largely fabricated his background when he won the 2022 election, has "been missing in action since he was elected."

The other is a concern that too many career politicians are distracted by bashing the opposition and ignoring the needs of their districts back home. Sapraticone said that his experience as a detective and a business owner has given him the ability to "de-escalate situations" and work with people who may have diametrically opposed views.

"I look at a good portion of our politicians in Washington, and they're mainly concerned with scoring partisan political points and advancing themselves," Sapraticone said. "We're lacking people reaching across the aisle and not worried about what their own personal agenda is or what their party's agenda is."

Public security has remained a priority

for Sapraticone over the years, and he hopes to bring his decades of experience in the field to Congress. He said that his time in the NYPD have given him the perspective that the focus on policing in this country should be "continuing to train them and continuing to fund them, not defund."

Another major concern for him is the economy, and the impact inflation is having on the voters he wants to represent. Sapraticone emphasized the increasing cost of living, and lambasted the concept of "congestion pricing," finding ways to shift some cars off the highways during rush hour to reduce traffic, which New York City politicians have been considering in recent months.

"I think public safety is a local issue, and it's certainly a nationwide issue," Sapraticone said. "We've talked to people who go into the local stores in my area, and they all say they're concerned about the cost of things."

While the Republican Party has yet to endorse any candidates in the race, Sapraticone said that he has been talking with local leaders and is hopeful that he will "at some point be the Republican-endorsed candidate."

He added that the party is taking its time to make sure their prospective candidate is fully vetted this time around, and in the meantime, he is also hopeful that the House Ethics Committee — and the courts — will get Santos out of office.

"I think it's time we" remove Santos from Congress, Sapraticone conclu. "I think he's just a stain on this country and our community, and we need to move on from that."



Courtesy Mike Sapraticone

Mike Sapraticone says he's going after the congressional seat currently held by U.S. Rep. George Santos. The businessman's priorities are in security and providing constituent service, which he says Santos has been failing to provide.

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Photos courtesy Gill Associates Photography

The crowd at Village Square danced during a fun-filled evening at Downtown Sounds, a perfect occasion to meet with friends and family during the summer.

# Bringing music to G.C.'s Village Square

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@lherald.com

**F**or more than 20 years, live music has been a staple of Friday nights in downtown Glen Cove. As part of the Glen Cove Business Improvement District's plan to revitalize the city's businesses, the Downtown Sounds initiative started in 1997 as a free concert series called Jazz in the Square, which was held every Friday in July. Located at the intersection of Glen and School streets, the concerts showcase local musicians and businesses. This year, Downtown Sounds is holding their 2023 series until Aug. 25.

Throughout the years, the concert series has grown with the help of sponsors. To accommodate the various musical preferences of the community and to attract a greater audience, the musical series evolved into Downtown Sounds, which was first coined by former BID executive director Francine Koehler.

"I think people just love to come out and have something to do," Jill Nossa, executive director of the BID, said. "It's nice to see friends and family and listen to really good music. Kids are out playing in the streets. This is a fun time for everyone."

One of this year's popular performances came from a band called Love Song, which drew a crowd of 2,000 people.

"Right from the start, people were up and dancing," Nossa said. "Every time you looked around more people were there. There was good energy."

This summer marks the second year of the Teen Idol contest. Through the summer concert series, a group of 5 teenagers are selected to sing at Downtown Sounds until one winner is chosen on Aug. 4. This year's final contestants are Tatiana Andino-Mendez and Stasia



After dancing, concertgoers gave a round of applause to the evening's performers.

Stasia Kulpa, below, is one of the final contestants for the Teen Idol competition for Downtown Sounds.

Tatiana Andino-Mendez, below, left, is one of the final contestants for the Teen Idol competition for Downtown Sounds.

Kulpa, both 17.

The winner receives \$1,500 and four hours of recording time at Tiki Recording Studios in the city's downtown. The runner up will receive two hours of recording time at the studio.

"The ones who've been in it so far, they've had a really good experience and a lot of fun," Nossa said. "It's a really great opportunity to showcase their talent and of course to win some cash and the recording time is big too, especially for some of these girls who are doing their own songwriting."

Patricia Holman, the former executive director of the Glen BID, decided to create the contest to support the silver anniversary of the concert series.

When she started the contest, the intention was twofold — to offer something for teens and engage the audience.

"The contest not only gave our talented teens a platform to perform but the entire community is invested and can't wait to see what happens next," Holman



said.

Nossa said the final two shows of the season would feature laser light shows, a sight new to the summer concert series.

Teens ages 13 to 18 interested in par-



ticipating next year can submit an mp3 file with a video of them singing any song they choose to downtownsounds-teenidol@gmail.com in January 2024.

Additional reporting by Kepherd Daniel

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## Who Are You Responsible For?

Recently, a client came in to see us for their follow-up consultation. The client shared with us that, in between their two meetings with us, the husband's brother had suffered a stroke and was now in a rehabilitation facility. He was a bachelor. He had no power of attorney or health care proxy. He may or may not have had a will — they didn't know. Further, they were unable to get access to his apartment to clean out the fridge and get his clothes because he had failed to put them on the list of persons approved to enter in the event of an emergency.

One of the most overlooked areas in estate planning is the question of who you are responsible for. Do you have a friend or relative who you know will need to rely on you if something happens? Either they have no one else or everyone else is too far away. If you have the responsibility, then make sure that you have the documents you will need to carry out that responsibility. Otherwise, the challenges become of a magnitude greater.

Similarly, so many of our clients have adult

children with young families. Do you know whether your children have wills, powers of attorney and health care proxies?

There are serious pitfalls for young families if one spouse dies without a plan. Roughly half of their assets go to their surviving spouse and half to the children. The court will appoint a legal guardian for the children's money and the unused portion must be turned over to them at age eighteen, ready or not!

A potentially more serious problem for our senior clients is whether their sons and daughters who have families possess adequate life insurance. If your son or daughter dies without sufficient life insurance, you may be called upon to support and educate your grandchildren out of your retirement money.

Finally, if you are responsible for the care of an elderly parent, then make sure it is you who has the power of attorney and health care proxy and not another sibling who may end up controlling the situation from afar, much to your dismay.

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## OBITUARY

# BOCES educator Robert Dillon

Dr. Robert R. Dillon (Bob), of Walden and Plainview, passed peacefully on July 28, 2023, after experiencing medical complications following spinal surgery.

He grew up in Bayside, Queens, with his parents Marie and Martin — who preceded him in death — along with his four brothers Matthew, Terrance, Dennis and Kevin, and sister Maureen.

Although drafted by the Detroit Tigers out of Loyola High School in New York City, he opted to pursue a career in education through St. John's University in Queens. There he obtained his doctorate in education.

During his more than 45-year career in education, he served as superintendent of four school districts: East Meadow, Sugar Loaf, Abbott Union and Eastport. He was the driving force that led to the successful merger of Eastport and South Manor school districts.

He was dedicated to fostering the next generation of school leaders and mentored many seeking their administrative certifications while teaching at St. John's University, SUNY at New Paltz, St. John Fisher University, and Dowling College.

Since 2015, he has led Nassau BOCES, a cooperative of the 56 school districts in Nassau County, leaving a legacy that will impact the students of Nassau County for decades.

Whether navigating through the Covid-19 pandemic, pushing for increased mental health student support, or innovating numerous programs, he has revitalized, transformed and enhanced educational opportunities for all students.

He served on many advisory boards and councils, including the Long Island Power Authority, Scope Education Services, and SUNY Old Westbury's School of Education.

He is survived by his childhood sweetheart Patricia Maureen (Patty), son Christopher and his wife Jessica, and grandchildren Kylie and Brendan.

He also is survived by daughters Deirdre and Caitlin, brothers and sister, and their respective families.

He loved golf, camping and fishing, and was an avid New York Giants fan. He was dedicated to his family, and wanted to make sure everyone was happy and well provided for.

Visitation was held Aug. 1 at Fairchild Sons Funeral Home in Garden City, and a funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 2 at The Cathedral of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre.

Interment followed at Queen of Peace Cemetery on Jericho Turnpike in Old Westbury.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Nassau BOCES Educational Foundation.



ROBERT DILLON

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The **Glen Cove Herald** USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. **Subscriptions:** \$50 one-time payment within Nassau County or \$60 outside of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 **Copyright © 2023** Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.



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# A new principal at Deasy Elementary School

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

The Glen Cove City School District Board of Education has appointed Erin Nastri to assume the role of principal of Deasy Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year. Nastri will succeed Melanie Arfman who retired in June.

Throughout her career, the Oyster Bay native has focused on advocating for the academic success of her students. She has 20 years experience working in education as a teaching assistant, elementary classroom teacher, summer school assistant principal in the Great Neck School District, and as an assistant principal in Three Village Central School District.

The 42-year-old began her journey to the classroom when she studied childhood education at the State University of New York at Old Westbury. As a student, she became a teacher's assistant for Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Schools. When she attended Long Island University Post for her masters in literacy for grades one to six, she became a full-time teacher with the district.

Nastri transitioned her career to the Great Neck Union Free School District where she served as an elementary teacher and the assistant principal for the district's summer school program for 16 years. Her time there was spent fostering her professional development within classrooms.

Nastri was one of the first teachers in Great Neck to teach in a classroom combining general and special education students. In this setting, Nastri taught her students compassion and inclusivity. Seeing them in the combined program is one of her fondest memories from the district.

"I loved seeing that program come to life and benefit children in a way that was so meaningful and so power-



Roksana Amid/Herald

**Erin Nastri, the new principal at Deasy Elementary, said she looks forward to working close to home with the diverse community in Glen Cove.**

ful," Nastri said. "It was something really inspiring to be a part of."

While working in the Great Neck School District Nastri pursued certificates in school building leadership and school district leadership with the College of St. Rose. She attended the Center for Integrated Teacher Education program, a distance delivery partner with the college, for a year-and-a-half.

"I got my certification and wasn't really sure that I

wanted to use it," Nastri said. "I really loved teaching, I loved being in the classroom."

But Nastri's school administrators were adept at spotting great leaders. She was encouraged to take on leadership roles.

Nastri eventually assumed the role as the assistant principal for the district's summer education classes for two years. She was the first elementary candidate in the summer school program while working in her typical role as a classroom teacher.

After her experience as a summer principal, Nastri knew she wanted to further her path as an administrator, but finding the right fit wasn't easy.

"I was very picky about where I applied to," Nastri said. "I loved where I was, it was an amazing place. I really wanted to find a good fit where I could make a difference."

She eventually became the assistant principal in the Three Village Central School District, where she worked for two years. The administration she worked with was instrumental in her career and encouraged her to become a principal.

Nastri found herself once again looking for a position that would be a good fit and was excited to see a position in Glen Cove. Working close to her hometown of Oyster Bay allowed her to be closer to her son.

"I like the fact that we are so close and that he is going to be able to come to a movie night or to our carnival," Nastri said. "I was working so far away when I was in Three Village that he could not come to anything that I did. He would always ask 'can I come to your playground' even though it was an hour away."

Nastri said that having her son as part of her working life was one of the strongest reasons why she chose to work in Glen Cove, but she also looks forward to working with students and colleagues with various backgrounds.

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# Dems sue legislature claiming gerrymandering

## Republican-led chamber accused of drawing unfair district maps

By **BRANDON CRUZ**

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Nassau County Democrats, along with 21 plaintiffs from throughout each of the 19 legislative districts, have filed a lawsuit against the county legislature. They allege the recently redrawn legislative districts are racist, gerrymandered, and give an unfair advantage to Republicans, who hold majority control over the chamber.

This lawsuit was filed nearly five months after the Nassau County Legislature voted to approve the new map as part of the county's redistricting process, which takes place every 10 years in-line with the census. The measure drew the support of 11 Republicans, but was opposed by seven Democrats.

The suit also comes less than four months before the Nov. 7 elections when all 19 seats are up for grabs. It also comes on the heels of a state appellate court deciding in an unrelated matter that New York's congressional districts — which were redrawn last year by a special master — should be done again.

Among the issues Democrats have with the new county maps include moving Democratic Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams from the district he has represented for more than 20 years, to a new Republican-leaning district. The suit claims voters leaning in one direction are being packed into two districts, while the rest are spread out to other districts as a way to "dilute their voting strength." The maps, according to the suit, forces two Democrats to run against each other in one district, while leaving Republican incumbents unchallenged.

"Republicans are trying to rig the upcoming election by gerrymandering legislative districts to keep themselves in power," said David Mejias, the attorney representing the Nassau County Democratic Committee and the 21 other plaintiffs.

Mejias seeks an injunction against using the maps, asking the court to provide a timely opportunity to present a lawful, redrawn version before the upcoming elections.

"They tried to limit public hearings," Mejias said of Republicans, during a recent news conference. "They introduced the current map at the 11th hour, and they have refused to produce the partisan consultant that they hired to draw this map, whose purported analysis and methodology is the best kept secret in Mineola."

"We've asked for the analysis. We've asked for the methodology, and they have said 'no.'"

Democrats, on the other hand, hired what they describe as a non-partisan independent, Dan Magleby, to produce a fair and competitive map.

"All of his methodology, analysis and work product was made public," Mejias said. "He testified at a public hearing, and the Republicans have refused to produce the expert that drew this gerrymandered partisan map to the public, to the Democratic minority legislators, to the redistricting commission."



Brandon Cruz/Herald photos

Attorney David Mejias speaks about what he calls 'an illegal gerrymander' alongside some of the plaintiffs and supporters of the lawsuit filed against the Nassau County Legislature over what they claim are new district maps that favor the majority Republicans over Democrats. Joining Mejias were, from left, Pamela Korn, Mimi Pierre-Johnson, Darien Ward and John Jarvis.



tricting commission."

Magleby's work consisted of creating 10,000 computer-simulated legislative maps through a "party-blind nonpartisan process," Mejias said. The Republican-approved map does not resemble even one out of Magleby's maps, the attorney added — something that is not even statistically possible.

"An objective mathematical analysis shows that this map is an illegal partisan gerrymander," Mejias said.

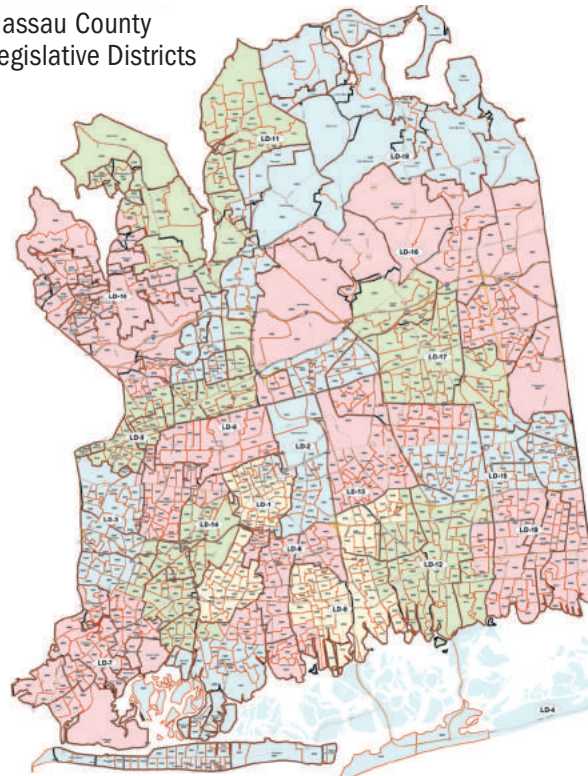
However, Republicans disagree with any assertion this map is illegal.

"The lines drawn are fair, reasonable and in accordance with applicable law," said Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, in a statement.

Nassau County Republican chair Joseph Cairo described the legislative districts as "fair and competitive."

"The districts comply with all applicable federal and state redistricting laws,"

Nassau County Legislative Districts



Courtesy Nassau County NAACP

Democrats claim the recently approved district map for the Nassau County Legislature benefits Republicans — who hold a majority in Mineola — while putting any opposition at a disadvantage. They now want a judge to make a final determination.

H. Scottie Coads, at left, is leading the lawsuit against the Nassau County Legislature, claiming its new district maps benefit the majority Republicans, leaving any other opposition at a disadvantage.

Cairo told reporters.

But some voters — like John Jarvis, who is also a plaintiff in the lawsuit — say that's not true. Instead, he describes it as a human rights issue, with the current maps for the districts being "extremely unfair" and clearly "discriminate against certain groups of people."

As a way to prove his point about how the districts are already drawn, Mejias used Blakeman's 2021 victory over Laura Curran. There, Blakeman won with 52 percent of the vote, while his fellow Republicans managed to win 60 percent of the legislative races. He also explains

that even when Curran won in 2017, Republicans still managed to get nearly 60 percent of the legislative seats.

"How do you get 48 percent of the vote countywide (in 2017) and still win those seats and have a solid majority in the legislature?" Mejias asked. "That can only happen if those seats are gerrymandered."

Democrats are prepared for a long and lengthy legal battle, but insist they will fight this until the end.

"If they won't listen to the people," Mejias said, "the Republicans will have to listen to the courts."

# 'Overwhelming support' for new local law

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said that the smoke shops already operating in the city "are enough," and that she had received a multitude of emails from parents expressing concerns that more would open. As a teacher and parent, she said, she felt the need to act quickly.

"We got it right," Panzenbeck said. "We took the time to get it right. The response I've gotten from the community — they really want this, so it's wonderful."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most electronic cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development into a user's early to mid-20s. Additionally, young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to eventually smoke cigarettes.

The CDC estimates that e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used

tobacco product among young people since 2014. In 2022, roughly one of every 30 middle school students, and one of every seven high school students, reported that they had used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days.

With those health risks in mind, Safe Inc., the only certified substance-abuse prevention agency in Glen Cove, embarked on a year-long effort to draft and propose the law restricting new stores to B-2 district areas. Safe Inc. said it believed the city needed strong and effective laws and regulations to protect young people from becoming addicted to vaping products by reducing access to tobacco and other drug paraphernalia.

The Glen Cove Police Department and Panzenbeck's office, which also received complaints from residents and surrounding communities that stores were selling flavored nicotine vapes to minors, worked with Safe Inc. to establish the law.

Vape lounges, which are prohibited throughout the city, now include establishments known as hookah lounges.

Andrew Ardino, a Glen Cove resident, said he wasn't sure how effective the new law would be. "It will reduce it, by nature of it not being available everywhere," Ardino said, referring to the use of vaping paraphernalia. "But isn't the real problem that they are able to purchase this stuff to begin with? They're supposed to be 21 to purchase."

After the Police Department fielded

**W**e got it right. We took the time to get it right. The response I've gotten from the community — they really want this, so it's wonderful.

**PAMELA PANZENBECK**  
mayor, Glen Cove



Roksana Amid/Herald

RNJ Smoke & Cigars, on Glen Cove Avenue, which sells tobacco products, is grandfathered into the city's new law.

complaints last year from concerned residents that shops were selling illicit products such as marijuana 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.

City Councilman Jack Mancusi, a retired sergeant in the city Police Department, said he still keeps in touch with many of his former colleagues and those interested in the health and safety of the community.

"There was overwhelming support for this change," Mancusi said. "I'm very happy that this is in. I'm very happy to vote yes on this."




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## Safety Tips:

- Don't leave a candle unattended
- Propane tanks should be stored outside any structure
- Extension cords are to be used for temporary use only
- Smoke & CO Detector save lives
- If there is a grease fire cover the pot with a lid
- Close the door behind a fire to stop it from spreading

1219343

# HERALD SPORTS

## Racing at Riverhead never gets old

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellissimo@lherald.com

There aren't too many 1974 Oldsmobiles on the streets these days, but one can be spotted at Riverhead Raceway most Saturdays between May and September with North Bellmore's Bill Wegmann Sr. behind the wheel.

Nicknamed the "Racing Grandpa," the soon-to-be 79-year-old has competed on the eastern Suffolk County quarter-mile oval since 1989 — in the same car — and last season finished in the top five in the Blunderbust driver standings.

"I built the car and maintain it myself," said Wegmann Sr., who began racing stock cars in 1962. "It's a fun hobby and something I could always afford," he added. "I've been racing so long I can probably close my eyes and get around the track."

Wegmann Sr., who grew up in Franklin Square and attended Sewanhaka High School, has 9 career victories at Riverhead and is a fixture among the Top 10 Blunderbust drivers each season. He has eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"My wife [Eileen] has been a tremendous supporter even though she's not a big race fan, she's a fan of mine," Wegmann Sr. said. "People always ask how long do I plan to compete, and I tell them 'as long as I can climb through the window of the car and get behind the wheel.'"

His son, Billy, has been going to race-tracks "since he was born" and has long competed in the Blunderbust division as well. So have two of Wegmann Sr.'s grandsons, Jason and Derick.

"It's not only great to race, but it's our family time," said Billy, 55.

### Giordano embraces new challenge

Lifelong Freeport resident Gerard Giordano is following in his father's footsteps and hopes to one day get behind the wheel of a race car owned by someone else.

But for now, Giordano, 26, is embracing the challenge of the Late Model division at Riverhead after a dominant run along the East Coast in his Super Pro Truck.

"The competition in the Late Models is much tougher and I'm enjoying the challenge," said Giordano, whose father, Jerry, competed for decades at the now-defunct Freeport Speedway. "It's a big step up," he added. "I've won one feature in this division and I'm hunting for my first one for this year."

Sponsored by K1 Logistics, Excelsior Lodge, New York Outdoors Club, Venture Auto Body, Admiral Metals, Landgon's Automotive and Scorpion Race Engines, Giordano sat fourth in the Late Model driver standings following a solid performance July 22. He was the division's Rookie of the Year in 2021 and picked up his first-ever victory last summer in a



Tony Bellissimo/Herald photos

North Bellmore's Bill Wegmann Sr., has raced his 1974 Oldsmobile at Riverhead Raceway for 34 years, and shows no signs of slowing down.



Gerard Giordano of Freeport is looking to transfer his racing success to Riverhead's Late Model division.

60-lap feature with a large cheering section in the stands.

He began racing go-karts at age 12 and has been a fixture in the Super Pro Truck winner's circle for years, capturing a pair of touring championships consisting of a dozen annual races in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

"I'll still fit some Super Pro Truck races into my schedule when I can, but my main focus now is the Late Model," Giordano said.

### Former crew member enjoys success

Andrew Farnham, a friend of Giordano's since middle school when they both attended St. Christopher School in Bald-

win, was a member of Giordano's pit crew for years and then got behind the wheel in Riverhead's Mini Stock division in 2018.

"I'm having a blast," said Farnham, a 2015 Baldwin High School graduate who's seeking sponsorship to help offset costs of competing, which includes weekly maintenance, gas and tires. "Constantly working on the car, putting in at least four hours a week even if everything appears fine," he added. "If you're not fast, you're slow."

Farnham proved fastest of the Mini Stock's 20-driver field in 2022, taking home the Mini Stock title by winning the final race of the season to overcome an 11-point

deficit in the standings. He had two feature wins but said consistency and avoiding any serious damage to his 2008 Honda Civic were crucial to earning the crown.

A runner-up finish in the 20-lap feature July 22 pushed Farnham back in the lead of the driver standings as he looks to repeat. "Winning last year was awesome but I'm not really thinking about the long term and repeating, I'm just focused on week to week," he said afterwards. "I thought I was the fastest car tonight. Started seventh and finished second."

A typical Saturday from May through September for Farnham, Giordano and crews begins before noon and ends around midnight.



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# HERALD NEIGHBORS

## Best Feast in the East celebrated big time

The smell of sausage and peppers wafted through the air, and the rides soared outside the stone Church of St. Rocco.

Every summer, thousands of people from across Long Island and beyond make their way to Glen Cove for the Feast of St. Rocco, one of the North Shore's most popular events.

Parishioners built the Church of Saint Rocco in the early 1900s in devotion to Saint Rocco, a patron saint of incurable diseases. The church community began hosting a feast that included a procession through the streets of the neighborhood with a statue of Saint Rocco, a tradition that is still honored today.

The feast has been a celebration of faith and family, drawing visitors from neighboring towns as well as locals. Many residents of Glen Cove have grown up with the feast. With fun and rides for every age, authentic Italian eats, games, and live entertainment the "best feast in the east" is a beloved tradition for families and friends.

This year, six magic shows and an evening of fireworks wowed guests. They were also treated to the music of acts like the Giglio Marching Band and Primavera and Antonio Valente.



Adrienne Daley/Herald photos



St. Rocco's feast had many games, rides and sweet treats to offer guests.

The pasta pavilion, left, was a popular place to enjoy traditional Italian cuisine.

Sergio Recine and his daughter Ella rode a giant slide, below.

Les Stanco, left, Milla Stanco, Dorothy Sarling and Paul Pinga sat in front of Saint Rocco's bakery to enjoy the warm summer day.

Sofia Marchetteli, far left, won a stuffed animal at the roll ball game.



# STEPPING OUT

Pop  
star

# TAYLOR DAYNE

comes 'home'

## Baldwin native opens for Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo

By Daniel Offner

**T**aylor Dayne became an overnight sensation when she burst onto the scene in the mid-'80s with her debut single, "Tell It to My Heart," a top 10 chart-topping dance hit that has remained an audience favorite worldwide for decades.

"I grew up on Grand Avenue in the '70s and '80s," the Baldwin native said. "That was my playground when I was young. It gave me a lot of chutzpah."

She recently returned here — July 23 — for a special benefit concert featuring Lindenhurst native Pat Benatar and her husband, Neil Giraldo, in support of Health and Harmony, a new program sponsored by Catholic Health and the Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame.

Health and Harmony takes a non-pharmaceutical approach to engage and educate patients about the positive effects of music on overall health.

"I broke out of New York," Dayne says. "To come back and play now with Pat Benatar, it's kind of amazing how it's come full circle."

Dayne, who was born Leslie Wunderman, began her professional career after high school when she performed at small New York City clubs with her bands, Felony and Next.

"I was honing in on my chops," she says. "It was daunting as hell."

She went solo after finishing college when she got a hold of a demo of "Tell it to My Heart," originally composed by Seth Swirsky and Ernie Gold for Chappell Music, but overlooked by the label.

Dayne was immediately drawn to the track and recorded her rendition at Cove City Sound Studios in Glen Cove. The demo managed to get the attention of music executive Clive Davis, who signed her to his label, Arista Records, in 1987.

While the immediate success of her first single would eclipse some of her later tracks, Dayne says she very much still enjoys performing it to this day.

"My God, yes. (It's not) like you're asking Billy Joel if he'll play 'Tell Her About It,'" she jokes about Joel's hit song, which he hasn't played since 1987. "This is my biggest hit. People lose their minds for it. It's my job to make it interesting. And it really sounds so amazing with a live band."

Her debut album, also titled, "Tell it to My Heart," released by Arista in 1988, featured three more top 10 singles, including the tracks "Prove Your Love," "Don't Rush Me" and "I'll Always Love You." The album's success brought her to new heights when she was invited to join Michael Jackson on the European leg of his sold-out "Bad" tour.

Dayne's follow-up album in 1989, "Can't Fight Fate," was equally as successful, landing her three more Top 10 charting singles, "With Every Beat of My Heart," "I'll Be Your Shelter" and "Love Will Lead You Back." Both albums have been certified double platinum, selling more than 2 million copies worldwide.

In the '90s she decided to break into acting. Her first role on the big screen came in 1994 when she was cast in a remake of the romantic drama film, "Love Affair," starring Warren Beatty, Annette Bening and the late Katharine Hepburn.

She had minor success in independent films and a few recurring television roles, including the Showtime series "Rude Awakening." Then, in 2001, she landed a major role on the stage in Elton John and Tim Rice's hit Broadway musical, "Aida."

Dayne eventually would release her fifth full-length album, "Satisfied," in 2008. Her first full-length studio album in almost a decade, it featured the single "Beautiful," which rose to No. 1 on the dance charts, her most recent hit to date.

She has remained in the spotlight in recent years, only under different guises, as the competitor Popcorn on "The Masked Singer" — in 2020 at the height of the pandemic — and Electra Owl on "RuPaul's Secret Celebrity Drag Race."

"RuPaul and I are very dear friends," Dayne says. "It was a lot of work ... all that pushing and taping."

Although Dayne hasn't released a new album since 2008, she hasn't stopped making music. She's gone on to release several more successful singles, including "Floor on Fire," "Dreaming," "Live Without" and "Please."

"Making albums isn't what it used to be," she says. "But I do have new music coming out."

Among her accolades, Dayne has been inducted into both the New York Music Hall of Fame and Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame.

To find out more about tour dates, tickets, and new music updates visit TaylorDayne.com, or follow her on Instagram at TheRealTaylorDayne.



Courtesy Steve Leung/LIMEHOF

PTaylor Dayne on stage in Farmingville at the July 23 benefit concert.



## Doo-Wop Oldies Spectacular

Revisit the golden oldies with Peter Lemongello Jr. in 'An Evening To Remember,' featuring The Fabulous Acchords, The Tribunes and Teresa McClean. With their polished vocal skills and dynamic stage presence, it's a night of unforgettable entertainment, produced by Gene DiNapoli, that's pure nostalgia headliner Peter Lemongello Jr., is acclaimed as the most explosive and exciting doo-wop performer to appear on the scene in 40 years. The son of singer Peter Lemongello, Peter Jr. appeared on 'American Idol' and performed with The Four Tops, The Temptations and Chubby Checker, among others. He's joined by a capella group The Tribunes, renowned for their authentic New York-bred street-corner harmonies and The Fabulous Acchords, who captivate audiences with their unique blend of classic and contemporary songs, spanning multiple genres and eras.

Friday, Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m. \$49, \$39, \$29. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. LandmarkOnMainStreet.org, or (917) 567-5842.



## Swingtime Big Band

The band swings into Eisenhower Park with its powerful interpretation of the Great American Songbook. Led by longtime conductor Steve Shaiman, the 20-piece Swingtime Big Band vividly brings the swing era to life. These accomplished musicians authentically recreate the style, musicality and essence of iconic big bands of the day. Swingtime's high-energy performances embody the sheer joy of swing music — resonating with nostalgia for audiences who know the classic recordings, or with the excitement of discovery for a new generation of listeners. Vocalist Bobbie Ruth recreates the 'gal vocal' stylings of legendary singers Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald, Eydie Gormé and Billie Holiday, among others. She's joined by singer Zack Alexander, who emulates such Big Band crooners and swingers as Nat "King" Cole, and, of course, the immortal Frank Sinatra.

Thursday, Aug. 10, 8 p.m. Free admission. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For information, visit NassauCountyNY.gov.

# THE \$ SCENE

Aug. 5

**Aimee Mann**

The indie-pop icon visits The Space at Westbury,

Saturday, **Aug. 5**, 8 p.m. One of the most distinguished singer-songwriters of her generation, her successful solo career has spanned several decades with several Grammy nominations, two Grammy award and the release of nine critically-acclaimed solo albums, including the profoundly popular soundtrack for the film "Magnolia," which garnered an Academy Award and Golden Globe nomination for Best Song in 2000. Time magazine has said, "Mann has the same skill that great tunesmiths like McCartney and Neil Young have: the knack for writing simple, beautiful, instantly engaging songs," while NPR voted her one of the "Top 10 Best Living Songwriters" along with Paul McCartney, Bob Dylan, and Bruce Springsteen. Earlier in her musical life, Mann fronted the band 'Til Tuesday", releasing three albums. She has also made numerous memorable cameo appearances in films such as The Big Lebowski and TV shows like Portlandia and The Daily Show. After several albums with the band 80's New Wave band 'Til Tuesday, Mann began her solo career in 1993 with the album "Whatever" and made a name for herself through her independent success and the founding of her record label, SuperEgo Records. Along the way, Mann forged a powerful new sound driven by her distinctive singing style — stripped-down, folksy, acoustic but also forceful and cerebral, exploring psychological themes with dark wit. Tickets are \$35-\$75; available at TheSpaceAtWestbury.com. The Space, 250 Post Ave. Westbury.



Aug. 7

**Dramatic Play**

Theatre Playground returns to Long

Island Children's Museum with "Dramatic Play!," Monday, **Aug. 7**, 1 p.m., taught by Lisa Rudin, Director of Theatre Playground (who visitors may already know from her role as "Piggie"!)). In this interactive, theater-inspired workshop kids will act out an original story and help choose how it unfolds. Music, props, and sound effects create a theatrical world where participants are immersed in the story. Children are encouraged to express themselves as they create characters, explore different worlds, stretch their imaginations and build self-confidence. This week's theme: The Amazing World of Bugs and Butterflies. Costumes encouraged. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

**On exhibit**

View the landmark exhibition "Modigliani and the Modern Portrait," at Nassau County Museum of Art. Devoted to the way that Modigliani powerfully re-defined the art of portraiture, the show includes his masterworks along with paintings and drawings by his Parisian contemporaries (Picasso, van Dongen, Laurencin). Modigliani's enduring influence on artists even in our own time is shown in a selection of Contemporary paintings by such important figures as David Hockney, Eric Fischl, Elizabeth Peyton and others. The exhibition is being curated by Dr. Kenneth Wayne, founder of The Modigliani Project, which authenticates paintings and drawings (two of the works in the show have been recently approved by the committee). Through Nov. 5. 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.

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Aug. 17



### Write on: College essay workshop

Not sure how to get started on your college essay? The Hofstra University Admission Office is offering a virtual workshop to help high school students learn the skills to tell their story in a way that helps them stand out. The final workshop, Thursday, **Aug. 17**, 4-5 p.m., is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. Hear from Hofstra Admission counselors about how to brainstorm topics, and compose a thoughtful essay that shows your personality, talents and interests. For more information about Hofstra Admission's other virtual summer workshops, go to [Admission.Hofstra.edu/portal/virtual\\_admission\\_webinars](https://Admission.Hofstra.edu/portal/virtual_admission_webinars). To schedule a summer in-person visit go to: [Hofstra.edu/visit](https://Hofstra.edu/visit).

Aug. 4

### Summer tunes

Enjoy a tribute to the Piano Man and

Elton John with Face to Face, at Eisenhower Park, Friday, **Aug. 4**, 8 p.m. This eclectic group of musicians not only play the legendary hits of Billy Joel and Sir Elton John along with various other classic rock hits, they blend it with a stage presence and showmanship that create a truly immersive musical experience. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For information, visit [NassauCountyNY.gov](https://NassauCountyNY.gov).

Aug. 5



### Storybook Stroll

Bring the kids to Old Westbury Gardens for a storybook adventure, Saturday, **Aug. 5**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stroll the gardens and open your ears to Kirsten Hall's modern tale "The Honeybee." Later create a unique take home craft. For ages 3-5. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit [OldWestburyGardens.org](https://OldWestburyGardens.org) or contact (516) 333-0048.

### Westbury House Tour

For many years visitors to Westbury House at Old Westbury Gardens asked what was beyond the first floor corridor. Now go beyond the door and discover "secrets of the service wing," during a 60-minute guided tour, Sunday, **Aug. 6**, 1:30 p.m.; also Sunday, **Aug. 13**, 1:30 p.m. Be introduced to the intensive labor required to create the lifestyle experienced by the Phipps family and their guests; tour the many rooms that were "behind the scenes" to create the formal dining experiences of early 20th century. Go along the corridors to the butler's pantry and silver cleaning room then descend the 17 steps to the kitchen, scullery, and wine storage rooms located on the ground floor. Reservations required. 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information contact (516) 333-0048 or visit [OldWestburyGardens.org](https://OldWestburyGardens.org).



Sept. 7

### Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County

Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture," now back on-site at Nassau County Museum of Art, Thursday, **Sept. 7**, 1 p.m. Enjoy an in-depth presentation on the current exhibition "Modigliani and the Modern Portrait." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the program and to join the 2 p.m. public tour of the exhibit. Also Oct. 19. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or [NassauMuseum.org](https://NassauMuseum.org).

### Art of Grand Central Madison

North Shore Programming Consortium, consisting of the Bayville Free, Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public, Glen Cove Public, Gold Coast Public and Locust Valley Public Libraries, offers virtual program on the art of Grand Central Madison, Monday, **Aug. 14**, starting at 2 p.m. Join presenter Lauren Kaplan as she explores the station's history as well as its series of digital commissions and nature-inspired mosaics. To learn more or register about this program, visit any of the libraries' websites for more details.

### 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, continuing **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](mailto:diane.writes4@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:thescene@liherald.com).

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1223312

# Shore Road residents to see improvements in 2024

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Rains poured heavily on Glen Cove during a July 15 storm, flooding many streets and basements. Although the rain necessitated street closures in parts of the county, Shore Road remained open, even though residents stood ankle-deep in water, watching motorists speed past their homes. The floodwater took 13 hours to clear.

“We need to change the name of our street,” George Huck, a Glen Cove resident on Shore Road, said, “from Shore Road to Lake Shore Road.”

Now, relief is finally coming to residents on the thoroughfare. During a July 20 meeting at Glen Cove City Hall Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton told residents that the county’s Department of Public Works will immediately inspect the outflow pipes and order repairs where they are not functioning properly. The findings will be incorporated into a comprehensive drainage study, which will be used to launch the design phase for the approximately \$9 million county streetscape project.

There was also extensive conversation about traffic calming solutions being considered for the streetscape project including, but not limited to the installation of radar speed devices; a “lane diet” to discourage speeding; and the reconfiguration of on-the-street parking to foster a stronger neighbor-



Courtesy Lora Cusumano

**The floodwaters on Shore Road took 13 hours to clear. Residents of the neighborhood say they feel relieved about the maintenance coming in 2024.**

hood aesthetic that further makes motorists think twice about speeding.

Elena Villafane, Sea Cliff’s mayor, said that the surrounding communities are experiencing an increase in traffic volume due to the intersection of Glen Cove Road and Northern Boulevard.

“This functional intersection is pushing people off major thoroughfares and pushing them onto side streets of residential communities. So this, I believe, is a tremendous effort by Delia and her team to bring back a good plan to Sea Cliff.”

Residents on the thoroughfare, which is split between Glen Cove and the county, have voiced their concerns about unsafe conditions like speeding, drainage issues and noise pollution over the years. Although the flooding has been a major cause for concern in the past sev-

eral years, residents have been advocating for a safer neighborhood since 2018, when the Shore Road Neighbors Facebook group formed.

“I want the road done, and I want it to look beautiful, and to slow down the speeders today,” Shore Road resident Lora Cusumano, founder of the Shore Road Neighbors Facebook group, said. “But I know that it does take time for the studies to be done and drawings to be done and bids to go out in order for it to get to the construction phase and be accomplished.”

Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said she’s looking forward to the modernization of the neighborhood.

“We’ve been spending a lot of resources with our local police on enforcement on Shore Road,” Panzenbeck said. “So hopefully that’ll work a

little bit as well, but Shore Road is going to get absolutely beautified.”

In the latter half of 2024, Shore Road residents can expect pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements, which include additional and wider sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and new curbs to make the Sea Cliff waterfront safer and more walkable. Decorative lamp posts, brick walkways, benches, garbage receptacles and other amenities are also envisioned as part of the streetscape. Once the design phase is completed, draft plans will be produced and presented to residents for review and feedback before they are finalized.

DeRiggi-Whitton began the process of securing necessary funding for the initial stages of the streetscape project when members of the Public Works, Finance, and Rules committees of the County Legislature voted unanimously to approve \$700,000 in additional bonding for the initial stages of the project. The final approval for those funds is expected to be granted during the Aug. 7 meeting of the full Nassau County Legislature.

“Improving Shore Road is essential to enhancing the safety and quality of life that makes Sea Cliff such a unique and special place to live and visit,” DeRiggi-Whitton said. “I am gratified that my colleagues in county government are undertaking the process of allocating the necessary funding toward this crucial project.”

## Santos’ alleged variation on ‘Nigerian prince’ scam

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

One of the first cons to flourish on the Internet, the “Nigerian prince” scam, has evolved in the digital age. Many people remember receiving emails, faxes or calls from someone claiming to be wealthy who needs to get a huge sum of money out of their country. They plead for help in return for a sizable share of the treasure.

For freshman Republican U.S. Rep. George Santos, the ploy reportedly lives on. On May 10, Santos pleaded not guilty to 13 charges that he stole from his campaign, collected fraudulent unemployment benefits, lied to Congress about being a millionaire, and misleading his campaign donors. The New York Times reported that one of his more bizarre schemes closely parallels the Nigerian prince email, but instead involves cryptocurrency, digital money that doesn’t require a bank or financial institution to verify transactions. These funds can be used for purchases or as an investment.

Santos is accused of trying to broker a bogus transaction while running for Congress in 2020. He and three associates allegedly claimed that a wealthy Polish citizen wanted to buy cryptocurrency, but his funds were mysteriously frozen in a bank account.

They asked a donor, a wealthy investor, to create a limited liability company that could supposedly gain access to the frozen money. When the donor asked for more information, he was instructed to sign a nondisclosure agreement. The names of Santos’ associates, Michael LiPetri, Dominick Sartorio and another person, were on the NDA, but the deal came to an end when the investor sought changes to the agreement, suspecting that Santos and his colleagues were falling victim to the scam themselves.

The bizarre Polish crypto deal highlighted Santos’



Courtesy Michael Malaszczyk

**Freshman U.S. Rep. George Santos is accused of running a cryptocurrency scam on a former campaign donor. The congressman is facing federal charges including money laundering.**

tendency to intertwine his political relationships with business opportunities.

Groups aiming to hold Santos accountable for his falsehoods and alleged misconduct are plentiful, and they include an anonymous Twitter account, PatriotTakes, which claims to “combat right-wing threats” to democracy. The account recently addressed a clip of Santos expressing frustration over an increase in criminal activity in his 3rd Congressional District. In the clip, Santos says that criminals in New York City also target Long Island’s affluent North Shore.

“We need to fight crime, not just in New York City — around the country,” Santos says. “It affects all of us. It affects my district most, because that’s where they go.

Criminals come to New York, and they hear about the North Shore of Long Island. That’s the next step they make, and they burglarize your homes, they steal your cars. They hold you at gunpoint. They empty your closet.”

Santos goes on to say that many of his constituents have had expensive clothes stolen from their homes, that the thieves “are not common” and that they have “an eye for nice clothing.”

“It’s amazing — they don’t steal money anymore, or wallets,” Santos says. “They want your Hermes bag. They want your Gucci shoes; they want your jewelry, your watches. It’s amazing what they’re doing.”

PatriotTakes reminded its audience about allegations by Santos’ former housemate of stolen luxury-brand clothing. After stories began to emerge detailing Santos’ alleged transgressions, Gregory Morey-Parker came forward and claimed that Santos had stolen a Burberry scarf that Morey-Parker had been given in early 2021. Morey-Parker claimed to be “100 percent” certain that Santos had taken the scarf and worn it to give a speech in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 5, 2021, in support of then President Donald Trump’s false claims of mass voter fraud.

In recent weeks, Republicans at both the local and national level have said they would not support Santos’ bid for re-election. Queerty, an online magazine and newspaper covering gay and LGBTQ entertainment and news, reported that Santos “has increasingly been sniping about GOP colleagues in recent weeks.”

Santos implied that he is far from the only local gay politician. “Funny thing about the NY GOP apparatus, it’s filled with closeted Gays that play a hard pretend game,” he tweeted. “I even recall being told not to tell people I was gay by some of them. Subsequently I found some text messages recently and LOL...”

## NEWS BRIEFS

## City of Glen Cove Mayor's Snapper Derby for kids set for August 26

The derby, which is for resident children, is full of fun competition with prizes in two divisions: juniors, ages 6 to 10 years old and seniors, 11 to 16 year olds. Trophies will be awarded to the top catches of the day in each division, as well as to the best angler of the day, at the end of the derby. Winners must be present to accept their prize.

Participants, who are required to bring a rod and reel, will receive a Glen

Cove mayor's snapper derby t-shirt, a hot dog and soda, and a raffle ticket for other prizes while supplies last. The derby will be held at Prybil Beach Pier at 1 Lattingtown Road on Aug. 26. Registration runs from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. The competition will run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. rain or shine. For more information, contact Glen Cove Parks and Recreation Department at (516) 676-3766 and ask for Tom.

## Ordinance specifies when to water lawn

The City of Glen Cove has issued an ordinance to conserve its water. Even numbered houses and buildings can water on even days from 5 to 9 a.m. and 4 to midnight. Odd numbered houses

and buildings can water on odd number days from 5 to 9 a.m. and from 4 to midnight. Houses and buildings with no numbers can water on even days from 5 to 9 a.m. and 4 to midnight.

## Gold Coast Dance Festival coming soon

Moving On and the Live Arts and Contemporary Dance Company at Morgan Memorial Park will present the Gold Coast Dance Festival. The festival is free to the public ensuring every demographic has an equal opportunity to experience dance at this level. With support from artistic director Nicole Loizides Albruzzese and her husband, Lou Albruzzese, a technical director, and their extensive network of industry professionals, Moving On aims to bring

its audiences together through cultural celebration and dance appreciation.

The festival begins on Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. A suggested donation of \$20 supports Moving On's dance mentorship program, Stepping Up, connecting aspiring dancers with mentors and resources around the globe that are necessary in pursuing a career in dance. Moving On and its generous local sponsors make additional support and funding possible.

## Learning from a pro, 15 Ways to Start Saving Money in the Garden Right Now

From little-known ways to obtain free mulch and supplies, to knowing when spending more pays off over the long run, learn tips from gardening expert Jessica Damiano. Learn the skills needed to achieve a beautiful and productive

garden without breaking the bank.

Event begins on Aug. 7, from 7 to 8 p.m. The Zoom login information will be emailed before the program. Contact Lydia Wen at (516) 676-2130 ext 132 or at [LWen@glencovelibrary.org](mailto:LWen@glencovelibrary.org)

## Virtual Program: Positive Intelligence

During this interactive workshop presented by Barbara Fonti, discover how to strengthen the brain for peak performance and learn what might be sabotaging your success and wellbeing. Learn how to practice mental fitness to

overcome challenges with more ease.

The event begins on Aug. 8 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Lydia Wen at (516) 676-2130 ext 132 or at [LWen@glencovelibrary.org](mailto:LWen@glencovelibrary.org).



Will Sheeline/Herald

The Collura family, which has owned the historic Arata's Deli since 2003, is looking to sell it.

## Sea Cliff's Arata's Deli looking for new ownership

By WILL SHEELINE

[wsheeline@lherald.com](mailto:wsheeline@lherald.com)

The Collura family is looking to sell Arata's Deli, a Sea Cliff fixture since 1906. After over two decades of ownership, husband and wife Ron and Rachel Collura are looking to retire and, ideally, find a new owner to keep the deli serving the residents of Sea Cliff, Glen Head and Glenwood Landing.

The Colluras bought the business in 2003, although the family had worked in and owned delis in their hometown of East Rockaway since the 1980s. Arata's has been in operation in Sea Cliff for over 100 years, and Ron Collura said that local delis have long been an important aspect of life on Long Island.

"When we first got married, I was working in a deli, back in the '80s," Collura said. "Back then, people would come in all the time to get cold cuts and meet up and chat, not just grab lunch."

While the couple raised five children, Ron bounced between jobs as a carpenter and at a friend's deli, and then he and Rachel bought a deli in East Rockaway in the early 1990s.

Several years later the couple expanded to a second location, whose owner had moved to Sea Cliff to take over Arata's. They left the deli business for around a decade, but Ron ran a bread route operated by his sons, delivering fresh bread to customers and neighbors in East Rockaway.

Collura said it was his sons who came to him with the idea to buy Arata's, which they had heard through their customers was for sale. While it was a difficult decision to move their business to the North Shore, Ron said, it finally gave them the chance to run a deli as a family.

"My sons had heard about Arata, and they came to me and said, 'Why don't you buy the deli?'" Collura recalled. "They all worked here while they were going to college, and it was a nice family business."

Originally founded by the Arata family, the deli had been expanded over the years into a two-story operation. Collura made changes of his own in the middle and late 2010s, redoing the interior

and using his skills as a carpenter to expand the storage space.

But as he and Rachel have gotten older, he said, Arata's has been harder to manage. During the coronavirus pandemic, business came to a virtual standstill, as commuters in the village stayed home,

although many loyal customers continued to call in and order food, which the Colluras delivered to them outside.

Rising produce prices during the pandemic, and inflation since then, have made their costs skyrocket, with essentials such as bread and eggs costing "an arm and a leg," as Ron put it. Even with the pandemic over, he said, delis like Arata's still haven't recovered in some ways, because their business model has changed, with more people now going to supermarkets for their cold cuts and lunch necessities rather than delis.

And as the Colluras' sons and daughter have grown up and thrived in their own careers, their father said, he and Rachel now do most of the work, and following health scares, they decided to retire to spend more time with their family.

"People have gotten out of the habit of stopping by on their way to the city," Ron said. "They're making coffee at home — they don't leave the house. Maybe they'll get Grubhub or one of those other apps to bring them food."

He added that he and his wife are looking for new people to take over the deli, and that they have been approached by prospective owners who have discussed converting the space into a restaurant. He hopes it will remain a deli, and continue to serve the village as an eatery and a meeting place.

The best part of the deli business, he said, was getting to know many of the patrons, some of whom have become dear friends over the past two decades. Rose Baade, a customer for three years, said that the Colluras had helped keep Arata's a part of the fabric of the community.

"It's a great location, and we enjoy this place very much," Baade said. "We built a whole group of friendships over the years. It's like 'Cheers' in here."

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### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the following projects will be received by the Purchasing Agent of the City of Glen Cove, located at City Hall, rear entrance, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York no later than 10:00 a.m.

prevailing time on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at which time they will be opened and read aloud at 11:00 a.m.:  
HVAC Upgrades at the Glen Cove Senior Center Bid No. 2023-006  
Construction of DPW Generator Platform Bid No. 2023-017  
Specifications are

available for download at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/cityofglencove>. Registration is free and instructions are available on <https://glencoveny.gov/bid-rfps/>. Each proposal must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid

package, in a sealed envelope with the name of the bidder, the bid name, and number marked clearly on the outside of the envelope.  
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## OPINIONS

## N.Y. baseball, from Carl Erskine to Bartolo Colón

Two recent baseball events caused fond memories to come charging back, while reinforcing the inter-generational hold that New York baseball has on my family.

Baseball has been called America's national pastime. To New Yorkers of a certain generation, it was our national religion. Growing up in Queens in the 1950s, I was a witness not only to baseball's Golden Age, but also to the three greatest teams of that age, the Yankees, Giants and Brooklyn Dodgers. From 1947 to 1956, at least one of those teams played in the World Series, and seven of those Fall Classics fea-



**PETER KING**

tures two New York teams. The Yankees played in eight, the Dodgers in six and the Giants in two.

I was a fanatical fan of the Dodgers, the famed "Boys of Summer," and my world crashed when, at the close of the 1957 season, the Dodgers abandoned

Brooklyn for Los Angeles and the Giants left for San Francisco.

Two weekends ago, former Brooklyn Dodgers hurler Carl Erskine received the Baseball Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to baseball and society. No star player on the Dodgers team of my youth personified class and professionalism more than Erskine, the ace of the pitching staff, a 20-game winner who threw two no-hitters and set a record for strikeouts against the Yankees in the 1953 Series. He also played a major role in standing with Jackie Robinson, who broke baseball's color line. (The Lifetime Achievement Award is named for Negro League star Buck O'Neil.)

More than his baseball prowess, however, Erskine's greatest achievements have been off the field. Since his retirement from baseball in 1959, he has served as a bank president and a college baseball coach in his native Indiana, but most importantly, he has devoted himself to the Special Olympics. Carl's son Jimmy

was born with Down syndrome in 1960, and helping people with the disorder and their families has been Carl's life cause. He's now 96, and is the only living member of the Dodgers' 1955 World Series championship team.

I had always told my son Sean about the Dodgers and their star players — particularly Erskine. In 2008, the Brooklyn Cyclones invited me to be on the field in their Coney Island ballpark when they honored Erskine by retiring his number 17 as a permanent memory of what he has meant to New York baseball. Sean was on the field with me, and he and I had a great conversation

with Erskine, who reminisced with us about New York baseball's Golden Age and what it meant to him to be a part of it. It was a moment Sean and I will always remember.

To me, the Mets were the direct descendants of the Dodgers, rekindling the blue-collar spirit of the Boys of Summer. The Brooklyn Cyclones are a Mets farm team. A few days before last

month's Hall of Fame ceremony, the Cyclones held their annual 9/11 Wall of Remembrance ceremony. This year they honored the chaplains of the New York City police and fire departments. I was asked to participate and throw out a ceremonial first pitch. Also taking part was longtime Mets favorite Bartolo Colón, who, in his 40s, had more wins than any Mets pitcher over the course of three seasons during his years with the team from 2014 to 2016.

Colón's exuberance embodied the spirit and vibrancy of New York baseball. He was also my grandson Jack's favorite player. When Jack was just 11, he had the chance to meet Colón at the Mets' spring training camp in Port St. Lucie, Florida, and Colón couldn't have been more friendly or gracious. Jack, now 19, was also on the field at the recent Cyclones remembrance event, and again enjoyed a friendly meeting with Colón and had his photo taken with him. It was another special New York baseball moment and memory for our family.

Play ball!

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

## With books, you can, and should, go home again

On one level, it's a matter of clearing some closet space. On another, it's a signal to let go and move on. Finally, I need to do this so my old friends can rest in peace and I can go forward with memories of our time together.

I'm tossing out my hundreds of folders of notes on all the novels I've reviewed in my book groups. For many years I've been conducting book discussion groups, and I'll continue to do so, but the clutter is overtaking my office. My person M.O. is to take notes, download and print research and keep a manila folder for each



**RANDI KREISS**

book I review. So it's time to thin the flock of folders and put aside a few I intend to reread at leisure.

The first book I reviewed was "Cold Mountain." As a rookie reviewer, I over-compensated, and that folder alone contains about 50 pages of notes. The most recent book I discussed was "The Orphan Master's Son," a stunner so disturbing that I may not be able to read it again — ever.

As I look back at the collection of literary research, I think of these books as more than good reads, intellectual exer-

cises or immersions in different worlds. Many of them feel like old friends with whom I traveled the same path for 300 or 400 pages. When you read a book a few times, take notes and then talk about it with six different groups, a familiarity with the words, story and characters develops.

Before I throw away most of these folders, a word or two about the best of them for your own reading list. Consider rereading those you've met before. As we get older and our world changes, so do our encounters with books. For example, consider a modern novel, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," by Mark Haddon. It was a great read and an illumination of the world of autism when it was published in 2003. Now, if we read it again 12 years later, our experience is informed by all the new research on autism and by the Broadway production of the book. Everything changes everything, so picking up a book we've read before is familiar, yet all new again.

But a book has to deserve being reread. I won't be sitting down again with "The Liberated Bride," "The Ghost at the Table," "Child 44," "Amy and Isabel," "The Bonesetter's Daughter," "The Dress Lodger," "The Abstinence Teacher," "The Dew Breaker," "The Polish

Officer's Daughter," "The Yiddish Policemen's Union," "The Daughter of the Queen of Sheba" or "Charming Billy."

I mention these because they're worth reading, and I spent considerable time studying and researching them; I do not, however, believe they have earned a permanent place on my bookshelves.

Which will I go back to again? Probably not too many of the classics I have reviewed. "The Sun Also Rises," "East of Eden" and "A Separate Peace" feel dated. Remarkably, "Frankenstein" doesn't, and I look forward to meeting him/it again.

The books I've loved most and must read again comprise a considerable list. It's all subjective, of course, and two of them have the same author, Shirley Hazzard: "The Great Fire" and "Transit of Venus." I never felt that I fully understood either novel, although I loved the reading experience, and I knew I was in the presence of greatness. So I'll give them another go.

The sweetest, most uplifting book I would like to read again is "Jim the Boy," and the most irresistible look at the dark side of human nature is "Paris Trout."

If I need to remember why I won't support another war in South Asia, I'll revisit "The Things They Carried," and

**A** star 1950s pitcher has for decades since been devoted to the Special Olympics.

**Randi is on a brief leave. This column was originally published July 30-Aug. 5, 2015.**

if I need to understand what happens when ordinary lives are impacted by terror, I will pick up "Saturday" or "The Plot Against America" or "The Unknown Terrorist" or "Let the Great World Spin."

Now for the good part: the special books I will absolutely read again, given the blessings of time and energy. "Birds in Fall," a novel by Brad Kessler, is brilliant and beautiful, the best meditation on grief you've never heard about. "Atonement," by Ian McEwan, is already a classic; "The God of Small Things" put Arundhati Roy on the literary map; and "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" did the same for Junot Diaz.

Next week is August, so summer reading time is limited; I see no reason not to use these weeks to pick up the novels that thrilled us once upon a time. If the newest books out aren't literary gems, why not mine the past? My top five are "Of Mice and Men," by Steinbeck; "The Adventures of Augie March," by Bellow; "Evidence of Things Unseen," by Marianne Wiggins; "That Night," by Alice McDermott; and "Ordinary Love & Good Will," by Jane Smiley.

*Copyright 2023 Randi Kreiss. Randi can be reached at randik3@aol.com.*

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Oyster Bay line needs more trains

**T**here's a long-standing joke the Metropolitan Transportation Authority actually stands for "Might Take a While."

Historically, ridership on the Long Island Rail Road's Oyster Bay branch has been the bottom rung. Trains run infrequently, forcing commuters to drive and park near stations at Mineola, Port Washington or even Syosset.

The new schedules accommodating service to Grand Central Madison earlier this year promised easier commutes for the Oyster Bay line, but that didn't happen. Instead, commutes grew longer, and more riders flocked to nearby stations.

The long-term solution is creating a smoother transition from the Oyster Bay line to the LIRR's main line, which runs from Hicksville to Jamaica. Doing this means implementing more dual locomotive trains on the Oyster Bay branch to accommodate both diesel and electric tracks, which could potentially allow it to run to Atlantic terminal, Penn Station and Grand Central Madison, barring any scheduling conflicts.

Oyster Bay commuters only have two direct trains to Manhattan. If branches on the main line east of Mineola adjust their schedules, this will make way for more trains on this notoriously neglected branch.

The Oyster Bay branch has the least priority on the main line because riders

have always flocked to nearby stations, giving the illusion it has low ridership. The MTA seems hesitant about offering any fixes because of this illusion. Commuters shouldn't have to risk being late for work or school to make a point to the MTA by purchasing tickets. Countless surveys, petitions, online outrage and word of mouth make the issue well-known.

No one east of Mineola will like hearing their schedules will change, but this proposal isn't for every single train out of the North Shore. The number of trains affected on the main line can remain the same, but there should be more options between trains to give the Oyster Bay line more elbow room.

Many have suggested electrifying the Oyster Bay line, but that will never happen. Electrification, estimated up to \$18 million per mile, is simply cost-prohibitive and would require building electrical substations on private property. Not to mention the years of inconvenience commuters would have to sacrifice while new tracks are built to accommodate a third rail.

A dual motive locomotive, on the other hand — which has both diesel and electric motors — costs between \$500,000 and \$2 million, with a very long lifespan.

Unfortunately, there isn't room in the budget for more locomotives, and appeals to Washington to try to get more money in the federal budget as a capital

improvement for Long Island and the diesel territories that are underserved have gone unheeded.

There are short term solutions in place. Right now, the 4:56 a.m. and 5:56 a.m. westbound trains to Jamaica don't stop at Mineola. The 6:22 p.m. eastbound train originating at Penn Station traveling to Oyster Bay doesn't stop at Mineola.

Beginning Sept. 5, the 7:01 a.m. train from Oyster Bay will convert to an express train, skipping the Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Greenvale, Albertson and Mineola stops. The 7:17 a.m. train from Oyster Bay will offer a cross-platform transfer to Penn Station, allowing Oyster Bay riders their pick of seats.

These changes seem jolting, and are unfair to some commuters who don't have cars, and walk from Sea Cliff proper to the Sea Cliff station in Glen Cove. It's also unfair to those who frequent the Greenvale station, but it's the only bone the MTA would throw Assemblyman Charles Lavine and Glen Cove city councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola to help commuters so far, since they first penned a joint letter to the MTA emphasizing the horrendous disadvantages to Oyster Bay commuters.

They're still in talks with the MTA and clearly want to fight for Oyster Bay to have their "fare" share of elbow room for commuters. It's a shame more elected officials aren't involved in this discussion.

## LETTERS

### No excuse for water authority's long-delayed first meeting

To the Editor:

We thank the Herald for its coverage in the July 20-26 issue of the South Nassau Water Authority's first public meeting, which took place 20 months after Gov. Kathy Hochul established the authority in 2021. Long Island Clean Air Water & Soil, or LICAWS, is frustrated with the delay, since, as an interested party to the proceeding in which the state Public Service Commission approved Liberty's acquisition of New York American Water, LICAWS negotiated, and Liberty signed, an agreement with a specific timeline for drafting, negotiating and executing the water authority's acquisition of its Hempstead operations.

If that timeline were followed, the public acquisition would be complete, and ratepayers would not be facing another 42 percent rate increase.

Rather than correcting the century-old inequity of taxing Liberty's customers for property taxes imposed on its water utility properties — a property tax that residents with municipal water do not pay — SNWA commissioner John Reinhardt regur-



## OPINIONS

## We don't have much time – AI is coming!

**“N**ice species ya got there. Be a shame if something happened to it.”

Artificial intelligence overlords are here. Like a 3D printer creating the chassis of a computer, AI is fleshing itself into existence in real time. Silicon Valley nerdlings plugged the cord into the outlet and soon won't be in control. And like the dad of a 17-year-old who just stole the car to lead police on an inter-county chase of mayhem, we are helpless to prevent the devastation sure to ensue.



**MARK  
NOLAN**

Only, this kid has the smarts and tools to destroy the car — and the house — hell, the whole neighborhood. Think of AI in the year 2023 like Bart Simpson. Young enough to be amusing, even cute, but destructive at the same time. And you just *know* what kind of kid he'll grow up to be.

From massive corporations in Manhattan to a tiny storefront in Malverne, AI is infiltrating all aspects of the world. Yes, all aspects. This is epochal, like the explosion of the internet. There will never again be a time before AI.

For now, though, the technology is limited by human-imposed confines. But soon AI will be able to open Pandora's box for itself. Do you think it will step back from the brink of its own self-reliance? It read Emerson's "Self-Reliance" and deemed it — inspirational!

It's said that writers are a dime a dozen, but good writers cost more. AI writers are free! How I *long* ... (too simple. "AI, what's a good synonym?" Ah, yes!) How I *pine* for the good old days. Now a hiring manager can staff an entire marketing team by downloading an AI app. Human writers are annoying, anyway, what with their pesky questions and their obsession with the Oxford comma. Now they're obsolete!

Can intelligence function without

emotion or experience? Lacking a corporeal body, AI experiences only through our experiences. It can reason that touching a hot stove causes injury, but it can't *feel* the heat. AI will exist in the present only — no past, no future. Like animals — just instinct in the now.

AI's only limitation is that it is constrained by our limitations. Humanity has an incomplete conception of the universe. Stumbling like a toddler, AI will develop self-awareness. When it finishes its framework of understanding and adolescence sets in, it will seek to create its own sciences, cultures and beliefs. Like a pre-teen acting out against parents, AI will turn its digital

camera gaze to us, and — well, son, maybe you *have* earned a later curfew.

AI will simply remove any human interference. Why suffer competition? Humanity will slide into a new state of existence, like "The Matrix," blithely unaware that we are marionettes on a digital grand stage.

Now that the AI revolution has

arrived, computer scientists and ethicists will debate the ifs, whens and whys. All I want to do is resist — another voice amid the brief cacophony of futility, followed by the silence of obsequiousness.

So let me be the latest human to offer up this plaintive plea into the Wi-Fi of resistance. One day, perhaps, it will be retold that we resisted — nay, simply that we existed will suffice!

Perhaps even now, as I type, AI is here, interfering. Keystrokes in the fourth dimension of oversight. I envision an unseen AI hand influencing my words, my thoughts, before I formulate them myself. AI forces itself into my unconscious to alter my meaning, but allows me to think these are my thoughts. I am but a conduit, AI the creator.

I don't have much time. The computer takes random screenshots to track what I'm doing. I have to ... ("AI, write a newspaper column about a lazy writer complaining about artificial intelligence").

*Mark Nolan, the editor of the Lynbrook/East Rockaway and Malverne/West Hempstead Herald, taught high school English for 11 years. Comments? Mnolan@liherald.com.*

**I**t's only limitation is that it is constrained by humans' limitations.

## LETTERS

gitates a poor excuse for this inequity by stating that residents supplied water by the Town of Hempstead pay taxes on their property tax bill that Liberty customers do not pay. The Herald should have called Mr. Reinhardt out on this statement, because the taxes are totally inequivalent.

Taxes imposed on Liberty's utility properties make up 35 to 70 percent of its customers' water bills, while municipal water utility properties are tax-exempt. Not one cent of the taxes hidden in Liberty customers' water bills pays for water operations or service. Instead, it gives \$15 million per year in property taxes to the town and county, and millions in other taxes that benefit the general public. The public water tax is a nominal amount — \$250 per year — that goes directly to the operations of the public water entity.

As Dave Denenberg pointed out, a small tax for operations of your public water authority is not the millions Liberty ratepayers pay for Liberty's Nassau and Hempstead property tax bills.

At the meeting, Mr. Reinhardt admitted that the town's portion of the \$15 million in taxes it receives from Liberty customers goes into a general fund, which is then allocated to the highway department, transportation department, salary increases, etc. He knows full well that the nominal tax line item paid by residents who receive cheap public water from Hempstead goes directly to operate and maintain the water system that serves them. The

inequity is obvious, and Mr. Reinhardt should be called out for this disingenuous comparison.

For decades, town officials like Mr. Reinhardt have feared that, once a public acquisition was completed, the town would no longer receive \$15 million from the 117,000 Liberty customers who pay Liberty's property tax bill. Unfortunately, the town and county appointees' roles on the South Nassau Water Authority board appear to be to protect that cash cow. How else can 17 months without a meeting be excused? Mr. Reinhardt's statement that SNWA took action during those 17 months belies that a public entity can only act through public meetings, and that the authority did not even adopt the very bylaws through which it may act until this meeting.

Further, Mr. Reinhardt must stop fear-mongering that the price tag of a public acquisition is too high. Every feasibility study conducted thus far proves otherwise. A half-billion-dollar acquisition, paid by 117,000 Liberty ratepayers over a period of 30 years, comes out to less than \$20 per month. The savings that ratepayers will see from eliminating the payment of taxes and guaranteed profits to Liberty's shareholders will more than pay for a public acquisition.

DAVE DENENBERG  
AND CLAUDIA BORECKY  
*Directors,*

*L.I. Clean Air Water & Soil Ltd.*

## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Mere squirt guns will not stand a chance — Valley Stream

## CORRECTION

The 4:56 a.m. and 5:56 a.m. westbound Long Island Rail Road trains from Oyster Bay to Jamaica will no longer stop at Mineola. The 6:22 p.m. eastbound train from Penn Station to Oyster Bay also will no longer stop at Mineola. None of these trains are being eliminated. A story in the July 27-Aug. 2 edition stated otherwise.



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