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Adrienne Daley/Herald

A day of fun at Sea Cliff Mini Mart

Having a blast at the Mini Mart were, from left, Keira and Erin Leder, Abby Nicols, Brynn McKenna and Sonia Victorine, all 11. Story, more photos, Page 10.

Toes boasts 'right attitude' for civil service

By **ROKSANA AMID**
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The next congressional election is still a year and a half away, but the roster of candidates lining up to evict Congressman George Santos from his House seat is already sizable.

The scandal-plagued freshman lawmaker has come under unperfected scrutiny for fabricating his life story, and faces a 13-count indictment for embezzlement, unemployment fraud, and lying to Congress about his finances. So far, eight Democrats and seven Republicans have announced their bids to unseat the disgraced Congressman, including Jim Toes, president and CEO of the Security Traders Association.

Son of a former New York City police captain, the 60-year-old was born in Levittown, raised in Melville and is a 30-year resident of Manhasset where he and his wife, Jeanine, raised four children. He says his decades-long

career in finance and in the securities industry, as well as meeting with house members to discuss legislation and regulation, have prepared him to serve in Congress. Toes says his strength as a political outsider with hands-on experience dealing with the federal government on national issues puts him in a unique position.

This is a real civil servant type of job if you have the right attitude about it.

JIM TOES
 Congressional candidate

While attending Fordham, Toes initially dreamed of following in his father's footsteps to become an officer with the New York Police Department. But when reflecting on his career he declined to join the department.

Toes began bartending in Manhattan's South Street Seaport, which at the time, was a well-known hotspot for those working on Wall Street. From there, he handed out his resume to patrons, waiting for someone to take a chance on him.

His big break came that December when he connected with a patron from Oppen-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DiNapoli report indicates city is 'susceptible' to fiscal stress

By **ROKSANA AMID**
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A Sept. 26 report issued by the office of state Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli said the city of Glen Cove was "susceptible" to fiscal stress, noting that cash reserves were less than 5 percent of the city's annual spending.

Based on the score they receive, municipalities can fall into one of three stress categories on the statewide list — susceptible, moderate or significant. Those whose finances appear sound, with no concerning debt or deficits, are given a "no designation" classification. The "susceptible" category is for municipalities with the least-serious budgetary problems. Despite some improvement in its financial management, Glen

Cove made the fiscally stressed list for the 10th time in 11 years.

The comptroller's office evaluates factors such as year-end fund balances, operating deficits, and debt and personnel spending to assess whether municipalities are at risk. The report gave the city a stress score of 47.1 out of 100 for the 2022 fiscal year, an improvement over Glen Cove's 2021 score of 50.4 and its 2020 score of 61.7. Scores under 45 fall into the "no designation" category.

The report advises that reserves should be equivalent at least 20 percent of annual spending, but Glen Cove reported only \$2.2 million in reserves at the end of last year, or 4.3 percent of its \$50.5 million annual budget.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Toes wants 'common sense' market regulation

October 5, 2023 – GLEN COVE HERALD

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heimer and Co., Inc., and was hired as an assistant to a financial trader. In 1993 Toes joined Merrill Lynch, a wealth management division of Bank of America, as the Division Head of Broker Dealer Sales. He rose to the ranks of managing director, where he held various management positions and interacted with a broad range of clients, including institutional and middle-market asset managers, broker-dealers and retail investors.

His experience in finance led him to become the President and CEO of the Security Traders Association, a grassroots trade organization, which serves individuals employed in the financial services industry. There, Toes advocates for free-markets and "common-sense" market regulation with both Republican and Democratic congressional members in Washington, DC.

Toes has testified in front of Congress twice on topics of capital market structure, and worked with congressional members who view the financial markets in the context of capital formation and regulation. His understanding of legislative and regulatory processes helped him discuss a wide range of complex regulatory and legislative issues.

"It's an incredible opportunity to see what your congressional members are doing and what they're thinking about," Toes said. "It's an incredible opportunity for them to get input and to be educated on a topic. It gives citizens an incredible view into what their government is doing and the questions that they're asking. On the flip side it is giving the representatives an opportunity to learn."

Toes said he didn't vote for Santos because of his "extremist," views, but was surprised by the news of the numerous allegations. Immediately after hearing



Roksana Amid/ Herald

Jim Toes, the president and CEO of the Security Traders Association, says he wants to foster 'common sense' market regulations.

the alleged allegations, Toes searched four of Santos' aliases via Finra Broker Check, a free tool available to the public, which helps research, the professional backgrounds of investment professionals, brokerage firms and investment adviser firms. Toes found nothing that traced back to Santos after entering the queries.

The number one priority for government, he said, should be to protect its citizens, which includes handling financial crises as well as upholding constitution-

al rights.

"This is a real civil servant type of job if you have the right attitude about it," Toes said. "I've heard politicians tell me something in their office, and then have them do something different publicly. I've had politicians that I've come across that are real civil servants, and they're doing this for the right reason, and I've seen politicians do things that would make the worst CEO in financial services look like a child."

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Veterans celebrated for community service

The Tribute and Honor Foundation announced the honorees for the third Phoenix Rising Awards, which will take place on Feb. 3, 2024, at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville. They also announced a new scholarship in honor of Korean War veteran Ben Farnan.

The Tribute and Honor Foundation, formerly the Phoenix Rising Committee, began in December of 2021 in response to the devastating fire that occurred at VFW Post 347 in August of that year. To date, the organization has helped sponsor programs such as the VetNow Program at the Glen Cove Library, which has honored close to 20 Long Island veterans and veteran supporters via the Phoenix Rising Awards. They raised over \$40,000 to help Glen Cove's local VFW post to rebuild their hall following a devastating fire in August of 2021.

"We have an incredible community, and our veterans should be supported at every opportunity," Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, president of the foundation, said. "I am pleased that our foundation has been able to help and we have high hopes that we are going to be able to do much more."

Anthony Anzalone will receive the foundation's Legacy Award for his years of service to veterans and the community, and Luke Whitting will receive the foundation's Leadership Award for his exemplary leadership in serving fellow veterans and the community. Chad Ryals will receive the foundation's Community Service Award for "going above and beyond" the call of duty in serving fellow veterans and the people of the North Shore. Dave Christie, a longtime member of VFW Post 347 will receive the Volunteer Award for his two Navy deployments onboard the USS Bennington, and for his active membership of 25 years in the Glen Cove Volunteer Fire Department. He is now a 50-year life member of the department.

Derek Valance will receive the Impact Award for his service and strong impact on the community as both a veteran and a first responder. Lisa and Wayne Cohen will receive the Homefront Award, for their outstanding service to the veteran community through their membership in Rolling Thunder New York Chapter 6. They're also supporters of many veteran causes across Long Island and beyond.

Honor Flight Long Island will receive the Front Runner Award, presented to an organization that has made a major impact by being the "front runner" in supporting veterans and their families. Stefan and Jenny Hespeler, founders of Operation VEST will receive the Awareness and Remembrance Award, presented to individuals who have worked to heighten awareness of suicide among service members and veterans.

Tickets to the Feb. 3 ceremony and fundraising gala are already on sale via the foundation's website phoenixrisingawards.com. Discounts are available to veterans, for tables of 10, and for those who purchase tickets early.

—Roksana Amid



Photos courtesy Tribute and Honor Foundation

VFW Post 347 chaplain and 2024 Community Service Award Honoree Chard Ryals cradled his son Patrick in his arms as he led the closing prayer at an event hosted by the Tribute and Honor Foundation at the North Shore Historical Museum in Glen Cove.



Glen Cove Police Officer and former Navy SEAL Derek Valance, center, will be the recipient of the Impact Award at the Tribute and Honor Foundation's Phoenix Rising Awards.



Ben Farnan, a Korean War veteran, spoke about the importance of serving one's community.



The Tribute and Honor Foundation gathered with award recipients to celebrate those who served their communities.

City working to improve financial condition

October 5, 2023 – GLEN COVE HERALD

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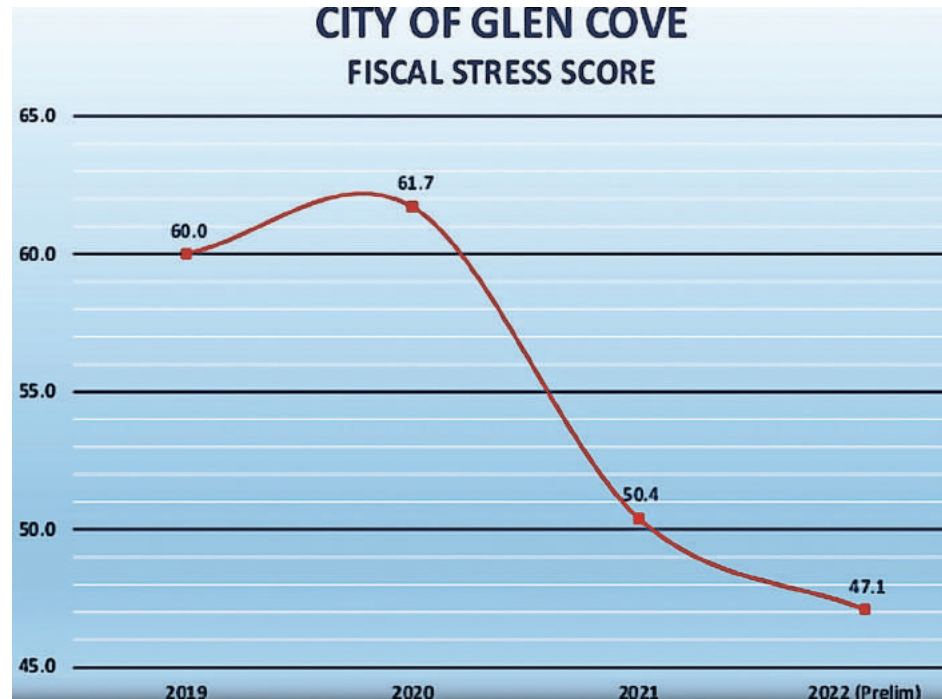
It was one of 14 local governments cited this year in DiNapoli's report.

City Councilwoman Marsha Silverman said she's been advocating for long-term planning for many years, yet the city still budgets only one year at a time.

"This fiscal stress report illustrates the need for longer-term planning to improve the city's financial position," Silverman said. "Continuing to plug holes in the budget with one-time revenues is not prudent. The city will not have the ability to plan for public amenities if we continue to budget in this manner and do not build reserves."

According to the comptroller's website, DiNapoli launched the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System in 2013 to evaluate local governments' financial indicators, including year-end fund balances, operating deficits, cash on hand, short-term borrowing, fixed costs and other factors. The system's fiscal stress scores provide an early warning to local officials about potential fiscal issues, and give residents insight into their communities' financial health.

"Our fiscal stress early warning system identifies potential financial problems for local governments so they can take corrective action to avoid problems down the road," DiNapoli said in a statement. "The fact that fewer local governments were in fiscal stress in fi-



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

The City of Glen Cove's fiscal stress score has improved in recent years, but is still a cause for concern.

cal year 2022 was largely due to the infusion of aid from the American Rescue Plan Act and sales tax revenue growth. Sales tax collections have leveled off in recent months and federal dollars are being spent down, so localities should plan their budgets cautious-

ly and accordingly."

The report's conclusion noted that many towns and villages benefited from increased sales tax revenue — the result of "an infusion of federal pandemic relief aid and, to a lesser degree, robust growth in local sales tax revenues," the

report reads. Fiscal challenges such as high inflation and increased municipal costs in 2021 and 2022 created financial pressure for many local governments.

Glen Cove Controller Michael Piccirillo said that the city has had some form of fiscal stress since the state comptroller began reporting the stress classifications.

"The city has been working diligently to improve our financial condition over the past several years by improving our budgeting practices, aggressively managing our expenses and implementing new revenue streams where possible," Piccirillo, said. "Although our fiscal stress score for 2022 was maintained at the 'susceptible' designation, we have made a great deal of progress improving our finances over the last few years."

Piccirillo added that based on the stress score calculations, after one more year of generating an operating surplus, the city anticipates a "no designation" classification when DiNapoli issues next year's report.

Piccirillo noted that Glen Cove has received two consecutive credit outlook upgrades from Moody's Investors Service, from negative to stable and stable to positive in 2022 and 2023, and said they were "further evidence of our significant financial improvement over the past few years."



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Assisted Living

We recently had the opportunity to visit Sunrise of Dix Hills, an assisted living community — part of a group of Sunrise communities across Long Island, Brooklyn, Westchester and Rockland, New York.

A number of things impressed us on our visit. Everywhere we went on our tour of the community, staff warmly greeted us as well as each other and the residents. Residents were actively engaged in group activities including playing games, listening to live music and doing art and crafts. It felt like summer camp for older adults. Lunch was surprisingly tasty with many choices and we were pleased to find the menu changes daily. We were also glad to see diners in groups of three or more.

There was a resident cat who kept turning up and we also learned that residents' own pets are allowed.

Before moving in, staff meets with the resident, their families and their physician to

determine appropriate care levels, likes and dislikes, and hobbies and interests to develop an Individualized Service Plan (ISP). The ISP is updated regularly according to a schedule.

Sunrise designs activities to support physical, mental and spiritual wellness through eight focus areas: exercise, excursions, art, music, education, intergenerational mentoring, community service and spirituality.

Sunrise also provides transportation services to residents for shopping, therapies, diagnostic testing, and doctor and dentist visits -- taking the burden off family members who often have to take time off work or are too far away to manage.

While many clients over the years have told us they would rather stay in their own homes, this often leads to loneliness, isolation and rapid cognitive decline. Being engaged with others has been proven to be one of the greatest tonics for increasing one's "healthspan".

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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

■ A 43-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on High Pine Road on Sept. 18 and charged with three counts of criminal possession of a weapon. He was previously convicted of seven weapon charges. He was also charged with possession of five or more firearms, criminal possession of a weapon, seven counts of a loaded

firearm and seven counts of criminal possession of a firearm.

■ A 62-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Sept. 22 for driving while ability impaired combined with influence of drugs or alcohol, and drinking alcohol in a motor vehicle on a highway. Additionally, he charged with failing to keep right and performing an unsafe turn on Robinson Avenue.

People named in Crime Watch items as having been arrested and charged with violations or crimes are only suspected of committing those acts of which they are accused. They are all presumed to be innocent of those charges until and unless found guilty in a court of law.

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HOW TO REACH US

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DiNapoli excited to return to city's schools

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Ask students to name their favorite school subject, and some might say reading and writing, while others might say science and mathematics. Those with a well-rounded interest in both subjects, like Andrew DiNapoli, assistant superintendent for human resources for the Glen Cove City School District, knew from a young age that he wanted to use his interests to cultivate a career to help others.

The ambitious 36-year-old Farmingville native spent much of his formative years dreaming of a career in medicine. During his senior year of high school, the class secretary became a lifeguard and volunteered his time with the American Red Cross. At the same time, he volunteered to coach sports to elementary-aged children.

While DiNapoli earned his Bachelor of Arts in English, with a minor in chemistry at Stony Brook University, he took courses to prepare himself for the Medical College Admission Test. Although he was one course shy of qualifying to take the test, he switched from a physics course to a literature class, a decision that changed the course of his anticipated career path. He says he always admired analyzing literature because those stories helped him reflect on human experiences, and their modern-day connections. His fondness for literature, specifically James Joyce, combined with his family's leanings towards education inspired the shift in his career. His mother was a preschool teacher, and his father, a union electrician, taught at the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services.

Not long after graduation, DiNapoli attended the Teachers College at Columbia University where he earned his master of arts in teaching. His determination motivated him to endure 14-hour days so he could earn



Roksana Amid/Herald

Andrew DiNapoli, assistant superintendent for human resources for the Glen Cove City School District, says he always wanted a career to help children.

his degree in approximately one year.

DiNapoli first came to Glen Cove early in his career because he was inspired to be part of the district's diverse community. He became an English teacher at Robert M. Finley Middle in 2012 while also coaching for the girls and boys Varsity track and field teams. He also advised the student council, helped the homework club and was an instructor for the academic intervention services on Saturdays.

When he became the district's coordinator in English language arts, he wanted to prepare students to become "global citizens." He established a program to introduce students to research topics that were of interest to them, teaching them the important research methodologies.

"One of most important things to me was just making sure that they were researching something that was passionate to them and they thought were important," DiNapoli said. "Sixth and seventh graders being introduced to just research practices can be meticulous, and in some aspects, mundane. But when they're reading and arguing about something that they're passionate about, that's the thing that will keep their engagement."

DiNapoli went on to become the director of curriculum for the Baldwin Union Free School District in 2018. Some of his many career highlights include serving as the district representative for the Nassau BOCES Perkins Grant consortium, establishing partnerships with Generation Ready and the RULER Institute. He also formed the Baldwin High School Curriculum Screening Committee and collaborated with the district's special education supervisor to discuss, and design curriculums in conjunction with the Next Generation Learning Standards.

In 2020, he became the principal at the district's middle school, and earned a certification to become an assessment writer for the state's Next Generation English language arts program, and like many other administrators, he faced unprecedented challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. DiNapoli hosted a Zoom webinar with the Baldwin Council of Parent Teacher Associations, where psychiatrist Dr. Caryl Oris spoke with parents about the effects of stress and anxiety on the body. The interactive Parent Academy Workshop, titled "Persevering and Moving Forward in Challenging Times," highlighted ways to cope with balancing academics and fostering a safe environment for students.

DiNapoli initially left Glen Cove to advance his career in Baldwin, but said the decision wasn't an easy since he forged strong connection with the community at the beginning of his career. He says he's excited to return to the city's school district.

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Candidates address community concerns

October 5, 2023 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Residents from all over Glen Cove gathered at Glen Cove High School on Oct. 2 to watch Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck debate her challenger, former county comptroller George Maragos, at an event hosted by the League of Women Voters. During the hour-long debate, the candidates were asked questions submitted by residents about issues ranging from rising housing costs, and finances to the city's overall culture. Both candidates offered opening statements about their work in the city and county.

Panzenbeck began by highlighting the city's ranking as the 37th best place to live, according to money.com. She also detailed her family's generational ties to the city, and said she enjoyed the many opportunities her time as mayor gave her to meet more people in the community. She said she's proud of her accomplishments as mayor, some of which included cleaning and revitalizing the city's parks, beaches and water wells. She noted her ability to purchase new equipment for the city's emergency services and department of public works. And she stressed fiscal responsibility was a high priority for her administration, reflecting on the deficit, which she said was reduced from \$2.2 million to just over \$700,000.

Maragos highlighted his experience in finance and managing the county's budget and working hard to balance the budget without raising taxes. Maragos criticized the city's operations, claiming there were issues of flooding, empty downtown stores and said calls went unanswered at City Hall. He referred to the state comptroller's report, which



Roksana Amid/Herald

George Maragos, left, debates incumbent Pamela Panzenbeck for the mayoral seat in Glen Cove.

has stated Glen Cove is susceptible to fiscal stress, saying this could lead to higher taxes, less services by the city and a lower quality of life.

The first question inquired about what candidates considered to be the city's greatest challenge. Maragos stated mismanagement within the city was his concern, including the use of one-shot revenues that he claims were used to cover underestimated expenses. He believes new equipment for the city's DPW should have been prioritized.

Panzenbeck countered Maragos remarks, saying she purchased two new garbage trucks and equipment for the DPW. Panzenbeck also noted that the city's financial stress report was an improvement from recent years, adding that the city is nearly two points away from a "no stress" designation. She projects the city will conclude the fiscal year with an operating surplus.

When addressing traffic concerns,

Panzenbeck said she understands the concerns of the community, but that the issue was "tricky." She said police responded to complaints of high traffic areas, but she has heard many residents want to follow Huntington's business model to increase the number of businesses in the area. Consequently, this will increase traffic, she said.

Maragos countered by stating the main concerns with traffic stem from speeding and safety. He said he's heard many concerns from residents, who he says feel as though these issues aren't being addressed although residents have addressed Panzenbeck directly. He said his administration would have an "open door" policy with frequent town halls.

In the same vein, Maragos addressed the downtown parking garages, saying delaying repairs will cost the city more money. He believes the city has funds for the repairs, but they are not allocating it to what he believes is a high safe-

ty concern.

Panzenbeck countered by saying she does address those concerned with speeding and that the repairs to the garages have been overdue for 50 years. She said there are no city funds available to repair the structures, and the city is looking to federal grants for repairs.

One question stated there was no recreational center designated for the city's youth. Panzenbeck offered that there were plenty of options for youth, citing the city's beaches. She emphasized that John Maccarone Memorial Stadium was refurbished during her time as mayor, and that it was a "home run" with the city's youth.

Maragos said he's heard complaints about a lack of space for youth, stating, "We have some very nice facilities, but we don't have enough." He cited that the city needs a youth recreational center, a public pool, and that he'd be receptive to other suggestions from the community.

Both candidates addressed the topic of diversity and inclusion within the city. Maragos recalled that as a Republican in 2016, he was advised by his party to not reach out to minority communities to expand the Republican base because they don't typically vote Republican. He claims that mindset is why he became a Democrat in 2016.

Panzenbeck said she was shocked by Maragos response, saying that the city has always been a diverse community, and are members of the city's sports teams and houses of worship.

"I don't think that they feel that they're not a part of our community and haven't been told, 'Don't go and speak to those kinds of people because they're not going to vote for you,'" Panzenbeck said. "I am the mayor of everyone."

NEWS BRIEFS

Nassau County police exam announced

There is a new Nassau County Police Civil Service exam which is expected to be held at the beginning of next year. Applications are now open until Oct. 31.

The test is open to anyone between

the ages of 17 and 35 living in either Nassau County, or one of the abutting cities or counties, including Westchester.

For further information, visit NassauCivilService.com.

Oktoberfest coming soon in Glen Cove

The City of Glen Cove will host an Oktoberfest community event. The menu for the evening includes Sid's All American, Zozzo's pizza, Knot of This World pretzels, Gelato Cart, Cousins Maine Lobster, Gooseberry Grove Desserts and Starbucks coffee. Expect

music, raffles and the best waterfront sunset. Admission is free with food and beverages available for purchase.

Festivities are scheduled for Oct. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Garvies Point Ferry Terminal.

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Replica village will transform police training

By NICOLE FORMISANO

nformisano@liherald.com

Nassau county is breaking ground on a new facility that officials say will transform police training like never before in the nation.

The \$12 million project next to Nassau Community College — called Phase II Training Village — will replicate a village to mirror real-life communities. That includes everything from schools, banks and houses of worship — complete with role players — so police officers can get hands-on experience in a simulation before going out into the field of the real world.

“This is to take you out of the classroom and put you into that real-life scenario,” Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder told reporters last week. “No longer do you learn from a PowerPoint and a room that we say, ‘OK, pretend this is the mosque or this is a synagogue.’

“No, there will be a synagogue. There will be a mosque. There will be a church.”

The added realism of a village environment will allow police officers to learn a vital skill that was neglected in the past — a community-centric focus.

“Unfortunately, for the last 50, 60 years, we’ve trained only tactical,” Ryder said. “It’s always about tactics — keeping the officers safe, keeping the people safe, firing your weapons, using your baton, using your horses in crowd control situations.

“But now we’re going to police about community.”

The facility will be open to all agencies and departments in the region, not just the county police department. The village will be largely populated by NCC students participating in roleplays for a criminal justice credit.

Through the roleplay scenarios, officers learn how to



Nicole Formisano/Herald

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman promises to have the replica village police training facility planned for next to Nassau Community College completed by 2025.

handle a variety of situations they may face on the job. Examples include confronting an armed homeless person, managing a group of protesting students, or helping a woman give birth while stuck in traffic.

“We are going to train our cops like no one else has ever trained them before in this country,” Ryder said.

“It’s about training for the community, so that we reflect what is needed and asked for by our community. And we do it right.”

Part of that community-centric focus is helping officers practice connecting people they encounter with government resources like social services. The new method of training is also in response to criticism the NCPD has received in recent years.

“We went through reform, we went through challenges and stuff in the community,” Ryder said. “It was asked of us to do better. Well, we’re going to do better.

“When it’s done, I get to sit down with the white kid, the Black kid, the Hispanic kid, the LBG person, the transgender person, the Jewish person, the Catholic person, the Muslim person, and they’re going to tell me what I did wrong. ‘I’m going to learn from them, but they’re going to learn from me.’

“And that’s what the beauty of this is — whatever today’s society is, you’re going to have it in that village.”

The village is expected to be open and ready for use in 2025. Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, a project leader, promised it would open right on schedule.

“I want to make sure that if I’m not re-elected or I don’t run for office, it gets done before I leave office,” Blakeman said. “This will be a source of pride for not only our police department, but all the residents of Nassau County.”

This kind of comprehensive, multidimensional training will help create officers that can better serve their communities, Ryder added.

“If you take community and you consider that in your decision-making, you make better decisions,” the police commissioner said. “We are part of the community, the community is part of us. And that’s what this is all about.”

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Rallying for public power, but PSEG pushes back

By CHARLES SHAW

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There's a bit of a power struggle happening in Nassau County — and it quite literally has everything to do with power.

Dozens gathered in front of a closed office building in Seaford belonging to PSEG Long Island demanding the utility end its quasi-private management of the Long Island Power Authority and replace it with a fully public entity.

The coalition — which included community organizations, environmental groups, businesses, and various members of chambers of commerce — had already signed on to a letter addressed to Gov. Kathy Hochul and state legislators to help make that happen.

"It demonstrates the widespread support, both regionally and statewide, for a fully public LIPA," said Ryan Madden, sustainability organizer for the Long Island Progressive Coalition.

Madden's coalition hosted the recent event as part of its larger "Reimagine LIPA" campaign, calling for the public entity to become wholly locally controlled.

Madden describes the public-private PSEG model as expensive, unreliable and structurally flawed. Those flaws were made especially clear in 2020 when Tropical Storm Isaias swept through Long Island and left some 645,000 homes and businesses without power — some for as long as eight days.

Albany has been paying attention to the demands, however. Legislation was passed last year creating a commission tasked with developing a roadmap for a restructured LIPA. The Legislative Commission on the Future of Long Island released a draft report this past April detailing a key financial finding: That LIPA can save between \$50 million and \$80 million a year by operating



Charles Shaw/Herald

David Osorio joined Oceanside's Jill Weber at a rally in front of a closed PSEG Long Island office in Seaford demanding the utility end its private-public partnership with Long Island Power Authority, and let distributing electricity be solely a public job. PSEG officials, however, warn making the utility fully public will lead to rampant mismanagement.

the local electric grid itself.

"It has shown that a fully public LIPA will lower rates and provide more transparency and accountability," Madden said.

LIPA has been managed by PSEG Long Island since 2013 under a contract that runs through 2025.

Christopher Hahn, PSEG Long Island's vice president of external affairs, told the commission during a hearing in Hauppauge a day after the rally that the public-private model is the best option for Long Island and the Rocka-

ways, and that LIPA — as a public entity — has already produced a muddy track record.

He cited a 175 percent jump in payroll since 2015, and increasing the organization's debt from \$7.6 billion to just under \$13 billion. That has caused LIPA's operating budget to grow an average of 25 percent each year for the past decade.

"Historically, empire building by government agencies — unchecked and unchallenged — does not produce efficiencies," Hahn said, according to his written testimony. "And to believe this one would be different is just wishful thinking."

Hahn also said the partnership provides the benefits of public power with accountability. Yet those who gathered in front of PSEG's Seaford offices disagree.

"From Montauk to the Rockaways, Long Islanders are facing economic hardships and an affordability crisis that makes living and thriving here harder and harder each year," Joseph Sackman, a member of the Long Island Activists, said at the rally. "With frequent and dangerous storms and an already outdated electric grid, we can add uncertainty and risks to life and property as well."

John Hyland, a retiree member of the Professional Staff Congress — a union representing faculty and staffers at CUNY — says public power would prioritize serving the needs of the people.

"More transparency, accountability, lower rates, and a commitment to environmental sustainability and justice, are so important to Long Island communities," he said.

"You cannot guarantee that a fully municipalized system will not drastically raise ratepayer costs, or that mismanagement and politics won't run rampant," PSEG's Hahn said. "Are you willing to gamble our region's electric grid with your constituents' hard-earned dollars for a hypothetical savings of \$3 per customer?"

GLEN COVE HERALD — October 5, 2023

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Mini Mart makes a triumphant return

October 5, 2023 — GLEN COVE HERALD

Sea Cliff's Mini Mart returned in force this Sunday, bringing around 200 craft goods, food and drink vendors to the heart of the village. Roughly 12,000 people from Sea Cliff, the surrounding municipalities and across Long Island made their way to the village to enjoy the various booths, live music and good cheer that filled Sea Cliff.

The event was organized by the Kiwanis Club of North Shore Long Island, whose volunteers worked for six months to ensure everything ran smoothly. All proceeds from the event went to local children's charities, including Klothes for Kids, Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center, Kamp Kiwanis, college scholarships and more.



Best friends Philomena Bunce, 5, left, and Lilah Rexon, 5, enjoyed stopping by the Sea Cliff Shave Ice booth for a sweet treat.



9-month old Theo Molina looked at the custom items from the WinesGoneWhatNow booth, which sold up-cycled wine corks and other repurposed vintage items, with his grandmother Esther Cannella.



Adrienne Daley/Herald photos

The creators of the local film 'A Sea Cliff Story,' including actress Brianna Lee, second from left, and Michael Luciano, center, had a booth where they caught up with fellow Sea Cliff residents like Cara Royal, left, Mark Sobel and Karen Buschfrers.



A robot built by the North Shore Robotics Club attended the Mini Mart, where it gave candy to intrigued children.



People like Nick Bruss came from as far afield as Mineola to take part in the Sea Cliff Mini Mart.

STEPPING OUT

In tune with the Nassau Pops

Tony Danza

stars in a the return of the orchestra's gala benefit concert

By Karen Bloom

Their absence has been sorely missed by Nassau Pops fans, CP Nassau, the concert's beneficiary, and orchestra members. Now, after a three-year pandemic-imposed absence, Maestro Louis Panacciulli and his orchestra are back on the Tilles Center stage with their popular gala concert in support of the Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, next Sunday, Oct. 15. This year the orchestra welcomes Tony Danza and his band as their special guests.

The concert continues to feature the Nassau Pops signature blend of popular and classical music as well as an inspiring moment with Creation, the CP Nassau vocal team that has made their annual appearance a heartwarming tradition since 2004.

"I've truly missed this concert," says Panacciulli, the orchestra's longtime musical director. "The orchestra is family, and this is one big lovefest. I'm so glad to be back at Tilles Center during our 40th season. It's always exciting to be here. So many wonderful people have crossed this stage."

The collaboration between the Nassau Pops and CP Nassau goes back to his mother, who was a member of the CP auxiliary in Valley Stream.

"In the past, we had done benefits for Special Olympics, pop concerts for hospitals," he recalls. "But the idea for doing this came one day when I was discussing with her the idea of doing a benefit concert for CP Nassau. I'm thrilled to carry on her legacy."

And he's delighted to return to Tilles Center. "We knew it had to be special and are so fortunate to get Tony Danza to participate," Panacciulli says. "He was very interested in working with a symphonic band."

This collaboration brings a unique twist to Danza's acclaimed cabaret show, "Songs and Stories." Combining Danza's wit, charm, storytelling — with a dash of soft shoe and even Danza on the ukulele — the "Taxi" and "Who's the Boss" actor sings his favorite standards from the Great American Songbook while he interweaves stories about his life and personal connection to the music.

Some might not realize that Danza, who grew up on Long Island and attended Malverne High School, is a well-established song and dance man, in addition to his acting chops in television, film and on stage.

"He brings a lot of different things to the show," Panacciulli says. "He draws in the crowd with 'Angel Eyes,' the big Frank Sinatra tune." And throughout his 70-minute set, Danza is thoroughly enjoying himself.

"He always has a big smile on his face," Panacciulli says. "He's certainly having a good time. And I guarantee the audience will as well."

The language of music is clearly special to Panacciulli.



Maestro Louis Panacciulli conducts the Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra, which he refers to as his 'family.'

"Music crosses over all lines, whether you're young or old, no matter if you're on the right side of the aisle or the left. The Nassau Pops is back at full strength, doing what we set out to do — not only to make music, but to make a difference."

That's where Creation comes in, the singers who participate in CP Nassau's Adult Day Treatment Program. As part of the opening segment, they'll perform "Sweet Caroline,"

"Georgia on My Mind" and "God Bless the USA." Singers David Tindal and Chris Wawrzonek have "grown up" with the orchestra.

"I'm filled with such a sense of gratitude that I can affect two lives by giving them a chance to perform in front of a full orchestra and a large audience," Panacciulli says. "We share something special when we share music together. The audience gives them standing ovations every time. It's so amazing to see what they can do."

And for Panacciulli — a Franklin Square resident, who has been at the helm of the Nassau Pops since 1984 (and also serves as band director at Nassau Community College) — that moment defines this concert.

"We always want to leave something behind after the notes have faded away," he adds. "Creation is a by-product the wonderful work that CP Nassau does. It does my heart good to help them and give back to the community through the gift of music."

Panacciulli gratefully acknowledges Long Island-based credit union Jovia, which has been the gala's title sponsor since 2012. Proceeds from every ticket sold are donated directly to CP Nassau.

Photos courtesy Nassau Pops

Tony Danza performs a selection of his favorite standards from the Great American Songbook. Critics laud his voice and showmanship.



Suzanne Vega

Acclaimed as a masterful storyteller, the singer-songwriter visits the Landmark stage for 'An Intimate Evening of Songs and Stories.' She's joined by her longtime guitarist, Gerry Leonard, performing a career-spanning show including favorites like Tom's Diner, Luka and more. Vega emerged as a leading figure of the folk-music revival of the early 1980s when, accompanying herself on acoustic guitar, she sang what has been called contemporary folk or neo-folk songs of her own creation in Greenwich Village clubs. Bearing the stamp of a storyteller who 'observes the world with a clinically poetic eye' (The New York Times), Vega's songs have tended to focus on city life, ordinary people, and real-world subjects. Notably succinct and understated, her work is immediately recognizable — as utterly distinct and thoughtful.

Friday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m. \$195 and \$99 premium VIP packages, \$61, \$51, \$41. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or LandmarkOnMainStreet.org.



Gipsy Kings

Mixing rumba, flamenco, salsa and pop, the Gipsy Kings featuring Nicolas Reyes will have you moving to their irresistible rhythms and melodies from the very first song. Their fast flamenco guitar leads and rhythmic strumming are truly captivating. What really sets them apart is Nicolas Reyes' gritty, intense and instantly recognizable vocals. You feel the passion in every note he sings. Since they debuted more than three decades ago, France's most successful group has performed all over the world, earning gold and platinum albums along the way. Thirty years is an eternity in pop music, but the story of the Gipsy Kings has the depth to endure. Theirs is a music that extends through generations, to the sounds of their ancestors — Spanish Romani people who fled the Catalonia region during the Spanish Civil War — and reflects the vibrantly eclectic and peripatetic history of the gitanos.

Sunday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m. \$99.50, \$89.50, \$69.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.

THE SCENE

Oct. 13

Emmet Cohen Trio

Multifaceted American jazz pianist and composer Emmet

Cohen is one of his generation's pivotal figures in music and the related arts. He visits the Landmark stage, Friday, **Oct. 13**, at 8 p.m. A recognized prodigy, Cohen began Suzuki-method piano instruction at age three, and his playing quickly became a mature melding of musicality, technique, and concept. Downbeat observed that his nimble touch, measured stride, and warm harmonic vocabulary indicate he's above any convoluted technical showmanship. In the same spirit, Cohen himself has noted that playing jazz is about communicating the deepest levels of humanity and individuality; it's essentially about connections with both musicians and audiences. In constant demand as a sideman, he leads his namesake ensemble, the Emmet Cohen Trio, and is a vibrant solo performer. Possessing a fluid technique, an innovative tonal palette, and an extensive repertoire, Cohen plays with the command of a seasoned veteran and the passion of an artist fully devoted to his medium. Cohen headlines regularly at Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Village Vanguard and Birdland, among other prestigious venues. \$48, \$43, \$38. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or LandmarkOnMainStreet.org.



On exhibit

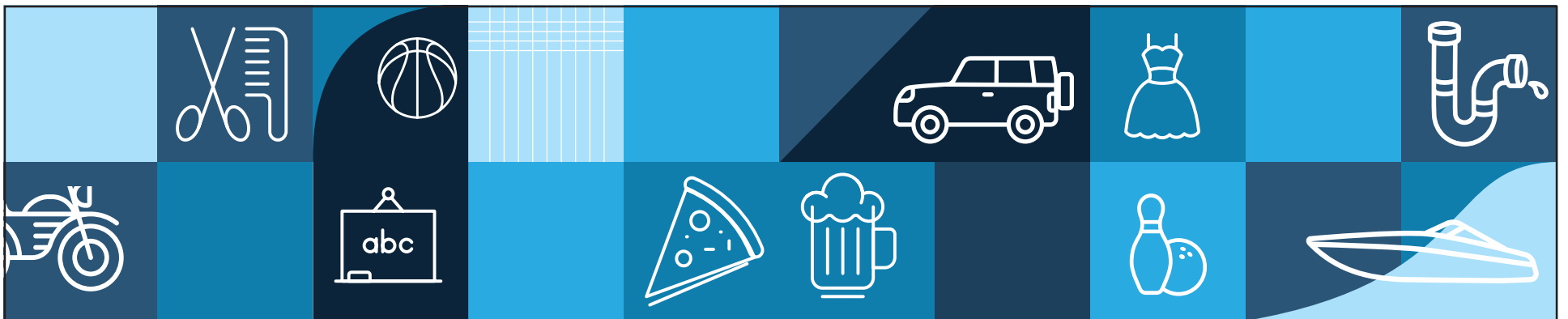
View the landmark exhibition "Modigliani and the Modern Portrait," at Nassau County Museum of Art. Devoted to the way that Modigliani powerfully re-defined the art of portraiture, the show includes his masterworks along with paintings and drawings by his Parisian contemporaries (Picasso, van Dongen, 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.

Oysters and more

The Oyster Festival, known throughout the region for its fun mixture of new activities and old favorites that are certain to entertain the entire family including live entertainment, ships, top-notch artisans, pirate shows, midway rides, and the iconic oyster eating and shucking contest. And of course, the food court, where volunteer chefs and culinary pros work side by side, cooking and serving dozens of unique oyster, clam and other seafood concoctions along with traditional festival fare. Festivities take place throughout Oyster Bay's downtown, Saturday and Sunday, **Oct. 14-15**. Visit TheOysterFestival.org for information.

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, **Oct. 19**, 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. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



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Oct. 21

Oktoberfest

Enjoy an Oktoberfest at St. Patrick's Church, Saturday, **Oct. 21**. With food trucks, beer, live music, pumpkin patch, games and raffles. 235 Glen St.



Art classes

Nassau County Museum of Art welcomes those interested in improving their art skills or those who simply want to explore their creativity to participate in one of their many stimulating classes. The fall schedule includes Watercolor Florals: Beginner to intermediate levels (adults and teens 16+), Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, **Nov. 2-Dec. 14**. \$300, \$270 members. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. For information and to register visit NassauMuseum.org or call (516) 484-9338.

Talking birds

The South Shore Audubon Society invites all to a lecture program, "Horseshoe Crabs: Blue-Blooded Laboratory Stars," with Dr. John Tanacredi, at its monthly meeting, Tuesday, **Oct. 10**, 7:30 p.m., at Freeport Memorial Library. Dr. Tanacredi has tracked up to 115 locations for horseshoe crab breeding conditions and habitats on Long Island; he'll discuss why they and their habitats are so important. A Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Director of the Center for Environmental Research and Coastal Oceans Monitoring at Molloy University, he is a founding member of the IUCN SSC Horseshoe Crab Specialist Group. 144 W. Merrick Road (at S. Ocean Avenue) in Freeport. For more information about the program or South Shore Audubon, go to SSAudubon.org.

In concert

Dave Diamond performs, Thursday, **Oct. 12**, at Still Partners. 225 Sea Cliff Ave. Visit StillPartners.com for more.

Masquerade Ball Benefit Gala

Enjoy the spirit of the season at a Howloween Masquerade Gala benefiting Freeport-based Bobbi and the Strays animal rescue, Thursday **Oct. 26**, 7 p.m.-12 a.m., at Russo's on the Bay. \$125 ticket price includes four-course dinner, dancing, entertainment and raffles. All funds raised support sheltering and medical needs of the rescued dogs and cats. 162-45 Cross Bay Blvd., Howard Beach. For information, call (917) 213-9840 or (718) 845-0779.



Fall festival

Enjoy the season at Simpkins Park at Garvies Point, Saturday, **Oct. 7**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. With inflatables and bounce houses, carnival games, prizes, photo booth, airbrush body art, and more. Also food trucks including Sid's All American, Mr. Flavors Ice Cream, Empanadas-Nellys, along with Garvies Point Brewery will be joining next to the beer garden.

Westbury House Tour

For many years visitors to Westbury House at Old Westbury Gardens asked what was beyond the first floor corridor. Now beyond the door and discover "secrets of the service wing," during a 60-minute guided tour, Friday, **Oct. 6**, noon-1 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 8, 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 3-4 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 9, noon-1 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 11-12, noon-1 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.



Harvest Moon Festival

Celebrate the season at Orkestai Farm's Harvest Moon Fall Festival fundraiser, Saturday, **Oct. 7**, 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the farm located within Planting Fields Arboretum. Enjoy delectable vegetable platters prepared by local chefs with produce from the farm, drinks from local breweries and roasteries, with entertainment by the Rusty String Band and Yin Mei Dance, and a community art project that inspires the art of movement. Planting Fields, Oyster Bay. Visit OrkestaiFarm.org or call (516) 817-6420/

Library Walking Club

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, **every Thursday**, at 9:15 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.

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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A place for everyone at Saint Luke's Bazaar

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sea Cliff is gearing up for its annual Bazaar, a chance for village residents and members of the wider Long Island community to head over to the church and grab some food, some homemade preserves, and enjoy the beautiful fall weather. The bazaar, which has been held every year for at least the last 40 years, also includes raffles, apple cider pressing, an array of vendors, and more. It will take place at St. Luke's, 253 Glen Ave. on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jesse Lebus, the pastor at Saint Luke's, explained that the bazaar is in many ways the highlight of the church's year. Parishioners and volunteers have spent the last seven months organizing, reaching out to vendors, and most importantly, hand-making a wide array of jellies, jams, marmalades and other preserved goodies.

Janette Heurtley, the co-chair of the Country Kitchen, which oversees the making of the preserved food, has been helping organize the bazaar for the last 34 years. She said that while the work takes a while, getting to see people come together and enjoy their food and time at the bazaar makes it all worth it.

"It's delightful because having all of the homemade stuff sort of established a niche market," Heurtley said. "We have customers that even come from the South Shore and out east. I always encourage people to buy a whole year's supply."

This year the volunteers for the Country Kitchen outdid themselves, Heurtley said. They made over 1,100 jars of food, including more than 30 varieties of different jellies.

Since the coronavirus pandemic, the bazaar has been held outside, and will be again this year. Lebus explained that while the idea to hold the event outside

Saint Luke's Fall Bazaar

Date: Saturday, Oct. 14

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, 253 Glen Avenue, Sea Cliff

was initially borne out of necessity, it has since become a staple, as it further encourages people who may just be passing the bazaar in their car to stop and see what all the good cheer is about.

"The bottom line is that we had to figure out how to do the bazaar differently," Lebus said. "We realized that it had to be outside, and it had to be earlier in the fall."

Moving the event outside has given them more space to expand the bazaar as well, allowing new vendors and more participants to stop by. Heurtley said that in her years with the church the thing that has changed the most is the scope of the event, as well as becoming more open and casual.

The bazaar also features a live raffle, with one of the prizes being a hand painted corn hole set, and a white elephant table, which holds a collection of used items being sold in similar fashion to a garage or yard sale.

While the event is the most church's most important fundraiser of the year, Lebus added that the bazaar is really about connecting with people, both in and outside of the church.

"It's a precept of the church that you come together in faith, but you work together for the sake of the community," Lebus said. "In that work, friendships are made. People learn about what's going on in the community."



Courtesy Renee Swanson

Over 30 different types of jellies will be available for purchase at the bazaar, thanks to the efforts of volunteers like Janette Heurtley, left, Nigel Hawkins and Lainry Ganzenmuller, who have spent the last seven months making them.

This handpainted cornhole set is one of the numerous items that attendees at the bazaar can potentially win through the church's raffle.



Courtesy Jesse Lebus

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY to discuss the proposed 2024 Budget. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.
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COUNTY OF NASSAU, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS LEGAL TRUSTEE FOR TRUMAN 2016 SC6 TITLE TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. DAVID A. JOHNSON A/K/A DAVID JOHNSON, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on August 3, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the front steps on the north side of the Nassau County Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court

Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on October 18, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., premises known as 111 Elm Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau and State of New York, Section 23, Block 71 and Lot 54 f/k/a Section 23, Block F and Lot 1742. Approximate amount of judgment is \$368,589.13 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #

607335/2020. This foreclosure sale will be held on the north side steps of the Courthouse, rain or shine. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed at the foreclosure sale. If proper social distancing cannot be maintained or there are other health or safety concerns, the Court Appointed Referee will cancel the sale.
Brian J. Davis, Esq., Referee
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OPINIONS

Two major worries for candidates, in three words

Most people view politics as a simple business. There are winners and losers. But there are other factors that can determine who emerges as a victor or suffers defeat, and the public hears little if anything about them. I refer specifically to the terms “coattails” and “down ballot.”



**JERRY
KREMER**

The best example of the first phenomenon I can think of was last year’s race for governor of New York. The contest featured Democrat Kathy Hochul, who was well known for her activities as lieutenant governor under former Gov. Andrew

Cuomo. She had ascended to the governor’s office when Cuomo resigned. Her opponent was then U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin, a military veteran who had also been a state senator. Thanks to a number of hot issues, such as bail reform, Zeldin came much closer to beating Hochul than anyone expected, with the highest percentage of the vote for a Republican gubernatorial nominee in 20 years.

After a brutal campaign, Hochul

won by a margin of 5 percentage margins. Generally, Republicans running statewide usually have little or no chance to win, but Zeldin mounted a spirited campaign, using crime as his major issue, and he spent an enormous amount of time in four of New York City’s traditionally Democratic boroughs. His aggressive campaign turned out to be a big bonus for other New York Republicans.

Thanks to what we call the coattail effect, Zeldin helped no fewer than five Republican candidates for Congress win in what were traditional Democratic districts. Thanks to Zeldin’s efforts, those five winners helped the Republicans take control of the House of Representatives. In addition to the impact on congressional races, Republicans also won a number of Democratic Assembly seats in Brooklyn and Queens.

If you research state and federal campaigns, you’ll find very few examples of candidates at the top of the ticket sweeping other candidates into office. The first race that I can recall where there was a massive shift in power thanks to the top candidate was President Lyndon Johnson’s campaign

in 1964.

Johnson was opposed by conservative Republican Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona. Goldwater spoke for the extreme elements of the party, and as a result, Johnson was able to craft a campaign that helped elect hundreds of Democrats around the nation. Johnson’s effort was so strong that the Democrats were even able to unseat New York’s Assembly speaker, Joseph F. Carlino, with an unknown car dealer named Jerome McDougal.

Presidents Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama were able to help a few members of their party limp to victory. But their triumphs had none of the magnitude of the Johnson landslide. Candidates for almost every office often hope that the nominee at the top of the ticket will somehow magically propel them into office.

Of course, in some cases, candidates at the bottom of the ballot have to worry that the party frontrunner doesn’t cost them their own elections. Being swept out of office by a weak designee at the top of the ticket isn’t a rare occurrence. In 1972, Democrats chose the ultra-liberal Sen. George McGovern

as their presidential headliner. McGovern won only one state, and caused the party to lose numerous down-ballot races.

In 1988, the Democrats chose Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis as their presidential candidate, and many candidates on the slate, including me, had to run strong individual campaigns to survive.

Both parties are already confronting the issue of whether their candidate for president will help or hurt them. Republicans are especially concerned about whether former President Donald Trump will head their ticket and cost them seats. And Democrats are worried about whether President Biden will have any impact on the party turnout.

As the 2024 races unfold, the high-profile candidates will be the subject of much of the discussion of winning and losing, but their parties will be just as concerned with coattails, and what the results will mean down ballot.

Jerry Kremer was a state Assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly’s Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He now heads Empire Government Strategies, a business development and legislative strategy firm. Comments about this column? JKremer@liherald.com.

Counting on strength at the top of the ballot, or concerned about weakness.

Hochul finally recognizes the migrant crisis

Gov. Kathy Hochul’s mirror must be broken. In a mind-boggling television appearance last week, she finally acknowledged that the migrant crisis was “a real problem,” but then cleverly shifted blame to Congress for not limiting who can cross the border. She completely misunderstands the situation, or willfully misrepresents it.



**JACK
MARTINS**

In either case, she fails to acknowledge that she’s largely responsible for this mess.

It’s not as if the suburbs haven’t already suffered from her failed policies. Cashless bail, rising crime, and a

half-baked accessory housing plan have left Long Islanders reeling. But no problems are as pressing today as the migrant crisis now overwhelming New York.

So, let’s be clear about its origins. By executive order, and without legislation, the governor declared New York a “sanctuary” state. Not one to be

out-virtue signaled, New York City Mayor Eric Adams then doubled down with the city’s “right to shelter” policy. The resulting disaster was predictable. More than 100,000 migrants poured in seeking help, and chaos ensued.

The governor then declared a state of emergency, marshaled over \$2 billion in taxpayer funds for the effort, and even mobilized the National Guard, fully conceding that things were out of control. Yet despite all this — despite daily reports from overwhelmed neighborhoods, despite thousands of New Yorkers raising their voices in protest — she changed nothing. Even now, she refuses to take the most obvious course of action: to rescind our sanctuary status and enforce existing laws.

Imagine you came home and found a busted pipe flooding your kitchen. You could, of course, call a plumber, grab some buckets and start mopping up, but the very first thing you should do is close the valve and stop the flow. That’s common sense.

Rather than embrace this approach, Hochul vilifies those who encourage it by falsely accusing them of intolerance. The truth is, she lacks the political conviction to challenge other members of her party, and instead foists

the burden of their failed policy onto us. She asks struggling taxpayers to fund it, residents to absorb tent cities with thousands of unvetted migrants, and our already underfunded schools to absorb the overflow under threat of prosecution. All this while she ignores the needs of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, who still live on our streets.

The billions of dollars that have been spent thus far on this irresponsible stance, and the billions more that will be spent, come at the expense of every New Yorker who must look elsewhere for help. Our limited resources are being siphoned off on what is a self-created crisis. As a state senator, I can assure you that Hochul and the legislative majority are diverting funds from schools, veterans, seniors, special-needs populations, and families strug-

Long after she declared us a ‘sanctuary state,’ she sees the problem.

gling to make ends meet.

New Yorkers are among the most generous and welcoming people in the world, time and again opening our hearts and wallets to help our neighbors. We maintain one of the most expansive safety-net programs in the country, and routinely answer the call to aid the less fortunate, but this political folly puts our state on the verge of insolvency. Hochul is aware that New York is now looking at years of deficits, and that continuing this foolish trajectory makes that fiscal abyss that much deeper.

The governor and mayor alone chose sanctuary status, putting out a welcome mat for every migrant who arrives in this country. They chose virtue signaling over good government, and so must bear the consequences. That in no way affords them the luxury of transferring their fiasco to our suburban communities.

Until Hochul reverses our sanctuary-state designation, nobody will take her television soliloquies seriously. We will see them for what they are: mere lip service to protect vulnerable candidates as election season approaches.

Jack Martins represents the 7th Senate District.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Change is needed after band bus accident

The horrific charter bus accident on Orange County's Interstate 84 on Sept. 21 that claimed the lives of a band director and a retired teacher while injuring 16 members of Farmingdale High School's marching band should be a wake-up call for change. The procedure for ensuring that a charter bus is safe for travel — an inspection, now conducted by the owner of the bus company — should be augmented by the school districts themselves whenever any trip involves our most precious cargo.

Many school districts hire charter bus companies they deem safe by considering past driving records, hiring practices and inspection procedures. A state transportation department spokesman told reporters after the accident that the charter bus, operated by Regency Transportation of Nesconset, had undergone its semiannual inspection in August, and passed.

While it isn't clear whether there was another inspection before the bus left for the marching band camp in Greeley, Pennsylvania, investigators believe the crash was caused by a faulty front tire. One last inspection — especially by a qualified school district official — possibly could have found the problem, and the outcome of that day might have been quite different.

That's already happening at schools in Glen Head, Glenwood Landing and Sea Cliff on the North Shore, where

their own transportation depot, built in 2006, conducts inspections by mechanics employed and contracted by the district. A bus must pass a second inspection before it can leave the depot.

North Shore Schools Superintendent Chris Zublionis says that having the depot saves the district money, and brings in revenue when its employees work on buses from other districts. It also gives them all the control necessary to ensure that buses are safe.

The school district's charter and regular yellow buses all have seat belts, as do yellow buses rented by other districts. Most charter buses have seat belts, too. Initial reports from the Farmingdale accident, however, indicated that none of the 40 students and four adults on the bus were wearing seat belts when it careened 50 feet down a steep slope near Wawayanda after crashing through a guardrail. Several of the injured passengers were ejected.

AAA spokesman Robert Sinclair says that bus passengers should wear seat belts, although many yellow buses from various school districts don't have them.

"The expense of having them in a school bus is paid for by school districts," Sinclair said, "and since school buses are the safest vehicle on the road, statistically — with very few crashes — schools may not want to incur the expense.

"It would have been beneficial," he added, "if they had been wearing them

in this accident."

But the benefits of wearing a seat belt on a bus aren't as clear as, say, for a regular passenger car, Zublionis said. One theory is that a seat belt could stop a child from escaping from a bus in an emergency. But Zublionis — along with other superintendents the Herald spoke with — supports wearing one, although no school district requires students to do so.

That needs to change. Sinclair said that it's far more common for seat belts to protect passengers in a charter bus accident than to be a detriment.

And it wouldn't be hard to make the change. Before a bus departs, a chaperone or teacher could instruct students to buckle their seat belts, demonstrate how it's done, and then ensure that they are properly secured — as airline flight attendants do before takeoff.

Taking simple steps like these is the least we could do in light of the Farmingdale High tragedy. This is an opportunity for school districts to be proactive, and make a few changes — like taking control of bus inspections, and ensuring that seat belts are worn. And the state education department could help, too, by sending bus safety guidelines to schools.

Everyone — from parents to school districts to bus operators — wants to protect our children, whether they are in the classroom or on the road. Taking these common-sense steps will help ensure that this happens.

LETTERS

Peter King should take mass transit

To the Editor:

Note to former Congressman Peter King ("We've had great people working for us at the U.N.," last week): Driving into Midtown Manhattan in mid-afternoon is never a good idea, and a particularly bad one when world leaders gather at the United Nations in late September.

Rather than spending a half-hour traveling five and a half blocks, Mr. King could have taken the subway to his destination. If he had ridden the Long Island Rail Road to Grand Central, the No. 6 train from there would have gotten him to WABC-AM's studio on East 49th Street in about five minutes.

Imagine: no frustration, and plenty of time to read or nap. The train and subway would have been cheaper too, given Mr. King's decision to spend at least \$30 to park in a garage. Hopefully, congestion pricing will further encourage him, and thousands of other drivers, to opt for the vastly superior alternative of public transit.

KEVIN J. KELLEY
Atlantic Beach



OPINIONS

Who do L.I.'s congressmen really represent?

In the era of the 24/7 news cycle, it was easy to dismiss what looked like an impending federal government shutdown as the latest bit of political theater that would keep the talking heads yammering on until the next crisis.

But the political posturing in Washington is overshadowing the very real stakes of the federal budget fight for everyday Americans — including the hardworking families on Long Island who are struggling to make ends meet, and retired seniors.



STANLEY B. BERGMAN

The debate is also revealing what's actually important to our local congressional representatives, who include Republicans Anthony D'Esposito, George Santos, Andrew Garbarino and Nick LaLota — all willing accomplices in a government shutdown gambit, thankfully unsuccessful, that prioritized the interests of big business and MAGA politics over the constituents they were elected to represent and protect.

As president of the Long Island chapter of the Alliance for Retired

Americans, an organization fighting to protect the rights of seniors, Social Security and Medicare, I know what's important to me: quality, affordable health care, a reliable safety net, and a responsible government that tries to do right by its citizens and not special interests.

If Long Island's congressional delegation was willing to join the House leadership in threatening to shut down the government to get their budget proposal passed, they must have thought it was pretty important. So what was in it?

First of all, the Republican budget proposal would end Medicare's ability to negotiate prescription drug prices, just weeks after the Biden administration began using this new policy to start driving down out-of-pocket costs that often force seniors like me to choose between taking life-saving medicine or keeping the lights on in our homes.

The party that claims to be concerned about lowering the cost of living would do the opposite in their budget, by cutting the Inflation Reduction Act's insurance premium subsidies. Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, 13 million Americans are already sav-

ing an average of \$2,400 per year on health care. In New York alone, nearly 119,000 people have saved an average of \$362 on monthly premiums — and those savings are expected to keep growing. In 2025, more than 1 million New Yorkers will save an average of nearly \$390 thanks to the act's annual out-of-pocket cost cap.

The House plan would also cut \$3.8 billion from the National Institutes of Health, which would stall research in cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and long Covid. That is the very definition of cutting off your nose to spite your face.

But that's not all. The House Republican plan would cut \$30.7 billion in funding for Medicare and Medicaid. These cuts would force roughly 3.8 million seniors and people with disabilities in New York to endure longer wait times when they call the Medicare call center. This reduction in funding would also make it harder to pay hospitals and doctors on time, creating financial challenges for health care providers across the country. And it would limit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' ability to oversee the safety of New York nursing homes, endangering our seniors.

The list of shortsighted cuts that would only end up costing us more money in the long run includes cuts to the administrative budgets for Medicare and Social Security. So rather than demonstrating fiscal responsibility, our congressional representatives would hamstring the two largest safety net programs for senior citizens and create a future of bad service and long wait times for the people who need reliable delivery of their benefits the most.

When D'Esposito, Santos, LaLota and Garbarino ran for Congress, I don't remember hearing them say anything about cutting senior citizens' access to health care in their campaign speeches. So why were they following the likes of Marjorie Taylor Greene and Matt Gaetz down the shutdown path?

It's time for Long Island's congressional representatives to decide who they truly represent: their political leadership in Washington, or their constituents here on Long Island. The more than 30,000 Alliance for Retired Americans members in Long Island's four congressional districts will be watching. And as the old political truism goes: Seniors vote!

Stanley B. Bergman is president of the Long Island Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans.

I don't recall them saying anything about cutting seniors' access to health care.

LETTERS

No, we're *not* sure Trump's guilt would be enough

To the Editor:

I'd like to commend reader Brian Kelly for his thoughtful letter in last week's issue, "Are we sure Trump's guilt would be enough?" explaining how former President Donald Trump may escape conviction despite overwhelming evidence. I'd just like to add two things Mr. Kelly didn't mention.

The first is that a "not guilty" verdict is *not* synonymous with "innocent." When a jury foreperson announces "not guilty," that means only that the jury did not feel the prosecution had a strong enough case to *prove* the defendant was guilty, even though he or she may clearly not be innocent.

The second is that Trump is only one part of a much bigger problem in our country. That problem is that so many people continue to support him regardless of what he says, how he behaves, or even how many times he is indicted. The most frightening thing is that Trump continues to soar in the polls. He may

actually succeed in once again getting his hands on the reins of this country due to his base of supporters, who don't seem to care which laws he has broken, and to the many citizens who just don't care enough to vote.

PAM SINGER
Malverne

We missed you, Randi

To the Editor:

Welcome back to Randi Kreiss ("I'll be choosing my words even more carefully," Sept. 21-27)! As a reader, I for one welcome her return, and hope her husband is doing well.

I'm sad to hear that she has decided to write her column monthly, as opposed to weekly, but it will give me something to look forward to. Perhaps the Herald can fill her space with other columnists from different stages in life — a Generation X-er and a parent navigating a life with children come to mind. Just a thought.

DEBBIE LEVINE
Baldwin

FRAMEWORK by Chelsea Gundrum



At the Parthenon — Athens

CORRECTION

The organization referred to as AHRC is called AHRC Nassau. It does not offer specialized services to children. The minimum wage on Long

Island is \$15 per hour, and the organization's range for residential support services is \$15 to \$17 per hour. The range for Citizens Options United is \$15.50 to

\$17.50 per hour, and advocacy for the federal Standard Occupational Classification has been underway for the past six to seven years, and was centered on the

Bureau of Labor Statistics' opening applications for new job classifications. In the Sept. 21-27 issue, we stated otherwise.

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