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**Weekend bus service coming**  
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Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

**Did you check out the eclipse?**

Victoria Curtis, Glen Cove City School District’s science coordinator, left, and Anna Policastro, the districts coordinator for information technology, looked at the solar eclipse outside Glen Cove High School. Many people traveled, with some going as far as 100 miles away to see a total eclipse, but Curtis and Policastro decided they wanted to stay local to experience it with their students. More photos, Page 3.

**Repealing the adultery law**

Bill passes both houses, awaits Gov. Kathy Hochul’s signature

By LAURA LANE  
llane@liherald.com

Once upon a time it was illegal to commit adultery in New York. And it still is. That is unless Gov. Kathy Hochul signs the bill to repeal the adultery law which passed in both houses of the New York State Legislature.

The adultery law, which passed in 1907, was no joking matter, promising jail time and a fine of \$500. But according to Assemblyman Charles Lavine, only 13 people have been charged with adultery since 1972, and of those accused only five were convicted. Lavine, a Democrat, said there were probably

many more arrests in the early part of the century but because that data has not been digitalized, it is difficult to know just how many. Regardless, the law’s purpose was always discriminatory, he added.

“Adultery was used primarily to prosecute women,” the

Glen Cove resident explained. “The law is on the books to make some people feel good about their own sense of morality.”

He learned of early efforts to repeal the law when Assemblyman Daniel Quart retired in 2021. Lavine found that Quart,

**T**he law is on the books to make some people feel good about their own sense of morality.

**CHARLES LAVINE**  
Assemblyman,  
District 13

who had served for a decade representing the 73rd Assembly District, had been working on repealing the adultery law.

“When he left, we went through his bills and repealing the adultery bill was one of them,” said Lavine, who represents Assembly District 13. “I liked it and thought I could make a difference by repealing it.”

And it was a good time to move forward, considering what was happening in the country, he added.

“After the Dobbs decision, which overruled Roe v. Wade, we saw many bills introduced and advanced against human rights,” Lavine said. “Women’s

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

**Will armed civilian deputies be of any help to Nassau County?**

By ROKSANA AMID  
ramid@liherald.com

Nearly 100 people stood on the steps of the Nassau County legislature building in Mineola on Monday afternoon, clutching signs reading, “Blakeman is a liar! Armed militants are not the answer” and “Eclipse Blakeman’s militia” while chanting “no militia, no way.”

The protest came on the heels of Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman jumpstarting a program allowing civilians with gun permits — especially retired law enforcement or military veterans — to step forward as provisional special deputy sheriffs during times of crisis.

The program, Blakeman said, aims to bolster emergency response capabilities within the county. Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens between 21 and 72 who live in the county, and possess a pistol license. Additionally, they must consent to thorough background checks, random drug testing, and provide medical certification of fitness for duty.

The position offers a daily stipend of \$150 when activated during declared emergencies, but these special deputies would have no other policing authority outside of such circumstances.

Laura Burns, a Rockville Centre resident and volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Weekend bus service coming soon to the city

April 11, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By GUAMACICE DELICE

Intern

Glen Cove riders taking the N21 NICE bus will have Sunday service as of May 26 and those taking the N27 may see additional service beginning this fall. Prior to NICE's announcement, there wasn't any weekend service on the N27 and no Sunday service on the N21 line.

The changes will come not a moment too soon for residents like Doris Harris. The 68-year-old is a daily commuter on the N27 bus, which connects Glen Cove and Hempstead. Battling cancer, she used to see her doctor at Jamaica Hospital on weekends but can't afford to do so anymore. Without weekend bus service, residents have been forced to rely on the Long Island Rail Road's Oyster Bay line, making their trips longer and more expensive.

But even with a reduced-fare card, riding the train costs commuters like Harris five times as much as she pays aboard a bus.

"Sometimes I have to call a cab to compensate for a train delay," she said. "I am tired of this situation."

Glen Cove residents already take the N27 and N21 NICE buses to travel throughout Nassau County during the week. Both shuttle between Bridge Street, in Glen Cove, and the Hempstead Transit Center, via Roosevelt Field Mall Terminal. The N21 line services Glen Cove and Great Neck.

But Haward Quann, a sexagenarian living in Sea Cliff, claimed the buses operate on a "ridiculous schedule."

"The buses should run from Monday to Monday," he said. "I have to pay a \$20 cab to the train station, ride a train to Mineola and transfer to a bus, which costs a lot of money."

Quann is recovering from a car accident that has



Guamacice Delice/Herald

**Glen Cove residents say they need bus service on weekends. Without it, they are being forced to either take the Long Island Rail Road or a cab, which takes longer and is more expensive.**

left him with a broken leg, among other health concerns. He said he spends \$40 in taxi fees on Saturday to meet his weekly appointment at Glen Cove Hospital.

Life will be much easier for him with the additional bus service as it will for people who wish to leave Glen Cove on weekends to work, visit family or attend church outside the city.

When the Herald initially reached out to NICE, a reply was sent by email saying the bus company was unaware of the issue.

"Though we have not received any formal requests for Sunday service on these routes, our current focus is ensuring robust Monday-Saturday service," Mark Smith wrote on behalf of NICE. "As funding grows

over time, we will work toward increasing the service footprint, especially on weekends and evenings throughout Nassau County."

According to Smith, such a request should come from Nassau County's government.

Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said she shared her constituents' concerns. "It's just not fair" and "doesn't make any sense," she said.

The Glen Cove legislator sent a letter on April 1 to Jack Khzouz, vice president of operations for NICE, relaying her constituents' complaints regarding the lack of weekend service on the N27 and Sunday service on the N21, which "impedes their ability to access employment opportunities, attend church services, visit family members, or participate in commerce within the community."

"In the past," DeRiggi-Whitton wrote, "collaborative efforts between NICE Bus, community stakeholders and my office have been fruitful in the pursuit of transportation solutions that meet the needs of our shared constituents."

She offered to meet NICE representatives with members of the community affected by the lack of service. But the meeting did not have to take place because Khzouz emailed her on Monday.

NICE is able to "act quickly and add peak Sunday service on the N21 (as a pilot)," he wrote, adding the schedule will be finalized in the next couple of weeks and be available for riders at NiceBus.com.

"Additionally, we are in the process of studying the N27 in order to potentially launch some limited service beginning this coming fall, again, as a pilot," Khzouz wrote. "Our hope is that both routes can sustain meaningful weekend ridership over the next six to 12 months in order to be viable in the long run."

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Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Nathaniel Dubois, Zanera Smith, Joseph Guillen and Giuilana Datollo learned about the partial eclipse just after an earthquake shook the room. They held onto a ping-pong ball, and simulated the eclipse for their lesson.

# Unforgettable lesson about the solar eclipse

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Deasy Elementary students sat calmly on the floor in their classroom watching a slideshow about the upcoming partial eclipse when it happened – the floor began to tremble beneath them. The earthquake, which occurred on April 5, was initially mistaken for ongoing construction at the school because it is a rare event on Long Island.

But the partial solar eclipse, which happened three days after the earthquake, is even more rare for the area. The last total solar eclipse in New York was in 1925 and the next one in the United States will not occur until 2045. New York state was one of 11 states in the contiguous U.S., which fell in the path of totality. Outside of the direct path in Fredonia, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and the Adirondacks, the rest of New York experienced 88.5 to 99.9 percent totality.

Members of the National Science Honor Society, high school seniors Christina Kodis and Thomas Potter volunteered to teach elementary students across the district about the upcoming partial eclipse. It was a memorable and nostalgic experience for them, since both were 11 years old at the time of the partial eclipse in 2017.

Kodis was vacationing with family, and Potter, who is fascinated by outer space and celestial events, was with his parents at the View Grill restaurant in Glen Cove. Both remember the moment vividly and although they were children recall that they didn't take for granted the rarity of the event.

The two honor society students, who will watch the eclipse at the high school,



The rare partial eclipse mesmerized Board of Education Trustee Lynn H. James.

turned the rare event into an unforgettable lesson for students. Right after the slideshow, the curious students grabbed miniature moons, ping-pong balls on a stick, and simulated what they would see that Monday right after school.

"This is something people will remember for the rest of their lives," Kodis said, after her presentation was over. "I remember it, and I was very young for my very first time. I think these kids, even though it's not happening for another 50 years, I think they'll definitely remember it. It's really an experience."

Potter said he hopes his brief time spent with the students will leave a lasting impression when the next eclipse happens.

"As a young child, seeing something like that, that you never see until you're going to be senior citizens, they're going to really remember that as something that was really special," Potter said. "I hope that they remember being taught about it by us."



Groups of friends like Bryan Bonilla, Anthony Fernandez, Valmoris Mendez, Alyssa Dumpson and Taliyah Williams will remember the partial eclipse for years to come.



Christina Kodis, left, Page Bennett and Thomas Potter reflected on the last time they witnessed a partial eclipse during the April 8 partial eclipse.

# Blakeman calls for armed civilian deputies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sense in America, opposes Blakeman's program, citing concerns about escalating gun violence and the lack of necessity for additional firearms in Nassau County, which boasts one of the lowest gun death rates in the country.

She expresses trust in the well-trained Nassau County Police Department, and questions the rationale behind distrusting existing law enforcement agencies.

"We are trying to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have guns," Burns said. "We understand that gun violence increases with the more people who are carrying guns. We think it's a reckless idea to put more guns in the hands of more untrained people on the streets."

Allison Dzikowski of Bellmore suggests that existing county police training is more reliable than expecting civilians to effectively respond to heightened stressful situations.

"We should trust our police department to do their jobs that they're trained for," she said. "They go through training. They go through (the) academy. They are trained to deal with highly stressful situations. That's not something that we can guarantee that they'll be able to act under a heightened, stressful situation."

Citing New York State County Law 655 — which grants sheriffs the authority to deputize additional personnel for emergency situations — Blakeman justifies

the initiative to safeguard life and property during crises. Special deputy sheriffs, while not typically responding to 911 calls, assume full police authority when activated, and are tasked with executing warrants, serving court orders, and conducting other law enforcement duties.

Talking to reporters last week at the county's Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center, Blakeman said he would require these special deputies to have a firearms license and undergo background and mental health checks. The county will provide basic police training.

Blakeman added he will call up these deputies in only the most extreme situation, like a natural disaster — with the mission being not to police, but to guard hospitals and other infrastructure to free up sworn county police officers.

"I didn't want to find myself in a circumstance where we'd have an emergency in a very significant event like Superstorm Sandy, and scramble to get volunteers," Blakeman said. "All we're doing here is pre-training, and vetting those individuals, and creating a database and a list."

However, the rollout of this program has sparked controversy, with county legislators like Delia DeRiggi-Whitton expressing reservations, claiming she and other officials were not adequately informed of the initiative. The Democrat also says she feels confident the Nassau County Police Department can handle

any job — and if they can't, then Blakeman should hire more police officers.

"He hasn't been transparent," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "He never told us if there was going to be any training. In fact, that was never part of the ad, which was the first we heard of this."

This is something the county executive should have brought to local lawmakers, she said.

"The county would be on the hook for anything that goes wrong," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "We will be responsible financially. So, you know, that could be a lot of money, and then it's taxpayer money that would pay for anything that went wrong with the deputy."

Citing an email she said she received from a Jewish resident in Massapequa, DeRiggi-Whitton comparing Blakeman's call for special deputies to the paramilitary wing of the early Nazi Party, the lawmaker told another news outlet that the proposal is creating "a lot of anxiety."

"It reminds them not only of the Wild West, but of times in Europe with uncertainty," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "There was something called the Brown-shirts, which was basically having civilians suddenly become part of law enforcement without the training."

More formally called the Sturmabteilung, this group was founded in 1921 and led attacks against Jewish people and other minority groups and businesses in Germany.

Making such a comparison outraged Blakeman, who called on DeRiggi-Whitton to resign, citing the 100 people who have applied for the deputy program so far are veterans and first responders who already have training in weapon use.

"Equating these men and women who would be willing to devote their time to protecting our county — who have prior experience in law enforcement and the military — we're calling them 'Brown-shirts,'" Blakeman said. "This is not only a personal insult to me, as a Jew, but it is a personal insult on humanity, and to those men and women, civic minded individuals who stepped up and said



Tim Baker/Herald

**Laura Burns says County Executive Bruce Blakeman's plan to deputize civilians would put more guns on the county's streets.**

they would serve in an emergency."

Supporters of the program — like Jeff Weissman, a former FBI agent — said he found DeRiggi-Whitton's comparison "deeply disturbing."

"The county executive, from the point of view of those of us who live here, is trying every day to provide the maximum extent of protection for our citizens," Weissman said. "He's allowing the police to be freed up in, God forbid, a county emergency where these deputies would be able to perform other tasks for them."

DeRiggi-Whitton said she would not resign. In a phone call to the Herald, she expressed concern with transparency over training deputies, and said Democrats in the legislature proposed hiring 100 new police officers instead — but that Republicans voted that down.

"I still have a fundamental problem with this county executive being able to declare an emergency and then summon these people to go wherever he wants," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "It's not a good fit and not a good direction for where we should be with Nassau County."

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# HERALD NEIGHBORS



Photos courtesy GSM Communications

Patricia Brunelle, left, Colette Brunelle, and Michael Markoulis traveled to Morgan Park to get their view of the solar eclipse.



Terri Rivera, left, Jamar Gamble and Cynthia Rivera took time out of their day to hang out at the park to see the eclipse.

## Finding a bench at Morgan Park to gaze at the eclipse


Many residents, eclipse glasses in hand, traveled to Morgan Park on Monday to see the solar eclipse. Even though it was not total — one had to travel upstate to see that — seeing the phenomenon was thrilling, nonetheless. Seeing the moon pass slowly between the sun and the earth won't be possible again until 2045.

Wayne Wiegmann decided to view the eclipse like he did many years ago using a cereal box.



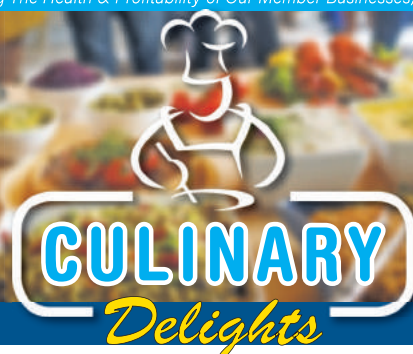
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# Chuck Lavine fights to end antiquated law

April 11, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rights are human rights.”

The Assembly passed the repeal of the adultery law on March 11, with 137 voting for and 10 against. Lavine said he wasn't surprised that 10 of his colleagues voted nay.

“I work with some people who don't take human rights or women's rights seriously,” he said. “A couple of them I knew would prefer to live in a religious state and a few others thought it would be too controversial to vote for a repeal.”

Liz Krueger, who represents state Senate District 18, sponsored the Senate bill. It passed 57-4 on April 3.

Lavine described Krueger as “an effective legislator who is clear headed about the need to get rid of laws that make no sense and advances laws that do.”

“It's simply bad policy to have a law like this — one that would never get passed today — sitting on the book,” Krueger said. “The fact that it's there, outlawing something that people may think is not good but certainly shouldn't result in a criminal record, even if it is very rarely used, it creates the risk of unintended consequences. So repealing it is really a no-brainer, and I have to think the governor will agree with that.”

Lavine said he has received several positive emails and calls, but he has also heard from people who do not support



Courtesy Office of Assemblyman Charles Lavine

Assemblyman Charles Lavine was successful in passing a bill to repeal the adultery law, which he said is an antiquated law.

his repeal of the law.

“I've received calls from people who call me a heretic and emails that say God will strike me dead,” he said. “These are from the hyper religious, the zealots, who are not usually my constituents.”

Jeffrey Prey, the pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay, said he didn't know there was a law criminalizing adultery.

“It seems overreaching,” he said. “I'm not speaking in support of adul-

tery, but I don't think we need a law. The church should emphasize commitment and faithfulness instead. We need to focus on what we can do to support the individual involved.”

Prey said he has a book, “The Trenton Pickle Ordinance and Other Bonehead Legislation” on his bookshelf.

“Apparently it's unlawful to throw any tainted pickles on the street in Trenton,” he said. “There are a lot of antiquated laws people don't know about.”

## History of N.Y. adultery law

■ New York first outlawed adultery in 1907. A misdemeanor, punishable up to three months in jail and a \$500 fine.

■ In 1964, a 12-member New York state commission proposes a new penal law for ‘study purposes only’ to exclude adultery as a crime.

■ Since 1972 only 13 people were charged with adultery and only five convicted. In nearly every case, other crimes were involved, and adultery is added as an additional crime committed.

■ Assemblyman Charles Lavine introduced a bill to repeal the act of adultery in New York state in 2024.

■ Bill passed in Assembly on March 11 to repeal adultery law 137 to 10.

■ Bill passed senate on April 3 to repeal adultery law 57 to 4.

■ Bill awaits Gov. Kathy Hochul's signature to become law.

## NEWS BRIEF

### Clean water symposium in May includes experts, policymakers, community members

An upcoming Long Island Clean Water Symposium, scheduled for May 16, hosted by Citizens Campaign for the Environment, North Shore Land Alliance, and the Nature Conservancy, aims to tackle pressing water quality and quantity issues on the island. The free event will bring together experts, policymakers and community members.

With Long Island situated above a sole source aquifer, the importance of clean water is paramount for health, recreation, and the local economy. The symposium will feature keynote speaker David Sedlak, author of “Water 4.0” and “Water for All,” alongside prominent speakers such as Adrienne Esposito from Citizens Campaign for the Environment and Chris Goble from Stony Brook University.

Topics of discussion will include nitrogen pollution, outdated wastewater infrastructure, and sustainable funding for modernizing infrastructure. The event will also highlight practical solutions, such as land preservation efforts, upgrading septic systems, and implementing rain gardens and native plant habitats.

Panel discussions will delve into solutions for both municipalities and homeowners, featuring experts like Brian Schneider from the U.S. Geological Survey, Lisa Ott from North Shore Land Alliance, and Rusty Schmidt from Nelson Pope and Voorhis. Additionally, speakers will address the success of programs like the Septic Environmental Program to Improve Cleanliness and the management of grants for clean water

septic systems.

Attendees will gain insights into the installation and permitting process for Innovative/Alternative (I/A) septic systems, funding opportunities for clean water projects, and practical measures for water conservation at home. Registration is required in advance through the North Shore Land Alliance website.

The symposium will be at the Long Island University student center auditorium, 720 Northern Blvd #154, Greenvale, on May 16 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. It promises to be both educational and action-oriented, providing tools and strategies to safeguard Long Island's water resources and work towards a sustainable future. For further information, contact Max Tetrault at (516) 922-1028 or max@NorthShoreLandAlliance.org.

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# Inspiring inclusivity in the baseball diamond

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Amidst a bustling crowd and the familiar sights and sounds of John Maccarone Memorial City Stadium, a matchup will take place on May 11 between the Long Island Bombers and the Sunset Mets. However, what sets this game apart won't just be the skillful play on the field, but the remarkable individuals who are participating — all of which will be visually impaired.

In the world of beep baseball, where the game is played with adaptive equipment and rules to accommodate visually impaired athletes, every pitch, swing, and run takes on a whole new dimension. As a pitcher prepares to release the ball, a hush will fall over the crowd, and the only sound that will be heard is the steady beep emanating from the ball. With precise timing and skill, the batter connects, and then the field will come alive with the sound of footsteps as players make their way towards first base, guided by the buzzing of the bases.

The concept of beep baseball traces back to 1964 when Charles Fairbanks, a telephone company engineer in Colorado, first devised the idea. Since then, it has evolved into a beloved sport among visually impaired athletes, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their talents on the field. For the Bombers, the state's only visually impaired baseball team, beep baseball has become not just a game but a symbol of determination, resilience and community.

The journey of the Bombers has been marked by challenges and triumphs, with recruitment and facility access constant hurdles. However, with the unwavering support of individuals like John Alutto, manager of the Sunset Mets, and Peter Munda, a dedicated member of the Sea Cliff-Glen Head Lions Club, the



Tim Baker/Herald

**Taking a swing at Beep baseball, a modified game designed for visually impaired players, requires that sighted players, like John Grossman, be blindfolded.**

Bombers have overcome these obstacles time and again.

Alutto, whose personal connection to the visually impaired community fueled his passion for supporting the team, emphasized the commitment required from players and their families while also highlighting the sheer love for the game that drives these athletes.

The Bombers, the only visually impaired baseball team in the state, first came to the attention of the Sunset Mets, a team for players 52 and older, when Alutto, of Oyster Bay, was playing in a tournament in Florida in 2021. Alutto, who operates an online baseball card and memorabilia business, overheard players

talking about a “beep ball” team in Rockville Center.

Alutto was intrigued on a personal level, since his friend Joe Esposito has a blind son.

“His son is a rookie on the team. I got to see them practice three years ago, and they’re just phenomenal.” Alutto said. “These guys just love baseball.”

Most of the players on the Bombers are sightless. Those with better vision are required to wear a blindfold during gameplay to even the playing field. Although the game is a source of inspiration and an outlet for committed players, recruitment isn't easy.

“It's very difficult to get players, especially when they're young people and the parents resist,” Alutto said. “It's a big commitment. Someone has to drive them to practice too.”

At the heart of the Bombers' story lies the legacy of Ted Fass, a visionary leader and co-founder of the team. Despite losing his sight at a young age due to a tumor, Fass remained steadfast in his love for baseball and his commitment to creating opportunities for visually impaired individuals to participate in the sport.

It was in 1998, alongside his wife Gail and fellow advocate Steve Guerra, that Fass established the Long Island Bombers, laying the foundation for what would become a beacon of hope and inspiration for the blind community. Fass, a longtime Rockville Centre resident, died on Sept. 11, 2023, at the age of 71.

Throughout his tenure as the team manager and executive director, Fass dedicated himself to mentoring players, fundraising for the team's activities, and organizing exhibition games with renowned baseball teams such as the New York Yankees and the Long Island Ducks. Alutto said Fass was “the heart and soul of the team,” and his death left a void in the Bombers' community, but his legacy continues to live on through the indelible impact he made on countless lives.

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## The Young Family Estate Plan (YFEP)

Parents of young children often overlook the need to plan for death or disability. Many believe they don't have enough assets yet or that anything they have will automatically go to their spouse. However, every young parent needs basic documents — a Will, Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy — what we term a “Young Family Estate Plan” (YFEP), that formalize their wishes in a variety of unexpected circumstances.

Without a YFEP, if one spouse dies, any assets that were in the husband's or wife's name alone will be subject to a court proceeding to name an “administrator” of the estate and New York law decides who gets which assets. The first \$50,000 goes to the surviving spouse and the rest is divided 50% to the spouse and 50% to the children. The court will appoint a legal guardian to manage the money for them and then, ready or not, any remaining funds would be turned over to them at age 18.

If your spouse becomes disabled, and you don't have a Power of Attorney for them, you must petition the court to be appointed as your spouse's legal guardian to handle their affairs (such as selling or refinancing the house or drawing funds from their accounts). The court may decide against you as legal guardian and appoint someone else.

A YFEP also includes life insurance reviews and recommendations, so in the event your spouse dies you will have the financial resources to raise your children.

A YFEP (1) ensures that all of your spouse's assets go to you and not half to your children if your spouse dies unexpectedly, (2) allows you to choose the legal guardian for your children, and at what age they will receive the unused assets, (3) avoids guardianship proceedings should your spouse have a disabling accident or illness, and (4) provides the financial wherewithal so that your children may continue to prosper and thrive.

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# VIEWFINDER What is your spring cleaning ritual?

By Danielle Schwab & Tim Baker

Lori Lang, —  
Malverne

"I have all the kids go through their closets and see what's donatable to either a church or Big Brothers Big Sisters. Spring cleaning can be a great way to give back to the community."



Lisa LoGuidice, —  
Merrick

"I love to entertain in the spring and summer outside, so spring cleaning is a great way to feel a sense of coziness for myself and my guests."



Karen Richards, East Meadow

"When winter is over, spring means starting over with a clean slate. I follow what my mom and grandma did with their spring cleaning, so it's been passed down the generations."



Patti Elliott, Seaford —

"I get the outside ready as soon as possible. The backyard is our 'other room' that we get to use in the spring/summer."



Nicky Lutsky, Long Beach

"Being stuck inside for the winter, you want to make everything fresh and exciting come spring. My mother was a big cleaner, so I gained my cleaning skills and routine from her."

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# Hach challenges GOP establishment for CD3

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Greg Hach is gearing up for the Republican primary on June 25. If he wins, he will challenge incumbent U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi to represent the 3rd Congressional District in the November general election. Despite the Nassau Republicans' selection of Michael LiPetri as their candidate, Hach is actively campaigning, and collecting signatures, emphasizing his military background, legal expertise, and grassroots approach.

"I'm running in the spirit of our founding principles," Hach stated. "Our founders envisioned ordinary citizens stepping up, not career politicians. That's what we need."

The party anticipates a heated primary race in June that currently features five contenders vying for the congressional seat once occupied by Republican George Santos.

Without an official nod from the state Republican Party Committee, candidates are left with fewer, less convenient paths toward getting on the primary ballot. Although the party's endorsement does not result in an automatic primary win, candidates often vey for their party's endorsement because it comes with significant advantages, with one of those benefits being to bypass the peti-

tioning process.

According to New York's ballot access laws, candidates running in a congressional race without the backing of one of the four state-recognized political parties — the Democrat, Republican, Conservative or Working Families parties — must collect 1,250 signatures from voters registered with that party.

Hach, is re-entering the race after an unsuccessful bid for the special election earlier this year. He is emphasizing his military background and legal expertise as assets to challenge his Democratic opponent.

Raised in Hicksville, Hach draws pride from his upbringing in a union household. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1988, serving until 1991, followed by pursuing higher education in criminal justice and law.

Post-Sept. 11, 2001, Hach co-founded Hach & Rose LLP, offering pro bono legal aid to victims of the attacks. This experience profoundly shaped his views on national security, expressing concerns over rising authoritarianism and illegal immigration, particularly from China.

He opposes movements to defund the police and advocates against cashless bail policies, attributing them to what

he perceives as the leftward shift of the Democratic Party.

Economically, Hach criticized President Biden's policies, citing inflation reminiscent of the 1970s. He pledges to address rising living costs and fiscal responsibility, emphasizing the burden placed on future generations by excessive government spending.

Hach identifies his campaign's core issues as crime reduction, immigration reform, and economic stability. He proposes measures like reinstating broken windows policing, tightening border control, and curbing over-spending in Washington.

Hach presents himself as a grassroots candidate, driven by a genuine commitment to serve, contrasting with the perceived elitism of career politicians. He argues for the election of everyday citizens with a vested interest in national welfare.

"I'm running for the right reasons, I'm a regular everyday citizen who's had it with professional politicians, and it's time you elected regular citizens to Congress," Hach said. "Elites aren't getting it done, and they've destroyed our country."

Hach said he is concerned about LiPetri's past associations and political

stance, suggesting it may not resonate well with Republican voters in Queens and Long Island. He alleges LiPetri was too closely tied to Santos, referring to another news media outlets article revealed that LiPetri had partnered with Santos in a business deal that ultimately fell through.

"We have serious issues that need addressing and we need serious people to address them," Hach said. "We can't afford another back room pick by the Nassau GOP."

Regarding the upcoming election, Hach stresses the need for genuine representation and rejects establishment politics. He warns against complacency in the face of Democratic agendas and added that LiPetri's past work for former New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio — coupled with his well-known dislike for former President Donald Trump — is a legitimate concern for Republican primary voters.

"You have a choice of two people in the in the presidential election. If you're not supporting Trump, you're supporting Biden, that's what it comes down to," Hach said. "If you're supporting Biden, you're supporting the destructive Democratic agenda, which has been effectively destroying our country over the last couple of years. We can't afford another Biden administration."



**GREG HACH**



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Anna Georgoulas Herald photos

John Perrone, second from right, was presented with an award by Kevin Maccarone, left, Spiro Tsirkas and Joseph Heffernan.

# Fundraiser is a home run for youth sports

Glen Cove's commitment to youth sports shines through as the city celebrated its third annual fundraiser, spearheaded by Spiro Tsirkas and local leaders. The April 4 event rallied support for youth sports programs honoring key contributors and raising crucial funds for facility upgrades and equipment.

With past fundraisers already netting \$50,000 for various improvements, from stadium sprinkler systems to scholarships for disadvantaged athletes, this year's event bolstered the community's dedication to nurturing young talent. Despite challenges in maintaining youth services, the fundraiser's return symbolizes a resilient spirit of unity and support within Glen Cove. As plans for future upgrades are unveiled, the city stands poised to continue its tradition of empowering its young athletes and fostering a sense of community pride.

—Roksana Amid



Doug Schneider was one of the honorees for his dedication to preserving youth sports as a junior lacrosse coach.



Grady Farnan, left, Susan Payton, and Richard Borer reminisced on their times coaching youth sports or playing in city sports as youth themselves.



Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck and Brian and Joe Basile celebrated the evening's fundraiser together.



Debbie Patino, left, Raymond Reinhardt, Kevin Maccarone, and Spiro Tsirkas celebrated Barclays Financial for their contribution to youth sports.

# STEPPING OUT



Old Westbury Gardens is ready to burst out with a brilliant display of color.

Photos courtesy Old Westbury Gardens

## Signs of spring

### Old Westbury Gardens is reinvigorated for a milestone year ahead

By Karen Bloom

Spring beckons with the first burst of blooms. While signs of the season are all around us now, there's no place better than to welcome the season than at the always-glorious Old Westbury Gardens.

The landmark 200-acre estate, which officially re-opened April 1, is ready to delight visitors with its glorious gardens, a refurbished Westbury House, and a busy schedule of programs and activities.

This year promises to be especially exciting for President Maura Brush (in her first full season heading the beloved landmark), staff and visitors, as the estate — the former residence of lawyer John Shaffer Phipps, an heir to the Phipps family fortune — marks its 65th anniversary as a public home and garden.

"When the gardens opened to the public, Peggy Phipps and her friends probably carried it through many of those first years, that transition from private to public," Brush says. "Sixty-five years is a big deal for an organization. I feel a great deal of energy going into this year. We're really hitting our stride now."

Brush describes her organization as an independent nonprofit that's managed to hold its own in a place like Long Island that has so many things to offer people.

"So, the fact that we're still here 65 years later with higher attendance — a higher rate of membership than ever before — speaks to people's support of us," she says. "We have our own special place in Long Island history, and our own special place in the horticultural world."

That "specialness" is evident from the moment visitors enter through the gates. The first signs of the season have made their presence known.

"April is so exciting, with so many flowers ready to appear," Brush says, enthusiastically. "Every type, size and signs of blooms are so cherished."

The lake area is a favored place to check out in early spring.

"In the beginning of the year, it's those outlying areas around the lakes where the waterline sort of meets the grass that's so pleasant to visit," Brush says. "It's contemplative. With the trees not leafed out yet, the sun kind of shines off the water. I've noticed people are looking to get the sunlight. In the later months, they want to escape the sunlight. But in April, they want to turn their faces up and bask in that sun after winter."

Over by the lake, you'll find early blooming shrubs like Cornelian Cherry and Viburnum, along with Flowering Quince, the multi-stemmed deciduous thorny shrub that produces short-lived red, orange, white or pink flowers and shiny, dark-green foliage.

"They are beautiful this time of year," Brush notes.

Plus, an early spring visit to the lake area is an ideal opportunity to observe the estate's wildlife.

"The lake is fun this time of year," she says. "The ducks are there and you see turtles in the early part of the season sunning themselves on the logs and on banks. They congregate around the lake areas on the property. They really seem to enjoy being there."

Also don't miss the Primrose



- Old Westbury Gardens
- 71 Old Westbury Road, Old Westbury
- For more information and program/events schedule, visit [OldWestburyGardens.org](http://OldWestburyGardens.org) or call (516) 333-0048

Path, Brush's favorite spot at the start of the season.

"It's at its best from April through mid-May," she says. "It's particularly interesting from a horticulturalist standpoint. There are so many things that naturalize on their own in there, and it's nice to see nature having a part of the painting. You know the Walled Garden is beautiful, but it's done by man, whereas the Primrose Path is a nice merge between man painting with our brush and mother nature painting with hers."

Of course, its namesake — the showy, early blooming primrose — is certainly the star of that spot. Also forget-me-not and other spring ephemerals add to the springtime display.

"It's a wild counterpart to the more formal gardens," Brush adds.

She notes that the landscape is ever-changing and continuously bursting with color.

"Every week there's a rollout," she says.

From the cascades of cherry blossoms, the delicate fritillaria, daffodils, cheerful viola to, of course, tulips, shrubbery and trees, it's all carefully conceived and executed by Brush's team.

"We have a really well-curated display of bulbs that you'll not see elsewhere," she says. "So much time and care has been put into curating these bulbs. We utilize them in such a way that the combinations are so interesting. The Walled Garden is particularly exciting."

Along with the colorful blooms, the extensive schedule of programming springs forth. This month's highlights include the season's first concert by Old Westbury Gardens' resident chamber ensemble, Poetica Musica, April 13, at Westbury House. Dog lovers can look forward to the popular Dog Friendly Weekend, including the Spring Dog Festival, April 20-21. Pooches and their pet parents enjoy exploring the grounds (leashed of course), and meeting up with fellow four-legged visitors.

"The calendar is so full! this year there's barely a blank square," Brush says. "We consider this a year-long celebration of everything old Westbury Gardens has to offer."

"We always like to consider that you are guests in our home. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating this milestone as we showcase the beauty and splendor that have defined Old Westbury Gardens for generations."



### Comic showcase

Laugh the night away when the Long Island Comedy Festival returns to the Madison Theatre with new edition of its popular show. This entertaining evening of stand-up, hosted by Paul Anthony, features a top tier lineup of creative talent on the comedy circuit. Eric Tartaglione, John Ziegler and Baker & Mark (pictured) keep the laughs coming all evening long. Tartaglione's high energy is complemented by physically expressive act. Whether he's poking fun at his Italian background, his shortcomings or his married life, his performance is totally relatable to all audiences. Ziegler realized his childhood dream when he entered stand-up comedy at 40. Growing up in a large Jewish family in an Italian/Irish Catholic Long Island neighborhood has given him a unique perspective for his comedy. Finally, Scott Baker and Vinnie Mark, known as 'The Quickest Thinkers in Comedy,' are acclaimed for their fast-paced, off-the-cuff improv act. No two performances are ever alike.

Saturday, April 13, 8 p.m. Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. For tickets and information, visit [MadisonTheatreNY.org](http://MadisonTheatreNY.org), or call (516) 323-4444.



### The Wallflowers

Grab your leather jackets and get ready to rock! The Wallflowers have hit the road with their epic sound. Expect to hear fan favorites, including the Billboard 100 charter 'Sleepwalker.' Formed in 1989 by Jakob Dylan and guitarist Tobi Miller, the band has seen many changes over the years. The current line-up consists of Steve Mackey on bass, Stanton Adcock on lead guitar, Lynn Williams on drums, and Dylan on lead vocals and guitar. For the past 30 years, it's stood as one of rock's most dynamic and purposeful bands — a unit dedicated to and continually honing a sound that meshes timeless storytelling with a hard-hitting and decidedly modern musical attack. That signature style has been present through the decades, baked into the grooves of smash hits like 1996's 'Bringing Down the House,' as well as more recent and exploratory fare like 'Glad All Over.' While it's been nine long years since we've heard from the group with whom he first made his mark, The Wallflowers are silent no more.

Thursday, April 17, 8 p.m. \$75, \$45, \$35, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or [ParamountNY.com](http://ParamountNY.com).



# THE \$ SCENE

April 19

## Melissa Errico

Melissa Errico takes the stage with pianist-arranger Billy Stritch for her new show "The Life and Loves of a Broadway Baby."

She arrives at the Landmark on Friday, **April 19**, at 8 p.m., for this theatrical tour de force. Errico sets her own life to the Broadway songs that she has sung and owned — and offers both a sensational set of beloved standards and a series of witty and sometimes wicked stories about an ingenue's life passed on the Great White Way. A sexy, sublime study of American songs, ranging from Cole Porter to Harold Arlen, Lerner & Loewe to Taylor Swift, with a substantial peek at Melissa's new Sondheim album, "Sondheim In The City," with songs like "Everybody Says Don't," and "Take Me To The World."

A woman of stage, screen and song, she's a great interpreter of classic musicals and modern music alike, as well as a sparkling writer, recording artist, and film/television actress. Opera News has called her "the Maria Callas of American musical theater," referencing both her silken voice and dramatic, expressive intensity, first came to attention for her starring roles on Broadway. She has since become a concert, cabaret and recording artist as well. Errico has starred on Broadway in such musicals as My Fair Lady where The New York Times called her Eliza Doolittle "beguiling," White Christmas in the Rosemary Clooney role of Betty, and as Cosette in Les Misérables. Come hear for yourself why Broadway World says, "The way Melissa Errico immerses herself in every moment, the technical brilliance of her vocal abilities, and the sheer star power that the lady exudes, makes her a take-no-prisoners performer, offering a leave-it-all-on-the-floor show. \$63, \$53, \$43. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or LandmarkOnMainStreet.org.



## All Kids Fair

The family extravaganza returns to Samanea New York Mall (formerly The Source Mall), Sunday, **April 14**, 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Enjoy varied activities along with over 80 kid-centered exhibitors. New this activities this year include Be a Biker for a Day, and Ninja Warrior obstacle course, along with soft play (ages infant to 5), mixed martial arts and pickleball, featuring two full-size pickleball courts with expert instruction.

Also three large bounce houses, DJ with Mr. and Mrs. Mouse, Face painting, balloon animals, photo booth, sensory play, and more. \$10 for children ages 2 and up, \$5 for adults; all tickets \$5 advance purchase. 1504 Old Country Road, Westbury. For tickets and more information, visit AllKidsFair.com.



## On exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, "Urban Art Evolution," is a comprehensive exhibit featuring a diverse range of compositions from the 1980s through the present by creators who were based in the rough and tumble downtown area of New York City known as Loaisaida/LES (Lower East Side/East Village) and close surrounding neighborhoods.

Artists pushed the boundaries of what was considered "art" with a primary focus on street/graffiti art. The exhibit's scope, guest curated by art collector/gallerist Christopher Pusey, offers an even broader view from other creative residents, who worked inside their studios but still contributed to the rich fabric of the downtown art scene from different vantage points and aesthetics.

Works include sculpture, paintings, photography, music, and ephemera from many noted and influential artists. On view through **July 7**. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

## Culinary Delights

Glen Cove Chamber's 26th Annual Culinary Delights is set for Monday, **April 15**, 6-9 p.m., at Glen Cove Mansion. This gourmet event introduces the community to the area's restaurants and food businesses. 200 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove. Visit GlencoveChamber.org for tickets.

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### Poetica Musica in concert

Enjoy a delightful musical tour exploring the history of France from Medieval times to the present, with Old Westbury Gardens' chamber music artists-in-residence, Saturday, **April 13**, 7:30-10 p.m. in Westbury House's Red Ballroom. Explore the works and styles of Mozart, Chopin, Ravel, Debussy, and Rameau, among others, with pianist Hayk Arsenyan, mezzo soprano Eleanor Valkenburg and guest artist Christopher Preston Thompson (tenor and harpist).

With pre-concert discussion, 7:30 p.m., and Meet the Artists reception immediately following concert on the West Porch. \$30 general admission, \$24 members, \$25 Seniors (62+) and students. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Road, Old Westbury. For information, visit OldWestburyGardens.org or call (516) 333-0048.

### Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art, Saturday, **April 13**, noon-3 p.m. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators at the Manes Center to explore and discover different materials to create your own original artwork.

Kids and adults connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. \$20 adult, \$10 child. For ages 2-14. Registration required. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. Visit NassauMuseum.org for to register or call (516) 484-9337.

### Glen Cove Women's Golf Club

Glen Cove Women's Golf Club is looking for members. The group plays 18 holes every Tuesday, starting in April through October, at the Glen Cove Golf Club. Play is weather permitting. Membership is open to all women regardless of residency. 109 Lattingtown Road. For more information, visit GCWomensGolf.com.

April 14

### On stage

Plaza Theatrical continues its season

with "Til Death Do Us Part... You First," directed by Chazz Palminteri, Sunday, **April 14**, 2:30 p.m. Peter Fogel wrote and performs his hilarious autobiographical tale. An eternal bachelor, Fogel has major commitment issues as the love of his life has just broken up with him on Valentine's Day. He senses his own mortality and after much soul searching, he decides to revisit the scene of all his romantic disasters.

Fogel's signature wit, along with riotous relatable characters, takes us on a whirlwind comedic journey of searching for his soul mate and the meaning of a real commitment. Fogel laments: "The longest relationship I've had in my entire life...is with T-Mobile!" See it at Plaza's stage at the Elmont Library Theatre. 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$40, \$35 seniors. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit PlazaTheatrical.com.

### Forest Bathing

Sands Point Preserve offers another in its series of Forest Bathing walks, led by certified guide Linda Lombardo, Saturday, **April 13**, 10 a.m.-noon. Based on the Japanese tradition of Shinrin-Yoku, a wellness practice developed in the 1980s, the walk, on the grounds of the former summer residence of Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim, inspires mindful connections with the natural elements of the woods for a range of healthful benefits. \$40, \$35 members. Registration required. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.



### Artist showcase

Sea Cliff Arts Council member Kaylin Burger's paintings are on view at Sea Cliff Village Library, through April. She embodies a distinctive perspective shaped by the diverse cultural landscapes of both the east and west.

Enriched by her experiences, Burger integrates elements from both worlds into her work, creating a harmonious fusion of influences that captivates the viewer. Immersed in the familiarity of coastal living, Burger finds boundless inspiration in the ebb and flow of the sea, inviting all to experience a sense of calm. 300 Sea Cliff Ave. Visit SeaCliffArtsCouncil.org.

### Celebrate Holi

Long Island Children's Museum invites families to celebrate Holi, the Festival of Colors, Sunday, **April 14**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Originating in India, this Hindu festival marks the end of winter and the arrival of the colorful spring season. During this joyous celebration, families eat sweets, dance to traditional folk music and throw colorful powder made from flowers called gual. Crafts, color throwing and dancing will be part of this vibrant event.

Welcome spring's arrival with Holi. Participants are encouraged to wear clothes that they won't mind getting messy. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

### Game Time

Drop by Bayville Free Library, **Wednesdays**, 1-4 p.m., for casual table games. Bring your own games or use games offered by the library such as; cards, Canasta, Mah Jongg, Scrabble, chess, checkers, backgammon, and jigsaw puzzles. No registration required. 34 School St. For more information, visit BayvilleFreeLibrary.org or call (516) 628-2765.

### 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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# School board proposes a budget increase

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

The Glen Cove City School District discussed its preliminary budget plan for the 2024-2025 academic year during its fifth public workshop on April 4. The district estimates a total budget of roughly over \$113 million, an increase of approximately \$5 million from last year's \$108 million budget.

The Consumer Price Index, which measures the costs of goods and services over a period, is what drives the allowable levy growth factor for the budget of 2.7 percent. One of the main sources of revenue for school district budgets, the levy helps fund the appropriation budget. New York state uses a formula to calculate each district's maximum allowable tax levy increase.

Three propositions will be presented to the community for approval. Proposition one involves voting on the annual budget, while Proposition two seeks authorization to establish a new capital reserve for facility security and technology improvements. Proposition three proposes the use of \$9,000,000 from the existing facilities improvement reserve for essential infrastructure projects.

The administrative component of the budget encompasses various facets of the district's operation, including the Board of Education, office of the superintendent, and financial management.

Notable changes in the draft budget include increases in the office of the superintendent and legal budgets, coupled with reductions in district meeting and tax collector allocations. Overall, the administrative component budget amounts to \$8,628,773, reflecting a \$317,020 increase from the previous year.

"One line that is a little glaring with an increase

is insurance," Victoria Galante, the district's assistant superintendent for business and finances, explained. "It's a combination of cyber insurance, child victim's act insurance, insurance for claims. There will be districts that put in claims to our insurance company because of flooding. We were one of those with storm Ida."

Capital investments for the upcoming year focus on critical maintenance projects, bond anticipation notes, and energy performance contracts. Among the projects slated for funding are upgrades to nurse's restrooms for ADA accessibility and HVAC improvements in the high school library.

The total capital budget stands at \$10,137,218, representing a \$628,751 increase from the previous year. Galante explained that although previous workshops showed different amounts, the district received estimates from vendors who may be doing some of the improvements.

"We do a lot of our in housework here in conjunction with the bond," Galante explained. "Our maintenance crew did all the wiring for the lockers. For that, we save hundreds of thousands of dollars by having our own people do that for us. For them to be able to do that, we have to give them the tools and the hours to do that extra work."

The program component, representing the largest portion of the budget, encompasses expenditures related to teaching, special education, technology, and athletics. Significant increases are noted in teaching special education and computer-assisted instruction, reflecting evolving educational needs and technological advancements. The total program budget amounts to \$94,650,049, reflecting a \$4,470,899 increase from the previous year, and encompasses special education services and tools, BOCES education, and salaries for special educa-

tion teachers.

"Teaching special education had a large increase because of the tuition that we pay for those students," Galante explained. "We have more of our students asking to go to BOCES for technical education, which is great. We want to give them the opportunity to do that."

Galante added that the line encompassing computer assisted instruction is the result of technical logical advancements.

"The way it keeps running ahead of us, we need to replace our either Chromebooks or iPads," Galante explained. "We're also in the process of hiring one more person to help do all this work that is needed. The IT department doesn't only work on school issues, they were involved in the lockers, they're involved in our energy performance contract because all the new equipment that is being put in runs on a computer of some sort, so everything must have some kind of IT connected to it."

Galante addressed a budget shortfall of \$1.9 million for the next academic year. After careful review, the district decided to cut salaries for 10 full-time and two part-time faculty and staff positions, as well as one administrative role. This, along with reduced medical expenses, helped reduce the deficit by \$833,125. To cover the remaining gap, the district used \$1,129,000 from its reserves, highlighting the importance of careful financial management and protecting important programs.

Despite these changes, Galante said students won't experience any decline in the quality of their education, as the district is committed to providing comprehensive resources, while ensuring financial stability in the future.

## OBITUARIES

### Ever Quijada Varela, BMX enthusiast

Ever Quijada Varela, 28, of Glen Cove, died on March 21. Beloved son of Maria Varela and Mauricio Quijada; loving brother; proud grandson; dear nephew of many loving aunts and

uncles. Also survived by many loving cousins and friends. Ever was an avid BMX enthusiast. Services entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove

### Kirk McDavid, loved music

Kirk McDavid, 61, of Glen Cove, died on March 28. Beloved husband of Beatriz; loving father of Amanda, Christopher, Kirk Jr., Teresa and Hope; dear brother of

Kevin; cherished grandfather of one. Kirk loved music. He worked at Five Towns College. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

### Robert Canavan, photographer

Robert Canavan, 61, of Glen Cove, died on March 30. Beloved son of Mary Jane and Thomas; dear brother of Thomas, Jeanne (Matt Hanes), Stephen (Leigh) and Teresa (John Sullivan); loving uncle of five nieces and five nephews. Current

commodore of Hempstead Harbor Yacht Club. Longtime coach of Glen Cove Little League Softball. Robert was employed as a photographer for over 30 years. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

### Eric A. Alvarenga, beloved son

Eric A. Alvarenga, 18, of Glen Cove, died on March 14. Beloved son of Erica and Jose; dear brother of Brian, Ever and Abby; loving grandson of Jose and Florin-

da, Maria Calidonio and Pablo Garcia. Also survived by many loving aunts, uncles and cousins. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home

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NASSAU COUNTY. ELM  
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JOHN KEMPSKI, NASSAU  
COUNTY TREASURER,  
Defts. Index

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foreclosure and sale  
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I will sell at public auction  
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of the Nassau Supreme  
Court, 100 Supreme Court  
Drive, Mineola, NY on  
April 25, 2024 at 2:00  
p.m. prem. k/a Section  
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conditions of filed  
judgment and terms of  
sale. RON FERRARO,  
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on Behalf for CSMC 2018-  
RPL12 Trust, Plaintiff

AGAINST Omar Guzman  
a/k/a Omar E. Guzman, et  
al., Defendant(s)  
Pursuant to a Judgment  
of Foreclosure and Sale  
duly entered October 30,  
2023, I, the undersigned  
Referee will sell at public  
auction at the North Side  
Steps of the Nassau  
County Supreme Court,  
100 Supreme Court Drive,  
Mineola, NY 11501 on  
April 30, 2024 at 2:00PM,  
premises known as 9  
Rose Avenue, Glen Cove,  
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certain plot piece or  
parcel of land, with the  
buildings and  
improvements erected,  
situate, lying and being in  
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County of Nassau and  
State of New York,  
SECTION: 31, BLOCK: E,  
LOT: 209. Approximate  
amount of judgment  
\$412,059.27 plus interest  
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(<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as  
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Notice of Public Hearings  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE  
that the City Council of  
the City of Glen Cove will  
hold two public hearings  
on the City of Glen Cove  
Smart Growth  
Comprehensive Plan with  
Sustainability Elements  
("Comprehensive Plan").  
The first hearing is  
scheduled for 7:30 p.m.  
on Wednesday, April 24  
and the second hearing is  
scheduled for 7:30 p.m.  
on Tuesday, May 14. Both  
hearings will be held in  
the Main Chambers at

Glen Cove City Hall (9  
Glen Street, Glen Cove,  
NY 11542) during the  
regularly scheduled City  
Council meetings. The  
Comprehensive Plan will  
guide the City's  
investment, development,  
and growth over the next  
decade. It will update the  
Master Plan for the City  
of Glen Cove that was  
adopted in 2009. The  
hearings will provide the  
public with the opportunity  
to provide comments. A  
complete draft of the plan  
and the Draft Generic  
Environmental Impact  
Statement (DGEIS) can be  
viewed on the  
Comprehensive Plan  
website  
([www.GlenCoveComprehensivePlan.com](http://www.GlenCoveComprehensivePlan.com)).  
Hard copies of the plan  
and DGEIS are available  
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## OPINIONS

## The heartbreaking death of an NYPD hero

The tragic murder of 31-year-old New York City Police Officer Jonathan Diller has had a devastating impact not just on his Massapequa Park community, but across Long Island, New York and indeed the country.

I represented Massapequa Park, and my district office was located there for all 28 years I was in Congress. Almost immediately after the news of Diller's murder broke, blue ribbons appeared on local businesses and residences throughout Massapequa and Massapequa Park. Two



**PETER KING**

nights later, there was a candlelight vigil at Brady Park that was attended by over 1,000 residents, who gathered in a steady rain to honor Diller's memory.

The rain continued the following day, but that didn't deter a long line of mourners from attending Diller's wake at the Massapequa Funeral Home. Among those attending and showing

his respects was former President Donald Trump, who met with and consoled Diller's 29-year-old widow, Stephanie, and other members of his family. Trump demonstrated great dignity and respect, and clearly had a reassuring and calming effect on these good people.

I had the privilege of being there, and thanked Trump for giving strength to the Diller family and to the community. I also spoke briefly with Stephanie Diller, and was struck by her youth and her strength of character, which she will surely need after losing her husband so tragically and having to raise their 1-year-old son, Ryan, without his father.

The steady stream of mourners continued the following day, Good Friday, when there was the controversial incident involving Gov. Kathy Hochul, who, by some accounts, was asked to leave the funeral home by Diller family members. I've heard various versions of what happened, but all of them made it clear that it wasn't the amicable discussion Hochul claimed.

The weather on Saturday morning

was bright and clear for Diller's funeral at St. Rose of Lima Church in Massapequa. Rosemary and I drove to the service with Sid Rosenberg, from WABC radio's "Sid and Friends"; his wife, Danielle; and Bill O'Reilly. Merrick Road was a seemingly endless sea of blue, as thousands of police officers lined the street in both directions for as far as the eye could see.

We assembled across the street from St. Rose, in a group that included many strong supporters of the police, such as Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, former NYPD Commissioner Keechant Sewell and Congressmen Anthony D'Esposito and Andrew Garbarino. There were also those who didn't belong, such as state Attorney General Letitia James and city Comptroller Brad Lander, who are shamefully anti-police.

The arrival of the hearse, the sound of muffled drums, a lone piper playing the haunting tones of "Amazing Grace," the flag-draped coffin being carried into the church, followed by Stephanie Diller, holding Ryan in her

arms, were truly heartbreaking.

Inside, the church was filled to overflowing with men and women in blue. My lasting memory will be of Stephanie's courageous eulogy, in which she described her husband's goodness and love, and then demanded that elected officials at long last correct the laws and policies that keep violent criminals on the streets and result in the senseless deaths of brave police officers. The church erupted in sustained applause, and there were tears everywhere.

Then mourners filed silently from the church and reassembled across Merrick Road. The coffin was carried from the church, and a bugler played taps. The flag was taken from the coffin and presented to Stephanie. The NYPD Pipe Band played "America the Beautiful." The coffin was placed in the hearse, and the cortège began the journey bringing Jonathan Diller to his final resting place in St. Charles Cemetery. His life was over. His memory lives on.

NYPD hero Jonathan Diller, R.I.P.

*Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security. Comments? pking@liherald.com.*

## Washington: where bipartisanship goes to die

It has never been a secret among my political friends that I have always been a strong supporter of bipartisan government. I practiced that philosophy during my 23 years in Albany, and I continue to believe that when the two parties work together, remarkable things can get done.

When I was a part of the Democratic leadership in Albany, I was frequently asked to sit down with Republican members with the goal of getting important legislation passed and signed into law. I recall, during one late-night session, a small group of us walked the corridors behind the chambers to meet with the State Senate Republi-



**JERRY KREMER**

can leader, Warren Anderson. We went for the purpose of discussing a number of major bills that had not been acted on in the closing hours of the session.

Bill by bill, issue by issue, we had an open and frank discussion of the pros and cons of the legislation, and after a few hours of talking, we all shook

hands. Hours later, the agreed-on package of proposals was on the floor of both houses, and by the time the morning sun was peeking through the chamber windows, all of the bills had been passed and were on their way to the governor to be signed.

I remember numerous sessions in which one of my fellow Long Island Republican senators would sit down with me during an Assembly session with a list of their local priorities. The late Norman Levy, who was a hard-working legislator, often came by with a fistful of pending bills, asking for my help to get them out of the Ways and Means Committee, which I chaired. From time to time I would make the same walk to the Senate side to ask for help with my legislation.

I'm taking this walk down memory lane as a way of contrasting how government once functioned at the state level, and how, today, the legislative process in Washington is a total disaster. One good example is the rule adopted by the Republican members of the House of Representatives that allows any one

member to invoke another rule that requires a vote to keep or oust the speaker. It has already happened once, when a small cluster of hardheaded conservatives invoked the rule, and Kevin McCarthy was kicked out of the speaker's job.

A few weeks ago, maverick Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, of Georgia, asked that the House consider that option again, this time to kick Speaker Mike Johnson out. Johnson's sin is that he collaborated with House Democrats to avoid a shutdown of the federal government.

Greene is one of a small cluster of members who came to Washington for the sole purpose of blowing up the House, and apparently the country along with it. This right-wing bomb squad has succeeded in taking away almost all of the powers of the moderate members, who have yet to put up a real fight on any issue.

There are many important issues that have been kicked aside as a result of the machinations of the ultra-conservative block. The Senate passed a bipartisan bill that would impose the stron-

gest border security laws in recent history, and at the same time provide financial assistance to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. Johnson has refused to advance the bill, caving under pressure from former President Donald Trump, who insists that the members avoid making President Biden look good.

The idea that the House majority would refuse to approve legislation that would solve the border dilemma at the behest of a person who holds no elected office is a national tragedy. There are ample Democratic and Republican votes to pass the Senate bill and other bills that would make the current session of Congress a meaningful one, but Johnson is paralyzed and ineffective. Any attempt to pass major bipartisan legislation is considered heresy and a form of treason.

America desperately needs a good old dose of bipartisanship in Washington, but for now that is just a dream for old political souls like me.

*Jerry Kremer was an 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.*

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## The time to support local journalism is now

A few short weeks ago, we told you about the newly-formed Empire State Local News Coalition. The Glen Cove Herald is proud to be a member of this fast-growing group of more than 150 New York local news outlets that have joined forces to protect local journalism across the state.

The work of our coalition has raised awareness of the importance of local journalism as well as the challenges facing the local news industry. (New York has lost half of its newsrooms since 2004.) We are grateful to communities across the state who have united behind us.

In just the past month, we rallied in Westchester County, where locals were stunned by the abrupt closure of three community newspapers. We went directly to Albany to appeal to lawmakers, and where we also rallied with elected officials from both the state Senate and Assembly.

Numerous localities have adopted resolutions expressing their support for legislation that would support local journalism, and more municipal resolutions are in the pipeline. Even unconventional allies like Microsoft have joined our calls to save local news.

Thanks to these collective efforts, the Local Journalism Sustainability Act — which would provide tax credits to local news organizations for retaining and creating newsroom jobs — was included

### Urge these elected officials to support the Local Journalism Sustainability Act

■ Contact Gov. Kathy Hochul:  
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■ Contact State Sen. Jack Martins:  
(516) 922-1811

■ Contact Assemblyman Charles Lavine: (516) 676-0050

Our newspaper is a proud member of the Empire State Local News Coalition. Support the coalition at [SaveNYLocalNews.com](http://SaveNYLocalNews.com).

in the state Senate's recent budget proposal for fiscal year 2025. This is a key step for inclusion in the state's final budget, which is currently being negotiated by the Senate, Assembly and Gov. Kathy Hochul.

However, there is a lot of work to be done over the next few days — when the final budget will likely be announced — to ensure the bill is actually included in the state's final budget. It is crucial that the Local Journalism Sustainability Act is included, otherwise, communities throughout the state risk thousands of newsroom jobs being lost —

and even more important, stories going untold.

The Local Journalism Sustainability Act is sponsored by state Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal with the bipartisan support of Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner and more than 70 co-sponsors. As newspapers shutter and layoffs roil the industry, the bill is a necessary measure for incentivizing job creation, returning reporters to many of the state's emptying newsrooms.

The bill is content-neutral and designed to ensure that truly local news outlets will receive this assistance.

The leadership of the legislature's Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Caucus has also endorsed our bill, which is a major testament to the fact that this bill will improve access to news for all communities.

New York residents are standing with local news, and now lawmakers must answer the people's call to save community journalism. To get the Local Journalism Sustainability Act across the finish line, lawmakers must hear from you about why our newspaper matters, and why this bill is meaningful to you and your family.

So, if keeping local news alive in our state is important to you, please reach out to Gov. Hochul and your local representatives to let them know you stand with local news.

Budget negotiations are wrapping up imminently — the time to act is now!

## LETTERS

### Larry McCoy will pick up the first dime

To the Editor:

Having had the pleasure of attending a writers' workshop at the Oceanside and Rockville Centre libraries with the well-known comedy writer Larry McCoy, I recognized his wit long before I even saw the name following his letter in last week's Herald ("Let's test these old presidential candidates").

The humor of this talented octogenarian has been published in numerous books and articles, in case anyone needs a hearty laugh in these tumultuous times. While McCoy may doubt his own ability to take charge in the White House, I wonder if he might indeed be a better choice than the two senior gentlemen on the ballot. His insight into current events is impressive, and he employs it with dignity, charm and finesse. But the question is, can *he* bend over and pick up a dime on his first try?

PAM SINGER  
Malverne



### Kremer shouldn't condemn Netanyahu

To the Editor:

Re Jerry Kremer's recent column,

"Netanyahu is a supporter of one party: himself": Kremer is way, way off base in defending Sen. Chuck Schumer's idealistic and naive calling for a new election in Israel to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Further, Kremer's defense of Schumer

## OPINIONS

## On airplane noise, we're back to the drawing board

**M**y friend and I speak on the phone several times a week. But he has a pretty hectic work and home life, so he tends to call me when he's out walking his dog. Besides calls at odd hours and his being hard of hearing — he refuses



**JACK  
MARTINS**

to get a hearing aid — we've noted that our conversations have growing more tedious lately because of airplane noise.

Unfortunately, it seems there are frequent breaks in our chats to allow for low-flying planes that are roaring above. While I recall this happening from

time to time in the past, lately it seems nearly impossible to have a complete discussion, so we typically just agree to talk later. Clearly, this is not a data-driven observation, just my own anecdotal experience, but I also hear from dozens

of constituents a week who have similar complaints.

We live near two of the nation's busiest airports, so this is nothing new to anyone reading this. I've dealt with this issue for more than 20 years, first as mayor of Mineola, attending Town-Village Aircraft Safety & Noise Abatement Committee meetings, and in subsequent years as a state senator. There has been no other single issue that has been a more persistent nuisance in our communities. I've written more letters to the Federal Aviation Administration, met with more Port Authority officials, held more public hearings and demanded more studies than I can even remember. I even sponsored legislation in Albany, and yet here we are. The noise remains, and in fact seems to be getting worse.

At the heart of the matter is an imbalanced distribution of air traffic, with a disproportionate number of land-

ing flight paths directly over our neighborhoods. To maintain these approaches, pilots are forced to fly at lower altitudes and increase engine thrust, consequently amplifying the noise of their aircraft. This makes an indisputably negative impact on the well-being and health of our communities.

Knowing this, you would think improvements could be made easily enough, but changes are subject to a complex web of relationships among the FAA, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and numerous airlines. So the key to getting anything done will be obtaining an objective analysis of the impact of the noise at ground level.

To that end, the State Legislature passed a law requiring the Department of Health to conduct such a study and report it by March 31. As I'm sure you've guessed, no such study was presented, and when we pressed for it, we

were told that the department was still working on it. Of course, I'll be staying on this and reporting any progress back to you.

I know that summer is approaching, and many of us hope to spend more time outdoors. To keep the pressure on, I recently hosted another airplane noise work session, this time with Michael Koblenz, the mayor of East Hills. He might be the only Long Island elected official who gets more noise complaints than I do, and yet he hasn't given up the fight. While the meeting was open to all, we were encouraged to see nearly 40 public officials there who agreed that urgent action was needed.

But I won't sugarcoat it. At times I feel like an exasperated Wile E. Coyote, going back to his drawing board to hatch another plan to capture the Road Runner. But like Wile E., I don't give up easily. So stay tuned. We have more sessions in the works, with new ideas and new neighbors who are ready to lead the charge.

*Jack Martins represents the 7th Senate District.*

**T**here are too many landing flight paths directly over our neighborhoods.

## LETTERS

absurdly rests on matters unrelated to Schumer's own "justification" for his critical remarks.

While Schumer attempted to justify his remarks on the basis of the harm done to the Gazan people — as a result of Israel's fighting for its survival — Kremer's attack on Netanyahu centers on his assessment of Netanyahu's personal legal and ethical issues, unrelated to the current war and to Netanyahu's efforts in it. Schumer never offered these issues as his reason for wanting Netanyahu ousted! Why must Kremer stoop so low?

I have viewed Netanyahu as a hawk whose actions (including promoting West Bank settlements) have provided fodder for the Islamic terrorist attacks on Israel while earning the disdain of foreign governments. But presently, he is the leader of a nation fighting for its survival, and he has thus far remained true to his promise to see the fight through to a successful end — the elimination of Hamas, the only *real* enemy Schumer and Kremer should be focused on, along with Iran, dedicated to destroying both Israel and the U.S.

Netanyahu is right when he says that allowing Hamas to remain in place would only mean further attacks on Israel, possibly even its demise. Why can't Kremer admit this obvious truth? Politics and idealism, not reality, seem to be the guiding lights for both Schumer and Kremer in their attempt to win votes through concessions and distortions — even if that means turning on a friend and ally.

Kremer's convenient speculation that Netanyahu is pursuing this war only to avoid facing jail is just that: speculation. An "all-out war" against the evil of

Hamas (and Iran) is not only justified, it's necessary for Israel's survival. If you see your best friend (as Israel is to the U.S., to paraphrase Kremer) drowning, you don't offer a lecture on water safety, you throw him a life preserver. To do otherwise is to betray him. Schumer has deigned to lecture Israel, and Kremer aids and abets him by citing irrelevancies. You don't change horses in mid-stream — or a leader succeeding in a struggle for survival.

Kremer makes no reference to Hamas's failure to release the hostages, which could temporarily halt hostilities. Nor does he condemn Hamas's using Palestinians as human shields, or detaining them in areas Israel has warned will be targeted, thereby losing the element of surprise. There is a term for those siding with the enemy, but I will refrain from applying it to Kremer or Schumer — for now.

ROBERT RUBALSKY  
*East Rockaway*

## Alzheimer's caregivers need more state support

To the Editor:

Nearly 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. In New York, 543,000 family caregivers are providing unpaid care worth almost \$19 trillion to their loved ones with dementia.

Though these caregivers provide significant savings to the state, they are not getting enough support in return. The funding for New York's Alzheimer's Disease Community Assistance Program, or AlzCAP, which offers care consultations,

## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Honoree Tameka Wallace at the Premier Business Women of L.I. Awards, in Bethpage.

support groups, educational programs and other services, has been stagnant for years, while the number of caregivers who need these services has continued to grow.

I have seen the caregiving struggle firsthand. My grandmother has Alzheimer's, and my mother must balance caring for her from another state with helping my autistic brother and dealing with the demands of her own life. She's not alone — there are many caregivers with similar stories. It is imperative that New York support them, not only because it will mitigate their financial, emotional and physical struggles, but also because it will mean less of a financial burden for the state than nursing home care.

Taking care of someone with Alzheimer's is extremely stressful. The Alzheimer's Association's recent Facts and Figures report found that 70 percent of dementia caregivers feel stressed when they are coordinating their loved ones' care. It also found that more than half of them find it hard to navigate health care in the United States, which adds to their stress.

New York can do better in supporting people who take on this vital role. Please join me in calling on the members of the State Legislature who represent you to increase funding for AlzCAP from \$5 million to \$7 million.

HELENA MILLER  
*Volunteer advocate,  
Alzheimer's Association*

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