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GOP chooses LiPetri to run
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Concert brings the house down
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Roksana Amid/Herald

Once visitors reach the end of the hiking trails, they're treated to scenic views of the Hempstead Harbor waterfront.

Garvies a haven for nature lovers in Nassau County

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Walking on the trails of Garvies Point Preserve on a warm spring day, you're greeted by the vibrant greenery of newly budding trees and blooming wildflowers. The air is filled with the scent of blossoms, and the breeze carries the sounds of birds chirping and leaves rustling. You might encounter other visitors enjoying the preserve, whether they're fellow hikers exploring the trails or birdwatchers with binoculars in hand.

The 62-acre preserve is one of 19 nature and historical preserves in Nassau County, which encompass more than 4,000 acres. Garvies Point features a museum as well as diverse ecosystems, including woodlands, tidal flats and shoreline habitats. Visitors can enjoy hiking trails, birdwatching and stunning views of Long Island Sound. With its educational programs, the facility also offers opportunities to learn about local ecology and environmental conservation. It's a favorite destination

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Faith-based housing proposal faces major backlash

By **WILL SHEELINE**

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A proposal to include a Faith-Based Housing Act in the New York state budget has sparked debate on Long Island, with concerns about its potential impact on local zoning laws and the ability of religious organizations to build affordable housing on their properties.

The proposal, brought forward by State Senator Andrew Gournades, a Democrat from the 26th Assembly District, ultimately did not make it into the final budget, but it has left a mark on residents and local

officials.

Joseph Saladino, Republican supervisor for the Town of Oyster Bay, expressed concern about the proposal, arguing that it would strip towns of their zoning powers and hurt the public. He questioned the affordability of the proposed housing project, saying they could lead to higher costs for residents and impact the quality of life on Long Island.

"We are overcrowding the beauty of our towns on Long Island," Saladino said. "The reality of the situation is that this is not affordable at all, and this will drive costs way up, not to mention have a horrific

effect on our suburban environment."

Saladino proposed an incentive-based approach instead, citing the success of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative in Hicksville. This initiative allowed the town to work with developers, consider the impact on traffic, water, and other resources, and involve public input. He emphasized the need to protect the environment and ensure there is enough clean drinking water for residents.

Chuck Lavine, Democrat assemblyman for District 13, was less concerned about the Faith-Based Housing Act, describing its proposal to the

budget as symbolic and not a reality. He added that he believed that "the antics" of his Republican colleagues were overblown, and that the proposal was never intended to pass or be a part of the final budget.

Lavine emphasized the need for additional housing on Long Island and criticized the region's "balkanized" zoning

rules for preventing new developments. Balkanization refers to the process of fragmenting an area or region into many smaller units which do not work together effectively.

"The communities on Long Island need a lot more housing," Lavine said. "There's no places for seniors to go, there's no plac-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Lavine says Long Island housing 'balkanized'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

es for young families to go, and as a consequence, the gap between those who have the most and those who have the least continue to grow.”

Lavine acknowledged the need for political courage to address the housing crisis on Long Island and create more opportunities for affordable housing. He suggested that the current budget provides for development in New York City, which could help control housing costs in the region.

Pamela Panzenbeck, Republican mayor of Glen Cove, opposed the idea of using religious properties for affordable housing. She said she believed most residents do not support the proposal, as it would lead to housing developments on church and temple grounds. Panzenbeck also wrote a letter to Governor Kathy Hochul expressing her concerns and emphasized that taking up large properties with housing would not be in the best interest of the community.

“People who live on Long Island, for the most part, we don’t support taking all the acreage from our churches and synagogues,” Panzenbeck said. “It’s just

(Hochul’s) housing compact in a different form, and people spoke up against that two years ago, and she just brought it back in a different way.”

On the other hand, Gustavo Gitlin, cantor for Congregation Tifereth Israel in Glen Cove, said he supported the idea of religious organizations building affordable housing on their properties. He expressed concerns that there currently is not enough affordable housing in the area and believed the proposal would help alleviate the issue.

While Gitlin acknowledged that some residents might be hesitant about the changes, he pointed out that the need for affordable housing in the community is not going away any time soon. He added that he was disappointed by the constant backlash by some community members against the idea of affordable housing on Long Island, pointing to a recent example in Glen Cove.

“A few years ago people were trying to build a group house for women here in Glen Cove, and a group of neighbors went crazy,” Gitlin said. “It’s very sad that people’s compassion and sympathy is just ‘it’s nice, but not in my backyard.’”

The communities on Long Island need a lot more housing.

CHUCK LAVINE
assemblyman,
13th District

NEWS BRIEFS

Former Sea Cliff resident self-immolates

The man who lit himself on fire on April 19 outside of the Manhattan Supreme Courthouse where former president Donald Trump’s “hush money” trial is being held has been confirmed to be Max Azzarello, 37, formerly of Sea Cliff.

Azzarello, who had moved to St. Augustine, Florida some years ago according to Mayor Elena Villafane and Village Administrator Bruce Kennedy, described himself as an “investigative researcher” on his LinkedIn profile.

He died from his injuries at approximately 10:30 p.m. later that day, accord-

ing to the New York Police Department.

Before self-immolating, Azzarello distributed several self-authored pamphlets titled “The Ponzi Papers, which claims that multiple organizations, from Harvard to Facebook, are involved in a global conspiracy using cryptocurrency as a multi-trillion-dollar Ponzi scheme.

According to multiple news sources Azzarello was also seen beforehand holding several signs, including one which read “Trump is with Biden, and they’re about to fascist coup us.”

—Will Sheeline

Rehab program benefits seniors, disabled

The City of Glen Cove is making available funds for seniors and the disabled for home repairs through the Residential Rehab Program.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said that the Community Development Agency is accepting applications from eligible residents.

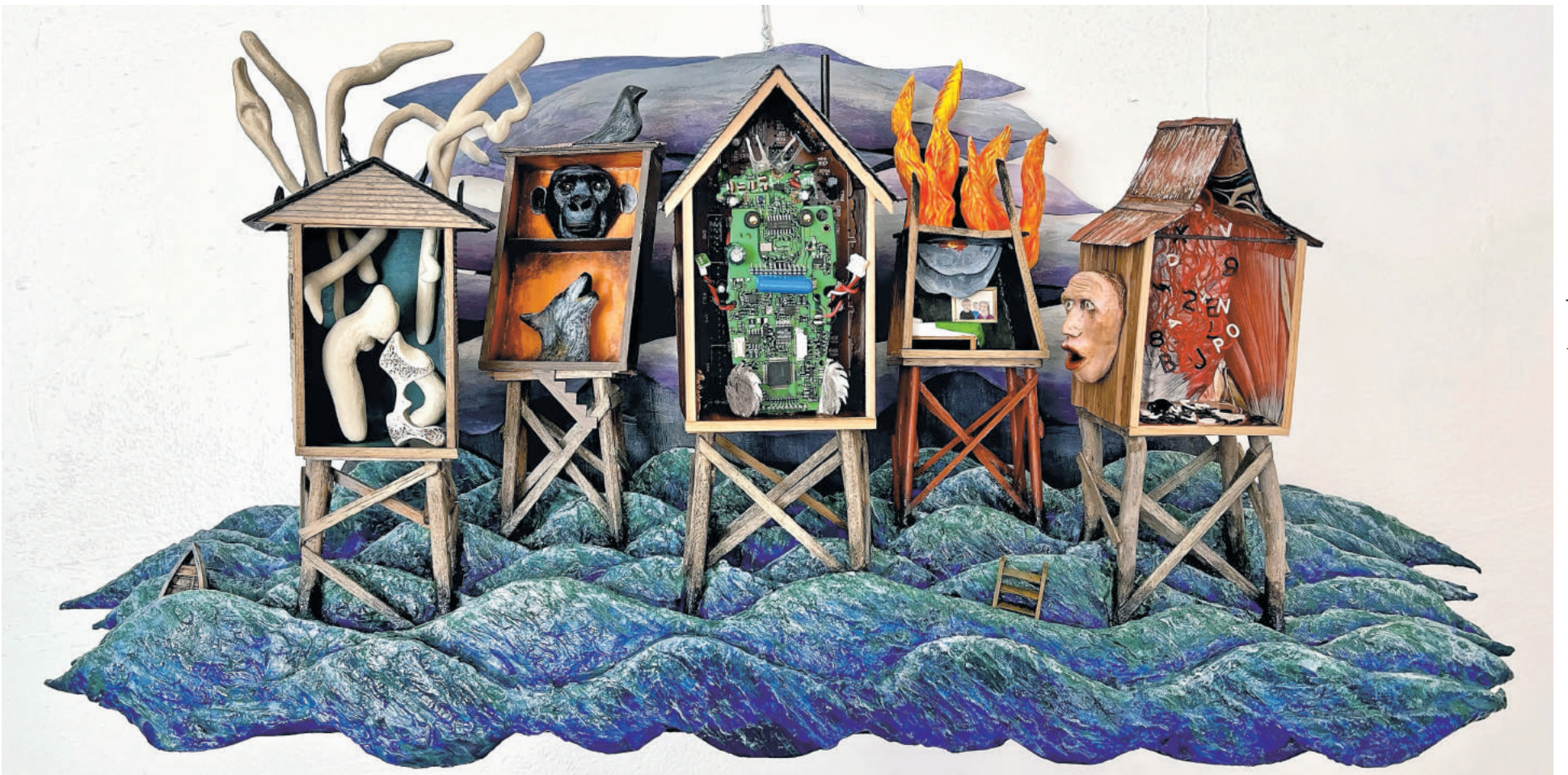
“Since the reinstatement of this program 10 years ago, the CDA has been able to assist dozens of homeowners with projects consisting of roof/siding replacement, boiler/hot water installation, window/door replacement, ramp

and chair lifts, and handicap accommodations,” Panzenbeck said.

CDA executive director Ann Fangmann praised Nassau County for providing the funds, which, she said can make a substantial improvement to the quality of the beneficiaries’ home life.

The application form is available at GlenCoveCDA.org.

For further information, contact Camille Byrne, executive assistant of the Glen Cove CDA, at (516) 676-1625, Ext. 112 or email cbyrne@glencovecda.org.



Photos courtesy Michael Ach

Michael Ach's piece 'The Storm' is inspired by the growing climate crisis.

Artist brings 'night magic' to Sea Cliff

By WILL SHEELINE

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The Sea Cliff Arts Council proudly presents its latest exhibit showcasing the remarkable artwork of Glen Cove resident Michael Ach. The exhibit, which opened March 8 at the Sea Cliff Arts Council gallery, features 19 pieces that offer a mesmerizing journey through Ach's creative evolution.

Ach, a former professional photographer mentored by the late Neil Scholl, has had a diverse career spanning photography, teaching, and framing. His journey from sculptor to photographer to the creator of intricate assemblages is evident in each meticulously crafted piece on display.

"Usually something prompts me to create a piece," Ach explained. "So what's a little different about the show is that each piece is kind of unrelated to the next."

Joan Harrison, Ach's wife and a fellow artist, shed light on his artistic journey, emphasizing his keen eye for detail and diverse skill set. She shared insights into Ach's creative process, describing how he meticulously selects objects, often salvaged from nature or found during kayaking trips, to incorporate into his artwork.

"He has boxes of objects in front of him and sets of paints and tools," Harrison said. "He does not even use a magnifying glass when he's working. He's also a very competent woodworker, and he puts all of his skills into making these pieces."

Heidi Hunt, co-chair of the Sea Cliff Arts Council, highlighted the unique-



Michael Ach's work is influenced by surrealism, and is often defined by depicting three dimensional scenes in a two dimensional space.

ness of Ach's work, noting its three-dimensional quality within the confines of a two-dimensional frame. She expressed admiration for Ach's ability to capture the essence of his ideas in each piece, drawing viewers into a world where art and imagination intersect.

"What I found fascinating is that his pieces encapsulate the third dimension within the frame of a photographer's lens," Hunt remarked. "You could see the literal frame around the work, but the work existing inside that frame was

coming towards you because it's three-dimensional."

Attendees of the exhibit's opening and Ach's artist talk have been captivated by the intricate details and thought-provoking concepts conveyed in his artwork according to Hunt. She added that her favorite piece from the exhibit, a stunning three-dimensional creation that defied the traditional confines of a frame.

"It was like a marriage of all his concepts brought into one really successful three-dimensional piece," Hunt



Michael Ach spent most of his professional career as a photographer before getting back to his artistic roots.

said. "People coming into the space are so engaged by the pieces. They're intricate, they're colorful, they're thoughtful."

The exhibit, titled "Night Magic & Other Strange Visions," will be on display at the Sea Cliff Arts Council gallery through the end of May. Visitors are invited to explore Ach's captivating artwork and experience the rich tapestry of stories woven into each piece.

For more information about the exhibit and upcoming events, visit the Sea Cliff Arts Council website SeaCliffArtsCouncil.org.

Garvies Point Preserve is nature's sanctuary

April 25, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

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of nature lovers and those seeking outdoor recreation in the area.

Quinn Hu, a 17-year-old Port Washington resident, heard about the preserve when she joined her high school's birdwatching club.

"I've seen some new birds that I've actually been looking for for around a year," Hu said last Saturday, on her first visit to the park. "And I think it's just really nice. There's a lot of trails. I think the museum is very interesting, too."

QUINN HU

Port Washington

She added that she looked forward to returning to the park in the coming weeks.

County Comptroller Elaine Phillips and Darcy A. Belyea, commissioner of the county Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums, noted in a statement that the department brought in \$23.3 million in revenue in 2023.

"The Comptroller's Office looks at Nassau County through the lens of data, with a focus on how our taxpayer



Roksana Amid/Herald

The preserve features diverse ecosystems, including woodlands, tidal flats and shoreline habitats.

dollars are being spent," the statement reads. "Recently, the Comptroller's team worked with members of the County's Department of Parks to analyze how much of the County's budget goes into this area, how the money is spent, and what our residents get for the investment."

The statement noted that the data

helps offset the cost of operating and maintaining county facilities and services. Top revenue sources included \$10.2 million from golf, \$2.7 million from swimming pools and programs, and \$1.9 million in athletic field usage fees. Among the department's expenditures, the biggest by far is for staffing — nearly \$20 million — to staff roughly 70 facilities, many open from dawn to dusk and beyond nearly every day of the year. In addition to full-time, year-round employees, the department hires around 400 part-time and 1,000 seasonal workers as well, nearly all of whom are Nassau County residents.

The Garvies Point Museum offers a mix of exhibits that explore both the natural history and cultural heritage of Long Island and New York state. Geology exhibits illustrate the Island's glacial past, showing how the landscape has evolved over the past 20,000 years through dramatic changes in climate and sea level. Visitors can examine local leaf fossils and Indian artifacts, and learn about the region's ancient geological formations and the forces that shaped them.

The museum also features a range of

exhibits focusing on Native American culture and archaeology. Visitors can learn about their migration from Asia to the New World and the subsequent evolution of Native American societies. Detailed dioramas depict scenes of daily life among Long Island's indigenous peoples, and artifacts offer tangible connections to their ancient civilizations. The facility also examines the impact of European newcomers on Native cultures, with interactive experiences like the Woodland Village, where visitors can try simulated activities such as planting crops and fishing.

Tiffany Zheng, of Queens, also visited the preserve for the first time last Saturday, but arrived just before the museum closed. She said she would be interested in spending more time there on her next visit. She learned about Glen Cove, she said, via a Chinese social media phone app called Xiaohongshu.

"It's very refreshing," Zheng said. "The weather today is so nice, and it's almost like spring/summertime now, and you see all the birds. I work in an office, so it's nice to take a walk outside."



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Special Needs Children and Grandchildren

Parents or grandparents of a disabled child should leave assets in a Special Needs Trust, to avoid the child being disqualified from government benefits, such as SSI and Medicaid. These trusts, however, offer traps for the unwary. Since payments to the child will generally reduce their SSI payments dollar for dollar, trustees of such trusts should be advised to make payments directly to the providers of goods and services. Preserving SSI benefits is crucial since eligibility for SSI determines eligibility for Medicaid.

In other words, if SSI is lost the recipient also loses their Medicaid benefits. In addition, any benefits previously paid by Medicaid may be recovered. As such, one also has to be mindful of bequests from well-meaning grandparents. Similarly, if a sibling dies without a will, a share of their estate may go to the special needs brother or sister by law. The Special Needs Trust must be carefully drafted so that it only allows payments for any benefits over and above what the government provides.

There are two kinds of Special Needs Trusts — first party and third party. The first party trust is set up by a parent, grandparent, legal guardian or court using the child's own money, either through earnings, an inheritance that was left directly to them or, perhaps, a personal injury award. Recent changes in the law allow the special needs child to establish their own first party Special Needs Trust if they are legally competent to engage in contractual matters. These first party trusts require a "payback" provision, meaning that on the death of the child beneficiary, the trust must pay back the state for any government benefits received.

A third party trust is usually set up by a parent or grandparent, using their own money. Here, no "payback" provision is required because it was not the child's own money that funded the trust and the parent or grandparent had no obligation to leave any assets to the child. On the death of the child beneficiary, the balance of the trust is paid out to named beneficiaries.

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Former assemblyman declares candidacy

By WILL SHEELINE

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Mike LiPetri, an attorney and former Republican New York State Assemblyman, has officially announced his bid for the Republican primary in New York's 3rd Congressional District. LiPetri, a relative newcomer to the political scene, is positioning himself as a candidate driven by integrity, dedication and a fervent commitment to representing the interests of district residents.

The 33-year old from Farmingdale said that he was motivated to get involved in politics because he wanted the chance to "make a difference." LiPetri served in the state assembly from 2019 to 2021, representing the state's 19th district, and although he lost the Republican primary to replace Peter King in Congress, he is confident that his work during his two years in office speaks for itself.

"My ultimate goal is having an affect where people can rest confident knowing that their representative is someone who actually wants to be here and wants to do what is right, not what is easy," LiPetri said. "During my tenure in the assembly I proved just that."

While unmarried, LiPetri claimed that he had a record of supporting families, both in his legal practice and dur-

ing his tenure in the assembly. The attorney argued that New York's current representatives aren't doing enough to help young and growing families on Long Island, and that one of his goals if elected was to increase support for them, although he did not provide specific ways this could be achieved.

"We want people to be flocking to Long Island," LiPetri said. "We need to have a new vision for Long Island, a new vision of America, where people want to be here."

LiPetri, grandson of former Phillies pitcher Angelo LiPetri, also cited his support for law enforcement, advocacy for immigration reform, and efforts to promote affordability on Long Island as some of the main issues he hoped to address during the campaign and if elected. The former assemblyman also accused the district's current congressman, Tom Suozzi, of not doing enough to help district residents on these issues, and that the congressman's departure of the office to run for governor paved the way for the infamous George Santos' election and debacle of a term.

"Tom Suozzi left this seat; he didn't want to be here, he wanted higher power," LiPetri said. "There's a difference between Tom wanting to help himself and me, who wants to help the people and make a difference."

LiPetri's platform focuses on addressing Long Island-specific issues, including decreasing crime, ensuring affordability, and protecting the quality of life for residents. The former assemblyman also spoke out vehemently against the state's bail reform laws, and against illegal immigration, both of which he deemed were major threats to residents in the district.



MIKE LIPETRI

"We stood side-by-side with immigrants to root out people here illegally who commit heinous crimes like sex predators and murderers," LiPetri said. "(No other politician) can say in the third district that life has gotten better under them."

Drawing from his legal background, LiPetri highlighted his understanding of constitutional law and the legislative process. He emphasized his ability to navigate complex policy issues and work collaboratively to achieve biparti-

san solutions. LiPetri also stressed the importance of proactive policymaking and pragmatic solutions to tackle the challenges facing the district.

"I've demonstrated through my tenure in the assembly that politics can be a force for good when guided by integrity and dedication," LiPetri remarked. "As a congressman, I intend to continue championing the interests of Long Islanders and providing them with the representation they deserve."

In response to questions about constituent outreach, LiPetri outlined his campaign's efforts to engage with voters across the district. He emphasized the importance of transparency and accessibility, pledging to listen to the concerns of constituents and be responsive to their needs.

As LiPetri's candidacy gains momentum, it has not been without controversy. Allegations regarding his past business dealings with George Santos have surfaced, with some characterizing them as questionable. LiPetri vehemently denied these allegations, attributing them to political smear tactics aimed as a distraction from substantive issues.

"It's an absolute, total lie," LiPetri said. "I several years ago introduced somebody to George Santos and made, by the way, no money, nothing off of it, nothing further."

Wishing all of our friends and neighbors a Happy Passover!

From the staff of
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Recreation upgrades and security measures

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Exciting developments are underway at Glen Cove's fields as the city embarks on a series of ambitious upgrades aimed at transforming the beloved sports hubs into premier destinations for recreation. The initiative aims to improve accessibility, safety, and sustainability while creating vibrant spaces that cater to the diverse needs of residents. With a focus on green spaces, recreation facilities and community engagement, the city is poised to transform its outdoor amenities into dynamic hubs for leisure, sports, and social interaction.

The projects are funded partially through capital improvement funding from the City of Glen Cove, fundraisers and grants secured through Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

"Things were left to the wayside, and we have a lot of catching up to do." Spiro Tsirkas, executive director of Glen Cove's Youth Services and Recreation, said. "It's going to be a lot of work now, but we can slowly renovate everything and not have this mad-dash to get so many things done."

Pascucci Field includes installation of LED lighting, renovated restroom facilities, and the addition of a secondary field featuring a futsal court and removable pickleball nets. It's anticipated that Stanco Park will receive new basketball courts, pending the decision

into the capitol borrow vote in the coming weeks.

"It takes money to do all of this, so we have been really doing our best to manage our budgets so that when there is availability, we stretch our funds to cover as much as possible," Michael A. Piccirillo, city controller wrote in an email, "and continue to move our city in the right direction."

Upgrades to John Maccarone City Stadium include replacing the perimeter fencing with sleek black chain-link, funded by a combination of capital and legislative money from DeRiggi-Whitton. Fundraising efforts have contributed to various projects, such as the refurbishment of the upper football field, installation of new basketball courts, and upgrades to the clubhouse and concession stands' roofing and siding. Dug-out covers have been added, and bottom fields have been redone with a mix of city and fundraising funds. Additionally, new equipment, including a field skimmer, has been purchased to streamline maintenance tasks. A new sprinkler system has been installed, with plans to complete the last section at the stadium using legislative funds. Furthermore, the city will install a cement block wall bin to separate the clay and soil clay at the baseball fields to reduce runoff starting next month.

Pryibil Beach will see a new volleyball net. Previously, a temporary volleyball area was set up to gauge community interest, and Tsirkas said it has prov-

en popular among residents. The new net will be in the back of the parking lot, near the playground.

Surveillance cameras will be installed at Morgan's Park, Pascucci Field, Pryibil Beach, and Stanco Park. These measures, totaling just over \$40,000, are meant to ensuring accountability in the event of incidents. The decision to implement camera systems stems from past instances of vandalism, often linked to social media challenges.

"We had cases of vandalism, and they all revolve around Tik Tok challenges," Tsirkas said. "Its kids being a little foolish. One year there was a 'steal the paper towel dispenser off the wall' challenge, another year, where they took the toilets apart and stole the top half of the toilets. We just want to protect our assets."

Tsirkas emphasized that cameras will not be pointed in the direction of swim areas.

Tsirkas noted the city's careful project alignment with ongoing activities at its facilities. Despite timing challenges, such as fencing upgrades during summer sports at the stadium, panel work will minimize disruptions. Plans for the basketball court await capital fund approval, avoiding conflicts with summer programs at Stanco Park. Postponing tennis court renovations ensures uninterrupted summer tennis programs. Progress is imminent at Pascucci, with multiplayer area work starting soon.



Herald file photo

Facility upgrades are coming to Glen Cove, including the installation of security cameras at the city's parks.

"We're all a team, we all kind of have the same vision of where we would like to do these things, and what we would like to see come out of the future of Glen Cove," Tsirkas said. "I think that's the biggest help and mentality change that's going on in City Hall right now, if you want something, ask for it, explain why. And if you can figure out a way to do it, or let's all figure out how to do it. There are very rarely any projects right now that are turned down just to be turned down. We're living in a good time right now."

District celebrates its wonderful firsts

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Glen Cove High School Principal Allen Hudson recently captivated the attention of the Board of Education with a dynamic slideshow presentation titled "Wonderful Firsts." During the presentation, he showcased a series of innovative programs and initiatives that the school has implemented for the first time. The slideshow served as a testament to the school's commitment to pushing boundaries and embracing new educational opportunities. With a focus on progress and advancement, the presentation underscored Glen Cove High School's dedication to excellence and its role as a leader in educational innovation.

The school welcomed a new dean of students, Scott Johnson. He has developed a system to identify truant students by increasing his presence in the hallways and conducting home visits. He has introduced new attendance and safety procedures, such as supervising the Alternative Learning Center and implementing a digital attendance form for teachers to alert him of attendance issues. Collaborating with school administrators, he installed alert systems on kiosk machines to track students upon entering the building.

"it's another way in which we're trying to make sure students don't fall between the cracks," Hudson explained. "He quickly figured out there's a way to put an alert on the students. I have to say they hate it, but it works for us because as they walk in, if it's a particular student we need to find there's an alert that goes off. It is sometimes a bit annoying, but it does say something to the effect of report to the main office or

"Our students are not just performing well here at the schools. They're actually doing internships and doing well outside of the bubble to advance themselves.

ALLEN HUDSON

Principal, Glen Cove High School

report to the dean's office."

The school has also launched a new ninth-grade alternative credit recovery program, led by Maria Rihanna, district superintendent, and Alexa Doeschner, staffed with four teachers. The program aims to support freshmen who need extra assistance. Currently 86 students are benefiting from it. Students attending the program receive instruction from dedicated teachers, and success in the program can exempt students from attending summer school, serving as a positive incentive for participation.

Many of the wonderful firsts highlighted wouldn't be possible without last year's bond, including the installation of smart lockers at the high school. The district is the second to receive the new technology on Long Island. Four hundred and sixty nine students are currently utilizing the digital lockers, marking a significant increase from previous usage. Hudson noted the appeal of the new lockers lies in its novelty,

convenience, and digital features. Notably, the lockers accommodate larger book bags, adding to their practicality. Overall, the transition to digital lockers has been smooth and well-received.

Hudson also highlighted a cohort of impressive students, including Jabier Granados, Claudia Sarria, and Narson Senat who recently showcased their leadership prowess at the Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Conference in Albany, honing advocacy and leadership skills. The seniors received scholarships for attending the conference.

Philip Dilgard-Clark, Thomas Potter and Michael Renga are stepping up to the challenge in the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. The students will be showcasing their expertise on the United States Constitution and the responsibilities of citizenship on Dec. 18 at the American Legion Post 44 in Malverne.

Lola Milanese has secured an internship with the prestigious Dolan DNA Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where she is responsible for conducting laboratory preparation work for educational programs held at DNALC sites. This includes maintaining classroom cleanliness and arranging equipment setups to facilitate smooth operations during the programs. Her internship provides valuable hands-on experience in the field of biology and education, contributing to her growth and development as a student and future professional.

"Our students are not just performing well here at the schools," Hudson said. "They're actually doing internships and doing well outside of the bubble to advance themselves."

Budget includes \$90M local media tax credit

STAFF REPORT

Gov. Kathy Hochul and the state legislature unveiled the final state budget over the weekend, which included a payroll tax credit for local news outlets, modeled on the Local Journalism Sustainability Act.

With the passage of this bill, New York is now the first state in the nation to incentivize hiring and retaining local journalists.

What's being described as a game-changer for the local news industry comes just months after the launch of the Empire State Local News Coalition, an unprecedented, grassroots campaign powered by more than 200 community newspapers across the state.

"I'm elated that our first-in-the-nation Local Journalism Sustainability Act is passing in the state budget," said state Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal — the senate bill sponsor — in a release. "A thriving local news industry is vital to the health of our democracy, and it's our responsibility to help ensure New Yorkers have access to independent and community-focused journalism. Our efforts will help ensure that our democracy will not die in darkness."

The program — \$30 million per year for three years — allows each eligible newspaper and broadcast business to receive a 50 percent refundable tax credit against the first \$50,000 of an employee's salary, up to a total of \$300,000 per business.

The budget will allocate the first \$4 million to incentivize print and broadcast businesses to hire new journalists. The remaining \$26 million will be split evenly between businesses with fewer than 100 employees and those with more than 100 employees, ensuring that hyperlocal, independent news organizations have a fair shot at access to these funds.

After stalling for years, the Local Journalism Sus-



Courtesy Empire State Local News Coalition

Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages joins lawmakers and supporters like Assemblyman David Weprin, at left, and state Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, at right, last month to call on her colleagues to support the Local Journalism Sustainability Act. A version of this measure was included in the final state budget approved this past weekend by Gov. Kathy Hochul and lawmakers.

tainability Act catapulted into a top legislative priority this session following the early-2024 founding of the Empire State Local News Coalition and the coalition's mobilization of support from hundreds of New York hometown papers, as well as a broad range of stakeholders from around the country, including the Rebuild Local News Coalition, Microsoft, and El Diario. Organized labor including NYS AFL-CIO, CWA District 1, and national and local news guilds also played a criti-

cal role in mobilizing support for this historic bill.

"The Empire State Local News Coalition is thrilled by the state budget's inclusion of a payroll tax credit for local news outlets modeled on the Local Journalism Sustainability Act," said Zachary Richner — founder of the Empire State Local News Coalition, and a director at Richner Communications, the parent organization of Herald Community Newspapers.

"New York is now the first state in the nation to incentivize hiring and retaining local journalists — a critical investment given that hundreds of New York's newspapers have closed since 2004, leaving too many New York communities without access to vital local information.

"The objectivity of this credit shows that there is a fair way for public policy to support local news without jeopardizing journalistic integrity. This program is a model for other states across the U.S. to follow as communities across the country raise their voices to save local news."

Richner said he was "incredibly proud" of the 200 newspapers that built an unprecedented grassroots movement in support of saving New York's local news industry in a few short months. He also extended gratitude to Hoylman-Sigal, "whose tireless advocacy for this tax credit was instrumental in moving it through the legislative process."

Since launching in February, the coalition has quickly mobilized stakeholders across the state to rally behind the bill.

New York's leadership on this issue could change the course of local journalism in the United States, organizers say. The budget's inclusion of this tax credit comes at a watershed moment for the journalism industry: New York state has experienced hundreds of newspaper closures in the past few decades.

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HERALD NEIGHBORS

April 25, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Stackabones held a benefit concert on behalf of founding member Jimmy Brighton who died last year.

Concert a tribute to Jimmy Brighton

To honor Jimmy Brighton's legacy, Stackabones held a benefit concert at My Father's Place on April 21 to celebrate the guitarist's passion for music and his enduring impact on those around him. Brighton, a passionate musician from Glen Cove, formed Stackabones with friends Butch Zito and David Dictor, symbolizing

their generation's spirit. Their journey led them to prominence in the Austin music scene, with their music even featured at Grateful Dead concerts. Brighton's generosity and love for music shone through in his efforts to bring people together.

—Roksana Amid



Linda Bunting, a back up singer for Stackabones, filled the evening with heart and soul.



The audience at My Father's Place moved to the groovy tunes of Stackabones, a band that symbolized the generation's spirit in the 70s.



Butch Zito, a founding member of Stackabones, grew up with Jimmy Brighton in Glen Cove.



James Brighton, Jimmy Brighton's son, learned to play guitar on his father's lap as a small child.

STEPPING OUT



Courtesy Roberto Ricci

Enrico Fagone, the Long Island Concert Orchestra's music director and conductor, was nominated for a 2023 Grammy award. He's been defined by the classical music press as one of today's most promising conductors at the international level.



Courtesy Long Island Concert Orchestra

Pianist Alessandro Mazzamuto is among the special guest performers who share the stage with the Long Island Concert Orchestra.



Chris Ruggiero's musical moments

Experience the magic of Chris Ruggiero's new show, 'Teenage Dreams and Magic Moments,' when the dynamic vocalist visits the Landmark stage. Ruggiero is an old soul. Still in his 20s, the music that speaks to him is the music of the '50s, '60s and '70s. His approach to performing is more in line with that of a bygone era, bringing to the stage the panache of Frank Sinatra or Paul Anka, coupled with the energy of Jackie Wilson. Ruggiero first came to national attention when he performed in concert on a PBS coast-to-coast special, and was featured on 'Good Morning America.' Since then, he has traveled the country, delivering his unique brand of vintage rock 'n' roll, and sharing his passion for the classics. Ruggiero tells his story by breathing new life into the timeless music of the eras he loves, with a six-piece band and live brass.

Friday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. \$59, \$49, \$39. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or LandmarkOnMainStreet.org.

CONNECTION THROUGH MELODIES

Symphony of Hope Benefit Concert inspires unity across the world

By Danielle Schwab

Art connects us beyond divides.

That's how Bernie Furshpan, marketing director and board member of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, puts it when discussing the Long Island Concert Orchestra's upcoming Symphony of Hope Concert at Tilles Center.

While the music is, of course, at the heart of this benefit performance, the evening is so much more than a concert. The aim is to support two vital organizations: Long Island's Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, and the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

"When it comes to art, I think people in general agree that it's something very healing and it brings people together," Furshpan says. "It's a wonderful connector for people."

Proceeds from the May 2 event benefit both organizations.

The concert includes special guests from the Israeli arts school, which is currently facing a funding crisis due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. Two students — one Israeli and one Palestinian — take part, sending a powerful message of unity through music. Michael Klinghoffer — Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance's president — also participates, further emphasizing the importance of this benefit concert.

"This spectacular event is a golden opportunity for community members to support these organizations," says David Winkler, the orchestra's executive director and composer-in-residence. "By attending the concert, our community will not just enjoy an evening of incredible music, but will be helping JAMD and HMTC continue their essential work."

With some 1,600 students, the Jerusalem Academy nurtures the next generation of musicians and dancers, Furshpan says. The school's diverse student demographic — ranging from 4 years old to young adulthood — studies a cultural mixture of Middle Eastern music, European classics, baroque and jazz.

"Right now, everybody's hurting," Furshpan says. "So, we're doing this as more than just beautiful music. It's also something that's special and philanthropic."

During the first selection of the evening, the two participating students will perform together, accompanied by a recording of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance Orchestra.

"We have a hybrid experience," Furshpan says. "On the big screen,



- Thursday, May 2, 8 p.m.
- Tickets start at \$50; available at TillesCenter.org, or (516) 299-3100
- Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville

you're going to see the Israeli orchestra, and the students are going to be sitting alongside that screen and playing together with them."

Klinghoffer also contributes as a keynote speaker.

Then, the 40-person Long Island Concert Orchestra — under the baton of music director and conductor Enrico Fagone — takes the spotlight. The orchestra's repertoire includes the world debut of "Adriatica." Winkler composed the piece to celebrate the oceanic connections between people. Its namesake is a node to the Adriatic Sea, which connects Eastern Italy to the Middle East.

"It has a multifaceted melodic personality to it — several different melodies, not just one," Winkler says. "Over the course of the work, these melodies are joined together and ultimately, they produce the finale, which is extremely uplifting and powerful."

The orchestra is joined by acclaimed pianist Alessandro Mazzamuto, in his Long Island Concert Orchestra debut. He'll perform Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54.

"I believe that love of music and artistic expression is love for humanity," Mazzamuto says. "As a concert pianist and teacher, my heart goes out to the students of Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. And I wish to dedicate my performance and interpretation of Schumann's emotional piano concerto to them."

This evening is all about bringing the local and global community together — the very definition of the Long Island Concert Orchestra.

"Our mission is to provide the best possible performances of international repertoire," Winkler says. "To bring world-class artists, world-class musicians, as well as world premieres of international caliber."

The orchestra leads the way in delivering visibility to a commitment to tolerance, respect and the arts.

"Music is what brings people together," Furshpan says. "All forms of art bring people together. We truly believe that this (concert) is going to help the two organizations do some great work."

"At the same time, Symphony of Hope is really about the audience. They are the symphony of hope — the audience and the music in combination."



Tracy Morgan

Tracy Morgan is touring with a bracing new show, and he's funnier than he's ever been. A name synonymous with laughter, he continues to be reckoned with in the world of stand-up and television. Morgan boasts an impressive career spanning decades. From his hilarious characters on 'Saturday Night Live' (think Astronaut Jones and Brian Fellows) to his unforgettable role on the award-winning '30 Rock,' Morgan has consistently brought audiences to tears (of laughter, of course). Coming to fame as a stand-up, Morgan became a household name through his seven-season stint on Tina Fey's '30 Rock,' playing a thinly veiled version of himself named Tracy Jordan. On his current tour, Morgan continues his comeback following his life-threatening 2014 traffic accident on the New Jersey turnpike. Morgan is always welcome back up on the stage where he belongs.

Saturday, April 27, 8 p.m. \$89.50, \$79.50, \$69.50, \$59.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com, or ParamountNY.com.

THE \$ SCENE

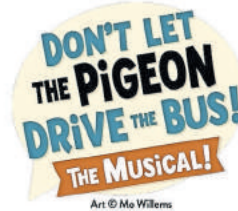
May 4

'Cold Beer on a Saturday Night'

Get a head start on beach season with Jimmy Kenny and the Pirate Beach Band. We're all eager for summertime to arrive, meanwhile Jimmy Kenny and his band come to the rescue, back on the Paramount stage, Saturday,

May 4, 8 p.m. Join in their "Ultimate Beach Party Tribute" to Kenny Chesney, Jimmy Buffett and Zac Brown Band. Parrotheads, No Shoes Nation and the Zamily: it's 5 o'clock somewhere so let's 'raise 'em up and sing along.

The Long Island based band — guided by Paul C. Cuthbert (aka Jimmy Kenny) on lead vocals/acoustic guitar, with Linn DeMilta (aka Lovely Linn), lead and backing vocals, Luis Rio, lead guitar/backing vocals, Frank Stainkamp, keyboard/backing vocals, Dan Prine, bass, and drummer Mike Vecchione, have been celebrating the beach country sounds of Buffett, Chesney and Zac Brown Band for over a decade, spreading their vibe up and down the Northeast. Everyone has a great time grooving to their lively mix of their popular sing-along hits and feel good, easy living flair. If you like your toes in the sand, wasting away with a margarita or a cold beer, then you'll surely have a great time with the Jimmy Kenny Band. \$35, \$25, \$20, \$15. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



On stage

Families will enjoy another musical adventure, "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!" ripped from the pages of Mo Willems' beloved children's books, on the Long Island Children's Museum stage, Friday, **April 26, 11:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 6:15 p.m.**; Tuesday through Friday, April 30-May 3, 10:15 a.m. and noon. Back by popular demand after a sold-out 2023 run, see Pigeon, Bus Driver, and some zany passengers sing and dance their way to helping The Pigeon find his "thing" in this upbeat, energetic comedy based on four of Mo Willems' popular Pigeon books.

Featuring a live band to bring Deborah Wicks La Puma's jazzy score to life, audiences will thoroughly enjoy singing and flapping along with The Pigeon and friends. The audience is part of the action, in this innovative mix of songs, silliness and feathers. It's an ideal way to introduce kids to theater and the humorous stories from Willems' books. \$10 with museum admission (\$8 members), \$14 theater only. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.



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 Loisa/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.

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Clean Water Symposium

Citizens Campaign for the Environment, North Shore Land Alliance, and The Nature Conservancy cohost the Long Island Clean Water Symposium: Global Challenges and Local Solutions conference, Thursday, **May 16**, 2:30-5:30 p.m., at LIU Post Student Center Auditorium,

This free event brings together water science leaders to discuss water quality and quantity challenges on Long Island. With keynote speaker David Sedlak, author of "Water 4.0" and "Water for All," Adrienne Esposito of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Stony Brook University's Dr. Chris Gobler. 720 Northern Blvd, Greenvale. Registration required. Visit NorthShoreLandAlliance.org to register and for information.

Life of Jackie O Presentation

Join former Sea Cliff mayor Ed Lieberman at Sea Cliff Library, Thursday, **May 11**, at 4 p.m., to discuss the legacy of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Using photos, historical events and anecdotes, the iconic First Lady comes to life. Registration required. 300 Sea Cliff Ave, Sea Cliff. Visit SeaCliffLibrary.org to register and for more information.

Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art, Saturday, **May 11**, 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.

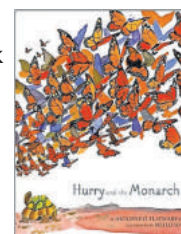


On stage

Plaza Theatrical's season continues with "Lady Supreme: A Diana Ross Experience," Saturday, **May 4**, 7:30 p.m. Deanna Carroll, accompanied by top notch singers and musicians, covers the hits of the Supremes to Diana's solo sensations in this spectacular tribute to the Supreme Diva. She performs all of Diana's biggest hits, with spot-on vocals, including "Endless Love," "Someday We'll Be Together," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "Touch Me in The Morning," and so many more. Get in the groove at Plaza's stage at the Elmont Library Theatre. 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$40, \$35 seniors. Elmont. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit PlazaTheatrical.com.

Storybook Stroll

Bring the kids to Old Westbury Gardens for a storybook adventure, Saturday, **May 4**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stroll the gardens and listen to Antoine O Flatharta's modern tale, "Hurry and the Monarch." Later create a unique take home craft. For ages 3-5. Storybook Strolls start at the Beech Tree (next to Westbury House), and end at the Thatched Cottage. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information, visit OldWestburyGardens.org or contact (516) 333-0048.



Museum Gallery Tour

Join curator, art collector and gallerist Christopher Pusey for a tour of "Urban Art Evolution," Nassau County Museum of Art's current exhibition, Sunday, **May 5**, 3 p.m. Pusey, the exhibit's guest curator, began art-making as a child and went on to pursue a career working in art galleries, and as an art dealer, in New York City. His particular interest in the art from this time and genre began with his first job at a SoHo gallery in SoHo during the 80s, which had a division specializing in some of the East Village artists featured in this show. Free with museum admission. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. Visit NassauMuseum.org or call (516) 484-9337 for information.



Spring Musicale

Enjoy an engaging afternoon of beautiful music, Sunday, **April 28**, 5 p.m. Tim Carl, Music Director of St. Dominic, Oyster Bay, presents a program of operatic arias and piano selections with soprano Jennifer Russo and pianist Tim Carl. A meet-and-greet reception is included. \$75, \$70 members of Friends of Seminary. Reservations are required. The concert takes place at Retreat and Conference Center of the Seminary of Immaculate Conception, 440 West Neck Road, Huntington. Reserve at ICSeminary.edu/events or call (63) 423-0483 ext. 102.



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.

2024 Annual Caregiver Conference

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Program Agenda

"The Loneliness Epidemic"
Arlene Markarian, Safe Observant Seniors Program Coordinator & Nassau County Elder Abuse Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator, Family & Children's Association

Social Senior Living: Why Aging-in-Place is Not Always Best
Panel Discussion Moderated by Jennifer B. Cona, Esq. Managing Partner, Cona Elder Law

- Stuart B. Almer, President and CEO, Gurwin Healthcare System
- Laura LaFauci, LI Director of Community Outreach, Amber Court Communities
- Megan Shergill, Vice President of CDPAP Services, Community Care
- Julie Wexler, MPA, Director of Business Development, The Bristol Assisted Living
- Kerri Winans Kaley, Director of Business Development, Encore Luxury Living

Financing Care: Protecting Assets and Keeping Open Your Senior Living Options

- Melissa Negrin-Wiener, Esq., Senior Partner, Cona Elder Law

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It's not too late

New research shows exercise can restore an aging heart

By Chuck Norris

Within the average human, about 2,000 gallons of blood travel daily through about 60,000 miles of blood vessels. Because of its vastness and essential nature, the cardiovascular system is most prone to disease and a major factor in why cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States.

As we age — even if we do so in good health — the heart becomes less flexible and not as efficient in processing oxygen as it used to be. For most people, the first signs of this change begin to show up in their 50s or early 60s. What if you could take this 50-year-old heart and transform it to that of a 30- or 35-year-old merely through exercise?

As reported by NPR, according to recent findings published in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation*, cardiologists at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have demonstrated this possibility. They also discovered that for even a midlifer who has not been an avid exerciser, getting in shape now could head off decline and help restore an aging heart.

Understanding The Research

For the study, researchers recruited individuals between the ages of 45 and 64 who were mostly sedentary but otherwise healthy. Participants were randomly assigned to one of two groups. The first group engaged in a program of nonaerobic exercise such as basic yoga, balance training and weight training. They performed these exercises three times a week. The other group was assigned a trainer and did moderate-to-high-intensity aerobic exercise for four or more days a week.

After two years, the group doing the higher-intensity exercise saw dramatic improvements in heart health. Their hearts processed oxygen more efficiently and were notably less stiff. The hearts of those engaged in less intense routines did not change.

A key part of the exercise regimen was interval training: short bursts of high-intensity exercise followed by a few minutes of rest.

"It's an old Norwegian ski team workout," Dr. Ben Levine, sports cardiologist at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center tells NPR. "It means four minutes at 95 percent of your maximal ability, followed by three minutes of active recovery, repeated four times."

The difference between this study and previous heart studies is that it focused specifically on heart function and on how heart function can improve with exercise. It also focused on what researchers call "the sweet spot in life," late middle age when the heart still has plasticity.

Researchers are quick to point out that anyone considering such high-intensity workouts should check with

a doctor first and ask about individual health issues that might warrant a less intense program initially. It is further pointed out that this initial study is considered a small one and more research is needed.

There also appears to be a time limit during which you are able to reverse the aging of the blood vessels. Researchers also put healthy 70-year-olds through a yearlong exercise program, and nothing changed as to the structure of their heart and blood vessels.

Exercise Matters: At All Ages

This is not to suggest that exercise does not relate to better health for people as they age. A recent study conducted by Brazil's University of Sao Paulo, shows that exercise training helps improve daily life for obese adults with asthma. Researchers found that patients who exercised had improvements in physical activity and asthma-symptom-free days, as well as declines in depression symptoms and sleep apnea.

"In the past, exercise was seen as harmful to asthmatic patients because they'd have a reaction to the exercise and airways would narrow," senior study author Dr. Celso Carvalho explained to Reuters Health. "However, we've learned that exercise can be good for asthma patients and even better for those who are obese."

The study randomly assigned 55 obese adults with asthma to participate either in a weight-loss program with exercise, including aerobic training and weightlifting, or a weight-loss program that focused on nutrition, psychological therapies and breathing and stretching exercises. Following two sessions per week for three months, people in the weight loss and exercise training group had increased their step count by more than 3,000 steps per day, compared to about 730 steps per day in the group that did not get more strenuous training. In addition, the exercise group had about 15 asthma-symptom-free days per month, on average, compared to about 9 days per month for the control group.

"There is a tendency by doctors to rely on pharmacological treatment and neglect non-pharmacological interventions," Carvalho tells Reuters. "This study adds to the body of knowledge that this tendency is incorrect."

Less Medication Is Beneficial

According to a recent New York Times report, despite warnings from experts, older people are using more anti-anxiety and sleep medications, putting them at risk of serious side effects and even overdoses. Even patients taking the drugs exactly as prescribed can unwittingly wind up in this situation, since both sleep problems and chronic pain occur more frequently at older ages. There seems to be little reluctance to fill such prescriptions.

Photo: People of all ages and fitness levels can help their heart health through exercise.



Vitamin E: An overlooked nutrient

Why you need it —
and how to get your daily dose

You get your fill of vitamins C and D by eating oranges and soaking in a little sun perhaps, which is good for your body and mind. Small habits like these can have a big impact on your overall health and help you feel your best each day. However, these aren't the only vitamins your body needs to thrive. Take vitamin E, for example. This overlooked vitamin is essential and yet, many people don't know anything about it.

Vitamin E, like vitamin C, is an antioxidant and therefore helps improve immunity levels. Here are the possible benefits of vitamin E, and how it can specifically enhance your health.

Fights summer colds: Winter isn't the only time you can catch a cold. In the summer, vitamin E can boost your immunity to prevent sickness during the warmer months.

Extends cell life and repairs damage: What's the secret to aging well? While there are many factors that can influence aging, vitamin E can extend cell life to keep skin in great shape for years. With vitamin E oil, you can also repair damaged cells. Specifically, vitamin E can be used to treat sunburns and scars.

May reduce risk of heart disease and cancer: There's still much to be discovered about vitamin E. Currently, researchers are testing whether vitamin E can reduce the risk of serious health conditions, like heart disease and cancer.

Reduces risk of cataracts and other eye issues: Maintain eye health and prevent serious eye diseases by getting your daily intake of vitamin E.

May slow down cognitive decline: Studies have found that a higher intake of vitamin E in older individuals can reduce cognitive decline and can even slow down the progression of diseases like Alzheimer's.

Add More Vitamin E to Your Diet

The US Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for vitamin E in individuals 14 years and older is 15 mg. Instead of taking supplements to get the recommended daily dosage, however, save your money and add vitamin-rich foods to your diet.

"The simplest way to increase your vitamin E intake is to follow a healthy diet that focuses on eating vitamin E-rich vegetables, fruits, healthy fats and lean forms of protein," says registered dietician Lyssie Lakatos. She lists these foods as examples of what you can include in your meal plan.

Pistachios: A protein-packed snack, pistachios are also a rich source of vitamin E you can take on-the-go.

Spinach: When preparing salads, toss some spinach into the mix. This dark, leafy green is also high in calcium.

Eggs: The egg is an excellent source of vitamin E. Egg yolk's Best, for example, contain 10 times more vitamin E than ordinary eggs, which is equal to 25 percent of the recommended daily intake for vitamin E. They are also packed with omega-3s, vitamins like B12 and D.

Photo: Promising research shows that among its many benefits, vitamin E may help slow the progression of Alzheimer's, by keeping brain cells healthy.

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The Parker Jewish Institute helps patients transition from skilled nursing facility to home

To help patients transition from a skilled nursing facility to home, New Hyde Park-based Parker Jewish Institute has enhanced its award-winning Patient Education Resources Project. This comprehensive video series reinforces Parker's guidance to patients and their caregivers, so they feel prepared and confident to manage care at home.

Featured on Parker's YouTube Channel and website, the series is available 24/7, so viewers can access the information whenever they need it. Updated titles in the series include "Medical Equipment," "Smooth Transitions" and "Advanced Directive Planning." Additional videos include "Preventing Falls," "Diabetes Care" and more. The series earned a McKnight's Excellence in Technology Award.

This project is part of Parker's robust support for patients and their families when a person is discharged from the Institute. Parker also offers Parker At Your Door (PAYD), a medical house-call service for patients, including in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, who can no longer make visits to a physician's office. PAYD's services include annual wellness



Parker Jewish Institute offers robust programs and services for patients who are discharged from the skilled nursing facility.

visits, medical house calls, chronic-condition management, post-hospitalization transitions, and advance-care planning assistance. Other programs include Parker's Certified Home Health Care and Comprehensive Community Hospice.

"We are proud to offer these programs and services, which improve quality of life for

patients and their caregivers," said Michael N. Rosenblut, Parker's President and CEO.

About The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation

The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation is headquartered in New Hyde Park, New York. The facility is a leading

provider of Short Term Rehabilitation and Long Term Care. At the forefront of innovation in patient-centered health care and technology, the Institute is a leader in teaching and geriatric research. Parker Jewish Institute features its own medical team, and is nationally renowned as a skilled nursing facility, as well as a provider of community-based health care, encompassing Home Health Care, Medical House Calls, Palliative Care and Hospice. Parker Jewish Institute is also home to Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), led by an interdisciplinary team of experienced Nephrologists and Dialysis Registered Nurses, a Renal Social Worker, and a Registered Renal Dietitian.

For more information visit parkerinstitute.org or call (877) 727-5373.



Parker Jewish Institute
HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

Parker Jewish Institute • (718) 289-2212 • lscacco@parkerinstitute.org

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Queens-Long Island Renal Institute offers Home Hemodialysis and Certified Home Health Care available through Parker Jewish Institute

Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), located at The Parker Jewish Institute, now offers a state-of-the-art Home Hemodialysis Program. Those patients who also require Certified Home Health Care can access it conveniently through QLIRI's affiliate, Parker Jewish Institute.

QLIRI's Home Hemodialysis Program allows patients to transition from an in-center setting to receiving hemodialysis from the comfort of their home, using the Tablo Hemodialysis System. Enrolled patients are first trained by a registered nurse. The nurse provides step-by-step guidance four days a week over the course of four weeks, or longer if necessary. Through training, patients learn to use the system before transitioning to home hemodialysis.

If needed, patients of Parker's Certified Home Health Care Agency receive individualized nursing, medical, and

rehabilitation services, so they can maintain maximum independence in the comfort of their homes. Home-care services can include skilled-nursing care; physical, occupational and speech therapy; home-health aides; medical social services; medical supplies; and 24-hour telephone availability.

Call with questions: (718) 289-2600. To learn more about QLIRI's Home Hemodialysis Program, visit qliri.org. For more on Parker's Certified Home Health Care, visit parkerinstitute.org.



Queens-Long Island
Renal Institute, Inc.



Queens-Long Island Renal Institute is located at the Parker Jewish Institute.

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FOR HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

1255012

HEALTH MEMO

NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery Ranked #1 Neurosurgery Practice in New York

NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery (NSPC) has been ranked as the #1 neurosurgical practice in New York State and #4 neurosurgery practice group in the U.S. by Castle Connolly, a New York City research and information company. NSPC was one of the physician practice groups recognized in a new national awards survey called the 2024 Castle Connolly Accolades.

According to Steve Leibforth, Managing Director, Castle Connolly, "we introduced Castle Connolly Accolades this year to recognize multiple institutions – ranging from health systems providing comprehensive care to an entire region, to community-based physician practices excelling in specific and specialized care. These institutions," he notes, "all employ exceptional physicians, who have been recognized as Castle Connolly Top Doctors, ensuring the highest quality care for their patients."

"We are honored to have been ranked by Castle



**Michael H. Brisman, M.D., F.A.C.S.,
Attending Neurosurgeon and CEO,
NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery**

Connolly as one of the top neurosurgery practices in the nation and the top ranked neurosurgery physician practice in New York State," declares Michael H. Brisman M.D., F.A.C.S., the chief executive officer of Rockville Centre, NY-based NSPC. "This achievement," he asserts, "confirms our practice's 65-year commitment to patient care and excellence in spine and brain surgery."

NSPC is Long Island's largest, independent neurosurgical group with 14 experienced physicians and seven conveniently located offices on Long Island and in Manhattan.

The NSPC Castle Connolly "Top Doctors" are: Michael H. Brisman, M.D. (Cerebrovascular, Spine and Brain Surgery), Benjamin R. Cohen, M.D. (Spine Surgery), Vladimir Y. Dadashev, M.D. (Spine Surgery), Zachariah M. George, M.D. (Spine Surgery), Yusef

Imani, M.D. (Spine Surgery), Stephen T. Onesti, M.D. (Spine Surgery), Sachin N. Shah, M.D. (Spine Surgery), and Brian J. Snyder, M.D. (Pain and Parkinson's Surgery).

For decades, Castle Connolly has been conducting a peer-

review survey to select the region's top doctors based on the theory that medical professionals are best qualified to assess the qualifications of other practitioners. Licensed physicians vote online for those doctors they consider outstanding. A Castle Connolly doctor-led research team then counts the nominations and vets the nominee pool with the aid of several screens, including confirming board certifications and investigating disciplinary histories. In 2020, Castle Connolly was acquired by the Everyday Health Group, a division of J2 Global Inc.

About NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery

Founded in Freeport in 1958, NSPC has grown to become one of the largest, private neurosurgical groups in the U.S. with seven conveniently located offices on Long Island and in Manhattan. The practice's 14 experienced neurosurgeons are experts in "Bloodless" spine and brain surgery, including endoscopic spine surgery, radiosurgery, endoscopic brain surgery, and other minimally invasive techniques. These advanced procedures are used to treat herniated disc, spinal stenosis, brain tumors, trigeminal neuralgia, and other complex conditions. Visit www.nspc.com for more information.



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Smita Sihag, MD, MPH, FACS
Thoracic Surgeon
MSK in Nassau

Raise on horizon for pre-K special ed. providers

By JORDAN VALLONE

jvallone@liherald.com

A sector of special education services for young children has been severely underfunded for 25 years, according to some lawmakers — but that could soon change.

Nassau County officials propose giving those early childhood intervention service providers a raise, potentially elevating compensation from \$40 per half-hour to \$50.

The increase will affect providers who offer critical preschool services — like speech, occupational and physical therapy — to children between 3 and 5 with special needs as they get ready for kindergarten.

“We have many people who require services here,” County Executive Bruce Blakeman said of contractual preschool special education services. “It provides preschool services to children throughout Nassau County.”

Joined at a recent news conference with Republican county leaders like Michael Giangregorio, Samantha Goetz and Mazi Pilip, as well as dozens of educators and parents of children with special needs, Blakeman described the county’s compensation for such providers as “below the average.”

Giangregorio brought this issue to light, the county executive said. He’s long been an advocate for children and adults with special needs, and says the county has had a hard time retaining therapists because compensation simply was not competitive to what was being offered in surrounding regions.

“We checked with our budget office and we made a determination that we could increase” the compensation, Blakeman said.

Giangregorio, who’s district represents parts of



Jordan Vallone/Herald

Nassau County intends to raise compensation for special educational preschool service providers — the first of its kind in 25 years. Legislator Michael Giangregorio, a longtime advocate for the autism community, leads the effort.

Merrick, Bellmore, Wantagh and Seaford, said he was honored to stand with Blakeman for this “monumental decision that reflects our unwavering commitment to early childhood education.” Especially as a father of someone with autism.

“My son is now 23, so the last time he received (pre-K special education) services was quite a while ago, and there has not been a raise since he’s been in the

system,” Giangregorio said. “Back then, it was difficult to find providers. These people that come into your homes, or that work in agencies — they’re really doing God’s work. They’re helping to improve the lives of these individuals.”

The earlier a child receives services, Giangregorio said, the better the outcome.

“My child will be an adult longer than he’s a child,” the county legislator said. “The costs are always more when you’re an adult. For far too long, the wages of these early intervention educators and therapists have not reflected the true value of their work.”

Dr. Irina Gelman, the county’s health commissioner, explained her office has to go before the county’s health board to propose the raise.

“We are very grateful for this opportunity to bring this forward in front of our board,” she said. “We’re very hopeful they will adopt this new rate, which will be instrumental in providing services to our children, our families, and adequately reimburse our providers. These are rates for preschool related services that have not been raised since 1999 — so it’s long overdue.”

But Democrats in the county legislature say the need for raises has not been a secret. Siela Bynoe, for instance, says she has advocated for preschool special education funding for nearly a decade — especially so in the last few months.

“While I am glad that the county executive has heeded the advocacy of practitioners and the Democratic minority by taking this first step, much more must still be done to repair the damage caused by three decades of stagnation,” she said. “Moving forward, the county must raise awareness about the availability of these resources, and remain vigilant so that we can never again find ourselves paying the lowest rates in New York for these critical services.”

GLEN COVE HERALD — April 25, 2024



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ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

Fashion-conscious foods to go

On a chilly spring day, I'll put a sweater or hoodie over my tee shirt. It's interesting to note foods can keep me warm in a similar "food-like" way. This is especially true if they're sitting on a plate in an outdoor cafe. Here are one-of-a-kind meals to munch on in new and popular restaurants. Many foods are wearing fashion-conscious coverings.

Still Partners (225 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff) Since the menu was recently placed in the window, I passed by and noticed I'd never tried the chicken pot pie. I ordered it to go. While I waited, the manager mentioned new specials are added every few months. This month's newbies are pork sliders/quesadillas, and penne a la vodka. My chicken pot pie was filled with delectable, moist slices of chicken, vegetables, and a homey sauce. The pie was covered with a thin layer of crust, as if it were wearing an elegant cape.

Honey's Bistro (6 Railroad Ave., Glen Head) There's a new breakfast menu with six creative egg, chicken, vegan and hummus choices. Each dish has a dignified name such as "Everyday Earth." Egg bites are relatively new, too. Brunch is now served every Sunday (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.). While I ordered and waited for my "Santa Fe Sunrise" (chorizo, scrambled eggs, cheddar, white rice, peppers, onion, salsa on a crunch wrap), I noticed the most fashionable food in the bistro: a monster-sized cinnamon bun wearing a shabby chic shawl made of drizzled, creamy, white icing.

Campground Craft Beer & Coffee (208 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff) When I saw a sign outside this brewery that said, "Finally Open For Coffee," I raced inside. On the cafe's second level, an upscale variety of coffees, espresso

drinks and teas are now offered daily. Enjoy the beverages with muffins, croissants, doughnuts, and cake pops from three local bakeries. A manager told me they're hoping to offer breakfast specials soon, too. I grabbed a cake pop to go. Its chocolate covered coat definitely made a food-fashion statement.

Atlas New World Bistro (1221 Old North-ern Blvd., Roslyn) This new restaurant is inside the Roslyn Hotel and it's open to the public. If you hate to cook and often crave culturally diverse meals, this is the place to go. The chef puts an innovative twist on everything from Asian style beef short ribs to tandoor marinated bone-in butter chicken to shrimp tom tom soup. I ordered the vegetarian cassoulet (artichokes, pink peppercorns, heirloom tomatoes, white beans). The ingredients arrived neatly

wrapped inside a delicate puff pastry that was folded with stylish, geometric flair. I'd call it a designer poncho for food.

Sabrina's Candy & Creamery (96 South St., Oyster Bay) In this wonderland of original candy combinations and unique ice cream flavors, nacho cookies are the latest addition to the list of toppings. They're Oreo or plain chocolate flavored round, nacho-thin cookies that will happily sit beside any scoop of ice cream. You're welcome to make your own sundae with up to five scoops. Next, choose from all the outrageous candy toppings in the shop, and finish it off with a spritz of whipped cream. The whipped cream is definitely the ice cream's fashionable, floppy sun hat.

So, that's it for food fashions in spring. See you next month!

Cathi Turow can be reached at: cturowtakeout@gmail.com



CATHI TUROW

CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 32-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on April 14 for petit larceny on Forest Avenue.
- A 29-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested April 19 for aggravated unlicensed operation and equipment violation on Hendrick Avenue.

- A 37-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on April 20 for driving while intoxicated, aggravated driving while intoxicated, aggravated unlicensed operation, no license and an open Glen Cove warrant on Seaman Road.

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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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
SUPREME COURT OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK
INDEX NO. 616303/2023
COUNTY OF NASSAU

LONGBRIDGE FINANCIAL,
LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.

GIANMARCO
SACCHETTA, AS HEIR
AND DISTRIBUTE OF
THE ESTATE OF
GIOVANNI SACCHETTA
A/K/A GIOVANNI
SACCHETTO; PASQUALINA
SACCHETTA A/K/A LINA
SACCHETTA A/K/A LENA
SACCHETTA, AS HEIR
AND DISTRIBUTE OF
THE ESTATE OF
GIOVANNI SACCHETTA
A/K/A GIOVANNI
SACCHETTO; LUCIANO M.
SACCHETTA, AS HEIR
AND DISTRIBUTE OF
THE ESTATE OF
GIOVANNI SACCHETTA
A/K/A GIOVANNI
SACCHETTO; UNKNOWN
HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES
OF THE ESTATE OF
GIOVANNI SACCHETTA
A/K/A GIOVANNI
SACCHETTO, any and all
persons unknown to
plaintiff, claiming, or who
may claim to have an
interest in, or general or
specific lien upon the real
property described in this
action; such unknown
persons being herein
generally described and
intended to be included in
the following designation,
namely: the wife, widow,
husband, widower, heirs
at law, next of kin,
descendants, executors,
administrators, devisees,
legatees, creditors,
trustees, committees,
lienors, and assignees of
such deceased, any and
all persons deriving
interest in or lien upon, or
title to said real property
by, through or under
them, or either of them,
and their respective
wives, widows, husbands,
widowers, heirs at law,
next of kin, descendants,
executors, administrators,
devisees, legatees,
creditors, trustees,
committees, lienors and
assigns, all of whom and
whose names, except as
stated, are unknown to
plaintiff; SECRETARY OF
HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT; NEW
YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
TAXATION AND
FINANCE; UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA; "JOHN
DOE" (REFUSED NAME)
AS JOHN DOE #1,
"JOHN DOE #2" through
"JOHN DOE #12," the
last eleven names being
fictitious and unknown to
plaintiff, the persons or
parties intended being
the tenants, occupants,
persons or corporations, if
any, having or claiming
an interest in or lien upon
the premises, described in
the complaint,
Defendants.

Plaintiff designates
NASSAU as the place of
trial situs of the real
property
SUPPLEMENTAL
SUMMONS
Mortgaged Premises:
2 TAFT PLACE, GLEN

COVE, NY 11542
Section: 30, Block: 57,
Lot: 9

To the above named
Defendants
YOU ARE HEREBY
SUMMONED to answer
the Complaint in the
above entitled action and
to serve a copy of your
Answer on the plaintiff's
attorney within twenty
(20) days of the service of
this Summons, exclusive
of the day of service, or
within thirty (30) days
after service of the same
is complete where service
is made in any manner
other than by personal
delivery within the State.
The United States of
America, if designated as
a defendant in this action,
may answer or appear
within sixty (60) days of
service. Your failure to
appear or to answer will
result in a judgment
against you by default for
the relief demanded in
the Complaint. In the
event that a deficiency
balance remains from the
sale proceeds, a judgment
may be entered against
you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF
ACTION AND RELIEF
SOUGHT
THE OBJECT of the above
caption action is to
foreclose a Mortgage to
secure the sum of
\$585,000.00 and interest,
recorded on March 14,
2012, in Liber M 36997 at
Page 475, of the Public
Records of NASSAU
County, New York.,
covering premises known
as 2 TAFT PLACE, GLEN
COVE, NY 11542.

The relief sought in the
within action is a final
judgment directing the
sale of the premises
described above to satisfy
the debt secured by the
Mortgage described
above.

NASSAU County is
designated as the place
of trial because the real
property affected by this
action is located in said
county.

NOTICE
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF
LOSING YOUR HOME
If you do not respond to
this summons and
complaint by serving a
copy of the answer on the
attorney for the mortgage
company who filed this
foreclosure
proceeding against you
and filing the answer
with the court, a default
judgment may be entered
and you can lose your
home.

Speak to an attorney or
go to the court where
your case is pending for
further information on
how to answer the
summons and protect
your property.
Sending a payment to the
mortgage company will
not stop the foreclosure
action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY
SERVING A COPY OF THE
ANSWER ON THE
ATTORNEY FOR THE
PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE
COMPANY) AND FILING
THE ANSWER WITH THE
COURT.

Dated: April 1st,
2024
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ,
SCHNEID, CRANE &
PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Jinghan Zhang, Esq.
900 Merchants
Concourse, Suite 310
Westbury, NY 11590
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LEGAL NOTICE
North Shore Central
School District
112 Franklin Ave.
Sea Cliff, New York

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
On behalf of a
cooperative of school
districts in Nassau
County, the Board of
Education of the North
Shore Central School
District, Sea Cliff, New
York, in accordance with
Section 103 of General
Municipal Law, hereby
invites the submission of
sealed bids from
reputable and qualified
contractors for the
provision of labor and
materials for the
following contract:
Cooperative Bid for
General A/C, Ventilation
& Refrigeration Repairs &
Services

Bid receipt day and time:
May 14th, 2024 at
11:00am

This is a Cooperative bid.
Participating school
districts are as follows:
Baldwin UFSD, Bellmore
UFSD, Bellmore-Merrick
CHSD, Bethpage UFSD,
Carle Place UFSD, East
Meadow UFSD, East
Rockaway UFSD, East
Williston UFSD, Floral
Park-Bellerose UFSD,
Freeport UFSD, Garden
City UFSD, Glen Cove
CSD, Great Neck UFSD,
Hempstead UFSD,
Herricks UFSD, Hewlett-
Woodmere UFSD,
Hicksville UFSD, Island
Trees UFSD, Jericho
UFSD, Levittown UFSD,
Locust Valley CSD, Long
Beach CSD, Lynbrook
UFSD, Manhasset UFSD,
Massapequa UFSD,
Merrick UFSD, Mineola
UFSD, New Hyde Park-
GCP, North Bellmore
UFSD, North Merrick
UFSD, North Shore CSD,
Oceanside UFSD,
Plainedge UFSD,
Plainview/Old Bethpage
CSD, Port Washington
UFSD, Rockville Center
UFSD, Roosevelt UFSD,
Seaford UFSD, Syosset
CSD, Uniondale UFSD,
Valley Stream #13, Valley
Stream UFSD #24, Valley
Stream UFSD #30,
Wantagh UFSD, West
Hempstead UFSD,
Westbury.

Bids for the term of July
1, 2024 through June 30,
2025 will be received

until the above-stated
hour of prevailing time
and date at the Business
Office of North Shore
Central School District
located at 112 Franklin
Ave., Sea Cliff, NY 11579.
Promptly at 11:00am
prevailing time on May
14, 2024, bids will be
opened and read aloud.
Bids will be opened and
read in this manner from
the District Offices,
located at 112 Franklin
Avenue, Sea Cliff NY
11579.

Specifications and bid
forms may be obtained
via email on April 25th,
2024, Monday through
Friday, between the hours
of 8:00am and 4:00pm,
excluding holidays.
Requests for bid
documents must be sent
via email to Mathew
Cheravallil
cheravallil@northshores
chools.org. All questions
regarding this cooperative
bid shall be submitted in
writing and faxed to the
attention of John A. Hall
at 516-277-7833.

Bids must be presented
on the standard proposal
form in the manner
designated and as
required by the
specifications. All bids
must be enclosed in
sealed envelopes which
are clearly marked on the
outside: "North Shore
Central School District -
Cooperative Bid for
General A/C, Ventilation
& Refrigeration Repairs &
Service" Bids shall remain
firm for a period of forty-
five (45) days following
the date of the bid
opening.

Each board of education
reserves the right to
waive any informalities in
or to reject any or all bids,
or to accept that bid
which, in the Boards of
Education's judgment, is
in the best interest of the
School District. The
Boards of Education
further reserve the right
to consider experience,
service and reputation in
the above referenced
fields. In addition, the
Boards of Education
reserve the right to
consider the financial
responsibility and specific
qualifications, set forth in
the bid specifications, of
the prospective bidder in
evaluation of the bids and
award of contracts

BOARD OF EDUCATION
North shore Central
School District
By: Elizabeth Ciampi,
District Clerk
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OPINIONS

A memory-filled trip back in time

Many Nassau County residents have their roots in Queens or Brooklyn, having made the decision to migrate from crowded city neighborhoods to leafy, bucolic suburbia. My own experience is probably typical of many. Born in Manhattan, raised in Queens, I attended high school and college in Brooklyn, and moved to Seaford over 50 years ago, where Rosemary raised our family and where we still live.



PETER KING

While all has gone well over the years and I have no regrets about making the move, I do have lasting memories of the friendships I made and the values I learned from those city streets and neighborhoods. There's a group of eight or nine guys from my high school days in Brooklyn that I still get together with regularly at the ValBrook Diner in Valley Stream.

My high school was Brooklyn Prep, near where Ebbets Field used to be and

within walking distance of St. John's Place, where my father grew up, and where my grandparents were still living during those years. I spent a lot of time hanging out with Tom Dewey, who was in my high school class and lived across the street from my grandparents. Dewey and his neighborhood group all shared his trait of never having a good word to say to or about anyone. Tom, who would eventually move to Valley Stream, had a successful career as a teacher and track coach, and was actually elected to Fordham's Hall of Fame, without ever breaking his vow of surliness.

Last week, Tom and I, along with his cousin Allen Ryan and Charlie Norton, decided to spend a day in the old neighborhood. (Ryan, now in Hicksville, had lived in the same apartment house as Dewey; Norton a few blocks away.) Ryan and Norton had distinguished careers with the NYPD, and Ryan was on the crime scene unit the night mob boss Paul Castellano was rubbed out.

Joining us on this visit to the past was Melissa Zimmerman, a retired Nassau detective, who was on my secu-

rity detail when I was in Congress, and for some reason found it interesting to listen to the endless banter and mindless conversations she would hear whenever our group got together.

Among our stops was Tom's a famed luncheonette on Washington Avenue that has been around for almost 90 years and, as Zimmerman pointed out, still typifies neighborhood cuisine and personality. Then there was a walk up and down both sides of St. John's Place, as we looked at the classically structured apartment houses still standing strong more than 100 years after their construction. This neighborhood

and block went through several decades of rough times, but beginning in the 1990s had come back stronger than ever. (Listening to Dewey and Ryan reminisce, so too were their memories of St. John's Place coming back.)

Then we went over to the local public school where we had played stickball, and then drove to Carroll Street to see what was once Brooklyn Prep and is now Medgar Evers College. Dewey and I pointed to the third floor window from which we could see Ebbets Field

before that historic structure was torn down after our beloved Dodgers abandoned Brooklyn for the vacuous environs of Los Angeles.

We finished our memory tour at Farrell's Bar in nearby Park Slope/Windsor Terrace, where we had a few beers (but not Zimmerman, who was driving) and enjoyed the company of the midafternoon customers. Farrell's is a famed neighborhood gathering place being featured in a soon-to-be-released film documentary. It hasn't changed even the slightest over the years.

This trip back to Brooklyn, and being with Tom, Allen and Charlie, was more than just nostalgic. It was a reminder of the days of neighborhood beliefs, of learning that life isn't fair, that the world doesn't owe anyone a living and that not everyone will get a trophy. What matters is not hugging one another or looking for praise or compliments, but being loyal and standing by friends no matter what — and being a proud patriot, loving America, respecting the police and military.

It was a great day. Thanks for the memories.

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

It's easy to tell this Kennedy from the others

We are six months away from Election Day. Despite the media efforts to stir up public interest in a former president and the current president, the public isn't ready to get serious. November is a long time from now, and there will be many distractions ahead before the polls become accurate and

the voters give the candidates real consideration.

There are three announced third-party candidates, but only Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is a serious contender, who at best is running as a spoiler.



JERRY KREMER

I have been a student of Kennedy family history for many years. I had the good fortune to campaign for re-election to the State Assembly in 1968 with Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. He was a brilliant public servant with an illustrious record. He sat side by side with his older brother, President John F. Kennedy, during the Cuban missile crisis, and he helped the late president navigate historic legislation through Congress.

Robert Kennedy Jr. has never served

a day of his life in a serious government position and brings no relevant experience to his campaign. He claims that he has been exposed to the family's various challenges, but that doesn't constitute real on-the-job training. I am close to my son-in-law, who is a urological surgeon, but I don't think that qualifies me to operate on any of our readers.

Kennedy is well known for his attacks on the use of vaccines on children. He is entitled to his First Amendment rights, but long before his rhetoric about the dangers of the Covid jab, he was asserting that drugs such as ivermectin, which is used to treat parasites, and the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine were good treatment for children with the coronavirus. These two drugs were also being pushed by the Trump administration, with no proof of their effectiveness.

Kennedy has frequently used the word "holocaust" in remarks about vaccines, which has attracted severe criticism. He has even invoked Anne Frank as an example of a vaccine victim, which has drawn sharp criticism even from his wife, actress Cheryl Hines. Kennedy was forced to apologize for his

reference to this tragic character in history, but it hasn't stopped him from making wild claims on a variety of subjects.

In a recent CNN interview, Kennedy claimed he had the support of "some of my siblings," but he didn't name any of them. Last October, Kennedy's sisters Rory and Kerry Kennedy Townsend and his brother Joseph P. Kennedy II criticized his candidacy, stating that his decision to run as a third party candidate was "dangerous to our country." They added, "Bobby might share the same name as our father, but he does not have the same values, vision or judgment. We denounce his candidacy as perilous to our country."

The friction between the Kennedy family and Robert is nothing new. In 2021, Sirhan Sirhan, who was convicted of killing Kennedy's father in 1968, was up for parole in California. Kennedy published an op-ed in the San Francisco Chronicle claiming that Sirhan was innocent of his father's murder and should be set free from jail. Kennedy's mother, Ethel, attacked his statement, saying, "Our family and our country suffered an unspeakable loss due to the inhumanity of one man. We believe in

RFK Jr. has frequently used the word 'holocaust' in remarks about vaccines.

the gentleness that spared his life, but in taming his act of violence, he should not have the opportunity to terrorize again."

The real question behind Kennedy's candidacy is how independent he really is. He told CNN that President Biden is "the greatest threat to democracy," words often used by Democrats to describe former President Donald Trump's candidacy. A key Kennedy staffer stated two weeks ago that "Bobby is running to stop President Biden." Kennedy's biggest contributor is Timothy Mellon, who happens to be Trump's biggest donor.

It's hard not to be cynical about Kennedy's candidacy, especially because all he brings to the table is his father's name. Before he chose attorney Nicole Shanahan as his running mate, he was considering New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Time will tell whether Kennedy was put up by Trump donors as a way to help him defeat Biden. We won't know the true answers to the Kennedy campaign mystery until all the votes are counted.

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

Your voice counts in school budget decisions

Tuesday, May 21 is an important day — not just for our local school districts, which are busy putting together their budgets for the upcoming academic year, but for the future of our communities as well.

That's the day when we head to voting booths and cast ballots not only to express our opinions on how our districts are spending money, but also on the school board trustees who will manage it.

It's a valuable opportunity to have your voice heard, because our local schools are just that — local and ours. Unlike any other government spending plans, school budgets aren't final until the people tasked to fund them decide they're final with their votes.

Some may think voting isn't necessary anymore because the property tax cap limits increases, and no local district wants to exceed its cap. But our voices are always necessary, because the budget isn't just about how much money is raised for our schools, but how that money is spent. What programs will remain, what will go, and what new ones might begin — all of those decisions are in the hands of every one of us.

The May 21 vote isn't just about spending, either. There are contested

school board races in many districts. The people who win will make decisions that affect the entire community. The people who are elected will be the ones who keep the "local" in local decision-making.

But there's one vital caveat: understanding what you're voting on when you cast your ballot.

If you're concerned about how much money your district plans to spend, find out what's in the budget before you vote. You can typically find that information on the district's website, or through the reporting here in the Herald.

However you vote, understand that your decision has an impact. We, as a collective society, should have a say in which direction our society takes, and that largely begins in schools.

In Rockville Centre, for example, annual school taxes are expected to jump \$260 — a little over \$20 per month. But those funds will be used to improve the district's facilities, enhance cybersecurity, and create new classes in coding and robotics. The spending plan also avoids layoffs, introduces new sports teams, and appoints a new security director.

In Glen Cove, the district's budget is focused on safety, intended to help parents send their children to school with-

out worry. At the middle school, the public address system will be repaired for \$1 million, as will the fire systems and clocks. And the spending plan will allow the district to hire more teachers, so students at the middle school can take more arts and language programs.

If a majority of voters reject a budget, the district must either hold a second vote — offering the same spending plan or a revised one — or adopt what is called a "contingency budget." It's also described as an "austerity budget," and the tax levy issued with this spending plan can't be larger than the previous year's levy. The portion of the budget that is devoted to administrative costs cannot increase from the lower of either the previous year's budget or the just-defeated budget. On top of that, any non-contingent expenditures must be removed from a contingency budget.

Whether you vote "yes" or "no" on school spending plans, it's important to understand the implications. As the voting day nears, make sure you know where to go to cast your ballot. Contact your school district or visit its website.

School district elections and the budget referenda are extraordinarily important. It's your money. Take your responsibility seriously, and be an informed voter.

LETTERS

Happy 190th anniversary, Long Island Rail Road

To the Editor:

Let's all wish the Long Island Rail Road a happy 190th anniversary. On April 24, 1834, the railroad was officially chartered by the state of New York. In 1900, the Pennsylvania Railroad bought a controlling interest, as part of its plan for direct access to Manhattan, which began on Sept. 8, 1910. The Pennsylvania Railroad subsidized the LIRR into the late 1940s. This provided the finances for expansion and upgrades to service and infrastructure.

At the end of World War II, the LIRR began to decline, and there was a corresponding loss of revenue. The Pennsylvania Railroad began to reduce its financial support as well. The LIRR went into receivership in 1949, but in recognition of the role it played in the economy of Long Island and New York City, the state began providing financial assistance in the 1950s.

The "Line of the Dashing Dan" was officially chartered as the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Authority on April 24, 1965, by the state. Up to that point, the LIRR had derived almost 100 percent of its funding for both capital and operating expenses from fares. The MCTA was created to purchase and operate the bankrupt LIRR.

In 1966, the state bought the railroad's controlling stock from the Pennsylvania Rail Road and put it



under the MCTA. The MCTA changed its name to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in 1968, when it took over operations of the New York City Transit Authority.

With MTA subsidies, the LIRR modernized further and grew into the busiest commuter railroad in the United States.

Over the past 50 years, several billion dollars in combined county, city, state and federal taxpayer-generated dollars have subsidized its capital and operating costs.

Riders must remember that fare hikes are required periodically if the MTA is to provide the services millions of New

OPINIONS

The budgetary culture war continues in Albany

The new budget proposal in Albany is two parts. Part One is Democrats “addressing” crises that they themselves created. Part Two is a culture war: a direct attack on New York’s suburban areas.

Finding a single appropriate metaphor for New York’s Democratic machine is challenging, but Orwell’s “1984” works: the endless party double-speak; a constantly shifting set of morals and rules that, as the linguist and writer John McWhorter has pointed out, only a full-time academic could be expected to keep up with; a tribalism and unapologetic cult of personality wherein ideology

is replaced by jingoism and the skin color, ethnicity, gender or political affiliation of an individual committing an action determines its righteousness, rather than the action itself.

Describing the budget in these terms seems insufficient, though it is reminiscent of a scene in “1984” in which the Party triumphantly announces an increase in the chocolate ration, and the faithful celebrate because they don’t remember that the chocolate ration was

recently slashed, and they are still in the red.

Take the “public safety” initiatives that Gov. Kathy Hochul touted in her announcement of the proposed budget, which include fighting retail theft and making public safety a top priority. To review: the party that abolished bail, made public announcements about no longer prosecuting retail theft, and otherwise gutted our public institutions in the name of defunding the police will now rescue us from a mess of their own design, like arsonists selling fire extinguishers.

Next in line is the budget’s promise to fight “illegal cannabis businesses.” Again, the Democrats demonized and then decriminalized (and then legalized) marijuana in the state, and have since failed to create a rollout plan despite having had years to do so. This embarrassing failure has created a void into which numerous parties have stepped, and now the Democratic perpetrators will swoop in and save us all (and if you believe this, I have a chocolate ration to sell you).

Perhaps most galling is a public safety initiative that the governor’s own website focuses on: “Making our streets safer with new efforts to fight toll eva-

sion on our roads and fare evasion on our subways.” As to the second goal, we again see the Democrats in the arsonist role, as they alone pushed to deprioritize the enforcement of subway fare evasion. The focus on toll evasion, how-

ever, is a departure from the arsonist role and a foray into that of jingoistic culture warrior. Road tolls do not affect public safety, but rather how much (more) of the hard-earned money of people living in Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and other parts of the state is sucked into New York City’s and Albany’s coffers, overflowing as they are from our crushing taxes.

What this initiative is really about is the crime of living in the suburbs — an unforgivable sin in the eyes of most Democrats. Our safe streets, good schools, and hard-earned and well-maintained homes are the deepest offense to them, and they are proceeding accordingly. They cruelly cut our already minimal public transportation options and service, and at the same time make it more expensive for us to drive to work to serve their needs, to drive our trucks into the forbidden city to fill their stores. And with this announcement, the actions of commuters are now a top public-safety concern,

meaning there is some inherent criminal capacity to any Long Islander, because we have no choice but to drive places that force us to pay tolls.

This one-two punch continues in the budget’s housing proposals. Part One is replacing the 421-a Affordable Housing Development Program and trying to encourage landlords to re-let vacant apartments (both problems famously of Democrats’ own making). Part Two is “encouraging” multi-family development. In other words, as last year’s failed multifamily-density housing bill and the new faith-based housing initiative demonstrate, how can the state eliminate the suburban way of life by destroying single-family neighborhoods and creating the overly dense, concrete wastelands that Democrats love to call home? The answer is by disenfranchising Long Islanders by invalidating local laws, getting rid of the policies that made Long Island a great place to live and turning it into a place that looks just like their own city: a place where all cultures and ways of life are respected, except those of their neighbors and fellow New Yorkers.

Surely, 10 years from now, Democrats will draft a bill to protect the few remaining safe enclaves of Long Island from crime, overcrowding and overdevelopment.

Jake Blumencranz represents the 15th Assembly District.



**JAKE
BLUMENCRAZ**

Living in the suburbs is an unforgivable sin in the eyes of most Democrats.

LETTERS

Yorkers use daily. They are inevitable due to inflation, along with increasing costs of labor, power, fuel, supplies, materials, routine safety, state of good repair, replacement of worn-out rolling stock, upgrades to stations, yards and shops, along with system expansion projects necessary to run any transit system.

In the end, quality and frequency of service depend on secure revenue streams. We all have to contribute — be it at the fare box or tax revenue redistributed back to the MTA. There ain’t no such thing as a free lunch — or in this case, a free ride.

LARRY PENNER
Great Neck

Larry Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer and a former director of the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office of Operations and Program Management.

Pay attention at the wheel, and keep highway workers safe

To the Editor:

Last week was National Work Zone

Awareness Week. Each year at the start of the highway construction season, the state Department of Transportation participates in this national campaign to remind motorists about the importance of driving safely and responsibly in and around work zones.

At NYSDOT, safety is our top priority. We take every step possible to protect our highway workers by deploying the latest technology in crash attenuators, flashing yellow lights, signs, cones, barrels, reflective gear, etc.

The biggest risk to our highway workers is the motorist. By paying attention to your driving, you are saving a life! Please do your part to help our highway workers return home safely to their families each night. Put down your cellphone, move over for flashing lights, and slow down. There is someone’s life behind those work zone traffic control devices.

And for those who choose to ignore the rules of the road, be forewarned: NYSDOT is working with the police on targeted enforcement and deploying automated speed-enforcement cameras in our work zones.

RICH CAUSIN
*Long Island regional director, NYSDOT
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