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Courtesy AJ Kühr

Charli Parento, 11, left, and Chase Leonard, 7, made paper cutouts that they turned into collage postcards.

## Artists of all ages make sure G.C. seniors aren't forgotten

By **ROKSANA AMID**

[ramid@iherald.com](mailto:ramid@iherald.com)

Glen Cove's senior residents recently received a heartfelt reminder of the community's care and creativity by way of the HeART by Mail Project, an initiative that brought together more than 100 artists, ages 5 to 85, who contributed over 150 custom-made postcards to brighten the seniors' lives.

Spearheaded by Age-Friendly Glen Cove — an initiative aimed at making the city a supportive and inclusive community for residents of all ages, and particularly seniors

— in collaboration with local artist and educator Lisa Craig, the project transcended generations, creating meaningful connections and colorful expressions of support.

From Dec. 5 to 20, there were six communal art-making sessions across the city, at the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club at Lincoln House, the Senior Center, the Adult Day Program, the After 3 Program at Finley Middle School, the Public Library and the Youth Bureau. Some of the postcards were hand-drawn and others were collages, using materials ranging from magazine cutouts and wrapping paper to recycled sushi paper and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## City Council extends permit for Villa project

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The Glen Cove City Council has granted a one-year extension for a building permit for a controversial apartment project at 135 Glen Cove Ave., despite widespread frustration over delays that have left a large hole in the ground at the site for years.

The 4-2 vote at the council's Dec. 10 meeting extended the permit until Dec. 4, 2025, but also imposed stringent conditions intended to push the developer, Glen Cove Villa LLC, to make significant progress. Councilwoman Marsha Silverman abstained from the vote.

The project, originally approved in 2021, has seen little visible advancement, which prompted heated debate at the meeting. Councilman John Zozzaro expressed strong opposition to extending the permit.

"I feel like they wasted a year, and nothing has gotten done," Zozzaro said. "For some

reason, I just feel that going ahead, I don't think it's in the best interest of Glen Cove to approve them for another year." He added, "If this does get approved, I hope there are milestones or dates added going forward so that we're on top of them and they're doing their job."

**T**o vote 'no' means there will be a hole for a very long time.

**KEVIN MACCARONE**  
City councilman

The site, which has been the subject of scrutiny by residents as well as council members, remains a sore point in the community. Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola described the situation as "unbearable."

"I don't think anybody in our community wants

to look at that hole in the ground," Fugazy Scagliola said. She questioned the validity of the "extenuating circumstances" cited by Glen Cove Villa, adding, "Nobody ever showed us these extenuating circumstances, so I'm curious to know what those are."

The extension is conditioned on the developer's meeting sev-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# New era at county's medical center

By JORDAN VALLONE

jvallone@liherald.com

Nassau University Medical Center will begin 2025 with women holding its three top leadership positions.

The East Meadow-based hospital's board of directors appointed Megan Ryan as president and chief executive, Dr. Grace Ting as chief medical officer and Shannon Costello as chief nursing officer during its Dec. 5 meeting. All three executives previously served in these roles on an interim basis and have extensive experience at NUMC.

The leaders discussed their long-standing connections to the hospital, their career journeys at NUMC, and their visions for the institution as they formally step into their administrative roles.

## Their backgrounds

Ryan, an accomplished attorney in the private sector, who is admitted to the New York State Bar Association and the U.S. Supreme Court Association, began her career in health care as the chief compliance officer for the Nassau Queens Performing Provider System, before becoming general counsel at NUMC seven years ago.

Prior to working at NUMC, Ryan served as an in-house corporate counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. She was named interim president and chief executive in January of 2024, a posi-



MEGAN RYAN

tion she helped the hospital flourish in, until her appointment in December. Ryan will continue serving as general counsel.

Ting began her career at NUMC as an attending physician in the hospital's emergency department, later becoming one of the associate directors for operations in the emergency department. Having served on various committees, Ting was named NUMC's interim chief medical officer in 2022.

Costello, both an executive vice president and the chief nursing officer, started her professional career as a critical care nurse at NUMC in 2006. Through that position, she discovered a passion for teaching and education, she said, which led to her role as a critical care nurse educator in 2018, in which she oversaw multiple units at the hospital including the intensive care unit, special procedures unit and burn unit, among many others. Costello was named NUMC's deputy nurs-



DR. GRACE TING

ing officer in January of last year and promoted to the interim chief nursing officer in May.

## What working at NUMC meant to them

Before she was a registered nurse, Costello said she completed her clinical rotation at NUMC while still in nursing school.

"This is where I learned to love nursing," she said, "and this is where I learned about the mission of the hospital and the values here. I got to experience the work firsthand and all the wonderful people that work here. And that's what led me, after graduation, to seek an opportunity here."

NUMC is Nassau County's only public hospital, which serves as a safety net for medical care, providing services for the uninsured and vulnerable patients. The hospital provides care for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

"I was lucky enough to be one of the first student groups, first out of school, that they allowed to work in critical care," Costello said. "And I had a wonderful experience in terms of being educated and being taught in that very specialized area of nursing."

NUMC is a teaching hospital, Costello said, but it also provides services that you won't see in other facilities. From a water birthing suite in the hospital's maternity ward, to being a regional leader in hyperbaric medicine, Costello said NUMC is a vital institution.

"What drew me here was the mission of the hospital," Ting said, "in serving our patients, the people that can't afford to pay, as a doctor in the emergency department. That is a really integral part of what we do."

There's a camaraderie among NUMC's

staff, Ting added.

"We work really hard and we develop relationships," she said. "You go home, and the next day you come in and you're happy, and I was happy to come in."

The appointments come at a crucial time for NUMC, which has faced years of financial instability and management challenges. Under Ryan's interim leadership over the past year, the hospital has made significant strides in strengthening its financial position and quality of care. Over the last five years, the hospital has not received hundreds of millions of dollars in state funding that it needs to survive.

"Our reputation hasn't been very good and it's unfair," Ting said. "We're trying to change the culture — change our reputation. I think we're doing that. Our scores are better, our quality is better. We have real leadership, and yet we're having so much trouble receiving funding from the state."

Ryan said she took a "leap of faith" entering health care, but said her role really began to change at NUMC after the coronavirus pandemic. "I wasn't the lawyer that was writing contracts or reviewing things or telling people no," she said. "I was you know, doing the fundraising, and then I was going to all the different floors to see what they needed. I will be the first to say I'm not clinical — I leave the clinical stuff to the clinicians — but it was nice to work together."

Her leadership role at NUMC has cemented the belief that the hospital's role in Nassau County is vital.

"I get frustrated when people are like 'it's a poor person's hospital,'" she said. "As a Catholic, I love our mission. We treat everyone, regardless of their ability to pay — it is a saintly thing to do. It is a moral thing to do."

The hospital's administration, she said, is poised to help NUMC succeed.

"These are all people that have their hearts in this place," Ryan said, "and they're experts in their field."

## NUMC's future

Ryan said her goals have always been clear. She wants to work with New York state as a partner in healthcare. Ryan said she feels committed to the hospital's 3,600 employees and the broader Long Island.

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# 'Darkness can't compete with light'

By BRIAN NORMAN

bnorman@liherald.com

Residents of Glen Cove and Sea Cliff came together at Glen Cove Village Square on Dec. 29 to celebrate Hanukkah with the annual Menorah lighting event.

The event, hosted by the Chabad of Sea Cliff and Glen Cove featured a variety of activities for families to come enjoy. This year marked the 25th year that the Chabad has lit the menorah in Village Square with Rabbi Sholom Heber saying that this year was one of the most important lightings yet.

"The Jewish people have really had a tough last year, and every night we light a new candle to represent the idea that we don't back down to darkness," Heber said. "We try to send our message that darkness can't compete with light and positivity and that's what we try to bring with this event."

Heber first spoke about the significance of the shamash, the tallest candle of the menorah, saying that if you, like the shamash, bring light to others around you, then you will elevate yourself. Pamela Panzenbeck, the mayor of Glen Cove, then talked about the town's support for both the Chabad of Glen Cove and Sea Cliff and Israel wishing for a peaceful new year.

"It is a privilege to be here with you all today and we want to let you all know that Glen Cove stands with Israel," Panzenbeck said. "We are with you and we are praying for a peaceful new year."

Panzenbeck was then invited the shamash to start the annual menorah lighting. Simon Nourmand, a resident of the community and member of the Chabad, lead the community with the Hannukah prayer and helped to light the rest of the menorah. After the menorah lighting, children were invited to help light a ice sculpture menorah and practice the Hannukah prayer as well.

The event featured different arts and crafts stations for kids, food and drinks were offered to residents, and a bounce



Brian Norman/Herald photos

Children were invited to create their own dreidels during the Hannukah Menorah lighting celebration.

house was available for children to enjoy. Heber says it was important that children attend this event so that they could learn and continue to emphasize the messages of the menorah lighting as they grow older.

"These children are the next generation and we want to make sure that they can come learn from this tradition and keep it going as they become future leaders," Heber said. "We want to make sure that they lead with this message that light will prevail and we hope that we can continue to pass that through to our kids."



Simon Nourmand led the community with the Hannukah prayer while lighting the candles.



Residents gathered at Glen Cove Village Square for the 25th annual menorah lighting.



Rabbi Sholom Heber lead the Hannukah Menorah lighting celebration off with a prayer.

# Police booth displays winter wonderland

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Downtown Glen Cove is glowing with holiday spirit thanks to the creative talents of Glen Cove High School art students. The students, members of the National Art Honor Society, worked on a unique installation of winter-themed artwork for the windows of the police booth on Bridge Street, a prominent downtown location. Their collaborative effort with the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) marks a beloved annual tradition, with this year's display taking on a fresh, innovative approach.

Art teacher Maria Verni, who led the students in this project, shared her pride in their dedication and creativity. "The students were so excited to be involved in their community and to have their artwork on display for all to see during the happiest time of the year," Verni said. "I am really proud of each one of them and the beautiful artwork they created for the police booth!"

This year, the students adopted a new method for their designs. Rather than painting directly onto the windows, as they had in the past, the young artists created their pieces on paper in the classroom, which were later installed in the booth's windows. This change allowed for greater artistic freedom and enabled the students to incorporate more intricate and complex designs into their work. According to the students, this format provided an opportunity to explore ideas and techniques that wouldn't have been possible in a live-painting setting.

The National Art Honor Society students who contributed to the project include Phoebe Pinder, Aurora Seery, Nahla Gomez, Katherine Bernal, Anthony Edwards, Mariela Hernandez Estevez, Nyann Petit, Giorgina Dondero, Shannen Garzon, Mariah Cueva,



Courtesy Glen Cove BID

Downtown Glen Cove is glowing with holiday spirit from the creative talents of Glen Cove High School art students.

Diana Rodriguez, Sara Rodriguez, Laura Rodriguez, Cassia Blackburn, Trinitee Chambers, and Cassandra Miller. Ranging from grades 9 to 12, these students brought diverse artistic perspectives to the collaborative effort, showcasing their collective talent in the vibrant seasonal display.

"It's so nice to be able to have the students' artwork displayed so prominently downtown," said Jill Nossa, Executive Director of the Glen Cove Downtown BID. "The windows look better than ever, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the art students."

For the students, this project was more than an opportunity to showcase their talents; it was also a way to contribute to their community and enhance the holiday atmosphere. The installation has drawn praise from residents and visitors alike, who appreciate the creativity and effort behind the charming winter

scenes.

Over the years, the partnership between the Glen Cove Downtown BID and the high school's art department has become a cherished tradition, fostering a connection between students and the community. The project highlights the BID's commitment to supporting local youth and promoting downtown Glen Cove as a vibrant and welcoming area.

With their artwork lighting up the windows throughout the holiday season, the students have created a legacy of creativity and community spirit. This year's innovative approach ensures the tradition continues to evolve, inspiring future collaborations and showcasing the talents of Glen Cove's young artists.

For now, the colorful winter scenes in the police booth serve as a reminder of the power of art to bring people together and spread joy during the holidays.

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## The New Corporate Transparency Act

The Corporate Transparency Act came into being this year as part of the Anti-Money Laundering Act. This act is designed to combat terrorism, tax fraud and money-laundering. Under the act, corporations and LLC's are required to report who their "beneficial owners" are in a Beneficial Ownership Information Report (BOI report) to the Financial Crimes Enforcement network (FinCEN) on an annual basis. The BOI report is due by January 13, 2025 for entities formed before 2024 and within 90 days of formation or registration for entities formed in 2024. For entities formed after 2025, the BOI report is required to be filed within 30 days.

The BOI report must contain the following information:

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2. Address
3. Where it was formed or registered
4. Its tax id number (EIN)

The BOI report must include the following information for each "beneficial owner" — defined as any individual who has "substantial control" over the entity or owns or controls at least 25%. "Substantial control" means serving as a senior officer, having authority to remove a senior officer or a majority of the board of directors, or in charge of or having substantial interest over major corporate decisions. The trustee of a trust may be a "beneficial owner" if the trust owns an interest in the entity.

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# Gearing up for another Mulchfest

By JORDAN VALLONE

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The holiday season may be winding down, but in the Town of Hempstead, there's still time to celebrate sustainably at the town's 5th Annual Mulchfest.

Residents are invited to bring their Christmas trees to Veterans Memorial Park at 1700 Prospect Ave., East Meadow on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., where the trees will be shredded into mulch for personal use or donated as snacks for the Nigerian Dwarf goats at Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve.

"Mulchfest is back for the fifth year in a row, and the goats at Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve are bleating in excitement," Town Supervisor Don Clavin said. "This holiday tradition sees scores of residents turning their Christmas trees into mulch, with each year getting better and better."

A "Mulchfest" is an event where people can bring their natural Christmas trees to be recycled into mulch, a nutrient-rich material often used in gardening and landscaping. During a Mulchfest, trees are shredded into mulch using wood chippers, and participants are usually offered free mulch to take home for personal use.

The event promotes eco-friendly practices by preventing discarded trees from going to landfills and repurposing them in ways that benefit the environment, such as improving soil health, retaining moisture, and reducing weeds. Some Mulchfests also

use excess mulch for community landscaping projects or even as snacks for animals, like the Town of Hempstead's goats, that enjoy eating pine. It's a sustainable way to "give back" during the holiday season while responsibly disposing of Christmas trees.

The eco-friendly event gives families the opportunity to extend the season of giving by repurposing their trees into nutrient-rich mulch for gardening, moisture retention, and weed prevention. Residents can take home a free bag of mulch or choose to have the mulch donated to the town's goats. Additionally, broken-down cardboard will be accepted and recycled during the event.

For those unable to attend Mulchfest, Christmas trees can be dropped off at the homeowner disposal area next to Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve at 1600 Merrick Road, between Monday, Jan. 13, and Saturday, Jan. 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The Town of Hempstead proudly stands for greener and environmentally friendly programs," Clavin said. "Come on down to Veterans Park to repurpose your Christmas tree and receive a free bag of mulch in return. Don't forget to stop by Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve and share some with the lovable goats."

The surplus mulch will also be used for landscaping and planting projects throughout Hempstead Town's parks, ensuring that residents' contributions support the community year-round.



Jordan Vallone/Herald file

The Town of Hempstead will hold its annual Mulchfest on Jan. 11 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park in East Meadow. Residents can turn their Christmas trees into mulch, which they can either take home or donate to the Nigerian Dwarf goats that inhabit the Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve in Merrick. Above, a goat at the park munches on a tree at a past event.

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## NEWS BRIEFS



Roksana Amid/Herald

Nick and Luca Piotrowsky decided to carry their tree to the site.

### GC beautification hosts chip-a-tree

The City of Glen Cove Beautification Commission, in partnership with Old Country Tree Service, is hosting a “Chip a Tree” event on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Morgan Park Parking Lot. This community event encourages residents to recycle their Christmas trees by chipping them into mulch, promoting eco-friendly practices and

environmental sustainability. Participants can drop off their trees in the designated area before the event date. The initiative aims to reduce wood waste, improve soil quality, prevent erosion, and suppress weeds, contributing to a greener and more sustainable Glen Cove.

—Roksana Amid

### \$43,000 grant support NOSH Delivers

Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton awarded a \$43,000 grant to NOSH Delivers, a Glen Cove-based nonprofit fighting food insecurity. The funding, approved unanimously by the Legislature on November 20, 2024, comes from the American Rescue Plan Act to support local outreach programs.

Founded in March 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, NOSH Delivers has been a critical resource for families facing food insecurity. The organization distributes weekly NOSH Bags filled with nutritious groceries to more than 600 families spanning Glen Cove, Bayville, and surrounding areas.

NOSH recently reopened its permanent food pantry at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 on Hill Street after a devastating fire in 2021 destroyed its original headquarters. Despite the challenges, the nonprofit operated from temporary locations to

ensure uninterrupted service to those in need.

DeRiggi-Whitton commended NOSH for its unwavering commitment to helping the community, highlighting the importance of collaboration between government and local organizations.

“This grant will help NOSH continue its essential mission of providing food and hope to families in need,” she said.

The funding will be used to support NOSH’s operations and expand its hunger-relief programs. The organization’s resilience and dedication have made it a cornerstone of the community’s efforts to combat food insecurity, especially in the wake of the pandemic. NOSH’s work demonstrates the power of community-driven solutions in addressing critical challenges.

—Roksana Amid

## Let us Know

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication.

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# Fostering inter-generational connections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bingo markers. The result was a vibrant collection of cards.

“Each postcard is a work of art,” Craig, a former Adult Day Program director and commercial artist who facilitated the sessions, said. “We wanted to create pieces that would brighten someone’s day, and remind them they’re an important part of the community.”

The original postcards were distributed to seniors who live alone, residents of assisted-living facilities, the Regency at Glen Cove, and recipients of the NOSH Delivers! food pantry meal-delivery program.

Consumeraffairs.com reports that 28 percent of seniors live alone — a total of more than 14.7 million Americans — and that loneliness and social isolation increase the risk of dementia by 50 percent, and the rate of mental health disorders by 26 percent. Other increased risks include heart disease, stroke and premature death.

“We’re really addressing social isolation and loneliness among seniors,” Carol Waldman, a consultant for Age-Friendly Glen Cove, said. “This time of year is especially tough. Days are shorter, weather is colder and people feel more isolated. While this wasn’t specifically holiday-themed, the timing was perfect to bring light and connection to those who need it most.”

Photographs of the postcards are on



Courtesy AJ Kuhr

Ellie Leonard, 5, left, held by her sister, Kylie, with a photo of a postcard Ellie made that is on display at the Glen Cove Public Library.

display through January in the Glen Cove Public Library’s community room. The exhibition offers the community a unique look at the creativity and compassion behind the project while honoring the amateur artists who contributed their time and talent.

The initiative was funded by a \$1,000 Huntington Arts Council Inc. Community Impact Microgrant, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts and Gov. Kathy Hochul’s office.

Despite the project’s short timeline, the enthusiastic collaboration of partic-

ipants, venues and organizers brought their collective vision to life.

Charli Parento, 11, who contributed collages featuring flowers and bears, spent two hours crafting artwork — “To help people,” she said simply.

Chase Leonard, 7, drew an airplane and an American flag. “I wanted to make people happy,” he said when asked about his choices of imagery. “The reason I made the postcards is because I wanted to show my creativity and brighten someone’s day.”

“We made a point to remember friends and peers we don’t see as much anymore at the Senior Center,” A.J. Kuhr, director of the Nassau County Age-Friendly Center of Excellence at Glen Cove, said.

Craig emphasized the non-seasonal nature of the postcards. “We intended these pieces to be year-round works of art, not holiday-specific,” she explained. “While some people created holiday-themed cards, most were meant to be enjoyed any time of year.”

The HeART by Mail Project also highlighted the profound health impacts of social isolation among seniors, and the importance of initiatives like this one in fostering community connections.

“This project shows how art can bridge generational gaps and make a real difference in people’s lives,” Waldman said. “It’s about reminding people that they matter and are loved.”



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# City Council votes to extend Villa permit

January 2, 2025 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

eral critical milestones on a strict timeline. Ann Fangmann, director of the city's Community Development Agency, explained that within 30 days, the company must remove all mechanics' liens and resolve any litigation. Additionally, it is required to close on loans for outstanding property mortgages. Over the following 60 days, Glen Cove Villa must provide a construction loan term sheet, finalize a construction management agreement and submit a revised project budget.

"The lender has very stringent requirements on what also needs to happen within the first 60 days," Fangmann noted.

Despite the conditions, Fugazy Scagliola remained skeptical, arguing that the developer has not shown sufficient progress to justify another extension. "They haven't done enough to make me feel that they're operating in good faith to do the right thing here," she said. "I know in the last month there's been some activity, but you don't wait 11 months and then ask for an extension."

The project's permit fees also sparked debate among council members. Glen Cove Villa will pay an adjusted building permit fee of just under \$401,000, but Fugazy Scagliola argued that it should be higher, saying, "We talked about a number that was double the number that they're willing to give us right now.



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

The City Council weighed the pros and cons of extending the building permit for the controversial apartment project at 135 Glen Cove Ave.

Why are we willing to take half of what we think is reasonable at this point?"

Councilman Kevin Maccarone, who supported the extension, countered that the increased fees and oversight measures should provide sufficient motivation for the developers to move forward. "Nobody wants a hole," Maccarone said. "To vote 'no' means there will be a hole for a very long time." He added, "Based upon the fact that there is oversight in

place, they do have substantial incentives to get moving very quickly. I vote 'yes' with respect to that."

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, who advocated for the extension, emphasized the need to resolve the issue, which has become a frequent topic of complaints from residents. "We cannot leave that hole there," she said. "Everywhere I go, people talk about that hole. When is that going to be addressed?"

Panzenbeck expressed confidence in a new team that is overseeing the project, saying, "We're much more confident that they have the right people in place at this time to get this project going."

The Glen Cove Industrial Development Agency also approved a 60-day payment modification — contingent on the developer's meeting specific milestones. If they fail to comply, the project may face termination of financial assistance. But Fugazy Scagliola remained unconvinced, pointing out that the IDA's resolution states only that the project "may" be considered in default. "Doesn't mean they're in default," she said. "If they don't do all those things, they could still get their assistance, right?"

City attorney Tip Henderson, who attended the IDA meeting, urged his colleagues to keep an open mind. "I was at the IDA meeting (earlier) tonight, and I got a little different perspective of what's going on," Henderson said. "I'm starting to feel a little better that there are people involved who know what they're doing and can make this happen."

The council's vote to extend the permit remains controversial. "Their feet haven't been held to the fire," Fugazy Scagliola said of Glen Cove Villa. "They had a year extension already, and I just feel like we're giving them another pass."

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Danica Roerden/Herald photos

Alan Mindel, left, met with guests and art enthusiasts after the evening's discussion.

## Opening night of Aliyah: The Rebirth of Israel exhibit

The opening night of the Aliyah: The Rebirth of Israel exhibit at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, held on December 12, 2023, offered a captivating introduction to Salvador Dalí's powerful series of 25 lithographs. The event featured a special presentation on the creation and themes of the collection, which explores the intersection of Jewish history, faith, and resilience. Dalí's work, commissioned in 1966 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Israel's founding, blends surrealism with spiritual and historical symbolism, portraying the Jewish

people's journey from the horrors of the Holocaust to the rebirth of Israel. Visitors were introduced to the profound significance of each piece, which includes biblical verses chosen by Dalí and symbols such as the menorah, reflecting themes of survival, renewal, and cultural identity. The exhibit's opening marked the beginning of an immersive experience that aims to educate and inspire the community by showcasing Dalí's rare, thought-provoking work. The exhibit ends in May.

—Roksana Amid



Mitchell Proffman and Ellen Coyne were fascinated by the exhibit and paid close attention to details within Dalí's paintings.



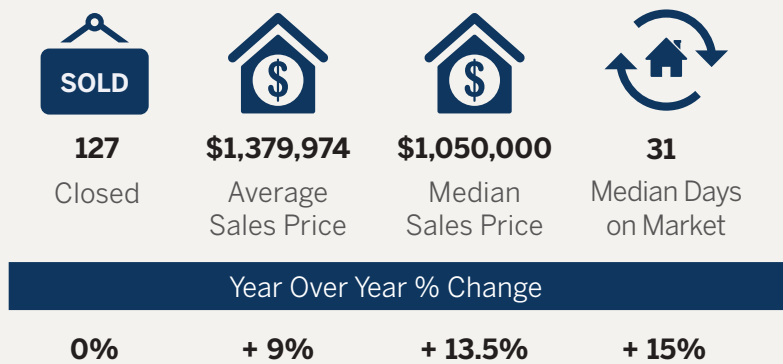
After learning about the exhibit's historic and cultural significance, observers saw the art with a newer perspective.



Alan Mindel, Chairman of the Board at HMTTC, introduced the audience to the historical significance of the exhibition.



## 2024 Real Estate Market Stats | North Shore SD



Single Family Home Market Stats from OneKey Matrix MLS. January 1st - December 15th, 2024. SD (School District).



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# Delivering toys for those who need most

In the spirit of the holiday season, the BACH Jewish Center partnered with the Long Beach Police Department to deliver holiday toys and care packages to hospital-bound children at Mount Sinai South Nassau in Oceanside. The BACH's Rabbi Benny Berlin, Police Department Commissioner Richard DePalma, and members of his department hand-delivered the toys and care packages to the hospital on Dec. 18.

"The holidays are a time for families to unite and celebrate, but unfortunately, some in our community find themselves in the hospital, missing the holiday cheer they usually enjoy," said Berlin. "Our sages teach us that Hanukkah is about spreading light, and what better way to do that than by helping those who are ill experience some joy during the holiday season."

Also given over to hospital staff for distribution to patients were personalized cards from the children at the BACH, which included get-well-soon cards, along with holiday well-wishes and colorful drawings and artwork to help bring holiday joy.

"We are deeply grateful to Commissioner DePalma, the Long Beach Police Department, and its officers for joining us in this meaningful effort to bring smiles to the children at Mount Sinai South Nassau," Berlin added. "We hope and pray for a swift recovery for each of these young patients and for their



Courtesy Mount Sinai South Nassau

The Long Beach Police Department and BACH Jewish Center delivered toys to Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital for the holiday season.

return to health, along with the joy of everyday celebrations."

Founded in 1946, Bachurei Chemed – BACH Jewish Center is one of Long Island's most prestigious and oldest synagogues. Members hail from Long Beach, Lido, Atlantic Beach and Island

Park.

"It's truly wonderful to partner with the BACH Jewish Center to help make the holidays a little more special for children who can't be home," said Commissioner DePalma. "Children need to know that both the police department

and faith-based communities care about them, and we're doing our part to brighten their world this holiday season."

For more information, visit [bachlongbeach.com](http://bachlongbeach.com).

–Brendan Carpenter



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# NCC students, faculty protest course cuts

By CHARLES SHAW

cshaw@liherald.com

Students and faculty at Nassau Community College are voicing their frustration over the lack of course offerings and departmental cuts.

Faculty packed the college's multipurpose room to hear colleagues and students voice their concerns at the annual winter luncheon on Dec. 17.

The event was hosted by the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers, a local union affiliated with New York State United Teachers. Frustrations over course cuts and departmental reductions were highlighted.

According to NCCFT president Faren Siminoff, the campus is not meeting its mission, which is to offer a "robust offering of courses" scheduled throughout the day for students.

Administrators have doubled since last year, she said, but the college has eliminated 21 departments, cut funding to student services and clubs, all while limiting its schedule of classes.

Jerry Kornbluth, the vice president for Community and Government Relations at Nassau Community College, said in a statement that the college aims to preserve and expand course offerings while retaining tenured professors despite a nationwide decline in college enrollment. He noted that the college has reduced its budget deficit from \$14.8 million to \$4.8 million, while boosting enrollment by 8% over the past year.

Department mergers, he said, were carefully planned in alignment with union agreements to improve efficiency. In addition, Kornbluth stated that the theater and dance department will not be eliminated, and will continue to offer majors and seasonal productions, ensuring its ongoing presence on campus.

"Our priority remains preserving and enhancing the affordable, high-quality education that Nassau Community College is known for," Kornbluth said in a statement. "We look forward to continuing to be a place where students thrive, whether they are entering the workforce or transferring to a four-year institution."

Siminoff claims that students have found it difficult to find courses that fit



Charles Shaw/Herald

**Richard Ginsburg, chair of the theater and dance department at Nassau Community College, spoke at the Dec. 17 luncheon hosted by the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers about the planned deactivation of his program. According to Jerry Kornbluth, the vice president for Community and Government Relations at Nassau Community College, the college is not eliminating the department.**

their busy schedule, especially for those who work. The college, she said, would reportedly cancel a course offering early, sometimes a week or two after registration opens, even though students register weeks later.

"If there's nothing there for them, they're not going to register," Siminoff said. "This is totally counter to the rhythm and needs of the community that uses this college."

Joining students and staff were County Legislators Thomas McKeivitt and Siela Bynoe, who spoke of the importance that community colleges provide for middle-class students. Bynoe was elected to state senate in November.

McKeivitt said he wished people could see the college's potential as a place where students, who might not be able to afford tuition for private institutions, can succeed and be tomorrow's leaders.

"The reality is that the private institutions have priced the middle class out of higher education," McKeivitt said, "which is why Nassau Community College is more important than it has ever been before."

Richard Ginsburg, chairman of the theater and dance department at NCC, claimed administration planned to

"deactivate" the program. Ginsburg had instructed and guided students for over 40 years throughout the department's 61-year history, adding that the arts are essential to education, and the state owes it to itself to sustain and encourage such programs.

"We had survived and grew through a deadly pandemic," Ginsburg said, "but we will not survive through this admin-

istration, as next fall, the theater department will go from historically nine, full-time teaching faculty to zero."

Simran Gil, an international student and president of the Filipino Cultural Society, said at the beginning of this semester, her club allegedly received "zero dollars in funding" despite submitting all their paperwork on time.

Gil said her club addressed this issue to the Faculty Student Association and Student Government Association and eventually received \$250, which Gil said was "far too little" to support the club's activities, which was half of what they received in 2021, she added.

"We need a clear answer regarding the discrepancies in our budget and accountability for how funds are allocated," Gil said.

Bynoe is a graduate at Nassau Community College, who worked full-time while attending courses in the evening. She described her experience as a foundation that led her to a master's in public administration at Long Island University and wants the college to be sustainable for current students and generations to come.

"We want to make sure that their children and their children's children have an opportunity to have an affordable, quality education," Bynoe said, "One that can allow them to springboard to other universities and go into vocations of their choice."

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# STEPPING OUT



## FIRED up for monster truck mayhem

Hot Wheels Monster Truck Live Show is back at Nassau Coliseum for another year of car-smashing, ramp jumping, wheel-revving action

By Danielle Schwab

Get ready, everyone. Gather up the kids and shake up those January doldrums when the Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live Glow party lights up Nassau Coliseum once again. Witness the raw power of epic machines when the iconic Hot Wheels toy vehicles transform into unstoppable monster trucks for the "Glow-N-Fire" competition.

"Kids" of all ages can watch their favorite Hot Wheels trucks come to life when the action returns to Long Island, Jan. 18-19.

As the arena darkens for this glow-in-the-dark party, each truck revs up with its unique LED lights. And, in true "It's Not The Same Without The Flame" fashion, pyrotechnic effects light up the arena, adding even more intensity to the action.

It's an especially big day for one particular truck: The classic blue vintage-style pick-up Bigfoot turns 50. Everyone is invited to the birthday bash. Plus, have the chance to be celebrated alongside the iconic monster truck. Bigfoot would love to see everyone's creativity — so fans are encouraged to bring homemade birthday cards to wish Bigfoot a happy birthday. And show off those homemade birthday signs at the show for a chance to win prizes during the bash.

"Bigfoot is known as the original monster truck because this monster truck is what started monster trucks in general," says Caleb Janezich, Bigfoot's driver since July.

Owner-operator Bob Chandler first began building Bigfoot in 1975, and a legend was born. The modified 1974 Ford F-250 started its career at local mud runs and truck and tractor pulls. It quickly launched a worldwide phenomenon and its legions of fans. Chandler continued to make improvements and modifications until it grew into the massive behemoth known and loved today by multiple generations of fans.



- Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18-19; times vary
- Tickets start at \$63.85 adults, \$35. 15 children (also "Me + 3" family discount option); available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) and [hotwheelsmonstertruckslive.com](http://hotwheelsmonstertruckslive.com)
- Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale

"There are people that come up to us and the dad knows who Bigfoot is, and then maybe the kids are exposed to Bigfoot for the first time. Even the grandpas come up and they remember Bigfoot," says Janezich, on Bigfoot's popularity.

There's surely no better way to commemorate the original monster truck than with incredible stunts performed by Bigfoot along with all his mechanical monster pals, including Mega Wrex, Tiger Shark, HW 5-Alarm, Boneshaker, and Gunkster.

Expect to see wheelies, donuts, and long jumps, along with a freestyle Motocross demonstration.

And of course, be prepared for plenty of good ol' car crushing!

Also witness as the show unleashes its newest addition, Skelesaurus, a truck that takes the spine-chilling form of a giant skeleton head.

This is Janezich's first time appearing at Nassau Coliseum, however he is no stranger to the Hot Wheels monster truck circuit. An avid collector of Hot Wheels since childhood, Janezich worked as a Bigfoot crewmember before taking up the driver's seat.

"Bigfoot was always my favorite. I grew up around pickup trucks and four-wheel drives. My dad got me into it," he says.

"It's pretty humbling, and it's really a dream come true. Honestly, they say, 'if you do what you love, you never work a day in your life' and that's pretty much what I live by now."

While the trucks may seem invincible, it takes a dedicated team behind the scenes to keep them crushing to the max.

"The stuff that can be challenging is the unknown. You never know what these trucks are going to do sometimes, and the biggest challenge sometimes can just be just keeping them going and just making sure that we're ready for the next show all the time, which we try to do very well," Janezich adds.

Opportunities to go behind the action add to the spectacle. At the Pre-Show Party, held two-and-a-half hours prior to every performance, get up close and see the outrageous designs and epic size of the Hot Wheels behemoths on the arena floor. Meet favorite drivers and performers. Also check out the new VIP Backstage Experience. It's a behind the scenes guided tour of what goes on before all the smashing and crashing.

Everyone becomes a kid at the show, which is geared to five to 10-year-olds.

"That's the part that's always cool because families are coming down and the parents get involved. When the parents are having fun, the kids are having fun, that's what keeps them coming year after year," Janezich says.

Courtesy Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live

Photos: Bigfoot, driven by Caleb Janezich, headlines the latest edition of the spectacle. The iconic truck is joined by many Hot Wheels favorites to thrill fans with exciting car-crunching feats, flying more than 35 feet in the air. Plus, the fiery Skelesaurus roars into the arena ready to "chomp."



## 'Cold Beer on a Friday Night'

Keep those winter doldrums at bay with Jimmy Kenny and the Pirate Beach Band. It may seem like we've got too long to wait 'til we're back on the beach, but Kenny comes to the rescue. Join in their "Ultimate Beach Party Tribute" to Kenny Chesney, Jimmy Buffett and Zac Brown Band. Parrotheads, No Shoes Nation and the Zamily. 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 Rios, lead guitar/backing vocals, Frank Stainkamp, keyboard/backing vocals, Dan Prine, bass, and drummer Mike Vecchione — gets everyone into the groove as only they can.

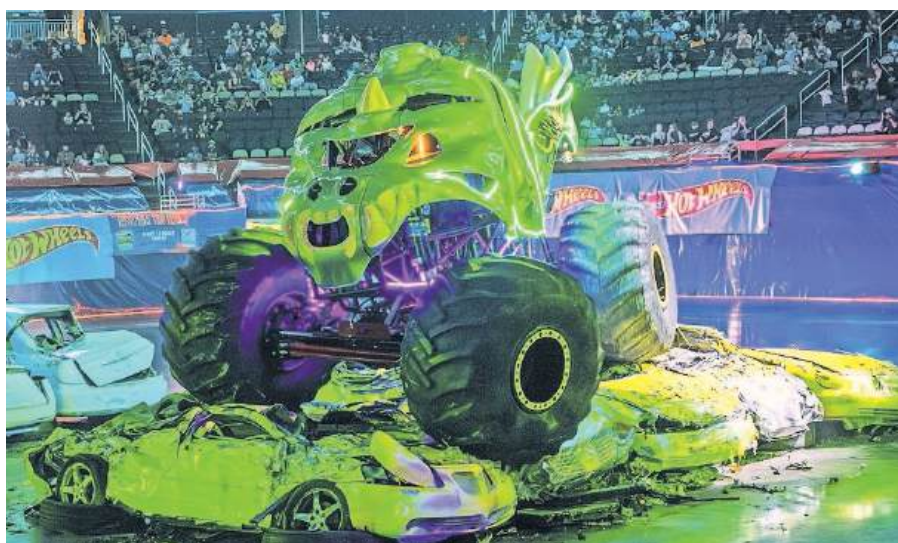
Friday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m. \$35, \$25, \$20, \$15. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or [paramountry.com](http://paramountry.com).



## '...Your voice is heard'

Broadway comes to Tilles Center. "Dear Evan Hansen," the deeply personal and profoundly contemporary musical about life and the way we live it, has struck a remarkable chord with audiences and critics everywhere. If you've yet to see it, now's your opportunity. Declared "one of the most remarkable shows in musical theater history" by the Washington Post, it's the first musical to take a groundbreaking look — from the point of view of both the parents and young people — at our complex, interconnected, and social media-filled lives. It features an uplifting score, including some of the most iconic musical theater songs from the last decade: "You Will Be Found," "Waving Through A Window," and "For Forever."

Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$35. LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville. Tickets available at [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org) or (516) 299-3100.



# THE \$ SCENE

Jan. 2

Jan. 10

## Yacht Rock Revue

The kings of '70s tribute hit the road with an authentic throwback to the era, on the Paramount stage, Friday and Saturday, **Jan. 10-11**, at 8 p.m. Yacht Rock Revue, hailed by Rolling Stone as the "world's premier soft-rock party band," invites listeners on a nostalgic voyage through the sun-soaked melodies of the '70s and '80s. The dynamic Atlanta-based 10-piece ensemble blends impeccable musicianship with a deep reverence for the yacht rock genre. Their original album "Escape Artist" is a bold homage to this iconic sound. Each side of the album encapsulates the band's ability to transport audiences to a simpler, more carefree time. Lead singles like "Tropical Illusion" and "Passengers" set the tone, evoking sunsets and salty breezes with their lush instrumentation and ethereal vocals.



Collaborations with yacht rock legends Elliot Lurie and Robbie Dupree underscore the band's status as innovators within their genre. YRR continues to captivate audiences nationwide with their infectious energy and unabashedly joyous performances. Since their humble beginnings in 2007, YRR has emerged as a pivotal figure in revitalizing yacht rock, sharing stages with icons and garnering a devoted following of "Anchorheads." Whether performing in intimate venues or rocking arenas, their concerts promise an immersive musical journey that celebrates the timeless allure of smooth grooves. \$55, \$40, \$30, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.

## Bird walk

The South Shore Audubon Society welcomes all to join its members for another in its series of bird walks, at Hempstead Lake State Park, Sunday, **Jan. 5**, starting at 9 a.m. Walk leaders, other birders and nature enthusiasts are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you. Bring binoculars. The group will meet in parking lot #3, off Exit 18 of the Southern State Parkway.

To register, text your name and contact information to (516) 467-9498. No walk if rain or snow. Text regarding questionable weather. For more information, visit [ssaudubon.org](http://ssaudubon.org).

## Knitting/Crochet Club

Meet up with other knitters or crocheters, at Glen Cove Public Library, Fridays, **Jan. 12**, 10 a.m.-noon. Whether you're new to knitting or you've been doing it for years, it's always more fun with friends! Start a new project or bring a current one. Participants should bring their own needles and yarn. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. For more information call (516) 676-2130.

## Splish Splash...Animal Baths

Hang out with some Long Island Children's Museum's "residents," Sunday, **Jan. 5**, 1:30-2 p.m., at the drop-in program. Join an animal educator in the Yellow Studio's Feasts for Beasts Gallery to learn what goes into the care of LICM's animal "residents." Observe animal bath time. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or [licm.org](http://licm.org).

## Oyster Bay Sewer District Meeting

Oyster Bay Sewer District holds their weekly meetings, Wednesday, **Jan. 8**, and **Jan. 15**, 7 p.m., at the District Office. 15 Bay Ave., Oyster Bay. For more information call (516) 922-4171.

## North Shore BOE meets

North Shore Board of Education holds its first meeting of 2025 on Thursday **Jan. 9**, 7:45 p.m., at North Shore Middle School. 505 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head. For more information, call (516) 277-7801.



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**Glen Cove BOE meets**

Glen Cove School District their next Board of Education meeting, Wednesday **Jan. 8**, 7:30 p.m., at Glen Cove High School, 150 Dosoris Lane. For more information, contact the district office at (516) 801-7015. Visit [glencoveschools.org/district1/board-of-education](http://glencoveschools.org/district1/board-of-education) for a live stream link.

**Concert series**

Join singer-songwriter Nini Camps and Matthew Schneider on bass, for an evening of collaborative performance, hosted by Sea Cliff Arts Council, Saturday **Jan. 11**, 7 p.m. Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Ari Hest kicks off the winter concert series with his soulful voice and evocative songwriting. Currently on tour with the Indigo Girls, Ari's career spans over two decades with releases like *Someone To Tell* and *The Break-In*.

Known for touring with icons like Martin Sexton, Suzanne Vega, and Ani DiFranco, Ari brings his signature blend of heartfelt melodies and introspection to Sea Cliff for a concert not to be missed. \$40. To purchase tickets and for more info, visit [seacliffartscouncil.org](http://seacliffartscouncil.org). 86 Roslyn Ave.

**Movie with Rob**

See a movie on Glen Cove Public Library's big screen. Watch "Babel," Friday **Jan. 3**, 1 p.m. An unexpected accident links four diverse groups of people across three continents: two young Moroccan goatherds, a vacationing American couple (Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett), a deaf Japanese teenager and her father, and a Mexican nanny who crosses the border with her young charges, defying their parents' wishes. Their lives intersect in ways that reveal the fragile threads of human connection, fate, and cultural divide in the 2006 film. 143 minutes (R). Registration required. 4 Glen Cove Ave. Visit [glencovelibrary.org](http://glencovelibrary.org) to register or call (516) 676-2130.

**Library Walking Club**

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, every Thursday, at 9:15 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at [glencovelibrary.org](http://glencovelibrary.org) or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.



**Art explorations**

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art's Manes Education Center. The drop-in program continues, Saturday, **Jan. 4**, noon-3 p.m. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators to explore and discover different materials to create original artwork.

Kids and their adult partners connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. While there, enjoy reading and play in the Reading Room, and contribute to The Lobby Project, a collaborative art installation. \$20 adult, \$10 child. Registration required. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. Visit [NassauMuseum.org](http://NassauMuseum.org) for more information and to register or call (516) 484-9337.

**On exhibit**

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition "Seeing Red: Renoir to Warhol," reveals the many meanings, connotations, and associations of this powerful color in art. Evoking strong emotion, red can represent the human condition. Its myriad variations have come to signify authority as well as love, energy and beauty. Red warns us of peril and commands us to stop, but it can also indicate purity and good fortune. Red boldly represents political movements and religious identities. From the advent of our appreciation for this color in antiquity to its continued prominence in artistic and popular culture, this exhibition will span various world cultures through a range of media.



It features more than 70 artists, both established and emerging, ranging from the classical to the contemporary. American portraitists such as Gilbert Stuart imbued red in their stately paintings of prominent individuals to conjure authority. Robert Motherwell, Ad Reinhardt, and other major abstract painters displayed a deep fascination with red in their commanding compositions that evoke a sense of chromatic power. And, of course, Andy Warhol is known for his bold and imposing silkscreened portrait of Vladimir Lenin saturated in bright red to his signature Campbell's Soup Cans. On view through Jan. 5. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or [NassauMuseum.org](http://NassauMuseum.org).



**In concert**

Sands Point Preserve's reserve's historic mansions and waterfront grounds are the backdrop for the 2025 unique chamber music series, "Four Seasons in Music," Sunday, **Jan. 12**, 3 p.m. The duoJalal ensemble-in-residence led by Kathryn Lockwood on viola, with percussionist Yousif Sheronick, violinists Deborah Buck and Emma Frucht and cellist Caroline Stinson presents a German flavored. Celebrating Germany's rich history of extraordinary composers, including Bach, Mozart, Schubert and Brahms, to the less traditional, this concert will warm you up on a winter afternoon.

A reception follows. \$56, \$45 members. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For tickets and information, visit [sandspointpreserveconservancy.org](http://sandspointpreserveconservancy.org) or call (516) 571-7901.

**Stay active with Tai Chi**

Glen Cove Senior Center continues its Tai Chi classes with Spencer, Mondays, 2 p.m. Free for all residents. 130 Glen St. Unit A, Glen Cove. For more information call (516) 759-9610.

**Having an event?**

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

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**SILVER SPONSORS**

# Nini Camps sings through the winter

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@lherald.com

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Nini Camps is set to headline a new concert series at the Sea Cliff Arts Council, beginning Saturday, Jan. 11. The series will feature three evenings of acoustic music and storytelling with fellow artists Matthew Schneider and Ari Hest.

Camps, a first-generation Cuban American artist with a career spanning music, TV, film, and theater, has called Sea Cliff home for over a decade. Best known as the lead singer of the all-female rock band Antigone Rising, Camps has toured extensively and written songs featured in hit TV shows like Grey's Anatomy and Pretty Little Liars. For this series, however, she is revisiting her roots as a solo performer and collaborating with guest artists in a casual and intimate setting.

"This show is about tapping into this need for community," Camps said. "It's this need to find better ways, to find better times, and it's a little introspective. It's a hopeful, soul-filling experience."

Camps explained that the idea for the series grew out of conversations with Arts Council members and her desire to challenge herself as a solo artist. After years with Antigone Rising and composing for TV and film, she wanted to reconnect with her singer-songwriter origins.

"I'm trying to push myself," she said. "I'm not going to be doing any Antigone Rising songs because that, for me, is a fall back. It's comfortable and then I'd also miss (my bandmates), because they do certain things on this or that song. I'm really making an effort to push myself and use almost all very new songs."

The series kicks off with Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Hest, currently on tour with the Indigo Girls. Hest brings decades of experience and a rich catalog of music, including albums like Someone to Tell and The Break-In. Camps and Hest will be joined by Schneider on bass for a collaborative performance.

Unlike traditional concerts, the evening will blend music and storytelling. Camps said she envisions a fluid format where the lines between performer and audience blur.

"It's not going to be your typical opener-headliner show," she said. "There will be a lot of interaction, shared songs, and spontaneous moments."

Camps' relationship with the Sea Cliff Arts Council dates back to before its official formation.

"Everyone at the Arts Council is such an angel, all those people that put all the time and effort in," she said. "It's been a very symbiotic relationship, and since they opened their doors, I've been in one way or another."

In addition to her musical career,



Courtesy Nini Camps

**Nini Camps, left, has worked closely with Arts Council members like Mark Sobel in the past for songwriting workshops and other council events.**

Camps co-founded Girls Rising, a non-profit organization that promotes empowerment through music. She has hosted festivals and workshops in collaboration with the council, making this concert series a natural extension of her work.

The concert series is also a fundraiser for the Arts Council. Proceeds from ticket sales, which cost \$40, will benefit the council's ongoing programming while supporting the guest artists.

"It's a way to bring world-class talent to our community without having to travel to larger venues," Camps said. "We're hoping to give Sea Cliff something truly special."

Future performances will feature other renowned artists, including Garrison Starr, a Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter who recently shared the stage with Jason Isbell. Each evening promises a unique blend of artistry and camaraderie.

The first event begins at 7 p.m. with wine and light bites, followed by the performance at 8 p.m. Held in the Arts Council's intimate space, the concert offers a rare opportunity to experience music in a personal and engaging setting.

"It's sort of a way to warm up in the winter time, because it's really just a heartwarming, fulfilling musical experience," Camps said. "I always want to surround myself with people that push me, that inspire, that make you feel a little on your toes, and that's what these people I'll be playing with do."

Tickets for the Jan. 11 show are available on the Sea Cliff Arts Council's website, SeaCliffArtsCouncil.org. With limited seating, early booking is recommended.

Subsequent shows will be held on Feb. 8 and March 15.

## OBITUARIES

### Hannelore Orzel

Hannelore Orzel, 91, of Glen Cove, died on Dec. 29. Beloved wife of the late Peter; loving mother of Gloria (Robert), Peter (Colleen), Paul (the late Karen), Thomas (Lisa) and the late Mark; dear sister of Agnes and Mia. Cherished

grandmother of 13 and great-grandmother of 7. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Mass at the Church of St. Hyacinth on Jan. 3, at 10 a.m.. Interment to follow at Holy Rood Cemetery.

### Michael W. Seele

Michael W. Seele, 93, of Locust Valley, died on Dec. 27. Husband of Helga; father of Michael G. (Deborah), Paul (Lori) and Sean. Grandfather of Caitlin, Michael M., Violet and Skylar; United States army veteran; member of Seawa-

nhaka Yacht Club, West Hampton Mallet Club, The Friendly Sons of St. Patricks of NYC, and former member of Beaver Dam Winter Sports Club. Mass was held at St. Gertrude RC Church. Interment Locust Valley Cemetery.

### Jamie "JAS" Spafford

Jamie "JAS" Spafford, 69, of Locust Valley, passed away on Dec. 22. Born Feb. 18, 1955. Spafford was always embracing new challenges. Known for her warmth and tenacity. Spafford was preceded in death by her brother, Forrest Spafford; her father, John "Jack" Spafford; her brother, John "Spoof" Spafford; and her mother, Joan "Joma" Spafford. She is survived by her daughter, Jessica Turner of Portland, Maine; a son, Max Turner of Makassar, Indonesia; a very special family dog, Maggie of

Portland, Maine; three sisters, Pat Spafford of New York; Kate Sparling of New York and Mair Glosson of North Carolina; as well as her many talented nieces and nephews and two incredible grandkids, Jax and Taylor. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. At this time the family is planning to memorialize Spafford in the spring.

### David B. Benham

David B. Benham, 79, of Locust Valley, and Palm Beach, Fla died on Dec. 24. He is survived by his beloved wife of over 55 years, Margaret (Wise); his son Clifton and wife Anna of Stamford, CT, and his nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his son Tyler and his sister Elizabeth Antonelli. Benham especially

cherished his granddaughters, Mabon and Annabel, whom he loved deeply.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Trinity-Pawling School, Pawling, NY 12564. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

### Beatriz Castaneda McDavid

Beatriz Castaneda McDavid, 65, of Glen Cove, died on Dec. 15. Beloved daughter of Llerme Alvarado and the late Fernando Castaneda; loving mother of Claudia Vazquez and Pilar Vazquez; cherished grandmother of

Franco Sánchez and Ramiro Sánchez. Dear cousin of Miguel Vela. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Service and Interment are Private.

## HERALD LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF GLEN COVE  
CITY COUNCIL  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE  
that a PUBLIC HEARING  
will be held by the City of  
Glen Cove City Council on  
Tuesday, January 7, 2025,  
at 6:30 p.m. in the City  
Council Chamber at City  
Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen  
Cove, New York, when all  
interested persons will be  
given an opportunity to  
express their views.  
The hearing will be on  
whether to enact  
proposed Local Law \_\_\_ -  
2024, which would  
amend Section  
280-73.2(E) of the Glen

Cove City Code regarding  
the MW-3 Marine  
Waterfront-3 District to 1)  
authorize Planned Unit  
Developments (PUDs) as  
a special permit use for  
properties on the north  
side of Herb Hill Road and  
Garvies Point Road; 2)  
establish the guidelines  
for such PUDs; 3)  
authorize indoor and  
outdoor recreational uses  
as a special permit use in  
the District; and 4) make  
minor clerical changes to  
fix typographical and  
grammatical errors and  
code section references.  
This local law would also  
amend Section 280-58(E)

of the Glen Cove City  
Code to authorize  
accessory PUD parking as  
a special permit use on  
lots within the R-3A  
Residence District but  
adjacent to a PUD in the  
MW-3 Waterfront-3  
District.

This hearing was first  
conducted on December  
10, 2024, continued to  
December 23, 2024, and  
continued again to  
January 14, 2025. This  
January 7, 2025 hearing  
date takes the place of  
the January 14, 2025,  
hearing date.  
The above local law is on

file at the city offices  
located at 9 Glen Street,  
Glen Cove, NY where it  
may be seen during  
regular business hours of  
the usual business days  
until the time of the  
hearing.  
Dated: December 30,  
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## OPINIONS

# Looking forward to a great 2025 in Glen Cove

Just like that, we've said goodbye to 2024 and hello to 2025. At this time of year, I like to reflect on what went right and not so right this past year. Then I think about what I want to achieve in the new year and what challenges I might encounter.

I thought I'd share what's on my mind as we head into 2025.



**DANIELLE  
FUGAZY SCAGLIOLA**

I am so happy that Jazz Hands Children's Theater signed a lease to make the former Charles Hardware storefront in our downtown its home for the next 10 years. I worked very hard for over nine months to negotiate a deal between

the theater and the owner of the Charles Hardware space. The theater, which will program a variety of children's shows as well as live music and adult shows, is expected to open in the second quarter.

This deal was a success because dedicated Glen Covers — Chris Moll, the owner of Jazz Hands, and Bruce Waller, the property owner — shared a vision

for a better Glen Cove. I couldn't be more excited about this downtown development or prouder to have worked with Moll and Waller on making it come to fruition. I'm confident that the theater will have a positive impact on our downtown.

In other downtown developments, I'm happy to report that after advocating for improvements on lower Glen Street, the city was able to find grant money to redo the sidewalk from Smiros & Smiros to the Sons of Italy. I, along with Jill Nossa, executive director of the Business Improvement District, also met with almost every property owner and business owner to discuss ways to improve the area. Some have agreed to redo their facades and awnings as a result of our efforts. There will be more work to be done, however. I'm hopeful that we can continue to make improvements in that area of the downtown.

In 2024 I was delighted to partner with our Department of Public Works and Beautification Commission to launch a Banner Program celebrating

our Glen Cove graduates throughout the downtown. I loved driving to work and seeing the faces of our great kids hanging proudly in the downtown. There's nothing I like more than celebrating the truly remarkable kids we have in our city. Ralph Comitino and Liz Mestres were amazing to work with, and true advocates for our graduates. I look forward to continuing to work with them on this great program this year.

In addition to the downtown, commuting challenges are always at the forefront of my mind. I was grateful for the chance to partner with Assemblyman Chuck Lavine, Change.org petitioners and the Long Island Rail Road to improve commuting options for westbound riders. The Oyster Bay Line now has two direct trains to Penn Station and an express train that offers a faster commute. In 2025 I look forward to working with the LIRR to improve eastbound service.

I also spend a lot of time considering the city school district. As a mother of four kids, one of whom is in her first year of college, I am in our schools often

for various events, ceremonies, celebrations and games, and I can confidently say we have some of the best and brightest kids in the world. As president of the Glen Cove Education Foundation, which raises money for things outside the school districts budget, I am proud of the programs we were able to fund in 2024, helping our kids and teachers achieve their goals and visions. We were able to give every elementary school teacher in the district \$500 — a total of \$40,000 — to purchase flexible seating options for their classrooms. The foundation also purchased a beautiful new scoreboard for our new turf field.

This year we will be launching a robotics team, in partnership with the school district. I am super excited to see what our kids accomplish. We are also pleased to be able to contribute \$25,000 to a new piano for our music department so we can continue with the tradition of excellence in our music education programs.

There's no question, there is work to be done in 2025, but I am optimistic that there are more great things to come. Here's to a bright, prosperous new year to all Glen Covers, and to our city!

*Danielle Fugazy Scagliola is a member of the Glen Cove City Council.*

**A** new theater, new sidewalks, banners honoring graduates and more.

## Helping Ukraine fight for justice

As the season of giving comes to a close, it's important to reflect on not just all we have to be thankful for, but on those who still need our support. While there are certainly plenty of domestic issues, and Americans in need, we cannot forget the people of Ukraine, who are nearing the end of their third year of war with Russia.



**WILL  
SHEELINE**

The conflict, which has cost the lives of roughly 43,000 Ukrainian soldiers and over 11,000 civilians, has put on display the very real threat authoritarianism is posing to democracies all around the world today. And the people of

Ukraine, who spent decades under Soviet rule and centuries under czarist rule before that, know how important their right to self-determination is, because they know what it means to live under a regime without rights.

Here in America, where we've had the luck and privilege to live under a democratic government for our entire history, it can be easy to brush aside these kinds of conflicts by claiming that certain areas or certain cultures

are used to conflict. We hear it about the Middle East all the time: so-called "experts" who assert that the region has "always been at war," and that one ethnic group or another "doesn't understand democracy."

I don't buy it.

As our Founding Fathers knew too well, human beings are born with an innate desire, and a right, to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. While we may think of these words as uniquely American, I've always believed that they were written not just with our country's population in mind, but as a fundamental fact of the human condition.

And the people of Ukraine have shown their desire for these universal rights with a determination and tenacity that has allowed this country of only 37 million to face down, and frequently defeat, a richer and larger nation with nearly five times its population. And Ukrainians are fighting not just for their own rights and sovereignty. They are the first line of defense against the deranged, ahistorical and plutocratic worldview that Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian oligarchs are so desperate to spread.

When Ukrainian President Volody-

myr Zelensky chose to stay in Kyiv in 2022, when the capital city refused to fall, and every day since, his people have had one message for Putin and the world: We will not go quietly.

When our nation was in its infancy and fighting for its existence, we relied heavily on the support not only of foreign nations like France and Spain, but on the extraordinary efforts of individuals from around the world who recognized that our fight for independence wasn't just a local conflict, but a global one, that of freedom vs. tyranny.

The analogy isn't perfect. Ukraine isn't fighting to win its independence from its mother country, but is fighting instead to maintain its sovereignty in the face of foreign aggression. But the fact remains that its people, who have seen family members', friends' and loved ones' lives destroyed by the aggression of a brutish dictator, deserve not only our respect and admiration, but our help.

You may think, "But I'm only one person — what could I possibly do?" And obviously, no one person can end this conflict overnight (except maybe Rocky Balboa). But there are plenty of ways for us to do our part.

**W**e can't turn our backs on a country that is fighting for its sovereignty.

There are hundreds of international charitable groups that are on the ground in Ukraine providing humanitarian aid, from UNICEF to the Red Cross. Other organizations, such as United Help Ukraine, Nova Ukraine and Razom for Ukraine, provide medical aid to tens of thousands of people and soldiers across the country.

There are also nearly 300,000 Ukrainian refugees now living in the United States, part of a diaspora of nearly 4 million Ukrainians, predominantly women, children and seniors, who have been forced to flee their homes in the face of ruthless Russian aggression. While many of these people have been kindly fostered by Americans, Europeans and people everywhere, there are always more people in need.

To learn more about how to host Ukrainian refugees, visit [SupportUkraineNow.org](http://SupportUkraineNow.org).

Ukrainians are fighting not just for their own right to exist, but for the rights of people around the world struggling against conquest and the threat of extermination. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. famously declared, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" — and we can all do more to help Ukrainians restore peace in the country they love.

*Will Sheeline is an editor covering Glen Head, Locust Valley, Oyster Bay and Sea Cliff. Comments? [WSheeline@liherald.com](mailto:WSheeline@liherald.com).*

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**HERALD EDITORIAL****Stepping into a new year with hope and resolve**

**A** new year always arrives freighted with emotion. It carries the accumulated hopes, frustrations and lessons of the previous 12 months, paired with the tantalizing possibility of transformation. This year, as we look ahead, we find ourselves grappling with familiar challenges while daring to believe in the promise of better days.

One challenge we must confront is the growing fragmentation of our shared experiences. Increasingly, the global and local spheres seem to exist in parallel universes. A catastrophe halfway across the world — whether a climate disaster, political upheaval or humanitarian crisis — has the power to shape economies and policies closer to home, yet often feels distant, reduced to a fleeting headline.

Meanwhile, our more local and personal concerns — the cost of living, caring for family and doing well at work — demand urgent attention but risk being overshadowed by the constant churn of global issues. Bridging this gap requires a recalibration of priorities. The new year demands both outward-looking empathy and a renewed focus on strengthening the foundations of our own communities.

Economically, the year ahead will likely test the resilience of all levels of

our government. Trust in institutions has eroded, but there are also glimmers of progress worth celebrating: advancements in green technology, a renewed emphasis on workers' rights, and shifting societal attitudes toward mental health and well-being. These trends suggest that positive change, while slow, is possible.

We need to be optimistic, but that demands resolve. The climate crisis, for instance, is no longer a future threat but an immediate reality, underscored by the fires, floods and record-breaking temperatures of recent years. The urgency to act cannot be overstated, and yet real solutions remain politically fraught and logistically complex. We face the challenge of balancing personal responsibility with the recognition that systemic change requires collective action.

At the same time, the new year also offers a chance to reimagine what progress means. Growth, long equated with economic expansion, is being reconsidered in light of its environmental and social costs. These ideas challenge deeply entrenched narratives about success and prosperity, but they also open up the possibility of more inclusive, equitable futures.

Many of us also enter 2025 grappling with uncertainty. The relentless pace of

technological change, the aftershocks of a pandemic and the simple unpredictability of life can feel overwhelming. Yet amid this turbulence, we find moments of connection and meaning. A neighbor's kindness, a shared laugh, the rediscovery of an old passion — these small, often overlooked moments remind us why we persevere.

How do we handle the bad while making room for the good? We need to balance action with rest and contemplation, and ambition with gratitude. This requires recognizing that while we cannot solve every problem, we can contribute to their solutions.

As we step into the new year, we should resolve to move beyond empty platitudes. Instead of vague aspirations for "better days," let's strive for tangible progress: a stronger sense of community, a commitment to justice, and a willingness to adapt to changing realities. We should allow ourselves moments of joy, not just as a distraction from life's difficulties, but also as a reminder of its possibilities.

It isn't easy. There are always setbacks and frustrations, but there are also breakthroughs, large and small, that remind us of our capacity to endure, to grow and to create a better future. The new year's gift gives us the opportunity to begin anew.

**LETTERS****She'll miss 'Blue Bloods,' too**

To the Editor:

I agree with everything that Peter King wrote in "Like many other devotees, I'll miss 'Blue Bloods' dearly" (Dec. 19-25). Though I never had the chance to meet the cast of "Blue Bloods," they *did* feel like family. There has to be a show for people like us — born in Queens, my grandfather was with the Manhattan mounted police in the late 1920s, my cousins were with the Port Authority Police during the Colin Ferguson bloodbath on the LIRR and on Sept. 11.

We love the Police Department and everything they stand for. They are our angels on earth in these crazy times. I appreciated grace before meals as a practicing Catholic. So there are many people who loved "Blue Bloods," but I'm sure the network needed to try to make even more money! No one cares about the audience, just the dollar sign.

NANCY ALBERTELLI  
East Meadow



## OPINIONS

# Albany's failure to prosecute fraud is costing us all

**A**s a lifelong Long Islander, I see firsthand the financial burdens weighing on families in our community — sky-high grocery bills, rising property taxes, and an inflationary squeeze that seems to touch everything.



**JAKE  
BLUMENCRAZ**

What's infuriating is that while Long Island families are tightening our belts, Albany is letting fraudsters run wild, stealing millions of dollars from the very programs designed to help those in genuine need.

The system is broken. Agencies tasked with protecting taxpayers — the office of the attorney general, the Department of Financial Services, the Medicaid inspector general and others — have the tools to prose-

cute fraud, yet their inaction is staggering. In 2023 alone, the Department of Financial Services received 35,722 reports of suspected health care fraud, but opened just 77 investigations, leading to a mere 24 arrests. That's fewer arrests than many local police departments make in a month. And the office of the Welfare inspector general, which reviewed 723 allegations of public assistance fraud in 2022, prosecuted only 13 people.

Those numbers aren't just statistics — they're a betrayal of every taxpayer in this state. Every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar stolen from Long Island and all New York families who are already stretched thin. That's money that could have been used to lower taxes, improve our schools, or invest in the infrastructure that keeps our communities strong.

Fraud isn't a victimless crime. It erodes trust in government, undermines programs meant to lift people out of hardship and forces honest taxpayers to pay more to cover the losses. Yet under one-party rule in Albany, there's no urgency to tackle this crisis. Fraud has become an acceptable cost of doing business.

I refuse to accept that. That's why I'm taking action.

When the legislative session begins next Wednesday, I'll be introducing a slate of bills to overhaul how New York handles public assistance fraud, starting with the Statewide Transparency and Mandated Prosecution, or STAMP Out Fraud Act. This legislation will demand transparency from state agencies, mandate better coordination among enforcement bodies, and ensure that fraudsters face

real consequences.

Some will say we already have laws to punish fraud — and they're right. New York's penal law includes stiff penalties for public assistance fraud, including prison time and fines. But laws are useless if they're not enforced. The lack of prosecutions is a glaring failure of leadership, and it's Long Islanders and all other New Yorkers who are paying the price.

We need to stop treating fraud like a bureaucratic oversight and start treating it like the theft that it is. Fraudsters aren't just gaming the system — they're stealing from you, your family and your neighbors. It's time to put an end to the excuses, demand accountability and restore faith in the integrity of our public assistance programs. We have the tools to fix this, and I will stop at nothing until New York gets serious about using them.

*Jake Blumencranz represents the 15th Assembly District.*

**I**t's not a victimless crime, because it forces honest taxpayers to cover the losses.

## LETTERS

### Yes, but the show was clearly fiction

To the Editor:

My father, like Mr. King's, wore NYPD's blue. Like Mr. King, I consider 'Blue Bloods' more nuanced than many cop shows. But his speculations about imagined opponents of the show, and his "unanswered questions," are dubious.

No doubt, the cast members are all outstanding people and first-class actors, but they were performers acting out dramatic scripts. It's all fiction, and we can enjoy "as if" for the hour, but to extend the imaginary past the credits is delusional.

Americans generally tend to romanticize both our lawmen and our criminals, clouding our view of reality. Our fiction is out of sync with our nonfiction, and we get confused. If real police were "Blue Bloods" police, we would not have had a Bernie Kerik as commissioner; there would be no need for civilian complaint review boards, body cameras and millions spent on misconduct settlements; and less turnover in the top brass. "Courtesy cards" would be in museums, not wallets.

Distractions from reality allow speculations like Mr. King's suggestion that scriptwriters were pressured "to portray cops in a negative light," as if any producers care at all about what viewers see between the commercials. There are other shows for that. Equally dangerous is his question about the series' cancellation. Instead of noting the fact that the noble cast accepted a 25 percent pay cut to subsidize season 14, Mr. King conjures the demon of "woke" from nothing.

It's true that the show's fans will always have the memories, but we must hope our nostalgia doesn't distract from the realities of 21st century law and its enforcement.

BRIAN KELLY  
*Rockville Centre*

### The MTA should rethink its spending priorities

To the Editor:

Long Island Rail Road commuters should be concerned about insufficient funds being earmarked to bring bridges, viaducts, tunnels and other basic infrastructure that are in poor or marginal condition up to a state of good repair in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's proposed \$68 billion 2025-2029 Five Year Capital Plan. This also applies to Metro-North Railroad and New York City Transit.

It's questionable whether \$600 million is sufficient funding for LIRR critical infrastructure projects under the proposed plan. Can this eliminate the growing backlog of critical infrastructure repair? Too many critical capital assets remain in daily service beyond their anticipated useful life. There is still a \$33 billion shortfall to fully fund the plan.

Safety, state of good repair, and reliable, on-time performance with a minimum of service disruptions at a fair price should be higher priorities than system expansion projects. The \$7.7 billion Second Avenue Subway Phase 2, the \$5.5 billion Brooklyn-Queens light-rail Interborough Express and the \$3.1 billion Metro North Bronx East Penn Station Access projects all

### FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At the Electric Light Parade — Long Beach

need to be put on hold. Funding for all three would be better spent on critical infrastructure projects benefiting over 4 million NYC Transit subway, 200,000-plus LIRR and 200,000-plus Metro North daily commuters. MTA Chairman Janno Lieber and board members have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the interests of riders

and taxpayers.

LARRY PENNER  
*Great Neck*

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



## 2024 Real Estate Market Stats | Glen Cove, NY



**103**

Closed



**\$939,086**

Average Sales Price



**\$744,000**

Median Sales Price



**34**

Median Days on Market

### Year Over Year % Change

**- 18%**

**+ 11%**

**+ 7.5%**

**+ 17%**

Single Family Home Market Stats from OneKey Matrix MLS. January 1st - December 15th, 2024.



## Happy New Year

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