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**Arts Council
hosts new exhibit**
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**An afternoon of
ink and flowers**
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VOL. 34 NO. 5 **JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2025** **\$1.00**

Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center board Chair Alan Mindel, near right, Vice Chair Bernie Furshpan and Secretary Meris Fist lit candles to honor the victims of the Holocaust.



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson Mathews

Marking eight decades since Auschwitz was liberated

By **ROKSANA AMID**
ramid@iherald.com

Moshe Furshpan was 10 when he was forced to flee into a forest, alone, in what was then Poland and is now Ukraine, as Nazi soldiers rounded up his family and neighbors to be executed. For three years, Furshpan survived on berries, tree bark and mushrooms, evading patrols and enduring harsh winters.

One night he sought shelter in a ditch he dug among birch trees, with a mother and her infant. As the distant howls of German shepherds drew closer, the woman, faced

with an unthinkable choice, took Furshpan's small hand and forced him to silence her crying baby.

"My father was haunted by this his entire life," Bernie Furshpan, board member of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, told a small crowd of around 100 people at the center last Sunday.

After the war, Moshe Furshpan found refuge in a displaced-persons camp in Munich before emigrating to Israel in 1946. "He turned out to be one of the kindest and gentlest souls I've ever known," his son, said. "He was so grateful to be alive. He didn't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

District offers \$115.9 million school budget

By **ROKSANA AMID**
ramid@iherald.com

The Glen Cove City School District began its annual budgeting workshops for the 2025-26 school year last week. The new assistant superintendent for business and finance, Theresa Kahan, led the first session on Jan. 22, outlining the district's financial priorities and explaining the budgeting process.

Kahan began by emphasizing the essential purpose of the budget. "A budget is created using estimates of the revenues and expenditures expected in the school year based on the information that we have at that time," she said. She reminded attendees that while the budget determines the district's tax levy, it does not establish individual property tax rates. "Your tax rate is based on the assessed value of your home, among other factors," Kahan said.

The preliminary spending plan for 2025-26 totals just under \$116 million, an increase of \$2.55 million over the current budget. This year's spending plan passed by a vote of 689-392 last May.

These workshops are an opportunity for the public to ask questions ... of how their tax dollars are being utilized.

THERESA KAHAN
Assistant superintendent for business and finance

State aid, which accounts for a substantial portion of the district's revenue, is projected to increase by nearly \$1.44 million, to just over \$29.23 million. "These are preliminary figures based on the governor's executive budget, which is typically finalized in April," Kahan noted, adding that changes could occur as more information becomes available.

District Superintendent Maria Rianna said she was unhappy with the preliminary state aid numbers, and was "hoping that our advocacy through different state officials and legislators will help move that in the proper direction." Her worry about state aid, Rianna explained, is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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Eric Dixon's 'Godz-Iz' exhibit unveiled

By JODRAN RESNICK

Special to the Herald

Eric Dixon sees the world through "Godz-iz." The Sea Cliff resident prepared for his upcoming exhibit at the Sea Cliff Arts Council. Foldout tables and floorboards were lined with framed photographs exploding with color. Dixon stood next to art council Producer at Large, Mark Sobel.

Founded in 1999, the arts council has been based at 86 Roslyn Ave. in Sea Cliff, for over two years. Sobel proudly said that in the very beginning the exhibi-

Eric's work is ... thoughtful, and it takes typical scenes — like a landscape — and transforms them into something unworldly.

NOELLE FIALLO-EVANS
chief creative officer

tion space has housed visual art, poetry readings and currently hosts local musician Nini Camp's residency.

The village has changed over the years with new businesses opening and old performance spaces closing. Restaurants like the Oak Room converting into The Onion Tree "replaced their stage with a pizza oven," Sobel said.

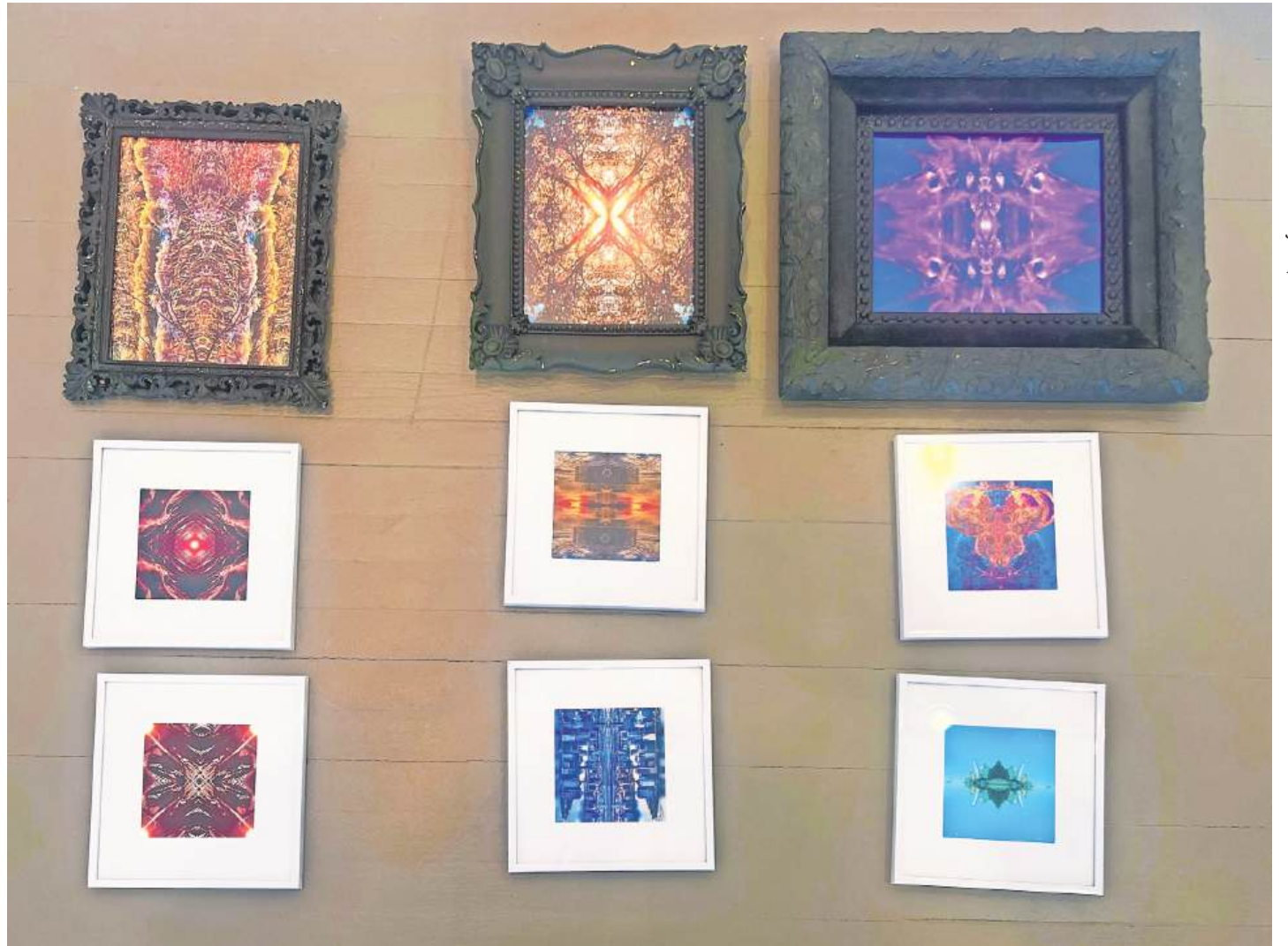
What once used to feel like a fraternity and sorority street party has turned into a more muted affair, leading to a sizeable opportunity for the Sea Cliff Arts Center to open up their own stage.

"We exist to lift artists, musicians, creators, makers, up in the community and give them a place to share their knowledge, share their art, share their expertise to the broader community," said Chief Creative Officer Noelle Fiallo-Evans.

Dixon's mandalas, not much larger than an Instagram picture, beckon the viewer to lean in. Each thick frame centers a vibrant image of treetops or cityscapes layered and mirrored over itself, invoking images of stained glass churches or an alien skyline. They are unique, no two photographs comprised of the same source photo, as Dixon said that each piece was made fresh for this exhibit. Magnifying glasses will be passed around for audience participation.

"Eric's work is ... thoughtful, and it takes typical scenes — like a landscape — and transforms them into something unworldly," Fiallo-Evans said. "Being able to show people that, while you have something in front of you that may appear as it is, it can be something completely different. It forces people to look beyond what's right in front of them."

"What you start to get is this sense of infinity at the bottom of mandalas and fractals and kaleidoscopic visions," Dixon noted. "That's what I've stumbled into with regards to my sort of back



Nine of artist Eric Dixon's mandalas that are on exhibit at the Sea Cliff Arts Council.

Jordan Resnick/Herald photos

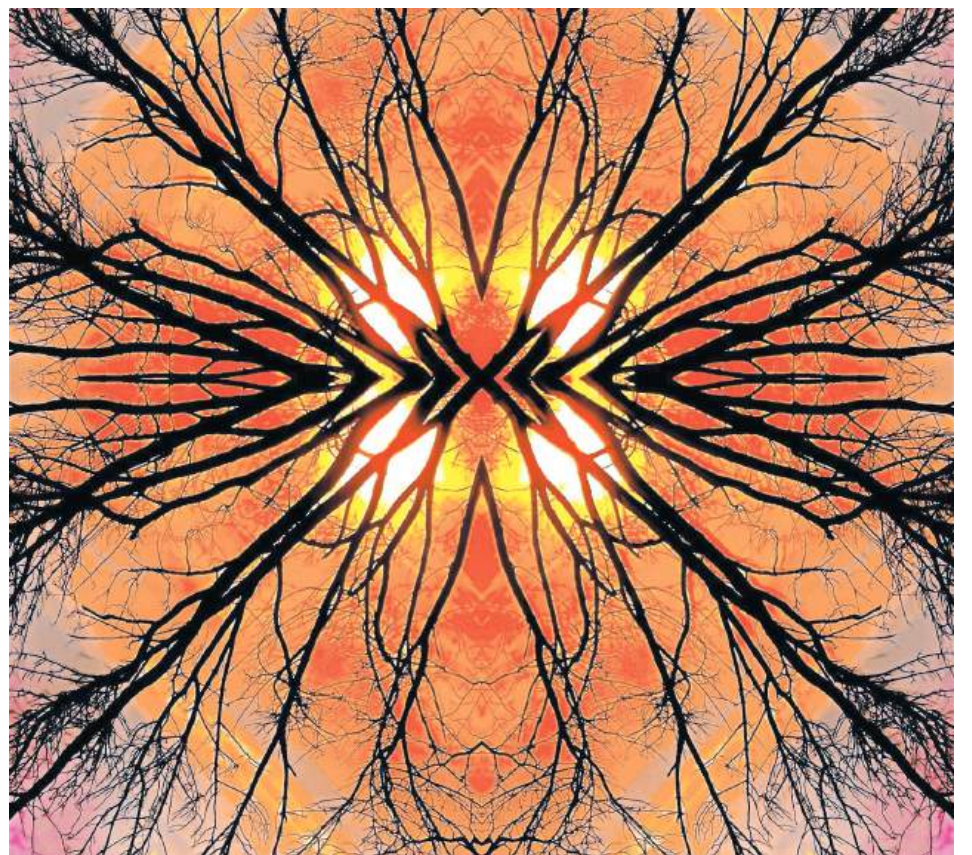


Dixon's art was put on display on Jan. 31.

door approach to finding these images and how they work."

The found-objects sculptor and digital artist's bashful resolve dissolved as he dove into his current inspirations: Egyptian deities, the pineal gland, and Nikola Tesla.

"I find that part of this project is finding these natural spirits that are around us all the time that we don't have the wherewithal to slow down, to see," Dixon said, "you might see it at the sunset, the angles just right, like, Oh, you feel connected to nature, for instance, or



Dixon's mandalas draw inspiration from Egyptian mythology, the pineal gland, and Nikola Tesla.

a starry sky, or a tree a certain way; but when you can capture it and manipulate it, and get a geometry out of it, it resonates deeper. I feel that the spirits that are in the natural world are always there, and this is a way to tap into it."

"Godz-iz" opened at the Sea Cliff Arts Council on Jan. 31 at 6 p.m., at 86 Roslyn Ave., Sea Cliff. Reserve at Sea-CliffArtsCouncil.org

"I'm a part of this," Dixon added. "I'm a conduit."

Suit settled, Nassau County is redistricted

By JEFFREY BESSEN

jbessen@liherald.com

Heading into an election year for all 19 Nassau County legislative districts, the lines have been redrawn after a lawsuit that originated in 2023 was settled last Friday.

The agreed-on new districts are considered a victory for Democrats.

"This is a tremendous victory for Nassau County," Jay Jacobs, the New York state and Nassau County Democratic Committee chairman, stated in a news release. "The illegal map sought to disenfranchise communities of color and undermine our democratic principles. This settlement reinforces the fundamental rights of all voters and sends a clear message that such tactics will not be tolerated."

County Democrats, along with 21 plaintiffs from throughout the legislative districts, filed the lawsuit, alleging that before they were redrawn, the districts were racist, gerrymandered and gave an unfair advantage to Republicans, who hold majority control in the Legislature.

The suit also claimed that voters leaning in one direction were being packed into two districts, while the rest were spread out in other districts as a way to "dilute their voting strength."

"Once again, the Republican majority in the Nassau County Legislature did

something that was unconstitutional by imposing legislative lines that were unconstitutional," County Legislator Carrié Solages, who now represents a district similar to when he was first elected in 2011, said. "I am very thankful to the Democratic Party for assembling a team of attorneys, experts on maps and data from across the country, at a cost of well over half a million dollars, in order to fight for a fair, legal map in Nassau County."

Under the terms of the settlement:

■ The illegal redistricting map is nullified, addressing violations of the New York Voting Rights Act and Municipal Home Rule Law.

■ A new, fairer legislative map is established, including six majority-minority districts and an Asian Influence District, a substantial increase from the prior four majority-minority districts.

■ The voices of Black, Latino and Asian communities are amplified, ensuring that communities of color can elect candidates who represent their interests.

"After long negotiations, Republican attempts to change venue and even disqualify the judge presiding over the case, the Democrats arrived at a map that is fair and creates the opportunity for historic six minority majority districts," Solages said.

The districts on the new map

District 1: Rockville Centre, Roosevelt, South Hempstead, and portions of Baldwin and Hempstead.

District 2: Carle Place, New Cassel, Westbury, and portions of Hempstead, Uniondale, Hicksville and Jericho.

District 3: Elmont, Lakeview, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, South Floral Park, Malverne Park Oaks, and portions of Malverne, Valley Stream, North Valley Stream, West Hempstead and Franklin Square.

District 4: Long Beach, Lido Beach, East Atlantic Beach, Island Park, Harbor Isle, Barnum Island, Point Lookout and portions of Oceanside.

District 5: Portions of Hempstead, Uniondale, West Hempstead and Franklin Square.

District 6: Freeport, and portions of Baldwin and Oceanside.

District 7: Atlantic Beach, Bay Park, Cedarhurst, East Rockaway, Hewlett, Hewlett Bay Park, Hewlett Harbor, Hewlett Neck, Inwood, Lawrence, Woodmere, Woodsburgh, and portions of Oceanside, South Valley Stream and Valley Stream.

District 8: Garden City, Garden City South, Stewart Manor, and portions of Floral Park, Franklin Square, New Hyde Park and North New Hyde Park.

District 9: Mineola, East Williston, Garden City Park, Herricks, Manhasset Hills, North Hills, and portions of Floral Park, New Hyde Park, North New Hyde Park, Searingtown and Williston Park.

District 10: Albertson, Flower Hill, Great Neck, Great Neck Estates, Great Neck Gardens, Great Neck Plaza, Harbor Hills, Kensington, Kings Point, Lake Success, Manhasset, Munsey

Park, Plandome, Plandome Heights, Plandome Manor, Roslyn Estates, Russell Gardens, Saddle Rock, Saddle Rock Estates, Thomaston, University Gardens, and portions of Roslyn Heights, Searingtown and Williston Park.

District 11: Baxter Estates, Glen Cove, Glenwood Landing, Manorhaven, Port Washington, Port Washington North, Roslyn Harbor, Sands Point, Sea Cliff, and portions of Glen Head.

District 12: Bellmore, Merrick, North Bellmore, North Merrick, and portions of Wantagh.

District 13: East Meadow, Salisbury, and portions of Levittown

District 14: Lynbrook, North Lynbrook, and portions of Valley Stream, North Valley Stream, Malverne and South Valley Stream.

District 15: North Wantagh, Seaford, and portions of Levittown and Wantagh.

District 16: Farmingdale, Old Bethpage, Plainview, and portions of Hicksville, Jericho, Syosset and Woodbury.

District 17: Bethpage, Plainedge, South Farmingdale, and portions of Hicksville and North Massapequa.

District 18: Bayville, Brookville, Centre Island, Cove Neck, East Hills, East Norwich, Greenvale, Lattingtown, Laurel Hollow, Locust Valley, Matinecock, Mill Neck, Muttontown, Old Brookville, Old Westbury, Oyster Bay, Oyster Bay Cove, and portions of Glen Head and Jericho.

District 19: East Massapequa, Massapequa, Massapequa Park, and portions of North Massapequa.

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Keeping The Lights On

Adapted from author Doug Arney, the following are keys to keeping your brain "lit" as you age.

1. Flow. A sedentary life causes brain deterioration. Blood flow to the brain keeps oxygen in your brain cells which gives them life. Keep moving, walking and get some exercise.

2. Energize. Junk food clogs your arteries and lowers energy, causing a sedentary lifestyle. Healthy food gives energy to your body and brain. Refuel and brighten the lights.

3. Recharge. Lack of enough sleep causes deterioration of the brain. Your brain needs downtime to recharge. Give it enough recharging and keep the lights burning bright.

4. Relax. Constant high stress has damaging effects on the brain and can lead to destructive habits which add further damage. Learn to control stress and let the lights shine.

5. Engage. Like muscles your brain needs exercise. Too often people, after retirement, retire their brains also so they atrophy. Stay engaged, exercise your brain with reading, puzzles and other challenges to keep the lights going on strong.

6. Love. When people grow isolated their brains lack stimulation and they grow dull. Stay connected with family and friends to brighten the lights.

7. Adventure. Many older people lose their zest for new adventures. You don't need to climb Everest just break out of dull routines. Any venture out to new places turns up the lights.

8. Purpose. People can lose interest in life after they have retired, feeling they have no purpose. Look for opportunities to volunteer. Helping others keeps the lights flaming.

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The Glen Cove Herald USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Subscriptions: \$50 one-time payment within Nassau County or \$60 outside of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 Copyright © 2025 Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.



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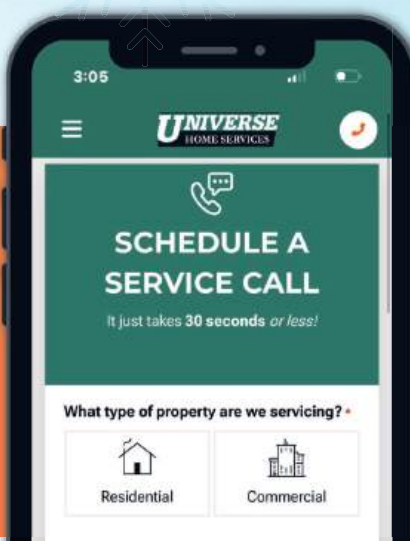
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Water crisis brewing underground

Long Island's aquifers in danger from overuse

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

It is all too easy to waste water in a world where its availability is taken for granted. But what happens when the aquifers that provide Long Island with its fresh water become dangerously diminished?

The state of those aquifers, and the challenges posed by groundwater depletion, were the focus of a presentation by Sarah Meyland, a water management consultant, at a meeting hosted by the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, in Sea Cliff, on Tuesday.

"Today's presentation is jam-packed with information critical to us all," Stephanie Sobel, a co-president of the coalition, said. "As the leading, and only, nonprofit organization focused solely on Hempstead Harbor, we take our role as stewards of the harbor seriously."

Meyland, a longtime advocate of sustainable water management, offered a sobering analysis based on findings from a decade-long study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Her message was clear: without urgent action, Long Island's groundwater supply faces severe and potentially irreversible consequences.

The study, authorized in 2016, was originally expected to take four years but was delayed, with the first phase only finished last August.

"Knowledge of the aquifer framework was about 40 years out of date when this project began," Meyland explained. "We know more now as a result of this recent study, which provides an updated view of the groundwater systems, using 120 years of data from 1900 to 2019."

The aquifer system, which includes the Lloyd, Magothy and Upper Glacial aquifers, is a layered geological formation of sand, gravel and clay. Vital sources of freshwater, the aquifers are increasingly threatened by overuse, contamination and saltwater intrusion.

Saltwater intrusion, one of the study's critical findings, poses a significant threat to Nassau County. As groundwater levels drop, saltwater from



Will Sheeline/Herald

At the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor's State of the Aquifer meeting, Sarah Meyland, a water management consultant laid out the dire state of Long Island's aquifers.

nearby bodies of water seeps into the aquifers, rendering them unusable as freshwater sources.

"The question is whether there is enough water in the aquifer system to hold back the ocean," Meyland said, directly quoting the study. "The aquifer system in western Long Island has been under stress from pumping of public water supply wells, irrigation for golf courses, and industrial wells."

The study found that since 1900, the aquifers have lost roughly 5 percent of their freshwater. While that may seem like a small portion, Meyland pointed out that the aquifers are refilled over hundreds of years, and it will take centuries to restore that lost 5 percent.

She also emphasized that once enough of an aquifer is contaminated by saltwater, it cannot be restored.

Despite the urgency, Meyland expressed frustration over the lack of proactive measures to address aquifer sustainability. She criticized the DEC for failing to effectively manage groundwater, noting that the agency considers itself a regulatory body rather than a management authority.

"Over the past 10 years, we have

never gotten to the point of even talking about sustainability," she said. "This is shocking, and unfortunately, no proactive actions have been taken or even discussed at this point."

Meyland also highlighted the lack of public education on groundwater conservation, pointing out that the DEC has done little to explain why community participation is critical. Efforts to push the DEC to create specialized modeling of vulnerable North Shore communities such as Great Neck, Port Washington, Glen Cove and Bayville have been met with resistance.

While acknowledging some progress, Meyland pointed to the DEC's Long Island Action Agenda as a promising but incomplete initiative. The agenda focuses on water quality issues, particularly nitrogen contamination, and collaboration with local governments and nonprofits. But water *quantity* concerns remain largely unaddressed.

"The DEC has never promoted its ability to address water quantity through its regulatory powers," Meyland said. "The public understands water quality because it has been discussed for decades. But the issue of

quantity, and the long-lasting damage we can inflict on aquifers if we don't maintain adequate water levels, is largely ignored."

To its credit, the study has introduced new tools, including updated computer models and an interactive online platform, that allow researchers and policy-makers to simulate various scenarios, such as increased water withdrawals and the impact of climate change.

"This tool is available to the public and professionals alike," Meyland said. "It's a game-changer for understanding how our aquifers might respond to future stresses."

The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor plans to distribute information from the presentation, and host additional events to raise awareness of the state of the aquifers. Meyland also outlined steps that residents and local officials can take to mitigate the crisis:

Meet reduction goals: Meyland highlighted a DEC directive for water suppliers to reduce summer water usage by 15 percent. While issued years ago, this goal has largely been forgotten. "If the public knew about this 15 percent challenge, I believe they would be willing to help," she said.

Install smart irrigation systems: Homeowners with automatic irrigation systems should invest in smart controllers that adjust for weather conditions, reducing unnecessary water use. "We don't need to water lawns three times a week," Meyland added. "Two or even once is enough."

Encourage long-range planning: Local officials should incorporate sustainability into their long-term planning efforts and prioritize water conservation in community policies.

Promote public awareness: Meyland urged residents to advocate for better communication from the DEC and demand progress reports on water conservation goals.

For more information on the study and conservation efforts, visit the USGS website, USGS.gov. For more information on the coalition and its events, go to its website, CoalitionToSaveHempsteadHarbor.org.

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School board reviews graduation rate

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

At its Jan. 22 meeting, the Glen Cove Board of Education took a deep dive into the district's graduation rate and upcoming changes to New York State's graduation requirements. The discussion, led by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Alexa Doeschner, highlighted the district's 81% graduation rate for the 2023 cohort and examined how future policy shifts may impact students.

Doeschner explained that the state determines the graduation rate by tracking students who enter ninth grade together and following them for four years. The state accounts for transfers, students who remain enrolled past four years, and those who drop out.

"Cohorts are based on student enrollment as of June 30 before their graduation reporting year," she said.

According to Doeschner, the district's 2023 graduation rate reflects the 2019 ninth-grade cohort, which had 294 students. Of those, 239 earned diplomas by August 2023, with 37% obtaining an advanced Regents diploma, 44% earning a Regents diploma, and 1% receiving a local diploma. Additionally, 6% of students remained enrolled for a fifth year, 3% transferred to a GED program, and 9% dropped out.

Students still enrolled from the 2019



Roksana Amid/Herald

At its Jan. 22 meeting, Alexa Doeschner took a deep dive into the district's graduation rate and upcoming changes to New York State's graduation requirements.

cohort will be counted in the five-year graduation rate when it is released later this year. However, the district cannot yet disclose 2024 graduation figures.

"We know it internally, and we are looking at it and analyzing it, but we cannot share it publicly," Doeschner said. "Very soon it will be disembargoed, and when that happens, all districts across the state will have that data publicly shared on the report card."

While the discussion focused on past performance, Doeschner also detailed significant changes coming to how New

York State recognizes high school graduates. Currently, students receive one of three diploma types: local, Regents, or advanced Regents. But that system is set to change.

"It will be one diploma for all students, with different seals of designations," Doeschner said.

The state is also moving toward a major overhaul of the Regents exams, which have long been a core requirement for graduation in New York. Starting in the fall of 2027, Regents exams will no longer be mandatory for earning

a diploma.

"The second change is the uncoupling—in the fall of 2027—of the Regents exams as graduation requirements," Doeschner explained. "The Regents exams will still exist but will not be required to graduate, as they are now."

This shift aligns with ongoing discussions at the state level about how to better assess student achievement beyond standardized testing. The Board of Regents has argued that students should be evaluated on a broader range of skills and competencies rather than being limited to high-stakes exams.

For Glen Cove, the changes mean educators will need to adjust how they prepare students for graduation. The transition will impact students currently in middle school, who will be among the first to graduate under the new diploma framework.

The Board of Education's review of the graduation rate was part of a broader conversation on student achievement. District officials reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring all students are prepared for college and careers, particularly as the state moves toward a new system.

"We see that high school is a culmination of a K through 12 education," Doeschner said. "And so it definitely is a gateway to college and employment as well."

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New State tax credit for small businesses

January 30, 2025 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By MADELEINE ROSEN

Special to the Herald

The Lift Our Communities, Advertise Locally Act would provide small businesses with up to \$4,000 for marketing in community media.

Small businesses in Glen Cove might soon be receiving some much-needed financial relief.

Earlier this month, State Sen. Monica R. Martinez and Assemblywoman Jen Lunsford introduced the Lift Our Communities, Advertise Locally Act, which would establish a new \$10 million tax credit for small businesses advertising in local media outlets. The LOCAL Act aims to support the marketing needs of small businesses — especially those that are minority-, woman- or veteran-owned, or that have 10 employees or fewer — while keeping investment in the media outlets that New Yorkers rely on everyday for critical information.

“Many downtown businesses are not able to prioritize advertising in this economy and could use the extra support,” said Jill Nossa, executive director of the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District. “There are quite a few eligible businesses that I’m sure would be happy to take advantage of this program, especially since it also supports outlets that our community relies on for local news.”

“This legislation fosters a cycle of



Courtesy Glen Cove BID

The Lift Our Communities, Advertise Locally Act would provide small businesses in Glen Cove with up to \$4,000 for marketing in community media.

growth, allowing small businesses to expand their reach while simultaneously supporting the media outlets that keep New Yorkers informed and engaged,” Martinez, the bill’s senate sponsor, said.

The legislation has already garnered staunch support from the media and business community alike. Led by The Empire State Local News Coalition, which is composed of over 200 local newspapers across New York — including The Glen Cove Herald — the bill has received praise from business trade groups throughout the state, which view the proposal as a solution to increase investment in small businesses and sus-

tain local news organizations.

“The LOCAL Act is a win-win-win for local businesses, local news, and local communities,” Zachary Richner, founding member of the Empire State Local News Coalition, said. “These institutions are intricately connected and work together to create the vibrant communities that New Yorkers love.”

The bill comes as the 2025 Legislative Session kicks off and negotiations begin on the State’s next fiscal year budget, which must be passed by both the Senate and Assembly and signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul by April 1. The tax credit would need to be included in the State’s

final spending plan.

“The LOCAL Act is about more than just advertising — it’s about investing in the economic health of our local communities and investing in the kind of local journalism that we need now more than ever,” Martinez’ fellow bill sponsor, Lunsford, said.

Under the LOCAL Act, a minority-, woman- or veteran-owned business, as well as any business with 10 employees or fewer, would be eligible to receive a refundable tax credit of 80 percent of its first \$5,000 of local advertising for a maximum credit of \$4,000 per year. The program would be capped at \$10 million annually.

LIA President & CEO Matt Cohen said, “By making community advertising for small businesses more accessible and affordable, this proposed act will help them with their marketing strategy and customer engagement while simultaneously supporting local media outlets, which are also small companies. The legislation is a win-win, and we look forward to its passage this session.”

“We are excited to support local businesses,” said Stuart Richner, president of Richner Communications Inc. “By making advertising more accessible and affordable, the LOCAL Act will empower Long Island’s small businesses to reach new customers while ensuring that our local media outlets continue to connect and inform our residents.”

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FOR HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

Boparai honored for health advocacy

Northwell Health's Sundeep Singh Boparai has been named one of 10 recipients of the 2025 Health Advocacy Awards, alongside Al Roker and Patrick Dempsey. The award recognizes individuals who turn personal experiences into platforms for meaningful change.

As operations manager for Northwell's LGBTQ Transgender Program, Boparai assisted approximately 4,500 patients in 2024. The New Hyde Park-based center, which opened in 2020, provides medical and mental health services for transgender individuals.

"His passion and commitment have expanded our services, ensuring that our patients receive the care they need," said Dr. David Rosenthal, medical director of Northwell's Center for Transgender Care.

A queer Sikh man, Boparai understands the challenges of rejection and anxiety many transgender patients face. While attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice, he experienced familial rejection after coming out. He later earned a master's from Hofstra

University and a doctorate in Health-care Administration and Public Policy.

"Working at Northwell's LGBTQ Transgender Program has been transformative," Boparai said. "Seeing people access the care that wasn't available to me 15 years ago is rewarding and empowering."



SUNDEEP SINGH BOPARAI

The Health Advocacy Awards honor those who advocate for marginalized communities. Winners are selected by Health magazine's editorial team, medical experts, and advocacy contributors.

"Recognizing health advocates is vital to advancing public health," said Dr. Sohaib Imtiaz, Health's chief medical officer.

For Boparai, the award symbolizes the importance of creating safe and inclusive health-care spaces.

"Healthcare should be a sanctuary where everyone is treated with dignity and respect," he said.

For more information on Northwell's LGBTQ Transgender Program, call (516) 622-5195 or visit northwell.edu.

-Roksana Amid

Presidential Leadership Scholar

Brian A. Aquart, Esq., vice president of Workforce and Community Education at Northwell Health's Center for Learning and Innovation, has been named a Presidential Leadership Scholar for the program's 10th annual class. He is among 57 accomplished leaders chosen nationwide for their potential to drive meaningful change in their communities and professions.

PLS, which launched in 2015, brings together diverse professionals to learn leadership lessons from the experiences of Presidents George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson. Scholars participate in a six-month program, traveling to presidential centers to engage with former administration officials, business leaders, and academics.

Aquart, a seasoned workforce development leader, has spent eight years at Northwell Health in progressively senior roles, including director of human resources at North Shore University Hospital and chief of staff

to the president and CEO. He now leads efforts to address health care workforce shortages through initiatives such as the Northwell School of Health Sciences, FutureReadyNYC, and MedVoyage.

Through PLS, Aquart will develop an equity-driven education model that prepares students for in-demand health care careers while removing barriers to access.

"I'm honored to join this esteemed group of leaders," said Aquart. "This program will strengthen my ability to drive innovation in education and workforce development."

Michael J. Dowling, Northwell Health's president and CEO, praised Aquart's leadership, calling him a visionary in redefining health care education.

The 2025 Presidential Leadership Scholars program begins on Jan. 29, with past participants reporting significant growth in their leadership skills and impact.

-Roksana Amid



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Celebrating the lunar new year with art

January 30, 2025 – GLEN COVE HERALD

Last Saturday, the Glen Cove Public Library hosted a Chinese brushwork-painting workshop that brought together art enthusiasts of all ages. Participants learned traditional techniques from Kathleen Deyo, an experienced instructor who guided them through the process of creating delicate bamboo and plum blossom designs on rice paper. The workshop began with a brief history of Chinese brush painting, followed by a hands-on demonstration of brush control, ink mixing, and composition techniques. By the end of the session, each participant proudly showcased their finished artwork, leaving with not only a beautiful piece but also a deeper appreciation for Asian art and culture.

—Roksana Amid



Sheila Wexler browsed through books with images of flowers for her artistic inspiration.



Carol Rosenbaum, of Long Beach, happily showed off her finished design.



Kathleen Deyo demonstrated proper techniques on how to hold a brush and how thick lines should look.



Deepthi Koblall carefully rinsed her brushes to avoid missing colors.



David Dinoff and his sister-in-law Cathy Parsa.

Roksana Amid/Herald photos

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VIEWFINDER What is your major goal for 2025?

By Danielle Schwab & Tim Baker

Sean Cirillo
Oceanside

My 2025 resolution is to replace all my local car trips with walking and biking. Replacing these short trips that are typically done with a car is healthier, saves me money, better connects me to the community and I'm never stuck in traffic on a bike.



David Friedman
Hewlett

Definitely need a nice relaxing vacation somewhere warm. I haven't been to Atlantis in many years, or maybe Italy. There are too many things to do and I'm getting older, so I need a vacation.



Mike Ahl
Babylon

I would like to get stronger. I ride my bike in Babylon. My average is 45 minutes to do 10 miles, and I want to get it under 40 minutes. I have two little boys, I want to be healthy for them.



Sharon Edwards
Merrick

Time management is definitely my resolution for this year. Last year really went by quickly; it was over and done. I have everything on one to-do list. I have a family that I want to spend some time with and then I have my business. I'm trying to balance everything.



Cliff Krauter
Bayville

I would like to become more involved in the committees around the city (Glen Cove). I meet many people that do things out of their good nature. It's something I highly respect and admire and I'd like to try to do more of.

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General Needs 2nd Annual Gala



An inspiring evening with dinner, an open bar, live auction, raffles, and honorees, all to support veterans in need with dignity and care!

Join Us for an Evening of Impact and Celebration!

Experience an unforgettable night at the

**General Needs Ltd. 2nd Annual Gala
on June 20, 2025, from 6:30 to 10:30 PM**

at the elegant

Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck, NY.

This impactful evening will honor Ralph Esposito, Director of the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency, and Arnold T. Quaranta, Jr., of the Ronkonkoma Rotary Club, for their tireless dedication to supporting veterans.

Together, let's celebrate the incredible strides made in restoring dignity to our nation's homeless veterans while contributing to a cause that changes lives. Guests will enjoy a delicious dinner, lively entertainment, and the chance to participate in an exciting live auction and basket raffles. Raffle baskets will go live for online ticket purchases starting May 20, 2025, so don't miss the opportunity to win fantastic prizes.

Support our mission through various sponsorship opportunities, journal ads, or by donating specific items to the auction or raffle baskets. With every ticket purchased or donation made, you are directly contributing to critical resources like mattresses, boots, and essential supplies for veterans in need.

Mark your calendar and secure your tickets early—this event sells out fast! Join us in making a lasting impact for those who served our country. Together, we can ensure no veteran is forgotten.

<https://generalneeds.org/events/>

<https://generalneeds.org/event/general-needs-2nd-annual-gala/>

Court backs county transgender sports ban

By ANGELINA ZINGARIELLO

azingariello@liherald.com

New York State Supreme Court Judge Bruce Cozzens last week denied a request by the Long Island Roller Rebels, a women's recreational roller derby league, to temporarily block a Nassau County law that restricts sports teams from using county facilities based on biological sex.

The Roller Rebels argued that Local Law 121-24 discriminates against transgender women by preventing them from participating in women's sports. The league sought a preliminary injunction to stop the law's enforcement while its lawsuit challenging the law continues.

The Long Island Roller Rebels are members of the Women's Flat Track Roller Derby Association, which "welcomes all transgender women, intersex women, and gender expansive women to participate in its member leagues. The sex assigned at birth of any and all WFTDA participants is considered confidential and private," according to court documents.

"I'm very happy that ... Cozzens ruled that Nassau County's local law banning biological males from playing on female sports teams is constitutional and that we did abide by the law," County Executive Bruce Blakeman said. "I'm gratified that we were the first in America to do it, and I think we set the tone for the rest of the nation."

In a 12-6 vote along party lines, the County Legislature passed a bill on June 24 that bans individuals who were born male from taking part in women's sports and on county-run facilities, regardless of their gender identity.

The county claimed the law was enacted to ensure fairness and safety in sports for biological women, and



Herald file photo

After a legal tussle, the law that restricts sports teams from using county facilities based on biological sex was upheld.

argued that federal Title IX regulations protecting women's sports support its position.

The court ruled that the Roller Rebels failed to prove that the law discriminates against transgender individuals under the state's Human Rights Law or Civil Rights Law. Cozzens noted that the law does not ban transgender people from participating in sports, but requires leagues to designate teams as male, female or co-ed.

In his decision, he emphasized the safety concerns and physical differences between biological men and women, particularly in contact sports like roller derby. The judge also highlighted the county's responsibility to use public facilities in ways that serve the majority of taxpayers.

"The power differential between adult individuals

who are born male and those born female is substantial and therefore may be more dangerous," Cozzens's decision read. "This would create additional risk to the individual and potential liability, creating costs to the municipality. The municipality is not obligated to provide a recreational setting for each and every individual residing within its confines."

"As we've said all along, it's just common sense," Blakeman said. "Biological males should not play in female sports. They have a competitive advantage. It's unfair, and it's also unsafe."

The ruling follows an executive order signed by President Trump on Jan. 20 that eliminated protections for transgender individuals, stating that the federal government would define sex strictly as male or female.

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STEPPING OUT



'Easy come, easy go'

Queen-mania rocks on. Almost Queen returns to the Paramount stage with their homage to the beloved band. They don't just pay tribute to the legendary band, Almost Queen transports you back in time to experience the magic and essence of Queen themselves. The band — featuring Joseph Russo as Freddie Mercury, Steve Leonard as Brian May, Randy Gregg as John Deacon, and John Cappadona as Roger Taylor — is "guaranteed to blow your mind" with iconic four-part harmonies and expertly executed musical interludes. dynamic live performance showcasing signature four-part harmonies and intricate musical interludes. The band's authenticity shines through in their impeccable attention to detail and genuine costumes, while their live energy and precision captivates fans of all ages. Almost Queen's concerts are a true testament to the band's love for Queen's music. We Are the Champions!" It's no wonder fans keep coming back for more.

Saturday Feb. 1, 8 p.m. \$79.50, \$59.50, \$49.50, \$39.50, \$34.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountrny.com.



South Shore Symphony

Music Director Adam Glaser's South Shore Symphony Orchestra welcomes the New Year with a rousing concert, titled "Heritage and Memory, at its Madison Theatre home. The orchestra is joined by guitarist Tali Roth. Originally from Israel, now based in the New York City area, she'll be playing the beloved Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez. The evening's repertoire also includes Humperdinck's Prelude to the opera Hansel and Gretel. The charming composition is known for its sweetness and nostalgia to this piece that catches you off guard. Another, Mary Watkins' Soul of Remembrance is becoming a staple in the orchestra repertoire, and deservedly so, according to Glaser. The program's second half is devoted to Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 in D major.

Saturday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. Madison Theatre, Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. Tickets available at madisontheatryny.org or (516) 323-4444.

MONSTER TRUCK

madness takes over

Those bigger-than-life behemoths gear up for a crushing competition

By Danielle Schwab

When it comes to Monster Jam, go big or go home.

Witness the roar of eight monster trucks battle it out for the winning trophy at the full-throttle competition with plenty of car-smashing, donut-wheeling and back-flipping action fans know and expect.

Monster Jam arrives at UBS Arena next weekend, Feb. 7-9, taking over Belmont Park for three days packed with high-flying action and jaw-dropping stunts. This isn't just any event — it's "As Big As It Gets." where where every moment is unexpected, unscripted and unforgettable.

Both monster truck fanatics and first-time watchers will experience all the motorsport has to offer in a four-part competition ruled by these 12,000 pound mechanical beasts. Drivers bring out all the stunts for the competition to the delight of spectators.

"Who doesn't love big trucks crushing stuff, mjumping high in the air, rolling over and doing all the crazy stuff we do?" says Matt Cody, the longtime driver of Grave Digger and 2024 Arena Series West Champion.

"From the atmosphere to the production to the people, it's a big family and it's a big family sport, everybody's there to just have fun," he adds.

Watch as these powerful trucks race for the fastest time, showcase their jaw-dropping skills with epic stunts — some of which are only on two wheels — in competitions of speed and skill. Also see the drivers unleash their trucks' wild, untamed power in a thrilling freestyle showdown.

And of course, there'll be plenty of monster-sized donuts to get heads-spinning as well.

To make it even more exciting, the judges' panel includes the entire audience. Fans are right in the middle of the action, helping to crown the event champion as they get to score the drivers in real time based on their skills, stunts, and saves. Everyone gets a say in which truck triumphs with glory and eventually moves on to July's Monster Jam World Finals.

All of this from the best seat in UBS Arena, which is every seat according to Cody.

"I tell people that in an arena as compared to a stadium, stadiums are cool, but in an arena, there's not a bad seat in the house."

Before taking over the driver's seat, Cody's Monster Jam journey began sitting in the audience of Monster Jam events as a kid. Cody, from Williamsport, Md., began to follow the sport at age 8. As a lifelong fan, he knows the thrills it offers to both fan and participant.

"Monster Jam used to come every year. It was



- Friday through Sunday, Feb. 7-9; times vary
- Tickets available at ticketmaster.com
- UBS Arena, 2400 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont

always my birthday present. I fell in love with it," he says.

Starting at 13-years-old, Cody got involved with the event in every way possible — whether it was sweeping floors, cleaning trucks or driving the tractor-trailers. His passion and hard work earned him a role as a mechanic for the show, eventually paving

the way for him to become an official driver in 2012.

Ten years later, Cody started driving the infamous Grave Digger — a 43 year global legend among monster trucks, sporting massive 66-inch tires.

"It's just a big, bad machine," Cody says.

This epic ride sports tombstones on its side "for the competitors that we've beaten and buried," he explains.

Going head-to-head against Grave Digger are newcomers Plane Crazy and Crazy Train as well as a new fan favorite, Sparkle Smash, a giant blue-and-purple unicorn that's sure to kick some butt.

Other trucks returning to claim victory are the always-popular Megalodon, Zombie, El Toro Loco, and Terminal Velocity.

It's truly an unforgettable family affair, involving generations of families since Monster Jam's start in 1992.

"I met so many awesome fans from over the years, dedicated fans who'll bring their grandfather, the dad, and now son, to an event. And the grandfather will be like, 'Yeah, I remember bringing my son.' Even though I'm not the driver that may have been [there] at that time, they'll take a picture just to recreate that," Cody says.

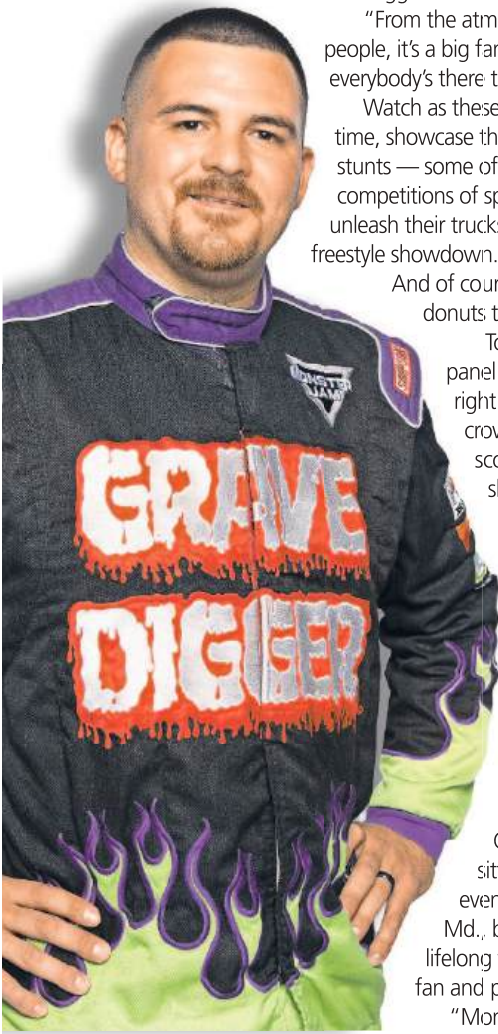
"It's just an awesome experience among the families and the memories that they're making."

Start off the action early. Fans can get a closer look at the trucks and meet the drivers at the exclusive Monster Jam Pit Party — or get revved up prior to the show with sneak peaks, giveaways and extra action at the Monster Jam Trackside Experience.

Photos courtesy Feld Entertainment

Top left - Sparkle Smash, among the newcomers, joins El Toro Loco and the other trucks in nailing vertical 2-wheel tricks, among other feats.

Top right - Monster trucks reach epic heights in the latest edition of Monster Jam. Grave Digger, with Matty Cody (bottom left) and other popular trucks thrill fans in their customized high-power vehicles.



THE \$ SCENE

Feb. 8

Sheng Wang

With his signature laid-back style, as showcased in his Netflix special Sweet & Juicy produced and directed by Ali Wong, comedian, actor, and writer, Sheng Wang brings his hilarious standup to the Paramount stage, Saturday, **Feb. 8**, 7 p.m. Long-time comedian Sheng Wang is truly

coming into his own. Two decades of performing has taken him from doing stand-up for touristy audiences in New York unwilling to give an Asian American comedian the time of day to a successful Netflix special, "Sweet and Juicy," produced and directed by Ali Wong. Wang asks audiences to not only recognize the personhood of an Asian on stage but to find deep resonance with this person's honest feelings. He mines comedy from the mundane, everyday parts of life — from the meditative ritual that is shopping at Costco to how to get maximum value from health insurance. Because he's from Houston, Texas., Wang also speaks with a slight Southern drawl, giving a relaxed quality to his delivery.

He likens himself to "A Clown with Words." Among his other credits, Wang was a featured standup on HBO's "2 Dope Queens" special and also wrote for the ABC show "Fresh Off the Boat." Wang resides in L.A. and in his time off he enjoys exploring botanical gardens and discovering new ways to snack. \$69.50, \$59.50, \$49.50, \$39.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [paramountny.com](https://www.paramountny.com).



Nassau BOCES LIHSA Open House

Nassau BOCES Long Island High School for the Arts (LIHSA) invites all Nassau and Suffolk County arts students with the passion and ambition to transform their artistic talent into a career in the arts to its upcoming open house, Wednesday, **Feb. 5**, 6 p.m. Tour the campus at 239 Cold Spring Road in Syosset and experience classes focused on each area of the visual and performing arts. Parents of prospective students will have the opportunity to speak with faculty, guidance, current parents and students, and to learn about the school's prestigious Summer Arts Academy, offered through a partnership with Hofstra University. A final open house session is offered March 1.

Students receive expert instruction from experienced professionals working in the industry. As part of their education, they regularly engage in unique learning opportunities through the school's many partnerships and residencies. Students also get to perform on the same stage as Broadway stars during the school's annual fundraiser, Broadway Supports LIHSA. For more information, visit [longislandhighschoolforthearts.org](https://www.longislandhighschoolforthearts.org) or call (516) 622-5678. Register at [longislandhighschoolforthearts.org/lihsa-live-open-house-registration-form/](https://www.longislandhighschoolforthearts.org/lihsa-live-open-house-registration-form/).

Winter in the woods

Explore Sands Point Preserve in winter, with environmental educator Hildur Palsdottir, Saturday, **Feb. 1**, 10-11:30 a.m. She will engage participants in hands-on nature discovery activities encompassing the preserve's unique physical features and wildlife.

Conservation issues are also discussed on the walk through the grounds of the former summer residence of Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim. \$15 (\$10 members), \$5 children. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit [SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org](https://www.SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org) or call (516) 571-7901.

The Furry Forecaster

Visit Long Island Children's Museum and share in some Groundhog Day fun, Saturday, **Feb.**

1, noon-2 p.m. Join in on the forecasting festivities and make a groundhog to take home, at the drop-in program.

Will he emerge from his burrow and see his shadow or not? For ages 3 and up. Free with admission. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or [licm.org](https://www.licm.org).





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Jan. 31

In perfect harmony
Join more than a dozen incredible a cappella

groups for the return of the popular SingStrong A Cappella Festival, hosted by Adelphi University, as they pull out all the stops for their 20th year. This family friendly weekend, Friday through Sunday, **Jan. 31-Feb. 2**, features five completely different concerts, also workshops and competitions, even a group you can perform with, among other activities.

Professional a cappella groups perform along with collegiate and high school ensembles. A variety of musical genres are represented, including re-imaginings of barbershop, pop, R&B, jazz, and more. Visit singstrong.org for details. Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or Adelphi.edu/pac.

Teen pickleball

The North Shore Coalition Against Substance Abuse offers pickleball court time and instruction for young people in grades 7-12, at the Gold Coast Pickleball Club. Join them Fridays, 7-9 p.m., until **Feb. 7**, for a fun and active way to spend the evening. Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased through EventBrite.com. 5 Glen Head Road, Glen Head.

Creative Communi-tea

The Sea Cliff Senior Outreach Network hosts a Creative Communi-Tea, Friday, **Jan. 31**, noon, upstairs at Sea Cliff Village Hall. Connect with friends and neighbors over tea, conversation, and creative activities. Whether you're sipping tea, chatting, or diving into the art project of the day, it's a wonderful way to share an afternoon. To RSVP call (516) 671-0080. 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff.

Knitting/Crochet Club

Meet up with other knitters or crocheters, at Glen Cove Public Library, Fridays, 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.

Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturday, **Feb. 1**, noon-3 p.m., at Nassau County Museum of Art's Manes Education Center. The drop-in program continues, Saturdays, 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 for more information and to register or call (516) 484-9337.

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 or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

On Exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, the original "Deco at 100" coincides with the 100th anniversary of the 1925 Paris International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts (Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes) which publicly launched the movement. The direct follow-up to the well-received 2023 exhibit, "Our Gilded Age," it comparably links the period's signature innovation in the decorative arts, Art Deco, to the fine arts. The exhibit encompasses significant cultural advancements during Long Island's Roaring Twenties/Jazz Age movement, including votes, jobs, and the automobile for women, the beginnings of suburbia with commutation for work, and planned residential communities, which all defined the era, while the following decade brought economic reversals and the WPA program. Works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, Fernand Léger, Guy Pène du Bois, Gaston Lachaise, Elie Nadelman, and Reginald Marsh, among others, along with art deco stylists of poster art and graphics, and photography will convey the Art Deco spirit along with its furniture, decorative arts, and fashion.

Like "Our Gilded Age," the social scene of Long Island's Gold Coast, and its personalities — both upstairs and downstairs — will be portrayed, along with the ongoing relationship with the immediate urban context of New York with its skyscrapers and deco-styled architecture. On view through June 15. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



Feb. 16

Hempstead House tour

Sands Point Preserve is the backdrop to explore the elegant Gold Coast home that's the centerpiece of the estate, Sunday, **Feb. 16**, noon-1 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. Visit the grand rooms inside the massive 50,000-square-foot Tudor-style mansion, the former summer residence of Gilded Age financier Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim. Tours are limited in size and tend to sell out. Arrive early to purchase tickets. \$10. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit SandsPointPreserve-Conservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.

Having an event?

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

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Remembering a historic day of liberation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

take anything for granted — not his kids, not his friends, not even toilet paper.”

The gathering last weekend commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on Monday, and the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The event took place against a backdrop of rising antisemitism, and a recent Anti-Defamation League survey indicating that nearly half of all people worldwide hold “elevated levels of antisemitic attitudes.”

Bernie Furshpan, 67, delivered the keynote address, and focused on the 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered in the Holocaust. “That number is the equivalent of the entire population of Nassau County,” he said. “Imagine every single person here being methodically, systematically slaughtered.”

Furshpan recounted the mass executions carried out by the Nazi death squads, the Einsatzgruppen, and the brutal conditions of the ghettos. “The Einsatzgruppen murdered my 4-year-old uncle,” he said. “My Aunt Hannah, my father’s other siblings, my grandparents — all taken. Only my father survived.”

Alan Mindel, chair of the HMTTC, emphasized the urgency of remembrance. “For those who don’t remember history, we are bound to repeat it,” he said. Mindel highlighted a recent inci-

dent in Park Slope, Brooklyn, in which a kosher restaurant was vandalized with graffiti calling for genocide. “We have come to a point where swastikas throughout our community have been normalized,” he said, referring to graffiti on the HMTTC building. “Hate has been allowed to take root and flourish.”

Mindel, who is also the son of Holocaust survivors, reflected on all the survivors, including his parents, who refrained from discussing their experiences. “While we are blessed by those who tell their story, most survivors were like my parents,” he said. “They didn’t want to burden their children with the horrors they had endured.”

Regina Grossman, who was taken to Auschwitz as a teenager, rarely spoke about her experiences, Elana Blumenfeld, Grossman’s granddaughter, said.

“No matter how many books you read, how many movies you watch, or stories you hear — multiply it by a million,” Blumenfeld said, quoting her grandmother in a call to the Herald. “You’ll never understand the horror.”

Blumenfeld said that the trauma of the Holocaust hardened her grandmother, shaping her into a tough and resilient woman. “It wasn’t until she developed dementia that I saw who she truly was — soft, gentle, affectionate,” she said. “The war robbed her of that.”

With Holocaust survivors and their immediate descendants aging, Blumen-



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson Mathews

Holocaust survivor Agi Adler lit candles to honor the memory of her friends and family who died in the Holocaust.

feld stressed the responsibility of the next generation to preserve their legacies. “We carry the burden because we know they’re not here,” she said. “It’s our responsibility to tell these stories to our kids, so they can tell theirs.”

Rabbi Irwin Huberman, of Congregation Tiferith Israel, in Glen Cove spoke about the importance of Holocaust education in an era of increasing denial and misinformation.

“It’s important that this not just be a Jewish commemoration, but an international one,” Huberman said in a call

with the Herald. He stressed that with the dwindling number of survivors, it is imperative that institutions like the HMTTC preserve their stories and educate future generations.

“The Nazis kept meticulous records of their atrocities — there’s no debate about what happened,” Huberman said. “As we lose more survivors, it’s important that we make the effort to research the actual documentation that the Nazis kept, and to listen to the remaining voices who were there and observed this personally.”

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**LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE OF
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SALE OF TAX LIENS ON
REAL ESTATE**

Notice is hereby given that commencing on February 18th, 2025, will sell at public on-line auction the tax liens on certain real estate, unless the owner, mortgagee, occupant of or any other party in interest in such real estate shall have paid to the County Treasurer by February 13th, 2025 the total amount of such unpaid taxes or assessments with the interest, penalties and other expenses and charges against the property.

Such tax liens will be sold at the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding 10 percent per six-month period, for which any person or persons shall offer to take the total amount of such unpaid taxes as defined in Section 5-37.0 of the Nassau County Administrative Code.

Effective with the February 2019 lien sale Ordinance No. 175-2015 requires a \$175.00 per day registration fee for each person who intends to bid at the tax lien sale. Ordinance No. 175-2015 also requires that upon the issuance of the Lien Certificate there is due from the lien buyer a Tax Certificate Issue Fee of \$20.00 per lien purchased. Pursuant to the provisions of the Nassau County Administrative Code at the discretion of the Nassau County Treasurer the auction will be conducted online. Further information concerning the procedures for the auction is available at the website of the Nassau County Treasurer at: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/526/County-Treasurer>

Should the Treasurer determine that an in-person auction shall be held, same will commence on the 18th day of February 2025 at the Office of The County Treasurer 1 West Street, Mineola or at some other location to be determined by the Treasurer.

A list of all real estate in Nassau County on which tax liens are to be sold is available at the website of the Nassau County Treasurer at: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/527/Annual-Tax-Lien-Sale>

A list of local properties upon which tax liens are to be sold will be advertised in this publication on or before February 06th, 2025.

Nassau County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodations such as those required by the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA) will be provided to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in all services, programs, activities and public hearings and events conducted by the Treasurer's Office. Upon request, information can be made available in Braille, large print, audio-tape or other alternative formats. For additional information, please call (516) 571-2090 ext. 1-3715.

Dated: January 23, 2025
THE NASSAU COUNTY
TREASURER
Mineola, New York

TERMS OF SALE

Such tax liens shall be sold subject to any and all superior tax liens of sovereignties and other municipalities and to all claims of record which the County may have thereon and subject to the provisions of the Federal and State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts.

However, such tax liens shall have priority over the County's Differential Interest Lien, representing the excess, if any, of the interest and penalty borne at the maximum rate over the interest and penalty borne at the rate at which the lien is purchased.

The Purchaser acknowledges that the tax lien(s) sold pursuant to these Terms of Sale may be subject to pending bankruptcy proceedings and/or may become subject to such proceedings which may be commenced during the period in which a tax lien is held by a successful bidder or the assignee of same, which may modify a Purchaser's rights with respect to the lien(s) and the property securing same. Such bankruptcy proceedings shall not affect the validity of the tax lien. In addition to being subject to pending bankruptcy proceedings and/or the Federal and State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts, said purchaser's right of foreclosure may be affected by the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA), 12 U.S.C. ss 1811 et seq., with regard to real property under Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) receivership.

The County Treasurer reserves the right, without further notice and at any time, to withdraw from sale any of the parcels of land or premises herein listed. The Nassau County Treasurer reserves the right to intervene in any bankruptcy case/litigation where the property affected by the tax liens sold by the Treasurer is part of the bankruptcy estate. However, it is the sole responsibility of all tax lien purchasers to protect their legal

interests in any bankruptcy case affecting their purchased tax lien, including but not limited to the filing of a proof of claim on their behalf, covering their investment in said tax lien. The Nassau County Treasurer and Nassau County and its agencies, assumes no responsibility for any legal representation of any tax lien purchaser in any legal proceeding including but not limited to a bankruptcy case where the purchased tax lien is at risk.

The rate of interest and penalty at which any person purchases the tax lien shall be established by his bid. Each purchaser, immediately after the sale thereof, shall pay to the County Treasurer ten per cent of the amount for which the tax liens have been sold and the remaining ninety per cent within thirty days after such sale. If the purchaser at the tax sale shall fail to pay the remaining ninety per cent within ten days after he has been notified by the County Treasurer that the certificates of sale are ready for delivery, then all amounts deposited with the County Treasurer including but not limited to the ten per cent theretofore paid by him shall, without further notice or demand, be irrevocably forfeited by the purchaser and shall be retained by the County Treasurer as liquidated damages and the agreement to purchase shall be of no further effect. Time is of the essence in this sale. This sale is held pursuant to the Nassau County Administrative Code and interested parties are referred to such Code for additional information as to terms of the sale, rights of purchasers, maximum rates of interest and other legal incidents of the sale.

Furthermore, as to the bidding,
1. The bidder(s) agree that they will not work with any other bidder(s) to increase, maintain or stabilize interest rates or collaborate with any other bidder(s) to gain an unfair competitive advantage in the random number generator in the event of a tie bid(s) on a tax certificate. Bidder(s) further agree not to employ any bidding strategy designed to create an unfair competitive advantage in the tiebreaking process in the upcoming tax sale nor work with any other bidder(s) to engage in any bidding strategy that will result in a rotational award of tax certificates.

2. The tax certificate(s) the Bidder will bid upon, and the interest rate(s) bid, will be arrived at independently and without direct or indirect consultation, communication or agreement with any other

bidder and that the tax certificate(s) the Bidder will bid upon, and the interest rate(s) to be bid, have not been disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder, and will not be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder prior to the close of bidding. No attempt has been made or will be made to, directly or indirectly, induce any other bidder to refrain from bidding on any tax certificate, to submit complementary bids, or to submit bids at specific interest rates.

3. The bids to be placed by the Bidder will be made in good faith and not pursuant to any direct or indirect, agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any other bidder to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive bid.

4. If it is determined that the bidder(s) have violated any of these bid requirements then their bid shall be voided and if they were the successful bidder the lien and any deposits made in connection with said bid shall be forfeited.

Dated: January 23, 2025
THE NASSAU COUNTY
TREASURER
Mineola, New York
151098

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF NASSAU
HSBC Bank USA, N.A., as trustee for the registered holders of the Renaissance Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-4, Plaintiff
AGAINST**

John Kerry Webber, Jr., et al., Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 31, 2024 I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the North Side Steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court at 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on February 25, 2025 at 2:00PM, premises known as 99 A Forest Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau, State of NY, Section 30 Block D-00 Lot 86. Approximate amount of judgment \$668,600.09 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 004249/2015. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the 10th Judicial District. Foreclosure Auctions will be held "Rain or Shine."

Rita Solomon, Esq., Referee
LOGS Legal Group LLP
f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC



Herald file photo

The Glen Cove City School District presented its \$115.9 million proposed budget.

'We must adapt to changes,' district administrator says

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that "there is no mention of creating a more accurate foundation aid formula, and so there is some concern there." She said that more information about state aid would be presented at a future meeting.

Interest earnings are also expected to grow by over \$281,000, bringing the total to \$800,000, reflecting improved returns on the district's bank balances.

Not all revenue streams are trending upward, however. Payments in lieu of taxes, which result from agreements with the city's Industrial Development Agency, are projected to decline by nearly \$300,000, to just over \$3.38 million, due to the expiration of one significant agreement that shifts property back to the tax rolls. "This change will impact our overall revenue, but it's part of the natural cycle of these agreements," Kahan said.

PILOT agreements play a crucial role in the district's revenue structure, replacing traditional property taxes. This year's payments include contributions from notable properties such as Avalon - Phase I (\$1.26 million), the Regency (just under \$307,500), and LIPA (nearly \$1.33 million).

"While PILOTs are an important source of income, they are not permanent," Kahan said. "We must adapt to changes."

In a strategic move, the district plans to reduce its reliance on reserves, cutting them by nearly \$1.13 million, to

\$750,000. "We aim to build financial stability by limiting our use of reserves and focusing on sustainable revenue sources," Kahan said.

On the expenditure side, the budget is divided into three main components, as mandated by the State Education Department: capital, administrative and program. The program component, which includes teaching, technology, transportation and employee benefits, remains the largest portion of spending.

The district is bracing for significant cost increases in key areas. Health insurance is projected to rise by 12 percent, while general insurance premiums could jump by as much as 20 percent. Pension contributions to the teachers' and employees retirement systems are also expected to grow, by 10 and 15 percent, respectively.

"These increases reflect both inflationary pressures and our contractual obligations to employees and third-party providers," Kahan said.

The district's budgeting process is far from complete, with additional workshops planned to delve more deeply into specific areas. The next workshop is scheduled for Feb. 12, and will focus on the capital and administrative components, reserve balances, and updates on state aid.

"Transparency is key," Kahan said. "These workshops are an opportunity for the public to ask questions and gain a clear understanding of how their tax dollars are being utilized."

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OPINIONS

Protecting subway system is essential to keep N.Y. moving

Even though it has been anything but easy, New York's mass transit system is once again being used as the primary source of travel at an increasing rate since being effectively shut down at the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Subway ridership has grown 148 percent since January 2021 and continues to climb, with a 5 percent increase in 2024 over 2023. A single-day post-pandemic record of 4.5 million rides was set in mid-December.



CHARLES LAVINE

With this comes a greater responsibility on every one of us to keep it safe. While prioritizing affordability and support of families, Gov. Kathy Hochul is showing that emphasizing public safety is just as important.

Last March, Hochul instituted her plan to use state resources to enhance New Yorkers' safety and protection on the subways. While crime in the transit system is already down 10 percent since the plan was announced, the governor refuses to claim, "Mission accomplished." Instead she has studied the situation closely and collaborated with stakeholders to put elements of her plan into action. In her recent State of the

State address, she went even further to protect riders and more than 40,000 members of TWU Local 100 and other transit workers who keep the city moving.

In December, Hochul announced that she was working with the city to increase the law enforcement presence throughout the system with the deployment of 1,000 National Guard members and 250 members of the State and MTA Police as part of Joint Task Force Empire Shield. Their job is to assist the New York City Police Department with bag checks and other forms of violence prevention in heavily trafficked areas. In her speech, she said there would be a temporary surge in patrol levels at 30 subway stations and transit hubs that account for half of all the crime in the system, as well as an increased uniformed presence on overnight trains for the next six months.

Among the other steps being taken:

New protective barriers will be installed to protect people waiting on platforms at more than 100 subway stations.

LED lights will be installed at all stations to enhance visibility, and fare gates and exits will be modernized to inhibit fare evasion.

Installation of security cameras to protect conductor cabins was accelerated, and is now complete, with more than 15,000 cameras in 100 percent of subway cars.

Law enforcement, transit personnel and prosecutors will continue to meet regularly to coordinate information sharing and ensure that dangerous and repeat offenders in the system are held accountable.

An investment of \$20 million will increase the number of Subway Co-Response Outreach Teams and Safe Options Support teams, which will address the most severe mental

health crises occurring in subway stations.

Ours is not an easy world. Americans, and especially New Yorkers, are still struggling to recover from the damaging effects of the pandemic. In such difficult times, it is meaningful to consider some of the basic principles of our democracy.

Running for president in 1959, John F. Kennedy spoke on the challenge of crime before the District Attorneys' Convention in Milwaukee, and said, "One hundred and fifty years ago, a member of the British Parliament described that nation's inhabitants as 'the most lawless,

corrupt, and criminally disposed race in the whole of the civilized world.' Organized crime had spread over the country. Dealing in stolen goods was one of London's most prominent sources of income. Organized mobs periodically looted large sections of British cities. And corruption had spread to officials in every branch of government, at the highest and lowest levels.

"But the British overcame this trend to build a tradition of honesty, integrity, and scrupulous administration of criminal justice," Kennedy continued. "And we in this country can reverse our ominous trends as well. It will require an extraordinary effort of the part of federal and local officials. It will require a real revitalization of public opinion. It will require the personal dedication for a better country on the part of each and every one of us.

"But it can be done," the future president concluded. "In the words of Woodrow Wilson, 'This is the high enterprise of the new day: to lift everything that concerns our life as a nation to the light that shines from the hearth fire of every man's conscience.'"

Kennedy's words are as true today as they were 66 years ago. Working with Governor Hochul, we will best honor the American spirit by working together to strengthen public safety.

Charles Lavine represents the 13th Assembly District.

Conspiracy has no place after tragedy

Like so many others, I have watched the California wildfires unfold with a mix of horror and awe.

For those unfamiliar with the scale of destruction, the fires that began igniting near Los Angeles in early January have scorched over 40,000 acres, claimed at least

27 lives, injured more than 20 people and destroyed over 15,000 structures.

As I followed news reports, watched television coverage and scrolled through social media during the first week of the fires, one message stood out: Nearly everyone had California and



JORDAN VALLONE

its residents in their thoughts and prayers. Relief efforts and fundraisers quickly sprang into action as people rallied to help and offer support wherever it was needed.

It is in our nature as humans to want to help. Yet to my dismay, almost as soon as the relief efforts began, conspiracies started surfacing. And not to be punny, but they spread like, well, wildfire.

On my social media feeds, I occasionally come across videos from a popular account called "Gubba Homestead." The account owner, a farmer, often starts her videos with the tagline, "I'm a conspiracy theorist . . ." From there she dives into various claims, many of which can be debunked by science. The videos are clickbait-like in their nature, designed to provoke reactions or outrage in the comments — an approach that boosts views and amplifies the videos' spread.

It's a fascinating, albeit troubling, method of online content creation, and I wasn't surprised when, about a week after the fires began, she appeared on my feed once again, starting with the familiar line, "Call me a conspiracy theorist, but . . ."

She went on to claim that there was no way the L.A. wildfires could have been caused by climate change, offering harmful commentary that did nothing to help anyone during a time of tragedy.

Without diving too deep, I'll tell you this: Climate scientists have indicated that the likelihood of fire events has increased by 31 to 66 percent since 1950, due to intense periods of strong rainfall, which

create more vegetation, followed by periods of extreme drought, which dries out that vegetation. Global temperatures in 2024 were dubbed "abnormally hot" by scientists at the University of California — which should surprise no one. And it's not just the West Coast that has been affected by fires.

Climate change is real, and it's here. People can ignore the truth, but there's no place in this conversation for conspiracies.

At the core of American values lies the principle of free speech. Thoughtful questioning and theorizing have driven breakthroughs once deemed impossible. Scientific discoveries have emerged, and transforma-

tive social change has been achieved, thanks to people who challenged the status quo — doing so with ethical integrity and moral purpose.

What's unfolding across social media, as Californians work to rebuild their lives, is neither ethical nor moral. Those whose lives have been upended don't need "influencers" spreading baseless claims or (again, sorry) fanning the flames of conspiracy.

This behavior exploits tragedy for attention, shifting the focus away from the

victims and the real issues at hand. It undermines efforts to address the underlying causes, like climate change and inadequate infrastructure, and distracts from the stories of resilience and heroism that deserve to be heard.

The conspiracy phenomenon isn't unique to the California fires. From hurricanes to pandemics to mass shootings, misinformation and conspiracy theories seem to surface in the wake of nearly every major tragedy. Under the guise of seeking the "truth," sensationalized theories simply capitalize on fear, confusion and distrust, and accomplish nothing.

To complicate things, Meta, the company that owns Facebook and Instagram, announced a few weeks ago that it was scrapping its fact-checking program, which flagged possible misinformation.

I'm not suggesting that we stop questioning or trying to make sense of the world around us, but as always, we must remain mindful. Consider the weight of your words and actions, and the harm that conspiracies can inflict. There's a time and place for questions, based on the truth. That's how we rebuild and move forward. But in the aftermath of tragedy, we can't afford to make room for ignorance.

Jordan Vallone is a senior editor of the Herald Community Newspapers. Comments? Jvallone@liherald.com.

Theories started surfacing almost as soon as the relief efforts began in L.A.

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2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
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HERALD EDITORIAL

Act would help main streets, local newsrooms

Small businesses are the heart-beat of our communities. They are the corner stores, family-owned restaurants, and local service providers that fuel our neighborhoods, create jobs, and drive economic growth. Yet these vital businesses often face significant challenges in reaching new customers and growing their operations in an increasingly competitive economy.

With the official introduction in the New York State Legislature of the Lift Our Communities, Advertise Locally, or LOCAL, Act, small businesses across the state might gain a powerful new tool next year to help sustain their success and maximize the reach of their marketing dollars. Sponsored by State Sen. Monica Martinez and Assemblywoman Jen Lunsford, the legislation would establish a tax credit for small businesses that advertise in local media outlets — from print and digital to television and radio. By making advertising more affordable, the LOCAL Act would empower small businesses to reach their target audiences while also supporting the essential work of the same media outlets that provide our communities with local journalism.

The LOCAL Act focuses on supporting minority-, woman- and veteran-owned businesses, as well as any businesses with 10 or fewer employees. For

many of these entrepreneurs, the ability to advertise affordably in trusted, community-driven platforms like local newspapers would be a game-changer. Local media outlets are well positioned to connect businesses with their neighbors — customers who are eager to shop locally and uplift their communities.

This legislation couldn't come at a better time. Small businesses are still navigating the economic aftershocks of the pandemic, inflationary pressures, and competition from large corporations with massive marketing budgets. The LOCAL Act would help level the playing field, giving your favorite mom-and-pop store a way to increase visibility without sacrificing their scarce financial resources.

When our small businesses thrive, so do our communities. Small businesses employ your neighbors, sponsor your kids' Little League team, and offer a convenient destination for a night out with your spouse. These businesses are not only economic drivers, but also cornerstones of community identity.

The benefits of the LOCAL Act would extend beyond businesses. Local media outlets, too, are vital to communities, because they produce the journalism that keeps people informed about school board meetings, neighborhood crime, church bake sales and the

most recent newlyweds — and everything in between. Unfortunately, declining advertising revenues have jeopardized the financial sustainability of many of these media outlets, and small newsrooms have been shuttering across the state. By encouraging small businesses to advertise locally, the LOCAL Act would help these outlets continue their essential work of championing their communities.

This dual benefit — supporting both small businesses and local journalism — has already garnered strong support from business groups, community leaders, and the 200-plus local newspapers comprising the Empire State Local News Coalition — including the Heralds. It's a win-win solution that strengthens the backbone of our local economy while fostering a unified, informed citizenry.

The LOCAL Act marks a bold step forward in tackling the interconnected challenges our communities are facing today. By working together to implement and embrace this program, we can build stronger businesses, sustain vital journalism, and ensure the prosperity of communities across New York for years to come.

We support this smart legislation. Tell your elected leaders in Albany to include the LOCAL Act in the final fiscal year 2026 state budget.

LETTERS

Blakeman takes the credit, but how safe is the county?

To the Editor:

County Executive Bruce Blakeman boasts in his Jan. 16-22 Herald op-ed, "Safety and affordability must be Nassau's priorities," that he has made Nassau County the safest county in the nation. But Blakeman neglects to acknowledge that the same top ranking in a U.S. News & World Report annual survey was also attained in two consecutive years during the tenure of his predecessor, Democrat Laura Curran.

The Republican county executive attributes the comparatively high degree of security to "our investments in public safety." Blakeman notes that he has sworn in 291 new police officers since taking office in 2022.

While the additional cops may be helping keep violent-crime rates at the low level achieved under Curran, an expanded Nassau County Police Department has done little to make the county's roads safer. Blakeman says nothing, and has done nothing, about the traffic violence that resulted in nearly 150 deaths in the county during his first two years in office. Killings by armed assailants claimed fewer than 10 lives in the same period.



The NCPD, and Blakeman, appear uninterested in acting to reduce this carnage. County police issued about 20 percent fewer tickets to drivers in 2022 than in

2019, according to the most recent data available from state sources. Stricter enforcement would likely bring about a drop in fatal crashes related to speeding

OPINIONS

‘An unhealthy state of things’

Winston Churchill wrote, “Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things.”

An “unhealthy state of things” is where I draw your attention as we examine Gov. Kathy Hochul’s recent State of the State address, the annual report required by our state’s Constitution.



JACK M. MARTINS

Regrettably, Hochul missed the mark completely. Instead of informing us on the current situation, she treated us to her wish list. And, while listing goals is acceptable, they

must be grounded in reality. It’s easy to *claim* you’re buying a mansion, but you can’t if you’re broke.

To that end, here are few painful realities that were missing from her speech:

Migrants: More than 210,000 have arrived in New York City alone since 2022, and the state has spent more than \$4 billion in taxpayer dollars on their care, to the detriment of other programs. Mayor Eric Adams has declared the situ-

ation unsustainable. Worse still, the 19,000 migrant encounters along the U.S.-Canada border that have overwhelmed upstate towns have been ignored. Yet we remain a “sanctuary” state.

Antisemitism: Hate crimes are skyrocketing, particularly against Jews. In fact, 88 percent of New York’s religion-based hate crimes in 2023 targeted Jews. This was largely driven by unchecked and inflammatory protests on New York’s college campuses.

Infrastructure: The state’s roads and bridges are clearly deteriorating. According to the Department of Transportation, 60 percent of our bridges are rated fair or poor, while their repair budgets have dropped 20 percent. And a whopping 17,000 of New York’s road miles are rated fair or poor, while their repair budgets have fallen 30 percent. These shoddy conditions cost motorists \$36 billion a year in damage and repair costs. How is this safe or fair?

Affordability: New York is again dead last out of all 50 states. That’s because we spend about 79 percent of our income on just the basics. Our state and local property taxes have us ranked 48th and 41st, respectively. Health care costs continue to rise, and we pay some of the

highest home and auto insurance premiums in the country. Hochul’s response is to offer a one-time “inflation rebate” of \$300. And she actually claims she’ll make New York more affordable by increasing state spending by over \$12 billion. Only in New York.

Crime: The governor has historically manipulated crime data to mask failures. For example, she’ll cherry-pick favorable statistics from just 28 police departments while ignoring the other 472 in the state. Or she’ll cite a felony crime reduction of 2 percent in 2024, but fail to mention that it’s still 33 percent higher than it was in 2019, before she took office. But mathematical sleights of hand aside, do we really need more proof? Hop on a subway or just read the papers. And her response? Brighter bulbs on subway platforms, and a disjointed promise of more cops from the already overburdened NYPD.

It’s time for common sense. The migrant crisis can be addressed by declaring an end to our “sanctuary” status. We can empower district attorneys and police departments by reversing the failed cashless bail experiment. And affordability is achieved by improving the business climate with fewer taxes

and regulations, thereby making it less costly to provide goods and services. How about removing taxes on tips and overtime pay as a start?

But instead of solutions, Hochul put on a show. Her speech was preceded by an hour-long program that included a gospel choir, a marching band, a dance troupe, a Tony Award-winning Broadway singer, a poet, a Boy Scout, an honor guard, and three invocations by a rabbi, a minister and a Muslim imam, all on jumbo video screens. She quite literally implemented the ancient Roman political maxim of “bread and circus,” the use of entertainment and distraction to direct attention away from failures.

The truth is that New York is in very rough shape, and it cannot be effectively governed through virtue signaling. Just look at the results in Gov. Gavin Newsom’s California. Rather, a leader must humbly engage both sides, do a lot of deep work, and design policies that sincerely address the circumstances of the majority, fairly and without bias. It’s slow, tedious and unglamorous.

The governor offered us political lip service, much like her well-timed congestion pricing “freeze,” which instantly thawed after November’s election. New Yorkers need the truth. New Yorkers can handle the truth.

Jack M. Martins represents the 7th State Senate District.

The governor’s State of the State address was nothing but a wish list.

LETTERS

and driving under the influence — the two leading causes of road deaths.

Blakeman seeks to project a tough-guy image when it comes to crime. That accounts for his unilateral move to create a force of 75 armed “special deputies” to be activated whenever he chooses. This new unit, criticized as a private militia, will be mobilized in cases of “emergency,” the county executive maintains. But the carnage on the county’s roads does not, in his estimation, qualify as a topic worth addressing — let alone as an “emergency.”

KEVIN J KELLEY
Atlantic Beach

It’s time for New York to embrace nuclear power

To the Editor:

Gov. Kathy Hochul’s recent state budget proposal fails to adequately address New York’s energy infrastructure. The proposal does not mention nuclear power, even though it is the state’s best energy opportunity. Equally troubling is the omission of the Empire State Wind project, a once-central component of New York’s energy goal of generating net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. If the governor rec-

ognizes that wind energy faces significant public opposition, especially on Long Island, then it’s time to focus on funding nuclear energy projects instead.

Nuclear power is the most efficient form of renewable energy, generating massive amounts of electricity with a much smaller land footprint than wind or solar. This is best demonstrated by the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, which never went online. The plant’s site now houses wind turbines that produce 1/35,000th of the energy the nuclear plant would have generated. While there were justifiable concerns about building a reactor downstate, Hochul should now look to fund nuclear reactors upstate that would create electricity for downstate communities.

The closure of the Indian Point Energy Center in 2021 underscores the urgency of building a better energy grid for New York. This move forced downstate New York to increase its reliance on fossil fuels, driving up emissions and worsening air pollution. Communities already struggling with environmental and health inequities continue to bear the brunt of these decisions.

Nuclear power is resurging across the country. Tech companies such as Microsoft and Meta are restarting nuclear reactors because they recog-

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Miss Long Island 2025, Kristen Rosario, left, and Miss Long Island Teen, Adriana Lane, were crowned at Molloy University’s Madison Theatre — Rockville Centre

nize that they are the most effective way to fuel their operations sustainably. It’s time for New York to follow suit. Governor Hochul should take bold action to fund nuclear energy projects, ensuring that downstate residents have access to

renewable power.

MICHAEL SINGER
Long Beach

Michael Singer is a student at New York University’s Stern School of Business.



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Market Overview

Long Island, Brooklyn, & Queens

Q4 2024 Housing Market Overview

The Q4 2024 housing market showcased resilience despite ongoing challenges. Sales trends varied across our regions, with some areas stabilizing and others showing growth in specific segments. Inventory levels remained tight, reflecting cautious sellers and sellers locked into historically low interest rate mortgages, but demand persisted, especially in higher-price brackets.

Year-to-date, median sale prices continued to rise, demonstrating strength in the market even as affordability pressures influenced buyer behavior. Seasonal trends and increased days on market suggest a slower pace of transactions, but opportunities remain as new listings typically emerge in Q1, energizing activity.

Economic factors including as rising mortgage rates and broader uncertainties have influential buyer and seller decisions, but positive signals, such as gains in financial markets, have bolstered confidence among higher income buyers.

Looking Ahead to 2025

The housing market is poised for renewed momentum as the year begins, with the potential for increased activity driven by fresh listings and persistent demand. While affordability and inventory challenges remain, the resilience of home prices and the adaptability of buyers and sellers point to a market ready to adapt and thrive in the coming year.



Deirdre O'Connell

Deirdre O'Connell
Chief Executive Officer

Nassau County

2024 Annual Summary

9,982

Number of Sales

-4%

2024 vs 2023

56

Average Days on Market

-9%

2024 vs 2023

\$757K

Median Sales Price

+10%

2024 vs 2023

\$943K

Average Sales Price

+11%

2024 vs 2023

1,902

Listing Inventory

0%

Q4 2024 vs Q4

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