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Joseph Tolbert dies from Covid-19
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Don't leave gloves and masks in lots
 Page 5

VOL. 29 NO. 15

APRIL 9 - 15, 2020

Funeral homes watch families grieve alone

By **LAURA LANE**
 llane@liherald.com

Everything seems to be different during the coronavirus pandemic, including funerals and burials. Business has increased dramatically, local funeral directors acknowledge, because of Covid-19.

Louis Pillari, the owner and director of the Oyster Bay Funeral Home, said that over the past week, he had seen a spike in deaths of close to 50 percent. Codge Whitting, a co-owner and the director of Whitting Funeral Home, in Glen Head, said that he, too, had seen a noticeable increase.

"The whole industry has been swamped," Whitting said. "In the last week and a half, I've done 20 funerals. I usually do three or four a week."

Given the dictates of social distancing, there are no longer traditional viewing hours at funeral homes, regardless of

whether Covid-19 is the cause of death. And members of the clergy, for the most part, are not leading prayers or offering words of comfort to grieving families at the facilities.

Funeral Masses are not permitted inside churches. Some clergy are offering prayers at burial sites, but that is not allowed at some cemeteries. And not even family members are permitted to attend burials at national cemeteries, like Calverton and the Long Island National Cemetery, which allow only a funeral director to be present.

I've been around the business since I was 14 years old. This is worse than anything I've ever seen, including Sept. 11.

LOUIS PILLARI
 Owner and director, Oyster Bay Funeral Home

All of this is taking an emotional toll not only on families, but also on those working in the death care industry.

"It's heartbreaking to be the only one there for a burial at a national cemetery," said Karen DeVine, the owner and director of Oyster Bay's DeVine Funeral Home. "For me, the biggest chal-

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Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

Big thanks to health care workers

Members of the Glen Cove Fire Department thanked the city's hospital workers during a shift change on Tuesday. More photos, Page 8.

Garvies Point temporarily halts construction amid pandemic

By **JENNIFER CORR**
 jcorr@liherald.com

As is the case at many construction projects across the state, work at the Garvies Point Development has ended for the time being, following a directive from Gov. Andrew Cuomo on March 27 that all "non-essential" construction work be halted to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Cuomo defined essential construction as a "project necessary to protect the health and safety of the occupants." Projects should continue, he said, "if it would be unsafe to remain undone until it is safe to shut the site."

Garvies Point is a 56-acre, \$1 billion luxury residential and commercial development that broke ground in the fall of 2017.

The projects there include the Beacon, which has 167 condos; Harbor Landing, which has 385 rentals in two buildings; and Village Square, which has 146 rentals.

Joe Graziose, executive vice president of RXR Realty, said the project "has his heart" because he lives in Glen Cove. The site's infrastructure, which includes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Herald offers \$500K in grants for businesses

Richner Communications Inc., publisher of Herald Community Newspapers and The Riverdale Press, this week announced a \$500,000 grant program to support local businesses. Through the Herald Small Business Marketing Grant Program, each Long Island business is eligible to receive up to \$15,000 of matching grant funds, which can be used for marketing services to promote the business' products and services. The Herald Small Business Marketing Grant Program is being supported by:

- Long Island Main Street Alliance
- Cedarhurst BID
- Gold Coast Business Association
- Bellmore Chamber of Commerce
- East Meadow Chamber of Commerce
- Franklin Square Chamber of Commerce
- Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Lynbrook Chamber of Commerce
- Malverne Chamber of Commerce
- Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
- Oyster Bay/East Norwich Chamber of Commerce
- Rockville Centre Chamber of Commerce
- Seaford Chamber of Commerce

- Vally Stream Chamber of Commerce
- Wantagh Chamber of Commerce
- West Hempstead Chamber of Commerce

Businesses can apply for grants at www.liherald.com/grants starting on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, and they will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities," said Stuart Richner, president of RCI and publisher of Herald Community Newspapers. "With Long Island quickly becoming the center of the Covid-19 crisis, we knew that we had to do whatever possible to support our small business community."

"We are a small business ourselves, so we understand the pain that small business owners are going through right now," Richner added. "But all studies show that businesses that continue to market during down times are those that fare the best long-term. We at the Herald want to do our part to make sure that members of our business community can continue to promote themselves during this trying period."

Eric Alexander, of the Long Island Main Street Alliance, applauded RCI for stepping up to help the Long Island small business community. "Half-a-million dollars will go a long way toward helping the local restaurant owners, downtown retailers and other business



THE HERALD IS kicking off a new \$500,000 grant program to help small businesses market themselves during the Covid-19 pandemic.

services," Alexander said. "With so many small businesses changing how they offer their services, like dine-in only restaurants now offering takeout, promotion is critical during this crisis and even more important as we head toward recovery."

The Herald Small Business Marketing Grant Program will provide up to \$500,000 in matching advertising dollars and can be used toward print or digital advertising in any Herald or other RCI property. Since the coronavirus crisis started in March, the Herald has seen its audience increase by 100 percent, meaning that advertisers now have the ability to reach even more people than

before.

The program is open to all locally owned and operated businesses impacted by the coronavirus. Grants are available for between \$300 and \$15,000 of matching funds and can be used in April, May and June 2020.

Every dollar that a grant recipient spends on advertising will be matched with a dollar of grant funding, up to the award amount, to be applied toward advertising costs. Applications must be submitted via the online form at www.liherald.com/grants. Businesses will be notified about the status of their application within two business days of submitting it.



Island Harvest Responds to COVID-19

Island Harvest Food Bank is a lifeline for people struggling to put food on their tables during this unprecedented public health crisis, but we need your help.

Your generosity will allow us to continue to provide critical food and support for homebound seniors, veterans, working families, and children.

And, if you, or someone you know, needs food assistance, or to support our work on Long Island call 631-873-4775 or visit islandharvest.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED:

MAKE A DONATION
Every \$25 donated will support a family meal kit which provides food for 3-4 days.

ENGAGE YOUR EMPLOYER
Matches of employee gifts will make a major impact. Employers can create a custom fundraising page.

SPREAD THE WORD
Encourage friends and family to donate and set up your own crowdfunding page.

1084602

When was your last blood donation?

Healthy, eligible individuals are strongly urged to donate to help avoid potential shortages due to **coronavirus**.



Blood shortage:
Healthy donors needed



This advertisement sponsored by Herald Community Newspapers

1085622

G.C. Vietnam vet dies from Covid-19 complications

By JENNIFER CORR

jcarr@liherald.com

Joseph Tolbert Jr., 70, a Vietnam Marine Corps veteran from Glen Cove, loved his family, the Calvary AME Church and his community. On April 3, he died from complications related to Covid-19.

“The thing you will hear over and over again is that he is one of the kindest people that you will ever meet,” said Glen Cove Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, who met Tolbert five years ago at Calvary AME Church. “He was a man of service, not only having served his country but he was so very devoted to his church and his community.”

Tolbert was chaplain for the American Legion Young-Simmons Post 1765, the treasurer of the Alumni for Youth, vice chair of the Steward Board at the Calvary AME Church, a grandfather of 4-year-old Joshua, a father of two and a husband of almost 47 years.

Tolbert’s wife, Dolores, said that the veteran and retired employee of the Syosset Post Office always stayed active and was busy. “He was involved in a lot of things,” she said.

In two months, the Tolberts would have celebrated their 47th anniversary.

Dolores Jackson grew up in Locust Valley where Joseph used to sometimes stay with his grandmother. But he was born and spent most of his childhood in Washington D.C.

Joseph and Dolores met through a friend. Though they met a long time ago, Dolores said she can still remember that it was Joseph’s personality that drew her to him. “I took a liking to him right away,” she said.

The couple dated for two years before they married in 1973. They moved to Glen Cove and had two children — Joseph W. Tolbert III and Tahisha Nicole Tolbert, who is now a doctor, a career choice that made her father proud.

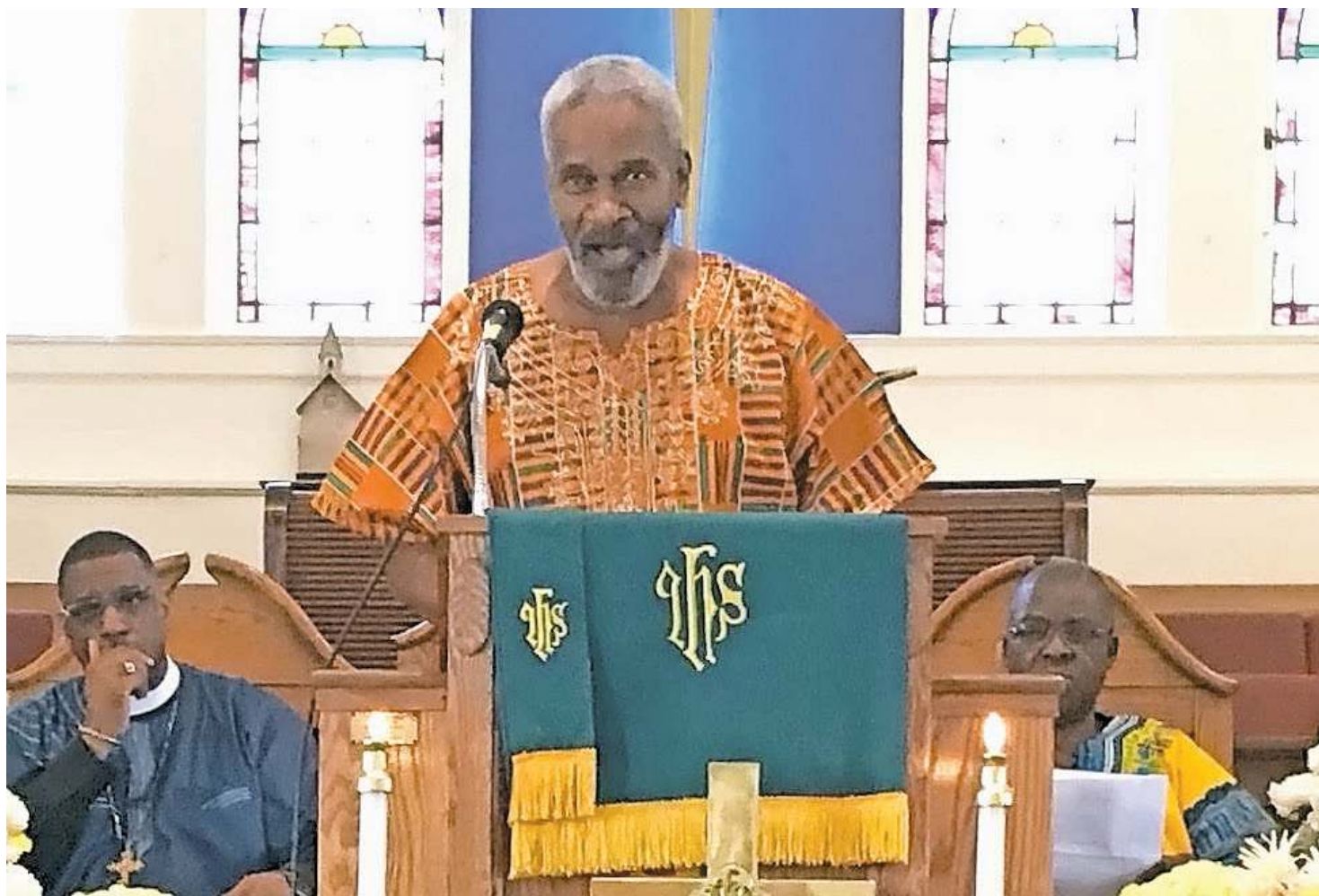
“He and his family are long time Glen Covers and we are truly saddened by his passing,” Glen Cove Mayor Timothy Tenke said. “He was always helping with parades and any memorial service we had with the veterans. He was very involved with all of that and he will be seriously missed.”

Stevenson-Mathews, who sang in the Calvary AME choir, would see Tolbert once a week. He called him “kind, solid and true.”

“You could always count on him to be there early and to stay late,” Stevenson-Mathews said. “Just an incredible person. I loved him and so many people did.”

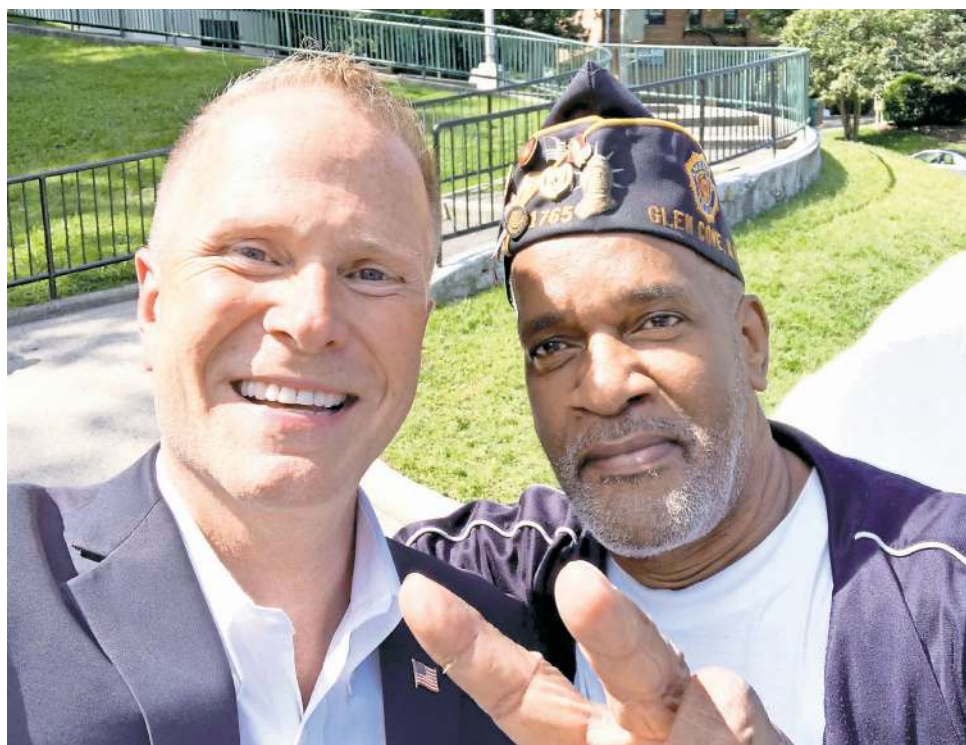
Dave Hubbard, the commander of American Legion Young-Simmons Post 1765, said that of all the 40 years that he knew Tolbert, he was always involved with the church and was liked by everyone. He drove the church bus and volunteered to cook and clean.

Hubbard added that Tolbert was also involved with Long Island Teen Challenge, which promotes drug-free environments for youth, the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club, where he founded Alumni For Youth and he also promoted scholarships for Glen Cove High School Students. “He



JOSEPH TOLBERT SPOKE to the congregation during Men’s Sunday at Calvary AME.

Courtesy Glen Cove City Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews



FRIENDS GLEN COVE City Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, left, and Joseph Tolbert, took a “selfie” together.

was involved with everything,” Hubbard said.

“He was just a terrific fella,” said Stevenson-Mathews. “There is going to be a great void in this city.”

When Stevenson-Mathews heard that Joseph Tolbert died, he said he felt anger towards the virus. “I just felt like I wanted to punch this virus as hard as I could until it just went away,” he said. “I was angry that this disease robbed us of this magnificent person.”

He said that one characteristic of Tolbert’s that he can’t walk away from was

his desire to always step up and help when needed. But, Stevenson-Mathews added, he will always remember Tolbert’s great sense of humor too.

“We would give each other a hard time about silly things,” said Tony Jimenez, the director of Veterans Affairs at the City of Glen Cove.

The American Legion would often go to the Northport VA to watch pony race movies with resident veterans, said Jimenez. “It was a fun event that brought him out there and a matter of fact one time we were short-handed and thinking



DOLORES LEFT, AND Joseph Tolbert often attended community events together.

of canceling and he said ‘No, we have to go,’ and so we did and he had his usual good time,” Jimenez said. “I actually drove with him there and we passed a candy store and he looked at it and mentioned it. And from that moment on I gave him a hard time, about how he wanted to come out just to go to the candy store.”

Jimenez said that Tolbert was a man’s man and a soft-spoken, slow-talking gentleman. “If he wasn’t talking about his family, he was talking about God, or he was talking about being a veteran,” said Jimenez. “These were the three loves of his life.”

Whenever Tolbert said goodbye, he’d always say “I’m praying for ya,” Jimenez recalled.

There will be a private viewing for the immediate family and at a later date, a memorial service for extended family and friends.

G.C. School budget vote delayed to at least June 1

By **SCOTT BRINTON** and **JENNIFER CORR**

School budget votes have been delayed until at least June 1 because of the coronavirus outbreak, by order of Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The votes were scheduled to take place on May 19.

The state Legislature passed a \$177 billion budget on April 2, but it is riddled with uncertainty because no one knows precisely how long the coronavirus crisis will last, or what form it will take in the near future. The governor has said modeling predicts the peak of cases in New York is expected within the next seven to 21 days, but the state could continue to see cases into August.

Glen Cove City School District Superintendent Dr. Maria Rianna said that school officials have seen the budget. It would mean a 1.04 million deficit for the district. She added that there may see cuts

between the next 30 to 180 days. Cuts from the state "will further hurt us," Rianna said.

The governor issued an executive order on March 30 that states: "Any school board, library board, or village election scheduled to take place in April or May of 2020 is hereby postponed until at least June 1, 2020 and subject to further directive as to the timing, location or manner of voting for such elections."

Last year, the district received just over \$9 million in Foundation Aid funding, over 13 percent more than the expected amount of \$7.8 million tabulated in the state's school budget formula at the end of January 2019. Thanks in large part to the lobbying of Rianna and Sen. Jim Gaughran, a Democrat from Northport, the district received 52 percent of its maximum potential Foundation Aid.

Cathy Gambino, the PTA vice presi-

dent, said prior to school officials seeing the budget she had hoped to see the funding of more Chromebooks for learning. So far, she said, high school students have started to receive the Chromebooks, which is useful for students in a period of digital learning.

"As always, you definitely want to see most of [the school budget] going towards the students and new ideas and new concepts for the students," she said. "Hopefully eventually all the students [will have Chromebooks]."

Whether the school budget vote will take place on June 1 remains to be seen. The coronavirus pandemic is fluid, and if new cases were to continue to arise, the vote could be delayed further, state officials said.

"The state budget was difficult," Cuomo said in his Friday news conference.

Pushing back the vote will also give state and local officials a clearer picture of New York's finances after the Covid-19 virus forced tens of thousands of businesses to close and sales tax collections to plummet. The governor had earlier predicted a \$10 billion to \$15 billion gap in the state budget, which is unprecedented.

Rianna also wanted to remind the community to continue supporting each other. "People have gone above and beyond," said Rianna. "Our staff has been amazing and our community has been very supportive as it realizes that we are facing something we have never faced before. But we are coming together and that's just amazing and very helpful as we move forward."

Mike Conn contributed to this story.

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

■ On March 30, a 69-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for attempted assault in the second degree and criminal mischief in the fourth degree on

Brewster Street.

■ On March 31, a 19-year-old Islip Terrace female was arrested for criminal contempt in the second degree on Valentine Street.

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



1-800-244-TIPS

Nassau County Crime Stoppers

The public is asked to call
Crime Stoppers if they have
any information about any crimes.



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D.A. offers a coronavirus scam hotline in N.C.

In response to a surge in phone and internet scams in recent weeks, the office of Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas has created a coronavirus scam hotline.

As communities across New York battle the coronavirus epidemic, the NCDA office has received reports of new identity theft scams and opportunistic schemes peddling fake tests and bogus cures for Covid-19. Singas established the hotline for Nassau residents to report suspected scams to the District Attorney's Financial Crimes Bureau for investigation.

The Nassau County District Attorney Coronavirus Scam Hotline is (516) 571-3505. Reports can also be emailed to info@nassaouda.org. All calls and emails will remain confidential to the extent allowed by law.

Singas said many of the scammers are rebranding old scams to take advantage of the current climate selling counterfeit merchandise including medicine, fake test kits and vaccines, masks, sanitizers and cleaning products. Cleaning supplies, protective equipment and medications should be purchased only from a reputable retailer and medications should be taken in accordance with directions from a medical professional.

Other types of scams

Other scams include online order scams, in which scammers pose as online merchants offering hard-to-get goods such as sanitizer, masks and toilet paper who take personal and financial information. These pop-up sites frequently steal financial information and either deliver no product or counterfeit potentially dangerous

goods.

To avoid online scams, use a search engine to research any unfamiliar websites and check online reviews. Pay by credit card so it is possible to dispute a fraudulent purchase. Do not use a debit card or other online money delivery service.

Fake health insurance and mortgage relief scams are also common and can be avoided by only dealing with reputable companies and financial advisors.

Fake emails, texts and phone calls could be used by scammers as well. Federal and state agencies are not sending out emails or texts or making phone calls to individuals in public regarding any cash payments. If contacting a federal agency is required, look up the phone numbers on the agency's official website.

Do not respond to these communications by clicking on any links or by responding to any questions. No not provide any personal information. A hacker may try to hijack the user's computer, steal data or install malware. They can also freeze the computer and change the password and demand ransom to unlock it.

Many scammers are also preying on the good will of people during the crisis by creating false charities. Check charitiesnys.com before donating money to ensure that donations are going to a legitimate registered charity.

Finally, the NCDA urges the public to follow the advice of healthcare professionals and medical experts such as the Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, NYS Department of Health and the Nassau County Department of Health.

Construction is halted at Garvies Point in G.C.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

roads and underground electricity lines, he said, is nearly completed, and should be done this summer. The buildings as well, he said, are almost finished. The amenities — two miles of bulkheads, playgrounds and dog parks — will be completed by next spring, Graziose said.

Work on the Harbor Landing building on the north side of Herb Hill Road, is finished, Graziose said, and roughly 103 units have been leased. Although the other Harbor Landing building, on the south side of the street, is not yet completed, it is scheduled to be open this summer.

The Beacon, at 100 Garvies Point Road, is substantially complete, Graziose said, and the building is now roughly 60 percent occupied. Final touches are expected to be finished in July or August.

In fact, RXR is offering virtual tours of the units at both Harbor Landing and the Beacon. “We continue to receive a high level of interest in both properties,” Graziose said, “and, in accordance with safety protocols, have moved to virtual touring with our sales and leasing teams.” A number of leases at Harbor Landing have been



Jennifer Corr/Herald Gazette

CONSTRUCTION AT THE Garvies Point development is temporarily halted, but virtual tours are continuing.

signed after virtual tours, he added.

“There are many aspects that make up the Garvies Point community,” he said, “and hopefully, the order to halt construction throughout all of New York state will not delay us significantly.”

At this point, construction is expected to resume later this month. “RXR treats the health and safety of all employees, contractors and others

involved in its projects with the utmost care, and we will continue to comply with all state requirements at this time,” Graziose. “Aspects of the construction process at Garvies Point continue to move forward in the planning phases, and we intend on resuming construction on a vigorous schedule as soon as it’s safe and we are able.”

Glen Cove City Councilwoman Mar-

sha Silverman agreed that safety should come first, and said that construction workers should stay at home now to stay healthy and prevent the spread of the virus.

“I think Glen Cove is very resilient,” Silverman said. “I think that when it is safe to go back to more normal activities, Glen Cove will bounce back.”

GCPD advises residents not to dump gloves, masks

By JENNIFER CORR

jcorr@liherald.

As the coronavirus has raised the stakes of an ordinary trip to the grocery store, many residents around Glen Cove have noticed masks and gloves left behind in parking lots.

The Glen Cove Police Department took to Facebook to upload a video on March 31, asking that residents no longer dump personal protective equipment in parking lots. Glen Cove, Deputy Chief Chris Ortiz said: “There’s one thing that we have noticed and that is the irresponsible disposal of our personal protective equipment.”

“Around town, we’re starting to see this; gloves, masks thrown in public places,” Ortiz said. “It is also irresponsible for your friends and neighbors because it creates a potential hazard.”

Glen Cove resident Wendi Karass said that she has seen gloves littered in the parking lots of Stop & Shop, North Shore Farms and Holiday Farms. She is disgusted, she said, to see that and that perhaps more garbage cans would help.

In the video, Glen Cove Police Department Officer Carolina Selena Gustella demonstrated how residents could safely dispose of gloves without getting any potential contaminants onto one’s hands. “So you’re going to take your dominant hand, pinch a quarter inch from the top of this glove, pulling down away from your body inside out,” Gustella explained. “Nice and gently because you don’t want to throw the con-

taminants everywhere. Once you do that you’re going to ball it up in your hand, take your two fingers inside the next glove and same thing; inside out, gently, away from your body.”

“This side of the glove [the inside of the glove] was touching your hand, it’s not contaminated,” she said. “Now you’re going to find a garbage can and expose of them any way possible. If there are no garbage cans, do not throw them on the ground, put them in your vehicle and throw them out when you get to a garbage can.”

The video was viewed over 9,000 times on Facebook.

Donna Armellino, vice president of infection prevention at Northwell Health, added that though gloves and masks are technically not a biohazard, they should still be disposed of correctly to prevent exposing oneself.

“Masks and gloves being used to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by everyday people in their community should be disposed of in trash receptacles and these items should be handled like every other piece of trash,” Armellino said. “An individual who has Covid-19 does not need to discard their trash in a special way such as one would discard needles and syringes used to administer medication outside of a healthcare setting. Sharps and attached syringes are considered biohazardous because they come into contact with blood and body fluid and do need to be handled in a different way.”



Christina Daly/Herald

ON SATURDAY, COUNTY Executive Laura Curran said, “We’re in the heat of the battle,” as she spoke about the increasing number of coronavirus cases in Nassau. As of Monday morning, the state was reporting 15,600 cases here. At back was Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, who represents the 11th District on the North Shore.

The week that was: coronavirus in Nassau

By **SCOTT BRINTON**

sbrinton@liherald.com

The coronavirus outbreak took a sharp turn this past weekend, as cases soared on Long Island. Governor Cuomo said the epidemic appeared to be shifting east from New York City.

That shift was straining Nassau’s hospitals, according to Cuomo and County Executive Laura Curran

Meanwhile, the governor pushed back the May 19 school vote to June 1.

Below is a day-by-day timeline of how it all played out.

Friday, April 3

School budget votes were delayed until at least June 1 because of the coronavirus outbreak, by order of Governor Cuomo.

The votes were to have taken place May 19.

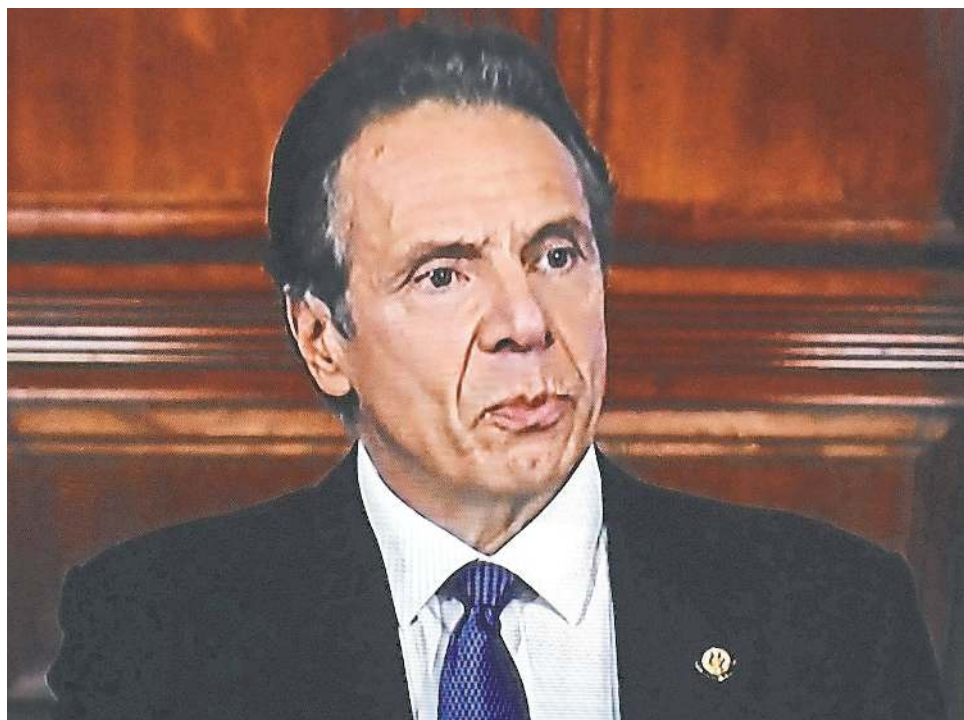
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“Any school board, library board, or village election scheduled to take place in April or May of 2020 is hereby postponed until at least June 1, 2020, and subject to further directive as to the timing, location or manner of voting for such elections.”

Whether the school budget votes take place on June 1 remains to be seen. The coronavirus pandemic is fluid, and if new cases were to continue to arise, the vote could be delayed further, state officials said.

“The state budget was difficult,” Cuomo said in his Friday news conference.

Pushing back the vote will give state and local officials a clearer picture of New York’s finances after the Covid-19 virus forced tens of thousands of businesses to close and sales tax collections to plummet. The governor had earlier predicted a \$10 billion to \$15 billion gap in the state budget, which is unprecedented.



GOVERNOR CUOMO SAID over the weekend that the center of the Covid-19 epidemic appeared to be shifting away from New York City toward Long Island.

Friday, April 3

Cuomo had warned in recent weeks that New York’s apex of Covid-19 cases was coming within seven to 21 days. Already, though, the state had surpassed 100,000 cases as of last Friday, he said, and Thursday into Friday was the deadliest 24-hour period during the coronavirus crisis to date, with 562 new deaths statewide.

“We had more deaths,” Cuomo said, “we had more people going into the hospitals than any other night.”

In all, 2,935 New Yorkers had died of the disease.

In Nassau County, more than 12,000 people had tested positive for the coronavirus as of Friday.

The governor identified Nassau and Suffolk counties as emerging areas of concern.

He also noted that a number of Nassau County hospitals were identified as hot spots because of the high volume of Covid-19 patients they were seeing, including St. Francis Hospital, North Shore University Hospital, NYU Winthrop Hospital, Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Good Samaritan Hospital.

Saturday, April 4

Nassau County had the third-highest number of coronavirus cases of any county in New York as of Saturday, surpassing Westchester, Bronx and New York counties.

New York County includes all of Man-

hattan.

That was according to the state Department of Health’s newly implemented Covid-19 tracker, found at covid19tracker.health.ny.gov.

In his daily briefing Saturday, Cuomo described the virus as a “fire spreading” across Long Island.

As of Saturday, Nassau had 13,346 coronavirus cases, compared to 13,081 in Westchester, where the Covid-19 outbreak began in New York a month ago. Meanwhile, the Bronx had 12,315 cases and Manhattan, 9,300.

Queens and Brooklyn — both geographically on Long Island — had 20,114 and 17,504 cases, respectively.

Suffolk County had 11,370 cases.

Combined, Nassau and Suffolk represented 21.7 percent of the state’s 113,704 cases — up from 16 percent earlier.

Cuomo described his concern for Long Island as the growing center of the coronavirus outbreak.

“You see the Long Island number growing,” he said, “and it’s growing steadily. It’s growing more east than north.”

He also noted, “We’ve been saying for the last few days watch Long Island.”

Cuomo spoke of the increasing need for ventilators, breathing machines to keep the hardest-hit patients alive — Covid-19 is primarily a respiratory disease afflicting the lungs.

The state had ordered 17,000 ventilators, but had received only a fraction of them by Saturday, the governor said.

Saturday, April 4

Speaking Saturday afternoon, Curran reported 11 new deaths overnight of the coronavirus, bringing the total number to 149.

That number, she said, contradicted a

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Coronavirus outbreak shifts to Long Island

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

state report that indicated 396 people had died in Nassau. The county Department of Health was working with local hospital officials to quantify the exact number, she said.

County officials were also checking whether all of the people reported dead by the state actually lived in Nassau or a surrounding area.

As of Saturday morning, the state Department of Health was reporting 13,346 people had tested positive for Covid-19 in Nassau. Many of those cases, the county executive said, had resolved, though she did not give an exact number.

"We are in the heat of battle now," Curran said.

Some 355 patients were reportedly on ventilators to enable their breathing, Curran said. That figure was up 31 people from the day before, she said.

Sunday, April 5

Coronavirus cases in Nassau County continued to climb steadily overnight from Saturday into Sunday, nearly reaching 14,400, up from 13,346 the day before — an almost 8 percent increase, according to Cuomo.

Statewide, 4,159 people had died of Covid-19 as of Sunday, he said.

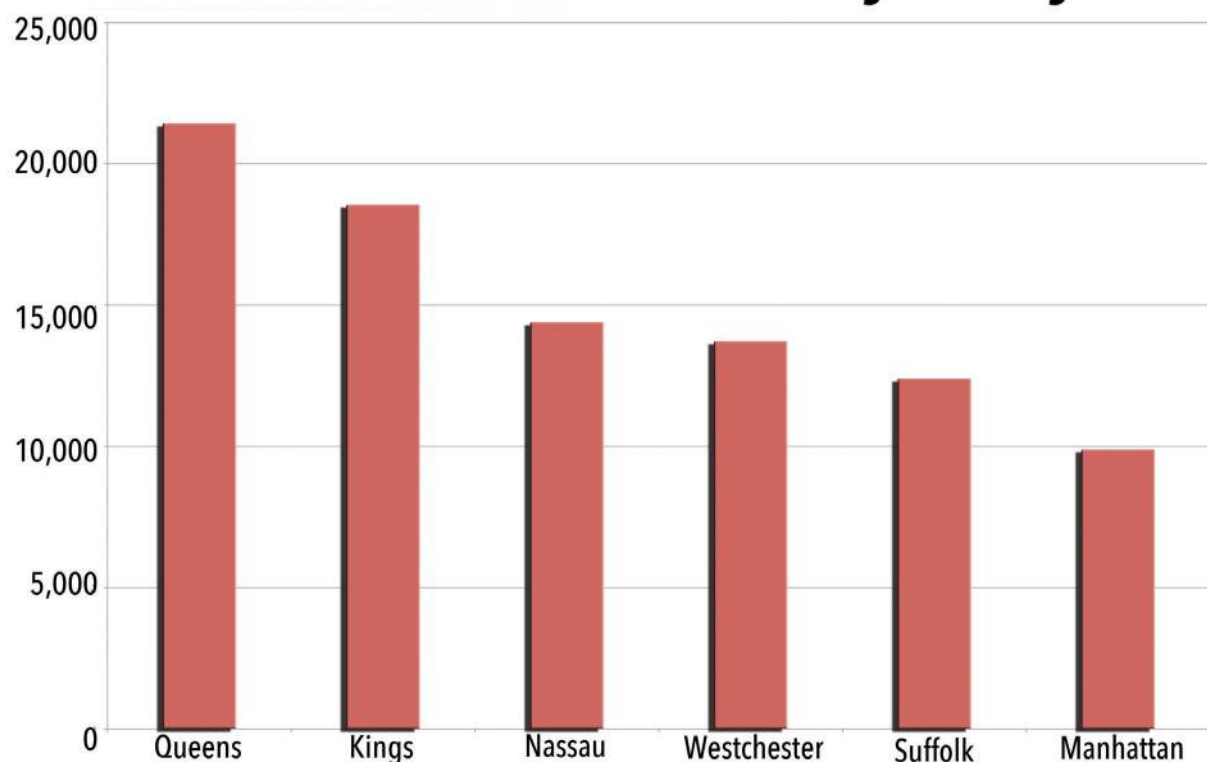
Speaking that day, Cuomo said, "There is a shift to Long Island ... As Long Island grows, the percentage of cases in New York City has reduced."

The sharp rise in Nassau cases in recent days contrasted with data that showed an emerging "plateau" of cases statewide over the past three days, the governor said.

It is too early to tell, he said, if New York was reaching the apex of cases, when the number of deaths will drop, but it appeared the high point could be reached sometime in the next week. Previously, he had said it could be seven to 21 days before the apex is reached.

Data appeared to suggest the state was nearing a plateau or the apex, Cuomo said. Overnight from Saturday to Sunday, the state saw its highest number of hospital

Number of Covid-19 cases by county



Note: Cases are as of Monday morning, April 6.

Source: New York State Department of Health

Illustration by Christina Daly/Herald

discharges — 1,709. The total number of people who had been treated for Covid-19 and released from the hospital stood at 12,187 as of Sunday.

"Discharge is way up, and that is great news," Cuomo said.

The state also saw its smallest number of new hospitalizations overnight, at 574. That was a 52 percent

decrease from the day before, when there were 1,100 new hospitalizations. The day before that, there had been 1,400.

The state had not seen such a low number of new hospitalizations for 16 days, according to state data.

In all, 16,400 people were hospitalized as of April 5.

Urgent care centers debut rapid Covid-19 test

By **BRIAN STIEGLITZ**

bstieglitz@liherald.com

Three urgent care centers on Long Island are among the first in the nation to debut a rapid test to detect coronavirus, which gives patients results within minutes.

The American Family Care health care providers in East Meadow, Farmingdale and West Islip began testing patients as part of a full examination on March 31, before launching regular tests the next day. The molecular, point-of-care tests reduce wait time from days to roughly five minutes for positive results and 13 minutes for negative results.

Testing will only be available to those who are symptomatic, according to officials at the AFC Urgent Care centers.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the use of such testing, developed by Abbott Laboratories, on March 27.

The urgent care centers began regular testing the same day Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that Regeneron Pharmaceuticals would

donate 500,000 test kits to the state, in shipments of 25,000 per day. Corning Life Sciences also donated 100,000 tubes for testing and provided an additional 500,000 at a reduced cost.

As of April 1, the state had given 220,880 tests and continued to provide roughly 15,000 tests each day. Of those tested, 83,712 were positive.

"Rapid testing is the fastest way to return to normalcy and get the economy back up and running, and will also help end the anxiety that has become the most oppressive part of this situation," Cuomo said. "In the meantime, New Yorkers must continue to comply with all social distancing protocols and stay home as much as possible to prevent spreading this virus to others."

THE AFC URGENT Care center on Hempstead Turnpike in East Meadow is one of three on Long Island to debut the nation's first rapid coronavirus test.



Christina Daly/Herald



Photos by Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

HOSPITAL STAFF FROM Rehab Services were able to experience a bit of joy during tough times.

Hospital staff honored not once, but twice

During a shift change at Glen Cove Hospital on Tuesday, the Glen Cove Fire Dept. arrived to pay tribute to the health care workers. Cameras in hand many captured the moment.

Then U.S. Congressman Tom Suozzi arrived to deliver 2,500 N-95 masks, which for the health care workers. The masks were donated by the Harborview Foundation, United Chinese Americans of New Jersey, the International Leadership Foundation of New York, the HX Chinese School at Plainsboro, the Central New Jersey Chinese American Association, Windsor Athletic Club and the New York Young Entrepreneurs Roundtable.

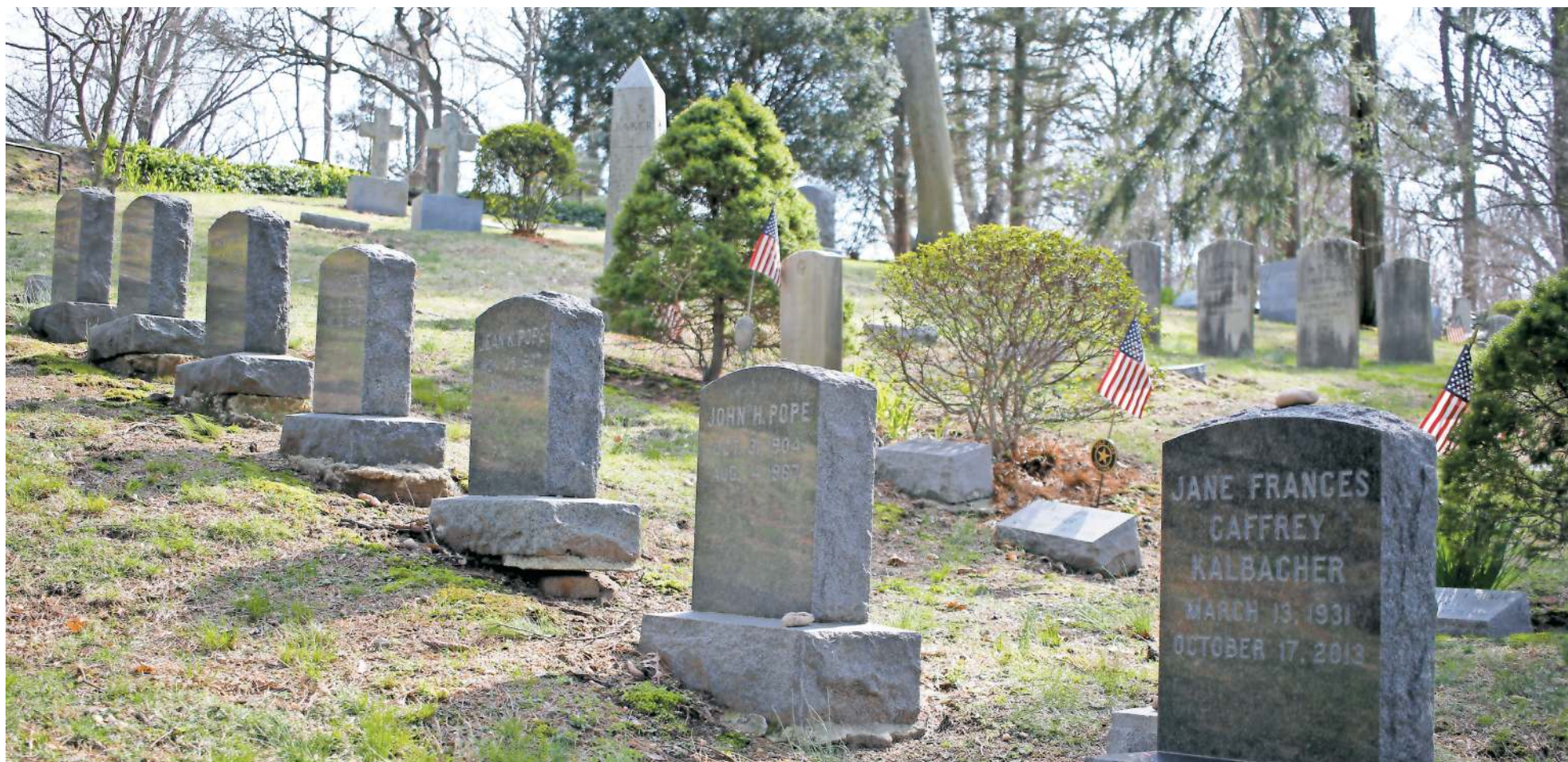


DR. RACHEL WETZEL expressed her appreciation for the Glen Cove Fire Department who paraded in front of Glen Cove Hospital.



DR. BRAD SHERMAN, Glen Cove Hospital's medical director, far left, Kerri Scanlon, the hospital's executive director and U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi gathered as the masks were carried in by Northwell Health Security.

SIX ORGANIZATIONS POOLED their resources to donate masks to Glen Cove Hospital. Kerri Scanlon, the hospital's executive director, far left, Fong Shu, U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, Yz Zhang, and Dr. Brad Sherman, the hospital's medical director, were on hand during the delivery.



Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

CEMETERIES DO NOT have uniform rules when it comes to burials during the coronavirus pandemic.

Pandemic changes ways families grieve

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

allenge is watching families not be able to grieve properly. They're grieving alone."

Keeping death care workers safe

After receiving authorization from the family of someone who has died, a funeral home sends a van to the residence, hospital or nursing home to pick up the body. Staff members now wear personal protective equipment, said Pillari.

"We treat [the deceased] as if they all have the coronavirus," he said. "Our first concern is safety."

Whitting said he also assumes that Covid-19 is the cause. Although death certificates list the cause of death, Whitting and Pillari said they are erring on the side of caution, assuming that others may have also had the virus.

Whitting's facility does not do its own embalming. It sends bodies to other funeral homes for the procedure, but now that isn't possible because of the surge in deaths from the virus.

To ensure the safety of his staff, Whitting explained, the nose and mouth of the deceased are sprayed with a disinfectant. "Then we put them in two body bags and then into a casket, if that is the family's wish," he said. If the deceased is to be cremated, the body is either put into a casket, if the family has planned a viewing [at the funeral home], or into a cremation container."

Whitting added that his funeral home is not allowing open caskets during the pandemic. "I feel badly for those who want to see the person," he said. "In some cases, the person died alone in the hospital, and now they can't see them, either, but I can't have an open casket until we



Courtesy Whitting Funeral Home

THE WHITTING FUNERAL Home, in Glen Head, has seen an increase in funerals during the pandemic.

can start embalming again."

He has found that the wait for most burials is generally two to three days, because of the necessary paperwork. "After two to three days of refrigeration," Whitting said, "the coronavirus is gone."

Communicating preferences

In the past, family members planning a loved one's funeral met with a staff member at a funeral home to choose a casket and make the arrangements. Since the outbreak began, DeVine said, she lets the family decide whether they want to come in. If they do, she meets them wearing an N95 mask and gloves, and after the family leaves, everything is sanitized.

friends to have a sense of closure. Now the hours are "abbreviated," Pillari said.

"We can have gatherings of only 10 or less, and that includes me," he said. "So we offer a two-hour time frame, but only the immediate family can come. And we are constantly cleansing and sanitizing."

DeVine follows the same protocol, with viewing limited to an hour or an hour and a half before burial. "Some immediate families are more than 10 people," DeVine said. "So, the [different] families come in individually."

Many people who bury or cremate their loved ones are planning a future life celebration at the funeral home, all of the funeral directors said.

Cemeteries

Like orders from Gov. Andrew Cuomo and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cemetery regulations change frequently, DeVine said.

Overwhelmed cemeteries and crematories are sometimes limiting availability, with a waiting period that can be as long as 10 days to two weeks, something Pillari said he had never experienced. Thus far, he has had enough space at the Oyster Bay Funeral Home to store remains until they are interred, he said.

Another change is the absence of flowers at the cemetery. Most florists are closed, Whitting said. And some cemeteries, he added, are concerned that flowers may carry the virus, which could be passed on to cemetery employees who handle them.

"I've been around the business since I was 14 years old," Pillari said. "This is worse than anything I've ever seen, including Sept. 11."

"We use separate pens, too," DeVine said, adding that many people continue to prefer a face-to-face meeting. "But some people are now making the arrangements by phone."

Others, Whitting said, use the videoconferencing platform Zoom.

Clients are not required to wear masks and gloves at his facility, Pillari said, but he does, and he has signs posted that encourage members of the public to do so as well. "We are erring on the side of safety," he said. "We are trying to stop the spread."

Before Covid-19, funeral homes offered viewing hours on one or two days, up to four hours a day, to allow families and



Jennifer Corr/Herald Gazette

GARVIES ROAD HAS had a fair share of attention in recent years in regards to storm water drains, floods and pavement.

Stormwater report on Garvies Point Road approved

By **JENNIFER CORR**

jcarr@liherald.com

The 2020 annual report of the Glen Cove City Stormwater Management Program was approved at the March 24 City Council meeting, which was done over a video chat. The city implemented the program, in compliance with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, to prevent illicit discharge from getting into water bodies like Hempstead Harbor. This is done through practices like covering storm water drains.

At both a Glen Cove City Pre-Council Meeting on March 17 and the March 24 council meeting, Councilwoman Marsha Silverman spoke up when the approval of the 2020 Stormwater Management Program Annual Report was brought to the table.

“There are businesses on Garvies Point Road in the area that the stormwater management plan covers,” Silverman said. “So far, when we have heavy storms, the road has been flooding and that impacts the businesses and now they’re looking to bring residents down there. There have been people whose cars got flooded, like underwater over the last year.”

According to Louis Saulino, the director of Public Works, the city decided to advance the construction of Garvies Point Road in 2016. In fact, reconstruction of that road, along with Herb Hill Road, goes back a decade. The project was funded in 2016 by federal aid administered by the New York State Department of Public Transportation and went to competitive bid the same year.

However, the project was not awarded until 2017 because of legal issues. During that time period, according to Saulino, the DEC added protocols regarding excavation and testing, which impacted construction procedures and had a significant financial impact to the city.

According to Rocco Graziosi, the project manager at Public Works, the city was required to implement a comprehensive

What is a MS4?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, an MS4 is when polluted stormwater runoff is transported through a municipal separate stormwater system and then is discharged, untreated, into local water bodies.

The 2019 Stormwater Management Program Annual Report Draft from Glen Cove stated that during a report period that ended on March 9, 2019, there were three illicit discharges and/or potential illegal connections that had been detected. None of those were confirmed to be illicit or illegal, however.

stormwater management program that was required to include pollution prevention measures, treatment or removal techniques, monitoring, use of legal authority and other appropriate measures to control the quality of stormwater discharged to the storm drains and then the surrounding water bodies.

But by implementing this project, the road began to flood. “There are a number of entities on Garvies Point Road so if that road continues to flood, many people get impacted.”

Silverman said. “I was just saying, it’s one thing to comply with the DEC. It’s another thing to really have a prospective stormwater management plan where the road doesn’t flood out.”

The flooding issue was mitigated earlier this year because Garvies Point Road was paved. Prior to that, however, there’s been instances of flooding that have damaged cars and have caused other issues. Glen Cove Police Department Detective Lt. John Nagle said that there was an incident in January where people decided to

Partners of the 2019 Program Report

Nassau County Stormwater Coalition

Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee

Town of North Hempstead

drive on a roadway engorged in rainwater while construction was happening. Construction workers had to pull those people out of the car.

Nagle said he was told that the flooding issues have since been remedied and that it’s not going to happen again. He couldn’t find a record of the exact date of that flood.

Garbor Karsai, a real estate broker at Landmark Realtors, owns a property on Garvies Point Road. “It did affect my business,” he said. “Because of the flood, cars were drowned. Employees were trapped.”

He said that since the roads were paved, that the situation has improved.

Saulino said via email that in adherence to DEC protocols, that the city was required to cover drainage basins. Yet, this proved to be a safety issue prior to the paving of the road and installment of final drainage connections. He said that during events that were considered emergencies, the city did relax the requirements and the Police Department was able to assist employees in safely leaving their place of business on Garvies Point Road.

“It’s kind of a lesser of two evils situation,” said Gregory Kalnitsky, the city attorney at the March 24 council meeting. “We’re in a predicament where if we comply with the DEC we cause flooding. If we don’t comply with the DEC, we don’t cause flooding. It’s a delicate balance.”

Kalnitsky said that in the past, when there were extreme rain events, the city

would open up the drains and allow that water to go through. “Then the DEC isn’t very happy with us,” he said.

“During the construction of the road is when the silt and everything was sticking to the machinery and was getting onto the roadway and then when we had a rain event, it was being washed into the storm drains,” said Tenke, at the pre-council meeting. “Once the roadway is completed and construction is done, the storm drain will operate as intended.”

The contract was approved at the March 24 council meeting. D&B Engineers and Architects will then help assist the city in preparing the 2020 Stormwater Management Plan Annual Report to submit to the DEC, according to City Council documents.

In a letter for Saulino from D&B Engineers and Architects, the costs were listed — \$3,600 for the 2020 SWMP Annual Report; \$3,700 for facility, construction site and stormwater management practice inventories; \$3,000 for updated SWMP documents; and \$1,500 in municipal SWMP training.

The city has also worked to provide education materials for residents. A brochure from the city advised residents to reduce stormwater pollution through practices such as not overwatering the lawn, limiting fertilizers and pesticides, fixing leaks in cars, taking cars to commercial car washes, scooping dog waste, following directions for household cleaning products that have chemicals and not dumping anything one would not drink in a storm drain.

RXR Development Services LLC., the real estate agency behind the Garvies Point development, has furthered preventing stormwater pollution by funding street sweepers to clean the road to prevent any further environmental consequences.

As far as coronavirus related regulations are concerned, Saulino said that as of now roadway projects remain essential work and that the city will, however, respect contractor safety concerns.

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STUART RICHER
Publisher
Herald Community Newspapers

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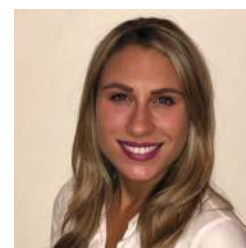
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THE GREAT BOOK GURU Virtual Venice

Dear Great Book Guru,
For the last 10 years we have spent April in Venice. We love the city, its museums, churches, restaurants, amazing light and its canals. Well, this year, of course, we will not be in Venice, but we will be at home with lots of time to read. Can you think of a book that is fast moving (finding it so hard to concentrate) and evocative of our beloved "La Serenissima?"
—Vicarious Venetian Voyager



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

Dear Vicarious Venetian Voyager,

While there are always the Donna Leon novels with her unforgettable Brunetti, I recently read a wonderful psychological mystery, "A Beautiful Crime," by Christopher Dollen, which takes place on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn, and finally — and largely — Venice.

Two young men meet in Manhattan and

quickly fall in love. Nick Brink has moved here from a repressive family situation in the Midwest. Clay Guillory was raised in Harlem and is still grieving the deaths of his mother and his elderly mentor. When they meet, Nick is in a relationship with an older, sophisticated antiques dealer. The story quickly moves to Venice where the two young men plot an elaborate con involving a wealthy American, counterfeit silverware and decaying real estate. The storyline is clever and complicated with many surprise turns. The best part of the book for me, and I think it will be for you, is how beautifully and accurately the mysterious allure of Venice is captured. The perfect book to read in these times!

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at annmdipietro@gmail.com.

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Easter & Passover Blessings

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Mayor Tim Tenke

Glen Cove serves up some egg hunts 'to-go'

By JENNIFER CORR

jcarr@liherald.com

Just because the local, state and federal social distancing guidelines prevented the annual City of Glen Cove's Spring Egg Hunt from happening this year, does not mean that eggs won't be hidden.

As an alternative to the annual egg hunt, the Glen Cove Parks and Recreation Department are offering families free "Egg Hunt To-Go" kits that will include a greeting donated by Glen Cove Printery, coloring sheet and a dozen eggs filled with peanut-free candy.

Darcy Belyea, the Parks and Recreation director, said that a few things led to an "Egg Hunt To-Go." She wanted to cheer up the children, she said, while working from home and her office had materials for the 10,000 eggs that would have been placed across the lower fields of City Stadium like in previous years when the city held its annual egg hunt.

"I'm thinking, 'What can I do? Kids need to be cheered up,'" said Belyea.

"So I was thinking we can bring it to them."

The materials for the goody bags were then distributed among the staff safely. Gloves were worn, Belyea said, while the eggs were filled with the candy. On Friday, the eggs will be placed into the goody bags and on the following day, members of the Glen Cove Anglers Club, who will all be wearing gloves, will deliver the kits.

The president of the Glen Cove Anglers Club, Sal Groe, said that he was happy to comply when Belyea asked if the members of the club would be willing to make the deliveries on Saturday.

"We do a lot for the community and the way I look at it with this coronavirus is that these kids have been cooped up," Groe said. "It's a shame

that the kids can't go out and have an Easter egg hunt like they do every year."

But the delivery is certainly no easy task for the Anglers Club. Belyea said that since the "Egg Hunt To-Go" kits were announced, 580 kits have been requested. The requests will be capped

at 660 kits.

Groe is not worried. "We have the manpower," he said, adding that members of the club will take a neighborhood at a time, dropping off the kits on doorsteps. "Hopefully we'll have everything said and done before Sunday morning so that the kids can wake up to their Easter egg hunt."

Karen Florez, a Glen Cove mom of a 3 and 5-year-old, is looking forward to surprising her kids with the Easter egg hunt on Saturday morning. "This is an uplifting thing for the kids," said Florez. "Why should Easter be cancelled

for them?"

To request the kits, parents must be a resident of Glen Cove and have children ages three to 10 years old. Requests can be made by sending an address, phone number and the number of children in the household to Dbelyea@glencoveny.gov. This information can also be sent over the phone at (516) 676-3766 or at the City of Glen Cove Facebook page.

"My main focus here is that we just want to bring some smiles, even if only for a short time, so that we can enjoy life as usual during difficult times," Belyea said.



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OBITUARIES

Flora Schierhorst, S.C.'s oldest resident, dies at 105

By MIKE CONN

mconn@liherald.com

Flora Schierhorst, of Sea Cliff, was a resilient woman, her son, Herbert W. Schierhorst, said. Around the time Flora turned 100, she broke her hip while home alone. She contacted Glen Cove Hospital herself, and after a short stint in observation, her hip began to heal itself, something which Herbert said astounded doctors who expected to have to replace it. Flora also suffered a heart attack in 2016 at 101, and even that did not take her.

Flora lived life on her own terms, something which was evident even in her death by natural causes on Jan. 9. The night before, as her younger son, David, tucked her into bed, she told him it was time for her to go. The next morning, David discovered she was right. Flora died peacefully during the night in the home that her husband, Herbert H., had built in 1948. She was 105, Sea Cliff's oldest resident before her death.

"She said to me, 'I'm dying,' and she just ran out of gas," David said. "I told her to go to sleep. I kissed her, and in the morning, she was gone."

Born in Brooklyn on Aug. 17, 1914, Flora was the third of Peter and Margaret Le Tellier's 11 children, although only eight survived to adulthood. The family moved to Glen Head in 1919 after Peter accepted a house painting job with JP Morgan. Two years later, they moved to the Landing in Glen Cove. Flora remained on the North Shore for the next 100 years of her life.

Although she attended Glen Cove public schools, Flora had to leave Glen Cove High School when she was 16 because of a blood clot in her brain, Herbert W. said. Although she fully recovered, she never went back to graduate.

Flora spent the next few years working as a cook on the Santini Estate in Brookville until 1938 when she met Herbert H. Schierhorst at a dance in Glen Cove. The two married after only a few months of dating because Herbert W.



Courtesy Herbert W. Schierhorst

EVEN AT 105 years old, Flora Schierhorst was ready to festively ring in 2020 just over a week before she died.

said his father did not want Flora to get away.

After the Schierhorsts were married, they moved to Sea Cliff, where Herbert H. worked in the village's Department of Public Works. After settling down, they had their three children — Herbert W. in 1940, Janet in 1943 and David in 1950. Over the years, they were given five chil-

dren and one great-grandchild, and the two stayed married until Herbert H. died of colon cancer in 2007.

Janet, now Janet Donohue, said her parents' relationship was playful in the way they argued with one another, yet their love was always present. "It was wonderful," she said. "They loved to bicker back and forth, that's the way they got along."

Flora's children said she was known around the neighborhood as one of the most welcoming mothers in town. Herbert W. said she was always willing to invite her children's friends over for meals, and even opened up their home to a young cousin who was having trouble with his parents.

Bea Francis, a friend of Donohue's growing up, said Flora would let anybody over the house and acted as "everyone's favorite mother" thanks to her perpetually compassionate and giving nature. Francis also helped take care of Flora in her later years and said that part of her personality never wavered.

"A lot of people will miss her," she said. "She was very kind, and usually you do miss people who were very nice when they're gone."

Donohue said Flora had a passion for the North Shore and never sought to leave. She loved the beach and general feel of the area. Her lifelong presence on the North Shore was even recognized by Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke and U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, who gifted her with a certificate during a senior celebration a few years ago, honoring her for being one of the few centenarians in the area.

All of Flora's children said they remember their mother as someone whose personality defied age. Even as Sea Cliff's oldest living resident, she still knew how to make people laugh and how to make people feel welcome wherever she went. And until the moment she died, the people in her life made sure she knew how much she meant to them.

"Mom was great," Herbert W. said. "We loved her very much."

Salvatore Andreotti

Salvatore Andreotti, 61, of Glen Cove, died on March 31. Beloved son of the late Michelina and Mario, dear brother of Luigi (Lee) and the late Felicia Costantino, loving uncle of Angela, Michelle, Jessica and Victoria, adored great-uncle of Madelyn, Cristian and Jonathan. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Private Entombment Service at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Joseph W. Tolbert, Jr.

Joseph W. Tolbert, Jr., 70, of Glen Cove, died on April 3. He was a Marine Corp Vietnam veteran and member of the American Legion Youngs-Simmons Post 1765 of Glen Cove where he served as chaplain. Tolbert was very active at Calvary AME Church in Glen Cove where he was the vice-chair of the Steward Board and he served in Alumni of Youth, Inc. where he was the treasurer. Beloved husband of Dolores, loving father of Tahisha N. Tolbert, M.D. and Joseph W. III, dear brother of Lawrence Giles, Edith Giles, Jeanette Tolbert-Campbell, Gary Tolbert and Lillian Rowell, proud grandfather of Joshua. Services entrusted to Dodge-Thomas

Funeral Home. Interment Calverton National Cemetery.

Christine T. Ghent

Christine T. Ghent, 94, of Glen Cove, died on April 5. Beloved wife of the late Robert, loving mother of Virginia, Steven and David, cherished grandmother of Alex, Eddie, Laura and Eileen, adored great-grandmother of Truman, Sebastian and Cooper. Ghent was a volunteer at the Glen Cove Hospital Auxiliary, Glen Cove Senior Center and the Glen Cove Library Board. Service to be held at a later date. Arrangements by Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home in Glen Cove. Burial will be private.

Giacoma Malzone

Giacoma Malzone, 89, of Glen Cove died on April 6. Beloved wife of Pasquale, loving mother of Maria., dear sister of the late Calogero Guastella, the late Vincenza Caruso, the late Vito Guastella, the late Concetta Prestigiaco and the late Gaetana Guastella; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home in Glen Cove. Private Burial at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Obituary Notices

Obituary notices, with or without photographs can be submitted by individuals as well as local funeral establishments. They should be typed and double spaced. The name of the individual or funeral establishment submitting the obituary should be included. A contact phone number must be included. There is no charge for obituaries.

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Passover 2020 brings memorable changes at C.T.I.

By JENNIFER CORR
jcorr@liherald.com

Rabbi Irwin Huberman, Congregation Tifereth Israel's spiritual leader, said that if it was not for the ongoing health emergency, this period would actually be a rather interesting time in history.

"In effect, we've become a virtual synagogue and what we have found is by using platforms such as Zoom and Facebook, we've actually experienced a doubling, or in some cases a tripling, of participating by congregants," said Huberman. "Perhaps at a time when so many are socially isolated, it provides a regular gathering point."

In the interest of caution and safety CTI, which is in Glen Cove, canceled all in-person programs and services until further notice. Federal, state and local social distancing guidelines will continue into April, which will affect the celebration of Passover, which began on April 8.

The Passover, according to Chabad.org, a website that serves members of the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement and those of the Jewish faith worldwide, lasts for eight days or seven days in Israel. It commemorates the emancipation of Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. Because the Israelites ate unleavened bread when they left Egypt, part of the observance of Passover is to avoid any food or drink that has wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt or those derivatives.

The Passover's first Seder was at nightfall on April 8 this year. The second Seder followed the next day at nightfall. The Seder is a feast of 15 steps and rituals that includes matzah, eating bitter herbs to remember the slavery endured by the Israelites, drinking four cups of wine or grape juice to celebrate freedom and the recitation of the Haggadah, which tells the story of the Exodus from Egypt.

Part of that story described when God, with Moses as His representative, brought 10 plagues upon Egyptians until they agreed to release the Jewish people from their land.

Therefore, this year during a period of the coronavirus, the story takes on another meaning. "There's 10 plagues, now we have an eleventh," Huberman said. "So this year, the plagues are not just something we remember from 3,500 years ago. Now we can relate to what a plague actually is today."

The coronavirus takes the message of



Tab Hauser/Herald Gazette

RABBI IRWIN HUBERMAN of Congregation Tifereth Israel is having his services go digital.

Passover to a new level, Huberman said, because it becomes more personal. "We can actually ponder the fragility of life," he said, "and what it's like to be free and hopefully healthy."

And with this newfound experience of what a plague actually means, also comes the inability to partake in yearly traditions, such as sharing the Seder meal with family.

"Like Easter, it's family gatherings and this year, there are no family gatherings" said Phyllis Spector, a congregant and the ritual vice president at CTI. But, she added, congregants across CTI will not be celebrating alone.

Instead, there will be two separate opportunities to bring in the tradition together. Huberman, along with his family, will partake in the Seder in front of a webcam so that congregants can watch while they do the Seder from their homes. Cantor Gustavo Gitlin will also be leading a Seder with his family that is geared more towards children.

Gitlin will be hosting activities during the Seder such as a 10 plague scavenger hunt. He'll also be asking the children

what modern plagues society faces today and will discuss gratitude or the "Dayenu."

"It would have been for God to have given us freedom, to have given us the Torah and have taken us out of Egypt, but now we are adding to this song of gratitude," Gitlin said. "Our doctors and nurses, the teachers and of course the internet and WiFi. The kids usually have a fun time referring to other things. Somebody will probably say toilet paper."

Along with the live-streamed services, Passover Seder meals were sent to the elderly, the home bounds and others. Gitlin's wife, Gaby, along with some helpers, prepared the meal in CTI's kitchen. Huberman said that this was done to ensure a healthy and safe environment.

Huberman added that this period of social distance will change the way people think moving forward. "I think all faiths and all denominations will change forever when this current crisis is over," he said. "We're learning lots of things about how to access more people."

When asked is she missed attending in-person services, Spector said "Yes." But,

Congregation Tifereth Israel's live stream Passover schedule

Thursday, April 9

9:30 a.m. - Passover services
6 p.m. - Second Seder with Rabbi Irwin Huberman or Cantor Gustavo Gitlin

Friday, April 10

6:45 p.m. - Musical Shabbat (Passover) Services

Sunday, April 12

9:30 a.m. - Morning Shacharit/Musaf Services

Monday, April 13

8:15 a.m. - Morning Shacharit/Musaf Services

Thursday, April 16

9:30 a.m. - Yizkor. Eighth Day of Passover.

she has been enjoying seeing people she hasn't seen in a while.

"What I find very energizing is that we're being joined [for service] not only by residents of Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Glen Head and Old Brookvale, but also people from Florida, North Carolina, Washington D.C., Boston, Toronto and Edmonton," Rabbi said.

During the Zoom sessions, Spector and other congregants can see each other. "We're waving at each other and saying 'Hi, how are you? I haven't seen you in three months,'" Spector said. "So besides the service giving us a taste of what would have been a Friday night service, we get to see our friends who are at a local distance and a far away distance."

In addition, Spector and others have been calling congregants, especially those who may live alone, to check on them. She said that most people have been doing alright. "They are all so glad to know that there's someone who is looking out for them," she said.

SCO providing meals through \$1.2 million anonymous donation

SCO Family of Services, the region's largest human services organization, was the recipient of an anonymous \$1.2 million donation this past week to further its efforts to support the families and communities it serves in New York City and across Long Island that have been directly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through a unique and resourceful partnership with DoorDash, SCO Family of Services is utilizing the donation to

distribute DoorDash gift cards to families who are especially in need of fresh food access and may not be able to leave their homes. It not only provides sustenance and peace of mind for families during this crisis, but also supports local restaurants in dire need of patronage. The DoorDash gift card can be used to pay for everything — food item cost, service fees, delivery fees and tips.

This is an extraordinary example of

how, in a time of need and communal uncertainty, individuals and organizations can come together quickly and effectively to support and positively impact their communities and the people around them who might need a helping hand. It is a reminder that positive change can come from neighbors helping neighbors.

Right now, more than 1,500 SCO families across New York City and Long

Island are able to support their local restaurants and eat a fresh and fulfilling meal in the immediate future through the ingenuity of this collaboration. As more families begin to face financial hardships due to Covid-19, SCO has set up a webpage with a variety of ways to help its families in need. To learn more about what more can be done to help, visit www.sco.org/covid-19-relief.

Coming together for North Shore small businesses

By MIKE CONN

mconn@liherald.com

When small business closures, due to Covid-19, seemed to be inevitable by mid-March, leaders of several North Shore business associations knew they had to come together to help local businesses stay afloat. After several meetings, the four associations — the Gold Coast Business Association, Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, Glen Cove Business Improvement District and North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce — came up with an idea.

They sent out a survey to all of their members on March 24 asking for contact information, open status and services they are providing while businesses are closed. Glen Cove Chamber administrator Yajhayra Reyes has taken that information and created a document which is regularly updated as more businesses include themselves. As the list expands, it is regularly shared via social media and email listings.

As of press time Wednesday, over 120 businesses' information has been added to the ongoing list. Steve Warsaw, GCBA's president, said the groups are sharing their resources so they can keep all of the information on one list, making it accessible to everybody on the North Shore, not just those in specific areas. He said the bottom line of the work they are doing is to keep the small business economy alive on the North Shore.

"I hope that was can help the small business economy in our North Shore areas to keep the cash moving," Warsaw said, "to keep them operating and keep them in business so when this is all done, they can still be there and come back to normal speed."

As the owner of the Glen Cove Salt Cave, Reyes said she is in the same boat as other closed businesses and knows exactly how those owners feel. It is important, she said, for small businesses to know that the organizations they are part of are there to support them in times of need.

"[We're] showing our businesses that we're there for them and that we have their back," Reyes said. "We're always going to be there to share all the information that we know."

Reyes said it is beneficial for all residents to follow the work the orga-



Joe Pantaleo/Herald Gazette

GLEN COVE SALT Cave owner Yajhayra Reyes said it is imperative that small businesses across the North Shore stick together during the mandatory closure period.

nizations are doing, as that can help residents grow to appreciate local businesses even more because they are all important parts of the same community.

Hummingbird Boutique in Sea Cliff is one of the businesses whose information has been distributed, and co-owner Laraine Gordon said being a part of the GCBA could play a crucial role in the business's survival moving forward. Running a boutique remotely is difficult, she said, because the experience of coming into Hummingbird and enjoying its ambience has been one of the keys to its success since it opened in December.

Gordon, who is also a practicing psychotherapist, said her wellness skills have come into play now more than ever. She said everything Hummingbird sells is available online, but a particular focus has been put into the wellness kits she puts together, which include essential oils, kombucha, natu-

ral sanitizing spray and more. Its closure has provided a significant challenge to Hummingbird, she said, but the support being provided by the North Shore's business associations has been encouraging.

"I'm not really surprised to see them come together in the way that they are," Gordon said, "because everyone has always been so supportive. It's always been a benefit of having a business there, in that everyone is so open and welcoming of each other."

American Community Bank in Glen Cove has also taken the opportunity to put themselves on the list, but not only for their own benefit. Matt Nartowicz, vice president of the bank's Nassau branches, said he wants to make sure local small businesses know that they can use the bank's expertise to get help from the United States Small Business Association's different types of loans and grants, specifically through disaster relief loans and pay-

check protection programs.

"We're doing everything we can so the community can keep their staff and keep their doors open during this difficult time," Nartowicz said.

Nartowicz said having one centralized location where people across the North Shore can see what services local businesses provide could be crucial in their survival. He said businesses should be encouraged that there are always people looking out for them and that they can all work together to ensure their survival.

When businesses thrive, Warsaw said, everybody in the area benefits, and he and his colleagues are working to make sure that continues.

"Right now, [the focus] is to put out the fire," he said. "We want to support everybody

and the message is to stay safe, stay home and, if you're a business and you could help your neighbor, we want to support you in whatever way we can."



Elisa Dragotto/Herald Gazette

EVERYTHING ON DISPLAY at Hummingbird Boutique in Sea Cliff is available online while the storefront is closed due to Covid-19.

HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
ASSESSOR'S NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF THE FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL THE ASSESSOR OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that he has completed the 2020/2021 final assessment roll, which will be used for the 2021 levy of Town and County

Taxes in the Towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay, and the City of Glen Cove and the City of Long Beach, and for the 2020/2021 levy of school taxes in such Towns and in the City of Long Beach. A certified electronic copy of the roll was filed with the Department of

Assessment on April 1, 2020. The electronic roll may be examined on public terminals located in the offices of:
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Happy Easter from Long Island's Bishop

Bishop John O. Barres

Editor's note: The following is an Easter message from John O. Barres, bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre

As we joyfully celebrate Easter, the greatest feast in the Church's liturgical year, I invite all of us to reflect on how we can dramatically encounter, love, and follow the Risen Lord Jesus. Truly, this Feast of feasts and Solemnity of solemnities provides us the blessed opportunity to grow in discipleship.

In Luke 24:13-35, our resurrected Lord appears to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The two disciples did not recognize Jesus at first, even though He was literally walking with them! We know that eventually the disciples open their eyes and see Jesus "in the breaking of the bread." However, notice how Jesus prepared the minds and hearts of His disciples prior to their life changing realization: "He interpreted to them what referred to Him in all the Scriptures." Thus, an understanding of Sacred Scripture played a crucial role in the disciples' encounter with the Lord. Jesus is both the Word made flesh and the Bread of Life. As Catholics, we have the sublime privilege of encountering God in both Word and Sacrament.

Nowhere is this more true than in the Mass.

How exciting was it to celebrate for the first time, Sunday of the Word of God (during the 34 Sunday in Ordinary Time earlier this year)? As I have in the past, I encourage all of us to become deeply biblical Catholics who not only pray with Scripture (via lectio divina, Ignatian contemplation, etc.) but seek to understand it as well. Reading and studying the Bible is one of the best ways to learn about Jesus and who He is. It is no coincidence that the word "disciple" comes from the Greek word "to learn." Fundamentally, a disciple is one who learns.

If we desire to authentically love and follow the Risen Christ, we must not only encounter Him but also learn about Him. A disciple cannot love Jesus without first knowing who He is. How can anyone love a person without knowing them?

Furthermore, the more one learns about who Jesus is, what His mission is,

what He taught, what He has done, and what He will do, the more one can genuinely love Him. There is a direct relationship between knowing Jesus and loving Him because there is a direct relationship between the mind and the heart. This virtuous cycle of knowing and loving Christ is

not a closed loop, but it necessarily extends to following Him as His disciple. This model of discipleship of encountering, learning, loving, and following the Lord Jesus is a lifelong process. Discipleship is not easy by any stretch of the imagination, but at the same time, it is an awesome and life-giving adventure to be embraced.

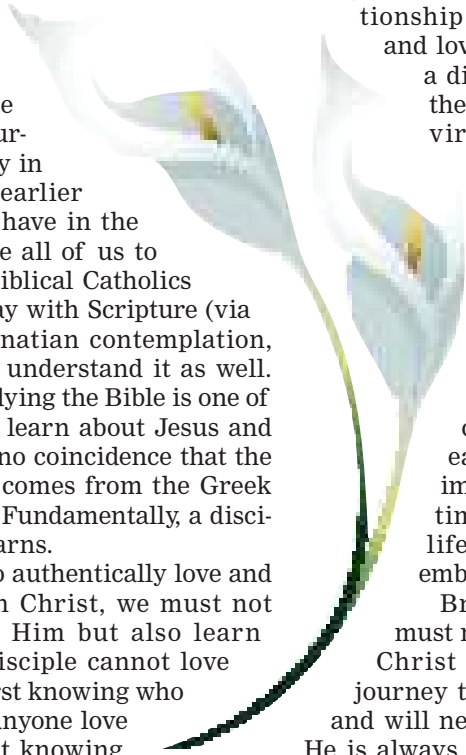
Brothers and sisters, we must never forget that the Risen Christ accompanies us on our journey to our heavenly homeland and will never abandon His Church. He is always faithful and continues to nourish us with His Word and the Sacraments. His glorified wounds heal and illumine our wounds and the wounds of

the Church.

Fully aware of the current challenges that we are facing today, I am convinced more than ever: there is no better time to be a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ! God has called us personally in this particular point in time to exemplify and to live out the very best of discipleship. Over and over again, throughout the rich history of the Church, it was precisely during the times of seemingly unsurmountable turmoil and trial that the outstanding disciples and saints of our tradition have emerged. Indeed, holy men and women have always been God's answer for the renewal and purification of the Church in the past – today His answer is no different.

What a great time to be alive and to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in and for the Church on Long Island and beyond! Following the example of our Blessed Lord on Easter morning, we RISE with Him out of our "tombs" of ignorance, disbelief, distrust, or whatever it is that is preventing us from becoming holy as God is holy. We become the missionary disciples and saints God is calling us to be.

May this Easter Season be a time of great joy in the Risen Lord for you and your families.



N.S. Land Alliance recommends social distancing

While social distancing is recommended right now to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, there is no reason one cannot get up close and personal with Mother Nature.

The North Shore Land Alliance owns or helps maintain 10 preserves that are currently open to the public.

Health researchers have found that spending two hours a week or more outdoors may help fight depression and anxiety, lower blood pressure,

boost the immune system and even improve memory. Take a jog or hike along a preserve trail or pack a picnic lunch and enjoy "forest bathing" in a preserve meadow. A small dose of vitamin D will go a long way during these stressful times.

Since its inception in 2003, the North Shore Land Alliance has preserved over 1,200 acres of open space on the North Shore of Long Island and has converted or helped convert nearly 300 of these acres into public preserves.



Courtesy of the North Shore Land Alliance

FLOWERS, SUCH AS the aster, can be found at North Shore Alliance parks.

Must-visit preserves open to the public

Cordelia H. Cushman Preserve, 15 acres in Oyster Bay (Tall Oak Crescent off Rt. 25A)

Cushman Woods, 28 acres in Matinecock (end of Still Rd.)

John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden, 7 acres in Mill Neck (347 Oyster Bay Rd.; opening in May)

Shore Road Sanctuary, 8 acres in Cold Spring Harbor (95 Shore Rd.)

Red Cote Preserve, 30 acres in Oyster Bay (Yellow Cote Rd. off Rt. 25A)

Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve, 42 acres in Upper Brookville (Chicken Valley Rd. near Laurel Woods Dr.)

Tiffany Creek, 15 acres in Oyster Bay (45 Sandy Hill Rd.)

Roosevelt Preserve, 73 acres in Roosevelt (intersection of Frederick Ave. and Brooklyn Ave.)

Fox Hollow, 26 acres in Laurel Hollow (80 White Oak Tree Rd.)

Wawapek, 32 acres in Cold Spring Harbor (end of Spring Hill Rd.)

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1085502

Dean Skelos, citing coronavirus fears, wants out of prison now, not later

By JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

Former State Sen. Dean Skelos, of Rockville Centre, sought early release from federal prison because he was worried about the coronavirus pandemic, according to court papers.

Skelos, 72, filed a motion in federal court in Manhattan last week, asking to spend the remainder of his 51-month sentence in home confinement to lessen the risk of contracting the virus. Skelos still has more than two years left on his sentence for political corruption, which he began serving in January 2019 at Otisville Correctional Facility, in Orange County. The motion, filed under seal, was opposed by federal prosecutors in papers filed publicly, saying that an application

for release should first be filed with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, which could better assess his health situation.

The prosecutors noted that steps were being taken to stop the spread of the disease in federal prison, and said that, since Skelos lives in New York state, “the global epicenter of the coronavirus,” he has not provided any information to show that he would be better protected outside of prison. The judge, Kimba Wood, had decided as of press time.

Skelos was convicted in July 2018 of using his political power to secure roughly \$300,000 in jobs and fees for his son Adam, also of Rockville Centre. They were each convicted on eight counts of conspiracy, extortion and bribery. Adam Skelos was sentenced to four years in prison.



Dean Skelos



Courtesy Debbie Greco Cohen

NASSAU COUNTY IS hiring a consulting firm to develop an “economic portrait” of the county after the coronavirus crisis has abated.

County hires consultant to study the economy

By SCOTT BRINTON
sbrinton@liherald.com

County Executive Laura Curran stood last Thursday at the Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola with the two heads of Nassau’s Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council — Industrial Development Agency Chairman Richard Kessel and Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz — to announce results of a weeklong survey to assess the state of local business amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The news were grim.

The county received 1,431 responses to the survey, Curran said. Many businesses said they have or would need to lay off workers. Half predicted no profit for the year. And 80 percent said they would need loans to sustain their businesses.

“It’s pain now, and we know it’s going to be pain down the road,” the county executive said.

Nassau, she said, has hired HR&A Advisors, a real estate and economic advisory firm based in New York City, to develop an “economic portrait” of the county before and after the crisis. From there, the firm can create models of the county’s potential economic state in order to prove future need for federal and state aid.

Curran said she was “incredibly grateful for the help received by the state and federal government.”

But, she noted, “we will need more.”

She also said she would work closely with Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone on a regional plan for future economic development after the medical crisis has abated.

Be counted – the 2020 Census is under way

By SCOTT BRINTON
sbrinton@liherald.com

April 1 was Census Day, when the federal government counts every person across the United States and five of its territories.

Population counts are used to allocate seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to states. The 435 seats in the House are divided up by the population of each state. The larger the population of a state, the more seats it receives.

A state’s population is also used to allocate federal funding for a variety of programs.

Federal officials are urging everyone to fill out the census online, by phone or mail. Census invitations were mailed earlier in March. You may respond after April 1.

The census is mandated every 10 years by the U.S. Constitution.

Who is counted? Here are directions from the 2020 Census website, 2020census.gov:

“You should be counted where you are living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020. If you are responding for your home, count everyone who lives and sleeps there most of the time as of April 1, 2020. This includes young children, foster children, roommates, and any family members or friends who are living with you, even temporarily.

“Please note that if someone is staying

with you temporarily on April 1 due to the COVID-19 situation, they should be counted where they usually live. This includes college students, who should still be counted at school, even if they are home early because of the COVID-19 situation. If they live in student housing, the college will count them. If they live off campus, they should respond for the off-campus address and include any roommates or other people living there.”

Below is a timeline of upcoming dates:

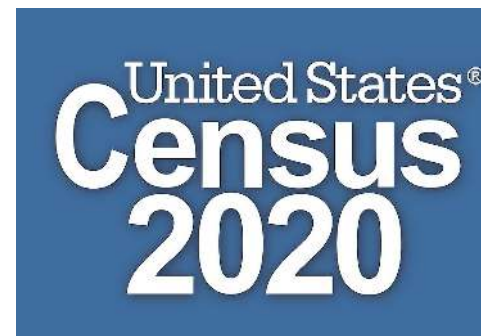
■ April 29 – May 1: The Census Bureau will count homeless people over these three days. Census takers count people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets and

at outdoor locations like tent encampments.

■ April 16 – June 19: Census takers will work with administrators at colleges, senior centers, prisons and other facilities that house large groups of people to ensure everyone is counted.

■ May 27 – Aug. 14: Census takers will interview homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

■ December: The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the president and Congress as required by law.



PEOPLE HAVE UNTIL Aug. 14 to respond to the U.S. Census.

Berkshire Hathaway Laffey provides fast food and snacks for health care workers

Fay Mihos of Berkshire Hathaway Laffey International Realty said she was concerned for medical professionals. The shortage of grab and go snacks, such what is available in vending machines at Long Island hospitals was running low. That could affect medical professionals who do not have time to stop long enough to eat a normal meal. She wanted to help.

Emmett Laffey, the company’s CEO, loved the idea of supporting the front line COVID-19 workers and decided to team up with a business that usually supplies “fast food and snacks.” The snacks then would be donated to hospitals.

The plan was to inspire community involvement, coordinating with sales manager Mary Stanco of Glen Cove. Berkshire Hathaway Laffey International Realty launched a program starting in Glen Cove on April 1. The initial deliveries were sent to Northwell Health at Glen Cove Hospital.

Participating from Glen Cove in this new community support venture, which Mihos dubbed, “Island Pride Long Island

Wide,” are the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, John Ferrante & Gregg DeSantis of JAG Specialty Foods and North Shore Farms who are providing the snacks. The View Grill is setting up the boxes for delivery.

Mario’s Pizzeria of Westbury participated in the trial program where over 100 pies were donated and delivered to hospitals on Long Island, from Queens to Suffolk, in gratitude for the selfless work being done. This was so successful and appreciated that Berkshire Hathaway Laffey International Realty is now working to expand the program throughout Long Island and hopes to collect grab-and-go snacks from providers around the Island to donate to the hospitals in support of the dedicated staffs.

This service program will provide grab-and-go snacks for those in the hospitals working tirelessly on the front line against the COVID-19 pandemic. For their fantastic dedication, Berkshire Hathaway Laffey International Realty is forever thankful and forever grateful.

OPINIONS

Longing for a comforting voice from a true leader

Please allow me to reminisce about the past. I'm no longer a young politician, but I'm very much an alert senior citizen who can clearly recall the experiences in my life that have left an indelible imprint on my heart and soul.

I refer specifically to my recollections about the presidents of my past. I vividly



**JERRY
KREMER**

recall my early childhood, when Franklin D. Roosevelt was president. My parents came of age during the Depression, and they worshipped Roosevelt for his soothing messages to America during World War II. I was a child, but I could see how his fire-

side chats helped my parents survive the stresses of the war.

I still can feel the tremors that reverberated across the country the day Roosevelt died. The neighborhood churches in Brooklyn rang their bells incessantly to tell the world that one of its greatest leaders was gone. My mother and father kept asking, how would their America survive?

Along came a former haberdasher named Harry S. Truman, who assured America that all would be well. In the ensuing years, he helped end the war, and assured our country that he was in charge, and that "The buck stops here." He assured us that our national agony was over. He did his job but never lost sight of his local roots. Truman was a great cheerleader for America.

He was followed by former Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had helped defeat the enemy armies in the war. He became a grandfatherly symbol to Americans, and made us feel that we no longer had to worry about foreign wars.

Fast-forward to the days of President John F. Kennedy. Young and vibrant, he made the nation feel that our future would be bright and promising. He energized the White House, and made millions of young people eager to embark on careers in public service. When he died, almost everyone in our nation felt the pain.

After the failures of Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan emerged as the strong father figure that was needed to soothe our new global fears. His experience in

Hollywood helped him eloquently express his concerns for America, and he won over many of his skeptics.

The next trauma came during the tenure of Bill Clinton. On April 19, 1995, two American-born terrorists blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people and injuring nearly 700 others, many of them children. Our nation went into shock after the tragedy, and President Clinton became the healer-in-chief with his soothing words, assuring us that we were better than those two criminals.

I recall President George W. Bush standing amid the rubble of the still-smoldering World Trade Center on Sept. 14, 2001, assuring America that we would catch the perpetrators of the attacks three days earlier. It was a shining moment not just for him, but for all of America.

Fast-forward to 2015, when a gunman opened fire at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., killing nine people. Afterward, President Barack Obama offered words of compassion that captured the feelings of all Americans — and even led the singing of "Amazing Grace" at the funeral of one of the victims.

Now it is 2020. We are a nation living in fear of the unknown. Caught in the clutches of a pandemic, we must seek solace from our governors and our local leaders. We cling to the words of medical experts and our clergy, because we lack a powerful voice in the White House that could tell us that we are stronger than any virus.

We survived World War II and Oklahoma City and Sept. 11 because, when challenged, we united and rose to the occasion. Facing a disease that keeps us awake at night and could wreck our economy, we're in need of a voice from on high that would give us the strength to carry on, but sadly, there is no such voice in the Oval Office. All we hear is the echo chamber telling our president how great he is, not how great he could be.

I pray that in your lifetimes we will again have a national leader who will remind us what Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Obama sounded like in times of national need.

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

Dear President Trump: This is killing us

If only Donald Trump had taken the same Hippocratic Oath our doctors take when they graduate from medical school: "First, do no harm."

Instead, as we live through this global pandemic, we are caught between trained doctors, offering us fact-based science, and the White House, offering political expediency and short-sighted policy that could actually lead to more loss of life.



**RANDI
KREISS**

This is the worst, I thought as the virus spread over the past two weeks. But it wasn't the worst. The medical fight against the disease has been handicapped by a president who is ignoring scientific evidence and the best

advice of medical professions. He has denied, lied and deceived the public about the very existence of the coronavirus. He misled his fellow Americans about the severity of the disease. Early on, when he could have blunted the effects of a full-blown epidemic, he refused to take action, which would have mitigated the loss of life we are seeing every day.

What a week. As we move through this all-consuming emergency, ordinary peo-

ple, who want to keep themselves and their loved ones safe, are looking for advice based on sound medical practice.

The Hippocratic Oath, which evolved from the work of Hippocrates of Kos, who lived in the 5th century B.C., codifies the ethics and standards doctors still embrace. Not every doctor actually takes the oath in modern times, but some still do, and doctors around the world adhere to the tenets of selflessness, service and care.

In a bizarre turn of events, Trump has set himself up as qualified to tout experimental medicines that have been rushed through the approval process and administered to sick patients on a trial basis. He has pushed right past the obvious equivocation of the physicians standing with him during the nightly press conferences/political rallies. Was it ever writ larger than this? Elections have consequences, and one of the unforeseen consequences of 2016 is our living through a once-in-a-century pandemic without qualified, stable or sensitive leadership.

This is a human rights issue, a political issue *and* a medical issue. We are stumbling through this valley hobbled by leaders who have no regard for the health and

safety of millions of vulnerable Americans.

As I wrote two weeks ago (during this siege my column may not appear every week), the heartening news is that this ship can sail without a captain. All hands are onboard. All of us in our everyday lives are listening to the experts and trying to limit the spread of Covid-19 by observing physical distance rules and absorbing the pain of isolation and loneliness. Hundreds of thousands of us are quarantining ourselves and staying indoors to help stop this modern plague. We're doing our part.

As always, there is inspiration and precedent to be found in literature. I've been reading "Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour," by Lynne Olson. What we're living through has similarities to the Blitz, when Germany dropped some 30,000 incendiary bombs on London beginning in September 1940 and continuing for 57 consecutive nights. The bombing did not end for eight months.

Britain had Winnie, of course. Winston Churchill helped the people of London survive the Blitz by telling them how hard it was going to be. He said it would cost

Sadly, there's no FDR, no Reagan, no Bush, no Obama in this White House.

The heartening news is that this ship can sail without a captain.

them blood, sweat and tears. He spoke the truth in terrible times, asked much of his fellow Brits, and they, in turn, summoned the courage they needed.

Hand in hand with the English people were the American journalists who lived through the bombing and reported the stories of stoicism and survival back to the American public. Those reports helped pull the United States into the war, and led ultimately to the defeat of Nazi Germany.

The heroes of that era were the leaders who never faltered, the everyday citizens who crawled out of bombed apartments to go to work and the journalists who told the story. The heroes of this troubled time will be the doctors and other medical workers who turn up every day on the front lines of this epic battle, and the reporters and photographers who are telling the story, writing the first rough draft of history.

We don't have a Winston Churchill in the White House. Trump delayed enacting the Defense Production Act until last Friday, and thereby delayed the manufacture of desperately needed ventilators. He continues to mislead the nation about the availability of testing, and the hard news about how long we will live in crisis mode. In that, he is failing to protect and defend us.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Give what you can in these challenging days

At the Herald, we want to add our voices to the growing chorus of supporters thanking our front-line medical workers and first responders who are, as they say, doing God's work. Each day, they put their lives on the line to save others. We can only admire their bravery, tenacity and sense of humanity.

That being said, these good men and women could use more than our thanks. They could use our financial support.

We don't presume to speak for them, but they no doubt appreciate the cards, cheers and pizzas — keep 'em coming. Hospitals, however, have been stretched to their limits, not only in people power, but also in their finances.

These are tough times financially. So many have lost their jobs or had their

hours reduced. Many people are suddenly scraping by after having been solidly in the black only a matter of weeks ago.

For those who can, however, please consider giving to our hospitals, which are nonprofits. We need them, and they need us.

To give to Mount Sinai South Nassau, go to <https://www.southnassau.org/sn/give>.

- To give to the Northwell Health Foundation, go to <https://give.northwell.edu>.

- To give to Mercy Medical Center, go to <https://mercymedicalcenter.chsli.org/ways-give>.

- To give to NYU Winthrop, go to <https://nyuwinthrop.org/giving/>.

- To give to St. John's Episcopal Hospital, go to <https://ehs.org>.

You also might donate to your local volunteer fire department. Firefighters and

emergency medical technicians are putting themselves in harm's way like never before. Covid-19 is a respiratory disease. Many firefighters' lungs are damaged because of the smoke they have breathed in while responding to calls over the years, potentially making them more susceptible to this virus.

You might also give to your local food pantries, which are running low.

Finally, the Herald is coordinating the purchase of large orders of food and goodies for our healthcare workers and first responders, as well as patients in hospitals and other care facilities. Go to liherald.com/heroes to donate. We will use all donations, along with donations from our parent company Richner Communications to purchase food and other goods from our local restaurants and businesses.

Keep up the social distancing

Two weeks ago, one South Shore school board member issued an urgent appeal to students in her district: Stop congregating. Stay apart.

That same day, an editor of this paper was riding his bicycle through his neighborhood and couldn't help notice groups of people gathering on sidewalks. One older man was smoking a cigar in a circle of neighbors. A family was barbecuing in their driveway, welcoming folks from surrounding homes.

These were the initial days after Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued a stay-at-home order, which too many people seemed to treat as a mini-vacation. They had no idea what was coming.

In the days that followed, as the number of positive tests for Covid-19 climbed and

the sobering death totals began streaming in, people got the message. No longer do they stand side by side or in tight lines in supermarkets. Gone are the barbecues and close clutches of socializing teenagers.

The message was loud and clear: This pandemic is not a hoax. It is very real.

Over this past weekend, however, we learned that Nassau County had the third-highest number of coronavirus cases of any county in the state, surpassing Westchester, where the outbreak began in New York, Manhattan and the Bronx. Only Queens and Brooklyn (a.k.a. Queens and Kings counties) had higher totals.

Nassau's and Suffolk's fast-climbing numbers prompted the governor to warn that the outbreak was shifting from New York City to Long Island. As of Monday,

more than 15,600 people had tested positive in Nassau.

That figure may very well reflect lax social distancing practices in the days after people were first told to stay home.

We will be tempted to loosen our social distancing practices. It's hard to remain regimented for weeks on end. We can't give up, though. There's simply too much at stake. Forgoing social distancing and sound hygiene practices now would only prolong the crisis.

The pandemic will end. Statewide, we saw hopeful signs on Sunday.

On the other hand, those hopeful signs could be illusory. Hospitalizations and deaths could very well climb again. Which is why we must — must — remain disciplined and continue to practice social distancing.

LETTERS

'Do Good to Feel Good'

To the Editor:

A couple of weeks ago, with the fear and uncertainty lying before us regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, my husband and I, like many others, were feeling rather down. To combat this, we reinvigorated a program we started before the winter holidays called, "Do Good to Feel Good." And it's worked for us.

There's no better way to lift your spirit than when you do something to help someone else, and the time is now when many people have less income and when those in the medical-related fields are putting their lives on the line for us.

In the past month, we have delivered nearly 500 cases of food to the greater Glen Cove community.



OPINIONS

I'm proud of our LIRR workers

As another week has passed, and as we fight through this pandemic together, I continue to think about our Long Island Rail Road workforce, which continually rises to the challenge.

They are on the front lines, playing a key role in the response to this emergency as the LIRR provides a vital service to



**PHILLIP
ENG**

Long Island and the region, currently the nation's epicenter of a global health crisis.

Our employees are heroes moving heroes. The workforce shows up each day to ensure that we can safely transport fellow front-line workers — the nurses, doc-

tors, police and other first responders, as well as the grocery store, pharmacy and transportation workers, and so many others who are helping us live.

Together with our labor partners, we're ensuring that employees and customers alike remain safe.

Since this pandemic began hitting our state, the LIRR has seen a decline in ridership of about 90 percent. Adjusting to this

drop, while ensuring that we're able to care for our employees and still provide critical service, we enacted the MTA Essential Service Plan, which began March 27. We are still running over 500 weekday trains, maintaining a 65 percent service level compared with a typical weekday. We also have crews and equipment on standby to supplement service if necessary.

We're constantly monitoring this new service, and staying engaged with our customers and local elected officials and community leaders, listening to their feedback and adjusting where we need to. We've added trains strategically where the need was greater to enable customers to maintain safe social distancing.

We have eliminated cash transactions, closed all station waiting rooms and ticket windows, shut down our Lost & Found Office and the West End concourse of Penn Station.

We continue to distribute masks and gloves to employees, and provide washing stations, hand sanitizers, disinfected work areas and other protections they need, and deserve, to stay healthy. Our courageous workforce is doing what public ser-

vants do. They aren't just doing a job; they are doing a true service to their fellow New Yorkers. I simply can't thank them enough.

I ask my fellow Long Islanders to continue to practice good hygiene. Social distancing is key. We cannot stress enough the importance of flattening the curve and what it will mean to the recovery of New York, New Yorkers and the rest of the country.

We know how trying these times are. But it is the efforts of our customers and LIRR employees that are an uplifting boost to us as management and labor leaders. They are the backbone of this pandemic

response.

LIRR management and local labor leaders are in contact daily. They're sharing important feedback, too, and this open dialogue has enabled us to better support the LIRR workforce, as our employees and as union members. Thank you to those who have been providing us the feedback that helps us better protect you. Please know that this line of communication remains open, always, and we're all better for your thoughts and suggestions.

Even with all the precautions we're

taking, it's crucial that we continue to focus on reducing the spread of the coronavirus. This means that unless you're an essential worker, stay home. Do not ride public transportation unless it's absolutely necessary.

Whether you're at home or reporting to work, wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds, and use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available. Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue, and, most important, if you're feeling sick, stay home.

My heart goes out to all who are affected by this illness, especially those in our MTA family. To those who are currently being treated for Covid-19, please know that you are in our thoughts, and we wish you a speedy recovery. Take good care of yourselves.

If there is a bright side to all of this, it's that a large percentage of people, including many railroad employees, who have contracted the virus are recovering from it and returning to their daily lives. Of the 378 LIRR employees who were on home quarantine as of last Thursday, 103 have returned to work.

I look forward to the day our LIRR family is all back together, standing side by side and marching forward, together.

Phillip Eng is president of the Long Island Rail Road.

They doing not just a job, but a true service to their fellow New Yorkers.

LETTERS

We have been able to help feed seniors with direct delivery and low-income residents through the First Baptist Church's soup kitchen. We have shown our appreciation to Glen Cove Hospital, the Department of Public Works, the Glen Cove police, fire and EMS departments, several pharmacies and urgent care centers.

Our main sponsor is JAG Specialty Foods through my husband, John Ferrante, and his two business partners, Gregg DeSantis, formerly of Glen Cove, and an anonymous donor who lives in our city. Although DeSantis lives farther east, his heart is still in Glen Cove.

Other donors include John and Carmine Falcone of Falcone Bakeries, Tim Sullivan of Silver Spring Gardens, Dr. Patty Tager and several other manufacturers who prefer to remain anonymous. I would also like to thank County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and Toni Kessel, who are organizing many of our deliveries to older adults, and to Mary Stanco and Fay Mihos of Berkshire Hathaway Laffey International's Grab and Go snack program for organizing our deliveries to the hospital. Others who have helped include the Rev. Roger Williams and the Fazzalari family.

As long as you can do it in a safe and socially distant manner, we hope that more of you will reach out to your neighbors and "Do Good to Feel Good!"

DR. EVE LUPENKO FERRANTE,
Glen Cove City councilwoman

We still have to care for the environment

To the Editor:

I have mailed, faxed and emailed Governor Cuomo's office about the specifics of "essential" landscapers and what they are allowed to do and not do. Specifically, I'm asking about the use of leaf blowers.

With several landscaping companies using them at once, they are potentially blowing toxic air into our homes, cars and faces during this Covid-19 pandemic. I hope their use will be temporarily banned.

I'm also disappointed that the state has postponed enforcement of the single-use plastic bag ban. Plastic bags are polluting our waterways and harming wildlife. I don't understand why markets can't use paper bags for the time being.

Finally, I received a notice from the Town of Hempstead indicating that, as of Monday, there would no longer be recycling during the pandemic. The town wants us to hold on to all of our recyclables until further notice. I plan to call the town to inquire if there could at least be drop-off bins where conscientious people could deposit them.

We're not moving in the right direction on the environment. Three wrongs will not make anything right.

MARCIA DITIERI
North Merrick

FRAMEWORK by Jack Healy



He's gonna need a bigger mask — Seaford

ALL ARE INVITED

to join us via Facebook Live

FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER DAWN SERVICE

Bagpiper
Robert Lynch
will be opening
the service!

Bilingual (Spanish and English)

Toda la Comunidad Están Invitados al Servicio del Amanecer de Pascua

**Virtually Shared via Facebook Live on the Official
Glen Cove Community Easter Dawn Service Facebook Page
Easter Morning • April 12, 2020 • 7:00 am - 7:30 am**

Hosted by / Auspiciado por

St. John's of Lattingtown
Episcopal Church

Glen Cove
Christian Church

Calvary AME Church
of Glen Cove

Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio
Asambleas de Dios de Glen Cove

St. Boniface Martyr
Roman Catholic Church
of Sea Cliff

First Baptist Church
of Glen Cove

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
of Glen Cove

First Presbyterian Church
of Glen Cove

A few will be involved in the live service, others will share/comment online

Leading the Service / Dirigiendo el Servicio

Rev. A.H. Sparkman
Pastor Calvary AME Church

Rev. Juanita Lopez
Pastor Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio

Rev. Tommy Lanham
Pastor Glen Cove Christian Church

Rev. Fr. Mark L. Fitzhugh
Pastor St. John's of Lattingtown

Fr. Kevin Dillon and Fr. Chinthaka Perera
Pastor/Assoc. Pastor St. Boniface Martyr (RCC)

Rev. Fr. Shawn Williams
Pastor St. Paul's Episcopal

Rev. Mark V. Applewhite
Pastor First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Gia Lynne Hall
United Methodist Pastor

Rev. Roger C. Williams
Pastor First Baptist Church

Leading the Singing / Dirigiendo las Canciones

Merle Richards
Choir President / Evangelist
Calvary AME Church

Josue Correa
Associate Pastor / Pastor Asociado

Erika Bautista
Song Leader / Líder de la Canción
Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews
Elder
First Presbyterian Church

All are invited to participate in the live streaming of the service via the Community Easter Dawn Facebook Page.

Because of our current health crisis, only a few of the Pastors/Priests will be "on location" for the live filming of the service and they will be practicing social distancing. Many of the other Pastors/Priests/Song-leaders, along with the public, will participate via Facebook Live.

Ad sponsored by the NYC Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Patrick J. Lynch, President, in grateful tribute to the heroic healthcare workers, first responders, sanitation, grocery, restaurant, and delivery workers on the front lines of the COVID19 crisis.



Join us at 7:00 am: [www.Facebook/GlenCoveEaster](https://www.facebook.com/GlenCoveEaster)