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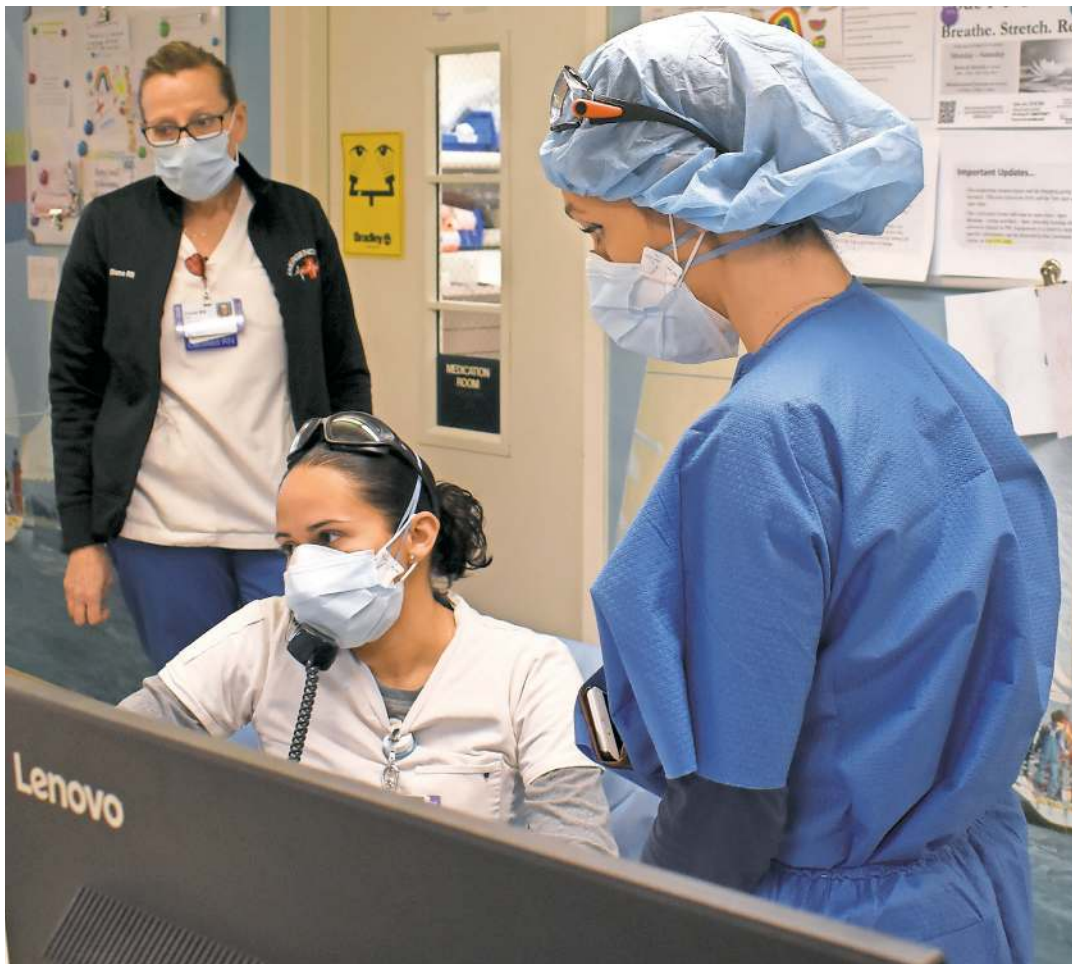
**L.V. resident makes face masks**  
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**Connolly kids busy spreading joy**  
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Courtesy Glen Cove Hospital

**GLEN COVE HOSPITAL** Emergency Room nurses Diane Perez, far left, Cristina Gomez and Amanda Sicuranza discussed the care of a Covid-19 patient.

## For G.C. Hospital E.R. doctor, the work seems endless

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

Dr. John Colletta said that his Centerport neighbors consider him something akin to a leper: They know he works in the emergency room at Glen Cove Hospital, and that his daughter, Morgan, is an emergency-room nurse at North Shore University Hospital in

Manhasset.

“No one will come near me or my house,” Colletta, 61, said. “My son won’t even come home. He went to stay with his girlfriend’s family. Between me and my daughter, we’re in the heat of the coronavirus.”

Colletta can still recall his first shift in Glen Cove Hospital’s emergency room — Dec.

12, 1985. Nearly 35 years later, he is the chair of Emergency Medicine at the hospital. On the front lines of the pandemic, he works around the clock to manage the emergency room, 98 percent of whose patients have Covid-19 patients.

“Where are all the stroke, the appendix patients?” he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Helping the hungry during the pandemic

By **LAURA LANE**  
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Hunger, a byproduct of the coronavirus pandemic, has changed Aura and Barry Wagner’s lives dramatically. The Glen Cove couple began preparing for a food drive three weeks ago, planning to do it by themselves. The Wagners would pick up food donations outside people’s homes for the pantry at their church, the Glen Cove Christian Church.

They researched the protocols for safe deliveries on the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Federal Drug Administration and the New York State Department of Health. They learned mostly that it was important to protect their hands, eyes and mouth.

Barry, who owns the Sea Cliff automotive business Sport & Classic Car Club, knew where to get protective gear. He bought goggles, gloves, masks and the

cloth jumpsuits worn by auto body shop employees when they paint vehicles.

“We’re so suited up, we look like we work in a lab or are trick-or-treating,” said Aura, 42. “I call it my marshmallow suit. People laugh when they see us, which is a reward for us.”

**C**ovid-19 is big, and we knew we couldn’t fix it, but Mother Theresa said, ‘We can do small things with great love.’

**COURTNEY CALLAHAN**  
 Locust Valley

Days after they began their work, the need for food increased exponentially. People were thrown out of work by the closure of non-essential businesses, and many were ineligible for unemployment benefits because they are independent contractors and freelancers — nannies, house cleaners, artists and other “gig” workers.

The number of people who were hungry skyrocketed. “The need for food began to grow like the virus,” said Barry, 62. “Most people that we heard of at that point were landscapers and restaurant workers. They’re out of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



*Edward L. Lieberman, Esq.*

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Courtesy Jon Katz PC

**A GAGGLE OF** geese got lucky as it crossed the road.

## Animals along ‘slaughter alley’ get a breather

By **TIMOTHY DENTON**

tdenton@liherald.com

Everyone is looking for silver linings in these dark days as the Covid-19 virus cuts an inexorable swathe through the county. For the local fauna, human sheltering in place is very, very good news.

Tens of millions of animals are killed along New York’s roadways each year. Clearing away the roadkill is the responsibility of several state and local departments, according to media spokesman Stephen Canzoneri, of the state Department of Transportation. “It depends on who owns the road,” he said.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has its hand in it as well. But since traffic has come to a virtual standstill, roadways like the Wantagh State Parkway, normally a “slaughter alley” for animals, is almost entirely clear of the sad carcasses of animals that tried unsuccessfully to get to the proverbial other side of the road.

On one recent afternoon cruising up and down one of the most destructively lethal sections of the parkway, only one animal carcass was seen. From its desiccated appearance, it had been there for some time.

No agency keeps exact records of the total number of animals killed along Nas-

sau County’s roadways. Nationally, though, an estimated 10 million deer meet their demise at motorists’ hands each year, according to Maria Christina Lalonde, in an article for Wide Open Eats, an organization that seeks to educate on a variety of noncommercial dining opportunities.

Harvesting roadkill for food is legal in 27 states, including New York — with a permit. “Animal rights activists and foodies alike hail roadkill as one of the most ethical and environmentally friendly meats,” Lalonde proclaimed. “Advocates point out that these animals were not raised or killed for food, and argue [that] letting people harvest roadkill makes use of a valuable free-range protein source that would otherwise go to waste.”

“Roadkill is free of the antibiotics, hormones, and growth stimulants found in factory-farmed meat,” Lalonde wrote. “And many roadkill species — including elk, deer, boar, and certain game birds — are pretty darn tasty, and sell for quite a bit when farm-raised, packaged and offered in stores.”

Lalonde would be more likely to find raccoons, squirrels, Canada geese and various species of house pets along Nassau’s roadways. In any case, those animals have caught a break — for now.



**ONE OF THE** deadliest sections of the Wantagh State Parkway, just before the Sunrise Highway exit, was mercifully free of roadkill on Easter Sunday.



# Virus presents more questions than answers

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

asked. “I don’t see them. I guess they’re staying home.”

## Plenty to ponder about Covid-19

Although the volume of virus patients is decreasing — there have been 233 cases — Colletta said that those who are admitted are acutely ill. Some were tested before at the hospital and have returned much sicker, he said. The majority of patients he is seeing now have severe shortness of breath, and not all are senior citizens.

“I see cases like the 30-year-old man with no medical history who we have to put on a ventilator,” he said. “That’s so young. Twenty percent of people that get the virus are between 25 and 45 years old. Remember those kids in Florida during spring break that gathered on the beach? Three died that we know of.”

Colletta said he wonders why some patients need to go on ventilators while others experience symptoms similar to the common cold. The differences could mean there are different strands of the virus, he said.

The hospital tries to avoid putting patients on ventilators, because the survival rate of those who are has been between 15 and 20 percent. “We’ll put the patient on their side and stomach, which helps their oxygen levels tremendously,” Colletta explained. “But if the guy is 80, with diabetes and an irregular heartbeat, he may be OK at 8 a.m., but how will he be at midnight? He might poop out.”

Because the virus progresses rapidly, some patients who initially look good may not stay that way. “They’ll talk to us, and then three hours later we’ll have to put them on a ventilator,” Colletta said. “And some of them die.”

And he wonders about the prior health of those who die after being put on a ventilator. “How many were smokers or had heart disease,” he said. “And no children are coming in with it. Maybe they have a higher immunity. Could this be some sort of genetic thing?”

## Tests aren’t foolproof

The hospital opened up units for Covid-19 patients that had been closed for 12 years — an intensive care unit, a pediatric ambulatory surgical unit and an orthopedic unit — adding 38 additional beds. They are now full, Colletta said.

It’s hard to know exactly how many people have died of the virus there, he added, because when there was a shortage of tests the hospital didn’t want to waste them on those who had already died. Now that there are enough tests, Colletta said, his staff will sometimes do one for a family that requests it.

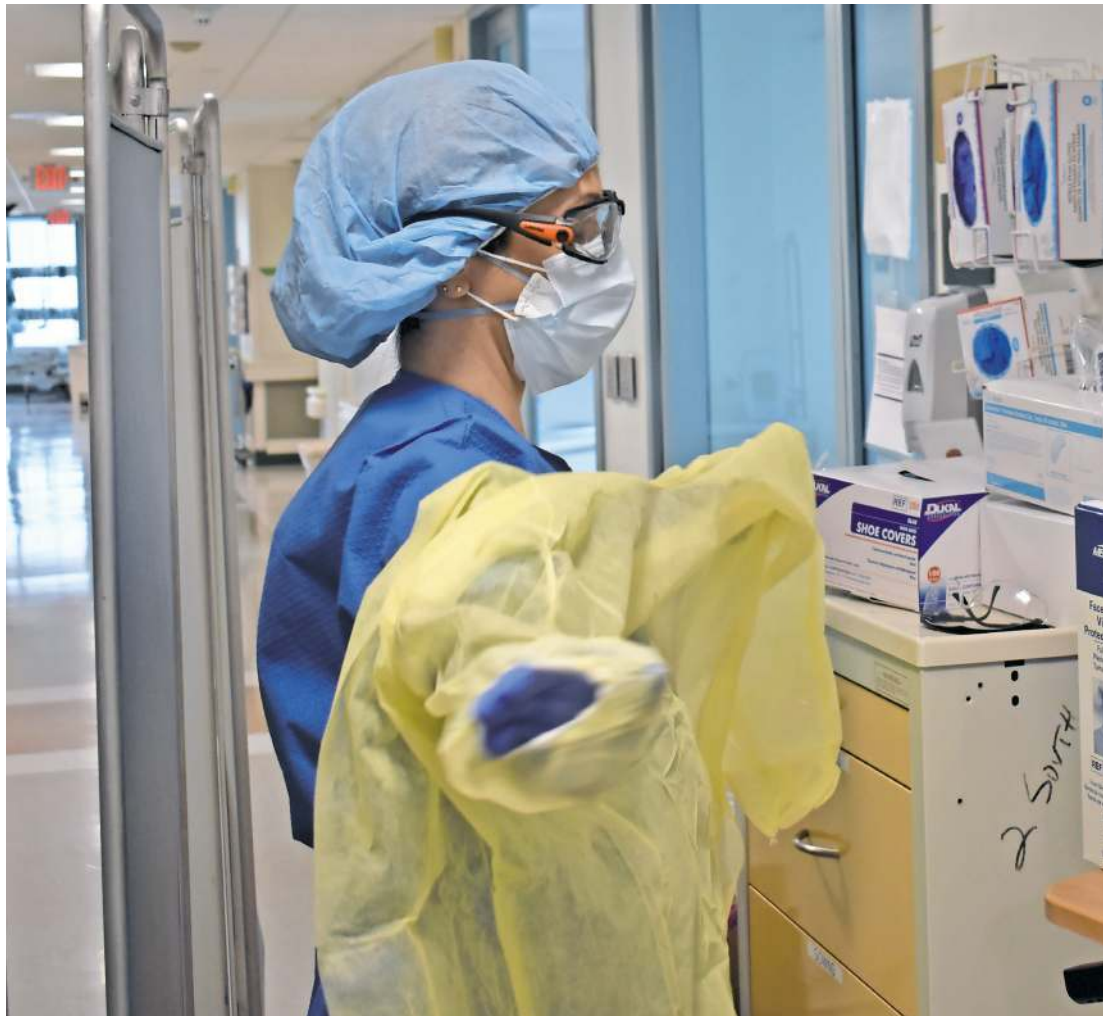
But the test results are not always accurate. “We will initially take an X-ray on people that look like they might have Covid, and test them, but it can come back negative,” he said. “Sometimes I need to take the test three times before it shows that a person has the virus.”

His advice: Someone who has flu-like symptoms should stay home and quarantine for a week, going to the hospital only if there is shortness of breath. And the patient shouldn’t go outside until he or she has been fever-free for at least three days. Everyone else should continue to stay home and wash their hands often.

Colletta said he was proud of his staff. The nurses in his department take additional shifts, he said, which is doubly heroic because many have young children. “These guys are risking their lives,” he said. “The people cleaning the hospital are too.”

There is no treatment for Covid-19, but trials are being conducted at Glen Cove Hospital. Some patients who have low oxygen levels are being given hydroxychloroquine with a Z-pak — an antibiotic used to treat certain bacterial infections, including upper respiratory tract infections — but Colletta doesn’t recommend taking the drugs outside a hospital setting. “Our president is yakking that everyone should use it,” he said. “You can have cardiac arrhythmia. We would need to shock someone who’s having that. People taking this drug need to be monitored.”

Also, he added, a study concluded that taking



Photos courtesy Glen Cove Hospital

**AMANDA SICURANZA, LEFT**, a nurse at Glen Cove Hospital, prepared to work with patients who have Covid-19.

**DR. JOHN COLLETTA**, the chair of Emergency Medicine at the hospital, below, has been working long hours.



hydroxychloroquine with a Z-pak for prevention doesn’t work.

## Is it airborne?

Because information on the coronavirus is constantly updated, Colletta said, further investigation of how it is spread may be needed.

Residents have debated on North Shore Facebook pages how they would protect themselves from Covid-19 with more than a few saying they would keep their windows closed. “That’s just plain silly,” said Colletta, adding that an infected person would have to be coughing outside someone’s open window for the virus to enter a home. “If someone coughs with the virus it can stay in the air for three hours and you need to be within 6 feet of that person or touch a surface the droplets are on and then touch your face.”

## Decontaminating at home

When hospital workers come home, they have to decontaminate to protect their families. Colletta’s wife, Cathy, a retired chief nursing officer at the hospital, said the process usually takes a couple of hours.

Her husband takes off all his clothes in the garage and puts them in a large plastic bag. Shoes, coats and keys are kept in the garage as well. Wrapping himself in a towel, he’ll call out that he is running to the shower.

“Then he boils himself in the shower,” Cathy said, “and I go into the garage to take the clothes to be washed immediately. “I throw the bag out, then go [back] into the garage and wipe everything down that he’s touched — the doorknobs, car steering wheel, everything. Then I go into the shower and boil myself. The shower is wiped down next.”

The process is repeated when Morgan, who works nights, comes home. Everyone practices social distancing in her household, Cathy said.

“I felt partially guilty that I didn’t go out of retirement to help, but my most important role right now is to keep my family safe,” she said. “I try to keep everyone’s morale up. And I’m cooking more, to give them something to look forward to.”

Colletta said he was concerned that he might come down with Covid-19, and worried about his daughter even more. “I feel like I’m sending my daughter into the front lines of war,” he said. “She could die. We are risking our lives to save others’ lives. There aren’t many jobs like this.”



## NEWS BRIEF

# Priority urgent care now available for first responders

Northwell Health-GoHealth Urgent Care will offer first responders and front line health care workers priority access to evaluation, care and testing at its 52 urgent care centers across Long Island, New York City and Westchester during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Northwell Health-GoHealth has agreements with several police, fire, emergency medical services and health care agencies and organizations to provide streamlined services for employees, including at the Nassau County Police Department, New York State Police, New York City Police Department, New York City Fire Department and the New York City Department of Corrections.

"Now more than ever, it's important that we give those on the front lines fighting COVID-19 immediate access to any health care services they may need," said

Adam Boll, executive director of joint venture operations at Northwell Health. "Northwell Health-GoHealth Urgent Care centers throughout the metropolitan region will prioritize those first responders and health care workers who make an appointment through our

new call center. Ensuring that all health care providers and first responders get the evaluation, care and testing they need, when they need it is the only way we all get through this crisis together."

Northwell Health-GoHealth established its call center that offers this specialized service on April 13. Participating agencies will be given a dedicated phone number where employees can book appointments for a range of comprehensive medical exams and diagnostic tests, including testing for Covid-19.

# Comptroller to launch study of post-Covid recovery

By **TIMOTHY DENTON**  
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Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schirman announced late last week that his office will begin conducting an in-depth analysis of the impact the Covid-19 virus has had on the county's finances. The analysis will provide "a series of projections on critical revenues, so that Nassau can best prepare for recovery," Schnirman said in a news release.

"Covid-19 is an unprecedented threat to the health and safety of our community, as well as our fiscal health," Schnirman said. The difficulty in making any projections is that "we do not know how long his will last or how deep the hole will be," he said.

Economically dependent sales tax "is key to plan for the immediate future" and what comes after that, Schnirman said. Because revenue losses take longer to materialize than potential increases to crisis-related expenses, the modeling is complex and challenging, he added.

Schnirman said the Covid-19 crisis more closely mirrors the economic downturn of 2008-09 than the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. "We need to know a range of potential impacts on county revenues so we can ensure essential government services will continue unimpeded," he said.

The financial impact analysis will provide projections of models relating to sales tax and various fees, to project



**Jack Schnirman**

the county's financial trend lines in the months ahead, Schnirman said.

On the expense side, direct purchase have not yet had a critical fiscal impact relative to previous crises, because only a few million out of a multi-billion dollar budget have been spent thus far, Schnirman explained. "It is the revenue side that will take longer to materialize and is of greater concern at present," he said.

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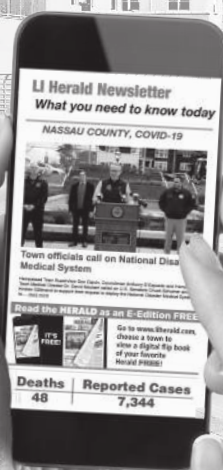
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## CRIME WATCH

### Crime

■ On April 8, a 32-year-old Glen Head male was arrested for criminal mischief in the third degree, unlawful imprisonment in the second degree and menacing in the third degree on Bella Vista Avenue.

■ On April 9, a 37-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for assault in the second degree, endangering the welfare of child and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree on Birch Tree Court.

*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.*

GLEN COVE  
**HERALD**  
Gazette

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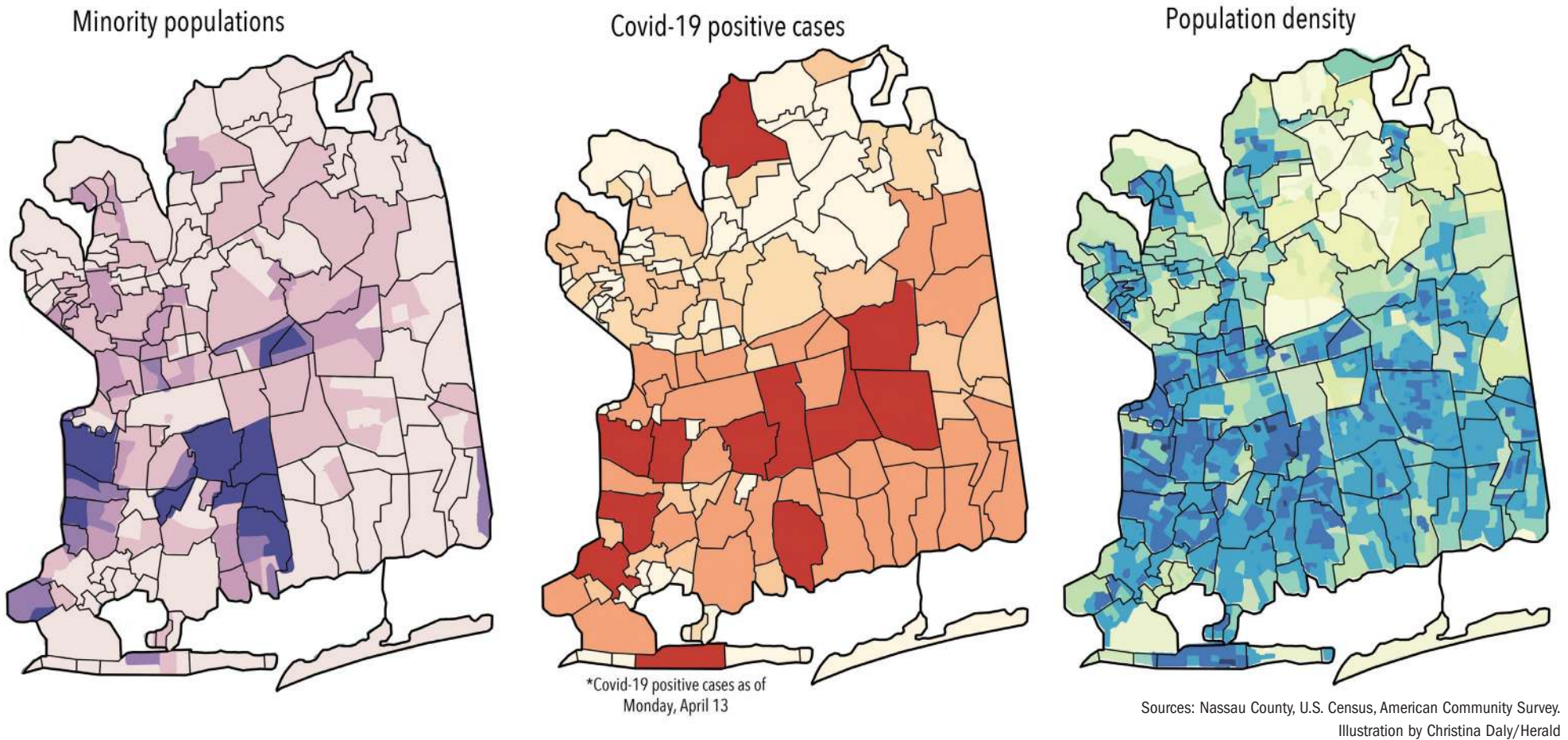
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# The coronavirus effect on minorities

Covid-19 has affected minority populations and densely populated areas more than others. The maps below show the correlation between coronavirus hot spots in Nassau County and population density.



# Governors get together over reopening the economy

By **SCOTT BRINTON**  
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The governors of Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island gathered Monday in a teleconference to announce a regional panel that will study how best to reopen the economy and the schools.

Governor Cuomo, leading the effort, announced the creation of the panel, which will comprise three representatives from each state — a health official, an economic official and the chief of staff of each governor. The governors are calling it a regional advisory council, which will not have decision-making power, but rather will help formulate plans for a regional approach to reopening that are subject to the governors' approval.

"New York believes we have reached a plateau" of new coronavirus cases, Cuomo said. "This is relatively good news in a world of bad options."

With cases leveling off, he said, it is time to begin planning for the day when businesses are allowed to resume operations and students may return to classes.

New Jersey Gov. Philip Murphy said the regional approach would help avoid "inadvertent and unintended consequenc-

es," referring to the possibility that Covid-19 cases might climb again if people were to go back to work without adequate guidelines and insufficient preparation.

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont said the coronavirus spread along his state's Interstate-95 corridor, otherwise known as its "commuter corridor." The virus, he appeared to suggest, was spread by commuters in and out of New York City.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf said a regional approach to reopening the economy is vital. "We all know we can do anything better when we work together," he said. "We need to do this right."

He said he believes the six-state approach will become a model for reopening regional economies across the country.

Delaware Gov. John Carney said the key question is, "How do we reopen things in a way that's safe?"

"The state boundaries," he noted, "mean very little to this virus."

The objective, Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo said, is to "develop new guidelines for this new normal."

All of the governors are Democrats.

The announcement came after President Trump over the weekend signaled that he believes he will be the arbiter of when the economy will reopen.

**N**ew York believes we have reached a plateau [of Covid-19] cases.

**GOV. ANDREW CUOMO**



Herald file photo

**GOVERNOR CUOMO GATHERED** five other Northeast governors to announce a regional advisory council to develop plans to reopen the economy regionally. In addition to New York, the council will include representatives of Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.



# Cuomo calls for SALT repeal amid pandemic

By **SCOTT BRINTON**  
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In his Saturday address, Governor Cuomo called on Congress and President Trump to repeal the SALT provision of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to provide relief to residents of high-tax states like New York and California amid the pandemic.

The SALT provision eliminated all but \$10,000 of the federal deduction for state and local taxes, known commonly as the SALT deduction, costing New Yorkers millions of dollars annually in federal taxes.

“You want to help New York ... you want to help the places that are affected [by Covid-19], then repeal the SALT provision,” Cuomo said.

The provision “targeted” states like New York, the governor said.

In a March 26 editorial, the Herald called for repeal of the SALT provision.

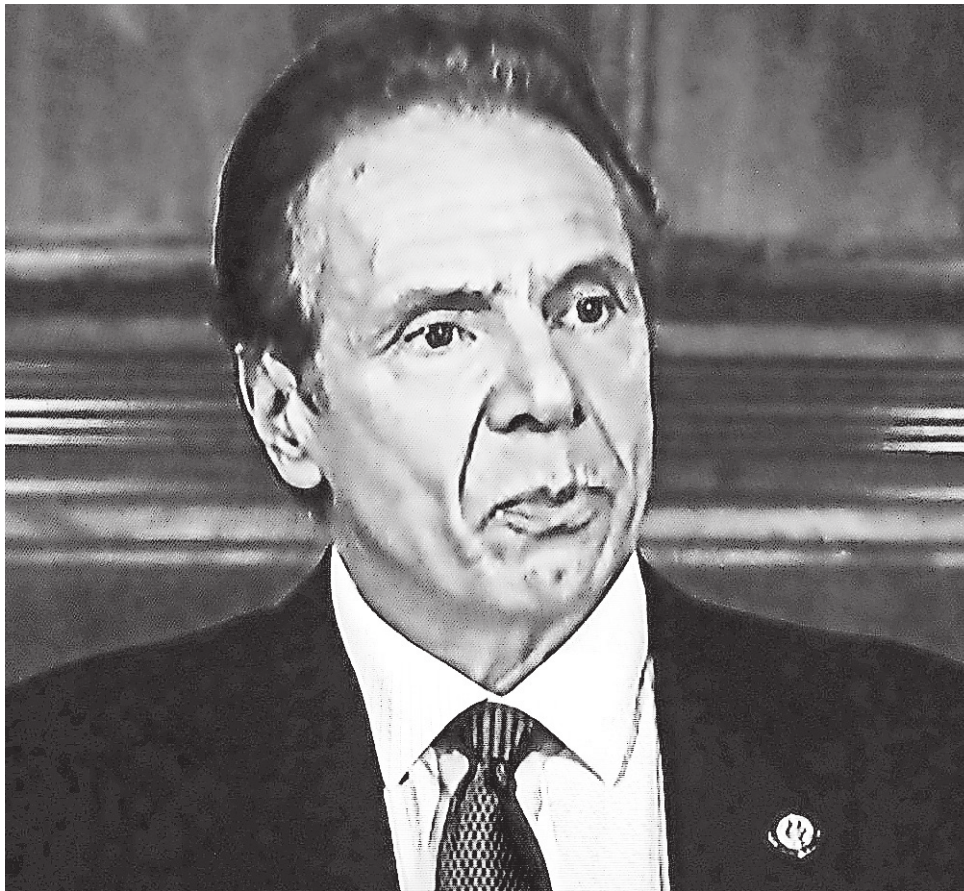
*For an excerpt from it, see box.*

Cuomo urged people not to play politics around Covid-19, particularly given that it is a presidential election year. President Trump, he said, has been responsive to New York’s needs amid the coronavirus crisis.

“Keep politics out of the discussions,” Cuomo said.

He noted that he does not plan to run for president, despite some pleas within the Democratic Party that he should jump in the race — Joe Biden is now the presumptive nominee after Sen. Bernie Sanders dropped out last week.

Some 783 people died of the coronavirus statewide overnight from last Friday into Saturday. The governor noted that was not an all-time high, which came three days earlier when 799 peo-



**GOV. ANDREW CUOMO** is asking Congress and President Trump to eliminate the SALT provision of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to provide financial relief to New Yorkers battered by the coronavirus.

ple died. He also said the number of intensive care unit admissions and number of intubations were both down dramatically, which could indicate the state had hit a plateau of infections.

Cuomo described the current phase of the pandemic in New York as the “end of the beginning.”

He urged people to continue to “stay

the course” and practice social distancing. He noted that without it, a second wave of infection is possible.

When New York’s economy should fully reopen is a subject of study and debate, the governor said.

Reopening it, he said, “cannot be at the expense” of human life.

## From the Herald’s editorial....

In high-tax regions like New York and California, the weight of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was already causing enormous fiscal strain for many homeowners, who lost all but \$10,000 of the federal deduction for state and local taxes, known commonly as the SALT deduction.

Loss of that single deduction in high-tax regions has cost people thousands of dollars. Many Long Island taxpayers reported that their federal tax bills rose \$3,000, \$5,000, \$8,000 or more last year.

Those bills are not expected to abate this year, unless Congress acts.

It should immediately reinstate the SALT deduction. People here will certainly take \$1,000 or \$2,000 [in stimulus funds], but restoring the deduction would do far more for many homeowners who are suffering because of the coronavirus.

*For the full editorial, see liherald.com.*

# New York coping with a rising death toll

By **SCOTT BRINTON**  
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Governor Cuomo said at his news briefing last Thursday that additional funeral directors would be brought in to aid with final arrangements for the hundreds of New Yorkers who are dying of the coronavirus.

Overnight that day, he said, 799 people had succumbed to the disease, bringing the total who had died in New York to more than 7,000. That was the highest overnight death toll New York had seen to date, and at press time, it remained the highest.

As of April 13, there were 846 Covid-19-related deaths in Nassau County, and 23,553 people had been diagnosed with the illness.

Cuomo spoke of the coronavirus as a “silent killer.”

“9/11 was supposed to be the darkest day” for New York in a generation, he

said.

As of Wednesday, April 8, Covid-19 had killed more than twice as many people in New York than 9/11, when the total number of deaths statewide reached 6,268.

As of Monday, nearly 9,400 were reported dead in New York.

“Our hospitals and health care workers continue to be stretched to the limit,” Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said.

Cuomo, speaking in some of the strongest terms he had used yet last week, called Covid-19 a “vicious predator of a virus” that preys on those whose health has already been compromised because of underlying medical conditions.

Social distancing, he said, is about protecting the most vulnerable in society.

The governor ordered all American flags to fly at half-staff in honor of the dead.

By executive order, he also declared that all New Yorkers can vote by absentee ballot for the June 23 primaries.

And all unemployed New Yorkers will receive an additional \$600 payment, and unemployment benefits were extended from 25 to 39 weeks.

There were positive signs last week. Both Cuomo and Curran said social distancing appeared to be working and was reducing the number new hospitalizations.

**9/11** was supposed to be the darkest day for New York in a generation.

**GOV. ANDREW CUOMO**

To maintain the plateau, they said, people must stay at home unless they are essential workers.

Rapid testing for the coronavirus on a mass scale could allow people to return to work, Cuomo said he believes.

He warned, however, that the virus may come in waves. He noted that the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 struck in three waves. And already, he said, there were scattered reports, including in The Los Angeles Times, that Wuhan, China, may be experiencing a second wave of infections.

A secondary infection wave could come, he said, if the virus were to mutate into a new form, potentially infecting those with immunity to the first virus.

*There is an emotional toll the pandemic has had on many people, the governor said. Those in need of help can call the state’s Emotional Support Hotline at (844) 863-9314.*



# Three MSSN employees die of coronavirus

By MIKE SMOLLINS

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Three employees at Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital have died after contracting the coronavirus.

Dr. Jesus Zambrano, 54, an attending pediatrician who worked in Freeport, died on March 29, while Mario Salonga, 59, a per diem physical therapist in home care, recently died, and Ferdinando Moretti, 73, an MSSN painting crew foreman, died on April 4. The hospital did not disclose the date Salonga died, and an inquiry was not returned.

"They exemplify what makes every Mount Sinai South Nassau employee and medical staff member special, the willingness to be present during a time of unprecedented crisis with a special commitment to the patients we serve," MSSN President and CEO Richard Murphy said in a statement.

Zambrano was a Brooklyn resident and joined the MSSN medical staff in 2012. He worked with Dr. Luis Herrera-Acevedo at a Freeport practice. He previously attended medical school in Santo



Christina Daly/Herald

**THREE EMPLOYEES OF** Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital in Oceanside died after contracting the coronavirus.

Domingo, Dominican Republic, and trained as a pediatric resident at Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx. He was board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, and many of his patients and

colleagues saw him as a beloved figure.

Salonga had been a part of MSSN's in-home patient care staff for five years and worked for the Visiting Nurse Service. He was described as a kind, gentle soul and

an upstanding father, husband and friend. He provided compassionate and professional care for patients and his daughter, Katrina, said he was dedicated to his profession, according to a news release from the hospital. She added she was raised by the motto "always put others first," and her father exemplified it. In addition to Katrina, Salonga is survived by his wife, Cecilia, and their son, Joseph, in Valley Stream.

Moretti retired from MSSN in 2014 after 31 years of service. He returned to work per diem in 2015 to support the hospital's various expansion projects. His colleagues recalled that Moretti was light-hearted and quick with a joke, and that he was well versed in topics ranging from construction to cooking. He is survived by his daughter, Andrea, son, Mario, and four grandchildren. His wife, Olga, predeceased him.

"I cannot sufficiently express my appreciation and respect for the contribution each of them has made to the life of Mount Sinai South Nassau," Murphy said. "We extend our prayers and deepest sympathy to their families."

# Judge to decide if L.B. boardwalk can reopen

By JAMES BERNSTEIN

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A Nassau County Supreme Court judge was to hear to hear a case filed Friday by an attorney who wants the City of Long Beach to reopen its 2.2-mile boardwalk, which was closed March 26 to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

At press time Monday, no decision had been reached.

Scott Cohen, who filed the case on behalf of Francis McQuade, an unsuccessful candidate for Nassau County District Attorney last year, said Long Beach acted improperly in closing the boardwalk because it did not have the permission of the New York State Department of Health to do so.

"I have a problem with the boardwalk being closed," Cohen said Monday. "It wasn't done in the right way."

McQuade called the city's decision "arbitrary."

Long Beach officials said the city does not comment on pending litigation. But city officials had noted that the Nassau County Department of Health had not overturned Long Beach's decision to close the boardwalk.

The suit was filed against the five elected city council members, interim City Manager Donna Gayden and her assistant John McNally.

Cohen said the closing left Long Beach residents with only two ways to enter the beach, at Pacific Boulevard and New York Avenue. He said this created a hardship for people who want to walk on the beach, as well as for residents of those two streets. An excess of cars could be parked on those streets, Cohen said.

"I'd like the decision to be overturned," Cohen said. He said the boardwalk was closed at a time when fewer people were aware of the dangers of the coronavirus.

"People are now more aware" of social distancing and other measures, he said.

The boardwalk was closed, city officials had said, because large crowds had been gathering there and few were observing social distancing. The boardwalk is an iconic part of Long Beach, attracting thousands during summer holiday weekends. It is also a favorite spot for joggers and cyclists. The boardwalk has bathroom facilities and a large food stand.

As of April 7, Long Beach City Council President



John Bendo said the number of confirmed cases in the city stood at 285, a large jump from the previous ago, when there were about 200 cases.

"We've been informed that some of this increase is attributed to increased testing and ramped up processes of tests," Bendo said on the City's website.

"But officials are also projecting that this and next week will see Nassau County reaching its peak epidemic. While this may be welcome news of sorts, please know that now is the time to double down on our social distancing efforts, not to relax them."

Bendo also said that Long Beach police are following up on complaints by some residents that some restaurants and bars are not adhering to social distancing and have stepped up patrols to enforce the guidelines.

The city has also temporarily suspended recycling.

The boardwalk close had the support of Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and State Sen. Todd Kaminsky, a Long Beach Democrat, as well as by some civic organizations.

Sam Pinto, president of the Eastholm Civic Association, said, "Right now, under the current pandemic situation, having the boardwalk closed will help flatten the curve. Closing it is a benefit."

The case is to be heard via Skype.



Photos by Christina Daly/Herald

**A LONG BEACH** lawyer filed a lawsuit against the City of Long Beach to reopen the boardwalk, which was closed in March because officials say people failed to adhere to social distancing.



# Northwell Health clinical trials under way

By **SCOTT BRINTON**

sbrinton@liherald.com

The Northwell Health medical system, with hospitals throughout the greater New York metropolitan area, has conducted clinical trials for a possible treatment for Covid-19 since March 18, and an effort that began with two patients now involves hundreds.

That's according to Dr. Christina Brennan, vice president of clinical research at Northwell's Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research in Manhasset. Brennan sat down with video producer Rob Hoell for a Facebook Live interview last Thursday in which she discussed the ongoing clinical trials that Northwell is engaged in.

She noted Northwell was among the first health systems in the nation to undertake clinical trials for a treatment. Locally, trials are taking place at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset and Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens.

Early on, Feinstein Institutes researchers teamed up with Gilead Sciences and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals to identify potential treatments for Covid-19 patients who are hospitalized with moderate to severe conditions. The goal, according to a Northwell release, is "to improve recovery and speed discharge from hospitals."

Brennan said last week that Northwell also undertook an additional study to gauge the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial drug that has been touted often by President Trump.

With Gilead, the Feinstein Institutes is examining the safety and effectiveness of remdesivir (RDV), an investigational antiviral drug, to reduce the intensity and duration of Covid-19 in hospitalized patients.

RDV, Northwell officials said, has "demonstrated positive effects" on other viruses such as MERS and SARS.

The trial with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, which now involves 216 patients, is examining the safety and efficacy



Facebook Live screenshot

**DR. CHRISTINA BRENNAN**, vice president of clinical research at Northwell's Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research in Manhasset, sat down with video producer Rob Hoell for a Facebook Live session last Thursday to discuss ongoing clinical trials for a Covid-19 treatment at Northwell.

of sarilumab, a human antibody that may help prevent severe pneumonia in some Covid-19 patients. It is normally used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, Brennan said.

"We're really excited about the three opportunities and more to come of the trials," she said.

Northwell is not engaged in clinical trials to develop a vaccine against Covid-19, she noted.

Brennan could not say how long development of a treatment drug or drugs would take, and if any of the drugs now in trials would ultimately be proven effective.

Patients' participation in all clinical trials is voluntary. Daily, Brennan said, clinical researchers are feeding data back to the pharmaceutical companies involved in the trials, and the companies are analyzing that information. When a sufficient data set is amassed, the companies will then approach the Food and Drug Administration for possible approvals.

Northwell physicians on "the front lines" are selecting

patients for the trials with Feinstein researchers. "It can be tough as investigators," Brennan said. "You so desperately want to help patients and find the right treatment for them."

She said, however, "We're seeing more discharges daily from our clinical trials, so we're hopeful."

Speaking of the clinical researchers, Hoell said, "You guys are, to my mind, the unsung heroes ... Every day we get closer and closer to maybe finding out what's going to work and what's going to knock out this virus."

Brennan did say clinical research appears to substantiate anecdotal evidence from physicians in the field that Covid-19 is potentially more deadly for older adults and those with pre-existing medical conditions, and that anyone, of any age, can be infected and suffer its effects, including older teenagers.

To watch the entire interview, see [liherald.com](http://liherald.com).

## Officials: MSSN still performing surgeries

By **SCOTT BRINTON**

sbrinton@liherald.com

Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital in Oceanside is still open for trauma and emergency cases, despite an influx of critically ill coronavirus patients in recent weeks.

That was the message that Joe Calderone, MSSN's senior vice president of corporate communications, and Dr. Rajiv Datta, the hospital's chief of surgery, delivered to the public via a 15-minute Facebook Live session last Thursday.

"We are still a trauma center," Datta said. "We still take care of acute cases."

MSSN is the South Shore's only trauma center, which treats the most urgent cases such as car crash and gunshot victims. An emergency patient, by contrast, might be suffering from an acute medical condition such as appendicitis.

To remain a Level II trauma center, the hospital must maintain a trauma operating room and keep a trauma surgeon on duty at the hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As of last Thursday, Calderone said, the hospital had 450 patients in total — 300, or 66 percent, were Covid-19 patients.

All trauma and emergency patients are tested for coronavirus upon entering the hospital, Datta said, "so we can protect them, and we can also protect our staff."

The operating room is equipped with a



Facebook Live screenshot

**DR. RAJIV DATTA**, chief of surgery at Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital in Oceanside, and Joe Calderone, senior vice president for corporate communications, held a Facebook Live session in front of the hospital Thursday to let the public know trauma and emergency surgeries are still performing at MSSN.

HEPA filter to ensure the air remains pure, and all surgical tables and equipment are wiped down with bleach, he said.

Surgical patients recover in the operating room, and then they are segregated in a non-Covid-19 section of the hospital.

"The staff is very keenly aware of which patients are Covid positive and which are not," Datta said. "That information is delivered to everybody."

He emphasized, "The operating room is still functional, only doing trauma cases and emergency cases."

Follow-up care is provided in MSSN's outpatient facility in Valley Stream and via telehealth video chat.

"It's a new way of practicing medicine," Datta said.

There is no longer visitation at the hospital. After patients are sufficiently recovered from surgery, family members or

friends must pick them up at the front entrance of the hospital on Merrick Road. They cannot enter the hospital.

"This is an all-hands-on-deck situation at South Nassau," Calderone noted.

Several staff members from hospital's surgical team, both surgeons and nurses, have been redeployed to medical wings of the hospital to help treat Covid-19 patients.

Normally, the hospital might have 22 patients on ventilators. It had 80 as of last Thursday.

"I'm amazed to see how our staff is helpful," Datta said, noting that retired surgeons have called to volunteer their services.

"So far we have been able to accommodate," he said. "Everybody is stretched."

The hospital is still performing a small number of elective surgeries for cancer patients, said Datta, who is medical director of MSSN's Feil Cancer Center in Valley Stream.

Primarily, however, cancer patients are being treated with radiation and chemotherapy in cordoned-off wings — chemo at the front of the hospital, and radiation at the back.

Both Calderone and Datta emphasized the importance of social distancing. "We are not out of the woods by any stretch of the imagination," Calderone said.

To watch the full video, see [liherald.com](http://liherald.com).



# L.V. man 3D prints, donates homemade face shields

By MIKE CONN  
mconn@liherald.com

As an architect at EDI International, Evan Yan said he is lucky to be able to work out of his Locust Valley home during the coronavirus pandemic. However, he

**I** really wanted to help and thought about what I could do, and luckily, online there's a huge community of people trying to make these things as easy as possible.

**EVAN YAN**  
Locust Valley

which are effective in protecting wearers from possibly inhaling the coronavirus from others.

At first, he said he wanted to create them for health-care workers. However, he said he soon realized that cashiers in grocery stores can be just as much at risk and decided to focus his efforts there as well.

And since one mask costs only 66 cents to make, Yan decided to donate his creations free of charge to various

he said he understands that many other people are not so fortunate. Some jobs still dictate that employees work in public spaces. Yan knew he could use his own 3D printer to help, so he searched the internet for guidance on how to make face shields.

"I really wanted to help and thought about what I could do," Yan, 30, said, "and luckily, online there's a huge community of people trying to make these things as easy as possible."

Using plastic and acrylic materials easily purchased online, Yan said he began 3D printing his own face shields on March 18,



Courtesy Evan Yan

**EVAN YAN HAS** used his own 3D printer in his Locust Valley home to create over 100 face shields.

donation centers around Nassau County. However, in recent weeks, he has also branched out to specific organizations, including Oyster Bay Manor Assisted Living,

Cove Animal Rescue and Green Forest Veterinary Hospital in Glen Cove.

The first business he helped was Rising Tides, the rural food market where Yan worked as a teenager growing up in Glen Cove.

Owner Jerry Farrell said Yan began working at Rising Tides as a clerk when he was 15 years old. After going to architecture school, Yan came back to help Farrell redesign the store. Now, Yan is using his skill to design a larger building across the street to which the market will move in the near future.

Yan and Farrell have maintained a connection over the years. It did not take long for Yan to realize that Rising Tides's employees might not be safe during the pandemic.

"He knew that we were on the front lines of this service industry," Farrell said, "and it was at a point where he recognized that we couldn't get any face masks."

Yan created 15 face shields and dropped them off at the store, allowing for each employee to have their own personal mask, something which Farrell said is integral to the safety of his staff. The store is only allowing curbside pickup for the time being. The staff shops for customers before bringing their orders out to their cars.

Nonetheless, Farrell said the conditions can still be dangerous. The face shields help him, his staff and their customers feel a bit safer.

"By doing curbside pickup and shopping orders for our customers, we are often in less than ideal safety zones," Farrell said. "This just protects us from people who otherwise might be more exposed than if we did have [face shields]."

Yan said he is encouraged by the amount of information that is on the internet about what everyday people can do to help others during this crisis. It's through mutual assistance that society will get through this crisis, said, and every bit of effort can help.

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# NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Regency Assisted L

**RESIDENT BARBARA IRVINE** embellishes masks that were donated from Runway Couture.

## Regency Assisted Living receives fabric masks from Runway Couture

Regency Assisted Living in Glen Cove received a shipment of fabric masks from Kimberly Towers, the owner of Runway Couture in Bellmore.

Towers and her team shifted the focus of the eveningwear boutique in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Once established as a non-essential

business, Towers and her staff began producing masks to assist with the shortage of masks, making her business essential to all us in the health care industry.

The Recreation Team along with Regency residents, embellished the masks to add sparkle to everyone's lives.



## 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.

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# Suozi and bipartisan delegation demand more federal aid

On Friday, New York Congressmen Tom Suozzi, Peter King, Hakeem Jeffries and Tom Reed joined New Jersey Congressmen Josh Gottheimer and Chris Smith, in sending a bipartisan letter with 100 percent support from each state's delegations to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Leader Mitch McConnell.

The delegations unanimously asked for the creation of a separate fund of at least \$40 billion in an interim emergency Covid-19 relief package and requested that it be allocated among the states based upon their share of the national infection rate according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracking data formulated on April 10, 2020.

New York and New Jersey are the epicenters of the current pandemic. As of April 10, both states have a combined number of 208,100 cases of Covid-19, which is 45 percent of all of the cases in the country. Federal aid is not currently being allocated proportionally to the impact of the virus, meaning that the hardest hit states are not being given the help they need in the current battle. For example, the first \$30 billion of Federal Coronavirus Aid allocated for hospitals, New York only received 6 percent of the money, despite having approximately 35 percent of the cases. New Jersey only received 3 percent of the funding, despite having approximately 10-11 percent of the cases.

## The bipartisan letter

*Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell,*

*The country is in the midst of a once a century public health crisis and New York and New Jersey are at the epicenter of the outbreak. We request that a separate fund of at least \$40 billion be created in the interim emergency COVID-19 relief package and it be allocated among the States based upon their share of the national infection rate according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracking data on April 10, 2020. This \$40 billion fund would be independent of other proposed state and local stabilization funds using traditional population-based formulas. This proposed formula for disbursing the \$40 billion fund will provide assistance to the most impacted states.*

*We need to provide resources to our states proportionate to the burden they bear. Currently, New York and New Jersey have a combined number of 208,100 cases of COVID 19, or 45% of all COVID-19 cases in the country. As of April 10th, our states have more confirmed cases*

*than the next 18 highest states combined. New York and New Jersey are not alone in the suffering and costs of responding to the pandemic, but federal aid has not been allocated proportionately to the impact of the virus.*

*The current and historical funding formulas used by the federal government are insufficient in the face of this global epidemic. New York and New Jersey need substantial emergency funding in order to fill budgetary holes for critical services during this crisis. Without adequate, and proportional assistance, we fear that our states will be forced to cut services, such as health care, education, nutrition, first responders, free and fair elections, and transportation.*

*In addition, this pandemic has negatively impacted the finances of our counties, cities, towns and villages. While this \$40 billion fund is specific to states, local governments must be included in other nationwide solutions. Economically, the business shut down has resulted in reduced sales tax revenues, permit fees, and other local levies. It is also likely that many unemployed landowners will be unable to pay their property taxes, add-*

*ing even more stress to local budgets. Our local governments have also felt the added financial strain of responding directly to COVID-19 as they struggle to meet the needs of the hospitals, police, EMTs and other emergency services. This has resulted in increased expenses for our local governments and we therefore support a separate stabilization fund to address their fiscal needs.*

*Therefore, we request at least \$40 billion dollars of federal aid be allocated among the States based on their share of the national infection rate according to CDC tracking data. Our approach provides resources in a fair manner that properly accounts for not only population, but also the number of positive COVID-19 cases and the impact of the virus on a government's revenues and bottom line. Thank you for your attention to this request to stabilize state governments most impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.*

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# City Council approve \$850 a month legal research tool

By JENNIFER CORR

jcorr@liherald.com

A three year contract with Thomson Reuters West Publishing Corporation for a Westlaw Subscription was approved by the Glen Cove City Council at the April 14 Glen Cove City Council meeting. The legal research service would cost the city \$850 initially, and there would be a 5 percent increase each year.

Originally, the subscription would have cost \$1,458 a month with a 5 percent increase.

"After I raised concerns at the City Council last week, our attorney called to negotiate," Councilwoman Marsha Silverman said. "We were granted a municipal rate that is less expensive."

According to Glen Cove City Attorney Gregory Kalnitsky, the Westlaw subscription has many benefits for the city and is in fact used by the state. It has access to a number of local, state and federal legal databases, agency decisions, treatises for government officials, different guidance forms and other products. Westlaw also offers different packages. Packages such as Government Analytics Plus, Westlaw Edge, Litigation for Government and Practical Law for Government will be ordered for the city.

"From law school through my work in the private sector, through all my work in government, I have used nothing but Westlaw and it is a great product," Kalnitsky said. "It has excellent support and it offers much more than just looking up case laws and such. There are practical commentaries, there are treatises. And there are products that they have on there that are unique to Westlaw."

Councilman Rocco Totino, who also works as a trial attorney for an insurance carrier, echoed the point that Westlaw, along with another legal research resource,



Courtesy Flickr

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LexisNexis, are the top two services that lawyers and legal professionals use regardless of what area of law they're in.

"Westlaw is the standard, premiere legal research facility nationwide," Kalnitsky said. "They have a way of organizing the cases that makes them very easily accessible and allows me to get back to [the mayor's] office as well as city department heads and the city council much quicker would be able to otherwise."

Silverman agreed at last week's pre council meeting that Kalnitsky and other city officials should have access

to legal research. However, she was concerned about the original \$1,458 a month price tag that came with it, especially after finding other legal research products that cost less.

"If you want to send me the information you have for these other products I will definitely take a look at them," Kalnitsky said. "If it helps, I will point out where Westlaw has that they do not."

So Silverman did send an email to Kalnitsky, Totino and other city officials citing four other legal research services; LexisNexis, which has three subscriptions for \$125 a month, \$170 a month and \$295 a month; Casetext, which is \$65 a month; Fastcase, which costs \$695 a year for the Appellate subscription and \$995 a year for the Premium subscription; and Casemaker, which starts at \$50 a month.

Over the week, Kalnitsky was able to negotiate a lower monthly cost of \$850 a month with a 5 percent increase for a three year contract with Westlaw. The original contract would have been \$55,152 for three years but the new contract will cost \$32,172 over the next three years. This saved the city \$22,980 over a three year period.

"Based on the competitive options out there, this is much more in line with other options," Silverman said. "I'm just really glad I raised it because we're saving."

Mayor Timothy Tenke, along with other council members, thanked Kalnitsky for negotiating a lower price for the city before approving the resolution.

"I know you went out and followed the protocol for the purchase of this through the state contract, you piggybacked on that, but you actually took on yourself to get the additional reduction in the monthly cost of this to almost \$1,000 a month," Tenke said. "I want to thank you for that because those savings are good and our residents will appreciate that."

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# HERALD SCHOOLS

## Connolly kids say ‘I miss you’ through slide shows

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

After weeks of distance learning passed by, Connolly School speech pathologist and speech teacher Melanie Suhr wanted to let the students know that the teachers were thinking about them.

After seeing a slide show of teachers holding up signs to their students on Facebook, Suhr wanted to try implementing the same thing at her school. So, she asked her daughter Natalie, who is in fourth grade, if she would be willing to make a slide show of teachers holding up signs with messages to the students. She said yes. The video was posted on April 4.

“It was a lot of fun and it was very emotional because we see our students every day, all day,” said Suhr. “It’s like our second family.”

And surely, the students missed their teachers too. Lia DiPaola Leone, a Connolly School mom, said that her daughter, Julia, misses her fifth-grade teacher Mark Glaviano. She said he has been keeping in touch through assignments on Google Classroom and that she receives phone calls from him each week. Julia added that it feels good to

know that he’s worried about her and that he cares about her.

Stacey Karathanasis, a mother of a Connolly School kid, said that there were tears when her and her family saw the slide show. “It was very touching,” Karathanasis said. “We were all in tears. Then one day we were sitting down and I was like ‘we should do something similar to show them that we’re thinking of them’ and once I put that idea out there everybody wanted to do it.”

So Karathanasis took to Facebook, privately messaging other parents in the school and asking for pictures to include in a slide show to the teachers. The slide show would be done by Nita Pugkhem-George and her husband. The video was posted on April 6.

“[The teachers] were very happy to see the kids and their faces,” Karathanasis said. “They all miss their faces. That’s what they said and they’re wishing all the best for everyone.”

Suhr said that when she saw the video, it made her day. “I was so happy,” Suhr said. “It made my day because we all have our ups and downs, especially the last week has been difficult. So it was great to see that our students are doing okay.”



Courtesy Lia DiPaola Leone  
**JULIA LEONE** HOLDS up a sign saying “Miss You All,” next to her doggy. The photo was used in a slide show from Connolly School kids to their teachers.



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**STUART RICHER**  
Publisher  
Herald Community Newspapers

*"Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities. We are a small business ourselves, so we understand the pain that small business owners are going through right now. We at the Herald want to do our part to make sure that members of our small business community can continue to promote themselves during this trying period."*

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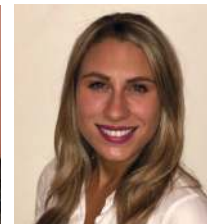
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## A Special Collaboration With







Photos courtesy Tammy Lanham

**SHERRI COLLINS ACCEPTED** donated food on behalf of the residents of Glen Gardens.



**AURA WAGNER IS** helping to feed the hungry by delivering food on the North Shore.

## North Shore groups work for a common cause

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

work and have to feed their kids.”

Realizing that the need was more than they could handle, the couple contacted an organization in Locust Valley called NOSH.

### NOSH

When the need for food became evident, Courtney Callahan, of Locust Valley, contacted a group of people whom she had been volunteering with to assist the vulnerable population on the North Shore with St. John's County Fair Grants, funds given to area senior centers and Glen Cove Hospital's Family Medicine Department, among other places. Callahan, the director of outreach at St. John's of Lattingtown, an Episcopal church, said the volunteers had become friends.

“When the coronavirus hit, we knew we needed to do something,” Callahan said. “Covid-19 is big, and we knew we couldn't fix it, but Mother Theresa said, ‘We can do small things with great love.’”

Three weeks ago, the group created NOSH — for North Shore — to provide emergency meals for the hungry on the North Shore during the pandemic and its aftermath. Fifty-four volunteers work from their homes in different capacities. Some are part of a “map mobilization” group, which coordinates contactless food deliveries, while others, in the “restaurant recovery” group, devise creative ways to support local eateries. Only a few people, including the Wagners, actually drop off the food. NOSH helps people in Bayville, Glen Cove, Glen Head, Locust Valley, Sea Cliff and Lattingtown.

“We bring NOSH bags, emergency food



**NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT** are often added to the boxes of donated food.

people can cook that includes canned tuna or chicken, a box of pasta, vegetable and a second dinner of turkey or a small beef and fresh vegetables,” Callahan explained, adding that the Island Harvest food bank has helped supply the food. “We also have a GoFundMe campaign so people can buy a bag.”

NOSH delivers food to the hungry every other day. “Barry and Aura are magical people,” Callahan said. “They have problem-solved everything. They're courageous, and understand that the Covid-19 pandemic world we're all living

in now is vastly different than before it happened.”

“I start my day with coffee, home-schooling my son Ben, and then Courtney calls and we pick up food,” Aura said. “As crazy as the days are, I ask God to give me the strength to do things I need to do. You can get paralyzed when you listen to the news.”

### Food storage

NOSH does not have its own pantry. Food is stored at Locust Valley's Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club, and recently at

Sport & Classic Car Club as well.

Sophia Kang, from Roslyn Harbor, is helping too. The owner of Sea Cliff's La Maison Sophia, she owns part of the space in Wagner's building. They have opened a pantry there to store donated food. “We will be sorting and storing food here that we will later deliver,” said Wagner, adding that everything would be sanitized.

They are now storing meals donated by Island Harvest, Meals on Wheels and the North Shore Soup Kitchen. And Wagner has received lists of residents in need of food from Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke, the city's school district and from Peggy Cuomo, the director of the Sea Cliff volunteer organization, Mutual Concerns, which provided lunches to the village's elderly before the coronavirus.

“Mayor Tenke sent a postcard out to every home in Glen Cove, asking if they need aid or if they want to volunteer,” Wagner said. “I have a feeling we will find that more people need food.”

### The volunteers

Callahan said she was in awe of all of the volunteers, which include members of the Glen Cove Kiwanis Club and residents of Sea Cliff. “This is such a group effort,” she said. “This is only happening because of people who have had decades of service to this community. Every person brings something essential to the table.”

Those interested in getting involved can find NOSH North Shore on Facebook or call (516) 366-0277. To donate, go to GoFundMe at [gf.me/u/xsvsik](https://www.gofundme.com/u/xsvsik) and sponsor a NOSHBag.



# Ever wondered how to be included in our Neighbors in the News page?

## How to share what's important to you in the Herald Gazette



It's not only for organizations, elected leaders or non-profits. Neighbors in the News is a celebration of our neighbors and everyone can participate.

If you have a special moment you would like to share, like a 100th birthday celebration, your child's athletic achievement or a simple outing with your family in our coverage area send us your photo and a short descriptive paragraph.

Email your submission to Senior Editor Laura Lane at [llane@liherald.com](mailto:llane@liherald.com)

# THE GREAT BOOK GURU

## A book and a movie

Dear Great Book Guru,  
With so much time now spent at home we are always looking for new ways to distract ourselves. A good book recommendation is always welcome, but sometimes it is very hard to concentrate and reading can seem very solitary. Do you have any thoughts on how we might use this time well?



ANN DIPIETRO

—Running Out of Things to Do  
Dear Running Out of Things to Do,

While a good book is always a welcome companion, my family and friends have found there is a need to share ideas — a need to be together even if only virtually. Our solution is to have a book and film discussion using the various platforms now available whether ZOOM, Group FaceTime, or Google Hangouts. I'm sure there are many more but those are the ones we have used.

There are so many great books that have been made into movies, many avail-

able free online from the library. Last week my friends and I discussed Graham Greene's "End of the Affair," a 1950's novel and a 1999 and a 1955 film. Set in London during and just after World War II, it is the story of Maurice Bendrix (an author based on Greene himself), and Sarah Miles, and her husband Henry Miles, a British civil servant. Maurice and Sarah meet, quickly fall in love, and begin an affair Henry seems oblivious to. Sarah abruptly ends the affair and as the novel progresses, we learn the reason. Throughout, the

characters are faced with a series of compelling moral dilemmas. Comparing how the novel and films differ in the handling of these questions made for a fascinating, albeit heated, discussion. Highly recommended!

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at [annmdipietro@gmail.com](mailto:annmdipietro@gmail.com).

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# Roughly 700 participate in virtual Easter service in G.C.

Five local clergy, a church elder, and a bagpiper kept a social distance while gathered on the front lawn of Glen Cove resident Alba Gamble's home on Easter Morning to live stream the Fourth Annual Bi-lingual Community Easter Dawn Service.

With the parks closed due to the Coronavirus, the Community Easter Dawn Committee was invited by Gamble to shoot the live video from her property, which is across the street from Morgan Park - where the service is typically held. The service was broadcast to Facebook Live as other clergy, singers, and attendees participated in the celebration via comments to the social media platform.

While many of the close to 700 online participants were local, others chimed in with "Amen's", "Hallelujahs", and other comments from as far away as Florida, Texas, and Japan.

"We were so very pleased" expressed Dr. Belinda Basaca-Zeitlin, who is a parishioner at St. Boniface Martyr Catholic Church and was in charge of making sure the live feed on Facebook was up and running. "As impressive as the numbers were, the most important thing was that the community service was able to share the message of the resurrection, even in the midst of this horrible pandemic."

Those who participated in the service included Fr. Chinthaka Perera, Associate Pastor of St. Boniface Martyr Catholic Church, Rev. Shawn Williams, Pastor of St.



Courtesy Community Easter Dawn Service

**THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED** in the service include Fr. Chinthaka Perera, Associate Pastor of St. Boniface Martyr Catholic Church, left, Rev. Shawn Williams, Pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rev. Gia Lynne Hall of United Methodist Minister, Robert Lynch, a bagpiper, Fr. Kevin Dillon, Pastor of St. Boniface Martyr Catholic Church and Pastor Tommy Lanham, Minister of the Glen Cove Christian Church.

Paul's Episcopal Church, Rev. Gia Lynne Hall of United Methodist Minister, Robert Lynch, a bagpiper, Fr. Kevin Dillon, Pastor of St. Boniface Martyr Catholic Church and Pastor Tommy Lanham, Minister of the Glen Cove Christian Church. First Presbyterian Church elder Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, who currently chairs the Committee for the Community Easter Dawn Service, also participated.

Those participating in viewing and posting comments below the live video feed on Facebook included many clergy, some who serve on the Community Easter Dawn Committee, and others from across Long Island; singers, who rehearsed the songs the week before via a Zoom Meeting rehearsal a week prior to the service; and, attendees both locally and from around the world.

The eight member churches involved share in the responsibility of the celebration. The churches include Calvary A.M.E Church, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Glen Cove Christian Church, Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio, St. Boniface Martyr Roman Catholic Church, St. John's of Lattingtown Episcopal Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



# Glen Cove homeless left nowhere to go amid shutdowns

By JENNIFER CORR

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The North Shore Sheltering Program, which provides the homeless with a place to go at night during the winter, closed as it does every year the morning of April 1.

But this year was different. Not only were some of the men who stayed at the shelter unable to find seasonal employment that could afford them a room as they often did in prior years, but they were also left with no place to go during the daytime.

"It's always unfortunate that we have to close but this year I really kind of felt like we were sending them to nothing," said Christine Schaffner, the senior counselor at the North Shore Sheltering Program.

Volunteers run the 22-year-old shelter program that is housed in First Presbyterian Church in Glen Cove from Thanksgiving Day to April 1. And because the program is led on a volunteer basis, the shelter was not able to stay open for a longer period in a safe manner during the pandemic.

Cantor Gustavo Gitlin of Congregation Tifereth Israel, who is the president of the North Shore Sheltering Program Board of Trustees, emphasized that point. "We are volunteers," he said. "Every year we provide shelter and a safe place to sleep at night and dinners and breakfast during the wintertime. So, this year with the coronavirus, they don't have a place to be during the day. When it was the last month, [the shelter] was really dangerous and it wasn't a safe environment."

To try to make it a safer environment in the last month, according to the North Shore Sheltering Program's website, the organization took several steps, such as cleaning surfaces, bringing in a nurse to check a guest's overall health, limiting the number of guests to follow guidelines for social distancing and having volunteers wear gloves. But the program could not safely continue into April because the situation worsened, developed into what it is today.

Both choices had consequences, how-



Courtesy Lisa Rosenthal

**BACKPACKS WERE LEFT** by members of the community on Lisa Rosenthal's Sea Cliff porch.

ever. As the date that the shelter would close approached, the men began to see what life could look like during the pandemic. There was nowhere available to sit or to even use the bathroom.

Steve Fortuna, a board member of the program, said that usually the men had arrived at the church at 6 p.m. and left at 7 a.m. It's during that time that they would receive dinner, take showers, speak with counselors and wake up to breakfast. Then during the day, some would go to the Glen Cove Senior Center, Starbucks, the Glen Cove Public Library or any establishment where they could sit and use the restroom. But as these institutions began to shut down in adherence to federal, state and local guidelines, the resources

were no longer available to them.

"So, they would have to go from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. until they had an indoor restroom to use," said Fortuna. "Now that the men don't even have the nighttime shelters, they don't have restrooms."

Fortuna said that 26 men stayed over the season. During the last week, there were around 16 guests. Only a couple of them qualified for assistance from the Department of Social Services, said Schaffner and Fortuna.

"I did work with Steve Fortuna of North Shore Sheltering to help facilitate the assistance of the Nassau County Department of Social Services," said Maureen Basdavanos, the deputy mayor of Glen Cove. "Steve and Cantor Gustavo Gitlin worked with the men and DSS to find shelter for them during this difficult time."

As for the others, Fortuna said that he has seen around eight of the men who stayed at the shelter now roaming the streets of Glen Cove. He presumes that they're sleeping in the woods or on benches.

"You're left with this feeling that this can't be possible that there's no one or no place to help," said Schaffner. "Now, these guys are telling me there's not even animals walking around on the street and yet, there they are."

Community members have been getting together to make sure that the men get some things to get by, such as lunches and backpacks. Gitlin asked his friend Lisa Rosenthal of Sea Cliff, who has been homebound during the crisis due to vulnerabilities, if she could help.

It's what New Yorkers do, Rosenthal said. She took to Facebook asking on the Glen Cove Neighbors page and her per-

sonal account if people could drop off backpacks at her home. She also asked if people would be willing to leave lunches on the bench in front of Glen Cove City Hall.

She would find 30 backpacks in front of her home from complete strangers. She, members of the North Shore Women's Club and others have been providing lunches in front of City Hall ever since.

"The women who have been dropping off food . . . I think that's amazing," Schaffner said. "When you have no resources and then half the places aren't open anyway, eating becomes a real challenge."

Other ways to help is to donate on [Northshoresheltering.org](http://Northshoresheltering.org) or to contact the organization with any ideas or services one could provide, Schaffner said.

"[Homelessness] can really be self-perpetuating," Schaffner said. "I wish people didn't make mass judgments and if anything, just ask how you can help. That's certainly a lot more helpful."

Schaffner, who has spent hours working with guests as a counselor herself, said that homelessness is a hard circumstance to change because they lack identification and addresses to give to job prospects, along with the inability to get professional clothes. A lot of them want to work, she said. In fact, Fortuna added, two of the men had actually been laid off from recently accepted jobs because of the pandemic.

"People tend to think a lot of different things; they think they're lazy, they think they're all drunk . . . they could get a job if they wanted to," Schaffner said. "I also hear that they're getting lots of looks and things like that. I really wish that people would realize that a lot of them are actually good people in really bad situations."

## OBITUARY

### Patrick J. "P.J." McMahon

Patrick J. "P.J." McMahon, of Sea Cliff, died on April 8. Beloved husband of Carol; loving father of Eileen (John) McGowan, Deirdre (August Cavaliere) McMahon and Patrick McMahon (Deborah); grandfather of Michael McMahon; dear brother of Barbara Minicozzi (Frank) and Joan D'Ambrosio (Louie); brother-in-law of Jack Maxey (Donna); also survived by many nieces, nephews, his cousin Charles Addazio and many cousins, neighbors and friends.

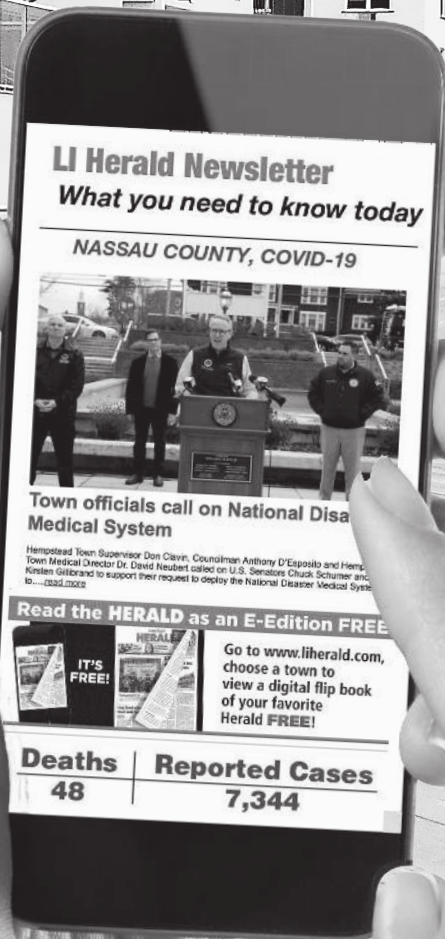
McMahon was a retired Command Sgt. Major in the U.S. Army and Suffolk County police officer. He was retired from Teamsters Local 282 and also served in the Navy. He was a member of the Glenwood American Legion and the Glen Cove V.F.W., an exempt member of the Glen Cove Fire Department and a former member of the Sea Cliff Fire Department Hook & Ladder Co. #1.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to America's Vet Dogs at 371 East Jericho Tpke., Smithtown, N.Y. 11787. For further information, visit Whitting Funeral Home's website at [www.whitting.com](http://www.whitting.com).



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What you need to know today.



**PSEG LONG ISLAND** has installed two osprey cameras — one in Oyster Bay and the other in Patchogue — so people can watch the daily lives of these birds.



Courtesy PSEG Long Island

## Osprey cams offer respite from Covid-19

PSEG Long Island has installed two webcams to offer a peek into the daily lives of local ospreys.

Employees work throughout the year to balance PSEG Long Island's commitment to deliver power for its customers with its commitment to being a good environmental steward, utility officials said. Providing a safe nesting area for the osprey away from vital electrical infrastructure helps PSEG Long Island maintain strong electric service reliability.

Ospreys often use utility poles and transmission structures for nesting, which jeopardizes system reliability, causes outages and equipment.

"The osprey have made a triumphant comeback here since the 1970s, and PSEG Long Island works to make sure that they can continue to flourish," said Dan Eichhorn, president and CEO of PSEG Long Island. "Especially now, with so many of us remaining inside our homes for the sake of public health, these webcams offer a much-needed front-row seat to the comings and goings of these majestic

birds."

PSEG Long Island has installed 24-hour webcams at two of the nests that were relocated by line workers during the time of year when the birds are not raising young.

The first shows a live feed of a nest in Oyster Bay; a second webcam has gone live from a nest in Patchogue. At the Oyster Bay location, the osprey pair returned late last month.

Since the resurgence of the osprey population, PSEG Long Island and its team, with the guidance and support from environmental partners, have identified best practices for when to move a nest, and when to create alternative safer nest locations for the ospreys, utility officials said.

PSEG Long Island workers have relocated two-dozen osprey nests to ensure the birds are out of harm's way from high voltage systems.

View the cameras online at <https://www.psegliny.com/wildlife/ospreycam>.

## Golf courses deemed non-essential business

BY TONY BELLISSIMO

Two weeks after Nassau-operated golf courses were given the green light to reopen by County Executive Laura Curran, New York State added golf courses to the list of non-essential businesses, meaning they'll be closed at least through April 29 with all other non-essentials. This includes the courses in the Town of Oyster Bay, town spokeswoman Marta Kane confirmed.

Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke said the city's golf course is closed too. He does not know when it will reopen. Tenke added that the city is following the state and county guidelines, as well as the advice from the medical profession.

The announcement came on April 9 from Governor Andrew Cuomo. The courses, which included Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, Cantiague Park in Hicksville, and Christopher Morley Park in Roslyn-North Hills, were initially closed March 23 to aid in halting the spread of the coronavirus. Some private clubs were

open for members to walk or use pull carts while operating under social-distancing guidelines.

The Empire State Development Corporation issued new guidance on Executive Order 202.6 on essential and non-essential business. While parks can remain open for hikes, runs and walks, and other informal recreational activities, golf is not deemed essential.

In recent weeks, courses had been spreading out tee times to as long as 15 minutes apart to help facilitate distancing. Tee times had to be made online or by phone with a credit card. No walkups were allowed, and golfers were also instructed not to touch flagsticks, bunker rakes and ball washers. At some courses, the cups were being packed with material so the ball wouldn't go to the bottom and could be retrieved with a club.

While most golfers were reportedly walking during their rounds, carts were made available at some courses but limited to a single rider.

Laura Lane contributed to this article.

# Sales tax losses 'punch hole' in county budget

By TIMOTHY DENTON

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As the wizards of finance begin to grapple with the fallout from the Covid-19 crisis, it is clear that sales tax revenue — a major component in Nassau County's 2020 budget — will drop off by at least 4 percent, according to a New York Association of Counties study.

The study, cited in Moody's Investors Service's commentary on the Nassau Interim Finance Authority, estimated the loss "could punch a sizable hole of at least \$50 million" in Nassau County's 2020 budget, according to Moody's Senior Credit Analyst Robert Weber.

Because the county had already estimated a year-over-year increase of \$33 million in sales tax revenue, the loss will likely be more than \$80 million, or 2.5 percent of the budgeted general fund revenue for the year, Weber wrote.

Citing the same NYAC study, however, Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman said the sales tax losses could be as high as \$180 million, or 12.7 percent of the budget. "No one knows how long this will last or how deep the hole will be," Schnirman said.

The one bright spot was the strength of NIFA's credit quality, Weber wrote. The authority is rated Aa1; Nassau County has a rating of A2



Courtesy Nassau Interim Finance Authority

**ADAM BARSKY, CHAIRMAN** of the Nassau Interim Finance Authority since 2018.

— still solidly investment grade. But NIFA's higher rating will enable the county to borrow money at lower interest rates — critical in the coming recovery, Weber wrote.

Finally, the 2021 budget for New York State includes provisions for restoring NIFA's bonding authority. It also extends the Authority's oversight of county finances to 2051 from 2025, enabling the county to continue to benefit from NIFA's stronger credit.

## Comptroller to launch study of post-Covid recovery

By TIMOTHY DENTON

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Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schirman announced late last week that his office will begin conducting an in-depth analysis of the impact the Covid-19 virus has had on the county's finances. The analysis will provide "a series of projections on critical revenues, so that Nassau can best prepare for recovery," Schnirman said in a news release.

"Covid-19 is an unprecedented threat to the health and safety of our community, as well as our fiscal health," Schnirman said. The difficulty in making any projections is that "we do not know how long his will last or how deep the hole will be," he said.

Economically dependent sales tax "is key to plan for the immediate future" and what comes after that, Schnirman said. Because revenue losses take longer to materialize than potential increases

to crisis-related expenses, the modeling is complex and challenging, he added.

Schnirman said the Covid-19 crisis more closely mirrors the economic downturn of 2008-09 than the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. "We need to know a range of potential impacts on county revenues so we can ensure essential government services will continue unimpeded," he said.

The financial impact analysis will provide projections of models relating to sales tax and various fees, to project the county's financial trend lines in the months ahead, Schnirman said.

On the expense side, direct purchases have not yet had a critical fiscal impact relative to previous crises, because only a few million out of a multi-billion dollar budget have been spent thus far, Schnirman explained. "It is the revenue side that will take longer to materialize and is of greater concern at present," he said.



Jack Schnirman



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## OPINIONS

## Congress steps up to battle the coronavirus crisis

It's good news that Congress was able to reach agreement on a financial rescue of our economy at a moment of grave national emergency. More than \$2 trillion will pump oxygen into an economy that's gasping for life.

Along with the extraordinary measures the Federal Reserve has adopted to help keep businesses and financial institu-



**ALFONSE  
D'AMATO**

tions alive, the rescue legislation represents for our economy what respirators and ventilators are to those suffering from Covid-19 itself: a life-saving intervention to give them a chance to survive.

It's particularly heartening that the legislation

wasn't held up for narrow political purposes. Partisanship has no place here.

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has shown that kind of nonpartisan leadership. As he has pointed out, the coronavirus doesn't play politics. It kills Democrats and Republicans alike.

Congress didn't play politics with the economic life of the nation, either. In a period of just three weeks, bills to help our health care system fight the virus and strengthen social safety net programs like unemployment insurance, Medicaid and

food stamps were sent to President Trump and signed into law.

Language added to the rescue legislation provided greater transparency and accountability in the disbursement of \$500 billion it set aside for loans to help American businesses meet their cash-flow shortfalls and keep workers on their payrolls. The legislation stipulates that none of the funds can be used by corporations for stock buybacks or executive pay raises. And like the GM-Chrysler rescue bill passed during the Great Recession in 2008, the bill provides that once companies recover, they must repay as much of the money as possible.

If more billions or even trillions of dollars are needed in the next few weeks or months to deal with this crisis, Congress should pass additional appropriations bills and send them to the president, who has signaled that he would sign whatever necessary spending legislation the lawmakers pass. That legislation should provide more help to state and local governments and our hospitals to help them meet the extraordinary costs they face.

The ongoing emergency also presents Washington with a challenge to address some of the underlying problems the spreading virus has highlighted. America can no longer afford to be reliant on China

or other countries to produce drugs or medical equipment. That critical production must be brought home to America.

Another thing this crisis has taught us is that the government and business can accomplish more when they cooperate in public-private partnerships. Witness how quickly our auto industry converted to the manufacture of desperately needed ventilators, and how the pharmaceutical industry is working with the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and our academic research facilities to fast-track new treatments and an eventual vaccine. Cutting bureaucratic red tape has been central to getting these things done, and this flexibility should continue to guide government as we move forward.

There are other areas where our government must take a new view. Our unemployment insurance system is proving woefully outdated when it comes to handling an unprecedented flood of jobless claims. Congress should look carefully at replacing unemployment insurance with employment insurance like that offered in Germany, where, in times of economic contraction, the government pays part of workers' wages to keep them on company payrolls.

We'll also ultimately need to do some-

thing to assure that American workers' health insurance isn't interrupted by business downturns, and that they have adequate paid medical leave so they can stay home when they're sick. The emergency bills move in this direction on both fronts, and that progress should continue.

Our education system needs to learn a lesson from this crisis, too. Families have been getting a crash course in distance learning. In the future, our schools should fully embrace online education to allow students to more seamlessly do their schoolwork at home. That will require making sure that all students are equipped with the computers and internet connections they need.

And for our higher education system, as I've said before, that also means discarding an outmoded teaching model that is bankrupting students with crushing debt and inadequate preparation to enter the workforce. When colleges and universities open this fall, they will face a drastically changed landscape, and they will need to change with it.

The emergency measures Congress has taken are bold, life-saving ones that can help get our economy out of this emergency. America has stepped up to battle a crisis. Let's keep it up.

*Al D'Amato, a former U.S. senator from New York, is the founder of Park Strategies LLC, a public policy and business development firm. Comments about this column? ADAmato@liherald.com.*

## Living through Covid-19, in bits and pieces

I've been thinking about wagon trains; I'll tell you why later. If I remember.

Yeah, a serious side effect of the pandemic is definitely attention deficit disorder. It is increasingly difficult to focus and concentrate. Composing a sentence, which requires a grabby subject followed by a lively predicate, is challenging. Putting together 750 words is work.



**RANDI  
KREISS**

So I gave up. This week I will share the fragments that have been ricocheting around my brain.

My family is now the husband and me, and we seem to have shed all the amenities of civilized life and regressed to our prehistoric roles.

Example: He, the hunter-gatherer, risked his life this week to raid the local market in search of baking yeast. My hero. As the tender of the hearth, I decided to bake bread. Apparently, baking bread is an activity that fires all the endorphin receptors at once.

I had a nightmare that dogs could carry the virus. That scenario would have terrible implications for Lillybee and all beloved pets. Real life is tough enough; why does the imagination offer up even more horrific iterations of the catastrophe?

How quickly we revert to basic survival mode. My friends and I are bartering: two rubber bands for a spool of thread, matzo ball soup for homemade muffins, hand sanitizer for a printer cartridge.

After years of railing against the dangers of too much screen time, my eyeballs are basically falling out of my head from looking at screens all day, my phone, my computer and my iPad all vying for my attention.

My husband has a bra on his face. It's mine, and it's nothing weird; we're just following orders. We saw a website that explained how to make two masks from one bra, so I made the ultimate sacrifice and we now have two "brasks."

There's something about a global pandemic that flushes people out of hiding. I've been contacted by two long-lost rela-

tives, one I haven't seen for 19 years and the other I haven't seen for 27. They didn't care if I was dead or alive for decades; now, suddenly, they want to say hello.

I've learned something about myself during this siege. I've always been fond of social distancing. I don't mind time alone, and I don't need to fill it up with phone calls or constant Zooming get-togethers. I'm composing a book about cooking through Covid-19 called "The Last Supper?" Everyone in the family is required to submit recipes and photos.

I'll trade you a copy for 5 Ziploc bags.

Our Seder was a table for two. We didn't want to miss the fun part, so we hid the matzo (a Passover tradition) from Lillybee. She never found it, although it was hiding in plain sight on the carpet. This proves for all time that matzo is more cardboard than food. Lillybee can sniff out a peanut across the room, but matzo, not so much.

I stop in my tracks three or four times a day because I can't believe something I'm reading or seeing in the news. There was the mother whose daughter had just died in her arms after contracting Covid-

19 while working in a nursing home. She had no protective gown. There were no masks.

Then there was the doctor, a Kuwaiti refugee, who traveled on his own dime and at his own risk to work alongside the doctors in New York. He looked into the camera and said, "Don't worry. We're here. We'll take care of you."

I miss my kids and my grandkids, and I have no plans to see them. All these open-ended questions of contagion and immunity and pressing mortality preclude any planning at all.

Enter the wagon train, last night's epiphany. Our kids are out West. We won't fly or drive in the foreseeable future. We aren't great drivers, so an RV is out of the question. The obvious solution is to buy a wagon and a horse and rumble across the country in a convoy with other like-minded travelers. It could be OK. We could social distance.

The only problem I can foresee is hitting the Rockies just as winter sets in. Come November we could get stuck in Donner Pass, and we all know how that ends.

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Students, educators need to know what's next

**N**ew York City Mayor Bill de Blasio probably overstepped his authority when he decided late last Friday that he would keep the city's 1,800 public schools closed through June, and he certainly bungled the decision politically.

For starters, he didn't tell Gov. Andrew Cuomo first — but he did tell Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert, according to The New York Times. And when de Blasio did inform the governor, he did so by text.

That led Cuomo to argue Saturday that only he has the authority to make such a decision, and he wanted to take a coordinated regional approach to school closings.

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran immediately backed Cuomo, saying

she, too, would like to see a regional approach. We agree.

Lost in all the rhetoric, however, was an important point that de Blasio was making: He wanted to provide greater certainty to students, educators and parents about what they could expect over the next two and a half months.

The governor has taken a wait-and-see approach to school closings, shutting them down two weeks at a time. We understand the need for such an approach. We shouldn't be hasty in deciding to close the schools. Everyone wants children back in the classroom as soon as possible.

That approach, however, leaves all parties involved in limbo, wondering what will come next. What educators and children need is certainty.

Right now, there is no coordinated approach to how schools should handle the state's curricula, and so, statewide, we have a hodgepodge of approaches. Some districts are fully online, with regular teaching schedules. Others, citing privacy concerns, are not teaching remotely, but rather are emailing students their assignments.

Many students — particularly those in low-income areas — don't have computers and internet connections.

The state must make a decision soon about the fate of this school year, and if the schools are to remain closed through June, there should be one plan for all that ensures children will continue learning during this trying time.

## Don't wait – fill in your census forms

**A**pril 1, Census Day, came and went, but if you didn't fill in your census forms, it isn't too late to do so, and we urge you to complete them.

With the coronavirus battering New York in every conceivable way — including financially — the state could use all the federal financial help it can get.

The federal government uses census data to determine the number of representatives states have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The 435 House seats are apportioned based on the population of each state. The larger its population, the more seats a state receives — and the greater the voice it has in federal decision-making.

The federal government also uses census data to distribute funding for pro-

grams like Medicare and Medicaid. In fact, a 2015 paper by the U.S. Census Bureau found that 132 federal programs used census data to distribute more than \$675 billion in funds that year.

Here's the thing: If a state is underrepresented in the decadal census, then it receives fewer representatives and less federal funding than it deserves, and New York, by many accounts, is typically undercounted in the census.

Now, not later, is the time to go online and fill in the census, or fill out the paper census you received in the mail and send it in. If you don't, federal workers will swing by your home looking to count you and everyone who lives there.

At a time like this, when a potentially deadly virus has spread among us, census workers shouldn't have to do that when it

takes only 10 minutes or so to fill out the forms online.

According to the Census Bureau, you should be counted where you are living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1. If you're responding for your home, count everyone who lives and sleeps there most of the time. That includes young children, foster children, roommates, and any family members or friends who are living with you, even temporarily.

If someone is staying with you because of the Covid-19 pandemic, however, they should be counted where they usually live. This includes college students, who should still be counted at school, even if they're home early. If they live in student housing, the college will count them. If they live off campus, they should respond for their off-campus addresses.

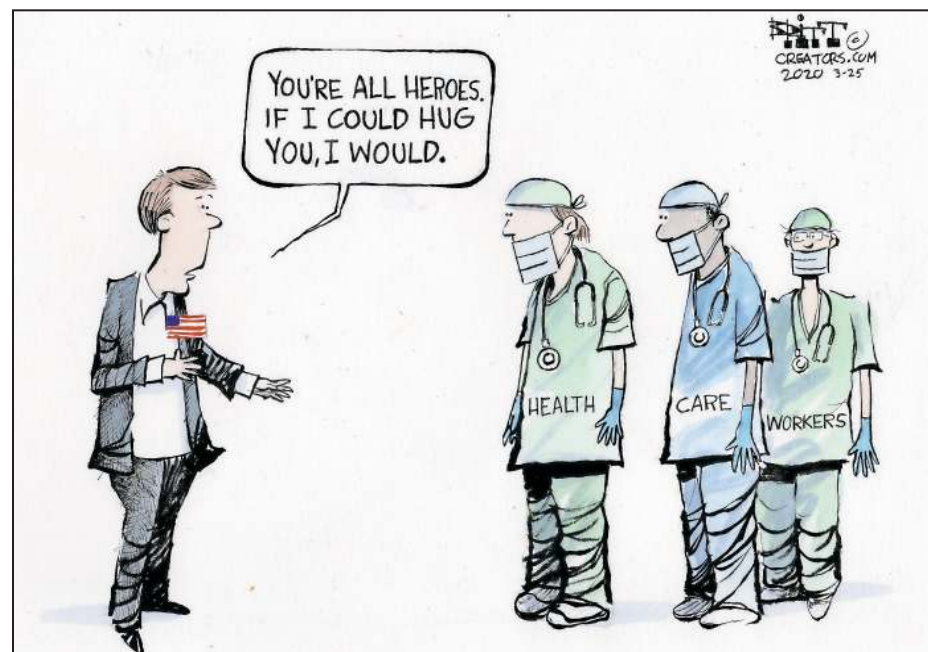
## LETTERS

### Turn toward what matters

To the Editor:

The narrative arc of humanity is filled with stories of uncertainty and anxiety; stories that remind us of our delicately balanced social-structures, our fragile existence and our mortality. This is certainly the case of the sacred texts that many of us call Scripture. The earliest accounts — like those of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, or Joseph — tell of persons or small family units and the trials they endured. As the pages turn, we discover that traumatic events and the ensuing struggles were experienced, not by one or two or a dozen individuals, but by tribes, peoples and nations.

The noted increase of players in these dramas reflects a universal truth: what happens to one happens to all with whom they are connected. Today, with the advent of technology and the ease of travel, we can certainly recognize that we are more connected to more people than ever before. The spread of novel coronavirus and the associated death, illness





## OPINIONS

# No surprise: More blacks and Latinos are dying of Covid-19

Newly released data highlight major racial disparities in deaths from Covid-19, and it's not surprising. It's a reflection of the structural racism that has created an unequal foundation for so many aspects of life in America, including widely documented, underlying health disparities for African-American and Latinx people. It



**ELAINE GROSS**

should move us to examine structural racism more closely, illuminate its impacts, and redouble our efforts to eliminate it.

According to data released by the City of New York, black and Latinx people are dying of coronavirus at twice the

rate of white people. In New York state, excluding New York City, blacks account for 18 percent of deaths, despite comprising just 9 percent of the population. Fourteen percent of the deaths are Latinx people, who make up 11 percent of the population.

In Michigan, according to The Washington Post, African-Americans account for 33 percent of Covid-19 cases and roughly 40 percent of deaths, despite comprising only

14 percent of the population. In Chicago, according to The New York Times, African-Americans account for more than half of those who have tested positive and 72 percent of virus-related fatalities, even though they make up a little less than a third of the population.

Beneath these numbers are underlying health disparities for African-Americans and Latinx people. It is those underlying health problems that land people in the hospital and that lead to more deaths from the virus.

Higher rates of infection for African-Americans are likely exacerbated by such factors as whether they can work from home, whether they work in "essential" services, whether they have routine access to health care, and how quickly they can get that care, among others. A study by New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer found that 75 percent of so-called front-line workers in the city — grocery clerks, bus and train operators, custodians and child-care workers — are minorities.

Those circumstances are a function of structural racism, not a function of race, which is a social construct. In considering these racial disparities, we shouldn't confuse the two. We shouldn't give credence to the idea that there is something inherently

different about African-American or Latinx people that makes them have higher death rates — other than the circumstances of structural racism.

What we should focus on is this: How do we address the racism that has caused and continues to cause health

and other disparities? That's the question that rightly examines the impediments to racial equity that are leading to these racial differences in Covid-19 deaths.

Structural racism is partly a function of conditions that are baked into our society: the effects of slavery, Jim Crow, redlining and other historic conditions. But it is also partly a function of ongoing activities.

ERASE Racism's own research, and a recent landmark investigation by Newsday, evidenced widespread, contemporary racial discrimination in real estate practices on Long Island, for instance. That discrimination continues to steer black and Latinx people to less-integrated communities with fewer resources, and thus to less-integrated schools with fewer resources.

Anecdotal evidence already identifies disparities in students' access to distance learning. Some schools send students home with laptops, for instance, while others do not. Some schools provide students

with video-based instruction, while others give them packets of material. New York state has left the details of remote learning to individual school districts, and that just amplifies the differences between the well-resourced schools and those with fewer resources.

Again, structural racism is the determinant. The overwhelming percentage of black and Latinx students are in segregated and less-resourced schools, and are at a disadvantage now and, most important, in the fall, when they will most likely return to school behind their peers and the grade level standards.

In 2018, ERASE Racism launched an ongoing regionwide public initiative called How Do We Build a Just Long Island? That's exactly how we should approach this problem: How do we look at this data and together seek a just America — an America of shared action to disassemble structural racism.

The coronavirus is creating a new future. Let's create a future together that does not accept the idea that these disparities are unchangeable. Let's take advantage of the light that Covid-19 is shedding on our society and come together to reflect that light onto a path to justice. It's time to work together as a nation and root out structural racism for good.

*Elaine Gross is president of the Long Island-based ERASE Racism.*

**Three-quarters of the city's non-emergency front-line workers are minorities.**

## LETTERS

and isolation confirms that we are part of a global community.

This current pandemic begins another chapter in the chronicle of our earthly pilgrimage. Like the Israelites who hid in their homes waiting for the plague to pass over them, longing for liberation from their enslavement; or the crowds that followed Jesus into Jerusalem, standing dumbfounded in the streets, expectations shattered, their savior crucified, we also find ourselves stunned and in truth: hiding, waiting and longing.

From the pages of the Bible, we learn again and again that the response to shared suffering was not to be shouldered by one or two people, but by the community in collective agency. This shared response was (and is) to turn toward what matters. Believers, those of all faith traditions, are being called to turn toward God in humility and devotion. Everyone, the entire scope of the human family is being called to turn toward one another in the same fashion.

This is the antidote to our current symptoms of uncertainty, anxiety and fear — to serve our fellow humans and deepen our relationships with those to whom we are connected. It begins with our families and friends and expands beyond to our neighbors, to those in our village and surrounding towns and cities. Our efforts of compassionate service must include the lonely, the poor, those who are deemed essential workers and those on the frontline of the pandemic — first responders and medical personnel.

To fulfill the call of love in a time of social distancing requires creativity and hope, virtues that are as abundant in our sacred texts and the peo-

ple of our neighborhoods as the trials that are written in their pages or on our hearts. As spiritual leaders living and working among you, we have heard many stories of grief and suffering. We know that you are tired, uncomfortable and angry. But we are also witnesses to your kindness, selflessness and generosity. We have shared in your glimmers of hope and joy.

We are blessed to call this corner of Long Island home and humbled to serve you. Please, during this complicated time, continue to answer the call to love one another, in any way you can imagine. May you find strength and peace during this time and may this season be one of hope and light.

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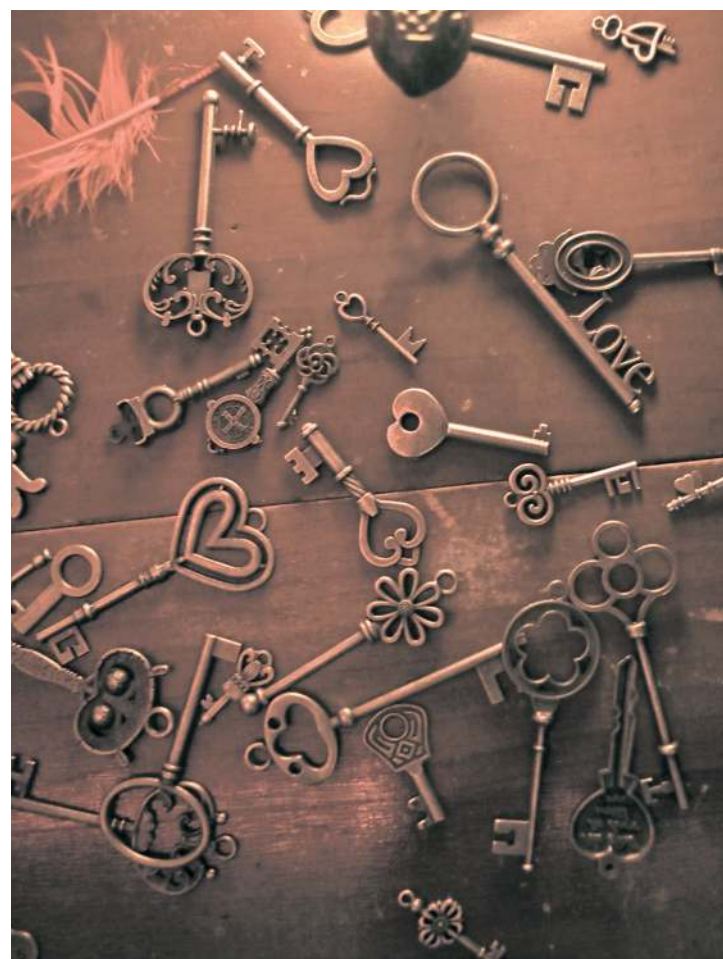
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Yes, kids, there was a time before key fobs — Franklin Square



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