

GLEN COVE
HERALD
Gazette



Beloved teacher Ed Smith dies
 Page 10



Easter Bunny at the Regency
 Page 11



Patients seen using telemedicine
 Page 3

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Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

Celebrating hospital workers

Susan Rassekh, far left, danced to “Don’t Stop Believin’” with Kerri Scanlon and Dr. Brad Sherman during a staff-appreciation rally at Glen Cove Hospital. Story, Page 12

Glen Cove High School pantry strives to help the hungry

By **JENNIFER CORR**
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When City Councilwoman Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante posted on Facebook on April 13 that the Glen Cove High School pantry was running low, the community took immediate action.

“Urgent need for food,” Lupenko Ferrante wrote on the Glen Cove Neighbors page. “The high school pantry for the Glen Cove School District is practically empty and the next pick-up date for children and families in need is [April 15]. But Island

Harvest, which supplies most of the food, just called and they can’t deliver until [April 16]. Can some of you help?”

“We have 42 hours to pull this off,” she added. Within hours, Lupenko Ferrante said, residents began donating money and groceries.

The high school’s pantry, at the back of the school, serves students and their families, and in normal times its activities are coordinated by special education teacher Rachel Sheridan. During the coronavirus pandemic, however, Glen Cove City School Dis-

trict Superintendent Dr. Maria L. Rianna said, teachers, residents, local leaders and organizations, including the nonprofits Long Island Cares and Island Harvest, have been working with the pantry to ensure that no one goes hungry.

Long Island Cares closed its School Street distribution center on April 8, just a week after it opened. “There was concern that if large groups of people came to the School Street location, it would be very difficult to adhere to social distancing rules,” Mau-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

G.C. Hospital now offering ‘virtual’ visits

By **LAURA LANE**
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When the coronavirus first hit, patients were dying alone at Glen Cove Hospital. As was the case at other hospitals in New York, visiting hours were suspended indefinitely to help stop the spread of the virus. Dave Young, the hospital’s desktop support technician, said it was painful to see family members gathering in front of the hospital.

“It’s such a terrible experience to have your loved one in the hospital now,” Young said. “I’d see people outside holding signs for their loved one in the hospital. It was heart-breaking.”

Some patients FaceTimed with loved ones on their own devices, said Doreen Mather, GCH’s assistant director of nursing, patient and customer service. But those in critical care were not well enough to do that.

Technology is affording an alternative, which Young helped to arrange. A month ago,

patients and families were given the option to communicate during “virtual visiting hours.” For many families, it has become a way to share wishes of love and hope, while for others, it has offered an avenue to say a final farewell.

Sometimes hearing a family member’s voice is encouraging. There’s no medicine like love.

DOREEN MATHER
 Glen Cove Hospital

To facilitate virtual visiting, the hospital purchased a dozen iPads for \$1,000 each. Young also converted other iPads that the hospital had used previously to conduct surveys. Then he connected them to the hospital’s WiFi.

Patients’ families schedule times for their virtual visits by calling the hospital. Then a designated staff member — a physical therapist, nurse or doctor — brings an iPad to the room in a plastic bag and holds it for the patient. The family members are connected with the patient on the videoconferencing platform Zoom.

“There’s something to be said for seeing someone’s face,” Young said. “It’s comforting. The situation we’re in now is terri-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Laura Curran
Nassau County Executive



Tending to patients via telemedicine and house calls

By LAURA LANE

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Oyster Bay pediatrician Greg Gulbransen said when the coronavirus hit he made a deal with God — “As long as I work my ass off for patients and I’m here don’t get me sick.” Although he has remained physically healthy he said it has sometimes been difficult emotionally. “I do cry so hard sometimes,” he said. “This is all so sad.”

Gulbransen, 57, has kept his word, keeping his practice on South Street open, although he has lost 75 percent of his business. He, like so many other doctors are also seeing patients by way of telemedicine — an avenue to care for them remotely.

“I see 99 percent of the patients on FaceTime on an iPad or phone,” said Gulbransen, adding that it is not always ideal. “With telemedicine you aren’t connected with patients and it’s often blurry. Looking at a rash on a child is better with a photograph.”

And he can’t examine his patients as he would in the office. He is unable to look in their ears or look down their throat, he said. “But I guess it’s better than nothing,” said Gulbransen, adding that the coronavirus has caused a small silver lining. “I am finding there are less coughs, colds and strep because everyone is quarantined.”

Less visits in the office has led to a financial loss. Gulbransen said the reimbursement rates from insurance companies for telemedicine sessions is less than half of what he would receive if he saw the patient in the office. And his well vis-



Courtesy Greg Gulbransen

DR. GREG GULBRANSEN performed a swab test to see if his patient, Maninder Kaur, had the coronavirus. He was assisted by his nurse, Chris Murphy, right.

its are down by 30 percent too. He worries that it will be difficult to catch up once the virus subsides.

And then people may need to go to the doctor more, said Vanessa Molina, a registered nurse who has worked for Gulbransen for two years. “This causes a lot of stress,” Molina said. “The anxiety may give people high blood pressure and other illnesses.”

Molina, 33, said she is taking things day by day. And although she is pregnant and due in June she isn’t worried about getting Covid-19. “I apply my faith and follow the protocols, wearing a mask and

washing my hands,” she said. “Because I’m pregnant I’m extra cautious and keep the mask on at all times. It’s hot and hard to breath like all the masks are but you have to do what you have to do to keep yourself safe.”

Gulbransen is committed to keeping his office safe for his staff and patients. When someone calls requesting an appointment, they are screened. If they have a fever they are told to come into the office using the back door. One of his examination rooms is utilized only for potential Covid-19 patients. They are tested and positive or not leave by using the

back door. “Then we Lysol the room,” Gulbransen said. “I think it’s the cleanest in Nassau County.”

He is also making house calls. He recently drove to a Brookville home to check to see if a child had diabetes. “I put a cup on the front porch and the mother came to the door in full protective gear,” Gulbransen said. “She took the cup and then came back with it filled with urine. I used a dip stick in my car to test it. The child didn’t have diabetes.”

He got a call on a Sunday afternoon that a girl living in Westbury had dislocated her arm. He told the parents not to go to the emergency room. He would be right over. On the front lawn Gulbransen said he “popped her arm back into place.”

Although precautions are important during the pandemic Gulbransen said it’s equally important to find a way to cope. “The best thing to do is smile, be positive, eat right and exercise,” he said. “If the patients and parents know that I’m OK they feel OK. Every day I’m putting batteries in my brain being extra extra good.”

He has cut his associate’s hours but none of his staff have been furloughed. Gulbransen said he wants to see all of the patients himself because he is looking for patterns of what is going on. And he wants to be sure that the other doctors are available in case he gets sick.

During the last five days everyone he tested was negative, Gulbransen said, but then on Sunday someone tested positive. “I’d say 35 to 40 percent were positive in the last month,” which is an improvement,” he said. “In the beginning they were positive, positive, positive.”

Planned Parenthood launches telehealth

Planned Parenthood of Greater New York has launched a virtual health care service to connect patients to trusted providers without requiring them to visit a health center.

Patients can now access a range of sexual and reproductive health services, including birth control, emergency contraception, trans/nonbinary hormone therapy, STI treatment, and more by secure video conferencing and telephone. New Yorkers can get the care they need while reducing exposure to the coronavirus by simply booking a virtual appointment at www.ppgreaterny.org or calling 1-800-230-PLAN.

As New York hospitals work to save the growing number of Covid-19 patients, PPGNY is partnering with state and local providers to treat patients who need vital sexual and reproductive health care. Now more than ever, New Yorkers must prioritize their health and proactively seek care so fewer people end up in emergency rooms overburdened with coronavirus patients.



Courtesy Flickr

AMID THE PANDEMIC, Planned Parenthood of Greater New York has launched virtual health care services.

“Even in uncertain times like this, we know that people’s sexual and reproductive health care can’t wait,” said Laura McQuade, president & CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater New York. “Like everyone else in the nation, it is crucial that Planned Parenthood of

Greater New York tackle challenges brought by the coronavirus with innovative solutions that protect and benefit our patients, staff, and communities.”

PPGNY has experienced a 60 percent increase in patient visits to PP Direct, Planned Parenthood’s health care app,

in March.

For more information about connecting to PPGNY through telehealth call 1-800-230-PLAN or book a virtual appointment online at www.ppgreaterny.org.

Health care workers can feel the anguish

April 23, 2020 — HERALD COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ble, and this helps ease the pain a little bit.”

Virtual visits will continue when regular visiting hours resume, Mather said. Many loved ones cannot get to the hospital because of work obligations. Others live far away. Virtual visiting is the solution in both cases, Mather said.

As practiced by Northwell Health, virtual visiting allows patients who are on ventilators, or are too frail or weak to hold a device, to hear and see their families. “Sometimes hearing a family member’s voice is encouraging,” she said. “There’s no medicine like love.”

Families appreciate virtual visiting, she added. “Last night a family was able to speak to a patient,” Mather said. “Unfortunately, the person died during the night.”

Nurses at the hospital are also using Amazon Echo, a set of smart speakers that connects to a tablet at the nursing station. It helps the nurses, Mather said, because they can see the patient and ask what they need without having to walk into the room. “Before you could knock on the door and wash your hands and then go to the patient,” she said. “Now we have to put on a gown, mask and gloves.”

Suited in protective personal equipment, health care workers face communication challenges. They have to speak louder so they can be heard from behind their masks, Mather said. And they are no longer able to look at their co-workers’ mouths, but rather must watch their eyes instead. “We don’t even recognize other co-workers,” she said. “We have our names on the back of our jumpsuit.”

Mather, who commutes to work from Blue Point each day, has worked at Glen Cove Hospital for 18 years. It’s frustrating, she said, not knowing what is next. She compared Covid-19 to a terrorist. Some of her co-workers have come down with the coronavirus, and one was hospitalized. The Glen Cove Hospital staff is close, she said. They all feel one another’s worry and anguish together.

Over the past year, GCH offered help for its health care workers by creating Team Lavender. Employees who are



Courtesy Glen Cove Hospital

DOREEN MATHER, GLEN Cove Hospital’s assistant director of nursing, patient and customer service, connected a family member with a Covid-19 patient for a virtual visit in the Intensive Care Unit.

empathetic communicators speak with staff members who are coping with an unexpected death on their floor or a personal tragedy. Employees need to destress, Mather said.

Recently, a Lavender Lounge was added to the hospital. The room offers a serene atmosphere comparable to a spa. Health care workers enter an area that has a privacy screen where the air smells of lavender. Mather said the lounge has become popular among the staff.

Her children, who are 18, 17, 15 and 13, worry about her constantly, she said. She

tells them not to be concerned because she is boosting her immune system with green tea, lemon water and vitamins. Mather said she does not believe she will become infected with Covid-19.

Young, the father of two, ages 19 and 15, said he has been quarantined from his family for five weeks. He has been living in the basement of his house. He worries about becoming infected because he must move throughout the hospital for his job.

“I don’t want anyone to get it. It’s everywhere,” he said. “People who come

How to visit, virtually, at Glen Cove Hospital

Virtual visits are available Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
To request a day and time call (516) 812-4777.

in with a sprained ankle have it. I think at some point, we are all going to realize we all have it to some degree.”

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CRIME WATCH

Police: Prospect Avenue residents’ tires slashed

Residents on Prospect Avenue in Glen Cove awoke on Saturday morning to discover their vehicles had flat tires.

In all, six vehicles had their tires punctured by an unknown person or persons who used a sharp object to pierce the tires, police said. A small, light-colored vehicle with a modified exhaust was seen in the area around the time the damage was done.

“This appears to be a senseless act of

criminal mischief, and it’s difficult to understand why someone felt damaging others’ property is something they needed to accomplish,” said Glen Cove Police Detective Lt. John Nagle.

Residents are encouraged to report suspicious vehicles or persons to the Glen Cove Police. Anyone with information on this crime is encouraged to contact the Glen Cove Police at (516) 676-1000.

County exec: School tax collection delayed

By SCOTT BRINTON

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Nassau County Executive Laura Curran announced Monday that, by order of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the school tax collection deadline has been delayed by three weeks.

“At my request,” Curran, a Democrat from Baldwin, tweeted Monday evening, “[Governor Cuomo] is issuing an executive order that will push back the May 11th property tax payment deadline for school districts in Nassau County. More details to come soon.”

The new deadline is June 1.

Earlier in the day, the Republican-controlled Legislature had voted to push back the deadline to June 10, but Curran contended the Legislature did not have the authority to change the date, only the governor.

Curran spoke at length on Saturday about the proposal before the County Legislature to delay collection of school taxes that were to come due in May.

Many residents have been laid off or have seen their hours reduced, and

so are looking for financial relief. Delaying school taxes, however, could have serious financial consequences for the county, Curran said.

She explained the county must guarantee all school tax collections, meaning if the school districts come up short in their collections, then the county must provide the funding to the districts — by law.

She said the county is hurting financially, as are all municipalities, amid the coronavirus pandemic. Sales and property tax collections comprise 67 percent of the county’s more than \$3 billion budget. Sales taxes have plummeted during the outbreak, starving the county of one of its two primary revenue sources, Curran said.

She worries about county employees, she said, and wants to ensure the county maintains its force of first responders, including police officers and medics.

The federal and state governments, she said, must step in to ensure the county has enough cash on hand to meet its financial obligations, including to its employees, so it can continue to provide essential services.

At my request, [Governor Cuomo] is issuing an executive order.

LAURA CURRAN
County executive



Christina Daly/Herald

NASSAU EXECUTIVE LAURA Curran said she worries that if school tax collections were delayed, the county might wind up paying the bill.

Covid-19 deaths decline over the weekend

By SCOTT BRINTON

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For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic struck more than a month ago, New York state saw sharp declines in the number of overnight deaths because of the coronavirus, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo was expressing cautious optimism over the weekend that the state was past the peak of the disease.

He noted, however, that relaxing social distancing could lead to a second wave of infection.

The number of deaths because of the coronavirus dropped a little more than 14 percent across New York state overnight from Friday into Saturday, from 630 to 540, Cuomo said Saturday afternoon.

It was the smallest number of overnight deaths the state had seen in a day since early April, and represented a 32 percent decrease in the overnight mortality rate from April 9, when the number of deaths from one day to the next peaked at 799.

Cuomo noted, however, that the state still saw 2,000 new hospitalizations overnight, which, he said, was troubling.

In Nassau County, new hospitalizations declined for the third straight day, as did ICU cases and intubations, County Executive Laura Curran said Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday, Cuomo appeared alongside Northwell Health President and CEO Michael Dowling to announce plans to undertake widespread, random antibody testing to determine more precisely New York’s actual infection rate.

Overnight from Saturday into Sunday, 507 people died of the coronavirus in New York, Cuomo said at Northwell’s Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research in Manhasset. That represented an 8 percent drop in the overnight death rate.

New hospitalizations also declined, from 2,000 the day before to 1,300, a 35 percent drop.

And new intubations, whereby people are placed on ventilators to enable them to breathe, were down also.

If those statistics hold, Cuomo said, “we are past the high point,” and all indications are the infection rate is “on the descent.”

Still, he said, “Thirteen hundred is a lot of people coming into the hospital

We just pray to God [the infection rate] remains down on the other side ... We still have a long way to go.

GOV. ANDREW CUOMO

Governor: Marinas can open

New York, Connecticut and New Jersey are allowing marinas, boatyards and marine manufacturers to open for personal use, provided they adhere to social distancing protocols and sanitize their facilities, Governor Cuomo announced Saturday afternoon.

Chartered watercraft services or rentals will not be allowed, and restaurants at these sites will be limited to take-out or delivery.

“Throughout this pandemic, we’ve worked closely with our friends in neighboring states to implement a uniform regional approach to reducing the spread of the virus,” Cuomo said. “Aligning our policies in this area is another example of that strong partnership, and will help ensure there is no confusion or ‘state shopping’ when it comes to marinas and boatyards.”

—Scott Brinton

system.”

State officials are taking a breather with the infection rate appearing to stabilize. Cuomo described the crisis “as a mountain that just kept building and building and building,” and he said, he had “no idea where the top of the mountain” was.

“We just pray to God,” he said, that the infection rate “remains down on the other side” of the mountain.

He also noted, “We still have a long way to go.”

The governor urged people to continue social distancing and practice sound hygiene. He worries that people will see the death and new hospitalization rates

declining, and then attempt to return to life as normal too soon. That, he said, would jeopardize the progress the state has made over the past 40 days in containing the virus.

In preparing for a reopening of New York’s economy, he said, the state needs greater testing, and it needs more federal funding. Cuomo estimated the state faces a \$10 billion to \$15 billion deficit. That money will have to be made up somehow. Without federal funding, cuts are likely, he said, noting school districts across the state could see their state aid slashed by 50 percent in 2020-21 without federal assistance.

On the front lines with a Northwell ICU nurse

By **SCOTT BRINTON**

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Each time a patient comes off a ventilator in the intensive care unit at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset these days, the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" plays over the loudspeaker, alerting all staff and patients that a life has been saved.

Elyse Isopo, an ICU nurse practitioner at North Shore, with 20 years experience, spoke of that moment during a 19-minute Facebook Live interview with Northwell Health video producer Rob Hoell on Thursday.

It is an important moment for all in the ICU, as staff members work around the clock battling the Covid-19 virus, which, Isopo said, is yet to let up in the ICU.

People throughout the ICU erupt in cheers and clapping when that Beatles song sounds, Isopo said, noting, "We need those wins, because it keeps us going."

The number of new hospitalizations across New York state, including in Nassau, appears to be declining, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and County Executive Laura Curran.

The number of ICU patients where Isopo is at, however, continues unabated, she said, "because people who are hospitalized are getting sicker."

Working in the ICU, she said, "is scary, and real, and rewarding at the same time," adding, "Everybody has been amazing. It feels like a family."



Courtesy Northwell Health

NORTHWELL HEALTH ICU nurse practitioner Elyse Isopo spoke with video producer Rob Hoell about what it's like to battle Covid-19 on the front lines.

One of the hardest parts that patients must endure is the sense of isolation from their families, because visitors are not allowed into the hospital, Isopo said. Patients receive iPads so they can connect with loved ones, but it is not the same as meeting face to face.

If a patient appears near death, only then is family allowed in, she said.

Isopo spoke of one recent case, a patient originally from Korea. The patient asked that Korean music be played in his

final moments, and so it was. "It was beautiful," she said, "and we supported his dying process."

Such images, however, can also be haunting. "I don't sleep very well at night," Isopo said.

She is married with children. Worried about potentially infecting her family, she is careful each night to remove her clothes and shoes and take a shower before entering her home. "After a long day," she said, "it's draining."

Working in the ICU is tough, she said. "It's very challenging. It's very difficult. It's very stressful," she said. "Everybody is as critical as the next person and the next person."

"It looks like a MASH unit," she continued. "It's bed after bed after bed ... You walk in there, and you're in the trenches."

Isopo said the community has come out in unexpected and welcome ways, showering the nurses and doctors with praise and parades and food. "Seeing everyone in the community looking at us like heroes is very overwhelming and very much appreciated," she said.

She emphasized, though, that "I never thought of myself as a hero." The first responders in the field, the police and firefighters, are the heroes, she said.

Isopo said she believes Northwell has provided adequate personal protective equipment to hospital workers throughout the crisis. At first, workers were limited to one N95 mask per week, but now receive a new one daily, she said. Many place surgical masks over their N95 masks as an extra layer of protection to keep fluids off them.

In addition to masks, all workers receive paper scrubs, goggles, face shields and gloves.

She ended by saying people should stay home to reduce the infection and hospitalization rates. "The more people stay home, that helps us," she said.

For the full interview, see liherald.com.

Catholic Health Services taking part in clinical trials

By **JEFF BESSEN**

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Catholic Health Services is taking part in two clinical trials designed to develop treatments for Covid-19. A Mayo Clinic trial is using what is called convalescent plasma donated by recovered Covid-19 patients to treat individuals who continue to fight the coronavirus.

Convalescent plasma comprises parts of the blood of people who have had the virus and recovered.

The second study involves using the medication remdesivir, which was originally developed to treat the Ebola virus and has been successfully used for other coronaviruses, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.

The convalescent plasma study is being offered at CHS's six hospitals. The remdesivir trial is taking place at St. Francis Hospital, The Heart Center® in Roslyn and at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip, CHS officials said.

One 200 milliliters/6.8 ounces dose of the plasma has benefitted a portion of patients, according to the initial data. People who recover from Covid-19 do so, in part, because their blood contains antibodies that are able to fight the virus. Previous research of other viruses found that treating patients with plasma obtained from those who have recovered from the same virus leads to rapid improvement, CHS officials said.

Using remdesivir to treat COVID-19 follows limited testing in the United States, Canada, China and other countries that led to an improvement in the condition of some patients. The treatment regimen using remdesivir takes place over 10 days and includes a 200-milligram dose on the first day and a 100-milligram dose on days two to 10.



Herald file photo

CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES of Long Island, which includes Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre, above, is involved in two clinical trial seeking to develop a treatment for Covid-19.

"Catholic Health Services is excited to be on the front lines and participate in these clinical trials for Covid-19," CHS Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer Dr. Jason Golbin, stated in a news release. "Our clinical teams have spent several weeks caring for Covid-19 patients. It means a great deal to everyone to take part in these two cutting-edge research efforts."

Potential plasma donors must have a prior, verified diagnosis of Covid-19, but are now symptom-free and

fully recovered. Donors must also be at least 18 and weigh at least 110 pounds. The plasma can be administered only to a consenting Covid-19 patient or a patient whose family member offers consent. The treatment will be given to patients judged by a doctor to be at high risk of disease progression to severe or life-threatening.

To donate plasma and for more information on the two clinical trials, call Catholic Health Services at (855) 247-4500.

Cuomo extends N.Y. PAUSE to May 15

By **SCOTT BRINTON**
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Gov. Andrew Cuomo last Thursday extended New York on PAUSE, a 10-point plan that shuts down “non-essential” businesses and schools and requires social distancing, through May 15. The announcement came during his daily briefing, when he also continued to lay out his vision to reopen the economy — and the challenges doing so will present.

Previously, New York on PAUSE was to end April 30.

“New York PAUSE has worked,” Cuomo said, but he noted, “we’re not there yet,” referring to the reduction in the Covid-19 infection rate needed to allow all people to return to work and ease social distancing requirements.

The governor said the state does not yet fully know what the infection rate is. To date, more than 500,000 people have been tested in New York, more than California, Florida and Michigan combined, Cuomo said. That figure, however, represents a fraction of the state’s population — 19 million people live here, and 9 mil-

lion of them are workers.

New York on PAUSE — Policies Assure Uniform Safety for Everyone — has kept the infection and hospitalization rates to manageable levels, the governor indicated. “We slowed the infection rate by our actions, and that’s why we’re in a better position today,” he said.

New York PAUSE has worked, [but] we’re not there yet.

GOV. ANDREW CUOMO

Widespread testing, including antibody blood sampling, is needed to better track the infection rate and assure people that they are safe when returning to their workplaces. Cuomo said the state would conduct 3,000 random antibody tests in the coming weeks.

Last Wednesday, Cuomo said he would like to see the economy reopen in phases, in close coordination with six other states — Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts,

New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

He asked on Thursday that employers begin to consider whether their workers can continue to telecommute when their workplaces reopen, as well as think about the configuration of their workspaces. How far apart might desks be spread apart, for example?

Couple can now marry by video in New York state

On Saturday, Governor Cuomo issued a directive allowing marriages to be performed via video-conference to help reduce the infection rate amid the coronavirus crisis.

Among other conditions, the order requires the following be met:

■ The couple to be wed must present valid photo ID during the video-conference.

■ The town or city clerk, the witness(es), the person to solemnize the marriage, and the couple must interact with one another. No pre-recorded ceremonies are allowed.

■ The couple must affirm that they

are present in the New York state jurisdiction where the marriage is to take place.

■ The couple must send a legible copy of the signed marriage document by fax or email to the town or city clerk, the witnesses, and the person to solemnize the marriage on the same date it was signed.

Local town and city clerks may provide further guidance.

If a couple’s marriage license has or will expire during the Covid-19 pandemic, the state is waiving the 60-day waiting period to obtain a new license. It is also waiving all fees to obtain a second marriage license.

—Scott Brinton

State releases data on nursing home deaths

By **JAMES BERNSTEIN**
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The New York State Department of Health released a list of 22 nursing homes on Long Island, including homes in Long Beach, Glen Cove and Lynbrook, where residents have died from the coronavirus epidemic. The state said its list included only deaths that took place inside a facility or location where five people or more have died.

State health officials said 22 residents at the Long Beach Nursing and Rehabilitation Center had died of the virus; eight at the Glen Cove Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, and six at the Lynbrook Restorative and Therapy Nursing facility.

Across the state, a total of 1,135 nursing home or assisted living center deaths at 72 facilities, officials said. The Health Department lists say 128 deaths took place at a total of 11 nursing homes in all of Nassau County.

The Health Department released the list after numerous complaints from the families of residents at the facilities, legislators and members of the media. Gov. Andrew Cuomo was asked repeatedly at his daily briefings about the coronavirus illness at nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the state. The governor had said the figures were being compiled.

Cuomo ordered nursing homes to immediately inform relatives of patients who test positive.



Herald file photo

THE STATE HEALTH Department reported 22 cases of Covid-19 deaths at the Long Beach Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Administrators at the nursing homes in Long Beach, Glen Cove and Lynbrook have not released information about Covid-19 cases. But most all facilities have listed on their websites that they are sanitizing all areas within the

homes, maintaining social distancing among staff members, and noting that they are closed to outsiders, to protect the health of patients.

Relatives have not been allowed to visit patients at the facilities, and many

told media outlets they had been unable to reach patients by phone.

Administrators at the Long Beach, Glen Cove and Lynbrook facilities did not return calls seeking comment.

Senator freed from prison amid pandemic

By JILL NOSSA
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Former State Sen. Dean Skelos of Rockville Centre has tested positive for Covid-19 and will serve the remainder of his prison term at home, according to court papers filed last Wednesday.

Skelos, 72, was reportedly in quarantine at the federal prison in Otisville, according to documents filed in federal court in Manhattan by Southern District prosecutors, and has been symptom-free since April 8.

Prosecutors said that medical authorities at the prison have cleared his release. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons said Skelos is expected to be approved for furlough and home confinement once the U.S. Probation Department has approved his proposed residence. A release date had not been set as of press time Monday.

Late last month, Skelos

requested early release, citing fear of contracting the virus after another inmate tested positive. The motion, filed under seal, was opposed by federal prosecutors in papers filed publicly, saying that an application for release must first be filed with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, which can better assess his health situation. His medical condition was not made public at that point.

Skelos has more than two years left on his 51-month sentence for extortion, wire fraud and bribery.

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



Herald file photo

FORMER STATE SEN. Majority Leader Dean Skelos of Rockville Centre has tested positive for Covid-19 and is expected to be released early to home confinement.

Trump lawyer, Lawrence native, to be released from prison

By JEFF BESSEN
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Michael Cohen, a Lawrence native and former personal attorney for President Donald Trump, who was convicted of several felonies and sentenced to three years in prison in 2018, will be released because of the coronavirus pandemic after a 14-day quarantine period, prison officials said. He will serve the remainder of his sentence confined to home.

He was serving his sentence and expected to be released in November 2021 from federal prison in upstate Otisville, where 14 inmates and seven staff members at the facility tested positive for Covid-19, as of press time. A federal judge had previously rejected Cohen's request for a sentence reduction because of coronavirus on March 24.

Cohen was found guilty of breaking campaign finance laws, tax evasion and lying to Congress, among other charges in 2018. He was also ordered to pay \$1.39 million in restitution, forfeit \$500,000 and pay a \$50,000 fine. The guilty pleas to the federal felony charges resulted in his disbarment as a lawyer in New York state.

Serving as Trump's personal attorney, Cohen, 53, arranged six-figure payments to a porn star known as Stormy Daniels, whose



Jeff Bessen/Herald

LAWRENCE NATIVE MICHAEL Cohen who was serving three years in prison on multiple federal charges will be released because of the coronavirus outbreak. Above, testifying before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform last year.

real name is Stephanie Clifford, and former Playboy model Karen McDougal, to buy their silence about their one-time affairs with the president.

Cohen testified multiple times in front of Congressional commit-

tees on Capitol Hill last year, including the public hearing before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, before which he famously called his former boss a racist and a cheat, and admitted, "I am a fool."

NEWS BRIEF

Long Island Trauma Recovery Network to provide free therapy

The Long Island Trauma Recovery Network will provide free therapy to health care workers, first responders, essential employees, their families, and those whose loved ones are facing or have died from the coronavirus.

All services will be provided remotely by trained and licensed eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapists. Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing is a form of psychotherapy in which a trauma patient is asked to recall a distressing image. It has been proven to help address the trauma symptoms that medical professionals and first responders face.

The Long Island EDMR Trauma Network will offer the Integrative Group Treatment Protocol, which provides individual EDMR therapy in a group setting. The program is administered to groups of people who have experienced the same type of trauma or who share a major life challenge.

There will be several groups weekly, and some individual appointments are available.

For more information, email LongIsland-Trauma@gmail.com and contact Cathy Menzies, LCSWR Trauma Recovery Coordinator at (631) 466 - 7053 to register.

-Melissa Koenig

Activity ramps up at GCHS pantry

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

reen Basdavanos, Glen Cove's deputy mayor, explained. "The same concerns arose with Island Harvest due to large groups of people congregating in close proximity to each other. These are both wonderful organizations, and they're working with local groups who have the ability to deliver meals."

Allen Hudson, the assistant principal at Glen Cove High, said that Long Island Cares, Island Harvest and NOSH (for North Shore), a group of volunteers that is providing emergency meals, have been instrumental in the effort to meet the nutritional needs of students and families. Hudson said that Long Island Cares recently dropped off fresh produce and pre-made meals that can be picked up at the high school pantry. And volunteers have been delivering meals to those who don't have transportation, including people who live outside the district.

"I mean, kids are hungry," Hudson said. "When we hand out those lunches, those breakfasts and lunches, you have to see . . . It's sad, but it's great to hand kids the food."

"We went to Mason Drive," Hudson added, "and we were just giving out lunches, and then before you knew it, people started coming to the windows — 'You have food? You have food?' We

found that the people who needed possibly more couldn't get here to the school."

He described the operation as a community effort. Rosa Diez, a security

Where to get food in Glen Cove

Glen Cove High School

150 Dosoris Lane

Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., breakfast and lunch are available for pickup for Glen Cove City School District students and their families.

Glen Cove High School Food Pantry

On Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., students and their families can pick up groceries and pre-made meals at the pantry in the back of the school.

NOSH North Shore

NOSH is a community-service organization offering food during the pandemic. Those who need food or want to help can find more information at <https://www.facebook.com/NOSH.NorthShoreFoodHelp/> or fill out the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/XQWGMBL.

Glen Cove Senior Center

The senior center drops off meals to members who need them. Call (516) 759-9610 for more information.

Cove Animal Rescue

36 Morris Ave.

The shelter is offering a full pantry of pet food to those who need it.

torio Markoulis's Venmo account, which she uses to shop for supplies.

Lupenko Ferrante got involved with the pantry by accident, she said. Before the effort began, she and her husband, John Ferrante, had spearheaded a program they call Do Good to Feel Good. JAG Specialty Foods, a company owned by Ferrante and Gregg Desantis, that produces breadsticks and stores and delivers food for other companies, donated some 900 packages of food to the hungry.

Then Ferrante and DeSantis donated 100 boxes of food to the pantry. Seeing the need there inspired Lupenko Ferrante to make the post on Facebook. "Doing this Do Good to Feel Good program has been soul food for me and John," she said. "He keeps saying, 'I just want to inspire others.'"

"It's really been what the community need to get through this difficult time, this challenging time," Rianna said. "This has been a community effort, a lot of work put in every day, and I'm truly in awe of the people who have really donated and I'm honored to be a part of this district. It's incredible."

Those who are in need of food or who are interested in volunteering can call (516) 801-7610. Though the pantry and meals are intended for students and their families, no one will be turned away.

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Ed Smith, beloved Glen Cove band teacher, dies at 55

By MIKE CONN

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As longtime Landing Elementary School band teacher Ed Smith lay back in a chair in his Glen Cove living room on March 27, his family members took turns telling him how much they loved him. He had had trouble breathing all day, his younger daughter, Meghan, said, and they knew his time had come. By 11:25 p.m., as the soft sounds of classical music played from a nearby speaker he died, succumbing from the complications of the stroke he had suffered on June 27, 2018. Smith was 55.

Mere moments after he died, the music stopped. The speaker had died as well. "Quite literally, he took the music with him," Meghan said. "It was unexplainable timing. It was amazing."

Smith was born in April of 1964 in Glen Cove Hospital, the eldest of Patricia and George Smith's three sons. He attended Glen Cove public schools all through his childhood and developed a love for music at a young age.

After graduating from Glen Cove High School in 1982, he spent some time studying at Nassau Community College before transferring to SUNY Oneonta to study music education, with a focus on clarinet. After graduating in 1986, he moved on to SUNY Binghamton, where he earned his master's in the same field.

Smith returned home to Glen Cove in the late 1980s, beginning his work as a teacher in the Glen Cove School District, becoming the full-time band teacher at Landing in 1991. While his professional life was blossoming, something about which he had dreamed for years, it did not take long for his personal life to follow suit.

In October of 1992, Smith bumped into Elizabeth Donohue at Oyster Bay's Oyster Festival. She had graduated from GCHS in 1984, so the two knew of each other but had never been formally acquainted.

They began speaking, and Elizabeth said she took note of how sweet and gentlemanly Smith was. Shortly afterwards, while working a nursing shift at Glen Cove Hospital, she received a dozen pastel roses from Smith with a card asking her to dinner. She accepted, and Elizabeth said those notions of chivalry and kindness remained consistent within him as they began dating. It was an easy decision, she said, to marry him in November, 1993.

The Smiths rented an apartment in Glen Cove before moving into a house in the city around the time they had their first daughter, Samantha, three years after they were married. Another three years later, Meghan was born.

Both Samantha and Meghan said their father was incredibly active in their lives, always taking them out into nature and spending as much time with them as possible.

"He was very engaged," Samantha said. "I think part of that stems from having been a teacher for so long and having a certain learned patience for children."



Courtesy Elizabeth Smith

ED SMITH'S WIFE, Elizabeth, top center, and daughters Meghan, left, and Samantha all said they will miss his caring, passionate and kind presence in their lives.

He also instilled his love for music within them, with Samantha becoming an accomplished pianist and Meghan doing the same with the clarinet. Samantha said music surrounded them growing up, making it a regular part of their lives.

"It was a norm in our household before we realized it was not a norm elsewhere," she said.

"He was a natural musician," Elizabeth said. "It came naturally for him, but he also worked at it and he wanted other people to have that appreciation and love for music."

This innate ability to make children fall in love with music was not exclusive to his daughters, as those with whom Smith worked professionally said the same.

Karen Serani, a health and physical education teacher at Landing, worked with Smith for 26 years and said his students adored him. She said he taught thousands of students and treated them all with the same kindness and care, helping them develop a passion for music which they may have not had otherwise.

"I think Ed was a man who transformed their vision of what music is," Serani said, "what it can be and how it can change their lives . . . Ed was an always upbeat person who found beauty

and greatness in every aspect of his life."

One of those students whose life was changed by Smith was David Maldonado. David's mother, Lerida, said her son was initially not sure of whether he enjoyed playing his trombone, which he started in third grade. However, she said that the love and enthusiasm Smith showed to each student helped ignite David's passion.

Now, as a sixth-grader, David plays with the seventh grade band, which Lerida said requires him to get to school earlier than normal. However, because he loves music so much, David said it is worth the trouble.

"My son just loves, loves to play and it's thanks to Mr. Smith," Lerida said. "If it wasn't for him, he wouldn't have as much love for his instrument."

Smith was also an accomplished musician outside of the classroom, as he joined the Northwinds Symphonic Band in 2007 and quickly became its principal clarinetist.

Jodie Larson, the band director at Sea Cliff Elementary, is one of the band's lead flutists. She said it was a privilege to play parallel to him.

"He was a leader," Larson said. "He was so creative that it was just a pleasure to watch him play."

Larson said she and Smith also worked together professionally. She would give him students to privately tutor in clarinet, and he would recommend students to do the same with her for the flute. Larson said she could not have imagined anyone better suited to help a child succeed in music than Smith.

"He would try to make a connection where he was able to reach deep into the soul of the student," Larson said, "no matter what age or what level, and bring out the best in them. I think Ed was able to do that."

As difficult as Smith's death has been on his family, his wife, Elizabeth, said her husband's burial arrangements have made it even harder. "One of the saddest things in the light of all this is we're not allowed to have a funeral and services," said. "There's an emptiness in it."

Elizabeth said the family plans on having a celebration of Smith's life as soon as they are able.

On what they will miss most about their father, Samantha said it will be the quality time they spent together. Meghan said it will be the holding his strong yet delicate hands.

And on what she will miss most about her husband, Elizabeth simply said, "Everything."

REGENCY ASSISTED LIVING resident Regine Schwartz wishes her loved ones a happy Passover.



Courtesy Regency Assisted Living

Regency Assisted Living residents celebrate Easter, Passover despite pandemic

Residents of Regency Assisted Living in Glen Cove usually look forward to Passover and Easter by either celebrating at the Regency or with their families. However, this year the pandemic put a halt to what people often took for granted. So, the recreation staff crafted messages

that were emailed to the residents' families. Wishes of Happy Passover and Happy Easter went out virtually this year.

On Easter Sunday, the Easter Bunny made a surprise visit at the Regency. Photo opportunities and Easter eggs were enjoyed by all.

The 'Do Good to Feel Good' program

Glen Cove's "Do Good to Feel Good" program has never been more relevant than it is now during the Covid-19 crisis. The program helps those who are out of work and need food and financial or health care support, along with police, fire and EMS workers needing a treat for all their hard work.

Councilwoman Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante and her husband John Ferrante have spent hours over the past several weeks gathering food donations.

Their most recent effort gathered many hundreds of cases of snack food, which was delivered to the staff of Glen Cove Hospital and the city's police, fire and EMS departments, in addition to the

city's Department of Public Works, several pharmacies and an urgent care center.

Generous donations were received from families and businesses.

"Our communities are always wonderfully generous," said Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, who also volunteers for food pickups and donations. "But during the coronavirus, I've seen an extraordinary amount of self-sacrifice to help others in need. It is so heartwarming."

Those interested in collecting and/or delivering food or making monetary donations to help neighbors in need, can contact DeRiggi-Whitton's office at (516) 571-6211 or dderiggiwhitton@nassaucountyny.gov.



Courtesy Debbie Greco

COUNCILWOMAN DR. EVE Lupenko Ferrante, left, and Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, right, delivered food to families to health care and other necessary workers.

Every life matters to us ...

Dear neighbor:

We live and work in this community. The lives of each and every one of you is important to us and we are here to tell your stories — from beginning to end. That includes the final chapter. At this difficult time, I want to remind you that obituaries in all Herald Community Newspapers are, and have always been, completely free.

COVID-19 has taken far too many, far too soon. Let us help you commemorate the life of your loved one with a story and photo celebrating their life. Contact our Executive Editor Scott Brinton, sbrinton@liherald.com or call 516-569-4000, ext 203, if you would like to memorialize a loved one in the Herald, regardless of their cause of death.

Stuart Richner
Publisher
srichner@liherald.com

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Photos by Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

SINCE HUGS AREN'T allowed, Kerri Scanlon, left, and Sven Gierlinger, Glen Cove Hospital's chief experience officer, gave each other virtual hugs.

DAVE YOUNG, RIGHT, information technology manager for the hospital, played a rendition of "New York State of Mind" on his saxophone, which had personal protective equipment on it.

GLEN COVE MAYOR Tim Tenke, far right, and Deputy Mayor Maureen Basdavanos, left, showed their support for hospital workers.



Staff give a big s for each other a

The staff at Glen Cove Hospital came together on Friday to share reflections and inspirational messages during "Don't Stop Believing," an event to celebrate them as they continue to fight Covid-19. The staff continues to be committed to providing outstanding care for patients during this pandemic.

The day also included words of gratitude and support from U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, who said he had a personal connection to Glen Cove Hospital where he was born. He recalled that in 2014 Glen Cove Hospital almost closed. "Can you imagine where we would be right now if they had?" Suozzi asked.

Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke also thanked hospital workers for their efforts. "We do nothing small in New York," Tenke said, "but I wish we would have done this [the virus] small."

Kerri Scanlon, RN, and executive director of Glen Cove Hospital, said that not only has the hospital been

successful in serving the community but it was also able to help colleagues all over Long Island. "We were able to quadruple our ICU capacity and double our medical/surgical inpatient capacity to better meet the needs of patients," she said. "None of this

I am so proud of what this team has accomplished during these most challenging times.

KERRI SCANLON
Executive director,
Glen Cove Hospital,

would have been possible without the exceptional, professional and caring team of Glen Cove Hospital. I am so proud of what this team has accomplished during these most challenging times."

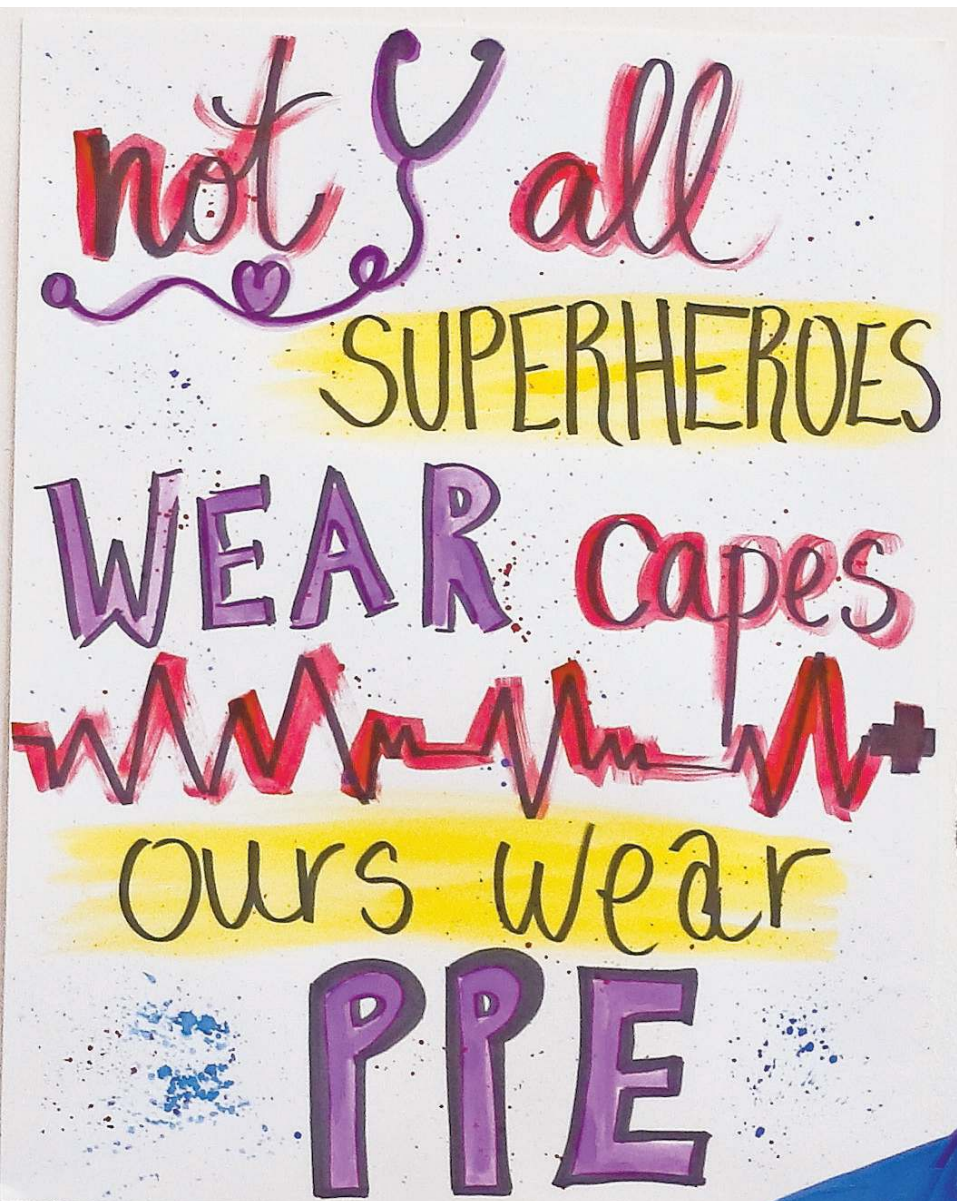
Frank Tetro, a member of the Glen Cove Hospital's cardiology department became ill with Covid-19 and was admitted as a patient. Discharged on April 7, he said he wanted to share his appreciation for the care he received.

"I cannot thank everyone enough — the doctors, nurses, environmental services — everyone who cared for me while I was fighting Covid-19," Tetro said. "Without you all, I wouldn't be here."

For Glen Cove Hospital, the road to the future is paved in hope.



Show of support at G.C. Hospital



REGISTERED NURSE PAOLA

Wilches, top, left, said that her uncle lost his battle with the coronavirus. She thanked everyone for fighting so hard to keep him alive and gave Sue Rassekh a virtual hug after the emotional story.

GLEN COVE STRONG

T-shirts were handed out by staff members Arkady Naginsky, above, left, and Yannah Degrasse from the Radiology Department.

U.S. REP TOM

Suozzi, left, who lives in Glen Cove, said he has a personal connection with the hospital because he was born there. And his father-in-law, Michael Wrotniak, had died at the hospital on April 13 from the coronavirus.

SEVERAL POSTERS WERE made to celebrate the staff at Glen Cove Hospital at the rally held on April 17.

RXR's volunteer program to help small businesses

By JENNIFER CORR

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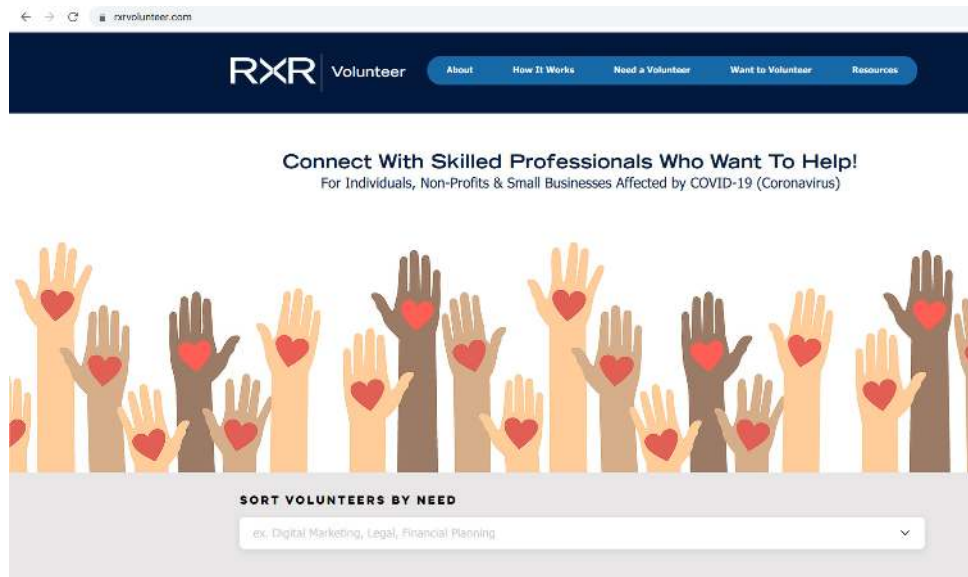
Representatives from RXR Realty, along with members of Glen Cove's chamber and business groups, participated at a Zoom meeting on April 17 to discuss the rollout of volunteer services that are being offered by RXR.

Professionals within RXR Realty's network have volunteered to offer their expertise to help small businesses and non-profits recover from the financial burdens of the pandemic.

Through the website, www.rxrvolunteer.com, business and non-profit owners can find marketing, social media, negotiation, human resources, design and legal professionals, along with professionals from other fields, to help them hit the ground running during or after local and state-mandated shutdowns.

"I think that the response from the businesses I've been working with has been excellent," said Ylisa Kunze, the director of community engagement for RXR. People think this is something that can really make a difference for our business owners and our non-profits."

The communities that this program will serve are those that RXR Realty does business within, such as Glen Cove, the North Shore, communities around the Nassau Hub Project at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum and New Rochelle, a city in Westchester once considered a hot



Courtesy RXR Realty

RXR REALTY LAUNCHED the website, www.rxrvolunteer.com, to help business owners in the communities where RXR does business recover from the financial burdens of the pandemic.

spot for Covid-19.

Connie Pinilla, the board director of the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the owner of Pinilla Law Firm PC, said that she appreciated the Spanish speaking volunteers available on RXR's database.

"That is a plus, plus, plus for our community," Pinilla said. "... an incredible benefit to our membership. So I applaud them."

Patricia Holman, the executive director of Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District, agreed.

Another vital service offered by the database, Holman said, is assistance with filing for Small Business Association loans. According to Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, the SBA declared Nassau County a disaster region on March 20 and made low-interest loans available for small businesses impacted

by the pandemic.

"Most of the businesses in our downtown area have less than 10 people working for them," Holman said. "So I would think [helping] fill out applications is the priority."

Struggles facing small businesses, Pinilla said, is the squeeze of cash flow. Holman is especially worried about service-oriented businesses where human contact can not be avoided, such as nail salons, massage parlors and fitness centers.

She's worried that these businesses will continue to struggle even after the state allows for non-essential businesses to open once again. Right now, some gyms, such as Glen Cove Yoga, are offering remote classes for paying members. Others are doing remote classes but are discounting or not charging membership fees.

As for essential businesses, such as grocery stores and restaurants, owners had to change their business practices quickly. "What I'm proud of is that basically overnight our restaurants and essential businesses have had to learn how to do business differently," Holman said.

She has been reminding all business owners that Downtown BID is there for them to answer questions, listen and to help find resources. "We want to be here in a small way and a big way," Holman said.

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WHERE

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WHEN

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WHY

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- Businesses must be locally owned and operated.
- Grants range from \$300 to \$15,000.
- Grants can be applied to any Herald Community Newspaper marketing product or service during April through July 15, 2020.
- Grants applied to direct mail products are net of postage/ mailing costs.



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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Coronavirus puts North Shore Little Leagues on hold

By MIKE CONN

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Although there are several Little League organizations on the North Shore, their administrators have all expressed the same sentiments about the potential of a lost season: Spring won't be the same without youth baseball.

Little Leagues across the state have shut down for now amid the coronavirus pandemic, leaving thousands of young players without the national pastime. James Versocki, commissioner of the Sea Cliff Baseball & North Shore Softball League, said the season was supposed to begin last Saturday, and he did not know whether it would start late or be canceled altogether.

"It breaks our heart that it's not going on yet, but we have to do it safely," Versocki said. "It's really disappointing. You only get to enjoy your kids once."

Darcy Belyea, director of Glen Cove's Parks and Recreation Department, said the Gold Coast Little League's season was supposed to begin on April 18. The league is chartered by Little League International, which has advised that leagues conduct no activity until May 11 at the earliest. Belyea added that the league would follow Gov. Andrew Cuomo's advice on sports and parks, and would be up and running if and when he gave the go-ahead. If the season could start by June 1, she said, schedules could be modified and the season could be shortened.

Season-opening efforts must be coordinated with surrounding villages and hamlets, Belyea said, because some Gold Coast Little League teams also play against squads from Sea Cliff, Locust Valley, Bayville and Oyster Bay.

Ryan Nardone, of Glen Cove, has three children in the Gold Coast league and coaches three of its teams, as well as two travel baseball teams for the Glen Cove

Cardinals, who play year-round. This would have been his seventh year of coaching Little League, and he said and he and his children are dismayed that the season may not happen.

"It's really upsetting," Nardone said. "It's even more disappointing for the kids, who have constant questions about when they're going to start."

While not having a season would be hard for experienced Little Leaguers, Nardone said it could be just as tough for children hoping to play for the first time. They would miss out on the lessons in socialization that are an integral part of playing a team sport, he said, and an important part of any child's life. There is nothing like the camaraderie of a team, he said.

"I think they're missing out on developing their skills," said Dave Ludmar, a Sea Cliff Baseball & North Shore Softball League board member, "being out with their friends and all the lessons baseball and softball teach kids, like sportsmanship, teamwork and how to win and how to lose."

Fellow board member Mark D'Altorio, the league's tee ball coordinator, said that developing social skills is especially important for children in that division. Tee ball is a social activity, he explained, the first opportunity for many children to play organized sports and make friends, even before starting school. "I think that sense of community — just being introduced to new people — is a big thing that they're missing out on right now," D'Altorio said.

Fewer opportunities for physical activity in the midst of a pandemic are also a concern to Little League administrators and coaches, since staying inside can limit a child's chances to exercise. Versocki said that his son, Jonathan, 12, a sixth-grader at North Shore Middle School, has had to keep a



Ryan Hedlund/Herald Gazette

USUALLY A HUB of sports activity in Glen Cove, John Maccarone Stadium may be empty for the entirety of what would have been the Gold Coast Little League season.

log of physical fitness activity every day for school. One of the ways he has stayed active is with online CrossFit classes.

Nonetheless, D'Altorio acknowledged the common understanding that staying healthy is more important than sports. "People have it a great deal worse than not being able to play baseball," he said. "It's difficult, but I think you understand that other people's well-being, especially the children and parents who come out to the games, is paramount in importance."

Even if the Little League season is

canceled, Belyea said, the Glen Cove Parks and Recreation Department could host pickup game nights, when children could play unofficial games of supervised baseball, softball, kickball or wiffle ball. They would likely take place in the city's John Maccarone Stadium, she said, with Pascucci Soccer Field as a possible alternative.

"This is a bad situation for all," Belyea said, "and Parks and Recreation is really hopeful that we can still open our facilities and roll out programs for our residents, and give them a bit of respite in this difficult time."

HERALD COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
New York State Dept of Environmental Conservation Notice of Complete Application
Date: 04/16/2020
Applicant: City of Glen Cove, City Hall, 9 Glen St., Glen Cove, NY 11542
Facility: Dosoris Pond Outlet & Tide Gates; Southland Dr., Glen Cove, NY 11542
Application ID: 1-2805-00058/00013
Permit(s) Applied for: 1 - Article 25 Tidal Wetlands
1 - Article 15 Title 5 Excavation & Fill in Navigable Waters
1 - Section 401 - Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification
Project is located: in Glen Cove in Nassau County
Project Description: The applicant proposes to rehabilitate existing tide gates, install rip-rap around wingwalls, and

construct rain gardens. The applicant also proposes the construction of a living shoreline by placing fill, regrading, and installing coir logs, natural fiber mats, and native plantings below mean high water along the north shore of Dosoris Pond and at Prybil Beach to help stabilize these shorelines and reduce the amount of stormwater run-off reaching the waterways. The proposed project is located at East Island Bridge, at the intersection of Dana's Highway and Southland Drive, and at Prybil Beach, Eastland Drive in the City of Glen Cove in Nassau County. Availability of Application Documents: Filed application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal

business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person. State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination: Project is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration is on file. A coordinated review was not performed. SEQR Lead Agency: None designated. State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination: Evaluation using a Structural-Archaeological Assessment Form or other information has concluded that the

proposed activity will not impact registered, eligible, or inventoried archaeological sites or historic structures. Coastal Management: This project is located in a Coastal Management area and is subject to the Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act. Availability For Public Comment: Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person no later than 05/14/2020 or 15 days after the publication date of this notice, whichever is later. Contact Person: Sherri L. Aicher, NYSDEC, SUNY @ Stony Brook; 50 Circle Rd, Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409 (631) 444-0403 121646

We thank you Herald Community Newspapers salutes our 'hometown heroes'

While many of us have stayed at home to protect our families and loved ones, our health care workers, first responders and others on the front lines wake up each day and leave their families and loved ones behind to respond to those in need. In their selfless devotion to others, these courageous individuals expose themselves to risk for the people in our communities.

These are people who stand out in times of crises. They might first responders going above and beyond or even a good neighbor helping another neighbor in need.

The Herald joins our communities and readers in expressing our gratitude to these special people making a difference during this trying time. We are all thankful to our police officers, firefighters, mail carriers, grocery employees, restaurant

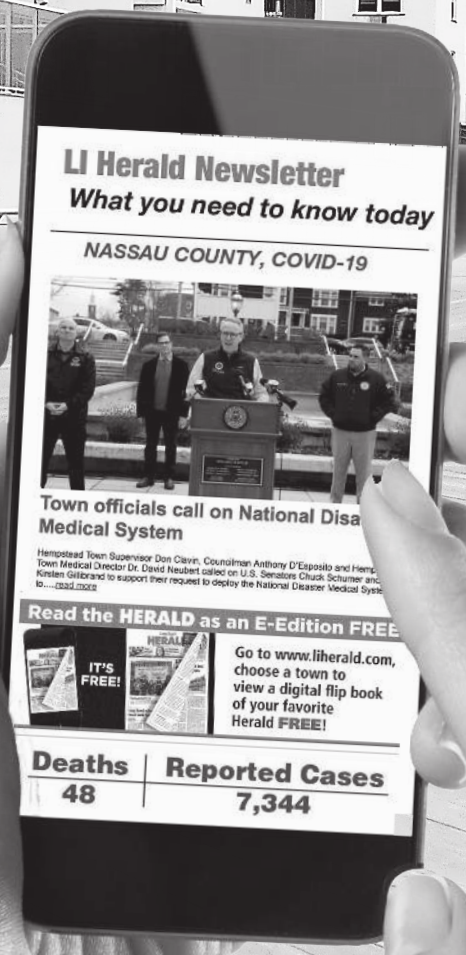
workers, delivery drivers and essential service providers who put themselves on the front lines of the crisis daily.

We will share these outstanding stories of our local "hometown heroes" in a special pull-out section, "Salute to Covid-19 Hometown Heroes," in the April 30 editions of the Herald. The spirit and heart of Long Island are exemplified every day by the many outstanding individuals who often go unrecognized. The Herald honors them in this inspirational section. Get to know these amazing people who share their insights in their own words.

Net proceeds from this special section will be used to partner with local businesses to provide meals and gifts to our local health care workers, first responders and patients.

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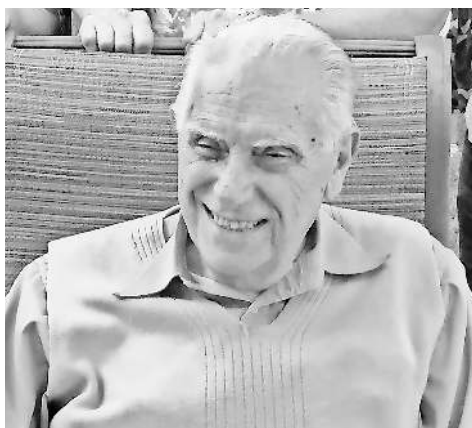
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OBITUARIES



Courtesy Anita Cocchiola

VITO M. LIANTONIO served as an usher, a minister and was president of the Nocturnal Adoration Society at St. Patrick's RCC in Glen Cove. He died on April 4.

Vito M. Liantonio

Vito M. Liantonio, age 92, of Glen Cove died on April 4, 2020. Devoted husband of June (deceased) for 61 years; father to Susan, Anita (Ron) Cocchiola, and Jeanne (David) Fennes; grandfather of Kristopher, Daniel, Stephanie, Erik, Carley; great-grandfather of three; predeceased by his brother Joseph and sister Grace. Vito received his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and from there he began an amazing career spanning 60 years, beginning at Curtiss-Wright, Fairchild Stratus and lastly 36 years at Target Rock in Farmingdale. Being a devout Catholic and humble man, one would never know the knowledge in his brain or the fact he authored several patents and published

many technical papers. Needless to say, he was loved by many and will be missed. A memorial mass to celebrate Vito's life will be determined at a later date.

Ki Bong Bae

Ki Bong "Kay" Bae, 73, of Glen Cove died on April 6. Beloved husband of Seung Ok; loving father of Captain Sang-Jim Bae of the G.C. Fire Department and Charles Bae. Longtime owner of Kay's Deli in Glen Cove, he was also known as the "Landing Legend" because he cared so much for the Landing neighborhood. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Service and Interment private.

Raffaele Delnigro

Raffaele Delnigro, 85, of Glen Cove died on April 7. Beloved husband of Francesca; loving father of Mina Mostacciuolo (Giuseppe), Michele (the late Mike Pinto) and Lina Cameron (Kevin); dear brother of eight; adored grandfather of Cristina, Giovanna, Matteo, Nico and the late R.J.; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Mr. Delnigro loved to garden and had a "green thumb." He was a hard worker and loved his family. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home in Glen Cove. Private entombment service at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Despina Mengisopoulos

Despina Mengisopoulos, 86, of Glen Cove died on April 10. Beloved wife of the late Haralambos; loving mother of Osia and

the late Alik; adored grandmother of Dimitrios. Private Service at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home by Fr. Papadopoulos of the Greek Orthodox Church in Brookville. Private Burial at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Tommaso Cipriano

Tommaso Cipriano, 69, of Glen Cove died on April 10. Beloved husband of Grace; loving father of Beatrice Lorenti (Domenico); dear brother of Rocco, Antonio, Michelina, Michele and the late Maria; Cherished nonno of Isabella and Salvatore; also survived by many nieces. Private family visitation held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home in Glen Cove. Prayers held at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Gerardina Capobianco

Gerardina Capobianco, 86, of Glen Cove died on April 12. Beloved wife of the late Antonio Vittorio; loving mother of Joseph (Anne) and the Late Vincenzo; dear sister of Giuseppina Innamorato (Lorenzo), Grace Stanco (Frank) and Lorenzo Graziosi (Tommasina); proud grandmother of Anthony, Lauren and Elizabeth; also survived by many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. In light of current the situation a private burial service will take place at Locust Valley Cemetery and a memorial mass will be held at a later date.

William Katsikas

William "Bill" Katsikas, 86, of Glen Cove

died April 12. Beloved husband of Carmen; loving father of Robert (Diane), Ellen Maruca (Joe), Lorraine Martinez (Anthony) and the late Tino; adored grandfather of seven; cherished great-grandfather of five. Bill was a member of Glen Cove Special Police and a Pistol Instructor for Glen Cove Police Department. He was an avid hunter and a longtime member of Matinecock Rod & Gun Club and the Roslyn Gun Club. Bill was also a member of the Glen Cove Moose Lodge. Private Service conducted at Locust Valley Cemetery.

Angelina A. Lombardi

Angelina A. nee Bozzello Lombardi, 90, died on April 13. Beloved wife of the late David; loving mother of David Jr. and the late Robert and Patricia; dear sister of Marianna Baker and Marguerite Viteritti; proud grandmother of 8 and great-grandmother of 5. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Private Interment Service.

Frankie Mickens

Frankie Mickens, 64, of Glen Cove, died on April 8. Beloved husband of Shirley; loving father of Frankie Jr., Jawana and Ulie; dear brother of Wanda, Pete, Albert, Raymond, Richard and Calvin; proud grandfather of four. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Private Interment Service at Calverton National Cemetery.

Retired GCPD patrol officer dies from Covid-19

By JENNIFER CORR

Jcorr@iherald.com

John Fred Barwick, a retired Glen Cove patrol officer, died from Covid-19 on April 9 at age 79. Barwick who had retired from the Glen Cove Police Department in 1985, had been working at North Shore University Hospital as a security guard.

After GCPD Chief William Whitton knew Barwick well. The two worked together after Whitton left the police academy and began his career in Glen Cove.

"He was a wonderful communicator," Whitton said. "He really had a firm knowledge of what this job was and what it took to be a police officer."

Whitton said Barwick, who retired as a patrol officer, was never interested in getting promoted to a higher position. His favorite part of the job, Whitton said, was patrolling the village on foot. "That was his calling," Whitton said. "He didn't want to be a supervisor; he didn't want to be a detective. He really enjoyed going out on the streets; patrolling, walking through the village, talking."

Barwick's wife Millicent, said that she always knew when he was home because

she would hear the rattling of his many keys, which were for the storefronts in the city. Barwick was proud of being a police officer, Millicent said, especially in the community he loved.

"He was always interested in what was happening in the community," Millicent said. "He loved Glen Cove, no doubt about it."

Millicent Ricco married her "soul mate" in 1972, dating for two years prior. They are both long time Glen Cove residents and that's where they also raised a family. Millicent said her husband loved his son, Jeff, his daughter-in-law Tina, and three grandchildren, Justin, Madison and Paige. Barwick is also survived by his goddaughter Sue Craig. Craig, who lives in FL, has a very close relationship with the Barwicks'.

"I knew Fred for over 50 years," his cousin, Nick Mondello, said. "A gentleman, a patriot, dedicated law enforcement officer, loving husband . . . a guy's guy."

Glen Cove Detective Lt. John Nagle, who was hired around the time Barwick retired, said that he "had a heart of gold. He was a well-liked officer of the department."

Whitton echoed that point. "I was told

when I was in the police academy that the best police officers are the best communicators and his forte was communication," he said. "John was the person who wanted to put on that uniform and wanted to be a symbol of safety and security. To be somebody that people could come to and ask questions and to help as best he could."

Besides being a good cop, Whitton said, Barwick was a good writer. He would publish a monthly story in Nassau County's Police Blotter. Millicent added that he enjoyed writing letters to the local paper and that she would receive phone calls of praise for his writing all the time.

"He wrote the blotter for years and he was a really good storyteller and a wonderful person with words," Whitton said. "He also had a tremendous sense of humor."

Millicent agreed, adding that Barwick always had a smile on his face. "Most people have arguments in a marriage, but he never lost his temper," she said.

After Barwick retired, Whitton said, he continued his involvement with the law enforcement community. Barwick attended P.B.A. meetings and continued to

mentor new cops and older, seasoned officers as well.

"The Glen Cove P.B.A. mourns the loss of one of our brothers, John 'Fred' Barwick," Sergeant Ryan Nardone, the president of the Glen Cove P.B.A., said. "His service to the City of Glen Cove and the P.B.A. will not be forgotten. We offer prayers for him and his family and encourage the community to do the same. We look forward to the time when the P.B.A. can assist the Barwick family in a celebration of his life."

"His most favorite shows were Blue Bloods and Chicago PD," Millicent added. "Guess why?"

Barwick was also involved with Matinecock Rod & Gun Club of Glen Cove, a sports club for hunting, pistol, skeet and fishing enthusiasts. He served as president twice. Millicent said that he loved "the great outdoors."

During his whole career, he always did custom upholstery on the side. "He was never an idle guy," Millicent said.

It is not yet clear if there will be a memorial service for Barwick, due to the Covid-19, which makes such gatherings impossible for now.

Nassau County is child care desert: official

By TIMOTHY DENTON

tdenton@liherald.com

Much of Nassau County is a child care desert, resulting in billions in lost revenue, according to a study released on Friday by Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman.

The lockdown due to the Covid-19 virus has highlighted the issue, showing that many Nassau County families depend on schools to provide daycare for their older children. Care for younger children, however, has always been a challenge for many families.

“Nassau County is a patchwork, varying widely from district to district,” Schnirman wrote in the study. “Despite nearly \$9 billion in public school tax levies, only 10 percent of 4-year-olds have access to publicly funded pre-K programs, compared to universal access in New York City,” Schnirman wrote in the report.

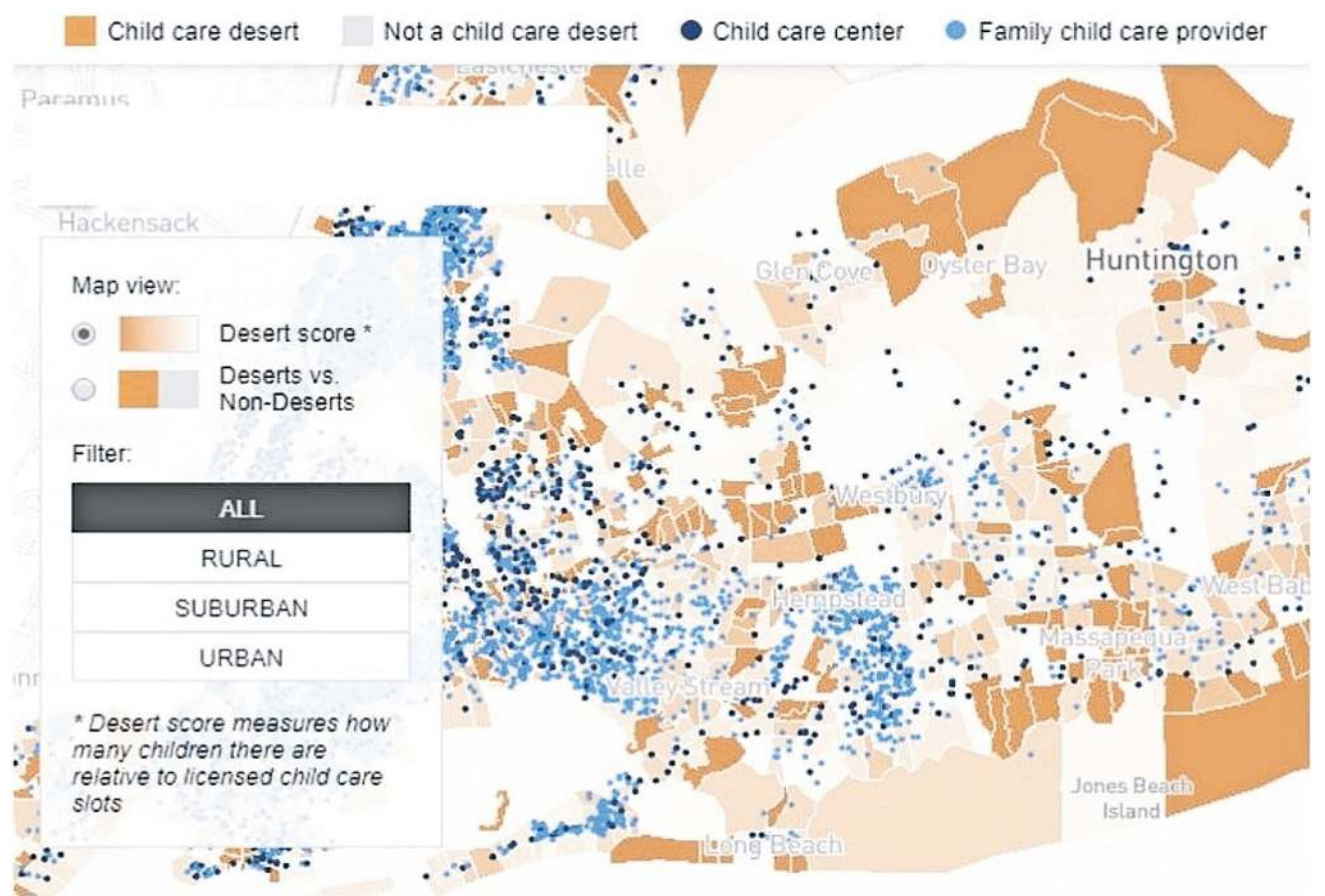
Both Seaford and Wantagh are considered child care deserts — any census tract where more than 50 children are without providers, or where providers are so scarce that they are able to serve less than one-third of the total need, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. More than 60 percent of New York State is considered a child care desert.

Nassau County has a total of about 43,650 pre-K places, where more than 138,000 are needed, the study found, with minority and low-income families having the least access to pre-K programs.

Averaging more than \$15,000 per year, infant care represents about 12 percent of a median family’s income of \$116,300. For a family earning \$52,400, or 200 percent of the official federal poverty level for a family of four, infant care for one child represents nearly 29 percent of the family’s pretax income.

According to the Census Bureau, “child care is critical. It either propels or stalls the local economy.” Locally, “child care has one of the highest economic multipliers, with a return of \$1.95 for every dollar invested,” Schnirman wrote.

Of those who work part-time, lack of child care is



Source: Center for American Progress, childcaredeserts.org

Herald file photo

NASSAU COUNTY SHOWS a wide disparity in access to affordable child care.

the most commonly cited reason for not accepting full-time work. Women make up 94 percent of the involuntary part-time workforce, due to child care concerns, Schnirman wrote, and 46 percent of Nassau County

families have no reliable child care.

Child care is an \$800 million industry on Long Island, employing roughly 9,000 workers.

Belmont Park delays horseracing season

The opening of the Belmont Park’s spring-summer horseracing season will be delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic from April 24 to June 6, when the 152nd running of the Belmont Stakes is to take place, said New York Racing Association officials last week.

The date of the Belmont Stakes is subject to change, however.

“The Belmont Stakes is a New York institution and American tradition,” NYRA CEO and President Dave O’Rourke said. “We are committed to running the race in 2020 and aim to deliver an announcement in the very near future.”

The racing season normally runs 51 days.

“We are working closely with the New York State Gaming Commission and public health officials to determine a timeline for the resumption of live racing at Belmont Park,” O’Rourke said. “The

health and safety of our racing community is paramount, and any decisions or necessary adjustments to the racing schedule and operations must reflect that priority. I’d like to thank New York’s horsemen and the backstretch community for their dedication and patience as we navigate these uncertain times together.”

The Belmont backstretch, which is home to 585 workers who tend to the essential daily care of the more than 1,300 thoroughbreds stabled there, has remained open to the horses’ caregivers and operational for training. Owners are not permitted access to the backstretch until further notice.

NYRA posted coronavirus-related signs in English and Spanish across the backstretch, noting key information about social distancing and hand washing, and a hotline to call for workers feeling the onset of symptoms.



Herald file photo

BELMONT PARK’S SPRING/SUMMER meet will not open April 24 as originally scheduled.

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OPINIONS

For American higher education, it's time to lead

As the nation emerges from the coronavirus lockdown and begins to return to a semblance of normalcy, many of our cherished institutions will face some harsh realities. Nowhere will this dose of reality be starker than for America's colleges and universities.

While our public school system will go through some wrenching times as it comes back to life, K-12 parents and students will not face the prospect of crushing debt and soaring costs that have been inflicted on consumers of higher education. College students, in contrast, will return to campuses

not only having missed most of a semester of classes; they will also struggle with exorbitantly high costs that will financially burden many of them for the rest of their lives.

How did we come to this sad turn of events, in which college degrees that should create a pathway to opportunity and prosperity instead present a long road of debt and possible financial ruin? Today,

tuition and costs at some private colleges hovers in the range of \$50,000 to \$70,000 per year. College grads carry debt that can run from tens of thousands of dollars for undergraduate degrees to over \$100,000 for post-graduate degrees. As they struggle to cover this debt, buying a home often becomes a distant dream. Even buying a new car often gives way to making the monthly college debt payment.

Total college student debt today exceeds \$1.5 trillion. With the added burden of the current financial crisis, much of this debt is unworkable. Student loan defaults on a large scale are likely unavoidable. And while the just-passed national financial rescue legislation provides some relief by postponing debt payment and interest for a time, the overall financial burden will remain.

Predictably, some in Washington are calling for forgiving much, if not all, college debt. But like the other emergency financial measures passed by Congress, such relief couldn't go on indefinitely. Future college students will continue to face high costs and mountainous loans. The cycle of debt and default will continue to loom on the financial horizon.

The leaders of our higher education system have a moral obligation to break this vicious cycle. Just as the Federal Reserve system has taken extraordinary measures to shore up the nation's finances,

colleges and universities should also take emergency action to ease the financial burden on their students. College administrators shouldn't cry hardship and shirk from this responsibility.

Nationwide, colleges are sitting on endowments of well over half a trillion dollars, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. They should seriously consider making these funds available to students to help pay down their current loans and reduce future tuition costs. If the Fed can tap into the national treasury for "quantitative easing" to lessen strains on our national economy, higher education treasuries can likewise tap into their great wealth to help ease their students' money crisis.

And going forward, it's long past time for colleges and universities to get real about not just containing, but *lowering* their stratospheric spending. Too many campuses have become islands of extravagance and excess amid a sea of hardship in their surrounding communities. In just one glaring example here in New York, a college president makes \$5.1 million a year, 35 times what the school's professors make, on average, and equal to the tuitions of 99 students, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. Yet the community in which the school is located is one of New York's poorest, with finances so precarious that it hovers near bankruptcy. In

that town, as in so many others, the college is literally the shining, distant fortress on the hill with the surrounding town languishing below.

This college, and others like it, should take a hard look at themselves. Every expense should be examined, every bit of excess wrung out. The goal should be to reduce tuition and keep costs manageable over students' academic careers.

In the future, public policy in Washington and Albany must be to stop rewarding higher education's financial excesses and incentivize affordability instead. Federal and state aid should increase only for schools that bring their costs down. That means fewer top-heavy college administrators tripping over each other, more professors teaching more than only 10 or 12 hours a week, and fewer extravagant campus building sprees.

When students return to college this fall, they'll return to a world changed by nature and hard times. If colleges want students to succeed, it's time for them to lead.

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.



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HERALD EDITORIAL

Small businesses need more federal help

Let's not mince words: The federal government's Paycheck Protection Program, which was supposed to hurry loans to small businesses so they can make payroll and stay afloat, has been troubled from the start.

With \$349 billion in its coffers, the program, administered by the Small Business Administration, ran out of money last Thursday, leaving tens of millions of employers in the lurch, wondering whether they will be able to meet payroll at a time when so many small businesses are limping along because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of Main Street America, employing 48 percent of our national workforce. In total, there are 28 million small businesses across the U.S., according to Forbes. They desperately need — and deserve — better, particularly in the hardest-hit regions like the Northeast.

According to a CBS News analysis of SBA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, New York, which has by far the greatest number of cases of Covid-19 of any state, was fourth on the list of states to receive PPP loans. Meanwhile, businesses in Texas received more such loans than any other state, even though the Lone Star State has the 10th-largest Covid-19 caseload

in the U.S.

Apparently, Texas processed loans faster than New York, as the money went from the federal government to banks on a first-come, first-served basis, creating a race for funding. But that was unfair, because in places where need was greatest, like New York, businesses were struggling most to run their daily operations, and so were hamstrung in their ability to file for loans.

The federal government should have set a date by which all loan applications were due, and then divided the money thereafter based on need.

At the same time, some very big businesses received loans under the program. The owner of the Ruth's Chris Steak House chain nabbed a \$20 million loan, despite having more than 5,000 employees and \$468 million in revenue last year. The PPP was supposed to have been limited to businesses with fewer than 500 employees, but Congress included an exception for hotels and restaurants.

Most big-name chains did not apply for PPP loans, but others, including Potbelly, Kura Sushi and Shake Shack, did. (Shake Shack announced Sunday night that it would return its \$10 million loan, citing confusion over the program's regulations and

saying that other businesses needed the money more than it did.)

There were other problems with the program. Big banks, for example, lent money to their own customers first, and then to others. Many required borrowers to already have an established line of credit with the bank to receive a PPP loan. The thing is, this was a federal government program, and no loan applicant should have received preferential treatment.

At press time, Congress was negotiating a \$310 billion extension of the program, which would bring the total expenditure to \$649 billion. One Forbes analysis, however, estimated the PPP really needs as much as \$850 billion to fully fund all of the small businesses now in dire need.

We commend Congress for making money available to small businesses quickly. Sadly, however, the program has become another of many political footballs amid the coronavirus crisis. What's lacking is national leadership. President Trump and Congress should be united in their desire to aid small businesses — now, not later.

If the federal government doesn't act fast, with one voice, our downtowns could soon become ghost towns, and that would be terrible for us all.

Thanks for all you've done, Governor Cuomo

We have offered high praise to our first responders and medical workers on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic, and no doubt, they deserve every bit of it. Check out our story this week on Elyse Isopo, a North Shore University Hospital Intensive Care Unit nurse practitioner. Her determination to save lives is evident in her every word, and her fear of spreading Covid-19 to her family at her home is palpable.

Good people like her are truly heroes.

We must also acknowledge a hero of a different sort: Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who, despite finding himself in the center of this unfolding international disaster, has provided levelheaded, science-based leadership that has served as a model for governors across the U.S.

Cuomo quickly realized the magnitude of the pandemic and acted decisively, without political rancor. For the most part, he has been careful not to mix up it with President Trump, despite repeated the president's repeated goading.

Cuomo has not used this crisis to further his own brand. Rather, he has acted in the best interests of all New Yorkers, and this week we are seeing the results of his actions. The Covid-19 death toll is, as predicted, beginning to drop, as are the new hospitalization rate, the ICU admissions rate and the number of new ventilator intubations.

Governor, thank you. We will surely need your steady guiding hand in the weeks, months and years ahead as New York recovers from this unexpected catastrophe.

LETTERS

High-density housing must end in G.C.

To the Editor:

Glen Cove has more than 440 people who have tested positive for Covid-19. This does not include those who are patients in the hospital or are residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This statistic is from the Nassau County Coronavirus Map. All the other North Shore communities

combined do not total even a quarter of Glen Cove's number. As such, we all need to contribute logical, intelligent, common-sense ideas that will lead to a rational solution in addressing this deadly problem.

What are the contributing factors that cause Glen Cove's numbers to be so astronomically high? What is specific to Glen Cove that the other communities do not have?

The answer is high-density housing. Living in close proximity to one another causes disease to



CAREGIVERS—THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE...THANK YOU

OPINIONS

A loving tribute to my irreplaceable elders

My aunt Sylvia Gentile Brownstein died April 11 in a nursing home in New Jersey, of Covid-19. She was 97 years old, and lived in a room at the facility with her husband of 74 years, Murray Brownstein. He was my mother's older brother. The last time I saw him was seven years ago, when I visited him in Florida, and he



**RANDI
KREISS**

insisted we go to a pub nearby because they were serving free ice cream to World War II veterans. A proud Navy vet who lied about his age to get into the service when he was 16, Uncle Murray served on a minesweeper in the Pacific.

Aunt Sylvia died alone, because Uncle Murray had become sick and unable to comfort her. Before the pandemic, which precluded visitors, they were cared for by their daughter, my cousin, who has shepherded them through these last difficult years.

But only the ending was sad.

Murray met Sylvia in Brooklyn just after the war. He fell in love, and defied

his Jewish family by marrying an Italian Catholic girl. Smart guy. She was a gem, loving and mildly crazy, so she fit right in, seeing as how everyone in our anxious, highly emotive clan is a notch off plumb.

When I was a kid, Aunt Syl and Uncle Murray lived in Valley Stream and we lived in Cedarhurst, so the visits were frequent. Murray was a Garment District wheeler and dealer who won big and lost big over the years. Aunt Sylvia was a homemaker extraordinaire. She cleaned that house until it sparkled, every single day. And she was an outstanding cook. Her specialty was Italian food, and an invitation to their table was a gift.

When she hosted Thanksgiving, the meal started with homemade minestrone, and was followed by eggplant parmesan, spaghetti and meatballs and veal cutlet parmesan. I don't recall seeing anything green, as in a string bean, on the table. The last entry was the turkey, an afterthought, a gesture to the new world, fully dressed but largely ignored because we were all so stuffed from the Italian feast.

I confess, I didn't know Aunt Sylvia as

a woman. I have no idea what her dreams or joys or disappointments were. I do know she raised her kid sister, Madelaine, when their mother died very young. Madelaine joined Murray and Sylvia's family, big sister to their own two kids.

I wish I had gotten to know Aunt Syl better; but in those days, people kept to their roles: She was the elder aunt and I was the young niece. Uncle Murray was difficult, but she would never talk about anything as personal as her marriage. She had a twin sister, Anna, and I suspect that that was her most emotionally intimate relationship. They had a brother, too,

Johnny, who went to the Naval Academy and was the pride of the family.

Every Christmas of my childhood, we went to Aunt Syl and Uncle Murray's for an event that was part celebration and part child abuse. As dinner drew to a close, we would hear someone stomping up the basement steps and the loud jingling of bells. Eight little kids immediately dived under the dinner table and began screaming, which sent the adults into fits of laughter. Not normal, right?

The stomping came closer, our screaming got louder, and suddenly Santa burst through the basement door. We kids were traumatized. He was a terror in his wild white wig and garish Santa mask. None of us noticed that Uncle Murray had disappeared from the dinner table some time earlier. This intruder was the Santa from hell, and we were scared out of our socks.

The elders, however, were greatly entertained, and so this became a cherished tradition, and we did it every year. I think I was finishing my junior year in college when I realized that Uncle Murray was Santa Claus.

All of our childhood birthdays were occasions for big parties. Aunt Syl and the other aunts and uncles would raise a glass or three, and before long the women were dancing on the table and the men were telling stories about the war and the old Brooklyn neighborhood. It was a rich experience for a little kid who was all eyes and ears.

I don't know if Aunt Syl was a religious woman, but wherever she went, she wasn't alone for long. The day after she passed, Uncle Murray died. He was 98.

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LETTERS

spread rapidly, as evidenced by the current number of Covid-19 cases we are experiencing. The obvious solution is to immediately stop the approval of more high-density structures. We never had such high-density construction until the city's master plan was formulated in 2010. It changed the landscape, the character and health, safety and well-being of Glen Cove and its residents. Unfortunately, we are all suffering, and many are dying.

The solution is to stop approving high-density construction. Cap all buildings to two stories in height for those that have not already been constructed. Limit the number of units per floor in an apartment building. The master plan directed that it would be revised every two years and re-evaluated in 10 years from inception. Since none of these directives ever occurred, the master plan should be declared null and void. A new plan, with severe density limits, which restores the health, safety, welfare and well-being of Glen Cove and its residents, is of paramount importance. Nothing is more important.

I propose that this topic be addressed immediately. We do not have time to waste. The life you save could be your own.

GRACE SLEZAK
Glen Cove

Ferry launch delayed because of pandemic

To the Editor:

With the ever-evolving state of the world during the coronavirus pandemic, the City of Glen Cove has continued to abide by its first priority: to protect the safety of its residents. In constant communication with the State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, the city has decided not to go forward with the launch of the Glen Cove commuter ferry on Memorial Day.

The launch will happen when commuters start to return to work in Manhattan. City officials are optimistic and remain excited to launch this extraordinary amenity to serve the residents in Glen Cove and all of Long Island.

As many aspects of the world's current health crisis change day to day, the community will be updated as soon as new information is made available. And the city will continue to ensure that it is fully in step with the ferry operator, Hornblower.

Above all, the city will continue to keep the health and safety of residents and commuters as its top priority. Updates on the timing of the ferry launch will be shared with residents as soon as possible.

TIMOTHY TENKE
Glen Cove mayor

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



The beauty of the closed Sagamore Hill – Oyster Bay



Message from Congressman Tom Suozzi

We are in this together!

“Yes, this is a tough time. No getting around that. Some of us are sick. We all know someone who has died. Some folks are truly worried about not only their health, but their finances. We are isolated from our friends, neighbors and family. Some are doing their jobs from home while also home schooling their children. And some are suiting up with face coverings and gloves to do their “essential” jobs or just to go shopping. We are all grateful. We are all affected.

Throughout our nation’s history, the resilience and spirit of Americans in times of hardship have been proven over and over again. We will come out on the other side of this. In the meantime, we are a country that has faced crisis many times, and standing strong and standing together, we survived and thrived. We will survive this crisis, but it will be much easier if we do it together, taking care of each other, lending a helping hand to our neighbors.

We are in this together!

Stay Home. Stay Safe. Stop the Spread.”

- Tom

CONGRESS ★ 2020

SUOZZI



SuozziForCongress.com