

GLEN COVE

HERALD

Gazette



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Herald file photo

THERE ARE ROUGHLY 30 homes on East Island. Residents have access to a small beach, which is called Morgan's Beach.

On Glen Cove's East Island, hostility comes to a head

72-year-old is charged with assaulting teen

By **LAURA LANE**
and **JENNIFER CORR**

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Glen Cover Louis Fugazy, 72, was arrested on Aug. 10 and charged with assaulting Ali Awan, 19, also of Glen Cove, because, apparently, the teen was playing his music too loudly in a public space.

A video shows Fugazy

approaching Awan and saying, "You're here to annoy us, right?" Fugazy then grabs Awan by the neck, and the two struggle.

Glen Cove police say the incident happened at 12:57 p.m. on the beach in the East Island section of Glen Cove. Both men frequent East Island Beach, commonly known as Morgan's Beach by

locals.

Fugazy was charged with third-degree assault, and will be arraigned in Glen Cove City Court on Aug. 25.

Awan videotaped the alleged assault, and his brother Khizer, 22, posted it on Facebook, where, at press time, it had more than 32,000 views.

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Glen Cove gyms welcome clients back

By **JENNIFER CORR**
and **KAREN BLOOM**

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Gyms across New York state can reopen as soon as next Monday, following inspection by local authorities, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Monday. Facilities can reopen at 33 percent capacity, with face coverings, and ventilation that meets state guidelines, required.

"Localities have a role here," Cuomo said. "They have to inspect gyms before they open, or within two weeks before they open."

Glen Cove gym owners were happy to hear the announcement, which came exactly five months after gyms were forced to close because of the coronavirus pandemic. "We've been preparing," said Alvin Batista, who owns Glen Cove Fitness. "I've already upgraded the HVAC system with the MERV-13 filters, which is one of the recommendations [Cuomo] made. We've increased sanitizer stations. We added a

hand-wash station."

Asked about the requirement that clients wear masks at all times, even while they exercise, Batista said the rule would be enforced. "After being closed for five months, our goal is to open up and stay open," he said. "We

We're doing everything we can do to keep the place as safe as possible.

ALVIN BATISTA
Glen Cove Fitness

don't want to have any increases in infection . . . We're doing everything we can do to keep the place as safe as possible."

According to the American Council on Exercise, most people can safely exercise while wearing a mask. They should monitor how they feel during workouts, however, because masks do slightly restrict airflow. Dizziness, lightheadedness and shortness of breath are signs that someone should slow down.

Those who work out with masks on, according to the council, should reduce the intensity of their workouts, especially if they involve routines such as high-intensity interval training, which stresses the cardio-respi-

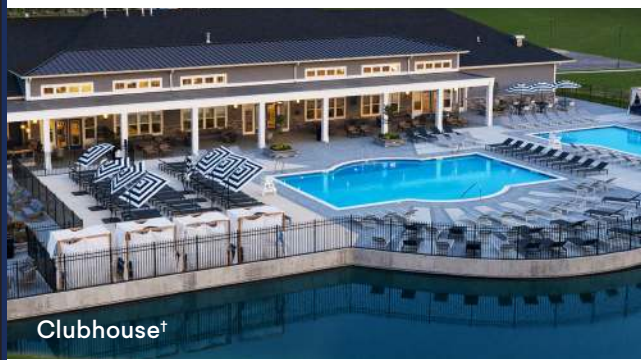
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Gyms will reopen, with clients in masks

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ratory system.

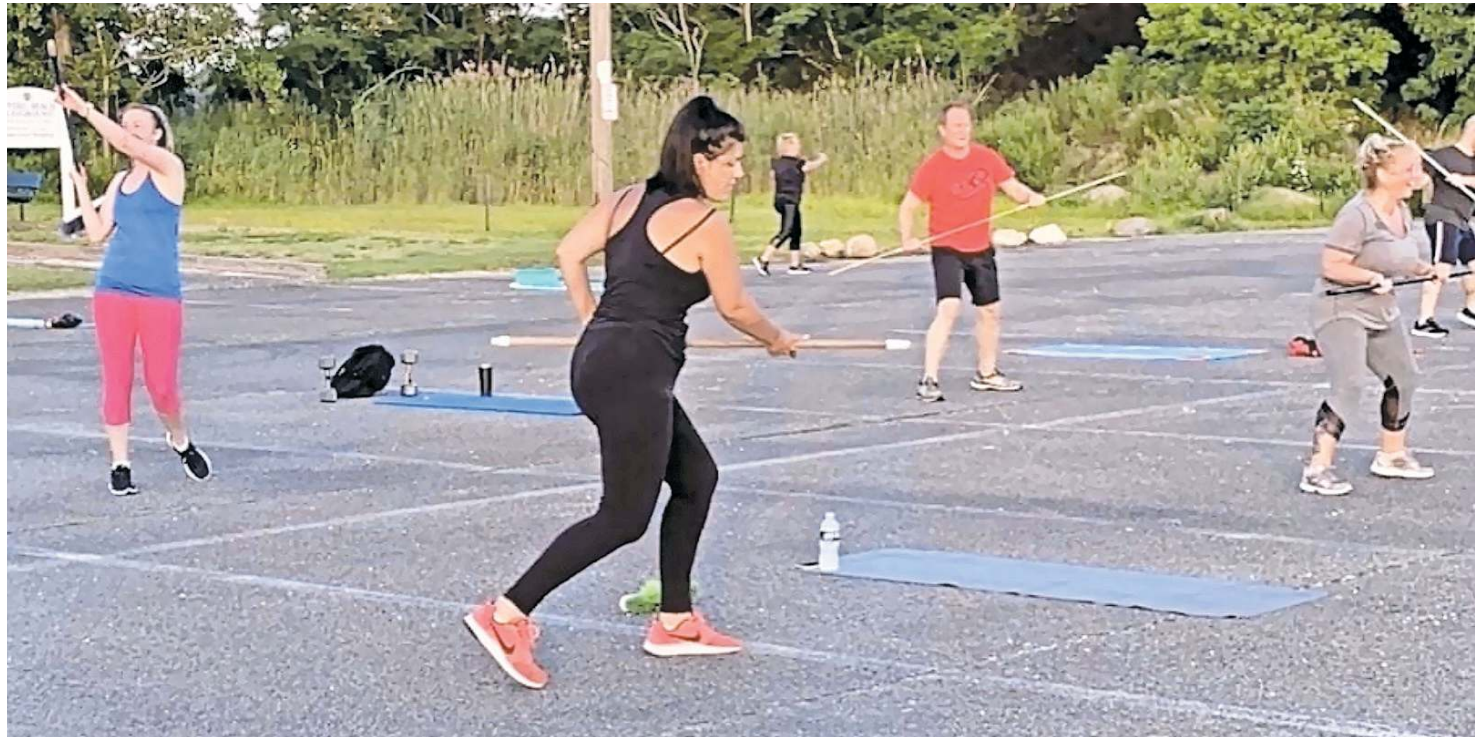
The council also suggests that people with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular conditions be extra cautious when exercising while wearing masks. Those with obstructive pulmonary disorder, asthma, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary fibrosis and other lung conditions should consult a medical professional before doing so.

Matilde Tysz, a co-owner of the Max Challenge of Glen Cove, said she was nervous about the mask mandate for her clients, because the workouts the club offers can be intense. The indoor classes will be limited to seven students and one instructor, all wearing masks. "It won't be business as usual," Tysz said. "We may have to modify our workout in order to be able to have our members wear masks, but that's the protocol that we have to follow."

Clients will, however, have other options for working out, with online classes and outdoor sessions at Pryibil Beach and Morgan Park. Those who attend the outdoor workouts can go without masks as long as they are at least eight to nine feet from one another.

"We're excited to be able to see our members," Tysz said. "We were excited when we were able to do outdoor classes, because now we have the opportunity to work out together. That makes a difference."

Batista said that memberships at Glen Cove Fitness were frozen when the gym closed in March. The past five months have been difficult, he said, adding that he wished gyms could have opened sooner. "We basically had no income for five months," Batista said, though the gym



Courtesy the Max Challenge of Glen Cove

STAFF AND CLIENTS of the Max Challenge of Glen Cove were happy to work out with one another again with the introduction of outdoor classes at Morgan Park and Pryibil Beach.

was able to take part in programs like the federal Paycheck Protection Program.

"I don't understand, and no one has ever clarified from the state, why gyms were taken out of Phase 4," he said, "and it just seems like we've been closed for six weeks after Phase 4, and there really is no difference between today and six weeks ago."

Many New Yorkers felt the same way, and created the New York State Fitness Alliance to advocate for gym, studio and

fitness center owners, employees and clients as the pandemic dragged on. The group made the case that fitness centers are necessary for people to maintain physical and mental health, and that, with the proper guidelines, they present a minimal risk for the spread of Covid-19.

In fact, the alliance cited statistics from Member Experience Management that the ratio of Covid-19 cases to fitness center visits nationwide is 1 in 42,731, or just 0.002 percent, with 1,155 cases of the

virus reported out of a total of more than 49 million visits to more than 2,800 locations in more than 40 states.

As Cuomo announced that gyms could reopen, he added that the state's Covid-19 infection rate was the lowest it had been since the pandemic began. "Congratulations to New Yorkers. New Yorkers did what everyone said couldn't be done," he said. "Going forward, we must protect the progress by keeping the infection rate down."

An assault charge, and accusations of harassment

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Amanda Fugazy, an employment attorney and Louis Fugazy's daughter, said the incident was the culmination of many months of harassment that the neighborhood has endured from the Awan brothers. "They stalk people with drones, take video of minor children and blare profanity-laden music," she said, exasperated. "We believe the reason why they engage in this behavior is to goad the neighbors to engage in some sort of misstep so they can start a lawsuit."

The Awan family emigrated from Pakistan and moved to a house on Sound Beach Drive in Glen Cove, across the street from the beach, 15 years ago. Ali's father is an attorney, and his mother, a doctor. The couple have three sons and a daughter.

Khizer said that neighbors have often harassed his family. "It's not anything new," he said. "Initially, as children, we had the police called on us for simply going to the beach, riding our bicycles in the neighborhood, for not wearing a helmet, something along those lines. The only difference is that we don't tolerate it like we did."

According to Detective Lt. John Nagle

of the Glen Cove Police Department, four East Island residents filed complaints against the Awan brothers before the alleged assault. "Since the arrest, people are coming out of the woodwork saying that things happened in the past," Nagle said. "There are a lot of things happening with this and a lot of moving parts. It's not cut and dry, where a gentleman was attacked on the beach."

Police had met with members of the East Island Association on June 11. Four or five parents came, according to the association's president, attorney Michael Cervini. "They said their children were being videotaped and photographed by the Awan brothers, and they wanted the police to stop them," Cervini said. "The police promised us they would monitor the situation, and [said] we should continue to file complaints. But it goes nowhere."

Nagle said that the GCPD was aware of the situation and was trying to remain neutral. "When we met with the association, we told them that we need documentation," he said. "I told them if they are being videotaped to take out their phone and videotape the person videotaping them. People need to call the police,

report what is happening and come here to fill out a report."

The Awan family was invited to join the association years ago, Cervini said, but they declined.

Residents were upset, Cervini said, when they received a June 30 cease-and-desist letter from the Esagoff Law Group P.C., which is representing the Awan family. The firm, the letter stated, was investigating a series of "unwarranted incidents of nuisance, harassment and bias perpetuated" against its clients. The neighbors were being asked to "discuss a reasonable settlement to compensate" the Awan family for damages, including attorney fees and costs.

The cease-and-desist letter, Khizer said, asks those who received it to leave his family alone and to reach a reasonable settlement for damages. "That was for no monetary gain, none of that," he said. "We have no open lawsuits against any of our neighbors. My mother's a physician; my father is an attorney. They're hard-working professionals. Money is not an issue for our family."

Louis Fugazy's other daughter, Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, a Glen Cove city councilwoman, said that Ali Awan and

his brothers, Khizer and Shayan, have been harassing her father and other family members for a while.

"Trying to provoke people, creating controversy . . . is their standard operating procedure," Fugazy Scagliola said. "Unfortunately, my 72-year-old father succumbed to their provocation. That said, I do not condone violence."

Cervini sent a letter to the Awan family on July 23, informing them that they were trespassing on private land at East Island Beach that is owned by the association. He said he had hoped the young men would stop sitting on the benches there, refrain from playing "loud, offensive music" and stop videotaping the children. But that did not happen.

"They provoked a senior citizen, a 72-year-old man with Parkinson's," Amanda Fugazy said. "Dad feels frustrated that he was harassed into this position and is now being taken advantage of for monetary gains. He has been a peaceful and productive leader in this community for 35 years. For him to be subject to this sort of antagonizing at this stage in his life is beyond the pale."

Glen Cove provides families with fresh groceries

BY JENNIFER CORR

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Glen Cove and former Cordoba, Argentina resident Lia Di Angelo, 48, wears many hats; she's the 2016 winner of pageant Señora Bonita Internacional, the owner of Westbury Floral Designs and the president of Comité Cívico Argentino, or Argentine Civic Committee.

And through her organization, which was founded in 2019 to do good for communities local and abroad, \$1,000 has been raised to buy wheelchairs in El Salvador with Kawaljit Chandi and Vivian Pereira, the presidents of Comité Cívico Saladoreño. Another \$1,000 has been raised to support Moreano Missions for life-changing cleft palate operations and \$500 has been donated to help build a school in the Northern part of Argentina with activist Albert Guini.

"I think that it's always good to come back to basics," Di Angelo said. "I feel that when you do something for other people, it keeps you humble. It keeps you from thinking that you're more than other people."

And now, during the pandemic, 10 families are receiving free weekly deliveries of groceries and other necessities through her organizations.

"The pandemic hit and I said, 'We have to do something about this,'" Di Angelo said. "I saw that a lot of people were collecting canned food and things like that, but I was like 'You know what, I don't like canned food.' So, I wanted to provide people with real food and because I have the flower shop, I also have the delivery van."

Di Angelo has been raising funds through GoFundMe and the app What'sApp, so far raising over \$1,000. "I personally delivered [the groceries] myself just because I speak Spanish and I wanted the [Spanish-speaking] families to see a friendly face coming over to their house, bringing about 10 bags of food or so."

Oftentimes, Di Angelo said, she would bring two of her sons, 9 and 10, with her to do the shopping and deliveries. "I just wanted them to feel the joy



Photos courtesy Lia Di Angelo

AT LAST YEAR'S Comité Cívico Argentino gala, Lia Di Angelo, left, honored Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and Glen Cove Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews.



THROUGH COMITÉ CÍVICO Argentino, \$1,000 was raised to buy wheelchairs in El Salvador for those who needed it with Kawaljit Chandi and Vivian Pereira, the presidents of Comité Cívico Saladoreño.

and happiness in being able to help somebody else," she said. "In the beginning they kind of complained about it, but then they said 'you know mama, it was nice.'"

When DiAngelo is asked why she doesn't just send the money instead of

spending the time grocery shopping and making deliveries, she said it's because she wants to show love and effort for the families.

Di Angelo has been putting effort in to help others for years. She first started collecting and donating toys for her

birthday in December of 2015. "People started asking me, 'What do you want?' and I said, 'I don't need anything, so just bring a toy for the children,'" Di Angelo said. "The first year I collected about 100 toys."

Four years later Di Angelo has transformed her birthday into an annual toy drive, which eventually became a gala for the Comité Cívico Argentino, collecting \$5,000 and more than 600 toys for less fortunate families who can't afford to buy their children toys. The money and toys have benefitted local children through a partnership with Nassau County Legislator Siela A. Bynoe and County Executive Laura Curran, Project SALVA, a 24/7 bilingual domestic violence hotline provided through Circulo de la Hispanidad and the Haitian American Political Action Committee of N.Y.

The gala is also designed to celebrate Argentinean culture and to honor those who have helped Di Angelo and her organization succeed, like fellow Glen Cove residents Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, a Nassau County legislator, and Glen Cove Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews.

She is planning another December gala this year if the pandemic allows it. But even so, \$340 has already been raised to give children gifts to open this holiday season.

Vice president of Comité Cívico Argentino, Hugo Amorini, called Di Angelo a very generous person who is supportive of her community. "She has a heart dedicated to people who are in need," said Gil Bernardino, who is the president of organization Circulo De La Hispanidad. Bernardino has worked with Di Angelo in the past to collect toys for Evergreen School children.

And Hugo Amorini, the vice president of Comité Cívico Argentino described her as a team-player who has been doing a wonderful job through the pandemic. "A wonderful lady, wonderful," he said. "She's very nice and I like working with her."

Ronny Reyes contributed to this story.

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Marker recognizes local women in pursuit of their right to vote

By ANTONIA PETRASH

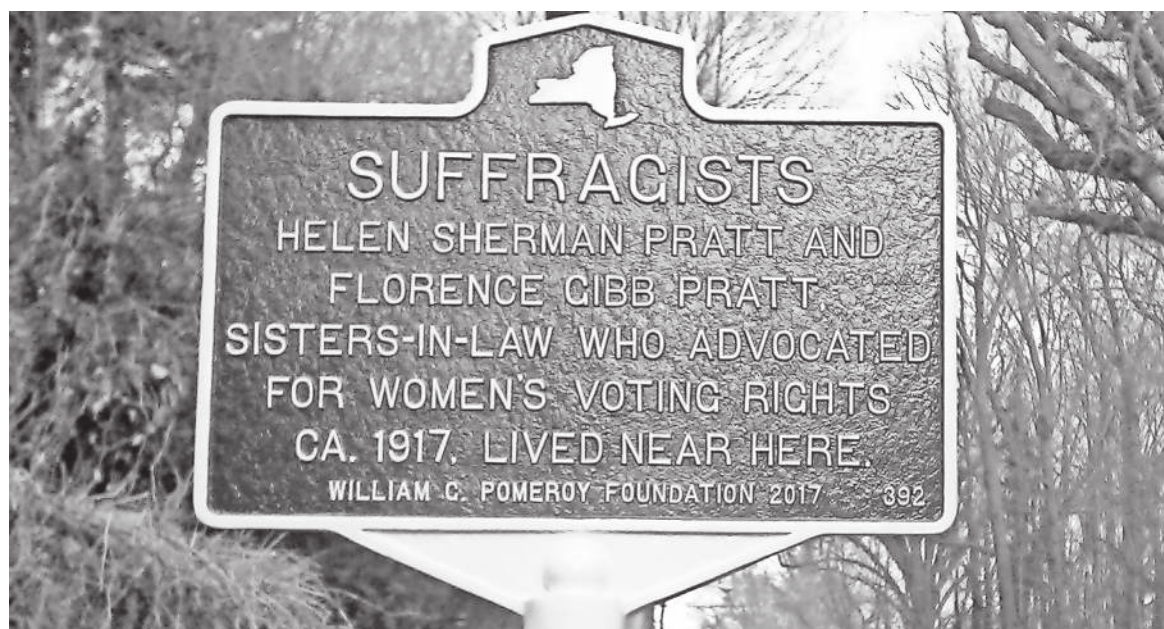
The historic marker "Suffragists," on Dosoris Lane, is dedicated to two of the most influential leaders of the woman suffrage movement on Long Island, sisters-in-law Helen Deming Sherman Pratt, wife of George DuPont Pratt, and Florence Gibb Pratt, wife of Herbert Lee Pratt. It's placement is part of a project designed to create a trail of historic markers honoring those who fought for the vote for women.

Helen and George lived at Killenworth on Dosoris Lane, (now owned by the Russian government), while Florence and Herbert Pratt lived around the corner on Crescent Beach Road at the Braes, (now home to Webb Institute). Both couples were devoted to the suffrage cause, and hosted garden parties, dances and social teas to raise funds and provide publicity. And both enjoyed renown for their own individual accomplishments.

Helen Deming Sherman was born in Brooklyn, Oct. 21, 1869 to John Taylor Sherman and Julia Champion Deming, the fifth of eight children. John Taylor Sherman was a descendant of Roger Sherman, crafter and signer of the U.S. Constitution. Helen attended the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn and also studied in Germany. She married George DuPont Pratt on Feb. 2, 1897, and the couple built their house, Killenworth, on Dosoris Lane in Glen Cove that same year. (In 1912 the first house was razed and in 1913 the second Killenworth was built.) The marker is located on the west side of Dosoris Lane, in front of the Killenworth estate.

In addition to her suffrage work Helen was one of the founders of the Lincoln Settlement House, which served the needs of the African-American community in Glen Cove. She was a member of the Woman's Trade Union League, and later of the League of Women Voters. On June 20, 1920 Helen hosted the Long Island Convention of the League of Women Voters at Killenworth.

Florence Gibb was born in Brooklyn, on Nov. 3, 1872, into a family of 11 children. Her father John Gibb had emigrated from Scotland and was a wealthy merchant who imported lace and upholstery. Her mother, Harriet Balsdon, was born in England and



Herald file photo

died when Florence was six years old. Like Helen, Florence graduated from the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn in 1894; she married Herbert Lee Pratt a few years later in 1897. The young couple lived in Manhattan and built their summer home near the other Pratt family members in Glen Cove in 1906.

Florence contributed to the founding of Nassau Hospital in Mineola, (now Winthrop Hospital), later serving on its Board of Trustees. She served on the local school board and was the first woman to be elected to the New York State Board of Regents. She and Katrina Ely Tiffany were part of a delegation that met with President Wilson on October 25, 1917 to discuss the suffrage cause. In December of 1917 Florence held the post of Treasurer of the Woman Suffrage Party of New York City, as well as third vice-chairwoman of the Manhattan Borough. That same month she joined a group of delegates from New York state and again traveled to Washington DC for the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

A third Pratt sister-in-law, Ruth Baker Pratt, has not been recorded as working for suffrage, but she did break new ground for women. Ruth Sears was born Aug. 24, 1877 in Ware, Massachusetts, and attended Wellesley College. In

1904 she married John Teel Pratt and the couple lived in the Manor House, (now The Mansion on Dosoris Lane), built in 1909. In 1925 she was the first woman elected as an alderman in the City of New York, representing the "silk stocking" district. In 1929 she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served there for four years.

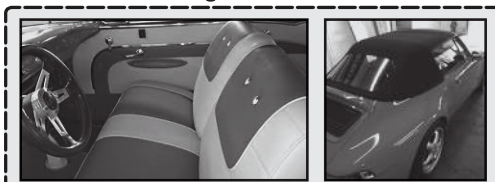
In 1917, after a bitter struggle, New York women won the vote with the passage of an amendment to the state constitution. And in 1920, after campaign-

ing for 72 years, women throughout the nation were finally enfranchised with the ratification of the 19th Amendment. With suffrage won the embattled suffragists of Glen Cove could have spent their time living in idle luxury. Instead, they chose to continue to work for the betterment of others, and the advancement of women. We are proud to remember them as members of our Glen Cove community who left the world a better place than they had found it.

THE SUFFRAGISTS MARKER on Dosoris Lane honors two Glen Cove women who fought for the women's right to vote. Women were permitted to do so in 1917 with a passage of an amendment to the state constitution. It took until 1920 for all women nationwide to be given this right.

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Downtown Deals Travel Pass offered

Discover Long Island, which promotes tourism on the Island, has teamed up with the Nassau and Suffolk County Industrial Development Agencies to launch a new free mobile Downtown Deals Travel Pass to boost recovery across the region, providing economic stimulus through marketing programs for small businesses, restaurants and attractions.

The passport is a free program that all locals and visitors can sign up for, launching first in Farmingdale, Great Neck, Greenport, Huntington, Patchogue and Rockville Centre. With more than 100 local businesses expected to join the passport program, it will showcase the best of these Long Island downtowns through a mobile platform.

“The \$6.1 billion hospitality industry has been the hardest-hit industry in our region as a result of Covid-19, and the small businesses in our downtowns need immediate assistance to drive economic recovery,” said Kristen Jarnagin, president and chief executive officer of Discover Long Island. “We are grateful to Nassau and Suffolk County IDAs for their partnership in supporting this new mobile Downtown Deals Travel Pass, and we encourage our residents and visitors to utilize this digitized platform to explore the endless hidden gems in the vibrant downtowns

that are the fabric of our community.”

Participants are able sign up for a Downtown Deals Travel Pass at www.discoverlongisland.com/deals. A link is then sent to their mobile phones, which opens the passport and directs the user to add the button icon to their home screen, where they can access it any time. Once users are ready to redeem their passes, they simply hand their phone to the ticketing or checkout counter to access their deal.

“Embracing and growing Nassau’s vibrant, walkable downtown communities near transit and housing has been a priority of my administration since day one,” Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said. “Following our COVID-19 front-line response, my priority focused on boosting the recovery of our small businesses and revival of these once bustling, beloved Main Street communities — the heartbeat of our local economy. I want to encourage businesses and residents to sign up for the new free Downtown Deals Travel Pass and explore downtown districts throughout Long Island. Not only will you find fantastic ways to enjoy a staycation but you will be supporting the businesses that employ so many of our neighbors, family and friends.”

Courtesy Discover Long Island

THE ORGANIZATION DISCOVER Long Island is promoting tourism on Long Island during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 grounding many student pilots

Enrollment drops at some flight schools as instruction switches to online format

By VISVAJIT SRIRAMRAJAN

“When Covid-19 hit, survival intuition became important for everyone because individual lives and livelihoods were immediately at stake,” said Bianca Baldwin, head of admissions and enrollment at the Academy of Aviation, a Farmingdale flight school. “We had to react, but there was no script.”

Baldwin noted that the school was closed to the public and secured approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to shift to a digital model of instruction. Flight dispatch procedures were altered to maintain operations while all flight school staff switched to working remotely. Fever and symptom screening for instructors and students was done before pre-check of every aircraft, and before-and-after flight sanitation procedures were carried out on the ramp, as outlined by the federal Centers for Disease Control.

“As a result of Covid-19, we have had to reimagine the flight training world,” said Evan Damadeo, chief flight instructor at Mid Island Flight School in Ronkonkoma. Damadeo noted that flight training has long been an in-person business, with mostly face-to-face interactions. “At this time, we currently employ many remote technologies in order to minimize our face-to-face interactions to only inside the airplane during a flight lesson,” he said. “This helps to ensure that we maximize

safety to our family of employees and our family of customers.”

Although aviation theory can be learned through books, student pilots need to take an FAA practical exam known as a checkride in order to obtain a license. In the United States, a private pilot applicant is required to have documented at least 40 hours of flight time, with at least 20 hours from an instructor and 10 hours of solo flights.

Applicants must also log three hours of cross-country training, 10 takeoffs and landings at three different airports, three hours of basic instrument training, three hours of night flying and experience flying over 150 nautical miles. These requirements, which are even more demanding for those applying for commercial pilot licenses, have brought flight schools practically to a standstill, particularly for immunocompromised students.

“Academy of Aviation offers an F-1 Commercial Pilot Visa with the opportunity to work as a U.S. Certified Flight Instructor upon successful completion of our program,” Baldwin said. “This means that we welcome, teach and employ students from the USA as well as many different countries such as India, Egypt, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.” She added that the flight school’s student roster was at its peak before the pandemic, and the schools remains dedicated to upholding a diverse student body.

Ilan Nahoom, the CEO of Flying Helicopters Made Easy, spoke on the diversity of his flight school as well, noting that women and men from various backgrounds are represented in its instructor body. “We have Black people, Native Americans and immigrants from countries like China and India represented in our instructors,” he said.

Nahoom said enrollment has decreased 40 percent during the Covid-19 pandemic, however. “About 70 percent of our students are usually younger people between the ages of 18 and 30 who want to pursue aviation as a career, but we also see people of all ages come in to learn how to fly recreationally,” he said.

Other flight schools in the area have struggled as well. As both a New York City public high school and a Part 147 Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Maintenance Technician School, Aviation High School in Long Island City has had to deal with challenges related to school building closures since March 16.

“All lessons and demonstrations have successfully taken place remotely,” said Steven Jackson, the principal of Aviation High School. “Our enrollment has not been impacted, but our ability to provide our students with the opportunities to finish their required practical hands-on work has been postponed until we can safely resume in-school instruction for students and staff.

“This is a great challenge for all AMTS schools,” he continued, “and we are working in accordance with federal, state and city guidance to determine the safest way to resume our on-site FAA practical courses for the 2020-2021 school year.”

Jackson noted that Aviation High School is one of New York’s most diverse schools. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the high school had respectively 3.9 and 4.9 percent more Asian and Hispanic students than white students. Out of 2,097 students in 2019, only 193 students were white, thereby facilitating a direct path to the aviation industry for students of color.

Nahoom added that greater representation within his flight school in relation to other flight schools was largely due to its location. The school is based out of Farmingdale, which as of the 2010 census was 71.1 percent white with the remaining 28.9 percent comprising Hispanic, Black and Asian residents.

“The demographics of an area like Farmingdale is different than towns in upstate New York or interior Suffolk County,” Nahoom said. The town is also home to the 78-acre Republic Airport and Farmingdale State College of the State University of New York system, which operates an aviation studies program in close proximity to the regional airport, making it easier for students to access aviation education.



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What's happening with the schools?

Inaugural Inside LI webinar launched as districts prepare for fall reopening

By JILL NOSSA

jnossa@liherald.com

With the start of the new school year fast approaching next month, the question of how to send children back to school safely is at the forefront of many people's minds. Parents and educators alike are struggling to determine the best way to provide quality instruction to students while maintaining their physical safety and supporting their social-emotional health.

To facilitate the discussion, Inside LI launched its webinar series last Wednesday, bringing a group of esteemed leaders in education together for a conversation on how Long Island schools will open this fall while the Covid-19 pandemic still rages across the country. Inside LI is a production of RichnerLive, a division of Richner Communications Inc., parent company of Herald Community Newspapers.

The 45-minute webinar included panelists Dr. William H. Johnson, a state monitor for the Hempstead Union Free School District and former superintendent of Rockville Centre School District; Dr. Robert Dillon, district superintendent of Nassau BOCES; Megan Ryan, chief compliance ethics officer EVP of NuHealth and president of the North Merrick Board of Education; and Johane Ligondé, principal of JW Dodd Middle School in Freeport.

Moderated by Skye Ostreicher of RichnerLive, the panel discussion provided information on what has been done and what still needs to happen to keep everybody safe. Topics included safety protocols, mental health and the financial burden that districts face in implementing new safety measures.

Ostreicher kicked off the discussion by asking Johnson what type of guidance he has received from the state for reopening. Johnson noted "the heart and soul of what parents are worried about" is safety. "We really have to worry about that, and every day there's additional information we are receiving about children and Covid-19 infections, and we need to stay on top of all of that research that continues to be growing."

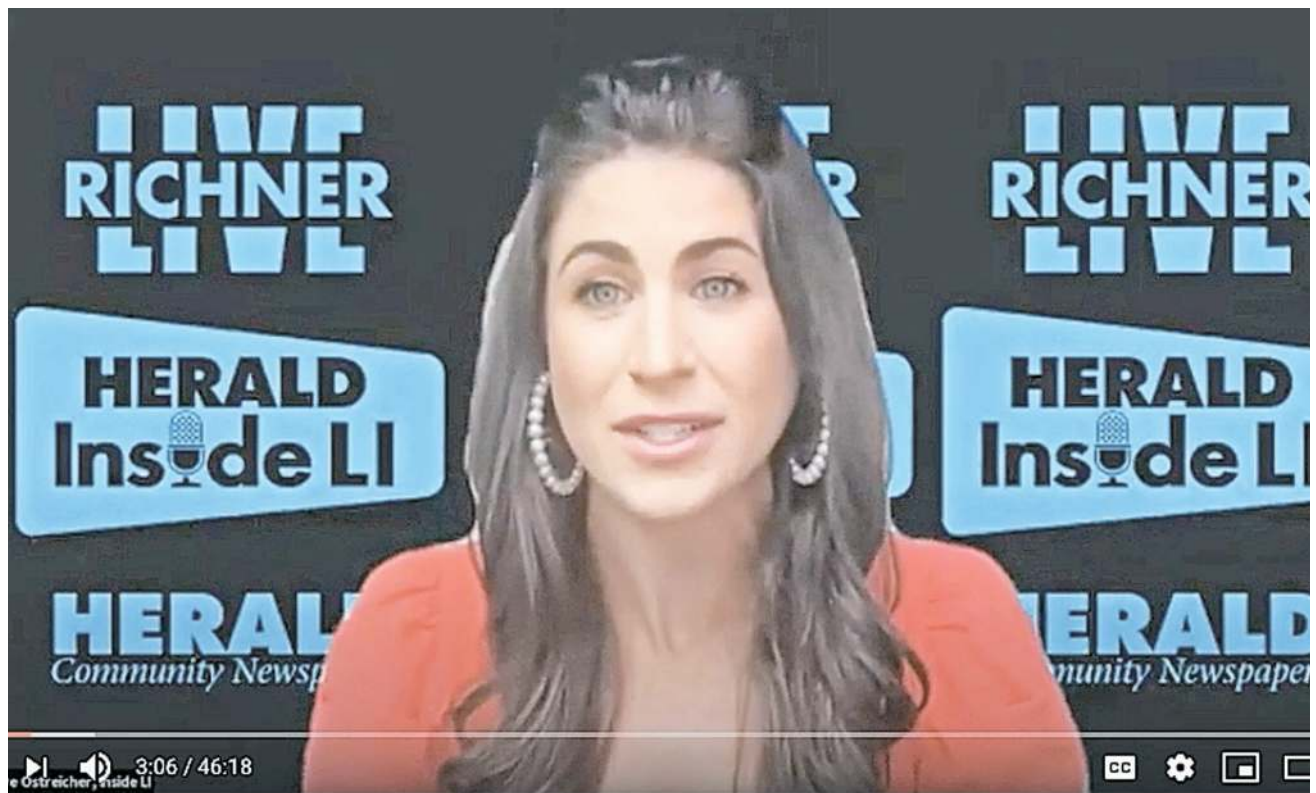
Additionally, he said, the "efficacy of the instructional program" needs to be focused on. "We learned how limited we were last spring in trying to put together an exclusive model that focused on distance learning — it didn't really work up to the expectation that we hoped it would, and there were many, many holes in it."

The third area schools are focusing on is the social-emotional health of children. "What really was lacking last spring was the ability to connect with one another," Johnson said.

As schools begin to reopen, districts are tasked with figuring out how to keep students safely spaced apart in each school building. Reconfiguring classroom spaces, instituting directional hallways and different bell schedules, and separating students into cohorts, while also creating online curriculum for a remote model, is like "building two schools," according to Ligondé. In addition, schools have to be aware of students' emotional needs. "The reality is, we're dealing with Covid-19 as well as social justice," she said. "Mental health has to be number one."

Ostreicher raised a concern that is on the mind of many parents: What happens if they choose one model initially, such as in person, and then change their minds and want to switch to remote?

Johnson said he believes most parents, after experiencing distancing learning last spring, "have come to recognize the value that schools provide." Still, he stressed parents need to understand that school will be very different this year, and the conversations need to happen between principals and parents as to what to expect. Ligondé said it is also important for parents to have conversations with their children so they can be prepared and know what is expected of them, and Ryan noted that districts, such as North Merrick, recognize



Courtesy Inside LI

SKYE OSTREICHER MODERATED the first of Inside LI's webinar series, "Education and Covid-19: K-12"

the variables that are currently coming into play.

"It's a fluid environment we're living in," Ryan said. "We'll work with parents."

While districts are striving to provide a quality education in all three models, Dillon said supporting the social-emotional needs of students and staff is crucial, and emphasized how the current situation could affect both teaching and learning.

"When we begin this school year, we're beginning a journey that we've never taken before," Dillon said.



"One thing I would caution is, if we're going to use benchmarks from our previous experiences in schools with what's coming out now, I think that's rather unfair. We've always had high expectations for our students and staff...I am confident because of the resilience of the Long Island community, will make this better every day."

Dillon also noted the lack of funding districts are struggling with: Not only are they looking at potential 20 percent reduction in state aid, but also the state is imposing guidelines without providing solutions to pay for them. In addition, he said, the supply chain for everything from cleaning products to Chromebooks is limited.

"We are all competing for the same things," he said. "We need a better strategy that addresses these issues nationwide."

Another point of discussion surrounded Governor Cuomo's statement that schools must have children tested and conduct contact tracing. Ostreicher asked if there is a solution yet as to how schools will take on that task, and whether schools can partner with hospitals.

"We do not have the capacity or legal authority to do the testing," Dillon said, noting they will be discussing the matter with Nassau County officials. "That's a major

unfunded mandate."

Ryan said school staff are not trained to test students for the virus. "It cannot fall on the leadership of the schools to conduct these tests," she said, noting that they are expensive. "Those costs cannot come to the school... It's going to have to go through health facilities."

In terms of contact tracing and what to do if a child or staff member gets the virus, the panelists agreed that more guidance needs to come from the Nassau County Department of Health.

If a child gets sick, there is still a "good deal of uncertainty" as to what the schools will do, according to Johnson. If a child is in a cohort, he said, it's easy to determine which children should be excluded from school and quarantined. But when you consider siblings or sports teams connected to the sick child, it gets trickier. "We need guidance not only on the cohort, but all of the other people who might have been exposed," Johnson said.

"We have to have a universal set of protocols in Nassau County health facilities," Ryan said, "so all parents in all districts feel comfortable and we're not scrambling. We can't have different rules for different districts, especially when you consider public health."

The first Inside LI webinar was sponsored by Better Water NY, based in Glen Head.

"An investment in our children is an investment in our future," said Jeannie Riccardo, CEO of Better Water NY. "We're proud to support the inaugural episode of Inside LI, which discussed how families are coping with Covid and simultaneously questioning the safety of sending kids back to school. We look forward to more meaningful conversations and encouraging families to stay healthy across Long Island."

The new webinar series will convene leaders from the business, government and nonprofit sectors to address current issues and get questions answered.

"At the Herald, we take tremendous pride in being your trusted source of truly local news and information, especially in times of uncertainty like these," RCI President Stuart Richner said. "Right now, there is no issue more important to Long Islanders than what is happening with schools."

The second Inside LI webinar will be on Friday, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m., with a discussion of higher education. For more information visit www.liherald.com/insideli.

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\$56K already raised for Still Partners

By MIKE CONN
mconn@iherald.com

Since owners Dan Roth and Ray Capone took over the Still Partners restaurant and bar in 2013, it has been a fixture in downtown Sea Cliff. The gastropub, on Sea Cliff Avenue, is known for its upscale classic American menu, variety of drinks and casual atmosphere.

It is perhaps best known, however, as the premier venue for local bands to perform for dozens of patrons every week, which was a focal point of an Aug. 12 fundraiser organized by residents to help keep the business alive, as it has struggled during the coronavirus pandemic, Roth said.

The fundraiser saw five musical acts set up in Roth's living room for performances that were live-streamed on the Still Partners Facebook page. A GoFundMe page was set up to accept donations during and after the show. As of press time Wednesday morning, more than \$56,000 had been raised.

Roth said it has been difficult for Still Partners to adapt to a takeout and minimal in-house seating formula because its concerts served as a major revenue source. "It's been really hard to make ends meet," he said. "Basically, since St. Patrick's Day we haven't been able to pay ourselves or pay rent."

Roth said that proceeds from the fund-



Courtesy Jennifer DeSane

ALTHOUGH THE PERFORMANCES took place in owner Dan Roth's living room, several people enjoyed the show from Still Partners itself.

raiser would help the restaurant catch up on its expenses.

Several cameras were set up in Roth's home to capture the performances, one of which was hand-operated by Capone. Ian Busching, CEO of Dig Down Media, handled the live-streaming.

Sea Cliff resident Jennifer DeSane said she organized the fundraiser because the Still Partners staff has become something of a second family to her. Although

she grew up in the village, she moved out after she went to college and then lived in Sag Harbor, spending 15 years away from her hometown. She said she moved back to the village two and a half years ago, and Still Partners became one of her favorite places.

"A lot of the fun things in my life happened because of Dan and Kathleen [DiResta, Roth's wife and the owner of K. DiResta Collective], so it was important to

me to help them and give back to them," DeSane said. "I genuinely love everyone who works there. They're all consistently giving back to this community in countless ways, and I just feel that it was important that we all step up for them now."

Resident Jaime Teich helped promote the fundraiser, coming on board when she contacted Roth about her pandemic aid

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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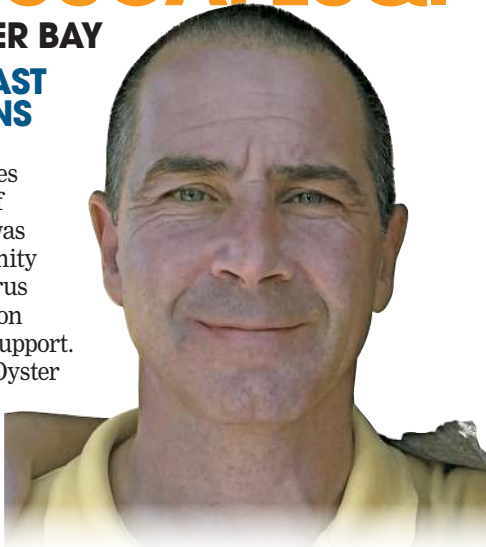


HERALD Covid-19 HOMETOWN HEROES

ROBERT BRUSCA, ESQ.

OYSTER BAY

CREATOR, OYSTER BAY-EAST NORWICH STRONG SIGNS



The first thing the group of representatives from town, which I am one of, thought of before Governor Cuomo shut things down was to [designate] a central place for the community to find out information during the coronavirus pandemic. We wanted to share information on every level to provide the community with support. Everyone sent us information to add to the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce's website.

In early April, I thought about making signs because at that point it seemed like we were never coming out of this. I thought having the signs couldn't hurt. My hope was that it would lift spirits. People were putting their lives on the line in the medical profession, as were other essential workers, and I thought it was appropriate to thank them. I made signs with my girlfriend, Giovanna Bizzoso. We put signs up on Route 106 — six of them. They were stolen. We also put up Oyster Bay-East Norwich Strong signs, which were stolen, or at least they were removed. There were 30 of those.

Minutemen Press in Syosset pumped out, in a day at discounted prices, more Oyster Bay-East Norwich Strong signs — 200 of them. Then people started asking me for the signs. I had more reproduced and sold them for \$12 a piece. Then I decided to pump the price up to \$20 a sign for a fundraiser. Some people gave me even more money for the signs.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

WILLIAM WHITTON

GLEN COVE

CHIEF, GLEN COVE POLICE DEPARTMENT



The pandemic has changed the way we do our jobs immensely. We were always cautious when it came to putting ourselves at risk as far as blood-borne pathogens and things like that. But this is completely uncharted territory that we are putting ourselves in.

Right from the beginning, we mandated mask wearing, [and] we tried to limit public access to the police department as much as possible. And we did that by making reports available online or mail if they didn't have internet access.

The police officers would go out to their cars and avoid going into headquarters unless it was absolutely necessary to print some sort of form or to process an arrest. We didn't have any Covid cases in our officers that were brought on [by] what we believe to be job related, which is huge.

We had the cars sanitized like crazy, and once again we wear the proper [personal protective equipment]; we wear gloves, masks, washing our hands like crazy. We made a lot of strides in getting PPE from the Department of Homeland Security and wherever else we can find it like Glen Cove Hospital.

One of the local doctors, John Colletta, is in charge of all the other doctors in the emergency room, and he was someone who helped us out with PPE through Northwell. He was very nice.

Community support was great. We felt appreciated. The officers felt appreciated. It was very nice. When things are hard in life, you look back to Sept. 11 or the Boston Bombings, there's usually a big outpouring of support for law enforcement.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

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THEIR FRONT-LINE STORIES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

DR. ARGYRO KARIDIS

BAYVILLE

**PEDIATRICIAN, NORTSHORE
CHILDRENS HEALTHCARE
GLEN COVE**

The pandemic has been challenging. There are a lot of questions and concern with a novel virus. The science is still being studied, so I've had to use my own medical knowledge of viruses to best answer parents' questions and concerns.

Another challenge that we had was in the office. People wanted to be seen but they were nervous leaving their homes and even more nervous about entering our office, picking up germs or potentially exposing themselves to other sick people coming to the office.

I came up with this idea of doing car visits, and the parents loved it. They drove their kids up to our parking garage to the top floor where our office is. I would go out with one of my medical assistants and perform a full exam on a child, doing any test I needed to, whether it was blood work, giving injections or running nasal swabs or antibody tests for Covid.

It really allowed the parents to feel safe and reassured that their child was examined and taken care of. Whatever diagnosis that was made, it appeased a lot of parents. It got busy because there was a lot of running back and forth rain or shine, but it really helped our community and bring some peace of mind to them. They felt like they weren't further risking their children's safety.

As a mother myself, I felt a little more control having that background that I have, so I wanted to share that with my families and give them some peace of mind.



HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

JEANINE FAKIRIS

GLEN COVE

**DIRECTOR, COVE ANIMAL
RESCUE BOARD
VOLUNTEER, MOMMAS HOUSE**

I am a real estate agent with Daniel Gale Sotheby's Realty, and I volunteer my time going to Momma's House, which is a non-profit that helps young mothers and their babies, and what I was not able to do through the pandemic is, I prepare the young girls there for getting their first apartment. So I was not able to do that, but hopefully that will start up again soon.

With the animal shelter, we obviously had to shut down and not let the public in, which was very hard for adoption. We couldn't let our volunteers in, and we do have a lot of volunteers from the high school who really do look forward to coming in, and not having the volunteers really hurt the animals because they really love the socialization. We are, thank God, back up and running, and we're allowing a handful at a time. It helps because we always have the volunteers come and help, and they clean the animals, they walk them, so it was a little bit of a shocker for the animals not to have so many people for the couple of months that we did.

We didn't have adoptions for a few weeks at the start of the pandemic, but then we decided to do by appointment only, one person in the building at a time. It was such an influx of phone calls with people being home. We actually had the most adoptions in the month of July that we've ever seen, especially with the kittens. We also had long-term resident dogs adopted as well. That was really exciting for us.

We were also afraid that people would not have money to be able to feed their animals while also feeding their family, so we came up with the idea of the pet pantry.



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Saving a defining business in Sea Cliff

August 20, 2020 – GLEN COVE HERALD GAZETTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

project, Love Your Neighbor. She said she was looking to partner with Still Partners to distribute masks and hand sanitizer, and although Roth said he would help however he could, he said the business was in trouble. Teich said she decided to help him however she could.

The idea of Still Partners not being in Sea Cliff was disheartening, Teich said, and was thrilled to see how successful the fundraiser became.

“I thought it was awesome,” she said. “Given that we all work really at our day jobs, we all have families, the fact that we were all able to put this together was pretty tremendous. I think the community really showed up and stood up for Still Partners and what they represent in the community. I think it was awesome.”

Five acts performed during the three-hour fundraiser, one of which consisted of Andy Aledort on guitar and Mike DiMeo playing keyboards. Aledort, who has lived in Sea Cliff since 1992, said Still Partners is one of the most beloved establishments he has seen in the village. He said he has grown close with Roth, whom he has performed with in gigs several times, as Roth is a drummer.

“The fundraiser not only was something that was really needed for [Still Partners] and well-embraced by all the musicians,” Aledort said. “Even more



Courtesy Dan Roth

THE DAVE DIAMOND band, made up of bassist Craig Pivett, left, drummer Adam Polatov and guitarist Dave Diamond, took the stage as the fourth act in the Still Partners fundraiser to save one of their favorite venues.

important, it was well-embraced by the community.”

The pandemic has forced the closing of many bars and restaurants on Long Island, Aledort said, and he was proud to playing a part in helping to save one of Sea Cliff’s defining businesses.

“It’s going to be a tough road,” he said, “but we’re all really hoping Still Partners is here to stay.”

Roth and Capone said they were pleased to see such community support. Capone, who said he did not recognize most of the donors’ names on the GoFundMe page, added that the outpouring of generosity was humbling.

“As a restaurant owner during this time, you kind of just feel like you’re doing everything wrong because you can’t make ends meet,” Roth said, “and just to



Photo courtesy Dan Roth

MIKE DIMEO, PICTURED, and Andy Aledort were the last performers to play during the fundraiser.

have everybody [support us] is really amazing and a testament to what we do. People like what we do, and they don’t want to see us go . . . We are blessed to have such support.”

Donations to support Still Partners can be made at www.gofundme.com/f/save-still-partners.



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TELEMEDICINE:



Changing health care delivery

The changing dynamic of doctor-patient interaction

By Karen Bloom

Telemedicine has been growing in popularity in recent years. Not a new concept — telemedicine (or telehealth, the terms are now used interchangeably) has been used for years in rural communities to connect patients with distant health care providers — its use has surged as result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many more of us are now embracing remote visits with our health care providers, although it's important to recognize it's not applicable to every health care need.

"Telemedicine is changing health care by offering patients new options for care of many types," said Barbara Keber M.D., FAAFP, Vice Chair, Department of Family Medicine, Northwell Health and Chair, Family Medicine, at Glen Cove Hospital.

"Urgent visits can easily be set up for a patient with an acute complaint at any time of day. This allows for patients not to need to travel to a facility or office in bad weather, late in the evening or to have to leave work or home where they need to be with young children and can have their healthcare needs addressed in a timely fashion. This has been slowly gaining traction before the COVID pandemic but really came to the fore during the pandemic. During this time it allowed for patients to be "seen" and treated without any physical contact with staff or providers."

If you like the idea of seeing your doctor over a video conference on your laptop or smartphone, you are not alone. According to research by Software Advice, 75 percent of survey respondents are interested in trying telemedicine.

"Telehealth is more convenient for some people and is especially liked by the millennials. Surprisingly however older adults have also been happy to have a telehealth option during the Covid pandemic as they felt they could be in touch with their physicians without leaving their homes," said Dr. Keber.

The variety of telehealth tools available enable people to better manage their overall care and receive needed services.

"There are two or three aspects that work well," said Dr. Adhi Sharma, chief



Telehealth visits are quickly becoming a mainstay of health care since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

medical officer Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital in Oceanside.

"It works well for behavioral health for follow-up appointments, as long as the patient is stable, they make for good check-ins that don't require the patients to travel and can reduce the potential for exposure to the virus," he said. "Dermatology works well, the challenge is if they need to do a biopsy, they can't over telemedicine. The third area, routine follow-up visits, such as primary care or post-operative. As long as your early post-operatives are in-person, they can be done through telemedicine to make sure you're symptom free. They can check on symptoms and make sure medication doses are all right."

The health system is starting to look different as facilities shift to more widespread use of the technology in their practice. Of course, clearly it serves as an adjunct to in-person visits.

"Patients can receive the same quality care from providers that they trust and know best from the comfort of their own homes — an environment they are most comfortable in," said Dr. Eric Ascher, a family medicine attending doctor who is assistant director of special projects Western Region for Northwell Health, including LIJ Valley Stream.

"Telemedicine is also very convenient; no longer will patients need to factor in travel time to an appointment,

trying to find coverage at work, time spent in a waiting room and then time spent traveling back to the home or office," he said. "With concerns of a [coronavirus] resurgence, public transportation and a very germ conscious population, many patients are opting to receive care without leaving the home or workplace any more than necessary."

Added Shital Rana, DO, with Northwell Health Physician Partners, Cardiology and Medicine Specialties at Merrick: "It is allowing providers the ability to reach a broader base of patients and those limited in accessing healthcare. Frequently, patients that are homebound or have physical or mental limitations forego their visits due to the difficulties they face getting to the appointment."

"It is not appropriate if you have a condition that requires a thorough physical examination. For example, if you are having chest pain, we would want to do tests in the office to make sure your heart is stable. It is a great tool for refilling medication, on a stable chronic condition or a sick visit where you do not want to expose others," Dr. Rana said.

Medical professionals across the board agree that broad-scale telemedicine will reshape modern medical services and will decidedly impact the future of health care, as its applications

expand.

"Telemedicine is also being utilized within hospitals and other facilities and this may be something that can be pursued in the future to allow for evaluation prior to sending patients to the Emergency Department from assisted living or skilled nursing facilities for frequent repeat admissions," said Dr. Keber. "It has also reduced the need for some onsite providers by the use of e-ICU, e-hospitalist and e-emergency room visits."

"Specialists have also utilized them to evaluate patients without direct contact during the pandemic. Telemedicine is also being utilized within hospitals and other facilities and this may be something that can be pursued in the future to allow for evaluation prior to ending patient to the Emergency Department from assisted living or skilled nursing facilities for frequent repeat admissions. It has also reduced the need for some onsite providers by the use of e-ICU, e-hospitals and e-emergency room visits. Specialists have also utilized them to evaluate patients without direct contact during the pandemic."

Dr. Keber cautioned, however, that "telehealth has been difficult for utilization in the underserved populations due to the inability to access the appropriate communications mechanisms. Telephonic visits have been used in place of audio visual but are not as beneficial."

"Both telehealth and telephonic health have been paid at parity by Medicare and Medicaid during the Covid pandemic," she said. "If telehealth is to survive and primary care along with it then payment parity will be essential by all payers. If this does not occur, primary care especially will be difficult to maintain. This will be essential for telehealth to further develop and prosper."

Meanwhile, "It is growing and it will be able to do more tomorrow than it can today, and it's already doing more today than it did yesterday," said Dr. Sharma. "There is a significant role for it and as technology grows, that role will grow and we're seeing creative uses for it all over the country. Will it ever replace in-person encounters? The answer is no, not with the current technology." ■

— The Herald staff contributed reporting.



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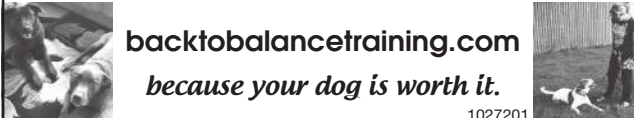
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Darle Gertrude Dawson

Darle Gertrude Dawson, “Trudy,” of Glen Cove died on Aug. 16. Beloved wife of John; loving mother of Darle Jennifer Dawson and Susan Dawson Perlman (Michael); cherished grandmother of Darle Bailey Riordan and Dylan Dawson Perlman. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Libero Paulich

Libero Paulich, of Glen Cove, died on Aug. 16. Lenny was the beloved husband of the late Theresa; devoted father of Irene (late Frank), Steven (Mary), Joseph (Jennie), Anthony (Gunilla) and MaryAnn; loving grandfather of Joseph, Steven Jr., Frankie, Samantha, Christopher, Matthew, Madeline, Thomas, Alexander, Vincent and Sophia; great-grandfather of Adrianna. Funeral mass at the Church of St. Rocco. Interment Holy Rood Cemetery.

Richard J. Jones

Richard J. Jones, 40, lifelong resident of Glen Cove, died on Aug. 14, 2020 age 40. Former husband of Sharon; son of Kathy and Dick; brother of Christine; also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and his best friend Moose. Rick worked alongside his dad at the family business “Road Runners”. He was an avid cyclist. Visitation will be held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home Thursday from 5-8 p.m.. Service on Thursday at 7 p.m. Interment private. Donations may be made to: American Heart Associa-

tion Long Island Cycle Nation, 125 E. Bethpage Rd., Plainview, NY 11803.

Robert J. O’Neill

Robert J. O’Neill, a WWII army veteran, of Glen Cove died on Aug. 13. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth (nee Grella); loving father of Kerri, Ruby and Rocky; also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. Funeral mass at the Church of St. Patrick. Interment at Locust Valley Cemetery.

George Kurylo



GEORGE KURYLO, 72, of Glen Cove, died on Aug. 6.

George Kurylo, 72, of Glen Cove, died on Aug. 6. Beloved husband of Ann; loving father of Christina Partagas (Jack), Larissa Giambruno (Peter) and the late

Katherine; dear brother of the late Walter; cherished grandfather of Nicholas, Jack, Ava, Milania and Jessie; also survived by many nieces and nephews. George came to the United States at 4-years-old and grew up in Manhattan. He played trumpet in the drum and bugle corp at St. George Ukrainian Catholic School and graduated from La Salle Academy where he sang in the choir. He spent summers with his parents, his brother Walter and friends at Camp St. Basil in Narrowsburg, N.Y. He loved swimming, fishing and sailing. He carried this love for the wilderness throughout his life. He met his wife Ann at the age of 15 and they were married for 50 years. They spent many happy summers at their cabin on the lake with their three children. Ever adventurous, in 1982, George drove the family across country, pulling a pop up camper. George and Ann took a cruise around Europe with friends and fished for salmon in Alaska. But his true passion was spending summers fishing and cooking on an open fire in Narrowsburg. In 1989, as a Senior Court Officer in Nassau County, he received a Certificate of Meritorious Service for Bravery. He retired in 2002 and spent half his time in Glen Spey, N.Y. with his wife, enjoying nature. He loved cooking his famous holiday meals and spending time with his wife, children, five grandchildren and his cat Kit, who loved him and will miss him very much. Visitation held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Mass at St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Catholic Church, Interment to follow at the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery.

Sandra Williams Wien

Sandra Williams Wien, known as Sandy, 86, Glen Cove, died on July 23. She lived with the love of her life, Robert Sherman Wien, in Bayville, for over 30 years; she leaves her three beloved children Kim Fiertz (Carey), Amy Franklin (Donald) and Robert Wien Jr.; Sandy loved her role as a grandparent to her four grandchildren, Jaclyn Marcucci (Matthew), Margaret Fiertz, Alexandra Franklin, and Nicole Franklin. She was born on April 16, 1934 and raised in Virginia. In her adulthood, she attended Iowa State Teachers College. She lived with the love of her life, Robert Sherman Wien, in Bayville for over 30 wonderful years. Known for her infectious smile, love for all and her strength in any face of adversity, it is clear why she was beloved by anyone who met her. To her grandchildren, she was Grandy. She never missed any event in their lives—every concert, every play, every significant event beaming with a bouquet of flowers. To her, these events were so important to her because it was important for her grandchildren. In the times Sandy was not with her grandchildren, she could be found lounging at the beach with an US Magazine or cooking a delicious meal with way too much butter. Sandra is finally at peace and reunited with the love of her life Robert Wien and many of the animals she cared for greatly on the Rainbow Bridge. She will be greatly missed by those that survive her, and her abundance of friends. However, she will be forever remembered for the beautiful soul she was because that’s what she truly was—beautiful inside and out.

Inside LI webinar to focus on higher ed.

In the coming weeks, university campuses across Nassau County will come alive again with the sights and sounds of students in class, learning in person, after the coronavirus pandemic caused an abrupt halt to the spring semester and sent thousands of students packing for home for seven weeks of virtual classes.

The question is, how do universities open amid the ongoing pandemic, which is now under control in New York — with a 1 percent infection rate holding steady since early June — but is still raging in parts across the country, particularly in the South, West and increasingly the Midwest?

Inside LI, a production of Richner-Live, will have answers this Friday, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m. during a live, 45-minute webinar with a number of Long Island’s top higher-education leaders, including:

- Dr. James Lentini, president of Molloy College.
- Dr. Christine Riordan, president of Adelphi College.
- Dr. Gabrielle St. Léger, assistant vice president and dean of students at Hofstra University.
- Dr. Jermaine Williams, president of Nassau Community College.

Also joining in the discussion will be Dr. Aaron Glatt, chairman of the Department of Medicine at Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital in Oceanside, to offer a medical perspective on how to open colleges and universities safely.

Skye Ostreicher, of Inside LI and Herald Community Newspapers, will moderate.

Inside LI and the Herald will offer a series of free webinars in the com-

ing weeks and months to help inform people about the salient issues surrounding the Covid-19 crisis to empower them to make smart decisions for themselves and their families.

To reserve your spot for Friday’s webinar, simply go to www.liherald.com/insideli. You may submit your questions in advance by emailing insideli@liherald.com.

To sponsor a webinar or for more information, contact Amy Amato at aamato@richnerlive.com or call her at (516) 569-4000, ext. 224.

For more information on the status of Molloy’s reopening, go to Molloy.edu.

For more on Adelphi’s reopening, go to Adelphi.edu.

For more on Hofstra’s reopening, go to Hofstra.edu.

For more on Nassau Community College’s reopening, go to ncc.edu.

Assemblyman Charles Lavine condemns demand to boycott Israel

As the president of the National Association of Jewish Legislators in New York, Assemblyman Charles Lavine has denounced the New York City Democratic Socialists of America’s demand in their candidate questionnaire for New York City Council candidates to pledge that they will not travel to Israel.



Assemblyman Charles Lavine

“The Jewish State of Israel is America’s ally and we as a nation cannot turn our back on our allies” Lavine said. “It is time to express grave concern over NYCDSA’s demand that its candidates engage in economic warfare against our strategic ally Israel.”

Lavine has sent a statement expressing his concern. And in his statement, the assemblyman said that Americans must oppose demagoguery whether from the right or the left.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Support the U.S. Postal Service – period

The U.S. Postal Service is older than the United States itself: Benjamin Franklin appointed the first postmaster general in 1775, a year before the Revolution against Great Britain erupted. Ever since, the Postal Service has been woven into the very fabric of our democracy, ensuring that vital, and not so vital, information is conveyed from Point A to Point B, seemingly effortlessly.

The work of the USPS is anything but effortless, though. It is a massive undertaking, requiring, as of 2019, more than 633,000 employees to move the mountains of mail that are sent daily across the country and around the world. Where, as a nation, would we be without the Postal Service?

Being paper-based, the agency might seem anachronistic in an age of increasingly digital communication, and it has seen a steadily diminishing volume of mail over the years with the growing popularity of email. But millions of Americans, many without broadband connecti-

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kathleenrice.house.gov

Where to write

ty, still depend on “snail mail” as their primary source of communication with others. At the same time, vital goods, including medications, are sent by mail. Your Herald newspaper is mailed to you.

We are thus dismayed to see the Postal Service, such a basic and integral part of the nation, become politicized in the months leading to the presidential election. It is increasingly apparent that President Trump is seeking to slow the service’s operations in order to disrupt mail-in balloting, a shameful tactic given the importance of mail to so many Ameri-

cans.

Congress must act immediately to provide adequate funding so the USPS can carry out its solemn duty through the election, when mail-in balloting is expected to spike as the coronavirus pandemic drags on. Many Americans in regions across the country are concerned about voting in person, and rightly so.

Tell your congressional representative to support the Postal Service with a funding bill separate from any Covid-19 relief package — which, by the way, was still a no-go as of press time on Monday.

Our intersections are hazardous during storms

When Tropical Storm Isaias roared across Long Island on Aug. 4 with 70-mph wind gusts, it brought down more than a thousand trees in Nassau County, cutting off electricity to large areas, including sections of major thoroughfares like Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road, among many others. That meant no power for stoplights, which tied up traffic and caused potentially hazardous conditions.

Every intersection without power was an accident waiting to happen, with many motorists barreling along, seemingly oblivious to the potential dangers all around. Too many of Nassau’s intersections are hazardous enough under optimal condi-

tions — on a clear day with the lights working. Without lights, anything can happen.

That’s why villages, towns, the county and the state must work together to develop better plans to ensure motorists’ safety in major intersections after a storm like Isaias. During the recent tempest, county police officers were at some intersections minding traffic flow, but too many others were without any law enforcement personnel. We can only surmise why — budget matters, perhaps, in the face of a historic fiscal crisis brought on by the coronavirus pandemic that is expected to lead to historic deficits for government at all levels.

After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, we saw a greater number of police officers directing

traffic at intersections that were without power. We’d like to see them out in force during the next storm of this magnitude.

But police can’t be everywhere, and that’s why we must consider alternatives. For example, could we not install solar-power backups at major intersections that would provide electricity to the lights until the main power lines could be re-energized? Could we not put up temporary stop signs at those intersections? Could we not install temporary orange barriers with flashing lights to warn motorists approaching intersections without power?

All of these options require careful study, but now is the time to undertake such an effort — before the next Big One.

LETTERS

The world has only superficially improved

To the Editor:

It is always dispiriting to see subtle racism poisoning our country generation after generation as in the letter “A guest column was short on insight,” by Robert Rubalsky (Aug. 13-19). One hopes this willful ignorance will go away, but it seems an indelible stain on the

United States.

Rubalsky’s assertion that a statue of Theodore Roosevelt accompanied by a subservient Black man and Native American was a tribute to his efforts to elevate these people from “backwardness and deprivation into a more hopeful future” is insulting and ill-informed. Roosevelt, for all his accomplishments, was a white supremacist and had views on Native Americans that were borderline genocidal. He advocated Jim Crow efforts as a means of



OPINIONS

Recent laws endanger the police and public

Policing is a community service provided by a paramilitary organization. There are about 800,000 police officers across the U.S., and regardless of color or creed, we are all blue. We are charged with enforcing laws that we had no hand in creating. We are thrust into emotionally charged and volatile situations, with little preparation, and are expected to handle these encounters perfectly every time.

Our distinct designation in the community, and the exclusive nature of our work, make it imperative that we have certain protections to effectively and safely execute our sworn duties. We take pride in pursuing the high standards that

**BRIAN
WELLS**

are expected of us, but we cannot be held to the impossible standard of trial by social media. Police officers across the country now question every decision they make, and wonder after every action if it will become the next viral video disseminated in an ongoing effort to destroy us. Because we are operating in this climate of fear, you will notice the negative effects in your neighborhood.

In New York state, the choke hold ban and the repeal of Civil Rights Law 50-a are just two recent measures that have left police officers feeling bewildered and

betrayed. We have been stripped of our civil rights and the right to defend ourselves, at frightening speed. The persecution we are facing from federal, state and local officials is not courage. It is cowardice. Elected leaders kneel before the mob instead of standing with us. They cower behind us for protection and prosecute us when we provide it.

We do our best every day, working difficult schedules, provided less training than we deserve, and most often dealing with people who are sad, angry, unbalanced and upset. People are unpredictable, situations are fluid and force is an unfortunate, yet essential, part of our profession. Attempts to mitigate it are understandable, but misguided.

No police officer should ever kneel on a person's neck for an extended period of time, especially someone in handcuffs, but to criminalize any sort of neck restraint is unreasonable. We face situations with dangerous, combative people who are bigger and stronger than we are. Taking them down by the neck is an effective option and, in some scenarios, the only one. A blanket prohibition of this tactic is naïve and ignorant of the rapid escalation of physical encounters.

The most important point that can be imparted to the public is that in almost every tragic police encounter, there is a common denominator: Catastrophes can be avoided by compliance. If you do not resist arrest, there is virtually no chance that you will be killed by a police officer. And for all the hand-wringing, emotional outcries, calls for reform and greater emphasis on de-escalation, no one seems to be addressing this point, which is the only one that can, with certainty, save lives. Rather than attacking us, our critics should partner with us.

Civil Rights Law 50-a was put in place in 1976 to protect us from character assassination by defense attorneys. Its repeal allows any complaint made against police officers, even if unsubstantiated, to be used against us when we testify. Complaints are an unfortunate part of a job spent telling people what they cannot do. Obligation to take enforcement action does not make for happy customers.

Since the repeal of 50-a, any person who is angry with an officer can file a complaint, which is nothing new. What is new is that that complaint can now be introduced against the officer whenever

he or she gives sworn testimony. The ability to testify credibly is an essential part of a police officer's job. If that testimony is now going to be discredited because of unrelated complaints or incidents, then that testimony will no longer have any effect.

The recent anti-police laws that have been passed are disgraceful, and their detrimental effects will continue to be felt until they are repealed. There is room for improvement in any profession, but the idea that policing, as we know it, must be reinvented is not practical.

No one would like to see force removed from our profession more than the police, but unfortunately, no one will ever be able to do that. The goal cannot be to destroy or defund the police. That will not stop criminal behavior; it will embolden it.

The goal needs to be public education and individual compliance with well-established laws. That is the only path we can take to avert the tragedies that cause so much chaos in our communities. Until our elected officials stop pandering and get off their knees, this message will not be imparted, and our society will continue to collapse into chaos.

Brian Wells is president of the Long Beach Police Benevolent Association. His photo does not appear here because he is still at work on the streets, and does not want his face to be known to potential perpetrators.

LETTERS

controlling Black Americans. The assertion that he was "helping" these people is absurd to anyone who has studied him. Most past leaders are complex and reflect the limitations of their times and breeding. Almost none of them deserve personal tribute when viewed comprehensively.

Rubalsky then goes on to state that Black people are not being eliminated by police violence. Has he not heard of George Floyd? Botham Jean? Tamir Rice? Ahmaud Arbury? Breona Taylor? Is he unaware that the police kill over a thousand unarmed people per year? Is he unaware that the victims of such shootings are five times more likely to be Black than white? The fact that criminals kill people also is not an excuse for those acting under the authority of a badge to commit murder.

They are supposed to be professionals and keepers of the peace. Why is holding police officers accountable for their actions any different from holding other professionals responsible for malpractice? This isn't a "few bad apples," as some people contend. The acceptance, cover-ups and encouragement by other officers indicate a systemic problem. Officers that have tried to report misconduct are ignored or forced out. That is more than an isolated problem.

The culture within many police

departments that excuses and protects such actions needs to change. I wonder, Mr. Rubalsky, if it were not Black men but another historically persecuted minority being targeted would you be so comfortable with this situation?

Finally, he adopts the racist trope of blaming the Black family unit for the "social woes" of Black families as opposed to recognizing redlining, real estate steering, discriminatory banking policies, segregated school districting and national financial policies as contributory factors.

I was around for the civil rights efforts in the 1960s. I now have grandchildren, and it is discouraging to see them inheriting a world that has superficially improved but remains as hate-based as ever.

CYNTHIA LOVECCHIO
Glen Cove

New York is headed in the right direction

To the Editor:

In New York state, we knew from the beginning that testing would be a key factor in controlling the novel coronavirus. We ramped up testing immediately, and took a nation-leading role in developing the capacity to test as many New Yorkers as possible. Last Saturday I was

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



They have the Sound to themselves — Sea Cliff

proud that we continued to raise the bar, and broke our record low infection rate once again.

That day's numbers — especially the new low in hospitalizations — continued to reflect the progress we have made during this pandemic, but we will keep monitoring the data and the alarming increases in cases around the country. My message is the

same: Stay "New York smart," wash your hands, socially distance and wear masks.

Of the 88,668 test results reported to New York state on Aug. 15, 734, or 0.83 percent, were positive. Long Island's positivity rate was .9 percent that day, and Nassau County reported just 51 new Covid-19 cases.

GOV. ANDREW CUOMO

OPINIONS

Defunding the police isn't the answer

The actions of the four Minneapolis police officers who caused the tragic death of George Floyd on Memorial Day were barbaric and shameful, and go against everything we as a society stand for. The officers were rightfully fired and have been criminally charged. They will stand trial in the coming months.



**BILL
GAYLOR**

In the wake of this disgraceful incident, anti-police demonstrations continue to spread across the United States and in Nassau County. As Americans, our First Amendment right to peacefully assemble is paramount — a right that I defended while

serving for over two decades as a lieutenant colonel in the United States military. While most of these rallies have been peaceful and respectful, a handful have been marked by violence, vandalism and looting.

The common call of many protesters has been to defund the police departments of this nation. As a veteran, an

attorney and a Nassau County legislator, I believe that this is the most dangerous proposal that has come forth in recent months.

Defunding police would have only negative consequences for the public.

Slashing funding to police departments would reduce the number of police officers on our streets and could possibly lead to increased 911 response times. Overall, this could create a more dangerous Nassau County. No one wants a society filled with mayhem and lawlessness, nor a police force that doesn't have the appropriate manpower to keep law-abiding citizens safe, but I worry that reducing funding for our law enforcement would bring about just that.

The recent push by a Manhattan assemblywoman to disarm peace officers throughout the state adds to this concern about increased lawlessness. The bill she proposed would eliminate the right to possess a firearm by officers who prevent cruelty to animals, parole officers, probation officers, bay constables, uniformed court officers, waterfront and airline investigators and arson investigators as

well as court clerks, fire marshals and corrections officers. These peace officers are tasked with important law-enforcement duties, many of which are serious threats to the officers themselves. The bill is currently stalled, but could be

revived in the future, adding another worry for those who keep the peace.

Our police have made strides in building relationships in every neighborhood in Nassau County, and use community policing to keep neighborhoods safe. They have made Nassau one of the safest large suburban counties in the United States. There is always room for additional training and more resources to

help police do an even better job. Reforms like refresher programs and body cameras could be implemented and prioritized, and would help ensure the safety of all residents.

In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio has removed \$1 billion from the Police Department under pressure from protesters. The city's police commissioner has disbanded the plain-clothes anti-crime units that were instrumental in transforming New York from one of the

most dangerous cities to one of the safest in the world. With an increase in homicides and violent crime in New York, it is unjustifiable to disband these critical units. They must be reinstated.

Amid calls to defund the police, I joined Lynbrook Mayor Alan Beach, members of the Lynbrook Police Department, community leaders and residents to show support for the men and women who work tirelessly every day to keep our community safe. I urge residents across the county to hang a blue ribbon on your home to show that you support law enforcement and appreciate their service. Thank you to the Nassau County Police Department, the village and city police departments, and the many NYPD officers who live in Nassau County for the work you do every day.

George Floyd's unforgivable death has rightfully placed an extremely few bad officers under a national microscope. Their actions do not represent the police as a whole. Police officers risk their lives every day to keep our families safe and protect our communities, businesses and properties. If we defund them, we will be punishing the many for the actions of a small few.

Nassau County Legislator Bill Gaylor represents the 6th District.

Kudos for peace plan, but the prez still needs to go

The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function."

— F. Scott Fitzgerald



**RANDI
KREISS**

Let us assume that we all have first-rate intelligence. It's a bit of a leap, because many Americans are wedged into a rigid binary belief set, either blue or red, either Trump or Biden, either liberal or conservative, with no room for any give. However, real life

is more nuanced than that, and an evolved brain can process seemingly contradictory ideas.

Last week, the president announced a historic peace initiative between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. The plan, developed by Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, offers a promising opportunity to bring together Arab countries and Israel on a path toward peaceful co-existence.

The New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote that the new peace plan is a "geopolitical earthquake." The

positive implications are huge; other Persian Gulf states may find it in their interest to join the peace party. Friedman wrote, "There are really two coalitions in the region today — those who want to let the future bury the past and those who want the past to keep burying the future."

Credit goes to Trump and Kushner for finding a golden moment in a troubled hour. Experts will parse the details of the agreement for years: Why was Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ready to agree? How did his own political problems play a part? Why was the UAE at this particular tipping point?

We cannot be naïve, but no matter where we are on the political spectrum, it seems appropriate to take a breath and feel thankful for a promise kept in Middle East negotiations.

At the same time — and here is where we need to acknowledge the cognitive dissonance in the air — the foreign policy success of the moment does not mitigate the powerful case against Trump as a viable candidate for re-election. It is somewhat like acknowledging that Richard Nixon was a skilled foreign policy negotiator, and that he was also a crook. He had to go.

Trump has a long and sordid history of lies, self-serving policies, authoritarian micro-aggressions, alleged crimes and glaring incompetence.

Last week, as he was basking in the success of the Middle East deal, he was busy trying to dismantle the United States Postal Service in an admitted effort to disenfranchise prospective Democratic voters. He wants to reduce mail-in balloting in the belief that he will do better if fewer people get to exercise their right to vote.

Trump is the master of bad-faith deals and self-serving policies. He isn't even trying to disguise his motives. His handpicked guy at the USPS is laying off workers and decommissioning equipment just before the November election.

When it comes to malfeasance in office, we citizens hardly know where to look first. From the early days of the Trump administration, ordering the separation of children from parents at the border; to the racist shout-outs after Charlottesville, to the evisceration of vital government departments, to the replacement of competent civil servants with inexperienced hacks, the reign of Trump has been a disaster.

Last week, Friedman praised the

Trump Middle East initiative. But Friedman has written three and a half years of columns calling out Trump for his misdeeds and reprehensible behavior.

In February 2018, Friedman wrote of Russian interference in the 2016 election: "Our democracy is in serious danger . . . President Trump is either totally compromised by the Russians or is a towering fool, or both, but either way he has shown himself unwilling or unable to defend America against a Russian campaign to divide and undermine our democracy . . . This is code red. The biggest threat to the integrity of our democracy today is in the Oval Office."

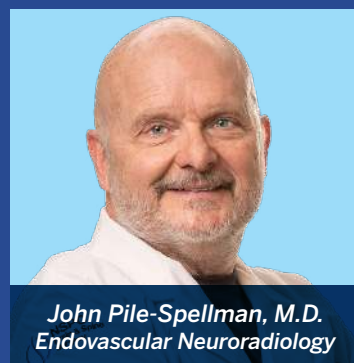
Months ago, Friedman wrote about Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic, slamming his "flat-out stupid" defiance of accepted health measures.

I use Friedman as an example because he isn't a one-note song. He gave credit this week where credit was due. I agree that bringing together the UAE and Israel on a path moving forward is a political success. We are grateful and hope for more good news from the region.

At the same time, because we have nuanced brains and can process two ideas at once, we can understand how dangerous and uniquely unqualified this man is for the White House.

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