

GLEN COVE  
**HERALD**  
*Gazette*



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Donovan Berthoud

**No one to cheer for this fall**

Glen Cove High School cheerleaders and other high school athletes will likely not have a season this fall because of the coronavirus pandemic. Story, Page 3.

**New bulkhead coming to G.C. sewage plant**

By **MIKE CONN**  
 mconn@iherald.com

The Nassau County Legislature voted unanimously on Aug. 3 to approve additional funding for a new marine bulkhead along the Glen Cove Sewage Treatment Plant, near Hempstead Harbor. The bulkhead will run along the south side of Glen Cove Creek, which empties into the harbor.

The project, which was brought to the Legislature's attention by Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, a Democrat from Glen Cove, will cost \$172,480.

County funding was approved to replace the existing bulkhead a few years ago, but, DeRiggi-Whitton said, the project fell through because it was not deemed a priority at the time. The consulting and design firm H2M Architects + Engineers tested the soil and groundwater in the area, and found low levels of contamination. But there is more wear and tear on structures that are in constant contact with water, DeRiggi-Whitton noted, and

given the fact that the bulkhead protects Hempstead Harbor from sewage runoff, further deterioration could result in contamination of the harbor.

"It was getting to the point that if we didn't address it now, we would've had a larger issue in the future," she said, later adding, "It's one of those things that no one really pays attention to unless it really goes wrong."



**County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton**

Ken Arnold, commissioner of the county Department of Public Works, will send out a request for proposals in the next few weeks to find a company to do the work.

Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke said he was grateful for DeRiggi-Whitton's attention to the issue. "If it wasn't for her keeping these projects and repairs in the forefront," Tenke said, "I don't think they would get the attention that they [need]."

Because Glen Cove is a waterfront community, the mayor said, it has a responsibility to keep nearby waters clean. The

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**Back to the books: G.C. Library is now open for browsing**

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

As many Glen Cove residents are preparing to go back to school, two of the city's resource centers have reopened — the Glen Cove Public Library and the North Shore Historical Museum.

While both had to close in March because of the coronavirus

pandemic, many programs continued to connect patrons to programs, resources and opportunities for learning.

"We have English as a Second Language classes, citizenship classes, and yoga is a big hit," Kathie Flynn, the library director, said.

But computers and sitting areas have been blocked off. The aisles of DVDs and books have

arrows on the floor to keep patrons from walking past one another. And markers keep patrons six feet apart at check-out.

"We are going to have a security guard at the door, and the security guard will have masks available so that if people don't have one with them, they can get one," Flynn said. "There will be

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# Saturdays on the Creek

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Christina Daly/Herald Gazette



Donovan Berthoud/Herald Gazette

**GLEN COVER AUBREY** Mercado gave it her all during a Whiffle ball game.

**GLEN COVE HIGH** School football players are disappointed.

# GCHS disappointed as sports are postponed

By **TONY BELLISSIMO** and **JENNIFER CORR**

tbellissimo@liherald.com, jcorr@liherald.com

Nassau County High School student-athletes will have to wait until 2021 to compete in sports.

At an emergency meeting held the morning of Aug. 26, Nassau school superintendents voted to postpone high school sports until Jan. 4, becoming the first of the state's 11 sections to move its fall season.

"I believe other sections will follow and pull the plug, but I can't speak for anyone else," said Section VIII (Nassau) Executive Director of Athletics Pat Pizzarelli. "We felt strong enough to make this decision now," he added. "We took the cautious route, but we believe it's in everyone's best interests. There are too many unknowns."

"It's just not time to allow kids to play sports," he continued. "And my first and foremost concern is the safety of our student-athletes."

However, Pizzarelli told Newsday, the door is being left open in the event that there is more scientific evidence that says it's safe to go back and start sports. "We'll reassess that position before Sept. 21," he said.

Peter Cardone, the director of health, physical education and athletics at Glen Cove City School District said the district is ready to "rock and roll" as soon as they're given a green light.

"We've got all the necessary equipment for our athletes to be safe," Cardone said. "Of course, I'd love to see the athletes play. They've worked hard their whole life to play sports, but the most important thing to us is the safety of my athletes."

The county's decision came two days after Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo issued guidance permitting lower-risk high school fall sports (soccer, tennis, swimming, field hockey and cross-country) to begin practice and play on Sept. 21, while noting football and volleyball could begin practice but not play.

However, the superintendents did not consider the current conditions safe enough to conduct any fall sports. The seven-person committee of Nassau County officials voted unanimously to postpone.

"It was never a consideration to try playing even the lower-risk sports," Pizzarelli said. "Transportation is a big issue. There are a lot of issues."

Cardone said that he is currently prioritizing staying in communication with the student athletes in the wake of this announcement. "Our coaches are in communication with student athletes to try to keep them positive," he said. "Students are eager to come back and play. Social distance yourself and continue to work out hard because at any moment they can turn the green light on for our kids to play."

But many student athletes, and their parents, are still disappointed that they may not be able to start the season as soon as they thought they could.

Jennifer Neen Malvino, the mother of a Glen Cove High School senior Brianna, said her daughter was sad that her volleyball season would be delayed. Along with volleyball, she also plays softball and basketball.

"I do wish they would allow fall sports," Malvino said. "The kids really do come together and form a bond. They

really enjoy it. It keeps them busy."

The plan as it stands, Pizzarelli said, is to play all three sports seasons between January and June, when, hopefully, the threat of Covid-19 has decreased. He said Section VIII will create its own contingency model and aim to limit season overlaps to one week at the most.

"We'll look to get started Jan. 4 with the traditional winter sports, including basketball and wrestling," Pizzarelli said.

Under these circumstances, Brianna would be playing all three sports in 2021. "We're hoping and praying that we're going to play," Malvino said. "The coaches have reached out to her and they're trying to keep them all positive about it. It's just hard because there's no practice, so it's like we don't know what's going to happen."

Each sports season will be condensed, running approximately nine weeks. The fall sports will be played in the second season and spring sports would be third as usual. Last year's spring season was nixed March 16, after just one week of practice, due to coronavirus.

"I know that a shortened season might not be the greatest thing for them, but we're going to try to make it the best as possible to make a great environment for them," Cardone said.

For now, Brianna has been practicing and exercising in preparation for what's to come. "She does play on a private softball team, so she's been doing that," Malvino said. "But with her senior year she was hoping it would be a great year to finish up."

Meanwhile, Karen Lettis Martinez's daughter, Christina, who will be entering the ninth grade, was looking for her new

beginning at Glen Cove High School in cheerleading. Martinez's son, Nicholas, was heading into his junior year on the football team.

"He's definitely extremely disappointed; football is his life basically," Martinez said. "They already missed out on the lacrosse season last year due to Covid . . . my daughter is going to miss out on cheer, which she has been doing since she was three-years-old."

Martinez said that her family was looking forward to having her son and daughter on the same field. "This coming season, September, is usually a really big thing for us," Martinez said. "I definitely know it's uncertain. Everything is uncertain. I wish they could have at least started practicing, socially distancing outdoors, especially with the cheer. They can do a lot outside just spacing themselves. It's not like they need to have close contact."

Martinez said that she was also concerned about the weather in January forcing the games and practice inside, which could introduce more Covid-19 related issues.

"As we get closer to January, I think we will see just how our community is doing in regards to Covid and the flu season and the other concerns that are raised and we will absolutely get additional information, a new season roster indicating when the start and end of each sport would be for the second half of the school year," said Glen Cove City School District Superintendent Dr. Maria Rianna at last week's Board of Education meeting.

# G.C. teen's alleged killers arrested in Maryland

Baltimore County Police have arrested five suspects in connection with the May 29 murder of Gabriela Alejandra Gonzalez Ardon, 16, of Glen Cove. The suspects are believed to be affiliated with the MS-13 gang and were already in custody at the Baltimore County Detention Center for other crimes. The Glen Cove Police Department assisted in the investigation.

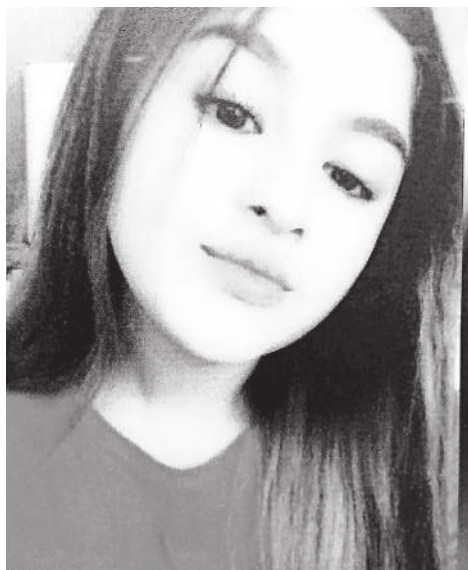
The following suspects were charged with Murder in the First Degree and numerous related charges:

- Jonathan J. Pesquera-Puerto, 19.
- Edys O. Valenzuela-Rodriguez, 20.
- Wualter Hernandez-Orellana, 19.
- Asael Ezequie Gonzalez-Merlos, 16 (charged as an adult).
- Wilson Art Constanza-Galdomez, 21.

Homicide detectives believe the suspects knew the victim and lured her to the park where she was murdered. The suspects' motivation for the crime was due to her possible affiliation with another rival gang.

All five suspects are being held at the Baltimore County Detention Center without the possibility of bail.

The body of Gonzalez Ardon was discovered along a walking trail near Loch Raven Reservoir on Friday, May 29. Police had initially determined that the body was an adult female. The 16-year-old was



Courtesy Nassau County Police Department

**GABRIELA ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ** Ardon, 16, was last seen leaving her home in an unknown direction in February.

identified by family members after they reported her missing and were subsequently alerted to police social media posts revealing the girl's tattoos.

Nassau County Police Department Missing Persons Squad stated that Gonzalez Ardon, 15-years-old at the time, went missing on Feb.18 at 6 a.m. Last seen leaving her home in an unknown direction, she was reported missing to the police at 5:18 p.m.

## CRIME WATCH

### Arrest

- On August 23, a 34-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for aggravated driving while intoxicated and driving while intoxicated on Hill Street.
- On August 25, a 24-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for criminal possession of a controlled substance in the sev-

enth degree, unlawful possession of marijuana in the second degree and numerous vehicle and traffic violations on Frost Pond Road.

- On August 29, a 25-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for aggravated family offense and criminal contempt in the first degree on Smith Street.

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

GLEN COVE  
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Courtesy Ring

**AN UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL** pulls on car handle to see if its unlocked in a Glen Cove neighborhood.

## Parts of Glen Cove see a rise of car larcenies

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

Simply forgetting to lock the car is costing some Glen Cove residents the loss of their valuables, as individuals, who have yet to be identified, are stealing from unlocked cars.

"We believe it's mostly adolescents and they're not actually breaking into the cars, they're just checking the cars to see if it's open," said Glen Cove Police Department Chief William Whitton. "Then they go in and take the obvious thing that people would leave in their cars; loose change, credit cards, cell phones, once in a while a lap-top. Generally speaking they're not doing any damage."

Detective Lt. John Nagle of the GCPD said that these larcenies have been taking place since May throughout Glen Cove and surrounding areas in the late hours of the night and early hours of the morning.

"The one common denominator in all of these larcenies is that the vehicles have been left unlocked by the vehicle owner," Nagle said. "The thieves have struck in numerous areas in Glen Cove with the majority of the thefts occurring in the Landing area and the Glen Cove Avenue area. Residents are urged to immediately call the Glen Cove Police if they see suspicious persons or vehicles in their neighborhoods, especially late night and nearly morning hours."

Glen Cove resident Alexander Papas said that after fellow city residents

noticed missing items in their cars, a nightly reminder in the "Glen Cove Neighbors" Facebook page, which Papas is an administrator, was implemented to make sure members lock their car at night. "Hopefully if these people can't get anything from our area, they will move on," he said.

**H**opefully if these people can't get anything from our area, they will move on.

**ALEXANDER PAPAS**  
Glen Cove Neighbors administrator

Papas said his car was stolen from a few weeks ago. "Funny thing is you don't always notice; all of a sudden you need your glasses or something and it's gone," he said. "My wife noticed her change cup was gone and her glasses. The only reason we realized right away was because somebody made a post about it in the group."

"There has been some video footage that we've been able to review but it is mostly low quality video

from Ring cameras and a lot of times these people are wearing face masks, which makes it even more difficult," Whitton said, adding that when one credit card was traced back to a store, the people caught using the card on CCTV footage were wearing a mask, making it difficult to identify them.

"I guess you could chalk it up to 'well you should lock your doors,'" Papas said. "They aren't breaking any windows or door locks. Just opening unlocked doors. Still it's a [bad] thing to do. I'm concerned that these things will start happening more now that we are starting to feel the effects of the Covid shut down."

While Whitton said "sooner or later" the GCPD or a homeowner would catch someone in the act, which would subsequently lead to an arrest, residents should never leave their cars unlocked. "Don't leave valuables in the car," he said. "Do not leave your wallet, your credit card, or your cell phone."

Whitton also recommends installing motion lights near driveways.

"Your behavior is incredibly selfish," Whitton said of those involved with the larcenies. "It needs to stop. People work hard for what they have. You do not have the right to go and take their property just because they left their car unlocked. It's wrong. It's immoral."

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# Rice proposes bill to combat impaired driving

## If signed into law, bill would establish annual \$5M federal grant program

U.S. Reps. Kathleen Rice, a Democrat from Garden City, and Troy Balderson, a Republican from Ohio, introduced the bipartisan Drug-Impaired Driving Education Act of 2020, which would establish an annual \$5 million federal grant program for states to educate the public on the dangers of drug-impaired driving.

The latest available data from 2018 indicates that impaired driving was a factor in roughly 11,000 traffic deaths nationwide, all of which were preventable, the Congress members said.

Rice, who has fought drunken driving since her days as Nassau County's district attorney, introduced three pieces of legislation in 2019 to help end impaired driving.

"Despite common misconceptions, drug-impaired driving is just as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol, and that's why this bill to expand public education and awareness is so important," Rice said. "I've been working on these issues for my entire career, and I have seen the immense pain and tragedy that they can cause far too many times. I thank Representative Balderson and the many advocacy groups who are supporting this legislation. We must keep working together until we can end impaired and distracted driving once and for all."

"When someone under the influence of drugs or alcohol gets behind the wheel of a motor vehicle, entire communities are put at risk," Balderson said. "Sadly, this is a fact we know

all too well in the state of Ohio, where the opioid epidemic runs rampant. This legislation takes critical steps to educate our communities about the risks associated with drug-impaired driving, including those driving under the influence of opioids and marijuana."

The Drug-Impaired Driving Education Act has been endorsed by Responsibility.org, Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America, the National Safety Council, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws and the National District Attorneys Association.

Darrin Grondel, vice president of traffic safety and government relations for Responsibility.org, said, "In Washington state, 44 percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes between 2008 to 2016 tested positive for two or more substances, with alcohol and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) being the most common combination. This legislation is a giant step forward in helping the public to understand the dangers drug-impaired driving and multi-substance impaired driving pose on our roadways."

"Too many Americans do not realize that driving under the influence of cannabis or prescription medication impairs their ability to operate a vehicle safely, so efforts to bolster information, education and enforcement is something we can all celebrate," said Michelle Korsmo, president and CEO of Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America. "WSWA remains steadfast in fighting impaired driving in all forms and commends Reps. Rice and Balderson for their leadership and commitment to the public on the health and safety of all Americans."

"Impairment is a persistent roadway safety issue, and we know drug-impaired driving is a growing concern," said Lorraine Martin, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. "We need public awareness and outrage to move the needle to save lives, and this bill [would provide] initial funding to this end. We appreciate Congresswoman Rice's ongoing leadership and relentless commitment to this important issue."

"Keeping our communities safe and reducing fatalities on our nation's

roads remains a top priority for prosecutors throughout the country," said Nancy Parr, NDAA president and the commonwealth's attorney for the City of Chesapeake, VA. "NDAA supports and endorses the Drug-Impaired Driving Education Act of 2020, which [would] provide vital federal funding to state and local governments, non-profits, and law enforcement agencies to educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving and protect our citizens across the nation."

"With the majority of U.S. states now regulating marijuana sales for either medical purposes or for adult use, it's important that traffic safety laws and practices comport with this new reality," said Paul Armentano, NORML deputy director. "Both lawmakers and the general public can benefit from evidence-based messaging and strategies reinforcing and strengthening responsible behavior."

Congress previously funded efforts to train authorities to better detect and deter drug-impaired driving, but there remains a need for public education and awareness of this growing problem, according to Rice. The new federal grant program established by the Drug-Impaired Driving Education Act would provide funding to states to address this specific need.

The legislation is yet to be voted on by the House of Representatives, and must be approved by both the House and Senate and signed by the president to become law.



**D**espite common misconceptions, drug-impaired driving is just as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol.

**KATHLEEN RICE**  
U.S. representative

## Nassau sees lowest infection rate since March

Thursday, Aug. 27, marked the highest number of Covid-19 tests conducted in Nassau County since the beginning of the pandemic, with 9,814 test results reported by the New York State Department of Health, and 0.5 percent of tests were positive for the coronavirus.

"Robust testing is key to successfully navigating the challenges we are set to face this fall," County Executive Laura Curran said. "Nassau is still waiting for the federal government to provide the emergency aid required to prevent further economic catastrophe and gutting of essential services — including continued robust Covid-19 testing. I want to thank Governor Cuomo for

his leadership, including making sure New York continues to ramp up Covid-19 testing instead of slowing it down. We need more testing with quicker results — not less testing altogether.



**Lauran Curran**

Nassau has the line on the coronavirus, with a 1 percent positivity rate, throughout the summer. "But," Curran said, "September will be a new challenge. None of this is easy, but we have no choice but to remain vigilant against a virus that has claimed the lives of 2,197 residents and now more than 180,000 fellow Americans. Let's keep doing what has saved countless lives and allowed Long Island to reopen safely: wearing a mask and social distancing."

## Town teams with Northwell on testing

The Town of Hempstead and Northwell Health are launching three Covid-19 mobile testing locations. The initiative, town and Northwell officials said, will provide increased testing to high-risk and minority communities within the town, which have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Each week, three to four testing sites will be available, free of charge, at different locations throughout the town. The testing facilities will be open Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. To find the nearest testing location, residents are asked to call (516) 821-2500.

Town Supervisor Donald Clavin thanked U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer for helping to secure the federal funding needed for the testing sites. "This collaboration with Northwell Health is

one that the town is extremely proud of and will continue our region's ability to keep driving the numbers of Covid-19 cases down to the lowest we've seen since the start of the pandemic," Clavin said.

"We're proud to partner with the Town of Hempstead to provide antibody and diagnostic Covid-19 testing and share prevention information at 16 sites within Hempstead town," said Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez, senior vice president of community and population health at Northwell Health. "Education and testing are the keys to fostering healthy communities and limiting the spread of Covid-19."

Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are encouraged by calling 821-2500. For more information, visit [hempsteadny.gov/](http://hempsteadny.gov/).

# Noble Savage Brewing Company raises money to stay open

By JENNIFER CORR

jcarr@liherald.com

Opening a downtown brewery in Glen Cove has been no easy feat for Frank Bilello, who started brewing in his backyard shed in 2014.

“After more than five years of planning and with tremendous difficulty raising capital, we began a lengthy renovation of a vacant storefront in Downtown Glen Cove,” Bilello, the owner and head brewer of Noble Savage Brewing Company, wrote in his GoFundMe fundraiser “Save the Savage.” “The original 1928 structure was fraught with unexpected issues and the project experienced numerous delays and set backs that put us way over budget.”

Despite being undercapitalized, he wrote, Noble Savage was able to open its doors in June 2019. But it wasn't until February in 2020 that the brewery would break even, with events planned for March.

Then the coronavirus happened.

“We were closed for a little bit and then we reopened for deliveries and take out,” Bilello, who is from Sea Cliff, said. “By May, I pretty much ran out of money.”

Programs like the Payroll Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan helped Bilello keep his business afloat, but it simply does not cover the tab while some potential customers are not venturing out as they would in the past because of risks associated with the pandemic.

“Despite continuous support from our loyal customers and the City of Glen Cove, we are struggling to make ends meet and in danger of closing our doors for good,” Bilello wrote in his GoFundMe fundraiser, which has so far raised \$8,585. “Without your help we will not last another month

and will lose everything we've sacrificed and worked so hard for.”

Bilello created the fundraiser on Aug. 24. He intended to start raising money in May but said he didn't feel right asking for money while receiving emergency funding.

A donation of \$50 or more comes with a t-shirt that says, “Save the Savage,” as Bilello said that he doesn't believe in asking for something for nothing.

“It's been overwhelming, the support,” Bilello said on Friday. “Last night was the best Thursday I've had probably ever. A lot of new people are moving in so that's good for me and down here because we're all struggling.”

Many customers have been enjoying their drinks and food truck fare in front of the brewery on Glen Street, which is closed between Thursday and Saturday nights for outdoor dining.

For those unable to donate, Bilello said that checking out Noble Savage's brews, purchasing crowlers,

a gift card or some merchandise, following the brewery on Instagram and Facebook at “noblesavagebrewco,” sharing his fundraiser online, talking about the brewery with friends and family and writing a Google review about the brewery are ways people can help keep Noble Savage around.

“We believe we brew excellent beer, offer great service and have an amazing space for the community to enjoy,” Bilello wrote in his fundraiser. “So please help us stay afloat. If not for us, then for Glen Cove. The city cannot afford to lose another business. We've become an important player in the revitalization and have been working tirelessly to create culture and bring Glen Cove back to its former glory.”

To support and learn more about the fundraiser, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/hg6dk-save-the-savage>.



**THE ORIGINAL 1928** structure of Noble Savage Brewing Company presented issues causing opening delays.



Courtesy Will Ehmann

**FRANK BILELLO, THE** owner and head brewer of Noble Savage Brewing Company, said that the brewery offers a space for the community to enjoy.

## NEWS BRIEF

### Learn to cut college costs

#### Webinar hosted by Lockwood College Prep

Do you worry about how you'll pay for higher education for you or your children? Tuition prices can seem daunting, but solutions exist.

Join Andy Lockwood, best-selling author and college advisor, on Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. for a virtual event that will show you how to cut college costs by 52.2 percent or more. “Many Long Island families mistakenly think they can't qualify for financial aid because they've never heard about legal ‘loopholes’ in the financial aid formulas,” Lockwood said. “I'm planning to share at least four cost-cutting strategies any family can use to slash college tuition by 52.2 percent, or even more, in the webinar.”

Hosted by Lockwood College Prep and produced by RichnerLIVE, a Herald sister company, this webinar reveals how families can comfortably afford college, especially during tough economic times in the pandemic, even if they do not qualify for financial aid. You'll discover strategies that can help you shave thousands off the cost of a quality education, including:

- How Covid-19 affects college admissions and financial aid.

- Methods to negotiate with top tier universities so they can cost less than a state school.

- Types of savings accounts that do not penalize you in financial aid formulas.

- The 529 Savings Plan.

- Legal loopholes business owners can take to unlock cash buried in their businesses.

- How one Huntington family negotiated an extra \$38,000 per year from the University of Pennsylvania.

Lockwood will also answer your questions in real time. He is the co-owner and co-founder of Lockwood College Prep, an educational consultant company on Long Island, with his wife, Pearl Lockwood. He is also author of “How to Negotiate Your Crappy Financial Aid and Merit Aid Offer,” which has an updated edition on how coronavirus will impact your aid.

All who sign up and attend this webinar will receive a free copy of Lockwood's book. Attendance is limited and no replay is planned. Register at [liherald.com/virtualevents9-9](http://liherald.com/virtualevents9-9).

For more information, call (516) 569-4000, ext. 224.

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# Councilman represents at GOP convention

By **MATTHEW FERREMI**

mferremi@iherald.com

Town of Hempstead Councilman Bruce Blakeman, a Republican covering the 3rd District, got to be a part of what he described as the most unusual convention he has ever attended.

He was one of six New York state delegates at the 2020 Republican National Convention, which took place in Charlotte, N.C., and the White House from Aug. 24 to 27. Originally there were to be 94 state delegates, but the number was pared down to six because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"There are two types of ways to become a delegate: You can run for it in your congressional district, and then there are a number of delegates the state chairman can appoint," Blakeman said. "I was one of the elected delegates from the state's 4th Congressional District. When it was restricted from 94 to six, I lobbied to [Nassau County Republican Chairman] Joe Cairo that I wanted to go, and the squeaky wheel wound up getting the oil."

New York GOP Chairman Nick Langworthy said he was pleased to have Blakeman as a state delegate. "Although I wish we could've been celebrating the president's nomination with all of our 94 delegates, I was proud to have Councilman Blakeman as one of the six state delegates," Langworthy said.

The process for the delegates to enter the convention began a week before the pandemic, when Blakeman said he was sent daily health questionnaires and a Covid-19 test. "I got to Charlotte on Sunday night, [Aug. 23], and it was pretty closed down," he said. "Everything was consolidated around the convention center, as the Westin Hotel was like an armed camp since the president and vice president

were there."

President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence spoke with the delegates on the morning of Aug. 24. "Vice President Pence came to thank us for our vote and thank us for coming down," Blakeman said. "Around 11 a.m., President Trump

came down to speak in an informal discussion on his accomplishments and his vision for the next four years. Everybody was energized by that, and the fact that he detoured his plans to thank the delegates in Charlotte was a very nice thing."

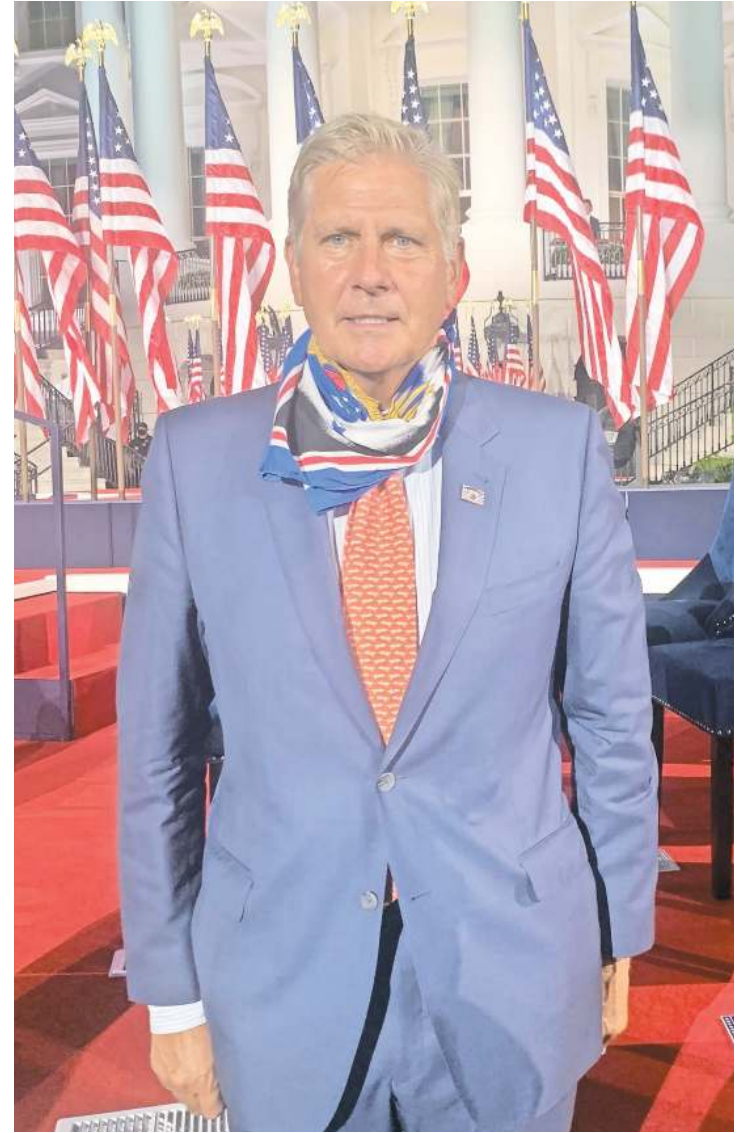
The convention moved to Washington, D.C. on Aug. 27 as Trump concluded the festivities with a speech on the White House's South Lawn, which Blakeman attended. "The crowd was energized and excited and were moved by the stories we heard from some of the speakers," Blakeman said. "I thought the president was really good in his speech, and he touched on everything he needed to."

Coming out of the convention, Blakeman said he is "cautiously optimistic" about the presidential election. "I feel that a successful candidate always has to run as if they were 10 points behind so we can't take anything for granted," he said. "There has been movement in the past two weeks for the president in swing states, and I feel good about the numbers moving in the right direction for him."

When looking back on the convention, Blakeman said he would remember the relationships he formed with fellow delegates from across the country. "We spent our time talking about what life was like in our own communities and the election," he said. "The convention was very different but great. The fact that it was historic because it was so restricted made it special for me to be one of about 350 delegates there."

**T**he fact that it was historic because it was so restricted made it special for me to be one of about 350 delegates there.

**BRUCE BLAKEMAN**  
Town of Hempstead councilman



Courtesy Bruce Blakeman

**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD** Councilman Bruce Blakeman was one of six New York state delegates at the 2020 Republican National Convention.

## County executive serves as DNC delegate

By **BRIDGET DOWNES**

bdownes@iherald.com

Over four days, elected officials and delegates from around the country attended the Democratic National Convention — including Nassau County Executive Laura Curran — but this time, virtually.

Many people streamed footage of the convention, which took place Aug. 17 through 20. Joe Biden accepted the Democratic Party's nomination for president, and Kamala Harris, for vice president.

"I think it would've been a lot more fun to do it the old-fashioned way, in a convention center with balloons and the crazy hats and everything," Curran, of Baldwin, said. "It would've been a good experience; however, like everything else these days, we're doing things a bit differently, so we did it over Zoom, virtually."

It was the county executive's first time attending the convention as a delegate. She had attended in 1992, before she was involved in politics and government, when Bill Clinton accepted the party's nomination for president.

Curran said she attended some Zoom meetings throughout the four days in addition to delegate meetings, and watched parts of the convention via YouTube like other viewers.

"There were some meetings that I would go to, organized by the State Democratic Committee," she explained, adding that she and other delegates voted by filling out a form and e-mailing it in. "So it was easy in

that I didn't have to go anywhere or really take time off. That was one plus."

It's a strange election this year, Curran said, between Covid-19 changing the rules and the uncertainties around voting.

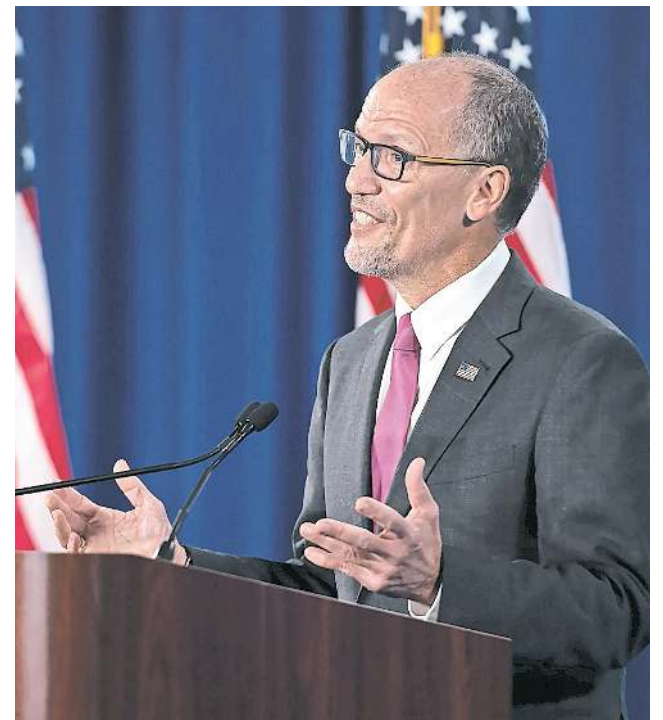
"I would just encourage anyone who's listening that no matter who you're voting for — I'm not going to tell you who to vote for — just make sure that you don't get turned off by the differences in this election and get out and vote, whether it's absentee ballot or however you're doing it," she said, adding that it's "so important for everyone to make their voices heard."

"Being able to participate in the convention, even remotely, really reminded me of that," Curran continued, "how important it is to vote, because that's the thing that keeps our democracy alive. It's the thing that keeps elected officials accountable to the people."

She also urged voters to cast their votes in local races as well.

"It's so important that we participate in this democracy because in the course of human history, it is a rare and beautiful thing, and we should not take it for granted," Curran said, noting that voting helps hold policy-makers accountable. "The best and easiest way to do that is to vote."

"Whatever is going on in the world, whether we can be there in person or not, democracy is still happening," she said. "It's just happening in a new way. Democracy persists."



Courtesy Alex Hanel DNCC

**DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE** Chair Tom Perez spoke at the Democratic National Convention — streamed to viewers remotely — on Aug. 19.



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# NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

## Glen Cove Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation hosts care package drive-thru

Glen Cove Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation hosted a Care Package Drive Thru event on August 26 for the community's senior citizens. New York State Senator James Gaughran also attended the giveaway.

Care packages included personal protection items, such as masks and hand sanitizer, as well as fresh baked goods, beach balls and frozen treats. More than 100 bags were given out.



**NEW YORK STATE** Senator James Gaughran, left, and Kathy Santucci, community liaison for Glen Cove Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, get ready to give out some free care packages to seniors.



Courtesy Glen Cove Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation

**THE STAFF AT** Glen Cove Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation gave out more than 100 free care packages, containing PPE and baked goods to the seniors in the community.

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# “When NYU Winthrop’s TAVR team replaced my heart valve, they gave me my life back.”



For John Elliott, sailing is living. He’s been on the water for most of his 90-plus years. In all three theaters during World War 2, as a merchant seaman, and for the last 70 years sailing out of the Rockaway Point Yacht Club.

But recently John was so fatigued and short of breath, he could only walk a few steps. His aortic valve was failing. His daughter, a nurse, told John about a valve replacement procedure called TAVR. She took him to NYU Winthrop Hospital, part of NYU Langone Health. With some of the country’s highest quality TAVR programs on Long Island and in Manhattan, NYU Langone Health is a leader in this procedure. They replaced John’s valve through an artery in his leg. In no time at all, he was back to sailing off Breezy Point.

If you suffer from aortic stenosis, you may be a candidate for TAVR. **To learn more, call 1-866-WINTHROP or visit [nyulangone.org/tavr](https://nyulangone.org/tavr).**



# HERALD Covid-19 HOMETOWN HEROES

## BARBARA COSTELLO

GLEN HEAD

**FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT,  
GUARDIAN ANGEL  
FAMILY CRISIS CENTER**



I started Guardian Angel 12 years ago as a community outreach center to reach our local neighbors in need. We offer and provide housing, food, clothing and children's needs. We also have an outreach program where the community is very much a part of the volunteerism.

During the pandemic, the basic need for families has been food, which is still ongoing. We communicated our growing needs for the community and coordinated the food efforts with the NOSH organization, which is also connected to the North Shore schools, to help local families.

Also through Guardian Angel, we have families that have taken on other families on a weekly basis to drop off food at their homes, see if they're OK and if they needed anything from the store. They were also able to get clothes from the Guardian Angel store, [and] they were provided tutoring assistance, whatever we could provide for them.

People contact us because of the need-based programs. When I opened it 12 years ago, there was an awareness of needs, but during a crisis like this, you just need to have a center that's available. We collaborated with other local organizations to help in that need of reaching the community.

It's always heartfelt to reach out to people who are in need and the simplicity of it is just their basic needs.

**HERALD HOMETOWN HERO**

## LISA MALONEY

BAYVILLE

**NURSING SUPERVISOR,  
NYU WINTHROP  
MINEOLA**



It was a very challenging few months for me when the coronavirus was at its peak as a nursing supervisor at NYU Winthrop. I found myself at ground zero of the Covid-19 pandemic on Long Island.

NYU reported having the first Covid positive case in Nassau County on my shift. From that day and for the next 12 weeks, we were faced with an extremely challenging and unknown situation. It was unlike anything I had ever experienced in the 34 years in my nursing career.

The pandemic came at us fast and furious. Because it was a novel virus, no one knew what to expect, and there was little information to go on. The volume of patients critically ill was enormous, and the gravity of their illness was shocking.

It was my responsibility to provide proper protection to my staff and provide staff and treatment to a very critically ill fragile patient population. This was all while trying to maintain some lines of communication with their loved ones who could not be with them. It was weeks of 12- to 14-hour days. For me there was no time for fear because the patients needed all of us.

I have always viewed my career as more of a vocation than a "job," so I did what was needed. I am so very proud of what we were able to accomplish and learn while in the trenches during the pandemic.

**HERALD HOMETOWN HERO**

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This important work is sustained by your financial support, through donations and subscriptions. As we continue our coverage we are calling on individuals, businesses, and community foundations to help fund COVID-19 coverage and deliver life-saving news and information. Even \$25 can help.

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## MARIO BENCIVENNI

GLEN COVE

OWNER,  
FRANK'S BEVERAGE  
GLEN COVE

**W**e were essential. We did a lot of curbside and home delivery. We always did that in our business, but we did it more during the pandemic. So it just tripled, quadrupled the home deliveries and the curbside.

We were never out of water. We were never out of stock. We were lucky. We are here 26 years, so our business was very good for us. Business was normal.

We had gotten a trailer of water, and I was talking to my manager, and only because I'm a lifelong resident of Glen Cove, I just felt [to donate it] in my heart. The reason I called Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton was not because I was looking for a pat on the back; it was because I had no idea who to contact in the Glen Cove Hospital.

I went to school with Delia at St. Patrick's School in Glen Cove. So I figured let me just reach out to her, and she did what she did. So I had donated about 2,000 bottles of water on April 2 the first time, and I think three weeks later I donated another 2,000 bottles.

I wanted to make sure it went to the people dealing with Covid-19, not that anyone else wasn't important, but I knew they were pulling long hours, and I wanted to make sure it was going to the Covid specialists, the people helping people with Covid.

For me, giving back to the community is everything.



**HERALD HOMETOWN HERO**

## RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ

WYANDANCH

EMPLOYEE,  
GLEN COVE DELI

**I**'m in charge of the delicatessen. Business was about the same or maybe a little less, but it is very complicated when you have to wear the mask all the time.

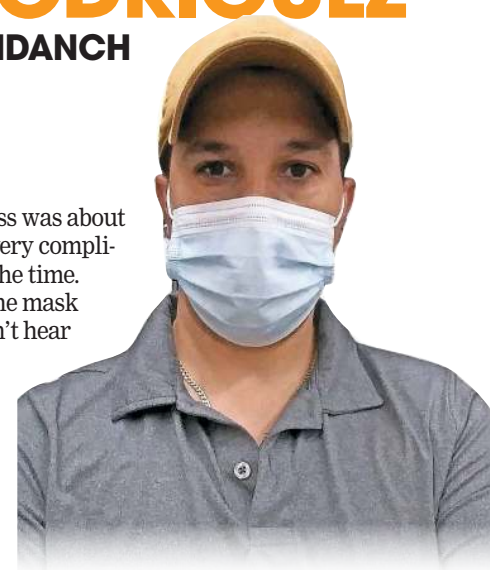
We use gloves for everything. Wearing the mask all the time is complicated because you can't hear people very well. But it is what it is. What can you do?

The other thing is we have to sanitize a lot more often and clean the counter and tables and whatever we use. With people coming in and out, then you have to clean even more.

We saw more nurses. And when it came to having conversations with customers, it was a little different. It's a little hard. But we ask the people how they are doing, how things are, if they are having a hard time. Basically you do the basics.

The beginning was a little harder, more complicated. We did not know what to do. At the beginning, we didn't really know what to do. But the most important thing is that nobody got sick.

The community was very supportive.



**HERALD HOMETOWN HERO**

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## Eastern Audiology is HEAR to help you

**D**r. Susan Bressi Hamilton, founder of Eastern Audiology Resources, has successfully been helping thousands of people on Long Island and throughout the five-borough find their way to better hearing for more than 30 years! Dr. Hamilton takes pride in providing the most attentive and professional care possible.

Those with hearing loss have been significantly more affected during the coronavirus pandemic. While it is absolutely essential to wear masks, simple things such as not seeing another person's mouth moving can impact the ability to understand even basic conversations, due to the lack of visual cue's one is used to associating with hearing words spoken. The effects of this, untreated, can lead to a decline in cognitive function, isolation, and even depression. At Eastern Audiology, our Healthy Hearing Initiative is dedicated to reducing these detrimental effects to one's everyday life, on a personalized and tailored basis. Through state-of-the-art technology, and an unmatched dedication to each of our patients on a personal level, our staff has been working to combat these issues and improve the lifestyle that each of our patients experiences.



Dr Susan Bressi Hamilton

*Dr. Hamilton is looking forward to fully re-opening the practice as soon as the current pandemic subsidies, and government agencies allow. Emergency curbside services are available as well as direct contact with Dr. Hamilton to discuss your hearing concerns.*



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1100247

# New bulkhead will help protect harbor

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

health of Long Island Sound depends on places like Glen Cove and Sea Cliff, he added, so officials and residents must do everything they can to limiting contamination.

Tenke said that RXR Realty had already replaced the bulkhead that runs along the north side of the creek as part of its Garvies Point development project. That put an end to years of contamination when the property was as an industrial area, he said, and another new bulkhead on the other side of the creek should do the same for the sewage plant.

The creek is being dredged to remove existing contaminants, and Tenke said he hoped that future dredging would yield less contamination.

A sewer system is being installed in nearby Sea Cliff, to replace part of the village's aging cesspools. The system will direct sewage to the treatment plant, and DeRiggi-Whitton said that with the extra volume, it is important to have structurally sound bulkheading.

Sea Cliff Village Administrator Bruce Kennedy said he was familiar with the south side of Glen Cove Creek because he often drives his boat through the area. A new bulkhead is sorely needed, he said.

"All the bulkheading on the south side is in deteriorated shape, and that includes the sewage treatment plant," Kennedy said. "It's important that it's restored, repaired and replaced to ensure the integrity of the sewage plant itself. We worked for many, many years to increase the health of the harbor, and efforts in that vein should continue."

Carol DiPaolo, executive director of the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, said the existing bulkhead is in bad condition and needs replacing. But the plant itself needs to be examined as well, she said, because



Courtesy Office of Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

**OFFICIALS SAY THEY** hope that a new bulkhead between the Glen Cove Sewage Treatment Plant and Glen Cove Creek will help prevent contamination from seeping into Hempstead Harbor.

such things as old pipes may likely need replacing as well.

"There are other pipes in that location that are probably remnants of much older infrastructure that

should be assessed," DiPaolo said. "I would hope that the sources of those old pipes could be found, and it could be determined if these remain or if new pipes are put in — whatever the case warrants."

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Photos by Jennifer Corr/Herald Gazette

**MASKS AND SOCIAL** distancing must be maintained during browsing hours at the Glen Cove Public Library.

# North Shore Historical Museum reopens

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

no congregating. It's basically browse, get your materials and then leave so that other people can come in, since we do have limited capacity."

Nalini Shyam, an avid reader from Glen Cove, said she was excited about browsing the shelves of the library again after using the curbside pickup service it has been offering for months. "I'm a retired teacher, so now I have the time to read," said Shyam, who was checking out a number of books from the library on Tuesday. "It's nice to actually touch and feel the books."

Flynn said that the curbside pickup, for books and other media, will continue for those who still have reservations about being in public spaces.

At the North Shore Historical Museum, Director Amy Driscoll and board trustee and City Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews took to Facebook to announce its opening on Wednesday.

Driscoll and board directors like Stevenson-Mathews have been using Facebook to upload "Pop-Up Visits," which provide viewers with history lessons on the North Shore or the museum. "I can't believe this would have been our 14th pop-up episode," Driscoll said. "Time has really flown the past few months."

"I'm so thrilled that finally, you'll be able to come to the museum," she said. "That's right: On Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 1 p.m. our doors will open, and you are all invited to come see our wonderful exhibit on the art of Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation."



**FOR NOW, THE** library is for browsing only, with computers and sitting areas blocked off.

Tiffany, who was born in New York City in 1848, is mostly known for his stained glass art, including lamps. The lecture to go along with the exhibit will be presented online on Sept. 9, Driscoll said.

"Just like anywhere else, we require a six-foot distance and for everyone to wear masks," Driscoll said. "We've been cleaning and sanitizing, and we will continue to do so to make it safe for you to visit."

"Please know that we still need your support," Stevenson-Mathews said. "Volunteers have been here helping us get ready and set back up. Of course we need your support financially. We need your support in attendance."



**DIRECTOR KATHIE FLYNN** in her back office, where dividers have been installed to help keep employees, who all wear masks, safe.

## Glen Cove Public Library

### New limited hours

Monday through Saturday,  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Occupancy will be limited to maintain social distance. Library staff is asking patrons to follow signs and floor markings.

All items can be returned through book drops. Material will be quarantined for four days before being checked in.

Computers will not be available at this time.

For information about the library and the programs it offers, go to [www.glencovelibrary.org](http://www.glencovelibrary.org).

## North Shore Historical Museum

### Hours

Wednesday, 1 to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For information about the museum and programs, go to [www.nshmgc.org](http://www.nshmgc.org)



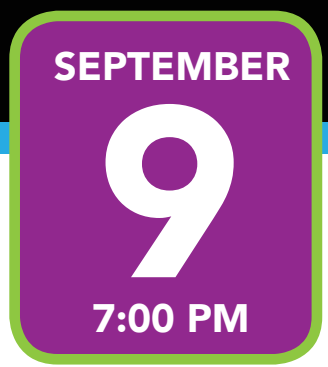
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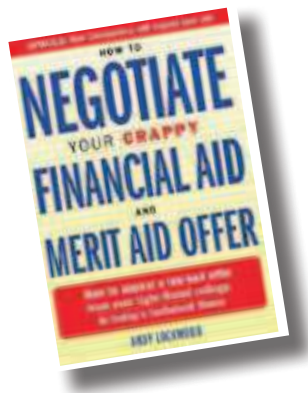


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# No Covid-19 check-ins for over a month at G.C. Hospital

By JENNIFER CORR  
jcorr@liherald.com

It's been over a month since Glen Cove Hospital checked in a Covid-19 patient, surrounded by a community with an infection rate less than 1 percent. One patient, who has tested negative for Covid-19, remained in recovery from the virus in the hospital's rehab unit in mid-August.

"We're preparing, God forbid, we have a second round in the fall," said Kerri Ann Scanlon, the executive director of Glen Cove Hospital. "But we know so much more about what we can do to prevent the spread — masks, six feet social distance, wash your hands, Purell gel. The basics really matter."

According to metrics from Newsday, Glen Cove has had one positive case of the virus within a seven-day span as of Aug. 23. Oyster Bay has seen three new positive cases and there has been one positive in Locust Valley, two positives in Old Brookville, zero in Oyster Bay Cove and in Sea Cliff, one in Glenwood Landing and one in Glen Head [see sidebar].

But even with cases of coronavirus remaining low in the North Shore, medical professionals are saying that social distancing, wearing facial coverings and paying extra attention to cleanliness and hygiene should not be thrown out the window just yet.

"If somebody comes that hasn't been quarantined from outside the state that has Covid, we don't want someone to get it and then it passes forward," Scanlon said. "We're right now, still as a nation, in Phase One. Thank God in New York the numbers have gone down so low, less than one percent, but we want to make sure that that number stays low."

And this remains especially true as children go back to school in coming weeks, Dr. Greg Gulbransen, a pediatrician in Oyster Bay, said. He strongly suggests children wear high quality masks as they return to school.

"We haven't seen active cases of Covid in a couple of months which is a good thing because there's so little of it around," Gulbransen said. "The pandemic has made for a very stressful time emotionally for children. And we've seen quite a few cases of anxiety and depression that we typically see this time of year."

Gulbransen added that he's had to make many referrals for psychologists and psychiatrists and he's even had a few cases where children had to be sent to an emergency room for mental health emergencies.



Courtesy Glen Cove Hospital

**IN MAY, DR.** James Kraus, the chair of pathology and lab director at Glen Cove Hospital, was hopeful that plasma with coronavirus antibodies would help people infected with Covid-19 to recover.

"I do think that part of this is the pandemic causing a lot of stress and children are having a difficult time adjusting to this crazy, lockdown lifestyle," Gulbransen said. "But, that's what you have to do to keep the numbers down. So, it comes as a trade off."

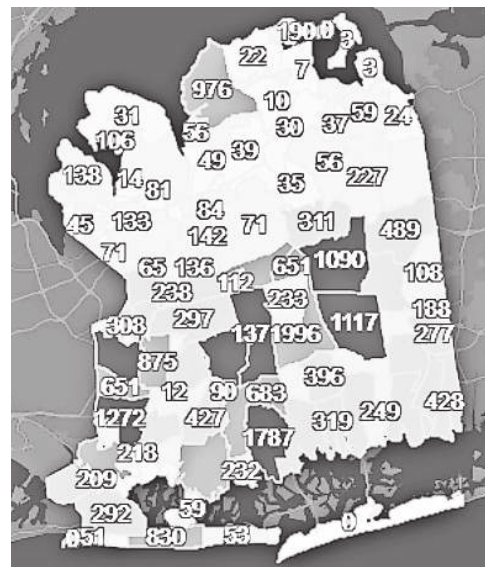
Gulbransen said he agreed with the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendation for children to return to schools in the fall.

"At least give it a try," he said, adding that schools should practice all local, state and national health guidelines. "All the children in my office wear a mask above the age of two. They just seem to get along with it. We have this new lifestyle of wearing masks and we've all adjusted to it."

The pediatrician cited the rollout of a potential coronavirus vaccine, as researchers across the world work on developing and testing a safe vaccination to stop the virus, as being a likely way to return back to normal.

"Think about how amazing 2021 is going to be," Gulbransen said. "The school year is going to end on a much more positive note than it began. I can tell you that."

Since March, the pandemic has rocked the North Shore community as it did for



Courtesy Nassau County Department of Information Technology

**AS NASSAU COUNTY** was once under siege by Covid-19, positive cases of the coronavirus have steadily remained low on the North Shore.

## Cumulative cases vs. seven-day increase

	Cumulative cases.	Seven-day increase as of Aug. 23.
Bayville	190	1
Brookville	35	1
East Norwich	37	1
Glen Cove	975	1
Glen Head	91	1
Glenwood Landing	49	1
Greenvale	10	0
Lattingtown	20	0
Locust Valley	55	1
Matinecock	10	0
Muttontown	56	0
Old Brookville	39	2
Oyster Bay	189	3
Oyster Bay Cove	59	0
Sea Cliff	56	0
Upper Brookville	30	0

\* Cumulative cases: Nassau County Department of Information  
\* Seven-day increase: Newsday

the entire state. In fact, Glen Cove has had 975 cumulative cases of Covid-19 according to the Nassau County Department of Information Technology.

Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke gave credit to the residents of the city for bringing those numbers down. "It's really the effort of the citizens here in Glen Cove to wear a mask and to follow the rules to make sure that Covid does not spread," Tenke said. "One of the last things we want to see is a reversal of all the progress that we've made and I think that having low numbers when school begins is a positive thing because the fewer people that are infected, the fewer chances that someone is carrying it into the schools."

And as cases of Covid-19 diminished,

the Glen Cove Hospital has been able to shut down units that were caring for patients from the North Shore community and patients from hospitals that Scanlon said was "under siege," like North Shore University Hospital and Long Island Jewish Forest Hills.

"Come to the hospital," Scanlon said, which is returning to what she called a new normal. "We have an emergency room that's first class, world class patient experience. It's safe. All private rooms. And I would tell people to not delay on things that they have; chest pains, bad headaches that could be something more, high blood pressure, pain in their abdomen. They need to get to an emergency room and be evaluated."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

September 3, 2020 - GLEN COVE HERALD GAZETTE

Table with 4 columns: School Tax, Property Owner, Sec/Blk/Lot, Total. Lists various property owners and their respective lots and values.

Table with 4 columns: CHASE, JOHN, SMITH, RICHARD, SMITH, RICHARD J. Lists various property owners and their respective lots and values.

Table with 4 columns: FEGGOUAKIS-PITTAS, E, KURRE, ROBERT, ZAGLODINA, MARGARITA. Lists various property owners and their respective lots and values.

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDDERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the sealed bids will be received by the City of Glen Cove Purchasing Agent located at City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542 until 10:00 a.m. on September 30, 2020.

September 3, 2020. The link to the bid opening will be posted to the City's website and can be viewed by hovering over "Finance" and then clicking the "Bid & RFP's" button.

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All bids must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on September 30, 2020. Late bids received by mail will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to the vendor.

## OPINIONS

## The little bench in my backyard

**H**alf hidden by shrubs and tree branches, there's a bench in my backyard's southeast corner, short and stout, its thin pine planks grayed by the elements and mottled with mint-green lichen.

Weakened by age, it is a delicate little thing, which no one has sat on for years, but there it remains, my wife and I stubbornly



**SCOTT  
BRINTON**

refusing to part with it.

We love that bench, survivor that it is. Superstorm Sandy sloshed through our Merrick neighborhood in 2012, flooding our yard with saltwater, lifting all manner of lawn furniture from people's yards and depositing it

who knew where. That little bench — just large enough to fit two preschoolers — never budged.

My wife bought it 15 years ago to give our daughter and son — then 5 and 3, respectively — a place to sit under the shade of an old flowering dogwood tree.

I was marching to and fro on a recent balmy Friday evening, mowing the backyard lawn, when I was suddenly struck by how special that bench is, what it represents to my wife and me — years of happy memories wrapped up in an inanimate object. I

stopped and stared at it as the remembrances coursed through my mind.

I'm feeling more emotional than usual these days. Covering the coronavirus pandemic for the Herald has, at times over the past six months, shaken me to my core.

Covid-19 devastated New York state, particularly the greater metropolitan area. Writing and editing stories about the deaths of so many good people takes its toll on your psyche.

At the same time, my son, Andrew, graduated from Kennedy High School in Bellmore in June, and three weeks he later turned 18, officially becoming an adult. He began his studies at Hofstra University last week. My daughter, Alexandra, 20, started her junior year at NYU this week. I am no longer the parent of children; I am the parent of two adults, capable of driving, voting and earning their keep.

It's a strange thought that takes some getting used to.

That's why, I believe, my thoughts have more often turned to those long summer days spent in the backyard, lost in play with the kids when they were young, their giddy chatter echoing through the neighborhood as they bounced through the sprinkler, bobbed in the inflatable pool, played hide-and-seek or badminton, or kicked the soccer ball around until their legs gave out from

fatigue.

Always, the bench was there. I hadn't noticed how it had aged until that recent Friday. Only the brown metal centerpiece across its backrest, depicting an African savanna with a lion, a monkey, a gazelle, an elephant and a giraffe, is seemingly untouched by time.

**F**or my wife and me, years of happy memories wrapped up in an inanimate object.

Around the time our kids were in preschool, my wife and I planted 10 peegee hydrangeas, three dwarf cherry trees and two apple trees around our backyard, and later added two white pines in oversized pots beside the patio. Each set of flora was imbued with meaning.

When we moved in 18 years ago, a line of forsythia bushes separated our yard from our neighbor behind us. Each spring it exploded in yellow for two weeks. Then the neighbor, who has since moved away, cut down the bushes, and there was no longer any vegetation, any color.

So we ordered 10 one-foot-tall hydrangea seedlings for \$3.50 each from the Arbor Day Foundation. They came packaged in clear plastic tubes, their fragile roots wrapped in wet paper towels to preserve them. These specimens weren't much to look at at first; you hardly knew they were there. Each year they grew, though, and now they tower eight feet above our backyard, forming a tunnel-like canopy along our rear fence line, burst-

ing with puffy white flowers in mid-August.

We planted the cherries in honor of my wife's parents, who kept a cherry orchard in their home village of Rajdavitsa, in southwestern Bulgaria. The white pines we planted for my parents, who maintained a pine forest in the front and back yards of my childhood home in Yaphank, in Suffolk County. And the apples we planted for our kids, so we could watch the trees grow with them. They're now 30 feet tall.

The bench sits between the apples and the hydrangeas, their lush vegetation covering it in shade. The old dogwood died five years ago, and I cut off its branches then and chain-sawed its trunk down this summer.

These days, my backyard is quieter than it was — the giddy chatter is gone. Often I sit on a much larger bench on the opposite side of this space, between the hydrangeas and a massive holly bush. It's a sturdy bench, made of teak, the kind that feels like it might last a century.

There I sit and find peace in the early morning or late evening, before or after a long day's work, reflecting on all that was and all I hope will be.

My backyard has long been my sanctum to escape the sound and fury of the world beyond its borders.

*Scott Brinton is the Herald Community Newspapers' executive editor and an adjunct professor at the Hofstra University Herbert School of Communication. Comments about this column? SBrinton@liherald.com.*

## Our free press shines a light in dark times

**W**hat if Sam Adams, John Hancock and the other colonists living in and around Lexington and Concord had thought that Paul Revere was spreading fake news on the 18th of April in '75?



**RANDI  
KREISS**

That was the night Revere rode through the countryside, shouting that the British were coming, as indeed, 700 British regulars advanced toward the rebels. What happened next was different from the richly imagined version of history in Longfellow's poem, but Revere did spread

the news. And the citizens of Massachusetts believed him. And they believed the coverage of subsequent battles in the Boston Gazette.

What if Americans, fixed to their radios, hadn't believed FDR's shocking announcement on Dec. 7, 1941, that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor? He said, "It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many

days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace."

Roosevelt declared war, thereby telling Americans that they would soon be sending their sons and daughters overseas to fight and to support the war effort. A few days later, Nazi Germany declared war on the United States, and the great ship of state moved into battle mode.

People learned about FDR's proclamations through the press and followed the progress of the war through our newspapers and the president's radio addresses. What if a majority of Americans had suspected the news was unreliable? What if people had suspected that FDR might be leading the country into war for self-serving reasons, to get re-elected or to enrich himself and his family?

I think, too, of the immense sacrifice that was asked of the British people by Winston Churchill during the Blitz. He fixed their courage to a sticking point with the sheer power of his moral authority and his magnificent words. What if they hadn't

trusted or believed in him? What if a group within England had refused to abide by the draconian wartime rationing and restrictions because Churchill had been proven a liar or a fool? The citizens of London followed him through hell because they trusted him with their lives.

**W**hat if Americans had suspected the news about Pearl Harbor was unreliable?

We are not similarly blessed. There are two parts to this problem of veracity and authenticity in the public arena. One is that our president is not worthy of our trust. He suggested from his first day in office that his version of the truth, although it might be verifiably false (like the number of spectators at his inauguration), was *the* truth. That makes it impossible for

thinking people to follow his directives or believe in his leadership. The second part is that the president uses the term "fake news" to delegitimize reporters and news outlets that challenge him.

A society needs both a president who tells the truth and a free press that holds public officials to account.

We have a fair and free press that, from right to left and left to right, reports the news and expresses a broad spectrum of views. Viewers and readers can read and

tune in, inform themselves and process the different points of view. The blight that has infected journalism is the president's accusation of "fake news" for any reporting that questions him or his policies. The idea that the reliable news outlets are disseminating "fake" information undermines the basic constitutional guarantee of a free press.

I know, because since Trump came into office, a fair number of readers have slung the "fake news" epithet my way when they don't agree with something I write. Yet it is the press that has exposed the ongoing chaos in the Trump administration, the self-serving mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic and the continuing tragedy of a man ill fit and ill equipped to be president.

If Donald Trump shouted that the British were coming, if he asked us to endure a blitz, if he declared war on another country, there would be a crisis of faith in his leadership. At the end of the day, I suspect we would need our free press to help us decide how to move forward as a country. And how would that go if millions of Americans had been encouraged by the president to perceive widely respected news sources as "fake"?

*Copyright 2020 Randi Kreiss. Randi can be reached at randik3@aol.com.*

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## The CDC's Covid-19 back-to-school checklist

**H**undreds of thousands of students will start school across Long Island next week amid the worst disease outbreak in the United States since 1918. It is indeed a time of fear and anxiety for many parents, who worry about their children contracting an illness whose cause is only loosely understood, whose symptoms can range from mild to debilitating, even catastrophic, and whose cure is months, if not years, away.

In our annual back-to school editorial, we normally offer government guidance on topics from students' study habits to bus safety. This time, we provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's best advice on keeping your kids safe amid the pandemic of 2020.

According to the CDC, parents should:

- Check their children each morning for signs of illness. Any child with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, sore throat, cough, diarrhea, severe headache, vomiting or body aches should not attend school. Any child who has been in contact with someone with Covid-19 should stay home as well.

- Identify their school point person(s) to contact if a child is ill.

- Know local Covid-19 testing sites in case their children develop symptoms.

- Make sure their children are up to date with all recommended vaccines, including for influenza. All school-aged children should get the flu vaccine every season, with rare exceptions.

- Review and practice proper hand washing at home, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing and adjusting a mask or cloth face covering.

- Be familiar with how their children's schools will make water available during the day. Consider packing a water bottle.

- Develop daily routines before and after school — for example, what to pack for school in the morning, like hand sanitizer and a backup mask, and what to do when children return home, like washing hands immediately, washing masks and changing clothes.

- Talk to their children about precautions

### How parents can help kids wear their masks

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, parents should:

- Have multiple masks for their kids, so they can wash them daily and have backups ready.

- Choose masks that:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.

- Completely cover the nose and mouth.

- Are secured with ties or ear loops.

- Have multiple layers of fabric.

- Allow for breathing without restriction.

- Can be washed and machine-dried without damage or change of shape.

- Label their children's masks clearly, with a permanent marker, so they are not confused with those of other children.

- Practice with their children putting on and taking off masks without touching the cloth.

- Explain the importance of wearing a mask and how it protects other people from becoming ill.

- Consider talking to their children about other people who may be unable to wear masks because of medical conditions like asthma.

- Model mask wearing, especially when physical distancing is difficult or impossible to maintain.

- Praise their children for wearing masks correctly.

- Put masks on stuffed animals.

- Draw a mask on a favorite book character.

- Show images of other children wearing masks.

- Allow their children to choose their masks, as long as they meet the school's dress requirements.

- Provide their children with containers or resealable bags labeled with their names to store their masks when they're not wearing them, such as when they are eating.

to take at school. Students may be advised to:

- Wash and sanitize their hands more often.

- Stay physically distance from other students.

- Wear a mask.

- Avoid sharing objects with other students, including water bottles, phones, tablets, pens, pencils and books.

- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Make sure they are using a safe product. The Food and Drug Administration has recalled products that contain toxic methanol.

## LETTERS

### A lifeguard, veteran and American hero

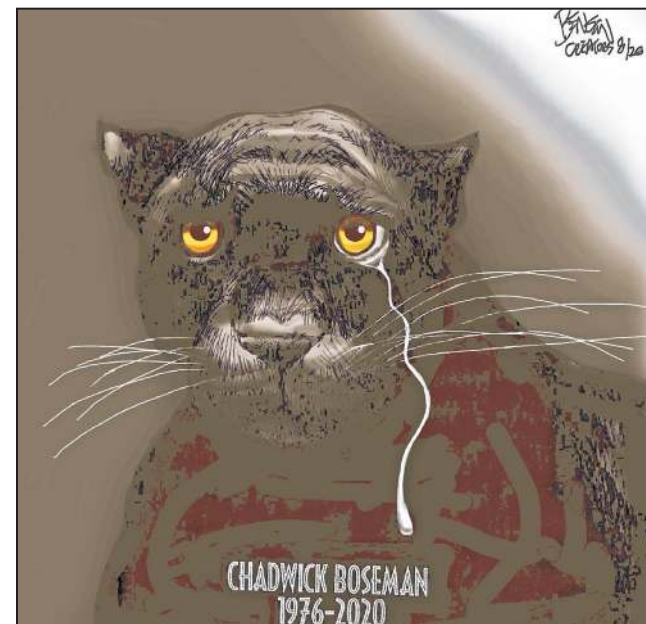
To the Editor:

Charlie Johnson was a local lifeguard and member of the Army who tragically died in combat in Vietnam on May 3,

1967.

Jeni Lupinski contacted City Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews and me recently to see if we could track down a plaque that was dedicated in Johnson's memory. It was attached to a lifeguard stand several years ago, after his death.

With guidance from Lupinski, Stevenson-Mathews found the plaque and



## OPINIONS

# A safe return to class should be the goal

Anyone who knows me knows that from the start, I have not been a fan of the current administration in Washington, D.C. I am likely to be in fundamental disagreement on almost every issue, from immigration to tax reform to health care. So I'm more than a little surprised to find myself agreeing with President Trump



**TIMOTHY DENTON**

that we should do whatever we can to help our children return safely to their classrooms next month.

I'm not qualified to write about medical issues. Those who are, like the president's new Covid-19 adviser, Dr. Scott Atlas, have left some significant

caveats unaddressed in asserting that such a return is feasible. First, Atlas assumes children's near total ability to resist the virus "where no comorbidity exists" — in other words, where there is no other underlying condition. Unfortunately, some children do have underlying conditions, and recent data shows as well that they are more susceptible to Covid infection than originally believed, as evidenced by the surge in pediatric cases in countries where children have already returned to school. Atlas also ignores the

sizable adult staff in any school that may be infected by asymptomatic children. And students' and teachers' daily interactions outside school are not currently subject to systematic contact tracing.

I'm a former public school teacher.

From 1988 to 1996, I taught English as a second language. I began teaching while living in Europe, where my students ranged from adults needing the language for a variety of professional reasons to students at the University of Vienna.

After returning to the U.S., I taught adult basic literacy in the New York City schools. My students were from dozens of cultural and educational backgrounds — from the Estonian engineer who spoke six languages to the Honduran refugee whose schooling in her war-torn country stopped in second grade. I taught also taught ESL and communications at the La Guardia campus of the City University of New York. CUNY's open enrollment policy presented similar challenges, although with fewer extreme educational differences. My curriculum had to take such diversity into account.

During the 1993-94 school year, I took a seminar facilitated by mentors from the Barbara Taylor School in Harlem. Students at the school came from all over the

city, and many had been judged so incorrigible that they had been permanently expelled from public schools.

Teachers from the Taylor School disagreed with the assessment that such children were "unteachable," and set about proving it. They adapted pedagogical techniques pioneered by the biologist Lev Vygotsky, who worked with a variety of special-needs children in the early days of the Soviet Union. Vygotsky taught children who, under the old czarist regime, had been almost entirely neglected.

What Vygotsky discovered — unsurprising to any experienced teacher — was that groups of students are much more than the sum of their individual abilities. Their achievements were measurably greater than that of students working alone, and the life experiences they brought to any learning situation provided raw material for a level of creativity not seen in individuals. Students learned from one another, even as teachers crafted lessons from their students' real-life experiences.

Teachers in New York City schools treated so-called incorrigibles as isolated problems. The Taylor School created an environment that met them where they were and that enabled them to stimulate one another. In most cases, the result was

a transformation that had been thought impossible, with students equaling or outperforming "mainstream" students.

The weeks I spent with guides from the Taylor School completely changed my teaching. I learned to see my collection of individuals more as a collaborative whole. For the remainder of my teaching career, what I learned in that course inspired me. It still does.

Students don't simply learn facts in preparation for a life of productive work. They also learn to work collaboratively and to develop personal relationships — the social-emotional learning that is crucial to any child's development, and that cannot be nurtured in isolation. They need to study together.

Since the start of the pandemic, the president has often seemed to be living in a world of magical solutions. Simply asserting that students and staff are safe does not make them so. But that doesn't mean schools can't find real, science-based solutions.

The safety of students and staff is paramount. But every professional educator I've spoken with agrees that collaborative learning in the classroom is superior to distance learning — if it can be done safely. We should make every effort to help them achieve this.

*Timothy Denton is the senior editor of the Seaford and Wantagh Herald Gazettes. Comments? Tdenton@liherald.com.*

## LETTERS

received permission from the city to have it moved, and thanks to two Morgan Park maintenance workers, the plaque was relocated from a dilapidated, out-of-use stand to a newer one on the Morgan Park Beach, which is used daily by lifeguards and faces the beautiful Hempstead Harbor.

In reaching out to a few former lifeguards and a classmate of Johnson's, Richard Bandel, I learned he graduated from Glen Cove High School in 1959, was a lifeguard during the summers and attended Emporia College in Kansas. He entered the Army from Hutchinson, Kan., not Glen Cove, which is why I could not locate him in the past on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Searching through the name Charles Johnson 22 times in an online index, I found him. His photo has been identified by three people who say it is definitely him.

Stanley "Jasper" Dzakonski, who became a lifeguard after Johnson, had a plaque created in his honor sometime after his death. Having heard stories about Johnson, Dzakonski thought a plaque on one of the lifeguard stands overlooking the harbor would be an appropriate tribute. Fellow lifeguards Jay Johnson (no relation to

## FRAMEWORK by Jackie Comitino



A summer evening at Morgan Memorial Park — Glen Cove

Charlie) and Arthur Bergman, along with Bandel, helped me substantiate all the information noted here.

Thank you to Mayor Tim Tenke, his office, the Parks and Recreation Department staff and Stevenson-Mathews for

helping to relocate the plaque. Thank you to Lupenski for bringing this to my attention and that of Steveson-Mathews, and thank you to Dzakonski for creating the original plaque.

Most important, thank you to Charlie

Johnson for making the ultimate sacrifice.

JOSEPH MOORES  
Glen Cove  
Vietnam veteran

# Inventory for the Fall Market...



**Vintage Gated Compound**  
110 Wolver Hollow Road  
Upper Brookville, NY  
MLS# 3136650. \$2,449,000.  
Linda Brown, c.516.650.9145



**A Hamptons Alternative**  
1 Tanglewood Lane, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3243451. \$1,625,000.  
Kathy Wallach, c.516.353.4318



**Victorian Masterpiece**  
176 Prospect Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3245160. \$1,599,000.  
Damian Ross, c.516.369.5868



**A Decorator's Delight**  
52 Viola Drive, Glen Cove, NY  
MLS# 3233390. \$839,000.  
Ruth Press, c.516.526.2291.



**Renovated Colonial**  
2 Cocks Lane, Locust Valley, NY  
MLS# 3233997. \$749,000.  
Jean-Marie Stalzer, c.516.509.7564  
Liz Luciano, c.516.641.4420



**Old World Charm**  
4 Richardson Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3244139. \$899,000.  
Damian Ross, c.516.369.5868



**Sunlit Summer Retreat**  
60 Park Place, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3242434. \$689,000.  
Amy Tempesta, c.617.669.8826  
Sheila Wenger, c.516.507.9303



**Sunny Corner Townhouse**  
16 Highland Mews, Glen Cove, NY  
MLS# 3236482. \$569,000.  
Debra Quinn Petkanas, c.516.359.3204



**Sunny & Spacious Townhouse**  
145 I U Willets Road E, Albertson, NY  
MLS# 3233295. \$619,000.  
Liz Luciano, c.516.641.4420



**Cool Vibe, Close To Village**  
170 Franklin Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3230348. \$610,000.  
Kathy Wallach, c.516.353.4318  
Giselle Dimasi, c.516.459.7667  
Janine Fakiris, c.516.492.1480



**Well-Built Colonial**  
10 Leonard Place, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3233831. \$725,000.  
Liz Luciano, c.516.641.4420  
Jean-Marie Stalzer, c.516.509.7564



**Seaside Townhouse**  
157 Shore Road, Glen Cove, NY  
MLS# 3229737. \$750,000.  
Vivian Parisi, c.516.236.0537  
Sheila Wenger, c.516.507.9303



**Beautifully Updated in 2017**  
1 Mansion Drive, Glen Cove, NY  
MLS# 3216861. \$1,170,000.  
Kathy Wallach, c.516.353.4318



**Stately Colonial Pool Home**  
74 Glenlawn Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3238466. \$1,319,000.  
Liz Luciano, c.516.641.4420



**Fabulous Location & Very Charming**  
10 Tanglewood Lane, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3245023. \$1,435,000.  
Kathy Wallach, c.516.353.4318



**Live, Work & Relax on One Property**  
386 Littleworth Lane, Sea Cliff, NY  
MLS# 3168833. \$2,890,000.  
Vivian Parisi, c.516.236.0537

Sea Cliff Office | 516.759.6822  
266 Sea Cliff Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY

Glen Head Office | 516.674.2000  
240 Glen Head Road Ste #2 Glen Head, NY

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