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**Bringing diversity to the city**  
 Page 15



**Remembering summer fun in G.C.**  
 Page 6



Courtesy Office of Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Kevan M. Abrahams

**THE NASSAU COUNTY** Legislature's minority leader, Kevan Abrahams, center, was joined at his news conference focusing on the redistricting process by, from left, Legislators Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, Arnold W. Drucker, Josh Lafazan and Debra Mulé.

## Legislators focus on county map

By LAURA LANE  
 llane@liherald.com

The Democrats in the Nassau County Legislature are asking for changes in how the county's legislative map is drawn. They may be a little early, since redistricting will not be considered until 2023, but ensuring equal representation for every resident is on their minds, they say, and since they are in the minority, it probably is never too soon to at least start a discussion.

"I can't believe it's almost 10 years since we did this," Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, a Democrat from Glen Cove, said. "One map last time had me and Judy Jacobs in the same district. The one that ended up being used had me with Wayne Wink, but I got lucky. He ran for town clerk. I love my job, so I'm hoping for the best. I hope I can stay around."

The Democrats held a news conference on Aug. 12 at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building to announce their ideas about fair redistricting. They said they would like to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# Mixed reviews for Villa at Glen Cove during hearing

By JENNIFER CORR  
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The Glen Cove Planning Board held one of two virtual hearings Sept. 1 to gather public comments on The Villa at Glen Cove, a \$65 million, 176-unit rental housing complex proposed on Glen Cove Avenue. The second hearing will be held Sept. 15.

To attend the second session, go to the City of Glen Cove website to obtain an invitation link.

Daniel Livingston, president of Livingston Group New York, and his attorney, Kathleen Deegan Dickson, attended the three-hour Sept. 1 hearing. The Livingston Group has proposed construction of The Villa.

Deegan Dickson said the housing complex, if permitted to move forward, would "eliminate

the current eyesore," a vacant construction site that is full of weeds and concrete slabs, and that nearby residents complained is infested with rats.

Livingston Group, which had acquired most of the 4.98 acres for the project by 2007, had proposed a 176-unit condominium building for the site in 2016, but this past winter, it put forward a proposal for a 216-unit rental complex, only to reduce the size of the plan to 176 rental units this summer.

Steve Gonzalez, of Glen Cove, said he did not want to see additional apartment complexes in the city, saying he believed it was already developed enough, particularly with the recent addition of assisted-living facilities and other housing complexes. "We are homeowners. Our real

**W**e are homeowners. Our real estate values will be affected.

**STEVE GONZALEZ**  
 Glen Cove

estate values will be affected," he said of the planned Villa project.

But Lisa Cohn, president of the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, disagreed, saying she believed the project was "what we need for businesses to improve, because businesses are suffering right now." She noted that more rental units might bring more traffic, but also more people to patronize local busi-

nesses.

Cohn, who lives down the block from the site, said the message that opposition to the project sends to businesses that might seek to open in Glen Cove "is just awful . . . It's a deterrent."

Loretta Wilcox, who expressed her opposition to the project, was among the residents who complained of rats. She said that former buildings at the site, which were demolished, were full of rats, and when the structures came down, the rats dispersed. "I never had a problem

until [the Livingston Group] took those buildings down," she said. The buildings were razed in 2018.

Livingston said the project is not the root of a rat infestation in the neighborhood. Keith Lanning, vice president of Livingston Group New York, shared a signed Rodent Free Before Demolition Certificate for the property from the Nassau County Department of Health's Office of Community Sanitation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

# At the Northwell Stern Family Center for Rehabilitation, you're more than a patient—you're family.

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# Democrats want independent redistricting commission

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

see a temporary Independent Redistricting Commission draw new legislative district lines to promote equal representation and protect the sanctity of residents' voting rights, irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion or socioeconomic status.

After data from the 2020 census is finalized, the commission would use the results to adopt a redistricting plan, instead of the legislators from the two political parties, "specifying the boundaries of the county's 19 county legislative districts."

"The majority will review the proposal from the Democratic minority as we do all bills," said Chris Boyle, spokesman for the Republican majority. "It is difficult to understand why in the midst of a Covid-19 pandemic and fiscal crisis the minority chooses to focus their energy on changing the county's redistricting process."

Legislator Josh Lafazan, an independent from Woodbury, took part in the news conference. He said when he ran in 2017 he pledged to work on redistricting. If elections are not fair, he said, people can serve for a lifetime.

"Both parties are guilty of utilizing majority status to write the maps," he said. "That's why I favor term limits. We have strayed so far from the Founders vision for our country, which was citizen representation on a temporary basis."

When districts are not drawn in a fair way, Lafazan said, the people's trust erodes. "To put partisanship aside would build trust among people," he said. "This is an issue that will outlast all of us legislators. For the county to have an independent redistricting done would be a good legacy for us to leave."

When redistricting was considered in February 2013, legislators listened for six hours to a public comment session that included hundreds of county residents who vehemently opposed the Republican map. There were accusations of racism and gerrymandering, with some saying the map was merely a power grab by the Republican Party.

Residents had said the map would split communities into separate districts. But Frank Moroney, the chairman of the redistricting commission at the time, said that the proposed map was designed to fulfill the constitutional requirements to create districts as close to the optimal population as possible in order to meet the "one person, one vote" standard. He said the intent was to respect political subdivisions, community and minority interests and to keep districts compact and contiguous where possible.

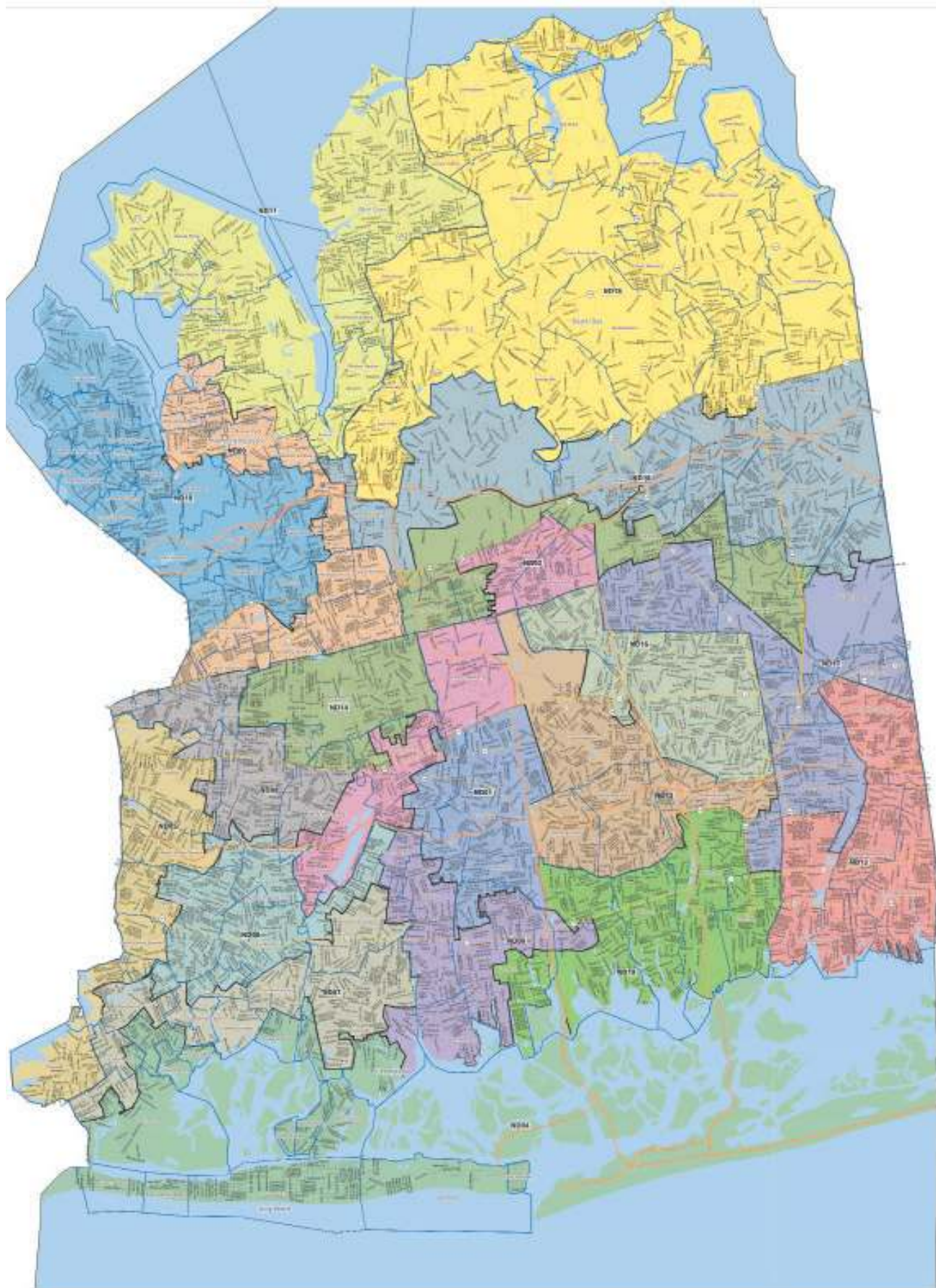
De-Riggi Whitton said she believed there should be a public hearing this time when redistricting is considered. Saying that she cannot fathom what Republicans can do to change the map, she added that it is pretty much in their favor now.

Lisa Tyson, director of the Long Island Progressive Coalition, also took part in the news conference.

"The last plan was horrible," she said. "It separated and continued segregation on Long Island. The representatives don't look like their community. It's time now to make a change."

Tyson, who is not a member of either party, said the current map is unethical. It is unfortunate, she said, that most people do not know what redistricting is. "Real people" should be in office, she said. "The government needs to reflect the people."

The Legislature's minority leader, Kevan Abrahams, said that the creation of an independent redistricting commission would liberate Nassau County voters from decades of election districts that exist primarily to advance the political interests of politicians over people. "Because voters will have real choices in competitive elections, it will no longer be safe for elected officials to ignore the interests of large segments of Nassau County's electorate," Abrahams said. "To oppose this bill is to sacrifice the common good of the people in Nassau in favor of the selfish interests of the few."



Courtesy Nassau County Legislature

THE CURRENT DISTRICT map for Nassau County was approved on Feb. 26, 2013.

## Temporary Independent Redistricting Commission

- Nine unpaid members, with no more than four to be from one political party.
- They must be registered with that party for three years.
- Within the last three years none of the members could have served in or been a candidate for any federal, state, county, town or city elected office or be a registered lobbyist or political party official.
- Three members would be appointed by the presiding officer of the Legislature and three would be appointed by the minority leader.
- Three members would be appointed by both the presiding officer and minority leader.
- Five or more votes are required for any action.

## CRIME WATCH

### Arrest

■ On Aug. 30, a 26-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for criminal contempt in the second degree and for resisting arrest on McLoughlin Street.

■ On Sept. 1, a 42-year-old Lutz, Fla. male was arrested for aggravated harassment in the second degree on Delmar Court.

■ On Sept. 1, a 19-year-old Bayville male was arrested for leaving the scene of an auto accident (Injury) on Forest Avenue.

■ On Sept. 5, a 23-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for grand larceny in the fourth degree and criminal mischief in the fourth degree on Robinson Avenue.

■ On Sept. 5, a 27-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for assault in the third

degree on Coles Street.

■ On Sept. 5, a 71-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for menacing in the second degree and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree on Glen Cove Avenue.

*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 Youth Bureau concludes school supply drive

The Glen Cove Youth Bureau has concluded their school supply drive. Even during this pandemic, they were successful if securing over 300 backpacks for young students in grades kindergarten through 12 grade.

The Glen Cove Youth Bureau appreciates the efforts of everyone who donated to help people in need of school supplies,

including Rising Tide, Nassau County Legislator Deliah-DeRiggi Whitton, PSEG Long Island and many private donors. Dr. Chairmane Clarke and Monica Salinas were also very helpful.

For more information on how to help the Glen Cove Youth Bureau and their other missions, call (516) 671-4600.



Courtesy Glen Cove Youth Bureau

**SPIRO TSIRKAS, LEFT,** and Erin Mullen celebrate a successful school supply drive.

## NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Guardian Angel Family Crisis Center

**GUARDIAN ANGEL FOUNDER** and President Barbara Costello will be selling designer women's clothes during the fundraiser.

## Women's Designer Showcase to benefit Guardian Angel on September 17

The Guardian Angel Family Crisis Center will host its Women's Designer Showcase and raffle fundraiser Sept. 17 at 239 Glen Cove Ave. in Sea Cliff.

The store will be configured with social distancing in mind to insure safe shopping. For one day only, the entire store will have racks, tables and shelves with solely women's designer clothing, footwear, scarves and handbags on display. Shoppers will find designer names

like Kenneth Cole, Calvin Klein, Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren, Theory and many others. All designer items will be sold at discounted prices. Raffle tickets will also be on sale with a wide variety of gift baskets donated by local merchants to please all tastes and interests.

The Guardian Angel Family Crisis Center, a non-profit organization, has been helping local families for over 11 years. The Covid-19 virus caused them to shut their doors for over three months beginning in March. This fundraiser will allow women the convenience of shopping locally and safely. This fundraiser will enable Guardian Angel to get back on its feet and continue helping those in need in the North Shore community.

The Guardian Angel Family Store will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Masks are required for everyone's safety, and the number of shoppers in the store will be limited. Guests who would like to shop with their friends and family can call ahead at (516) 277-1068 to set up appointments.

GLEN COVE  
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Gazette

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# Pedone Foundation continues to raise \$1M amid Covid-19

By JENNIFER CORR

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Even though the annual 5K in support of the Nicholas Pedone Foundation had to be cancelled this year due to Covid-19, his parents Chris and Josephine Pedone, with their foundation, will still continue to race towards their goal of putting smiles on the faces of children battling cancer.

"It's Nicholas's seventh heavenly birthday, which means he celebrated seven years here on Earth and he celebrated seven years in heaven," Josephine Pedone said. "It's a very special year."

Seven-year-old Nicholas, who lived in Glen Cove, died in 2013 from Neuroblastoma, a rare and deadly form of childhood cancer. And since then, the Pedone's have been operating the foundation in his memory, which has not only provided for a way to carry on his legacy, but also a method of healing.

And with September being Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the goal is to raise \$1 million dollars through a virtual fundraiser. As of Sept. 8, \$981,431 has been raised.

The virtual fundraiser coincides with the City of Glen Cove's establishment of Nicholas Pedone Day on Aug. 30, Nicholas's birthday. The city council approved the day to be dedicated in Nicholas's honor at the council meeting on Aug. 25.

"Nicholas's parents honor his life every other day with the work they do to help other families struggling through childhood cancer, so I was so happy to honor the birthdate of that

sweet little boy I'd see playing with his cousins at Prybil's Beach," Councilwoman Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante said.

"The [establishment] of Nicholas Pedone Day has been extremely emotional for us to know that Nicholas made such a huge impact on our community and Glen Cove," Josephine Pedone said. "It really brings a lot of peace to our lives to know that a little boy of seven years of age, having gone through what he had gone through will be remembered and thought of. It means the world to us."

"He will never be forgotten in our lives and it's obvious that Glen Cove will never forget Nicholas," Josephine said. "It's really, very touching."

With \$18,569 away from the \$1 million

goal, the Pedone's are hoping that donors will give Nicholas the "best birthday gift ever."

The money raised through this fundraiser, according to the foundation's website, will help support the operations under the Nicholas Pedone Foundation; including raising awareness for childhood cancer; smilePAKs for Cancer Warriors, which brings care packages to children battling cancer and Hop4Kids, a hospital outreach program that works to improve a child's healing process during their time in a hospital or cancer clinic.

"Our mission is to deliver smiles to courageous kids fighting cancer and Nicholas's biggest asset during his fight was his smile," Josephine Pedone said. "He was

resilient and he adapted to his new normal really quickly. When we founded his foundation in his memory, all we wanted to do was to help keep those smiles on the faces of kids fighting cancer."

No child should have to battle cancer, Josephine said, so to honor Nicholas's memory by helping other children through their fight brings peace to the Pedone family. "Nicholas's smiles live on through all of us and his smile lives on through all of these kids," Josephine said.

It does so through her son's legacy and life that is reflected in the children that the Nicholas Pedone Foundation impacts. "His smiles live on through our efforts to help other kids, to raise awareness for childhood cancer," Josephine said, "and hope that one day there will be a cure so that no child

will lose their smile to cancer like Nicholas did and no parent will lose their child to cancer like we did."

Besides donating to the Nicholas Pedone Foundation and childhood cancer research foundations, Josephine is asking that people raise awareness by "going gold."

"Our number one goal is to raise awareness," she said. "People can go gold in September. Gold is the awareness ribbon for childhood cancer, so whether you change your profile picture or tie a ribbon around a tree, just go gold to honor these warriors, these angels and the survivors of childhood cancer."

And even though participants of the 5K will not be racing in support of the foundation at Glen Cove High School this year,

## The importance of raising awareness for childhood cancer

■ Four children will die of cancer every single day.

■ Worldwide, every three minutes, a parent hears the words "your child has cancer."

■ Only 4 percent of the federal government's funding for cancer research is dedicated each year to childhood cancer.

■ The causes of childhood cancers remain unknown. At present, childhood cancer cannot be prevented.

■ Forty thousand kids will undergo treatment for cancer every single year.

■ Childhood cancer isn't just one disease; there are over a dozen types of childhood cancers and countless subtypes — each type requires specific research to develop the best treatment for every child.

■ Cancer is the number one cause of death by disease for children in the United States.

- Nicholas Pedone Foundation



Courtesy the Nicholas Pedone Foundation

**THE LIFE OF** 7-year-old Nicholas Pedone was tragically cut short but his smile lives on in the memory of his parents, Chris and Josephine Pedone. They are continuing their work to bring smiles to the faces of children battling cancer as Nicholas did.

Josephine called the Glen Cove City School District one of the most important supporters of the foundation by offering the school grounds in honor of one of their former students.

"I myself did not know the young boy when he passed; I came to the district a year after, but he touched the lives of so many people and he was a Glen Cove stu-

dent and he always will be a part of our Glen Cove family," Dr. Maria Rianna, the Glen Cove City School District superintendent said. "The foundation does good things, so we're absolutely in support of that."

To support and learn more about the Nicholas Pedone Foundation, visit [www.fighthardsmilebig.org](http://www.fighthardsmilebig.org).

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# HERALD NEIGHBORS



Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

A **GAME OF** kickball kept the counselors and players busy during the city's Open Play Program.

## Remembering a summer of fun in Glen Cove

**A**lthough children have now said good-bye to summer many still have happy memories of participating in the Open Play Program, provided by the City of Glen Cove. The modified evening camp program offered arts and crafts, dodgeball, kickball and so much more, all free of charge.



**JACKSON SARA VIA, 9**, above, ran to first after kicking the ball into the outfield. He helped his team score a run.

**STADIUM PONG IS** harder than it looks according to Joseph Telese, left and Blake Foster.

**AT THE ARTS** and crafts table Gabby Grella, 7, far left, created a beaded necklace for herself and a bracelet for her sister.

**COUNSELORS CHRISTOPHER CAPOBIANCO** and Damon Garner, top left, pitched to the players.

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Courtesy The Beechwood Organization

**MEADOWBROOK POINTE GARDENS** in East Meadow is a Beechwood Homes residential lifestyle community, which offers rentals and for sale properties for ages 62 and older.

# Real estate experts offer their best advice

By **BRIANA BONFIGLIO**

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Panelists on the latest Inside LI webinar gave crucial advice for homebuyers and sellers in a market that's been heating up all summer.

On Sept. 3, Inside LI, produced by RichnerLive, hosted its third virtual panel discussion on topics related to "new normals" in different aspects of life. It featured real estate experts who discussed Covid-19's impact on the market and gave tips for buying and selling homes.

The 45-minute webinar included panelists Steven Dubb, principal of The Beechwood Organization; Bryan Karp, real estate salesman at Coach Realtors; Annie Meneses, associate Broker at Signature Premier Properties; Joseph G. Milizio, attorney and managing partner of Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP; and Deirdre O'Connell, chief executive officer of Daniel Gale Sotheby's International.

## Demand skyrocketing

Moderator Skye Ostreicher, of RichnerLive and Herald Community Newspapers, first asked how long the panelists foresaw the high demand for homes continuing on Long Island.

"Everything points to a hot market for the next several months," Dubb said, "at least until there's a vaccine and it's safe to go to the city. I think that's going to be a while."

O'Connell explained that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, people are spending more time at home and reassessing their lifestyles. For many who live in apartments in the five boroughs, that means fleeing east to buy a home with more space.

"Housing isn't just about a place to sleep anymore," she said. "It's a place to live, and then you add on the low interest rates, and it makes doing it more afford-



Courtesy Daniel Gale Agency

**THIS SPLIT-LEVEL HOME** in Glen Cove is on the market for \$839,000.

able no matter what the price point."

Karp agreed, noting a large shift of people moving from Manhattan to the boroughs, from the boroughs to Nassau County and from Nassau to Suffolk counties.

However, there is low supply for all that demand, the panelists agreed, because sellers may be uncomfortable having people tour their homes and risk spreading the virus. Realtors and real estate agents have taken this into account, and most house tours are by appointment only.

The low supply and high demand is causing the most fast-paced market that some have ever seen, and there are often bidding wars for homes. "It is probably the best seller's market that I've seen in many, many decades," Karp said, "but we don't have an unlimited time for this."

## Selling a home

So what should sellers who want to

take advantage of this hot market do?

O'Connell noted that although there are bidding wars, that doesn't mean sellers should slap a high price tag on their home "just because."

"While we are seeing bidding wars and over-asking, [buyers] are not going into that huge aspirational price point," she said. "People still will pay market value and slightly over for homes that are in beautiful condition."

Karp advised sellers against doing any major renovations to the home before selling; because the market is moving so quickly, time is of the essence. "As long as you don't have water pouring down in the kitchen, just sell it the way it is," he said. "In this market, it's about time. The quicker you can get to market, the better chance you have to scoop up as much equity as possible."

Meneses noted that in this fast-paced market, the process for sellers typically

takes two to three weeks.

## Buying a home

For buyers, the experts emphasized working with a team of real estate professionals to help with all aspects of the purchase. This includes a local real estate agent and real estate attorney who know the ins and outs of the local market — "do not hire a litigation attorney, do not hire a divorce attorney," Karp said. "You want someone who is knowledgeable about today's market and what is OK and what is not OK."

Even after an offer is accepted, Milizio noted, there are still many problems that can arise in the contract phase. The purchase or sale of a home is the largest and most important transaction in most people's lives, and its purpose isn't merely transactional—it's to create a home for a family," he said. "What I would like to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



# Northwell invests \$30M in Covid-19 testing

Northwell Health Labs announced last week that it has increased its ability to ramp up the number of coronavirus tests it can conduct and reduce disruptions to its laboratory supply chain should a second coronavirus wave strike, this despite New York's currently low Covid-19 infection rate.

Northwell Health has spent more than \$30 million since the beginning of the pandemic on Covid-19 testing equipment and lab supplies, including a variety of new automated machines this summer to ensure diagnostic and antibody testing could continue in the event of a new surge this fall or winter. The lab processes tests for 19 Northwell hospitals, 52 urgent care centers and more than 800 outpatient facilities — along with the needs of strategic partners — across Long Island, New York City and the Hudson Valley.

“Our goal has been to deploy at scale as much testing as possible, as quickly as possible, so we were among the first labs to implement, validate and evaluate performance characteristics for most of these tests,” said Dr. Dwayne Breining, executive director of Northwell Health Labs. “Early in the pandemic, it was unclear which manufacturer would be able to supply quality testing at scale, so we ran with them all. As various supply-chain issues have emerged, maintaining multiple testing platforms has been a successful mitigation strategy.”

As one of the largest investors in Covid-19 testing by a hospital-based lab in

the nation, Northwell Health recently purchased high-throughput diagnostic testing analyzers from Hologic, Roche and Abbott, as well as cartridge-type tests from Genmark, Cepheid, Diasorin, Biomeme and Abbott. Northwell also is using “best-in-class,” in-lab, wet antibody chemistry tests from Roche, Ortho, Abbott, EuroImmune, Diasorin and others.

Northwell Labs currently processes about 7,000 molecular nucleic acid amplification tests and an additional 3,000 antibody tests per day, with the capacity for increased volume. Northwell Labs is also focused on eliminating false positives, which at this stage of the pandemic has the potential to close schools, by developing a two-step algorithm for retesting isolated positives versus clustered positives.

“Most testing today is for screening purposes, so we need to mitigate the potential effects of sporadic false-positive results,” said Dr. James Crawford, senior vice president of laboratory services at Northwell. “These are more likely to occur now that the New York area positivity rate is below 1 percent.”

Northwell Health Labs officials said they are committed to providing ongoing testing during the pandemic, no matter its length or severity. Anyone in need of a Covid-19 test can get one through Northwell Health-GoHealth Urgent Care, Northwell Health Labs patient service center (with a doctor's prescription) or via in-home testing through the LabFly app.



Courtesy Northwell Health Labs

**NORTHWELL HEALTH LABS** has made a multi-million-dollar investment in Covid-19 laboratory testing equipment and supplies, and continues to make that investment in the event of a second wave of infection this fall or winter.

## Real-estate market heats up across Long Island

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

impress upon buyers and sellers is to consult a real estate attorney at the beginning of the process, not the end, which ensures a smoother, quicker and often less costly process.”

“We do need a team of professionals to support each other so we can give necessary advice to buyers,” Meneses added. “You don't have an accepted offer until your contracts are fully executed.”

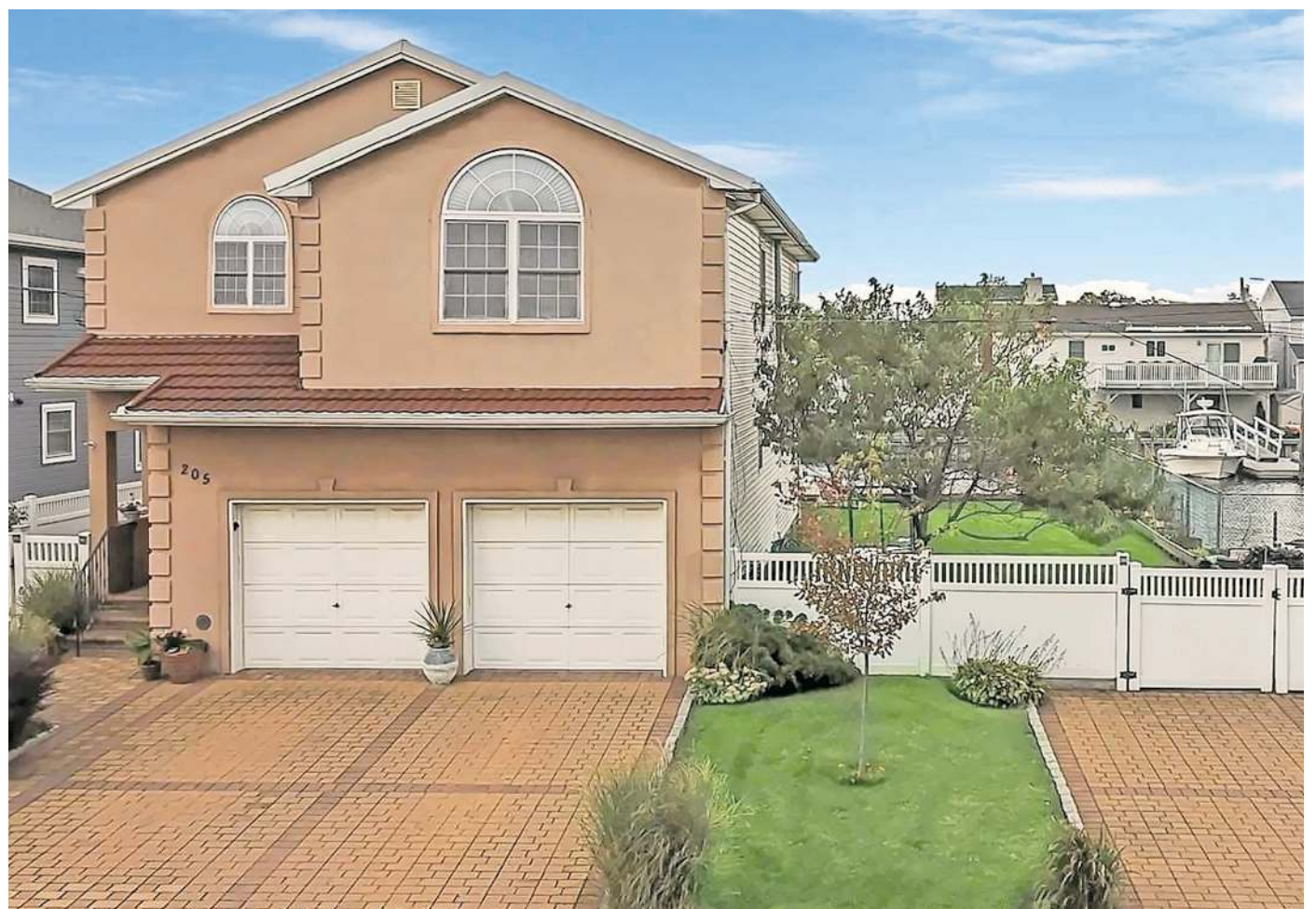
During the virtual event, viewers sent in questions, which Ostreicher read to the panelists. One asked how low-income buyers could navigate the real estate market, especially those who might be unemployed during the pandemic.

Panelists agreed that the market is heating up in all areas, from upstate New York to Shelter Island, at all price points, including as low as \$200,000. However, some buyers have chosen to wait out this period of low inventory so they have more options, Meneses noted.

Meneses also said there are new down-payment system programs available for those with a tight budget.

Ultimately, it's an exciting time for the real estate industry, the panelists said. Though they lost about three months of business in the spring, this change in the market has allowed them to bounce back quickly. “The opportunity is now, the opportunity is in front of us,” Karp said. “It will probably run another six months.”

To watch a recording of this webinar, visit [richnerlive.com/insideli-realestate](http://richnerlive.com/insideli-realestate). To suggest a topic for a future Inside LI webinar, send an email to [insideli@liherald.com](mailto:insideli@liherald.com).



Courtesy Coach Realtors

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## NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

**MANY LOCAL, COUNTY** and state officials attend the street dedication for Robert O'Neill, with his daughter Kerri O'Neill present.



**GLEN COVE** Mayor Tim Tenke, left, Kerri O'Neill, former Glen Cove Mayor Ralph Suozzi and director of Veteran Affairs Tony Jimenez attend the street dedication for WWII veteran Robert O'Neill.

## Miller Street dedicated to WWII veteran Robert O'Neill

Miller Street was dedicated to WWII veteran Robert O'Neill, 95, who died on Aug. 15. He was a long time resident of Glen Cove who raised a family and enjoyed his later years from his Miller Street home.

"It was an honor today to dedicate Miller Street in remembrance of Bob O'Neill," City of Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke wrote on his Facebook page. "Thank you to Bob's daughter, Kerri, and all of the veterans, friends, family, and elected officials who came to celebrate his life."

During WWII, as part of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, O'Neill parachuted twice into enemy territory; into Normandy for Operation Overlord on D Day and later into the Netherlands for Operation Market Garden. He fought in both battles, as well as the Battle of the Bulge.

The Glen Cove City Council had voted

to dedicate Miller Street in O'Neill's name at the Aug. 25 City Council meeting. "Bob was one of the few remaining WWII veterans in our city and we owe him and them a debt of gratitude for the contributions and sacrifices in building our nation and making the world a better place," Tenke said.

"My dad was a humble man that loved life," O'Neill's daughter, Kerri O'Neill, said. "He cared about me more than anyone in the world and I believe he lived as long as he did to be with me."

Tony Jimenez, the director of Veterans Affairs for the city, described O'Neill as someone who was proud about his veteran status, but wasn't boastful.

"He had a very outgoing personality," Jimenez said. "He loved [joking around] with other veterans. He would go into Charlie's Deli or wherever and just be a social butterfly. He was always outgoing and was always talking to everybody."



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# THEIR FRONT-LINE STORIES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## STEVE WARSHAW

GLEN HEAD

**PRESIDENT, GOLD COAST  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
REGIONAL**

**T**he first thing I wanted to do was keep everybody in the membership informed with as much information that was business-related that we could. What I decided to do was gather as much financial information as possible and put it out there on a multi-weekly basis. We even put a kids' email together with updates on what parents could do with their kids.

We did some promotions, but a lot of it stopped for a while because everybody froze in their tracks, and that's why we stuck with the financial stuff. We only started ribbon cuttings again recently, and only a very small kind that would be promoted the day after because we don't want to have too many people come.

We also joined up with three other business chambers in the area: the Glen Cove Chamber, North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Glen Cove BID to work together to keep people informed about what's going on. We found a lot of information from that group, and we decided to promote the open businesses at the same time.

You just wanted to be doing something nice to keep businesses alive. Everything had to do with a focused topic, which was business financing and anything related to the financial wellbeing of both people and businesses.

**HERALD HOMETOWN HERO**



## TONY CASSANDRO

DEER PARK

**TERMINAL MANAGER,  
GLOBAL COMMANDER  
OYSTER BAY**

**M**y life was upside down when the coronavirus first hit. I am considered to be an essential worker. We quickly decided to donate diesel fuel and gasoline to the first responders and hospitals to keep the other essential workers going.

All I kept hearing about was people dying every day. I've been working in Oyster Bay since 1983. And the terminal has been in the hamlet since 1939. I walk down the street I'm like the mayor. I really wanted to help this community. I wanted to help people get through the pandemic so at least they wouldn't have to pay their oil bill.

So, I called Rob Brusca right away and asked him if he could put some feelers out to see who needed help. We contacted the Life Enrichment Center and St. Dominic's outreach program. I spoke to my boss, and he agreed to help. We ended up donating oil so people in need could have hot water. Thankfully it was not cold outside. We are wholesale, so Abalene Plumbing and Heating from Syosset did the delivery for us. We ended up helping 10 to 15 families in Oyster Bay and Bayville. And we are still not done helping them. I don't really know their stories. I figure they are people out of work or just needy. We have never felt there was a need to do this before Covid.

As for me, I was living a 14 day cycle – an incubation period. I'd turn around and someone was in my face. It made me paranoid. I also knew of people that got it.

**HERALD HOMETOWN HERO**



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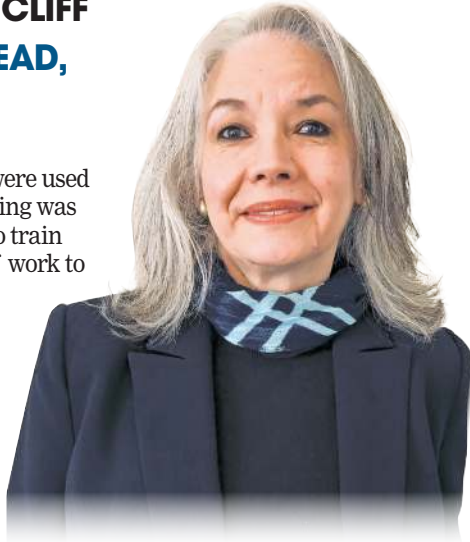
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## MARÍA FERNANDA PARDO

SEA CLIFF

LITERACY DEPARTMENT HEAD,  
GLEN COVE LIBRARY



The pandemic changed everything. We were used to having people in the library. Everything was done in person, and now suddenly we had to train everyone to use technology, so it was a lot of work to teach people how to do a class on Zoom.

One of my co-workers, a fellow librarian, and I were able to get this app for learning English, and we got almost 58 licenses, so on top of the classes we have on Zoom, we got for a year, free of charge for people in Glen Cove, an app that is wonderful. It's called Voxy.

Education has really been something that we've done a lot. We are enjoying cooking classes on Zoom. People that register get the ingredients, and on Zoom we can see everyone cooking at home.

For years we had book and film discussions here in Spanish, and from the beginning, by the end of March, people said, 'OK, we're ready.' So we've increased by about 40 Spanish speakers, and we've raised the amount of book discussions and film discussions and really it was necessary. We used to have one film discussion and one book discussion in the library every two months. But then it became a weekly book discussion where we read a chapter of a book and discuss it, and with the movies we've been doing it twice a month. People appreciate it because it was a way to connect with other people.

**HERALD HOMETOWN HERO**

## HEIDI HUNT

SEA CLIFF

EVENT COORDINATOR, SEA CLIFF  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION



The Sunset Serenade has been a staple of summer in Sea Cliff for many years. Every Thursday night, hundreds of people in the community gathered in Memorial Park to visit with one another, listen to the vast array of talented local musicians and watch spectacular sunsets over Hempstead Harbor.

During the pandemic, we needed to find a way to celebrate the local musicians and bring them together without having to bring us together. We wanted to celebrate the joy they bring us every summer and still be socially distant, so we invited bands to play together at a distance.

It was incredible. They got a chance to play together as a band, which they hadn't done for months. We had all been in this circumstance where we couldn't be together, so the joy that they had playing together was so appreciated by the band members themselves. I think all seven bands felt the same way.

We decided to premier each band on YouTube live-streams at 7 p.m. the night they were supposed to perform in the park to allow us to really have that Thursday night celebration of music to look forward to.

I feel like music and the arts are so transformative for us as people in our everyday lives. I found it difficult as an artist and musician to give back, and really the only way I could is through supporting the arts in our community.

**HERALD HOMETOWN HERO**

## SHARE YOUR LOSS, SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Dear neighbor:

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

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

Stuart Richner  
Publisher  
[srichner@liherald.com](mailto:srichner@liherald.com)

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# Burnett appointed to the Civil Service Commission

By JENNIFER CORR

jcarr@liherald.com

When Glen Cove resident Phyllis Burnett was asked about her experience volunteering for the city, she said, "I've been around."

"My sons were raised here," said Burnett, who moved to Glen Cove in 1983. "I always thought I should do something in the community where my sons are raised. It's been a very good experience."

Burnett, who's volunteer service in the city has spanned from the Glen Cove Planning Board in the late 1980s to her position as secretary for the Kiwanis of Glen Cove, will now be serving alongside William Conologue and Carolyn D. Wilson in the Civil Service Commission for the City of Glen Cove upon her appointment by Mayor Tim Tenke.

"Phyllis is very much involved in our community here and she has so much energy," Tenke said at the City Council meeting on Aug. 25, where the council approved her appointment. "She really is

a phenomenal person and I want to thank her personally for accepting this nomination for the Civil Service Commission."

The Civil Service Commission's responsibility, according to the city's website, is to "provide the City of Glen Cove, the Glen Cove City School District, the Glen Cove Library and the Glen Cove Housing Authority with a system for selection of new employees based on the relative merit and fitness of applicants which gives due preference to promotion from within."

The commission is composed of three commissioners who each serve six years. Their terms are staggered so that a new commissioner will be appointed every two years.

Burnett, Conologue and Wilson have served alongside one another before in the Glen Cove Charter Review Commission, which in 2015 was

tasked with considering reforms to the structure of city government, including term limits and durations. "It was basically all of us going back to what we used to do three years ago," Burnett said. "It



Elisa Dragotto/Herald Gazette

**PHYLLIS BURNETT WAS** appointed a member of the Civil Service Commission by Mayor Tim Tenke in August.

## Who is Phyllis O. Burnett?

Phyllis O. Burnett, a Glen Cove resident since 1983, is the newest member of the Civil Service Commission. She was a senior safety specialist and safety structure in environmental health and safety for Con Edison from 1972 to 2007 and a safety officer for Nassau County from 2007 to 2010.

As a volunteer, she serves as a secretary of the Kiwanis of Glen Cove, is a mem-

ber of the Glen Cove Youth Bureau Board, a medical transportation coordinator for the Glen Cove Senior Center, a CPR instructor for the Lincoln House Boys and Girls Club, among other volunteer positions.

In the late 1980s, Burnett served on the City of Glen Cove Planning Board. She was the first Black American appointed to a public position in the city.

was very nice."

"I have known and worked with Phyllis on many committees and community projects over the years," Wilson said. "She brings a great deal of insight and enthusiasm to every situation. In the history of our Civil Service Commission, Phyllis is the third woman and the first African American to ever serve as Commissioner. This is really a historic appointment and a great plus for the City of Glen Cove."

Burnett, a former Sea Cliff resident, said she began her involvement with the city before she even moved there, demonstrating against the pollution and contamination at the land that was the former Li Tungsten facility property and is now

Garvies Point by RXR Realty

And with her years of experience with Con Edison and Nassau County, along with her volunteer experience in the city, Burnett said she will be a thoughtful member of the Civil Service Commission. "You see she's Black and you see that she's a woman," Burnett said of herself. "I hope that I represent them well . . . I'm not going to make rash decisions."

Among her goals of serving on the Civil Service Commission is bringing more diversity into the city. "We really don't know what the ethnic background of the candidates are because it's not something that's asked on the application," she said, "but it's something to think about to make sure it's fair."

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Courtesy Livingston Group New York

**THOSE BEHIND THE** Villa at Glen Cove pleaded their case to the public at the Sept. 1 City of Glen Cove Planning Board meeting.

## Housing Project would 'eliminate the current eyesore'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"This does not attract rodents," Livingston said of the property. "There is no garbage nor liter that would attract them."

Former Glen Cove City Councilman Roderick Watson, who also lives nearby, said he was upset because the site remains an abandoned lot. "I'm very upset and I'm very annoyed with the way things have been going," he said. Livingston "did not do what he said he would do. He made the area worse."

"I have a 75-year-old mother whose quality of life has been diminished," Watson continued. "She had to be in quarantine at one point because of everything going on with Covid-19, and looking outside her window, this is what she had to look at," referring to the blue-plywood fence that now encloses the empty lot. He, too, reported rats in the area.

The most recent plan for the site, proposed this summer, includes more open land, Livingston said, and roughly 600 trees, 1,800 plants and shrubs, two fountains, a gazebo and lanterns along the sidewalk. That recreational space would be .58 acres of land, purchased from the Boys & Girls Club, with no major construction planned for that section of the site.

The six apartment buildings on the site would range from two to four floors in height.

"This project will be absolutely stunning as an entranceway into Glen Cove," Livingston said.

Wayne Muller, of R&M Engineering, prepared a traffic analysis for the site in June. N&P Engineering, Architecture and Land Surveying, a traffic consultant selected by the city to review R&M's report, agreed with the original finding that the project, in its current form, would generate less traffic than the previously proposed 216-unit rental complex.

With 352 parking spaces, the complex would not require a parking variance,



Photos by Jennifer Corr/Herald Gazette

**DANIEL LIVINGSTON SAID** that his site should not attract rodents because there is no garbage on it.

according to city code, Muller said. He added that he did not believe an additional traffic analysis was required.

Livingston is seeking a tax abatement for the project from the Glen Cove Community Development Agency and the Industrial Development Agency. He did not give an amount for the abatement, but he requested that taxes on the property start at the amount equal to what they are now for the abandoned lot and increase annually from there.

"The city is not giving me any money," Livingston said. "The taxpayers are not giving me any money."



**PLYWOOD FENCING NOW** encloses the site.





## OBITUARIES

### Angelo "Cappy" Capobianco

Retired Glen Cove Police Detective Angelo "Cappy" Capobianco, 90, died on Sept. 5. Capobianco and his late wife, Dorothy, were especially proud of their five children in medicine and raised in Glen Cove; Angela, Michael, Anthony, John (Eagle Scout) and Paul (Eagle Scout), as well as their grandchildren; Peter, Quentin, Ian, Sophia, Christine and Luke.

He was the last survivor of his immediate family. Cappy was born of Italian immigrants in 1930 and raised in Glen Cove's "Little Italy," The Orchard. After attending St. Patrick's Elementary School, he graduated from Glen Cove High School, Class of 1948. Heeding the call to service by a local returning WWII soldier, Cap decided the next day to immediately enlist in the U.S. Army. His musical talents secured him as an Army bugler, traveling the country with the emotional task of playing during military funeral services. In consideration of the bereaved, he originated playing taps at a distance from the gravesite. It was his last wish.

Prior to becoming a Glen Cove Police

Officer, Angelo Capobianco worked in the Nassau County Jail under Sheriff Jesse Combs. His first felony arrest came early in his career with the arrest of a burglary team that frequented North Shore liquor stores. He was cited by Chief Frank McCue. During his career, the rise of drug use plagued the city. Chief McCue started a Narcotic Squad to deal with the "Heroin Era." While part of this squad, he arrested a dealer who had a very large quantity of heroin in his auto. He was then awarded the Gold Shield in 1972 by then Public Safety Commissioner Michael Martone.

Even before being officially appointed to the Glen Cove Police Department, in 1964, while on police academy patrol, he spotted a stolen vehicle in traffic, resulting in an arrest. Graduating in the ranks of his beloved department to Chief of Detectives, his lengthy arrest record, keen sense of awareness and disarming facade, complete with raincoat, earned him the fitting nickname "Columbo." He was awarded 57 Departmental Commendations and Citations for exceptional duty and held the highest arrest record in Nassau County for law enforcement.

There were also numerous Civic and Community awards bestowed upon him. In addition, for the protection of citizens, Capobianco introduced several law enforcement bills into the state legislature, which were subsequently ratified into law. After a long "beautiful ride" as he described his tenure, he retired in 1997.

Some highlights of his prolific life follow. In 1968, he entered a burning building to rescue five trapped children from a fire. For this, he was commended by the City Father, the police department and then by the Nassau County Executive, Eugene Nickerson who presented him with a Nassau County Commendation Award. In 1969, Cappy organized and was charter member of the Metropolitan Police Conference. He was the largest

fundraiser for the Glen Cove Police Benevolence Association, organized the PBA Movie Benefits Raffle and rebuilt the PBA Journal (Gold Pages, etc.) to its highest point and subsequent prominence.

Cap was appointed by the City of Glen Cove as Military Historian in the 1970's. He was proudly dedicated to keeping the community aware of the bravery, sacrifices and contributions of local soldiers, and their families, forever researching and interviewing true-life heroic Glen Covers who were involved in all of the country's wars.

He highlighted each one of the city's veterans for their contributions to the nation's freedom. He selected the soldier to be honored in his beloved City of Glen Cove for the Memorial and Veteran's Days ceremonies. He always had a deep sense of reverence for the military parades, considering them sacred; he kept to the tradition of beginning precisely at high noon, in memoriam to the Armed Services.

His countless published vignettes of these patriots appeared as weekly stories in local newspapers and television shows. In addition, he renamed a street in honor of a veteran who served in the

U.S. Army, surviving the infamous "Bataan Death March."

In 1970, he received the Department's "Policeman of the Year Award." He attained 100 percent apprehension in a three-year period for street muggers between 1972 and 1975. He was also honored in 1972 by the Glen Cove PBA at the PBA Ball for "PBA Man of the Year Award" and in 1976 by the Glen Cove Elks Lodge as "Cop of the Year." He was appointed editor of the Nassau Police Conference monthly publication, the Blotter in 1976. Cappy was also a columnist for this interdepartmental journal for many years.

Capobianco was especially proud of apprehending three rapists who were responsible for five of the cities most brutal rapes. Cap solely apprehended an armed killer in a murder at the Frontier Diner in 1978 and also assisted in the arrest of four murder cases. In 1978 he received the Nassau County Shield Award for "Cop of the Year." In 1981, he was awarded the American Legion award for "Policeman of the Year."

He organized and became a charter member of the Nassau County Police Columbian Society (Italian/American) Police Officers. He was also awarded "Policeman of the Year" by the Nassau County Police Chiefs Association in 1986. In 1988 he was the recipient of PBA Plaque for Outstanding Service upon retiring from the post of Welfare Secretary. In 1995 he received the Nassau County "Boy Scout Council Award" for contributions toward the advancement of Scouting in Glen Cove.

In 1991 he was presented with the City of Glen Cove Medal Mayor's "Award for Veteran Affairs." In 1997, Capobianco was the recipient of Young Simmons American Legion Award for Glen Cove Police Department's Officer of the Year. He was deeply gratified in creating the traditional annual Christmas Party for the children of the department.

Cappy loved the water. He made it to the qualifying swimming finals for the 1948 Summer Olympics. In later years, he became a certified Nassau County life-guard, winning seven gold medals for swimming in the Senior Olympics.

He once told a story of how Jackie Kennedy drove up to a store in Glen Cove and asked him if he could watch over Caroline and John, Jr. for a short while. Upon meeting Caroline years later at her art opening, he explained, "Let me tell you when I first met you before..."

There will be a private military burial with honors in Calverton, N.Y.



### Jean Lupinski

Jean Lupinski, 94, of Glen Cove and Port St. Lucie, Fl, died on June 29. Beloved wife of the late Adam Lupinski; loving mother of Jean (James Hayes), Joan (the late William Myers), Adam Jr. (Donna), Jana (Alan Zederbaum). Proud grandmother of Janice, Jimmy, Joyce, Jaelyn, Justine, Jacelyn, Adam, Justin, Lou and Janine; as well as a great grandmother to 23. Arrangements entrusted to McLaughlin, Kramer, Meigel Funeral Home. Private interment at Calverton National Cemetery.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

(14) of the City Code to add a one story addition to a house on a nonconforming lot with an existing lot area of 5,061.84 sq. ft. when 6,500 is the minimum required.

Applicant is proposing an 8 ft side yard setback where 10 ft each is the minimum allowed, lot coverage of 27.12% when 25% is permitted and an interior floor area ratio of 2,801.76 Sq. ft (55.35%).

The property is located in the R-4 One-Two Family Residence District and designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 31, Block F, Lot 88.

Dated: August 28, 2020

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE  
TERI MOSCHETTA,  
CHAIRPERSON  
123058

LEGAL NOTICE OF GLEN COVE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Glen Cove Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. However, due to the COVID -19 concerns and the fact that city hall is closed at the present time, the meeting will be held virtually using the Microsoft TEAMS application. The link to the meeting agenda and the access instructions will be listed on the home page of the Glen Cove website at least 2 days in advance of the meeting. The website is [www.glencove-li.us](http://www.glencove-li.us) To review this application, please contact Rosa Rizzo, the secretary for the Zoning Board of Appeals at [rrizzo@glencove.ny.gov](mailto:rrizzo@glencove.ny.gov) for a copy. Anyone other than the board and the applicant will have their microphones muted until instructed by the chair that comments will be taken. All persons

interested will be given an opportunity to be heard by telephone on the teleconference during the hearing. All citizens have a right to participate in the teleconference of the public hearing and to provide written comments by email or regular mail to the City Clerk, which are received prior to the commencement of public hearing, make oral comments and to ask questions on the teleconference concerning the proposed application. Public comments received prior to the commencement of the public hearing will be made part of the public record. The transcript of the hearing will be available at a later date. Anyone wishing to comment on the application, but who cannot join the TEAMS forum, can submit comments to Rosa Rizzo [rrizzo@glencove.ny.gov](mailto:rrizzo@glencove.ny.gov) in advance of the hearing. CASE # 7 - 2020: RXR Glen Cove Village Square Owner, LLC with an address at 625 RXR Plaza, Uniondale, N.Y 11556 is making application for

two variances. The first, from section (s) 280-65.1 C (3)(b) of the Glen Cove Zoning Code, seeks 90.3 feet of ground story frontage where the maximum permitted is 40 feet for financial institutions (retail bank branch). The second variance, from Section 228-12A of the Glen Cove Zoning Code regarding freestanding signs, seeks a setback of 3 feet for the installation of a pole sign and a monument sign for the retail bank branch, where 15 feet from the property line (the setback to Brewster Street) is required.

The property is designated as Section 31, Block 85 Lot (s) 38,39 & 40 on the Land and Tax Map of Nassau County and located in the Glen Cove B-1 Central Business District and the CBD Overlay Commercial District.  
Dated: August 27, 2020  
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE  
TERI MOSCHETTA,  
CHAIRPERSON  
123057

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(516) 569-4000**HERALD EDITORIAL****This Sept. 11, we mourn more deeply than ever**

**F**or those who lived in the New York metropolitan area when the World Trade Center was attacked by terrorists, Sept. 11 is a day that will “live in infamy,” to quote President Franklin D. Roosevelt — a time of somber reflection, remembering the thousands of dead and recalling the anxiety and fear we felt that horrifying day.

On 9/11, we learned, or were reminded, that an azure sky could suddenly turn black, as smoke billowed across the Manhattan skyline from the burning twin towers — a literal and metaphorical representation of the times that followed.

We learned, or were reminded, that good people could die inexplicably — that they might vanish in a smoldering mass of concrete and steel, covered in fine, white dust that we later learned was highly toxic to breathe.

Some 2,977 people were killed at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon and in a Shanksville, Pa., field, as airliners crashed out of the sky. Another 40,000 people — many of them first responders — now suffer from 9/11-related illnesses because of the air they breathed that day and in the days and weeks afterward, with hundreds dying of rare cancers caused by exposure to the witches’ brew of poisonous fumes and particles at ground zero.

Nearly two decades have passed, but for anyone who was in New York at the time, the memory of it all is still raw. This year, though, 9/11 will be more solemn than at

any time in the past 19 years, with the knowledge that every three days, more Americans die of Covid-19 than were killed in the attacks.

Much as 9/11 seemingly came out of nowhere, the coronavirus pandemic took us by surprise as well, in what can only be described as a sneak attack — in New York, we thought at first that the virus had spread from Asia to our West Coast, but we now know that it was brought to the metropolitan area from Asia via Europe earlier than believed. According to studies, it spread in our communities in February and perhaps as early as January, without our knowledge, and then exploded across the region in March and April. Thousands of cases arose without warning, overwhelming our hospitals and, as was the case on 9/11, causing widespread alarm and panic, leaving many people shell-shocked and distraught.

As it did after the attacks, our economy crashed, with businesses closing and the stock market plummeting. Many now wonder what the future will bring.

We must remember this: 9/11 taught us not only that the world can be an unpredictable, dangerous place, but also that after a disaster, we can summon our better angels and find the strength to rebuild. We can foster a sense of community by working together to overcome our collective struggle. Sept. 11 was full of tragedy, but its aftermath was also full of hope, found in the heroic volunteerism that followed

the attacks. People reached out to comfort one another through humble acts of kindness. Friends looked out for friends, neighbors for neighbors, strangers for strangers. It was indeed the worst of times, but in many ways it was the best of times, as people’s seemingly unbounded capacity to care for one another, to love one another, shone through.

The dark days that we are living through now are no different. We once again see the monumental heroism of our first responders. We see our shared grief turned into volunteer action. We see neighbors looking out for neighbors.

We must pause to mourn the dead — the good people taken too soon by an insidious viral invader — but we also must see hope in our humanity, our innate desire to spread good that is too often suppressed by our workaday concerns, but that is unleashed during times of crisis such as this.

Each life taken in the attacks and by the pandemic was precious — a light in the world that was extinguished seemingly without reason. That is why this Sept. 11, we must resolve to continue our fight against the coronavirus, to save every life we can. That means getting ahead of the virus by wearing masks, keeping six feet of social distance, washing our hands often and adhering to state reopening guidelines until science at last prevails and a vaccine is discovered.

**LETTERS****We are back**

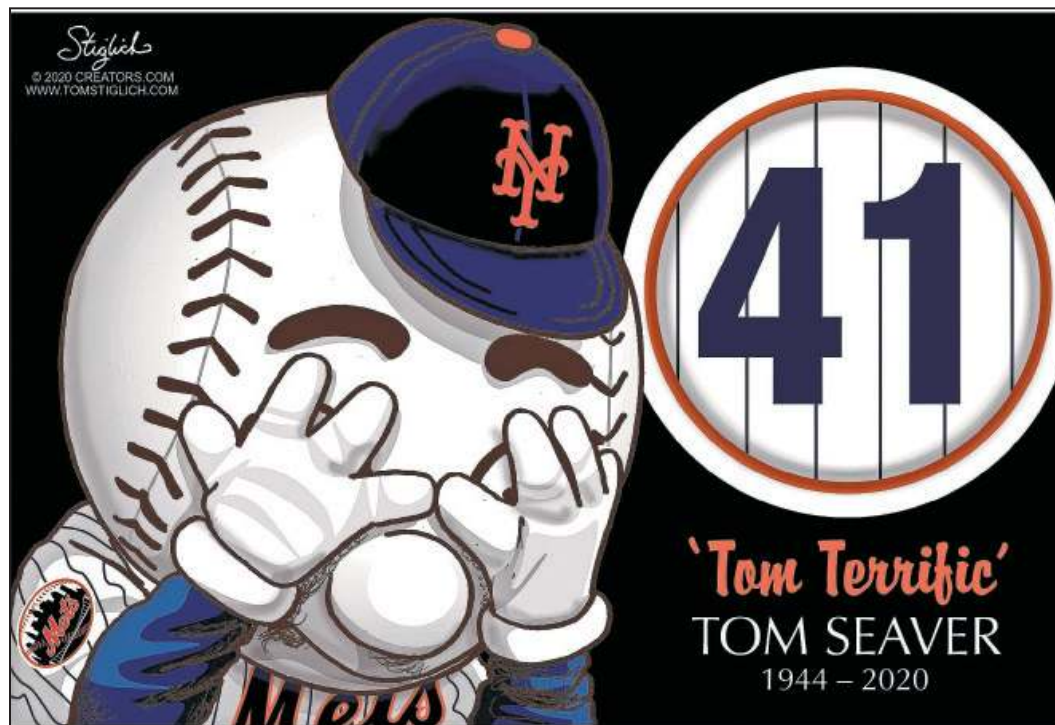
To the Editor:

Thanks so much for covering the reopening of the Locust Valley Library. After a long closure, it is great to be back. As you say, there is plenty to do at the library this month. We would like everyone to know that we are still quarantining returned materials, sanitizing surfaces and keeping fresh air flowing, all to keep the staff and our patrons safe. We invite everyone to come in and stock up on new books and DVD’s, or take advantage of our curbside delivery service.

KATHLEEN SMITH  
Locust Valley Library**Randi’s too generous  
in praise of ‘peace plan’**

To the Editor:

Re Randi Kreiss’s column “Kudos for peace plan, but the prez still needs to go” (Aug. 20-26): Kreiss praises the announcement of the completion of a recent “peace initiative” by the governments of the United States, Israel and the United



Arab Emirates. She credits President Trump, Jared Kushner, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed with supporting a “path toward peaceful coexistence” between Arab countries and Israel.

It should be pointed out that the United Arab Emirates has never been at war with Israel, and before this recent agreement — exchanging recognition of Israel for what may be only a temporary suspension of Israel’s plans to annex the West Bank — there was

## OPINIONS

# Returning to Long Island's segregated schools

**A**s the new school year begins, students, teachers and parents are understandably focused on the immediate issue of how schools are reopening amid the coronavirus pandemic. But the pandemic doesn't let us off the hook. Long Island's schools are highly segregated and becoming more so, and it is time that we addressed that, too.



**ELAINE GROSS**

Long Island is one of the 10 most segregated metropolitan regions in the nation, and the problem is on the rise. As ERASE Racism revealed in 2017, dramatically more Black and Latinx students on Long Island attended segregated

schools than 12 years earlier.

Underlying that segregation is structural racism — the historical and ongoing racial discrimination, segregation and marginalization of African-Americans, in particular, that is typically instigated or sanctioned by government. In this case, it is perpetuated by the fact that Long Island's two counties have 124 school districts. That fragmentation is not justified by educational priorities; it

is terribly inefficient and wasteful. It simply mirrors Long Island's segregated residential jurisdictions.

As we, as a nation, continue this year's remarkable public discussion of race in the wake of the tragic killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, we need to come together and plan to end the segregation that has defined Long Island schools for so long. Fortunately, there are steps that we can take, and Long Islanders are already leading the way.

ERASE Racism's Student Task Force, which consists of 47 high school students from 20 school districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties, convenes monthly in an effort to deepen its understanding of structural racism and to develop ways to reduce it in Long Island schools. While it is an extracurricular activity, the students' insights into how to make curricula more culturally responsive have attracted national attention.

The Student Task Force's members were invited this summer to create and present six culturally responsive virtual lesson plans in the prestigious, four-day Reimagining Education Summer Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University. Three of the students were fea-

tured in a sold-out plenary session, titled "Rewriting L.I. Curriculum: Structural Racism," watched by 1,000 educators nationwide.

Before the pandemic, the task force met in person. Its members now convene on Zoom and, in doing so, highlight another opportunity: using distance learning as a vehicle for integration.

While distance learning is being implemented by individual school districts, it provides an extraordinary mechanism for bringing together students from across school districts. Students from multiple districts can study together without being constrained

by the geographic jurisdictions imposed on them by previous generations and their prejudices.

Students might come together, for instance, to take Advanced Placement courses or International Baccalaureate classes. They could broaden their understanding by sharing insights with students from other backgrounds. They would enhance their education by benefiting from a variety of perspectives.

In that context and more broadly, new curricula should be developed that are culturally responsive, reflecting the

diversity of race, ethnicities and cultures in our nation and our region. Fortunately, the State Education Department has already developed a "Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework," into which ERASE Racism had input. It helps educators create student-centered learning environments that affirm diversity, while preparing students for rigorous, independent learning and elevating historically marginalized voices, among other goals.

To tackle structural racism in education on Long Island, there must also be engaged faculty, and this is another asset to build on. Over the past three years, 87 Long Island educators from 15 school districts and 37 schools have been named Rauch Foundation Fellows, and have been sponsored to attend the Reimagining Education Summer Institute at Teachers College. There they focused on teaching and learning in racially diverse schools and demonstrated a commitment on which Long Island can build.

Long Island has a long way to go to eradicate the structural racism in its educational system, but it has resources to draw from, including student and faculty leaders pointing the way.

*Elaine Gross is president of ERASE Racism, the regional civil rights organization based on Long Island.*

**D**istance learning is actually an extraordinary way to bring students together.

## LETTERS

already important covert cooperation between the governments of Israel and the UAE.

The UAE's air and missile defense systems are manufactured in Israel and are probably even controlled from there. After the announcement of the agreement, Kushner mentioned that the deal made it more likely that the UAE would receive the F-35 jets the country is hoping to buy directly from the U.S. This deal seems more of a cynical business deal than a peace accord. It also furthers the military alliance between the U.S., Israel and the UAE against Iran.

The trilateral deal between the two Middle East nations and the U.S. is actually an impediment to real peace in the region, as were the Trump administration's decisions to move our embassy to Jerusalem and to support the continued building and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. It isn't surprising that the Palestinian National Authority has denounced this most recent development and recalled its ambassador to the UAE.

Making self-serving deals with anti-democratic, repressive, absolute monarchies isn't the way to peace in the Middle East. Unless there's real justice for the Palestinian people with agreements that restore full rights and sovereignty to them, no true and abiding peace will ever come to Israel and Palestine.

JIM BROWN  
*Island Park*

*Brown is secretary of the Green Party of Nassau County*

## FRAMEWORK by Alyssa Seidman



Summer comes to an unofficial end — Jones Beach

## CORRECTION

The biographical notes at the end of Senior Editor Timothy Denton's column last week, "A safe return to class should be the goal," misidentified the Heralds that Denton

edits. They are the Seaford and Watagh Herald Citizens, not the Herald Gazettes.

## OPINIONS

## The economy needs emergency attention now

Three-quarters of a year into 2020, let's all pray that the end of Covid-19 is mercifully within view. Great progress is being made on fast-tracking a vaccine, and once it is readily available, mass immunizations can begin, hopefully putting this scourge behind us.

Let's hope, too, that the nation can make some real progress in race rela-



**ALFONSE  
D'AMATO**

tions. Everyone should want peace in our minority communities, with better relations between police and the public they are sworn to serve.

But even after Covid-19 is defeated and law and justice advanced, there will remain a huge challenge to America's lead-

ers. Despite the mainstream media's fixation on the pandemic and the unrest across our cities, the long-term test we will face is creating a broad-based and sustainable economic recovery.

Make no mistake, it's the economy that New Yorkers are especially worried about. A recent poll listed it as their No. 1 concern. That's not surprising, given that the latest unemployment rate for New York was 16 percent, compared with 10.5 percent for the rest of the country. In New York City the jobless rate was a stagger-

ing 20 percent. These are deep-recession unemployment numbers that will strain our state's economy for the foreseeable future. And they hurt our poorest minority communities most.

How do we climb out of this economic hole? The first rule should be not to dig ourselves deeper into it. At the height of the greatest recession since the 1930s, economists of all political stripes generally agree that this isn't the time to slap big new taxes on struggling taxpayers and businesses. Instead, over the past few months, Congress and President Trump — along with the Federal Reserve — have pumped several trillion dollars into the economy to keep Americans afloat. That prevented the economy from falling into a second Great Depression.

There's broad-based agreement in Washington that more economic assistance will be needed to see the nation through the next few financial quarters. The president has indicated that he would support it, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has repeatedly signaled he is ready to negotiate a realistic package with Democratic congressional leaders.

This could pump another trillion dollars into the economy, including more help for ordinary Americans to pay for rent and food, and additional assistance to

struggling small businesses to keep their doors open and provide desperately needed jobs. For the rest of this year and into 2021, avoiding mass evictions and further losses of small businesses along with their jobs should be priority No. 1.

Americans will also have to decide, on Election Day, what type of economic policies they want to see in Washington for the next four years. Before the pandemic struck, the Trump administration's lower taxes and regulatory relief had helped produce the highest employment and the best economy in decades. Minorities and women had been especially helped by the rising economic tide.

If in 2021 we take a step back to higher taxes, more burdensome business regulations and pie-in-the-sky boondoggles like the Green New Deal, our economy could end up hobbled for years. If you want to see what damage such heavy-handed energy regulation can do, look to California, where radical green-energy policies have left the state without adequate electrical power to keep the lights on. Rolling brownouts like those that plague third-world countries have become common across California.

Take that ill-considered approach nationwide and the current recession could last until the end of this decade, or

beyond. Raising taxes, imposing economically stifling new business regulation and strangling our energy independence with bans on new energy development would dramatically slow the economic recovery. What will be needed instead for the foreseeable future are economic incentives for businesses and individuals to spur growth.

One promising incentive program I'd like to see more widely applied is the so-called Enterprise Zone initiative devised by South Carolina Republican Sen. Tim Scott. This program has broad bipartisan support. It targets tax relief to job-creating investments in some of our nation's most economically distressed areas, helping lift hard-pressed communities. It should be expanded to cover more of those communities with broader investment incentives, especially for new manufacturing jobs.

Right here on Long Island there are pockets of economic distress that could significantly benefit from an Enterprise Zone program. And leaders in Albany should consider adding state tax incentives in these zones as well to amplify the benefit.

Because the economy needs emergency attention now.

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

## Deliver the letter. The sooner, the better.

Meet at the mailbox, we told our kids when they walked up the block to wait for the school bus. Those were the elementary school years when the yellow bus



**RANDI  
KREISS**

hailed them off to Franklin and then Hewlett Elementary School in the Five Towns.

Of course you met at the mailbox, the ubiquitous blue mailbox, whatever your community and your particular adventure that day. Those were the days, actually until very recently,

when mailboxes were just there, as part of the landscape, a reminder of a service that delivered letters despite the climate, political or meteorological. My husband grew up in Lawrence, and he remembers getting mail delivery twice a day.

Those were the days before mail sorters and USPS websites, and before mail-in voting became a controversial issue. With the acceleration of technology and advanced security measures, much has been lost, particularly the reassuring

notion we grew up with that the postal service was a dependable agency, not a victim of political infighting and a target of misinformation campaigns.

Are mailboxes being carted away in the middle of the night to discourage voting? Is the postmaster general a decent CEO or a tool of a rogue administration? The world we live in is muddied with many disturbing questions.

I am setting that aside and thinking today of the romance of mailboxes, which changed to brilliant blue in 1971 from red, white and blue.

My first real letter exchange was with a pen pal I had in Israel. I still remember her name, Giza Shalev, and we wrote back and forth for a few years beginning when I was 10. It was the most thrilling and exotic connection in my life.

I have love letters, and I have written love letters, and there isn't a text or email that can compare to the ink on the paper and the intimacy of the handwriting from the person you love. I may have married my husband because of a love letter he wrote to me when we were seniors at Lawrence High School. He said he didn't

understand his feelings, but he knew he couldn't resist the "chemistry" between us. The guy wasn't a writer, but this was real poetry. I still have that handwritten letter, which was delivered by our mailman in 1964.

**I** hope these blue boxes continue to dot the land, and that we support the USPS.

For one year of my life, my senior year in high school, the mail was the focus of all my ambitions. I deposited my college applications in the blue box, and received my answers in our front-door mail slot.

How do we decide what to keep? I have a box of letters from other Lawrence High School friends from our first year away at college. Oh my, the drama and depression and yearning for home and for love and for what we had together before we opened our lives to a world away from best friends and yes, lovers.

Everything came in the mail, from college grades to teacher's licenses to job acceptance letters. My husband got his draft notice in the mail in 1967. I got my teacher's license, and then, later, I branched out and sent freelance articles to newspapers and magazines and got my acceptances by mail.

One of the most significant letters I wrote was one to my Uncle Sidney, who was estranged from my family because my mother didn't welcome his beautiful young wife. He declined the invitation to my wedding. But Uncle Sid had been my loving, funny uncle who took me to the Rockaway boardwalk to play Skee-ball. I wrote to him — part supplication, part guilt, mostly loving memories — and begged him to come. He wrote back that he would, and he did.

What was your best letter ever? Was there a letter that changed your life?

When we married and had kids, there were impossibly worrisome camp letters referencing weird rashes and black snakes lurking in the freezing lake. Later, there were letters from our son's bike trip in Denmark and our daughter's long-haul hike in New Zealand.

Eventually, sadly, email and texting supplanted personal letter writing. Still, I hope the big blue boxes continue to dot the landscape. I hope mail carriers and postal workers are supported in their work. And I hope every single person who needs to vote by mail can have his or her voice and choice heard.

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