

GLEN COVE

HERALD

Gazette



Donald Doran honored
Page 8



Food for needy at Thanksgiving
Page 11



Glen Cove Police to get Carfax
Page 7

\$1.00

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Courtesy Alex Gallego

MEMBERS OF THE 11th New York Regiment, from left, Peter Brasile, Hector Sepvueda, Ed McGay and Alex Gallego, took part in military funeral honors for a dead veteran at Long Island National Cemetery. The regiment performs the honors at cemeteries on Long Island and in New York City.

Veterans can be honored one last time at gravesite

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

The sound of gunfire in a cemetery, followed by a bugler playing taps, means one thing — a veteran is being honored for perpetuity. On Long Island and in New York City, the ceremony is conducted by members of the 11th New York Regiment, which provides

free military funeral honors. A veterans service organization, it has 32 members, including New York Guard veteran Alex Gallego, from East Norwich, and Glen Cove resident Richard Arias, a Navy veteran. They continue to serve their country, they say, by honoring fellow veterans and offering comfort to their grieving families.

The 11th New York Regiment is part of United States Volunteers, whose heritage dates to Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders, the nation's last volunteer cavalry unit. Its members, who fought in the Spanish-American War, were known officially as the United States Volunteers.

Gallego, 52, the 11th New

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

G.C. reacts to Biden-Harris election win

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

At press time on Wednesday, President-elect Joseph Biden had tallied over 77 million votes — more than any other presidential candidate in history — besting President Trump's 72 million-plus votes, the second-most ever.

Only two states remained to be decided, Georgia and North Carolina, according to the Associated Press. Wins by Trump in one or both states, however, would not affect the outcome of the election. Biden had secured 290 electoral votes, the AP was reporting. If he were to win Georgia — an increasingly likely outcome — he would end the election with 306 electoral votes, 36 more than he needed to win the presidency.

Allen Hudson, the assistant principal of Glen Cove High School, said he could hear the sounds of celebration as he and members of his family made

their way to Sea Cliff Memorial Park last Saturday, where they joined other North Shore residents to mark the victory of Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris by marching through the village. Hudson said

We're just hoping and praying that we move forward and that the United States is unified once again.

ALLEN HUDSON
Assistant principal,
Glen Cove H.S.

he found out about the march on Facebook, and estimated that 100 to 150 people took part — all wearing masks.

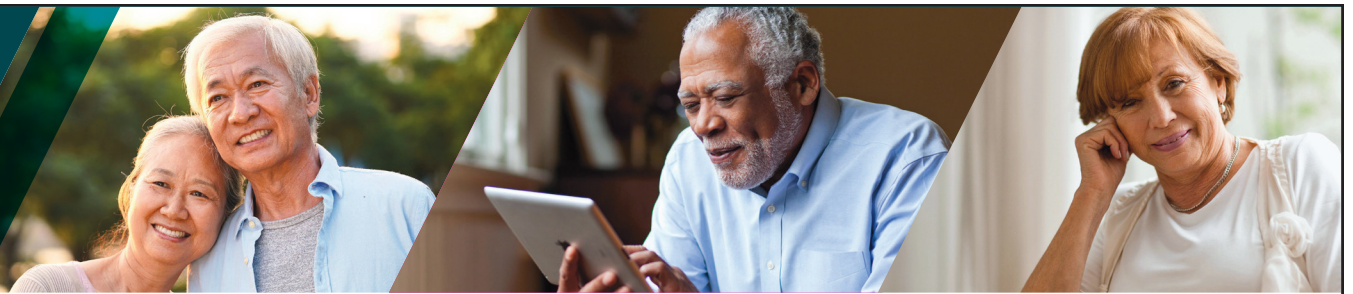
"We're just hoping and praying that we move forward and that the United States is unified once again," Hudson said. "It was beautiful. It was the America that we believe in with the combination of all races and creeds. It was nice."

Before Biden was declared the winner in Pennsylvania late Saturday morning, putting him over the top in the electoral vote count, Hudson, like many other North Shore residents, was continually monitoring the television network maps of red, blue and undecided states.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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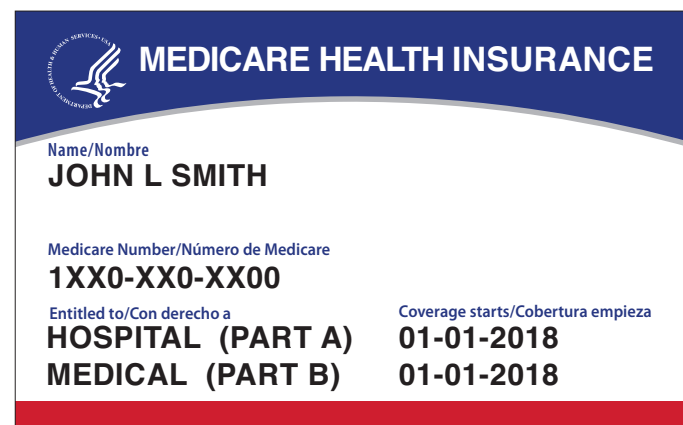
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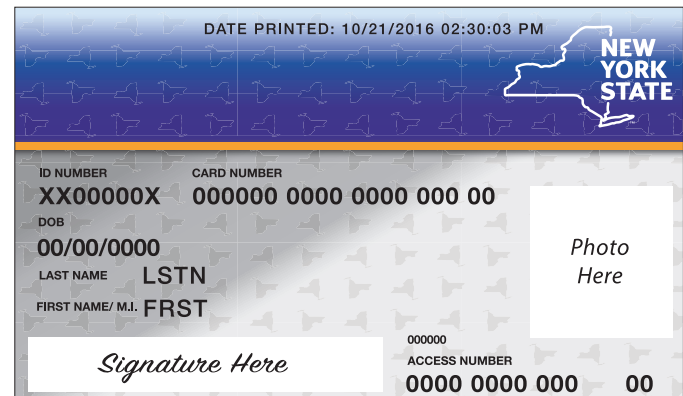
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Providing military funeral honors is life-changing

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

York Regiment's recruiting officer, joined in 2017. Having completed his service in the New York Guard, he followed the recommendation of a friend and watched the regiment drill at the Long Island National Cemetery. "I saw them doing maneuvers and folding the flag that day," Gallego recalled. "What touched me most was, everyone shared the same reason as to why they were involved, saying, 'We do this to honor our vets.'"

Members are cross-trained to perform all duties, which include firing three volleys from ceremonial rifles adapted for blank ammunition, folding the American flag and, for the more musical, playing taps. The purpose, in addition to honoring the dead with family and friends present, is to let anyone within earshot know that a veteran is being laid to rest.

"We give the family that last touch of their loved one," Gallego said, "and the honor they deserve for serving their country."

Requests for military funeral honors are made to the appropriate branch of service, either by the deceased's family or a funeral director, which is most common. Proof of service — in the form of discharge papers — is required.

Arias, 65, graduated from Hicksville High School and then served in the Navy, where he was a combat medic from 1974 to 1980. Two years after his discharge, he joined the 4th Marine Division in Glen Cove, and was a reservist from 1982 to 1990. He has lived in Glen Cove for three years.

Eight months ago, Gallego asked Arias to join the 11th New York Regiment. Both are members of Amvets North Shore Veterans Memorial Post 21, in Oyster Bay.

Arias said he has taken part in 14 "missions" — military funeral honors. "It was more than I expected," he said. "It's very fulfilling to do something like this after a military career. It's my honor to do this for the veterans and their families. I find it very moving."

Reginald Butt, a former commander of the Oyster Bay American Legion, said the regiment does a "fantastic" job of honoring veterans when they die. He remembers when the Veterans Administration would send two servicemen to a veteran's gravesite before the New York Regiment was founded. The regiment sends a minimum of three and as many as eight members to conduct the ceremony.

Butt said he was saddened that during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, deceased veterans could not receive military honors at their funerals. "We lost nine veterans at our post last year and four in 2020," he said. "Our post has been spreading the word about the 11th



Courtesy Alex Gallego

RICHARD ARIAS, OF Glen Cove, center, comes from a military family. He has been in the 11th New York Regiment for eight months, and taken part in 14 military funeral honors.

New York Regiment. They do an outstanding job."

The regiment most often conducts the ceremonies at national cemeteries, such as the Long Island National Cemetery or Calverton National Cemetery. But it will also send units to other cemeteries.

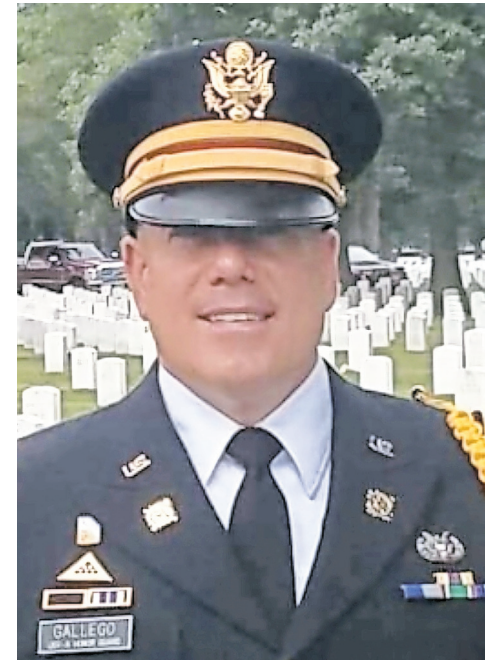
Gallego said he has taken part in 180 missions, usually five or so per month. "My feelings grow stronger as I do this," he said. "The more we move away from these traditions, the easier it is to forget [veterans]. It's important that certain things never get forgotten."

Arias comes from a military family: His father and brother are also veterans. He

recalled seeing his first military funeral honors when his father, Henry Arias Sr., a World War II veteran, died three years ago. "It's such a nice service," Arias said.

"When I do it, I feel blessed that I can be there. We put our hearts and souls into honoring our veterans one last time. I hope one day I will have this done for me."

The ceremony also includes the presentation of the American flag to the family, along with three polished shell casings in a small gold mesh bag. They represent tradition, Gallego said: "duty, honor and country."



ALEX GALLEGO, THE recruiting officer for the 11th New York Regiment, said he is able to honor veterans by participating.

11th New York Regiment military funeral honors

Requests for military funeral honors must be made through the appropriate branch of service, either by contacting the respective military honor guard office or through a funeral director. Proof of service — discharge papers — is required. The regiment will perform the funeral honors at any cemetery in New York City or Long Island. For further information, call Alex Gallego at (516) 298-2477.

Contact numbers for military honor guard offices:

- Army: (609) 562-4453
- Marine Corps: (866) 826-3628
- Navy: (860) 694-3475
- Air Force: (609) 754-4117
- Coast Guard: (718) 354-4042

Public Law 106-65 – Honoring Those Who Served

The Department of Defense began providing military funeral honors for eligible veterans on Jan. 1, 2000. The DOD's program, Honoring Those Who Served, provides dignified military funeral honors to veterans who have defended the nation. Upon the family's request, a veteran receives a military funeral honors ceremony, which includes folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of taps. A military funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed military personnel, at least one of whom is a member of the veteran's service of the armed forces. The DOD program calls for the funeral home director to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veteran's family.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Calling all City of Glen Cove landlords

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is a federally funded program administered by the Glen Cove Community Development Agency, City of Glen Cove Housing Program that:

- Provides housing assistance to eligible families.
- Provides a subsidy for a portion of each tenant's monthly rent.
- Pays the landlord directly and promptly.

Glen Cove Housing Choice Vouchers receive additional Housing and Urban Development 10 percent exception, due to higher area market rents as follows: studio: \$1,477; one bedroom: \$1,824; two bedroom: \$2,238; three bedroom: \$2,866; four bedrooms: \$3,185 (minus the utility allowances). These rents went into effect on Nov. 1.

For further information and to be included on the Glen Cove Section 8 Landlord List, call (516) 676-1625 or via email at fmoore@glencovecda.org.

Financial incentives to landlords during Covid social distancing:

- \$1,500 for the first apartment rented with the program; \$500 for each new unit thereafter.
- To increase landlord participation and create new housing opportunities for households with vouchers, Glen Cove Housing Choice Voucher program is offering landlords \$1,500 for their first new unit with the program. Thereafter, landlords will receive \$500 for every new unit leased with the program.
- Current participating landlords are eligible for the \$500 incentive for each new unit leased with the program.

Incentive is available only until Federal Cares Act funding is exhausted. Incentive is to be paid upon participant moving into the unit, subject to 1 year lease on or after Nov. 1



Herald File Photo

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FUNDED by the Housing Choice Voucher Program and administered by the Glen Cove Community Development Agency are available.

CRIME WATCH

Arrest

- On Nov. 4, a 19-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for criminal contempt in the second degree on Ralph Young Avenue.
- On Nov. 4, a 61-year-old Jamaica, Queens, female was arrested for petit lar-

ceny on Glen Cove Avenue.

- On Nov. 5, a 34-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for driving while intoxicated, aggravated unlicensed operation in the third degree and other vehicle and traffic law violations.

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.

Reverse raffle for scholarship in memory of adored Glen Cove band teacher Ed Smith

Alongside the family of Ed Smith, a beloved Glen Cove band teacher who died of stroke complications in March, the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce is conducting a reverse raffle, with part of the proceeds going to establish a new Ed Smith Music Award scholarship.

Three hundred tickets are up for sale \$50, each of which gives the

owner a chance to win \$1,000, as well as other prizes. The rest of the money will go toward creating a scholarship for students who appreciate music as much as Smith did.

The drawing of the winning ticket will be shared online on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.givebutter.com/chamberraffle.

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GLEN COVE HERALD Gazette

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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Tony Gallego, Gill Associates Photography

RON BEIBER, LEFT, Phyllis Burnett, Mareza Rivera, Brenda Lopez, Daniel O'Neill, Rosemary Dilgard and Ann Marie Gailius celebrated the donation of a television from the Glen Cove Kiwanis Club to Glen Cove Child Care.

Kiwanis donates a television to Glen Cove Child Day Care

The Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove presented Glen Cove Child Day Care with a 43-inch Samsung television on Oct. 19.

Kiwanis Club President Rosemary Dilgard, along with members Ann Marie Gailius, Phyllis Burnett and Ron Beiber were on hand to present a television to representatives of Glen Cove Child Day Care, which included Brenda Lopez, its community outreach director, Mareza Rivera and Daniel O'Neill.

Glen Cove Child Day Care, located off the Arterial Highway, currently has 99 children, ages from six weeks to five-years-old, enrolled in its program. Lopez expressed her sincere gratitude for donation.

"It is important that our club have the opportunity to work closely with our local community based organizations, especially those focused on bettering the lives of children," Dilgard said. "I congratulate Brenda Lopez, Mareza Rivera and Daniel O'Neill for the great work they do on behalf of the children of Glen Cove Child Day Care."

The Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove is dedicated to improving and empowering the lives of our children. The club meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at The View Grill located at Glen Cove Golf Course. For those interested in learning more about Kiwanis and how to get involved, contact Rich Hall (516) 456-1018.

Local author to lead online lecture on Louis Tiffany's Laurelton Hall

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, as part of the North Shore Historical Museum's "Pistilli Series," local author Monica Randall will be presenting an online video lecture called "Tiffany and Laurelton Hall."

Designed by Louis Tiffany without the aid of an architect, Laurelton Hall became the setting for some of the most

dazzling parties ever hosted in the country. The stucco, art nouveau showplace was unlike anything ever built before or since. Learn about this extraordinary home and its tragic fate.

Tickets are \$15. For tickets and more information about the event, visit www.northshorehistoricalmuseum.org

LAURELTON HALL WAS formerly located at Laurel Hollow and Ridge Roads in Oyster Bay.



Courtesy Whitewall Buick from Hoxie, Kan. via Wikimedia

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NYU Winthrop is now NYU Langone

NYU Langone Health this week announced that NYU Winthrop Hospital in Mineola would change its name to NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island, pending approval by the New York State Department of Health. The name change continues NYU Winthrop's integration into the NYU Langone Health system.

The renaming follows last year's merger of NYU Winthrop into NYU Langone Health's network of multi-specialties, clinical trials, research and medical education, which complement NYU Winthrop's existing services, hospital officials said.

"NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island has made our NYU Langone Health system even stronger, as we bring its greatest strengths into our broader network," said Dr. Robert Grossman, dean and CEO of NYU Langone Health. "NYU Langone Health provides one standard of care—excellence in quality and safety—no matter where that care is received within our health system."

NYU Langone has consistently been named a top hospital system by Leapfrog, U.S. News & World Report, Vizient and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Patients of NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island have access to more than 350 inpatient and outpatient locations across Long Island, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan.

"NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island has grown from a community-based hospital to one with a much broader mission, having solidified our ties in clinical, research and academic collaborations with NYU Langone Health," said Dr. Joseph Greco, chief of hospital operations at NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island. "As advances in medical care grow by leaps and bounds, it has become ever the more important that our institution becomes synonymous with an extensive network of healthcare choices."

NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island officials credit the medical center's affiliation with NYU Langone Health for help-



Courtesy NYU Langone Health

NYU WINTHROP HOSPITAL in Mineola will now be known as NYU Langone Hospital.

ing it achieve one of the lowest Covid-19 mortality rates in New York state during the initial coronavirus surge when Long Island was labeled a "hot spot" for the infection. During that time, NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island accessed lifesaving extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) heart-lung machines through its collaboration with NYU Langone. It is among many expanded clinical services the Long Island hospital now offers as part of NYU Langone Health.

In addition to that joint initiative during the coronavirus pandemic, which is part of an advanced heart failure program, NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island's further enhancements in collaboration with NYU Langone Health include:

- Access to expanded clinical trials, including for cancer through Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island.
- Lifesaving transplant services, such as for kidney, pancreas, liver and heart transplants.
- Expansion of neurosurgery services, including a newly opened, integrated orthopedic and neurosurgery ambulatory center in East Meadow.
- A new NYU Langone Health Vaccine Center testing site on Long Island, aimed at breakthroughs in areas such as Covid-19 prevention and treatment.
- A renewed commitment to academic excellence with the opening last year of

NYU Long Island School of Medicine, which brought to the campus of NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island.

- A strengthened research enterprise on Long Island, which already has produced Covid-related pathology information shared around the world.

NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island was originally known as Nassau Hospital upon its founding in 1896, later incorporating Winthrop into its name. The hospital has been a stalwart for medical care on Long Island, going back to its days caring for residents during the eras of the Spanish Civil War, the Depression, World War II through the coronavirus pandemic.

Non-profit leaders to talk Covid-19 challenges

The impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have been widespread. Like businesses and schools, non-profit organizations too have faced major challenges and needed to adapt during these times.

RichnerLive, a division of Richner Communications, which publishes Herald Community Newspapers, will host its "Not-For-Profit Summit: Covid-19 and Beyond," a special, one and a half-hour webinar featuring leaders in the non-profit industry, on Nov. 12 at 10 a.m.

In many cases, these past few months have created a greater need among the populations that non-profit organizations serve — for child care, for food, for financial assistance — while the non-profits themselves are also dealing with limited resources.

From creating new fundraising methods to keeping the people they serve engaged in different ways, this conversation will focus on how not-for-profits have overcome tough times in recent months. Every non-profit is struggling in some way, and this discussion will guide viewers on:

- Financial sustainability
- Fundraising
- Program operations
- Board engagement and growth

The morning's keynote speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey L. Reynolds, president and CEO of Family & Children's Association. Reynolds also served five years

as executive director of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, where he launched programs helping vulnerable youth populations. He also currently serves on several drug task forces, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Heroin Prevention Task Force.

Other panelists will include:

- Paule Pachter, CEO of Long Island Cares
- Andrea Rieger, CFO of Variety Child Learning Center
- David Rottkamp, CPA partner and not-for-profit practice leader of Grassi Advisors & Accountants
- Jennifer L. Smith, community devel-

opment officer, Investors Bank

Skye Ostreicher, of RichnerLive and Herald Community Newspapers, will facilitate the discussion among the non-profit experts and deliver questions from event participants.

To register, visit liherald.com/not-forprofit. To submit your questions in advance, email insideli@liherald.com. To sponsor a webinar or for more information about Herald Inside LI, contact Amy Amato at aamato@richnerlive.com or (516) 569-4000, ext. 224.

Also, on Nov. 19, RichnerLive will host a webinar focused on the current college admissions process, sponsored by Molloy College. More details to follow.



Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

GLEN COVE POLICE Department will enroll in the CARFAX for Police Program, which provides investigative tools and services to police departments in exchange for all vehicle accident reports in the area.

Glen Cove joins CARFAX for Police Program

BY REBECCA WILLIAMS
newsroom@liherald.com

The City of Glen Cove Council approved a measure allowing the Glen Cove Police Department to enroll in the CARFAX for Police Program during a board meeting on Sept. 22.

Council members voted unanimously in favor of the program, which provides investigative tools and services to police departments in exchange for all vehicle accident reports in the area. According to the CARFAX for Police website, the tools provided assist in identifying vehicles of interest in instances of major theft, hit-and-runs, armed robberies and more.

"The county does this exact same thing," Mayor Tim Tenke said. "They've been under contract with that. It's the same contract, and the city sees that this is beneficial to our police department as well."

Through the program, the GCPD will have access to a partial plate search database, a nationwide list of potentially fraudulent vehicles and full vehicle history reports. It also allows accident reports to be filled online and people to access the report at any time.

Although the CARFAX program was meant to be put in place for residents' safety, some are skeptical. John Hanely, of Glen Cove, said, "Any database maintained by the government or law enforcement on citizens . . . sounds invasive."

The worry about invasive techniques stems from the promised exchange between CARFAX and the Glen Cove Police Department. The program guarantees there will be no impact on a city's budget, as long as the police department provides all accident reports collected. Those reports are then entered into CARFAX's Vehicle History Database, which holds over 23

billion reports. Millions of new records continue to be added each day, according to the CARFAX for Police website. CARFAX provides vehicle accident histories for car buyers.

Others believe the program is a positive upgrade to the GCPD. Christian Guthenberg, a 20-year-old Glen Cove resident, said personal information is already publicly available on the internet, and he does not see this as an invasion of privacy. "It certainly does more good than harm," Guthenberg said. "I believe that program would certainly deter individuals from committing vehicular crimes."

Although the City of Glen Cove has a low crime rate, the threat of vehicular break-ins looms over some residents' heads. Samantha Filippone, 22, said car break-ins have become an issue in her community. "We've been lucky, but a lot of the neighborhoods around me have been hit," Filippone said. "We even know a few people personally that got hit. We have a community page where many people have been addressing this, and it seems to be many of the neighborhoods near the middle school and high school in our town."

Glen Cove's crime rate is 83.76 percent lower than the national rate and 76.71 percent lower than New York's rate, but there is still crime.

Filippone said she hopes the CARFAX program will help ease the minds of some residents by solving car-related crimes. "I know of so many people that are victims of hit-and-runs and robberies where the [crime] is never solved," she said. "Maybe this can be a situation alleviated by the program."

Tenke was authorized to enroll the Glen Cove Police Department into the CARFAX for Police program, but it was unclear when the program would take effect. Glen Cove city officials and the GCPD did not respond by press time.

North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New York

Presents Its 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Food & Turkey Drive!

Saturday, November 21st from 11:00am - 3:00pm

Located at the Drive-Thru Front Entrance of North Shore High School
450 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Head

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Masks required for pick-up.

Trunks of cars should be in working condition & have space for food items.
If not driving, bring a wheeled cart.

Due to the high volume of cars expected, only one vehicle at a time will be permitted to pick-up.

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The Herald Gazette is proud to be a sponsor of this important event to fight hunger and help families in need this holiday season.

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Photos by Jennifer Corr/ Herald Gazette

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, at the podium, recounted working with Donald Doran at the golf course 30 years ago, adding that his laugh has not changed.

Honoring those who served in the City of Glen Cove

By **JENNIFER CORR**

jcorr@liherald.com

To observe Veterans Day, Glen Cove officials and veterans gathered at the city's library in front of the Doughboy, a monument of a U.S. infantryman — which is what those who served during WWI were called.

While the observance was smaller in scale than those in years passed due to Covid-19, City of Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke said it was important for him to make sure that veterans knew just how special and appreciated they are in the community.

"I always think that they should be thanked every day," Tenke said. "I just wanted to reach out to all the veterans that have served, especially the ones from our area, as well as their families, to say thank you for your service to this country and we wish them well and we hope that soon we can all gather again together in celebration of all their efforts and their sacrifices."

With a more private service this year, the Glen Cove Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347's tradition of honoring a local veteran will continue. This year that veteran is Donald Doran, 85, a lifelong Glen Cove resident who served in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, Artillery Battalion. He served from 1954 until 1956.

Former VFW Post 347 Commander Benjamin Farnan introduced Doran. "Mr. Doran, interestingly enough, is a person who always supported our VFW," Farnan said. "He is not a member of our VFW. He is a person who has supported all of our fundraisers and all of our events that we have, especially after our Memorial Day Parade when we have a cookout. He is always there and is always part of it."

Doran is not a member, since he did not serve in a foreign location or in foreign



WITH A WREATH placed in front of the Doughboy monument, veterans will still be honored this Veterans Day.

combat, but Farnan said that Doran is certainly close to all members and they certainly wish they had him as a member.

When Doran was nine-years-old, WWII had just ended. His childhood was filled with patriotism, leisure, family, sports and hard work as a newspaper deliverer, bringing papers like Newsday and the Glen Cove Echo, to doorsteps and as a golf caddy for the Nassau Country Club in his youth.

"It was a lot of years ago, but I remember it," said Doran, who grew up on Woolsey Avenue. "I came from a large family, there was eight of us. We never had a lot of money, but we had a lot of family."

He especially remembers playing in Glen Cove's many parks. "It was a beautiful place," Doran said. "It still is. But the population was probably, going from my recollection, probably 7,500 people. Glen Cove is four times bigger now."

"It was a nice place then and to me it still is," Doran added. "It's a different place, but it's a nice one."

The patriotism Doran experienced growing up in the years after WWII inspired him to enlist in the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, Artillery Battalion. He described his years of service as a beautiful experience.

After briefly living in Los Angeles, he came back to Glen Cove to raise a family and his youngest daughter Donna Cannon even followed in his footsteps, by serving as a commander in the U.S. Army.

"Most of my life has been in Glen Cove," Doran said. "My family was raised here. I was born in Glen Cove, raised in Glen Cove. I did a couple years in the army, a couple years living in California. Then I came back to Glen Cove. I got 80 years in Glen Cove."

For 15 years, Doran worked as a property manager in Centre Island, N.Y. and spent much time with the Glen Cove Men's Golf Club, participating in and winning as many tournaments and events as possible.

"Golf is just a pleasure, it's something

I just love," Doran said. "It's the competition, friendly get-togethers. My hobbies were always outside. I've done outdoor stuff forever. I've done skiing. You name it, I've done it."

Another special part of Doran's life is attending VFW Post 347 events and supporting their causes. He said he is thrilled to be their honoree this year.

"I believe Veterans Day is a holiday and a very sacred and reverent holiday where we honor the men and the women who have worn our nation's uniform," Farnan said. "I honestly believe it doesn't make a difference if the veterans have served in war or in peace. It is also a day that I believe is designated to pay tribute and praise for those veterans who have not returned from the battle, the ones who lost their lives."

Among the attendees of the Veterans Day ceremony was State Assemblyman Charles Lavine, Tenke, Glen Cove council members and Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

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Ask The Expert: MOLLY DEEGAN



For me, Glen Cove will always be the “big city” at the bottom of the hill. As a child in Sea Cliff, it’s where the action was, and represented everywhere I wanted to be. The shops, the food, the people – the energy!

I used to take the N 21 bus from Sea Cliff to downtown Glen Cove every weekend with my childhood best friend for a day out on the town. I’d raid what little money I had from my piggy bank, and if I was lucky my father Francis Deegan, an attorney for 30 years—including Glen Cove City attorney, would throw in an extra \$10.

Our first stop was always Henry’s luncheonette for a burger and fries followed by shopping at Singers and Eisenstadt’s (remember?!). These are the places we would buy gifts for family members—like a hairbrush for mom to add to her collection, or another bottle of aftershave for dad. Why not?!

What was so special then, and now, about Glen Cove is its diversity. This city truly is a melting pot of different cultures. The homes and neighborhoods reflect that diversity as well - from modest split-levels to sprawling mansions on the legendary Gold Coast.

When we opened Branch Real Estate Group in Sea Cliff just over two years ago, Glen Cove was on my mind. Part of our plan included selling homes in my favorite “big city” from childhood. I wanted others to discover the same things I did all those years ago. Today, I have that opportunity and couldn’t be more grateful.

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Photos courtesy Allen Hudson

ALLEN HUDSON'S SON, A.J., in blue, and his nephews Shiloh, left, and C.J. Hector celebrated President-elect Joseph Biden's win.

Some celebrate, while others express their disappointment

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“And then I kind of took a break because it was kind of consuming my mind,” he said. “My daughter, Taylor, texted me and said Biden won. I was at work, and it was just a sense of relief. I was telling my wife today I just felt like I could breathe, I felt relaxed and I felt relieved that there was someone in office who, to me, is kind, who will be more compassionate, in my opinion, than what the last four years have been.”

When the Rev. Roger Williams, of First Baptist Church of Glen Cove, heard the news, he said he felt at ease that someone who, in his opinion, displayed more presidential and noble qualities would occupy the Oval Office for at least the next four years.

“I will admit that I was not in favor of another term for Mr. Donald Trump as president, and my reasons for that went beyond any political motivations,” Williams said. “It was, for me, a moral standing. The behavior of Mr. Trump, when it comes to the way he has dealt with people—and obviously, for me, the racial animus... was problematic.”

Williams said he hoped the community would close the political divide that has grown over the past four years. “My mindset is really about trying to take the moment that we’ve been given and restore some kind of sanity and stability to the American experience for everyone,” he said.

Around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, shortly after the AP declared Biden the winner in



ALLEN HUDSON, CENTER, said that not long after he took a break from the TV coverage of the election last Saturday, he found out that Biden had been declared the winner.

Pennsylvania, Deborah Fossett, of Sea Cliff, heard her neighbors banging pots and pans outside. “I think it was just a sense of relief and a sense of hope,” Fossett said, “for now being able to have these rational, unifying conversations [that we haven’t had] the past four years.”

She noted that Biden has repeatedly said that he would be a president for all Americans. “We do need to come together as a country,” Fossett said, “and we need that type of leadership in the White House.”

She also took part in the Memorial Park march, and said she, too, was looking forward to seeing a president who will display dignity, honesty and goodness when representing the country. “Not that we don’t make mistakes, but if you genu-

inely try to be good, good things will come,” Fossett said. “I have friends in the U.K. who are ecstatic that there’s someone in the United States who isn’t an embarrassment, someone that actually respects women and the fact that we have the first madam vice president, someone who’s the first woman of color; the first woman, the first of multi-heritage, the first of so many things.”

Not all were happy about Biden’s win, however. “I think the Republicans were very disappointed with the outcome of the election,” said John Maccarone, of the Glen Cove Republican Club.

Asked about the celebrations that took place in Sea Cliff and in New York City over the weekend, Maccarone noted that there were pro-Trump rallies as well.

Neighbors ensure a Thanksgiving feast for all

By JENNIFER CORR

jcarr@liherald.com

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, North Shore residents who are part of a non-profit or religious organizations are working to ensure that no neighbor will go without a Thanksgiving Day meal.

While the idea of Thanksgiving food drives and community meals are not new, neighbors are finding it especially urgent to provide food relief at a time that many are struggling financially due to Covid-19.

Madeline Rubenstein, a board chair of the North Shore Soup Kitchen that was adopted by the food relief program called NOSH, said that gift cards will be provided to the approximately 400 families that NOSH delivers bags of groceries to.

“On Thanksgiving we’re not giving out turkeys because we have to deliver, so if you’re a delivery driver delivering to 15 families food, on top of that 15 turkeys, it’s really too much to ask,” Rubenstein said. “So instead, we will give out a gift card to all of our families so that they can purchase a turkey if they’d like or if they’d rather purchase something else rather than a turkey, they can purchase that also.”

Kimberly Conte Velentzas, who has been offering her porch as a place to drop off food donations since the spring, was also concerned that families would not be able to provide a Thanksgiving meal this year due to the Covid-19 related financial crisis.

Therefore, as part of a project that has been coined the Porch Pantry, which has recently received its non profit status, a Thanksgiving food drive is being held in collaboration with other organizations like the Glen Cove YMCA to help neighbors celebrate the holiday.

“Its truly a community effort,” Conte Velentzas

said. “As of now we have over 250 families that we’re hoping to help have a happy Thanksgiving, but we are not doing it alone and we have a lot of options on how people can help.”

One of those options, she said, is to physically drop off donations at the porch located at 99 McLoughlin St. in Glen Cove. “People can drop off non perishable food items at any time,” Conte Velentzas said. “That is a huge help.”

People can also make monetary donations or participate in the Porch Pantry’s “Adopt A Family” program, where participants could shop for a family and deliver groceries this Thanksgiving, providing a family with a full Thanksgiving meal and perhaps some extra groceries.

“I think this is important because this lets families know that they haven’t been forgotten,” Conte Velentzas said. “These are truly the kids and the families we see on the soccer field and that my child sits next to in social studies class, the people who we are standing on line with in the grocery store. It’s really the people in our community and I think that’s what speaks to people and why they want to help so much.”

Glen Cove resident Damary Mercado knows just how much the community can pull together when they see a need, as she is a member of the Wine Fairies of Glen Cove, Glen Head, Sea Cliff, Glen Wood Landing and Locust Valley Facebook group. She has received support for her Thanksgiving food relief project under her non profit called Glen Cove United, Inc., which she runs with former Glen Cove City Councilman Roderick Watson.

Glen Cove United, Inc. tends to focus on Glen Cove Housing Authority families. “During the Covid, obvi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Courtesy NOSH

SPIRO-TSIRKAS, THE DIRECTOR of the Glen Cove Youth Bureau, dropped off bags of donations to NOSH, a food relief delivery program that helps North Shore families.



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HERALD Covid-19 HOMETOWN HEROES

TONY JIMENEZ

GLEN COVE

VETERANS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, CITY OF GLEN COVE



During the pandemic, I'm much more isolated than I ever was. I've got a lot of medical problems and everything on the checklist of pre-existing conditions; I've got it all. So, I'm not running scared, but I'm not putting myself out there.

As the director of veterans affairs, we're closely monitoring everybody. I don't go into City Hall where my office is all that often, but I publicize my personal number so I can be reached at any time, and I have been. People have reached out with different questions and needing a little support, and I give them directions. That's my role, to not solve the problem, but how to give directions on how the problem can be solved.

Some of the veterans that have contacted me are being laid off from work; they're looking for a place for food and that kind of thing, and I can tell them of the different programs we have in Glen Cove. I have given directions on where assistance can be, and then there's all the usual stuff of missing paperwork, how to apply for programs.

My wife, Kathy, and I deliver food for North Shore NOSH, a local food assistance program, and we have a route that we do together. It's my way of staying connected a little bit; I don't have much person-to-person contact, but I still want to give, so that's my way of giving on a personal level.

In my need for a kidney, it's been pretty promising.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

DR. LAURA SEINFELD

ROSLYN HEIGHTS

SUPERINTENDENT, OYSTER BAY-EAST NORWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



In March, when it was clear that the coronavirus would be a pressing matter, I was at a superintendents' statewide conference. We received information from the New York Department of Health. A last-minute presentation at the conference was added as a result.

When I returned, we met internally to plan for all possible scenarios, including if we had to go full remote learning. We discussed everything related to health and safety. When we did have to close, I was so proud of our entire community, the teachers and students. The Board of Education helped with plans so we would have every resource we needed. We also had an entry committee to plan for a safe opening.

The pressure was intense for me. I had to reinvent every aspect of schooling. The last thing I wanted to do was take away experiences for students, like the moving-up ceremony, for example. It was incredibly challenging working remotely with my colleagues.

I kept in touch using Zoom and phone calls with other superintendents. I took on a lot of responsibilities myself, but delegated to my assistant superintendents and my director of health and athletics. So much of the work fell to the building subcommittees chaired by our principals. But I was intimately involved with every decision, which was to benefit our students.

I'm an educator and became a teacher because I love working with young people.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO



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THEIR FRONT-LINE STORIES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

AGATHA NADEL

GLEN HEAD

DIRECTOR, NORTH SHORE CONCERNED CITIZENS REGIONAL



Like everyone else, we've been forced to adapt. There have been more conference calls, Zoom calls and sometimes more emails than there might normally be. Personally, I miss the camaraderie, and going virtual can't replace being on site, but it's allowed us to be able to stay in contact and has been invaluable.

We've been giving the public updates by putting them out in print and on social media. I make weekly "Water Wednesday" posts on numerous Facebook groups to keep people informed on the ongoing issue of the fight for public water. One of our members, Joe Lopes, has also been instrumental in taking information from public hearings for everybody who wants to sign up to speak at them.

The pandemic has affected people in different ways. Some do certain things for their sanity, and for others, it's taken too much energy to stay their course with their projects. As horrific as this pandemic has been, I felt it was important that the people know that this water issue could not be put on hold. We needed to keep the information out there and to let people know that our group was continuing.

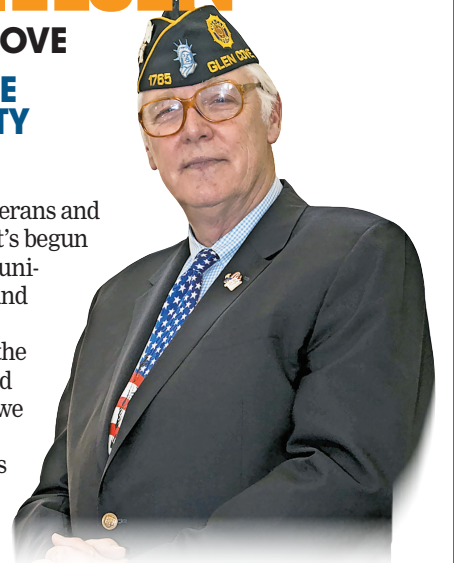
The goal was to be doing everything possible to keep the community informed — to tell them that the fight is still on, that it is stronger than ever and that we haven't gone away. We've gained tremendous traction now with the governor on board, and it's really catapulted us into a different chapter in this fight now.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

FRED NIELSEN

GLEN COVE

RETIRED MARINE, ACTIVE IN VETERANS COMMUNITY



The pandemic has affected my work with veterans and staying connected with them in two ways. It's begun to close off typical means of contact and communication, making it less regular, less dependable and less available. At the same time, because of the need for it to somehow continue, it's increased the individual personal awareness of veterans' need for connection through the form of something we call a buddy chat.

Anytime something as awful as a Covid virus happens, it calls upon us to keep people safe, to express our compassion, and it seems to give us permission to show our tender side. I get emails from veterans just checking to see if I'm OK, what's going on. That kind of thing is really unexpected. It's such a lift.

Among those of the veteran community that we lost this year, the common factor is a connection with earlier wars, being earlier than my war, which was Vietnam. We feel the passing of the connection to those people because they are the vehicles, the conduit to that earlier history. It brings to mind the loss of Willibe Wilson Jr. We all had a special way to enjoy Willibe at this time of year. Every Veterans Day, where we would meet at the Doughboy Memorial, we always have a special appreciation for Willibe, and I will be reminding people about Willibe when we meet at the Doughboy this week for the Veterans Day observance.

I'm looking forward to it. I miss my veteran friends.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

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Holiday food for needy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

ously it was something we were all experiencing for the first time,” Mercado said. “I just started going grocery shopping and dropping food off to those who were in need and then about less than a month ago, I said, ‘Thanksgiving is around the corner, what are we going to do?’”

Mercado said that her goal and Watson’s is to help 10 to 15 families put Thanksgiving dinner on the table. “[Watson] would like to help a few seniors who usually reach out to him when they need help,” Mercado said. “I’m Puerto Rican descent so I try to help as many Hispanics and Latinos as I can as well.”

“We are going to do Thanksgiving baskets or trimmings of turkeys, everything that you would have for Thanksgiving, desserts too,” Mercado added.

As for the distribution of cooked, hot meals, Trinity Lutheran Church in Glen Cove will be handing out meals to go in lieu of its usual Thanksgiving Day feast that it offers, as well as a food pantry that is open on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. and every third Saturday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The Thanksgiving meal takeout, which will be a full, cooked Thanksgiving meal, will be distributed on Nov. 21 from 2 to 6 p.m. “Just call ahead to let us know if you’re coming to pick up a meal or not,” Pastor Travis Yee, of Trinity Lutheran Church said. “We’ve been doing the Thanksgiving meal for the past two of three years but we usually do a big sit



Courtesy NOSH

NOSH RECEIVED A bundle of fall vegetables.

down community meal, but because of Covid we’re just going to do take out.”

“We just want to make sure that the community knows that we’re here at the church not just to help spiritually, but to also help in different ways,” Yee added. “Mentally, people are worrying about the next meal.”

Non profits, religious organizations providing Thanksgiving food relief

NOSH is providing gift cards for families this Thanksgiving.

■ To receive food assistance from Nosh, contact the food emergency line at (516) 366 - 02777.

■ To donate, visit www.northshore-soupkitchen.org/donate.

The Porch Pantry is providing Thanksgiving Day baskets to families and is leading a program called “Adopt A Family” where neighbors can shop for those who need food assistance.

■ To receive food assistance from The Porch Pantry, email theporchpantry@gmail.com.

■ To donate money or “Adopt A Family,” visit www.theporchpantry.com. Drop off non-perishable items at 99 McLoughlin St. in Glen Cove.

To help Glen Cove United, Inc. provide 10 to 15 families with a Thanksgiving Day meal, contact (516) 902-2663.

Trinity Lutheran Church, at 74 For-

est Ave., in Glen Cove, will be offering Thanksgiving meal takeout on Nov. 21 from 2 to 6 p.m. Call (516) 676-1340 to reserve meals or find out more information.

St. Boniface Martyr Church in Sea Cliff is distributing Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.

■ The items needed include turkey gravy, canned yams, corn muffin mix, cereal, rice, turkey stuffing, cranberry sauce, cake mix and icing, salad dressing, dehydrated mashed potatoes, canned green beans, chicken broth, cooking oil and canned fruits. Donate items from the list by leaving it at the church, 145 Glen Ave., Sea Cliff, on Sundays or by calling (516) 676-0676 ext. 125 to arrange for a pickup.

For those who are a part of or know of a non profit or religious organization distributing food to families for Thanksgiving or Christmas, email Jennifer Corr at jcorr@liherald.com to be included in next week’s paper.

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Restaurants prepare to serve customers during Covid

By JENNIFER CORR

jcarr@liherald.com

For much of the spring, summer and fall seasons, many Glen Cove diners could be found at tables stretched across School and Glen streets in the Downtown Glen Cove area, enjoying their meals at a safe, social distance and in the open, fresh air.

This past weekend, in fact, had temperatures peeking into the 70's, inspiring the Glen Cove City Council to pass a resolution to extend street closures through the weekend. "We were happy because there was a lot of traffic here at School Street, where we are located," said Elsa Vallet, from the Morris Café. "But for this [upcoming] weekend I don't know if the mayor will allow us to put out tables again. I think it depends on the weather."

As the winter season approaches, Glen Cove restaurant owners are beginning to wonder how they will accommodate customers who wish to dine in when the restaurants can only be filled to 50 percent capacity. Some have placed space heaters outside to keep customers comfortable as long as possible.

"Many of our downtown restaurants that are participating in outdoor dining are going to hold onto it as long as possible," said Patricia Holman, the executive director of the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District. "However, they are all very nervous about it, as they should be. I spoke with a couple of them and they said they are going to start promoting again their curbside pickup and their delivery as they did have to do in March."

Carlo Lubrano, an owner of La Bussola Restaurant in Downtown Glen Cove, said he is hoping the warmer weather continues for as long as possible. He has placed heaters outside his establishment for when it is cold in the hope of increasing the



Courtesy Jeanine Dimenna

THE VIEW GRILL, in its indoor dining space, now has eight tables instead of the 20 it used to have.

amount of customers the restaurant will serve when the autumn becomes chilly and during the winter months as well.

Because restaurants are not legally allowed to place heaters under tents, Lubrano said the restaurant is also working to find a way to heat the restaurant's tent in a safe and legal way.

"It's tough because the weather does drop," he said.

If the winter is not mild as it was last year, Lubrano said, the seating area with heaters will no longer be usable and the restaurant seating area will be down to the

interior of the restaurant, along with the enclosed tent area. "It will deter hardcore outdoor diners from coming out," he said.

Lubrano said he's already seen diners turn down eating inside the tents or the restaurant, as they feel the most comfortable eating in open space with the heaters. He's hoping that as the weather gets colder and outdoor dining will not be an option anymore that those customers will continue to order take out. "It's tough," Lubrano said. "We're all new to this. This is new territory for everybody. As the months progress we're finding what changes we need to

make."

Jeanine Dimenna of The View Grill said she has also been doing everything she can to increase the amount of outdoor diners. "We have quite a few heaters and fire pit areas," Dimenna said of the restaurant's outdoor spaces. "They come with coats on. We have had a couple times where we put heaters on tables. Basically what we're doing is throwing everything against the wall and seeing what sticks."

In the restaurant's indoor area, Dimenna said there are now eight tables instead of the traditional 23. There are also three private dining rooms. "We're not trying to fit as many tables as we can," Dimenna said. "We're making sure that everybody is safe. We've also hired a company that comes in once a week and they sanitize the whole restaurant."

She added that masks and gloves are worn in the kitchen.

John Zozzaro, the owner of Downtown Café, said that his restaurant has room for 25 customers inside. "It's going to be hard to survive on 50 percent capacity because we lost the bar business completely," he said. "But we're trying to do the best we can."

If there is not seating or if customers are uncomfortable with eating inside, Zozzaro is encouraging customers to continue ordering takeout or delivery. "We'll still have tables and chairs outside if it's not too cold and we have plenty of heaters out on the sidewalk as well," he said.

"Have delivery, order in and keep supporting them this way," Holman said. "I think Glen Cove did a wonderful job in supporting our local businesses at the start of the pandemic and I just ask for our community to continue doing this so when spring comes back around and we can do outdoor dining or we don't have to worry about Covid anymore, our businesses are still there."

Lighting up the streets of downtown Glen Cove

The days are getting shorter as winter approaches. But just because there is less daylight it does not mean that downtown Glen Cove's streets will be darker.

School Street is now bright due to festival lights, acquired from a grant secured by the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District through PSEG Long Island.

The BID recently received a \$5,000 grant through PSEG Long Island's Main Street Revitalization program, an incentive to support the enhancement of outdoor spaces where businesses provide outdoor dining and commerce.

"PSEG Long Island created this new program to help small businesses successfully adapt to changes caused by the pandemic and continue to thrive," said John Keating, manager of PSEG Long Island economic and community development. "The lighting paid for by our grant will illuminate the newly created

outdoor spaces to increase visibility and allow people to dine out at night even as the days get shorter."

The funding allowed the BID to purchase festival lights, which were hung from the lampposts across School and Glen streets, as a way to brighten up the streets and encourage diners and shoppers to continue to support downtown businesses.

"Downtown Glen Cove has been on the path for much revitalization," said Patricia Holman, executive director of the BID. "Since the pandemic, that path has been left with much uncertainty and the BID is here to support all our businesses in every way we are able to."

This week, members of Glen Cove's Department of Public Works began securing the lights across School Street. "I was so elated that the BID was able to receive this grant, the lights across our downtown streets is something that our

businesses and community are both very excited about," Holman said.

"The Department of Public Works and the Glen Cove BID partnered up to bring festival lighting to School Street," said Elizabeth Mestress of the DPW. "This is one of several projects the DPW has helped the BID with. We were fortunate to have Vincent Martinez and Mario Caldron take over the installation and see the project to fruition."

Throughout the year, the Glen Cove Business Improvement Districts holds a number of events to help bring customers to downtown businesses. This year, a handful of events did not take place, though the BID continued their 24th year of Downtown Sounds virtually, and initiated a Downtown Marketplace from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday when streets were closed throughout the downtown area of Glen Cove.

This initiative supported the restaurants by allowing additional seating in the downtown streets. It was a huge help to the struggling restaurants and even provided an opportunity for many businesses to display their goods. Now that winter is approaching, the hope is that the brighter streets will make the area more festive and draw more potential customers.

"I think lights will attract more attention to our downtown area businesses at night," said John Zozzaro, owner of the Downtown Café, "and maybe bring with it a little bit more foot traffic in the evenings for a lovely stroll."

"Our downtown is transforming," Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola said. "The strung lights look terrific and add to the more welcoming environment we are creating. Covid or not, we are open for business. It will add to people's enjoyment of the downtown at night."



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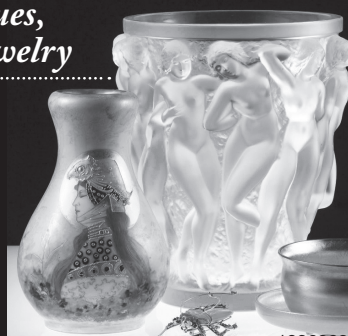
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OPINIONS

The Peace Corps, a history of spirited engagement

Surrounded by thousands of adoring supporters, many sporting red MAGA caps, President Trump sauntered into a victory rally in Cincinnati on Dec. 1, 2016, three and a half weeks after his election, and laid out the Trump Doctrine.

“You hear a lot of talk about how we’re becoming a globalized world,” he bellowed



SCOTT BRINTON

to the chanting and screaming crowd, “but the relationships people value in this country are local: family, city, state, country. They’re local. There’s no global anthem, no global currency, no certificate of global citizenship. We pledge allegiance to one flag, and that flag is

the American flag.”

So ends “A Towering Task: The Story of the Peace Corps,” a 2019 documentary directed, edited and produced by Alana DeJoseph, who served as a small enterprise development Peace Corps volunteer in a tiny village in Mali, West Africa, from 1992 to 1994. The film, with historical footage and interviews with former and current volunteers and world leaders, most notably former President Jimmy Carter, tells the nearly 60-year history of the federal agency devoted to fostering world peace.

I watched the film, which DeJoseph

described as her “baby,” only weeks before Trump lost his re-election bid. It was a nervous time for many. Would the United States again elect an unabashed nationalist as president and continue on its lonely path toward global disengagement, closing borders, frayed alliances and the shredding of hard-fought international treaties, or would it choose another path, one of re-engagement — one that seeks to build friendships rather than divide and conquer?

This was the question with which DeJoseph chose to end “A Towering Task.” The answer would, potentially, determine the Peace Corps’ future.

I was particularly interested in the film because I served in Peace Corps, in Bulgaria, from 1991 to 1993. I was among the first two dozen volunteers — and Americans, period — to enter the country after the fall of communism only a year earlier. It was a time of great trepidation — many wondered whether democracy would take hold for good in Eastern Europe after mass protests had toppled one hardline regime after another — and a time of great hope — millions of Eastern Europeans cheered the opening of the former Soviet bloc to the West.

As an American who wore jeans and sweatshirts and spoke with a New York accent, I was something of a local celebrity in Veliko Turnovo, the ancient city in cen-

tral Bulgaria where I served. I cannot express in words the sense of optimism I felt at the time. You believed, if only for a short time, that world peace was perhaps at hand.

As one of the globalists whom Trump has decried for the past four-plus years, I feared his presidency, and I wasn’t unwarranted in my concern. In June 2017, Trump withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Then, in 2018, he backed out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, signed by Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — China, France, Russia, the

United Kingdom and the United States — to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb, at least for the foreseeable future. I could go on, but this column isn’t about Trump. It’s about “A Towering Task.”

Last week, President-elect Joe Biden immediately affirmed that the U.S. would re-enter the Paris accord, one of President Barack Obama’s signature achievements. We shall see what becomes of the Iran nuclear deal.

Biden’s election gives returned Peace Corps volunteers like me a sense of hope that the U.S. will continue to engage with the world, as it had for decades before Trump, and that the Peace Corps will con-

tinue its core mission of building international friendships by sending Americans to developing nations to live and work as people in those countries do. As “A Towering Task” makes clear, each Peace Corps volunteer is an ambassador of goodwill, a friendly face who becomes deeply embedded in the local society and culture, and whose contributions become the stuff of local conversation for years to follow.

Creating the Peace Corps in the 1960s was indeed a monumental undertaking by President John F. Kennedy and the agency’s first director, Sargent Shriver — Kennedy’s brother-in-law and the father of broadcaster Maria Shriver. The film, narrated by Academy Award-nominated actress Annette Bening, does a masterful job of telling the early story of the Peace Corps and the political fray that its formation stirred, after which it meticulously chronicles the agency’s history, decade by decade, with panoramic footage from Peace Corps countries around the globe, showing both natural wonders and human suffering.

The film also shows it’s perfectly possible to love one’s country — the U.S. — and engage with the world. If you love the Peace Corps, watch this film. If you love your country, watch this film. If you love the world, watch this film. You can do so at bit.ly/3lcL6VA.

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.

Dog days of the 2020 pandemic election

As we go to press, Major and Champ are heading to the White House. Apparently, Joe and Jill Biden will be moving in, too, on Inauguration Day, but the big news is that dogs are back in the people’s house. This

dog whistle is sweet: The presence of the Bidens’ two German shepherds speaks to the humanity of their owners.

Also at press time, the current occupant of the White House has not yet conceded the election and is launching lawsuits like North Korean missiles. They

seem just as likely to plummet into oblivion.

This traumatic election of 2020 unfolds amid a catastrophic pandemic, with more than 100,000 people a day getting infected with Covid-19. The entire election experience, not to mention the past four years, has been an unraveling of norms.

The pollsters suggesting a big “blue wave” couldn’t have been more wrong. Basically they were telling us the earth

was flat and we nearly sailed over the edge. There was no such wave. It seems as if every person who voted for President Trump last time voted for him again. His supporters are still believers, which speaks to our great national divide.

The voting went smoothly, but the counting has been excruciatingly slow. At press time, Joe Biden is the president-elect, but there are recounts ahead for Senate seats. We will have a new government in a couple of months. Probably.

In this time of uncertainty, what can we know and count on for sure, no matter what? What is your life preserver? With my kids far away, my grandkids disembodied voices on the phone and friends scattered to their personal pods, my life-saver has been my dog, Lillybee. I know she is my husband’s comfort as well. That is not to take away from us as a couple, but Lillybee is another category of loving companion.

As it turns out, dogs can save us from ourselves, from the pain of isolation and the tension of being inside and outside bubbles. I’m sure you know as many people as I do who’ve become first-time dog

owners since the onset of the pandemic.

According to what I’ve read, the demand for dogs far exceeds the supply. Animal shelters, private breeders and pet stores are reporting unprecedented demand. People are hiring people to fly

new puppies to them. Some shelters are reporting dozens of applications for individual dogs. Some breeders are reporting waiting lists well into 2021.

Dogs fill the void created by lost jobs and lost school days and lost opportunities to socialize. As people realize the pandemic won’t be over anytime soon, they’re changing travel and spending habits. They’re longing for emotional connection, and that’s where dogs do what they have always done: give special meaning to life. All the clichés of unconditional love and friendship are true.

Of course, shelter directors are hoping that people remain as faithful to their dogs as the dogs are to them. When the pandemic ends and political life calms down and people go back to school and work, dogs will still need their people for food and companionship and love.

Dogs are pretty happy these days. It’s a

Major and Champ will be moving into the White House with Joe and Jill.



RANDI KREISS

great life. Everyone is home! There’s always someone to play with. There will be a big adjustment for dogs and humans alike when pandemic restrictions are lifted.

I’ve noticed that Lillybee is increasingly attached, following us from room to room, and also more anxious, picking up on our vibes. I took her to the puppy park yesterday and, like a toddler in preschool, she sat behind my legs and wouldn’t play with the other kids. When we get our mojo back, I expect she will, too.

It’s a sign of our national health and well-being that Major and Champ will be moving in to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. On a personal note, I’m relieved that they’ll be bringing Joe and Jill.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver, author of the collection “Dog Songs,” wrote this tribute:

Because of the dog’s joyfulness, our own is increased. It is no small gift. It is not the least reason why we should honor as well as love the dog of our own life, and the dog down the street, and all the dogs not yet born. What would the world be like without music or rivers or the green and tender grass? What would this world be like without dogs?

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Three honks for President-elect Biden

We offer sincere congratulations to former Vice President Joe Biden for winning the presidency last week, at 77, the oldest man ever elected to the nation's highest office. With him, U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris was elected the first woman — and the first Black and Indian American — vice president. The vote totals were also historic: Biden received the most votes of any presidential candidate ever, over 75 million. President Trump had the second-most, with over 71 million.

At press time Monday, the Associated Press had called all but two states — Georgia and North Carolina. Biden led Trump in Georgia, and North Carolina was expected to go to Trump. Biden had 290 Electoral College votes, 20 more than are needed to win the presidency. If he were to win Georgia, he would extend his total to 306, a clear mandate.

Biden should feel a deep sense of pride in the race that he ran. He conducted a clean campaign that respected the health and safety of voters during the coronavirus pandemic. When Trump attempted to stir controversy during the first chaotic presidential debate on Sept. 30 by raising questions about Biden's son Hunter — while the former vice president was speaking about his dead son, Beau — he did not take the bait. He did not engage Trump in the ugly war of words that the president sought.

Biden could easily have made hay about nepotism in the Trump administration. After all, Trump gave top jobs to his daughter, Ivanka, and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, both of whom have continued to engage in their daily business activities while working at the White House, creating any number of potential conflicts of interest. For that matter, the Trump Organization has carried on its dealings even

while the president has been in office.

Yes, Biden could have made much of all that, escalating the rhetoric in what could have been a terrible tit-for-tat game with the president. But he didn't. He left Trump's kids alone, while proudly defending his own.

In doing so, Biden showed his fundamental decency, his respect for the moral codes that we expect a president to abide by. He campaigned hard, but he never lost his sense of self-respect by engaging in the kind of scorched-earth tactics that got Trump elected in 2016. Biden ran a principled campaign, most notably in his socially distanced approach to reaching people through Zoom sessions and car rallies — and he always wore a mask. In other words, Biden set an example for all of us to follow.

And that, in part, is why he is our president-elect.

Early voting, a victory for the people

New York state held its first early vote in 2019, and voter participation shot up nearly 45 percent statewide compared with 2015, according to Vote Early New York. Last year, Nassau County, which had double the required number of early-voting sites, had the highest early-voting turnout in the state. In all, some 256,251 people voted early in New York.

This year, an astonishing total of at least 2.2 million New Yorkers cast early ballots over the course of nine days, from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1, according to the Associated Press. At the same time, 1.1 million sent in absentee ballots. Before Election Day, some 3.3 million people had already voted in New York.

There's no doubt that the contentious nature of this historic presidential race drove people to vote, either early at the polls, by absentee ballot or in person on Election Day. But without early and absentee voting, we have to wonder whether turnout would have been as high as it was. We doubt it.

Clearly, New York is on to something with early and absentee voting. That's why we must not only continue to offer these options in the future, but also expand on them. Nassau County had 15 early-voting sites this year, while Suffolk had 12. Only one of the Nassau sites was on the North Shore, in Roslyn Heights. Clearly, the North Shore needs more sites — but it should not receive them at the expense of

other areas across the county. They should be added to Nassau's current roster of sites.

Too many people had to wait too long to vote, which some would argue is a form of voter suppression. You simply shouldn't have to wait an hour to vote, let alone three hours or longer. The Nassau County Board of Elections should begin planning additional sites.

That would require funding, because elections require paid poll workers. Coming by such funding will not be easy if the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic drags on. Nonetheless, the county should be taking a hard look at expanding early voting — if not now, then in the near future.

LETTERS

Election 2020 – my shame revealed

To the Editor:

A few days ago, I almost unfollowed someone on social media for whom I have great admiration. I know I am not alone with these thoughts. That's why I'm writing. To suggest that we all take a deep breath and listen to one another.

It happened when I discovered, through social media, that this person is a Republican (gasp). We never talked about politics. She runs a wonderful non-profit company for Glen Head and surrounding areas, so I figured we were on the same page politics-wise. So, when I learned of her political leanings, I recoiled. My impulse was to unfollow her from my media sphere. And almost immediately, I felt shame. And then I felt like a hypocrite.

Just a week before this happened, a dear friend of mine asked

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OPINIONS

Surely we shouldn't be fighting over wearing masks

Scene 1: The butcher at the local food store turned to face me from behind the counter. I noticed his mask in the below-the-nose position. I gave him my food order, and calmly ask him to wear his mask appropriately. He thanked me for reminding him, and we bade each other a good day.

Scene 2: Same food store, same day. A customer ahead of me was checking out, paying the cashier. I assumed my spot, six feet behind, on the assigned, socially distanced color blob on the floor. A shopping cart coming from my left appeared in front of me and assumed the position between me



ERIC C. LAST

and the customer checking out.

"Excuse me," I said, intentionally calm and non-threatening. The customer looked at me, his mask in the below-the-chin position. I told him I was waiting on line and asked that he not cut in front of me. He

wasn't pleased, called me "an ass," but went to the next checkout line.

"May I also ask you to wear your mask the right way?" I said, still calm, non-threatening, non-judgmental.

"No, I won't. I won't be an ass like you." I asked, "Out of curiosity, why do you

feel so strongly about not wearing the mask?"

Now threatening, he yelled, "Because you're an ass, and you better not ask again or we'll really have a problem! Are you looking for a problem?"

No, I wasn't looking for a problem. I was looking for chicken. But I felt an obligation to say something when my safety, and that of those around me, was threatened.

After paying for my groceries, while my fellow shopper (still with mask concealing only his Adam's apple) finished checking out, I spoke with the store managers. I told them what happened at the butcher counter and in the checkout line. I told them that although I was a regular customer, I'd find it hard to return to a store where the safety of cus-

tomers and staff is put in jeopardy by fellow customers and staff.

The managers lamented their plight, talking about the difficulty they faced enforcing the mask rules and the verbal, and sometimes physical, threats they and their employees have had to endure. They

apologized for the behavior of their butcher, qualified by, "The staff is almost always good about masking." And they spoke of the difficulty of enforcing mask rules among shoppers, and the awful choice their cashiers have to make regularly: risk a confrontation with a mask-deficient customer, or risk exposure to the coronavirus.

I expressed my understanding of the awful situation store owners and employees are in, a situation they never sought.

But I also expressed my passion about the issue. Because I'm a customer, a citizen, a husband, a parent. And I'm a physician, practicing primary care internal medicine in this community for over 30 years. We've lost patients to Covid-19,

some of whom we've known for most of those three decades. We've cared for many others who've recovered, some of whom are still struggling with the lingering effects of the virus.

What have we become? We threaten those who request that others in our presence follow simple guidance that could save another's life? In a pre-Covid time, had I been wearing an Islanders T-shirt and my fellow shopper, a Rangers T-shirt, would I have been threatened for my team partisanship?

It's simple. It's not political. It's caring for others. It's setting an example for others. It's making a tiny sacrifice to potentially protect another human being. It's pushing back against an ideology that questions science to foster political goals. It's following the simplest guidance there is: Treat others as you'd want to be treated yourself.

We owe one another nothing less.

Eric Last, DO, FACP, is an attending physician and clinical assistant professor at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. He is also a physician at Northwell Health Physician Partners/Internal Medicine at Wantagh.

LETTERS

me to help her work through similarly negative feelings about people in her community. I suggested she take into account that people are more than just their political views. That she should take into account how and where they grew up, their life experiences and their psychological makeup. In my opinion, these are the things that inform who we are and how we think. Was I kidding myself when I told her that? No, I still believe it. But in real-life circumstances, it's not that easy to practice. And forget about trying to tweak someone's perceived truth. This begs the question — whose truth?

So, my ask is for all of us, friends and neighbors, to breathe deeply and listen to one another. And while you are at it, ask yourself how hating someone who thinks differently from you helps? For if we cannot do this here, in our own neighborhoods, how can we expect our political representatives to work together on critical issues?

CINDY PABST

Former Glen Head resident

Keep masking up, New York

To the Editor:

As we continue to fight Covid-19, it is clear that masks help stop the spread of the virus and save lives. I am proud to announce, with my daughter Mariah Kennedy Cuomo, that New York is partnering with the company The RealReal and dozens of New York fashion designers to create limited-edition, made-in-New York masks. Drawing from the diversity and creativity that New York's fashion industry is famous for, these masks will benefit Covid-19 relief efforts and remind the public that we all still need to "mask up."

Profits from this campaign will be donated to Feeding America, Nurse Heroes and the New York Covid Relief Fund to help New Yorkers and Americans in need.

Particularly now, as the virus surges in parts of the country, it is critical that we continue to wear masks and take the simple, everyday measures that reduce the spread — stay distant and wash your hands often.

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Tested by a tumultuous week, but none the worse for wear — Valley Stream



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