

CORONA VIRUS
COMMUNITY UPDATE
 Infections as of Dec. 14
1,635
 Infections as of Dec. 7
1,529

GLEN COVE

HERALD Gazette

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Photo by Lauren Gallery Photography
 1113441



Hanukkah Menorah in Village Square
 Page 9



Downtown all set for Christmas
 Page 5

\$1.00

DECEMBER 17-23, 2020



Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

A socially distant Santa visit

Logan Roscus, 19 months old, with his mother, Lindsay, got his first fist bump – through protective glass – from Santa Claus. Story, page 10.

The 'best Christmas present ever'

69-year-old Glen Cove man gets a kidney from his niece

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

Glen Cove resident Tony Jimenez had a major influence on his niece Julianne Jimenez's life nearly a decade ago. Julianne was addicted to drugs and alcohol, and it was her uncle Tony who saved her life, she said.

"Uncle Tony came over and gave me a heart-to-heart, telling me about the 12-step program that had helped him," said Julianne, now 31 and a social worker. "He strongly suggested I go to an AA meeting, and gave me his 25-year [sobriety] coin as a keepsake, which I still have. He came to my first-, second- and third-year sobriety anniversaries. I'm approaching my 10th year."

When Julianne, who lives in Centerport, learned this fall that her uncle was in desperate need of a kidney, she decided right away that she would be

the donor. "I knew that giving my kidney was the right thing to do," she explained. "Uncle Tony is an amazing guy. He is a giver and always has been."

A Vietnam veteran, Jimenez, 69, enlisted in the Army in 1969, after he graduated from Clarke High School in Westbury. He served for two years, one as an infantryman in Vietnam, and eventually he became a sergeant.

Since then, Jimenez has served his community in a variety of ways. Over the course of more than 14 years he served as a city councilman, a Glen Cove Fire Department emergency medical technician and a county court officer, and he was one of the first people in Glen Cove to respond to the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, traveling by ferry to the World Trade Center.

Exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, he was diagnosed

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First Covid-19 vaccine is on its way to the North Shore

By **CAITLIN O'BRIEN, SCOTT BRINTON and LAURA LANE**
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Nassau County hospital officials and elected leaders are moving fast to prepare for distribution of the first doses of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine after federal emergency-use authorization for it was approved last Friday. New York is slated to receive

170,000 doses in the first batch.

At Glen Cove Hospital, Melonie Pernice, associate executive director of operations, will direct the vaccine's disbursement. There are 12 vaccine sites in the Northwell Health system, including GCH. Pernice said the hospital was ready and waiting for the go-ahead from the state Department of Health.

Front-line workers in hospi-

tals with the highest numbers of Covid cases will get the vaccine first, and Pernice said that GCH would see deliveries sooner than expected.

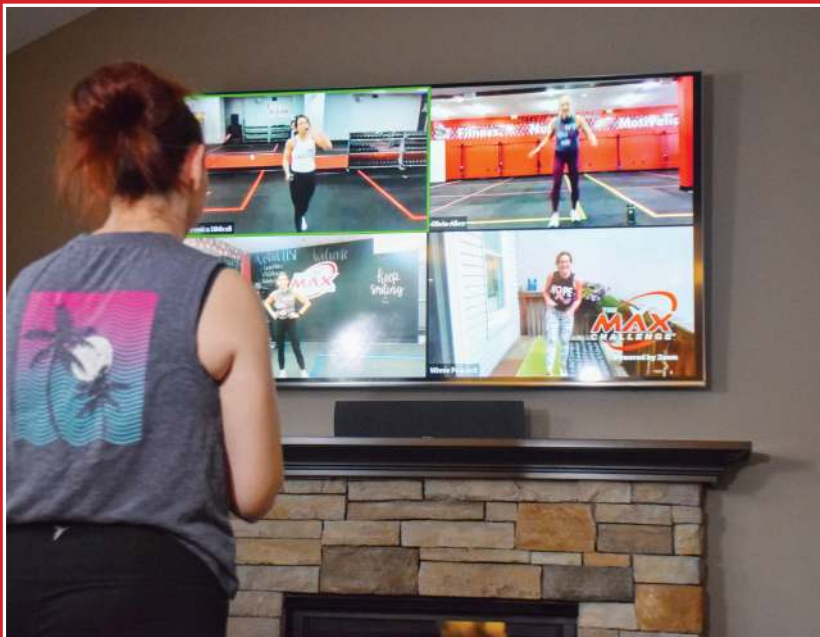
"There has been an uptick at our hospital," she said. "The second surge is real, but we know more now on how to treat patients, and no one is on a ventilator, which is great," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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Glen Cover given the gift of life for Christmas

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

with diabetes in 1980, and he suffered kidney failure two years ago. Knowing how his life would change once he underwent dialysis, he said, he put it off as long as he could. But his kidneys weren't functioning, and filled with so much fluid that he suffered congestive heart failure.

In September he began dialysis, having been told that if he didn't, he would die.

Because doctors had given him six to nine years to live this fall, he was denied inclusion on a list to receive a kidney from a cadaver donor. There is no living donor list.

Julianne didn't tell her uncle right away that she wanted to donate a kidney to him. After stories about him appeared in local newspapers — including one in the Herald Gazette — more than 10 people called to offer a kidney but none were compatible, Tony said.

Julianne asked her father, Tony's older brother, Phil, what he thought. She was nervous, she said, because she didn't want to disappoint her uncle if she was not compatible. Phil called his brother.

"Initially I didn't want her to do it," Tony said. "I talked to my brother to get a feel from him. Phil's opinion was that Julianne is an adult and can do what she wants. He gave the green light, ultimately."

Tony called his niece and told her he was grateful. Julianne said he also assured her that she could change her mind at any time.

The process of determining her eligibility to donate began on Oct. 19. During a phone screening, she was asked if she had diabetes or high blood pressure or was obese. Next, she reported to the transplant center at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, where she spent eight hours having her blood drawn, undergoing X-rays and a CT scan, and speaking with a nurse administrator, a social worker and a nutritionist.

Then she had to wait, which she said was the hardest part. A week later, she did an online evaluation with two psychologists that she described as "nervetracking." "You have to tell them anything that ever happened to you," she said, "and hope they don't think you're crazy."

But two weeks later, she was approved.

On Nov. 30, Tony and Julianne walked into North Shore University Hospital holding hands. She gave him one last hug before the surgery.

Julianne and her cousin Nina, Tony's daughter, are a month apart in age and are very close. "Julie took this on full-throttle," Nina said. "She never had any surgeries before this. She told me it felt like this is what she was supposed to do."

Julianne wasn't in a great deal of pain after the nearly four-hour-long surgery, and recalled her first visit to her uncle's room during their four days of recuperation. "When I went in, he told



Courtesy Julianne Jimenez

GLEN COVER TONY Jimenez searched for a long time for a kidney donor, only to find one close to home, his niece Julianne Jimenez.



Courtesy Nina Jimenez

JIMENEZ WITH HIS wife, Kathy, and their daughter Nina, on a family vacation.

me his kidney function was showing normal levels," she said. "It was the first time it hit me. We did this. I cried."

Tony has been taking 21 pills a day to prevent rejection of the kidney and

infection. The pain is manageable, he said, and he can walk around the block. But rejection is always a risk, so he will be taking medicine, though less as time goes on, for two years.

Organ donation stats

People on the national waiting list for organs: 110,255

People waiting in the metropolitan area: 8,023

People waiting in New York state for:

■ kidney: 7,785

■ liver: 1,012

■ pancreas: 176

■ lung: 128

Most people in New York state wait three to five years for an organ donation.

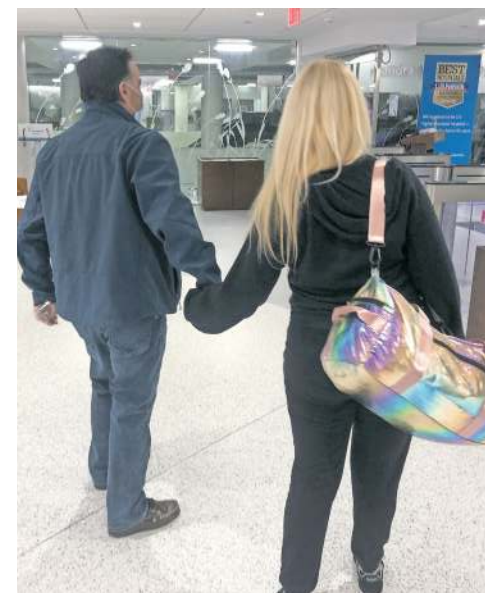
A New Yorker waiting for an organ dies every 18 hours.

New York state ranks last in the nation in percentage of residents registered as organ donors.

Data gathered by LiveOnNY as of June

How to donate

Sign up online or in person at your Department of Motor Vehicles. Registering online takes just a few minutes. All that's needed is some identification information and a driver's license or photo ID number. Or sign up at LiveOnNY.com.



Courtesy Julianne Jimenez

BEFORE TONY AND Julianne underwent surgery, they entered North Shore University Hospital together.

"It's very funny, our relationship," he said of his niece. "Both Julianne and I came through for each other in times of crisis."

Tony's wife, Kathy, a retired nurse, said words could not express her happiness. "This is the best Christmas present ever," she said. "I see a difference in Tony already both physically and mentally. Julianne is an angel. She's our hero."



THAT'S A WRAP!

Season 1 of Herald Inside LI

In August, Herald Community Newspapers launched a weekly webinar series called Herald Inside LI. Each episode of Herald Inside LI welcomed community leaders to discuss a range of topics and analyzed how industries and roles have changed during the pandemic. As we close out the year, we'd like to extend a THANK YOU to our sponsors, panelists and listeners.

HERE'S WHAT WE BROUGHT YOU THIS YEAR:

- AUGUST 12:** K-12 Education: Back to School
- AUGUST 21:** Higher Education: Back to School
- SEPTEMBER 3:** LI Housing Market, Buy or Sell?
- SEPTEMBER 9:** Lockwood College Prep Virtual Event
- SEPTEMBER 17:** K-12 Education Update
- SEPTEMBER 23:** A Fall Without Sports
- OCTOBER 8:** Home Buying 101
- OCTOBER 14:** Health + Wealth Virtual Event
- OCTOBER 15:** Pink Power: Breast Cancer Awareness
- OCTOBER 21:** Next Steps in Nassau:
An Update from Elected Officials
- OCTOBER 29:** Economic Development
- NOVEMBER 10:** Coping for Kids: Mental Health Awareness
- NOVEMBER 12:** Not-for-Profit Summit
- NOVEMBER 19:** Applying to College
- DECEMBER 3:** Power of 5G Part I
- DECEMBER 10:** Power of 5G Part II

Missed an episode or want to re-watch? Subscribe to our YouTube channel to see all past episodes at LIHerald.com/Recordings.

The first episode of Season 2 airs Thursday, January 7* at 10am to discuss the spike in prospective college students opting to stay local, rather than leave the area for their higher education. To sign up, go to LIHerald.com/StayingLocal.

Do you have an idea for a webinar?
Email us at insideli@liherald.com

*subject to late-breaking news

1113466



To sponsor a webinar or for more information contact Amy Amato at aamato@richnerlive.com or 516.569.4000 x 224

CRIME WATCH

Arrest

■ On Dec. 6, a 23-year-old Westbury male was arrested for petit larceny on Forest Avenue.

■ On Dec. 7, a 40-year-old Freeport male was arrested for obstruction of breathing on Mason Drive.

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.

OBITUARY

Pastor is remembered for his extraordinary kindness

By JENNIFER CORR

jcorr@liherald.com

A photo of the late Rev. Jose Luis Lopez, 76, a longtime pastor of Iglesia Ciudad De Refugio, holds special meaning to his family. It's of him laying down a brick for a wall in the in the parking lot. His dream was to expand the parking lot and eventually build the church a second floor.

"It's a great big loss for us, for our church, for the community," his daughter Brenda Lopez said. "We're hurting right now, but we know we have to continue his legacy. He had a lot of visions and goals for this church."

Jose, a beloved member of the community, died on Nov. 30. He and his wife, Rev. Juanita Lopez, have been pastoring Iglesia Ciudad De Refugio for over 42 years.

"He was always taking care of everyone," Brenda said. "He was the head of our home. Even though my sister and I are already adults and we have children and families, he still played such an important role in our lives."

When asked to describe her husband, Juanita called Jose a sweet man.

"Everybody is in shock," Juanita said. "Everyone is thinking, 'Oh my gosh that man.' So many people cared about him and loved him. He was special for a lot of people."

Describing her husband as someone who was always smiling Juanita said he



Courtesy Brenda Lopez

THE PHOTO OF the Rev. Jose Luis Lopez laying down a brick is a special one. His dream was to extend the parking lot and build a second floor on the church.

liked people. "He likes to go to breakfast," she said. "He was a wonderful, grateful, loving, caring man."

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GLEN COVE
HERALD
Gazette

HOW TO REACH US

Our offices are located at **2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530** and are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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'Tis' the season' in downtown Glen Cove

By JENNIFER CORR
jcorr@liherald.com

As one strolls down the streets of downtown Glen Cove, they can take in festival lights dangling across Glen and School streets, as well as festively decorated lampposts and storefronts.

"We have to make sure we decorate even more," said Patricia Holman, the executive director of the Glen Cove Downtown Business

Improvement District. "People need to feel joy and the spirit of the holiday, because the brighter the better. We've been through a very long year."

Glen Cove Department of Public Works and the Beautification Committee began decorating Glen Cove's downtown on Dec. 4, wrapping lampposts in garland and placing red bows and signs that read "Happy Holidays."



F & F Design Center - Kitchen & Bath placed a Christmas tree in front of their store front.

A SAFAVIEH STOREFRONT window was decorated for the holiday season.

Photos by Jennifer Corr/Herald Gazette

Glen Cove prepares for winter storm

In the latest snow forecast from the National Weather Service, Glen Cove residents can expect a snow accumulation of up to 14 inches in Nassau County from Wednesday to Thursday.

White out conditions can be anticipated, along with high winds with gusts up to 50 miles per hour. Residents should prepare for potential pouter outages and they should avoid unnecessary driving.

City of Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke

assured in a statement that the Department of Public Works are working hard to prepare for the storm and ensure the safety of residents.

Residents should do the following:

- Keep the streets clear for snow plowing, salting and sanding by parking cars in the driveway, on the lawn or in Glen Cove's downtown municipal parking garages.

- If one must park on the street, park on the odd numbered side of the street.

- All residents and business owners are responsible for shoveling and clearing their sidewalks as well as around fire hydrants in front of their property.

- There will be "NO" garbage or recycling pickup on Thursday. Those scheduled for Thursday pick up will now be on Friday, and those normally scheduled for Friday will have their garbage

and recycling picked up Saturday.

- Please keep pets indoors and check on neighbors who may need assistance.

- To report a fallen tree or snow issue, call the Department of Public Works hotline at (516) 656-2967 and if you have a power outage, call PSEG at 1-800-490-0075.

- Use 911 for emergencies only.

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Mayor Tim Tenke

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Thursday, Dec. 17

Virtual story telling

Virtual story telling session for children from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Children ages 3 and up are invited to join the Locust Valley Library with their families for an evening of holiday stories. Register online at www.locustvalleylibrary.org and call (516) 671-1837 for more information.

Friday, Dec. 18

Winter stories and ornament craft

Virtual craft and storytime for children at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 2 to 5 years old are invited to join the Glen Cove Public Library with their families to listen to winter stories and make a snowman ornament craft. Register online www.glencoverlibrary.org and call (516) 676-2130.

Saturday, Dec. 19

Virtual auction and fundraiser

Virtual Fundraiser at 12:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting a virtual fundraiser with 19 baskets. One ticket for \$5, 5 for \$20, 15 for \$50 and 24 for \$75. For more information on how to participate, visit www.trinitylutheran-glen Cove.com/fundraiser/. Call (516) 676-1340 for more information.

Christmas Bird Count Walk

Garvies Point Museum and Preserve, 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove. Event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A naturalist will lead participants through a walk sponsored by National Audubon Society. Learn how to identify birds, residents vs. migratory, how they can handle the cold and much more. For ages 5 and up. Walk included with museum admission. Masks are required. Sign up in advance is required as space is limited. Visit www.garviespointmuseum.com and call (516) 571-8010/11.

Sunday, Dec. 20

Yoga and meditation

Yoga and meditation at Planting Fields



Ben Sutherland via Wikimedia Commons

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

North Shore Community Church, 209 South St., Oyster Bay from 5 to 6 p.m. Service is in person and broadcasted online. Register for in-person service or watch the broadcast online at www.northshore-communitychurch.com. For more information, call (516) 922-7322.

Foundation historic Great Hall, located at 1395 Planting Field Road, Oyster Bay from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Warm up the mind, body and spirit this winter season with yoga and meditation led by instructors from Oyster Bay/Glen Cove Yoga. Register at www.plantingfields.org and for more information call (516) 922-8684.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Zoom event at 10 a.m. The First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay is hosting a Children's Christmas Pageant that will be broadcasted over Zoom. Register to watch the event online at www.oyster-baypresbyterian.org/. Call (516) 922-5477 for more information.

Monday, Dec. 21

Free virtual bingo

Glen Cove Senior Center's Free Live Virtual Bingo For All at 7 p.m. The Glen Cove Senior Center is hosting a free and live virtual bingo. Signup is not needed and participants can win prizes. Everyone can play for free. This event is sponsored by Bristol Assisted Living. Go to www.glen Coveathome.com. Call (516) 759-9610.

Morning yoga

Virtual yoga sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The Locust Valley Library hosts morning yoga on Mondays. Ten sessions cost \$40 and sessions are also held on Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25, as well as Feb. 1, 8 and 15. Visit www.locustvalleylibrary.org to register and call (516) 671-1837 for more information.

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Tuesday, Dec. 22

Teen and tween drawing class

Virtual drawing class at 5 p.m. The Bayville Free Library is hosting a drawing class for tweens and teens sixth grade and up. Learn how to draw a snow owl. Patrons will need pencils, erasers, sharpners and any materials they would like to add color. Register online to receive the Zoom link at www.bayville-freelibrary.org. Call (516) 628-2765.

Wednesday, Dec. 23

Gilded age estate of Oyster Bay

Webinar from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The

New York Adventure Club is hosting a webinar titled "Planting Fields: Gilded Age Estate of Long Island's Oyster Bay" webinar. For \$10, tune in for a virtual exploration of Planting Fields, a sprawling Gilded Age estate in Oyster Bay built between 1918 and 1924. Visit www.nyadventureclub.com to learn more and register.

Thursday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Service

Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Service, 74 Forest Ave. Glen Cove. Times: 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Limited seating and masks required when entering, sitting and leaving. RSVP required. A straming of the service will also be available via Facebook. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available. Call (516) 676-1340.

Christmas Eve Service

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, 253 Glen Ave., Sea Cliff at 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion to celebrate the holiday. Visit www.saintlukes-seacliff.org or call (516) 676-4222 for more information.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Items on the Community Update pages are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to jcorr@liherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- Glen Cove launches program to remove lead pipes at homes.
- Virtual program for disabled OB residents to begin in 2021.
- Toddler arts and crafts programs to begin in OB this winter.
- Santa to visit Locust Valley via LVFD Saturday 11 a.m.
- Sea Cliff Farmers Market open in Village Square this Saturday.

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HERALD SPORTS

Nassau H.S. football approves 6 games

By TONY BELLISSIMO
tbellissimo@herald.com

Nassau County high school football, slated to begin practice March 1 of 2021, announced it will play six regular-season games, down from the standard eight, and also eliminate scrimmages and one round of playoffs.

In addition, no Long Island championships will be played against Suffolk County, which will conduct only five regular-season games.

"We're preparing for the season as if it's going to happen and will have some things to address such as transportation and spectators as we get closer to March," said Nassau football coordinator Matt McLees, who noted the decision to pass on the LICs was made with all 50 programs in mind. "We like the model we're using," he added. "It was most important to play six meaningful regular-season games above all else. With the power rankings we use, at least six games are necessary."

Playing six games, as opposed to five, also gives each team three home games and three road games, instead of an unbalanced schedule, McLees explained. "The football committee deserves a lot of credit for the effort they put in," he said. "In the end, all the decisions will benefit hundreds and hundreds of kids."

The season is scheduled to kick off Saturday, March 13, though McLees said some games could be played on the 12th if teams wanted to give up a day of practice. Freeport (Conference I), Garden City (II), Plainedge (III) and Seaford (IV) are the defending county champions. Freeport, which has captured back-to-back Long Island Class I titles, is the only one of the four not seeded No. 1 after losing some key contributors who transferred out of state to play this fall. Oceanside is the top seed in Conference I and will open on the road against Farmingdale.

"I think the six games is good," Oceanside head coach Rob Blount said. "It appeals to the majority of schools, rather than catering to the top of each conference with more playoff games. I hope we can get the season in. A small percentage of kids will continue to play in college, but most will play their last games. It's something they will cherish for the rest of their lives."

Garden City, which has won four straight county crowns, opens at Carey. MacArthur, the 2019 runners-up in Conference II, is seeded second and will take on South Side in the opener. Other local matchups in Week 1 include Calhoun at Mepham, Valley Stream Central at Long Beach, and Kennedy at Elmont.

"It's always fun lining up against one of the other teams in our district," Mepham head coach Anthony Cracco said. "We didn't have the opportunity to play either of the Bellmore-Merrick teams last year so our seniors are really looking forward to it."



Anthony Hughes/Herald

MEPHAM AND CAREY will renew their Nassau Conference II football rivalry on April 10.

Plainedge, which nipped Freeport in the 2019 Rutgers Cup voting, kicks off at Lynbrook. Seaford opens at North Shore.

The regular season is scheduled to conclude Saturday, April 17. The number of playoff teams in each of Nassau's four conferences has been cut in half, from eight to four. The semifinals are scheduled for April 24, followed by the county championship games May 1-2.

Eight teams switched conferences

Of the eight programs taking on new conference rivals for the upcoming season, half were part of Conference III a year ago. Runner-up South Side jumps to Conference II, while perennial powers Wantagh and Lawrence, along with North

Shore, bounced to Conference IV. New to Conference III are Manhasset and Valley Stream South. East Meadow and Herricks are back in familiar stomping grounds in Conference I after competing in Conference II in 2019.

JV remains on Saturday mornings

The majority of Nassau's junior varsity football games in 2018 kicked off Monday afternoons, but last year the action returned to traditional Saturday mornings at the opposite location of that day's varsity game. It'll remain that way in 2021. Should any freshmen, sophomores or juniors not step on the JV field on a particular Saturday morning, they would be eligible to play in the varsity game.

10 Games To Watch

- March 13: Garden City at Carey
- March 13: Plainedge at Lynbrook
- March 13: MacArthur at South Side
- March 20: Lawrence at Seaford
- March 27: Freeport at Oceanside
- March 27: Elmont at V.S. Central
- March 27: West Hemp. at Clarke
- April 10: Mepham at Carey
- April 10: Freeport at Baldwin
- April 17: Wantagh at Seaford

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy RXR Realty

YLISA KUNZE OF RXR Realty, from far left, Mayor Tim Tenke, Deputy Mayor Maureen Basdavanos, Executive Director of the Glen Cove CDA and IDA Ann Fangmann, Joe Graziore of RXR Realty, Helene Korman of Douglas Elliman and Sandra Raymond of RXR Realty were on hand for the dog park opening.

Garvies Point Dog Park now open

Garvies Point celebrated another community milestone with a public dog park officially opening on Dec. 9. Dog-owners from The Beacon at Garvies Point and RXR Realty leadership attended a small

event to mark the opening.

Local vendors provided refreshments and the Garvies Point Brewery supplied dog treats made from spent yeast mixed with sweet potatoes.

Menorah lighting in Village Square

Chabad of Brookville established a Hanukkah Menorah in the newly built Village Square on Friday.

"For all those who celebrate, we wish you a peaceful holiday season filled with joy as you celebrate the Festival of Lights," said City of Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke. "Happy Hanukkah!"

The placement of the Menorah, coincided with the beginning of Hanukkah on Dec. 10, celebrated by Jewish people across the world and the North Shore. Hanukkah is the Jewish eight-day, winter-time "festival of lights" celebrated with a nightly Menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods.

"In second century, BCE, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek culture and beliefs instead of mitzvah observance and belief in God," wrote a Chabad.org article on Hanukkah. "Against all odds, a small band of faithful but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of God."

When they sought to light the Temple's Menorah, the article continued, they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination. The one-day supply of oil miraculously lasted the lit menorah for eight days.

Glen Cove resident Dr. Maxine Cappel Mayreis said she appreciated the Menorah being placed in Village Square. She called Village Square's plaza, which was



Courtesy City of Glen Cove Office of the Mayor

CHABAD OF BROOKVILLE on Friday established a Hanukkah Menorah in the newly built Village Square on Friday.

dedicated to Glen Cove by RXR Realty, a beautiful place to hold city events.

"It's nice that we're having the celebration because we have many Jews in the area," Cappel Mayreis said. "I was born in Glen Cove and I grew up in Glen Cove and this never used to be until recent years. There were always Christmas tree lightings. And while we enjoy that, stepping forward and letting the Jews celebrate too [is appreciated]. And it's not just for the Jews, it's for everyone because we're all in this together."

Especially this year, celebrating one another and carrying on through traditions is important as this challenging year comes to an end, Cappel Mayreis added.

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The North Shore prepares for a socially distant Christmas

By JENNIFER CORR
jcorr@liherald.com

For Kimberly Conte Velentzas, Christmas this year is a lot more about giving than receiving. She was getting ready for the holiday season by preparing holiday baskets filled with nonperishables as part of the food relief non-for-profit, The Porch Pantry.

Personally, Conte Velentzas said, her family is expecting a quieter Christmas than their usual holiday celebrations. "We're Italian and Greek over here so sadly we will not be having the big Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve with everyone that's normally here because we can't," she said. "Our families are too large and too far spread. It will definitely be a socially distanced holiday for us."

Glen Cove resident Lynn Hurston James said that typically Christmas is a "big deal" at her brother and her sister-in-laws house, sharing food and laughter. She said she had hoped her family would be able to have that experience again this year.

"Cases are spiking again and it's really going to be . . . I can't say quiet because there are six kids in the house, so it's never going to be quiet but we're just going to be having a lot of food and a lot of laughing and talking and music," she said.

With Christmas approaching, Dr. Bradley M. Sherman, medical director of Glen Cove Hospital, encouraged people to take extra precautions as Covid-19 cases



Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

FATHER DAUGHTER TEAM Sharon and Howard Stillwagon have over 50 years combined experience making stained glass in Glen Cove. Sharon also created crocheted and tie-dyed products for the Sea Cliff Farmers Market down at Garvies Point in October.

are rising.

"There are more and more patients who are getting admitted to the hospital, so the surge we anticipated happening in the fall, looks like it's here," he said. "As a result,

people have to be particularly cautious."

As the weather gets colder, seeing family from a social distance outside may no longer be an option, Sherman said.

"One of the problems with families get-

ting together is that when you're in the comfort of your own home, there's a tendency to be more relaxed around not social distancing, taking off your mask," Sher-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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Jennifer Corr/Herald Gazette

RESIDENTS ATTENDED A tree lighting on Dec. 6.

Small business advocates say shop local this year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

man said. "When you're in the living room, eating around the table, those are risks in itself, especially if you have family members that are traveling home from college or traveling from outside of the state, that's a risk right now."

Even if people get tested for Covid-19, they could still be putting their loved ones at risk, as the tests are only a snapshot in time.

"It will only tell you if you have Covid at the time you are tested," Sherman said. "It doesn't change what happens if you get exposed in the days subsequent to the test, so the timing of that is difficult."

Taking precautions during this time is the responsibility of being a good citizen, said State Assemblyman Charles Lavine, who will be hosting a virtual discussion with Sherman and other medical professionals on Dec. 22.

"We socially distance, we wear our masks, we wash our hands, use disinfectant and that's how we protect our loved ones, our families and our communities," Lavine said.

Until life goes back to normal, Hurston James said she would have no choice but to take the necessary precautions after seeing all the loss of so many lives. To do otherwise, she said, would be like a slap in the face.

She did face some challenges over the year, running a home goods store in Farmingdale called Bella Pinque Cottage. "It's been slow," Hurston James said. "We took the hit like other retail and I couldn't be open in what felt like forever. But the truth in the matter is, even with everything, everybody is healthy."

Glen Head resident Deborah Orgel-Gordon knows just how important it is to support small businesses during this time as the founder of the North Shore Biz Network. She said the majority of Christmas presents she bought this year were from local businesses.

"On Small Business Saturday I was out there, shopping," Orgel Gordon said. "I have four nieces, all under the age of eight, grand nieces and regular nieces, so I am



Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

SANTA VISITED GLEN Cove early.

constantly buying local from AquaBrasil in Glen Head because she has a children's boutique. I buy a lot from Artisan Jewels in Sea Cliff because they have very unusual types of gifts. All hand crafted by artists. I personally like to give something different."

This year especially, Orgel Gordon said, it's especially important to shop local because many small businesses have been struggling through this time and are nervous that with cases rising, they could be shut down again. "It's really important to support them this year, even if it's to buy gift certificates," she said.

Founder of Cove City Arts, Nicole Loizides of Glen Cove, said she knows many artisans who have also been struggling and going without their usual patronage.

"I've been busy trying to support our local artisans in bringing them business and connecting them with our local community in the last few months," she said, adding that she's been working with the Sea Cliff Farmers Market that's been operating from Village Square the last month. "It's really important to support other artists with the voices that we have and the patronage that we have."

The Sea Cliff Farmers Market will be open in Village Square on Dec. 19.



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Northwell hosts 2nd Gun Violence Prevention Forum

By **SCOTT BRINTON**

sbrinton@liherald.com

Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle “Gabby” Giffords stood outside the Safeway supermarket northwest of Tucson, Ariz., on Jan. 8, 2011, chatting with constituents about Medicare reimbursements, when a 22-year-old gunman opened fire, killing six and injuring 11, including Giffords, who was the target of the attack.

A bullet sliced through the left side of Giffords’s head, and she was placed in a medically induced coma to ease swelling on her brain. When she awoke, she could not speak. She needed two months of speech therapy to mouth the words, “Twinkle, twinkle, little star,” according to USA Today.

Nearly 10 years later, her speech is still labored. “Words once came easily, but today I struggle,” she told the audience at Northwell Health’s second Gun Violence Prevention Forum last Thursday, broadcast over the internet. Some 1,200 people from throughout the country registered for the event, which was intended, in part, to reframe the debate over gun control from a battle over the Second Amendment right to bear arms to one of public safety.

The two-hour event featured a long line of speakers from the government, the medical community and private industry, including former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, long an outspoken proponent of gun control, and U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat of Connecticut.

Nearly 40,000 Americans die of gun



FORMER U.S. REP. Gabrielle Giffords, who was nearly killed in a 2011 shooting, was among the featured speakers during Northwell Health’s two-hour virtual Gun Violence Prevention Forum last Thursday. Joining her was U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a Republican of Pennsylvania.

violence annually — more than a hundred a day — two-thirds by suicide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Michael Dowling, president and CEO of Northwell Health, said Americans must recognize that the country is — and has been for a long time — in the middle of a “pandemic of gun violence.”

At Northwell’s first Gun Violence Prevention Forum, held last December in Manhattan, the health system pledged \$1 million to fund gun violence research and prevention, and Dowling called on other major health systems across the country to join in the effort and provide funding as well.

Last December, Northwell established the Center for Gun Violence Prevention, headed by Dr. Chethan Sathya, a pediatric surgeon and associate trauma medical director at Cohen Children’s Medical Center on the Queens-Nassau border.

“We have to get behind the root causes” of gun violence, Sathya said at the Dec. 10 forum.

To that end, Northwell is undertaking a major research study at three of its hospitals, asking patients questions about the firearms they might have in their homes to help determine their risk of injury by gun. The study is funded by a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

“Progress has been made, but there is so much more to do,” Dowling said, emphasizing that the intent is not to deny anyone the Second Amendment right to a firearm, but rather to determine what concrete measures can be taken to reduce gun violence nationally, including which ones must be enacted through federal legislation.

High on the priority list, according to a number of forum speakers, is enacting a federal law to require a universal background check for anyone who purchases a firearm, without loopholes.

Among the speakers supporting a universal background check was U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a Republican from Langhorne, Pa., who appeared with Giffords. On gun safety, Fitzpatrick, a former FBI special agent, said Democrats and Republicans “can come together on areas that we agree,” including background checks, estimating that 70 to 80 percent of Americans support them.

Other speakers, however, spoke of political paralysis in Congress, where special interest groups like the National Rifle Association, which opposes universal background checks, hold sway.

That is why, Giffords said, Americans must remain politically engaged and apply pressure to lawmakers to act. After she was shot, she said, “I found one word, and I found another.” People can make their voices heard, she said, at the ballot box.

“We can let this continue,” Giffords said, “or we can act. We can vote. We can be on the right side of history. Vote, vote, vote.”



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FROM THE DESK OF THE GLEN COVE MAYOR

Why we made the choices that were made for the city's 2021 Budget

By **TIM TENKE**

As we continue to navigate our city through the Covid pandemic and deal with the financial fallout, I wanted to reach out to explain why we made the choices we made for the 2021 Budget.

We lost almost \$800,000 in state and county aid as a result of Covid. Additionally, there were non-discretionary costs beyond our control, increases in expenses due to union contract increases, pension contributions, termination payments, tax certiorari payments and healthcare costs totaling roughly \$2.4 million. The annual department requests equaled another \$2.9 million. All of this would have added up to an approximate 20 percent tax increase.

We found ways to cut expenses and look for new revenue opportunities. We also made a decision to immediately freeze all new hires and put all discretionary (non-contractual) raises on hold.

One of the most difficult decisions we made was to remove six active staff

positions from the budget, which provided a savings of roughly \$550,000, including salary and related benefits. We also decided not to fill two staff positions that were vacant, totaling approximately \$100,000 including salary and related benefits. In total, we cut \$650,000 of compensation related costs from the proposed budget. With these adjustments and some additional cuts in various departments, we brought the tax increase down to 7.32 percent.

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- Elimination of recycling
- Elimination of the Loop Bus
- Inability to purchase critical public safety equipment

This would have been a disaster for our city and a fiscally irresponsible decision.

I believe I did what any city resident would have done.

The truth is, if we had reserve funds, we would be in a different position. Instead, we are struggling to recover from years of operational inefficiencies. Between 2014 and 2018 the city received approximately \$13.1 million of non-recurring revenues. Granted, some of these one-shot revenues were used to pay debt, however, the majority was used to fund operational expenses and balance budgets.

The easy thing to do would be to put the city further in debt but it's time to take financial responsibility and secure our city's financial future for the next generation. I realize this was not the popular thing to do but it is the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Great things are happening in Glen Cove. Our downtown is coming back to life. Our Waterfront is bustling, and our city is on the road to financial health. Our future is bright.



Mayor Tim Tenke

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Hofstra selects first female president

By **BRIAN STIEGLITZ**
bstieglitz@iherald.com

After a yearlong search with 270 candidates, the Hofstra University Board of Trustees has unanimously selected Susan Poser as its ninth president — making her the first woman to fill the role.

Stuart Rabinowitz, who has been the university's president for the past 20 years, announced his retirement at the end of last January. In search for his successor, the university formed a committee of 13 members, including representatives from the Board of Trustees, university faculty and Student Government Association.

"In Dr. Poser, we have found a higher education leader of exceptional experience, a collaborative and visionary person, and a scholar of great depth and intellect," said Board Chair Donald Schaeffer, who made the announcement on Dec. 9.

Poser, who will begin her tenure on Aug. 1, recently spoke to the Herald about her experience in education, goals in her first year as president and plans for a post-pandemic Hofstra.

"I was really amazed by what's going on at Hofstra," Poser said. "It's also incredibly well-managed financially and in a really great place coming out of the pandemic."

Poser lauded the advancements Hofstra made during Stuart Rabinowitz tenure, including the university's partnership with Northwell Health to create the Zucker School of Medicine and Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies.

Analogous in Poser's leadership was UIC's acquisition of the John Marshall Law School, which established the first and only public law school in Chicago.

What also stands out to Poser about Hofstra is its commitment to liberal arts and the humanities.

"Students need to be encouraged to pursue a liberal



Courtesy Hofstra University

SUSAN POSER WILL be Hofstra University's ninth — and first female — president.

arts education and also need to know that they could get a job with it," she said, adding that Hofstra provides this to students through internship opportunities, five-year

graduate programs and experiential learning.

Before her role at UIC, Poser was the dean of the University of Nebraska College of Law from 2010 to 2016 and the associate to the university's chancellor for three years before that.

Poser grew up in Manhattan and majored in classics at Swarthmore College, graduating with honors. She earned her law degree and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley. Before starting her academic career, Poser clerked for the Honorable Dolores Sloviter, the chief judge of the U.S. Court Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia. She also served as the Zicklin Fellow in Ethics at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I have had the privilege to work with the Hofstra University community . . . for many years and know that under her leadership, Hofstra University will flourish for years to come," Rabinowitz said.

Asked about her immediate goals as president, Poser said, "I know it's cliché, but the first thing I want to do is meet a whole lot of people and listen to them and get a real feel for what everyone thinks of the university, how things are going there and how things should go moving forward," she said.

One of Poser's main priorities as an educator is to embrace diversity and foster "a culture of inclusion," she said. This is evident in the actions she has taken during her tenure at UIC, where no race or ethnicity makes up 50 percent of the student population.

"I think we've learned that we're very adaptable and resilient," Poser said when asked what teachers and students could take away from the pandemic.

Educators were forced to learn how to teach online and, Poser said, could benefit by incorporating these new teaching methods and virtual programs into their courses after the pandemic.

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Photos by Scott Brinton/Herald

AFTER THE SWEARING-IN, Police Benevolent Association President James McDermott, right, at lectern, offered words of advice for the recruits.

NCPD swears in one of its largest cadet classes

By **SCOTT BRINTON**

sbrinton@liherald.com

Nassau County officials swore in 185 cadets at the Police Academy in Massapequa Park last Friday morning — one of the largest classes to enter the county's tough, seven-month officer training program ever.

It was a socially distant affair, with 49 of the masked cadets seated on aluminum folding chairs in the auditorium of the former Hawthorn Elementary School, which Nassau leases from the Massapequa School District. The remaining recruits were separated in groups of 15 or 16 and spread out among surrounding classrooms to watch the ceremony via livestream.

The county police force now stands at 2,259, without the new recruits.

The cadets will study both in the classroom and through a series of intense simulations at various venues, which will imitate policing on the streets, including car chases, said one of the trainers, Chris Boccio, who grew up in Lynbrook. He stood by fellow trainer Joe Monez, of Mineola, in a hall as cadets sat in their classrooms nearby after the swearing-in.

The two noted that the NCPD requires a significantly more rigorous training program than New York state mandates — Nassau puts cadets through 1,050 to 1,200 hours of training, compared to the minimum 639 hours that the state requires for basic police training.

County Executive Laura Curran greeted the cadets during the ceremony. "Welcome to our Nassau County family," she said. "We will have your back," adding, "Your success is our success."

The age of the Hawthorn building was apparent in the auditorium where Curran spoke, with its dim lighting, worn linoleum floor and exposed heating duct above, wrapped in silver insulation. A \$54 million, 89,000-square-foot academy is now under construction on the campus of Nassau Community College in Garden City and is expected to be complete in May.

The current class will be the last to train at the Massapequa Park facility and the first to graduate at the new Garden City center, said Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder, who grew up in Lynbrook



and now lives in Wantagh.

He also noted it is the first to enter the academy amid a pandemic, and will be the first to graduate under new state policing reforms enacted after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, which stress the need for community policing that requires officers to understand and engage with people at the local level.

At the same time, the reforms made the use of a chokehold a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison if an officer injures or kills a person, and opened police misconduct records to the public, among other measures.

It's also expected that the cadets will wear body cameras when they patrol the streets after graduation, Ryder said. The county and Police Benevolent Association recently came to terms on the requirement. Officers are to be paid a \$3,000 annual cash stipend to wear the cameras. The union membership, county Legislature and county fiscal control board must still sign off on the agreement.

Ryder, now in his 38th year in policing, said he "embraced the culture here" during his time at the academy in 1986, after having spent four years in the New York



CADET MICHAEL SHANNON was among the 185 recruits who were sworn in to the NCPD's academy on Friday.

POLICE RECRUIT CHELSEA Penn was joined at the swearing-in by her brother, Derrick Penn, an officer with the NCPD's 8th Precinct.

Police Department. The NCPD's culture, he said, is one "of community service."

Cadet Chelsea Penn, 26, who was not permitted by academy rules to give her hometown, said, "I'm a little nervous but super-excited" about starting police training. She had been at the academy since

early that morning and had gone for a run before the swearing-in.

She stood beside her brother, Derrick Penn, 28, an officer in the 8th Precinct in Bethpage, who has been with the department four years. "She's a perfect asset to this department," Derrick said, smiling.

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Pastor Lopez of Iglesia Ciudad De Refugio dies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In 2021, Jose and Juanita Lopez would have been married for 53 years. "They met in Puerto Rico. "He saw [me] in a store that my grandma had and when he saw me, he said he loves me."

Before moving to Glen Cove, the couple lived in the Bay Shore, Brentwood area for 25 years. Then, 42 years ago, in 1978, they moved to Glen Cove to co-pastor Iglesia Ciudad De Refugio.

"He loved this community," Juanita said. "He loved to go to the village and walk around, seeing the stores, seeing the new construction. He loved the buildings. He was very excited about the community changing."

City of Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke held a moment of silence for Jose, calling him a very special person in the community who served his church and the city very well. He'll be greatly missed, Tenke said, then offering his condolences on behalf of the City Council to the family.

"Councilman Gaitley [Stevenson-Mathews] honored him on his page and we know my Dad was generous but we started seeing people that we don't know from the community sharing stories about him," Brenda said. "Some lady said, 'Oh he was a great man, he paid for my shake at one of the stores one time' and someone else said 'He was such a nice gentleman' and I said, 'How does he know all these people?'"

"We were just really surprised as peo-



Photos Courtesy Brenda Lopez

NAOMI HERNANDEZ, FAR left, Brenda Lopez, Rev. Jose Luis Lopez, Rev. Juanita Lopez and Ruthy Lopez were a tightknit family, with Brenda calling her father the head of the household even when his children were adults.

ple shared their stories," Brenda added. "It gives us peace and the courage and the strength to move on."

Among the people Jose impacted was Yeny Correa. The now 42-year-old met him when she was 15-years-old. "He was loving, he was kind, he was caring," Correa said. "He looked for opportunities to

bless people. Everywhere he went, he was always on the lookout for people in need."

Whether it was a meal, coffee, clothing or anything else a person would need, Jose would do what he could to supply those needs, Correa said. "He had a way of knowing you were not having a good day," Correa said. "He would just take one look at you and he would just ask right away, 'What's going on?'"

Correa was the children and youth administrator of Iglesias Ciudad De Refugio for many years. "He would always stop by during children's services," Correa said. "He got to high five the kids, ask them how they are doing and compliment them."

Jose had a vision for the youth, Correa said. "He always talked about the future and the legacy and how important it was to go to school," she said. "He celebrated every one of our successes."

He also hated clutter, Correa said, and took pride in how the church looked, always working on painting, decorating and building onto the church. He would also pick flowers from the garden to place in the church. "The tiniest detail, he was very attentive to detail," Correa said. "The colors he would pick, the rugs."

"He was here every day," Brenda said. "Checking and cleaning and making sure everything was running smoothly, always paying attention to what is happening in the community and how we can help. Who can we give to, who is in need? Anything from grocery help to rent assistance help to funeral help. You name it, he was always paying attention to see who was in need."

Jose and his kindness and generosity were known way beyond Glen Cove, as he often traveled to other countries to preach the Gospel. Brenda said he'd often come back with his suitcase lighter than when he left, as he'd leave his clothes behind.

"His ties, his suits, he would leave it for the people who were less fortunate," Brenda said. "He would come back and we would say Dad, we'd call him Papi, we'd say 'Where are your clothes?' He'd say, 'Ah I



REV. JOSE LUIS Lopez and Rev. Juanita holding their oldest daughter Naomi.

just brought back a couple of things, those are replaceable, they need it more than I do.' That left a lasting impression on a lot of different ministries all over the world."

And like he would soar on an airplane for his travels to help people across the world, when Correa thinks of Jose, she thinks of an eagle. "He was always preaching about the eagle, how eagles have a second chance," she said. "Every time we think of him, we think of an eagle."

"He was just a wonderful, wonderful person," Correa added. "Loving."

Rev. Jose Luis Lopez is survived by his wife, Rev. Juanita Lopez; his children Naomi Hernandez, Ruthy and Brenda Lopez; grandfather of Andrew, Jasmine, Gabriella, Jonathan, Isaiah, Luis and Isaac and great-grandfather of Savannah, Hope and Samantha. He's also survived by brothers and a sister.

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Uptick in Covid cases at Glen Cove Hospital

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“We also have extra PPE and everything we need.”

The first dose in New York state — and perhaps the nation — was given at Northwell Health’s Long Island Jewish Medical Center, in New Hyde Park, on Monday morning. It went to a 52-year-old critical-care nurse, Sandra Lindsay, of Port Washington.

Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca have each developed vaccines that are more than 90 percent effective in preventing Covid infections, though at press time only the Pfizer vaccine had received federal approval for use outside clinical trials. Moderna’s vaccine would likely get emergency-use clearance from the Federal Drug Administration on Thursday, Pernice said.

Experts say that vaccines should be widely available to the public by April or May. In the meantime, the first doses will go to essential workers, in particular hospital employees, long-term care facility workers and emergency medical technicians, as well as nursing home residents, according to state Health Department protocols.

According to Brian Nevin, the Town of Oyster Bay public information officer, Nassau County Health Commissioner Dr. Larry Eisenstein said the vaccine would arrive at CVS and Walgreens this weekend, to be given to those at assisted living centers and nursing homes.

The town, Nevin said, is developing a plan to remind residents about the importance of getting the vaccine. Supervisor Joseph Saladino has reached out to the county Health Department to ask how the town can coordinate its efforts.

“There are 10 senior housing communities that have over 2,000 residents,” Nevin said. “As soon as the vaccine is available, we will reach out to our residents. We want to balance a public-advocacy campaign when the vaccine is actually available.”

Although Sea Cliff village officials have not yet publicly discussed the ways in which they plan to promote the vaccine, Mayor Edward Lieberman said he planned to take it. Given the number of coronavirus deaths, he said, this vaccine is paramount in ensuring public health in the future.

Nearly everyone in the village wears masks when appropriate, Lieberman said, which leads him to believe that they will take the vaccine as well. “I think that the residents of Sea Cliff are of the opinion that any medicinal treatment is in order,” he said, “including taking a vaccine.”

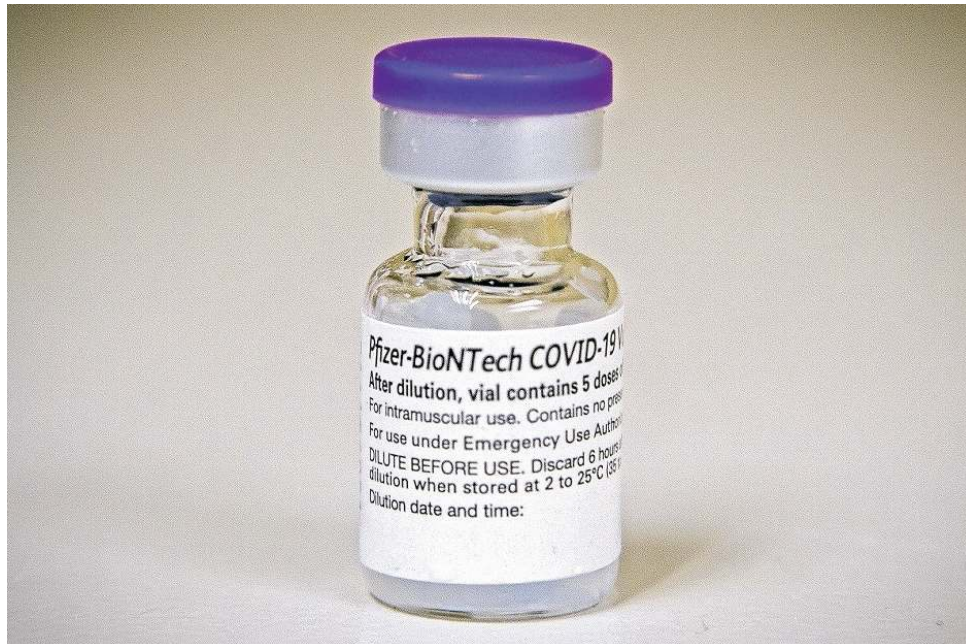
None of the vaccines use the live virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Instead, they give “your body the blueprint for making the antibodies without you having to be exposed to the infection itself,” explained Dr. Dave Neubert, emergency medical director for the Town of Hempstead and an attending emergency physician at NYU Winthrop Hospital in Mineola.

More than half of the respondents to a Truth in Medicine poll conducted by



Courtesy Northwell Health

NORTHWELL HEALTH NURSE Sandra Lindsay, of Port Washington, became the first person in New York state to receive Pfizer’s Covid-19 vaccine on Monday.



Courtesy Lee S. Weissman/Northwell Health

THE PFIZER VACCINE was authorized for emergency use last Friday.

Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital, in Oceanside, in October said they would not take a vaccine or were unsure if they would, said Dr. Aaron Glatt, chairman of MSSN’s Department of Medicine and chief of infectious diseases. Recent national polls have indicated that the number willing to take it may be climbing, and is now approaching 60 percent.

David Nemiroff, president and CEO of Long Island Federally Qualified Health Centers, said that many people were skeptical about vaccines before the pandemic, so it may be difficult to persuade everyone that getting a shot is safe, but he believes public support will grow.

Glen Cove City Mayor Tim Tenke said he was committed to encouraging residents to get the vaccine. He is planning a

virtual video with GCH’s Dr. Brad Sherman, medical director and chair of the Department of Medicine, and Kerri Scanlon, the hospital’s executive director and a registered nurse. “The mayor will submit questions to them in an effort to educate residents and post the virtual video,” said Shannon Vulin, the city’s public relations officer.

GCH’s public relations team has a list of ideas on how best to get the word out about of vaccine’s importance, Pernice said. “Glen Cove is unique,” she said. “We have a relationship with nursing homes and residents. Our advisory committee has some residents on it who are very active in the community. I think it will be easier for us to get the word out.”

Northwell Health has obtained medi-

Who gets the vaccine first

The State Department of Health has dictated phases.

■ Location — where people work, their job titles and ages. For example, those who work in environmental service in the Covid unit will receive the vaccine before nurses or doctors working in another part of the hospital.

■ Job function — home health care aides, for example

■ Order of receiving vaccine according to age: 65 and older will be first. Then 56-64, 40-55, 30-39, 29 and younger.

cal-grade freezers to hold the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which must be stored at temperatures well below freezing, according to Dr. Bruce Hirsch, an infectious disease physician at the health care system.

Despite the vaccines, Sherman said he remained concerned about “Covid fatigue.” “It’s been very difficult,” he said because most people thought the pandemic would end sooner than it has. “People are tired of socially isolating and not seeing their families and their friends, and I think with younger people that’s been a problem. With older people, the problem is the isolation.”

Jill Nossa, Mike Smollins, Jennifer Corr and Mike Conn contributed to this story.

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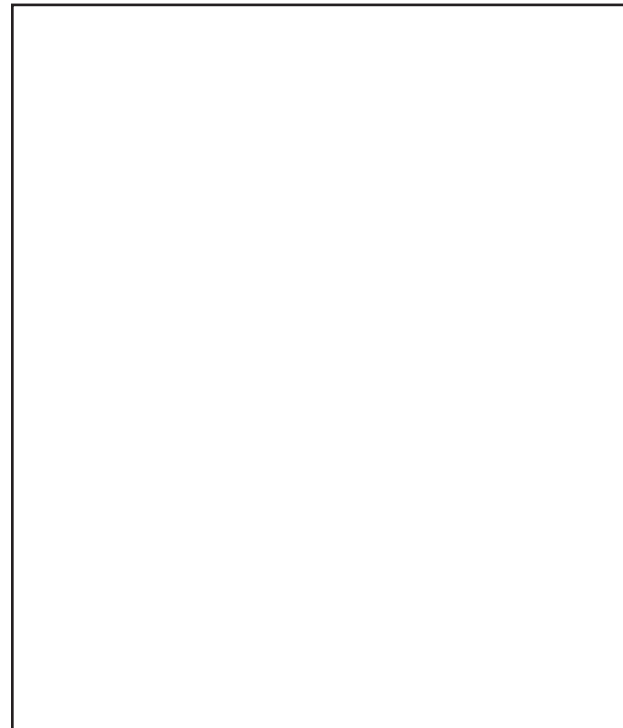
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OPINIONS

N.J. just legalized pot. N.Y. needs money. Well, then, why not?

New York state is facing a \$9 billion budget deficit due to the coronavirus pandemic, with severe cutbacks and tax hikes likely on the way. Although there should be some relief coming at the federal level once President-elect Joe Biden takes office, New York definitely needs to develop some new revenue



**NICK
BUGLIONE**

streams, and fast. Nearly two years ago, I argued in a Herald op-ed that the state should legalize the recreational use of marijuana, and that Nassau County leaders and residents shouldn't be so quick to shoot the notion down,

as they so frequently do. I also wrote that it was about time the state legalized sports gambling, an activity that so many people take part in illegally already.

Not surprisingly, two years have passed and little has changed. The recreational use of marijuana is still illegal. And while the New York State

Gaming Commission made sports gambling legal about six months after my first op-ed ran — you're welcome — bets can only be placed at a handful of upstate casinos. Nobody is getting off their couch on a football Sunday to drive to the Catskills so they can bet that the Jets are going to lose again.

Now, more than ever, we need to legalize marijuana and online sports gambling. Obviously, we desperately need the tax revenue. But more important, both are now legal in nearby New Jersey.

Two years ago I pointed out that a friend of mine who lives in Jersey City was taking my bets all football season long. He still does. I send him cash through Venmo and text him my bets. He keeps a ledger, and at the end of the season we settle up.

But two years ago, recreational marijuana use was illegal in New Jersey. Not anymore. In an Election Day referendum, New Jersey residents voted overwhelmingly to legalize pot.

Now, before I propose this scenario,

I would like to make clear that I don't smoke marijuana. But if I wanted to, what would stop me from calling my friend and asking him to pick up some weed for me at his local dispensary? Maybe we could meet at Penn Station, have a bite to eat, catch up on our lives and make a quick transaction.

And couldn't any enterprising person who has a friend in New Jersey place an even larger marijuana order, pick it up and sell it on the streets of Nassau County at a markup?

To be clear again, I'm not suggesting that anybody do this. I'm merely pointing out the obvious: Now that marijuana is legal in New Jersey, it is tantamount to being legal

here. The stuff is going to pour in over the border anyway, so why don't we join the party, so to speak? The same thing goes for online sports gambling. If people want to do it, they're going to do it, regardless of what the law says. So let's legalize it and cash in.

I'm not alone in my thinking. I was heartened to hear Gov. Andrew Cuomo

recently say he thought marijuana would be legalized soon. Meanwhile, State Sen. Joseph Addabbo, a Queens Democrat, likes his odds of getting State Senate Bill 17d passed, which would legalize online sports betting.

Although neither measure would pull New York state completely out of its fiscal crisis, it's safe to say that both would generate billions of dollars in revenue.

Oh, but I can almost see the Nassau County curmudgeons seething as they read this. I sure felt their wrath two years ago, when I first weighed in. One Herald reader wrote in and all but called me a drug addict. I even got an email from Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, who wrote that, while she enjoyed reading my columns (I'm kind of a big deal), she respectfully disagreed with my opinion.

Look, write your letters. Call me names. Say whatever you want to say. It isn't going to change the fact that the recreational use of marijuana and online sports gambling are here to stay. So let's legalize them. New York sure could use the cash.

Nick Buglione is a teacher, freelance journalist and former editor of the East Meadow Herald.

Lost and found in the pandemic

I think somewhere around the end of October, my husband and I ran out of things to say. Sitting across the dinner table from each other over plates of Costco soup and a homemade Greek salad with wimpy lettuce, our



**RANDI
KREISS**

eyes met and ... that was it. Our eyes met. At breakfast we had already covered news about the grandkids and news from the news. We have a rule about no TV during meals, so we ate in companionable silence, which felt both OK and a little sad.

When you're out and about, seeing friends, going to an office, getting your hair cut or your car serviced or planning a weekend away or going to weddings and funerals, there is an ongoing narrative to your days. Normal life is grist for the conversation mill. But these days we're not cutting our hair or mingling or going shopping.

We walk our dog, but don't stop to chat with the neighborhood dog friends out for a stroll. Conversation requires material, and our material is growing

thin: "Did you speak to the kids?" "Do you want pepperoni or mushrooms?" "Did you sign the health care proxy?"

We have lost more, too. Underpinning our lives is the sense that things will work out OK. We have believed in ourselves, that we can work through problems and survive life's challenges and even tragedies. But the pandemic has eroded some of that confidence in ourselves and in the future. We wobble a bit from time to time.

After 52 years of marriage, after decades of living in one community and creating friendships that form the fabric of our lives, that fabric is fraying, as friends are lost. At our age, we expect that people will get sick and some will die, but during a pandemic there is no satisfying way to grieve as a community of friends. Three dearest friends died since we began isolating ourselves, and we didn't get to see them within weeks or months of their passing. We said what we could in messages and emails and photos, but one hug would have obviated the need for words.

My grandkids, ages 10 to 17, are spinning in their own galaxies of online school and virtual reality and friend

bubbles and much too much downtime and isolation. No one can give them back this year, and while they have learned patience and resilience, I wouldn't suggest global pandemics to teach character building. I miss them. I find I work hard to catch their attention with not-too-annoying texts and offers with homework and pitches for group activities and games. They're a tough sell, and nothing virtual compares to seeing them face to face.

It is important, I think, to be honest with ourselves and authentic with our kids and grandkids, not just cheerleaders for pandemic silver linings.

I will say, however, that much has been found during this time. Reference the same patience and resilience, which all of us have had to summon. "New York tough" resonates these days.

I am more disciplined about getting out and exercising, between clouds and raindrops, whenever I find a patch of blue. Just about every day, I move, somehow and somewhere, just to change the scenery and push away unwelcome thoughts.

I keep close with friends nearby and far away, giving more time to more

expansive emails and the sharing of photos and memories. It helps. All these threads weave the fabric tighter.

I have started crafting books. What an incredibly satisfying thing it is to begin by folding papers and adding photographs and snippets of poetry and passages from old letters and collaging together something meaningful in an original book. It absorbs my free time, of which I have a lot. I appreciate the luxury of time to do art.

What I also place in the "found" column is the challenge of baking complex desserts, like the cranberry lemon bars I made from a New York Times recipe. Every part, from the fresh cranberry puree to the lemon curd to the crust, had to be prepared separately and then composed. Now I have 24 bars in the freezer. Since I eat them only occasionally, they should last me until we get the vaccine.

If you're reading this, and since I am writing it, we are still here, and still riding this crazy wave. As a new year approaches, even as we grieve for what has been lost, it feels exhilarating to watch the first people getting vaccinated, offering us all the promise of a healthy 2021.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

It's time for America to come to its senses over guns

Listening to Gabrielle “Gabby” Giffords speak, you’re quickly overcome by the urge to cry. The former congresswoman was once known for her incisive rhetoric, delivered with a magnetic smile. Then, at age 40, she was shot one sunny January day in 2011 outside Tucson, Ariz., while chatting with constituents in front of a Safeway supermarket.

The 22-year-old gunman, angered by Giffords’s political views, had targeted her. Six died in the attack, and 10 others besides Giffords were injured.

Giffords may have survived, but her speech did not. Her words once flowed easily, but now she measures each one, rehearsing phrases to string them together in coherent sentences before speaking in public.

It is a miracle that she is able to utter a word. The bullet that struck her pierced the left side of her brain, leaving her unable to talk for two months. Through speech therapy, she regained the ability to speak, but only in short, labored bursts.

That challenge was obvious during Northwell Health’s second Gun Violence Prevention Forum, a two-hour meeting of gun safety experts, medical practitioners, policy makers and elected leaders from around the country on Dec. 10. Giffords spoke alongside U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a Pennsylvania Republican who supports a federal universal background check for firearm purchases, and whom Giffords, a Democrat, has endorsed for Congress.

We applaud Northwell Health — in particular Michael Dowling, its presi-

dent and CEO — for taking a leading role in fostering dialogue about gun safety, while also funding gun violence research: Northwell put up \$1 million last December to study America’s “pandemic of gun violence,” as Dowling calls it.

We also applaud Giffords, who, despite the physical pain and mental anguish she endures, has been an outspoken proponent of common-sense gun laws that are intended not to take away anyone’s right to bear arms, but rather to enact safeguards — like background checks — to ensure that guns do not end up in the hands of criminals or those suffering from mental illness.

No doubt, we need to understand the root causes of our nation’s crisis of gun violence, which kills an average of 110 people a day — two-thirds by suicide. With a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, Northwell is conducting a major research study at three of its hospitals, asking emergency room patients about the presence of guns in their homes to assess their risk of injury or death by a firearm.

Our nation desperately needs studies like this one. From 1996 to 2019, Congress, tied up in knots by the powerful gun lobby, refused to fund firearms research. Only recently, thanks to the monumental efforts of gun safety activists like Giffords, is Congress starting to parcel out research funds. In its 2020 budget, it earmarked \$25 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to study gun violence.

Over the past two and a half decades,

roughly a million people have died by gun in this country, with about 170 mass shootings. After the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., in 2012 — in which 26 died, including 20 6- and 7-year-olds — Giffords and her husband, former astronaut Mark Kelly, who was recently elected in Arizona to the U.S. Senate, founded a nonprofit, simply called Giffords, to raise funds for gun violence research, lobby government to enact sensible gun legislation and educate the public about firearms safety.

Writing recently on Giffords.org’s blog, Kelly Drane noted that gun sales have surged during the coronavirus pandemic. We see this at any time of potential unrest in our nation — fear drives firearms sales to ever higher levels. In November, some 2 million gun sales were recorded — a 48 percent increase over the same month last year.

More guns, Drane rightly noted, do not make us safer. Quite the opposite.

We know that economic calamities such as the Great Recession of 2007 to 2010 increase the likelihood of suicide, according to the medical journal *The Lancet*. We also know that people who die by suicide are significantly more likely to use a gun than any other means. At the same time, according to Harvard University School of Public Health, more guns bring more homicides. Therefore, stemming our nation’s all-too-easy access to firearms should — and likely would — reduce gun violence.

The best way to effect change, Giffords noted last Thursday, is to “vote, vote, vote.”

LETTERS

Just the facts, ma’am

To the Editor:

In the letter “She remains a Trump fan,” (Dec. 11-17), the writer expressed sorrow that Donald Trump will leave office in January. She is entitled to her opinion, but not her own facts. She needs a fact-checker, but since the truth is fungible to Trump supporters, it probably wouldn’t change her mind.

Here are some facts:

Trump moved to limit travel from China far too late and never blocked travel from that country. Between Feb. 2 and the beginning of April, 279 flights originating in China arrived in the United States carrying thousands of passengers. His “ban” was window dressing.

Second, he implemented the Defense Production Act far too late after being begged for weeks to do so, and he did so sparingly, targeting mostly companies with whom he had other issues, and he never put the federal government in place for purchase and distribution. This foolish manner of behavior led to states being extorted by vendors, price wars between states and large amounts of product being directed away from areas with the greatest need. According to Trump, the virus was alternately a “hoax,” “no worse than the flu”



OPINIONS

Let's keep up the great work in Nassau County

News about an FDA approval for the coronavirus vaccine is monumental, but we must not allow it to lull us into a false sense of complacency. This war isn't over — in fact, there are still a few battles ahead. We are not immune to the nationwide Covid-19 surge, and in the past month we have seen positivity and hospitalization numbers



LAURA CURRAN

that are the highest they've been since we reopened in May. Our data is beginning to show a more even distribution of disease activity among all age groups across the county. This virus doesn't discriminate, and its reach is once again widespread

across all our communities.

I know that this has been a long and tiring battle, but now is not the time to let our guards down. We can't allow Covid fatigue to get the better of us when we're so close to the finish line. We have reached a clear point of community

spread that calls for increased vigilance from all of us. I continue to ask all residents to stick with the common-sense measures we know will keep us, and our loved ones, safe: Wear a mask, stay six feet apart and avoid unsafe gatherings. These simple measures can prevent us from going backward.

Furthermore, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, has said that Covid-19 will continue to disrupt lives until an "overwhelming majority" of people get the vaccine. Polls show, however, that as many as half of Americans have reservations about the shots.

In response, Nassau County is launching the "We Can Do It, Nassau" campaign, a public-awareness campaign promoting confidence in the U.S. vaccine effort, emphasizing unity and patriotism and the importance of the vaccines to ensure that schools return to normal and we continue on the path toward a strong economic recovery in the county. The campaign is a tribute to Rosie the Riveter, the cultural icon representing women

who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II. During the war, defense workers on Long Island turned out hundreds of military planes a month for Grumman, in Bethpage, and Republic Aviation, in Farmingdale. The county's campaign seeks to remind the public of

the extraordinary challenges that Americans — including Long Islanders — have overcome in the past and inspire residents to likewise step up for their country today.

As county executive, I've made keeping schools and businesses open one of my highest priorities. As we manage the increase in cases because of the holidays and cold weather, the county will do everything in its power to keep education and commerce operating, but we need your help. Robust testing is key, and I am committed to continuing to assist schools in meeting testing requirements so we can keep our kids in school safely and keep our business community open through the winter.

At the moment, hospital capacity isn't a pressing threat in Nassau County, but

the trend is in the wrong direction. To save lives and prevent further restrictions on restaurants and other businesses, we must do everything we can to hold the line. At the peak of the pandemic, we had almost 2,600 patients hospitalized with Covid-19, and 505 of them were on ventilators. As of Monday, we had 419 people hospitalized, with 36 on ventilators. We expect those numbers to go up, and the county is ready to increase capacity for hospital and ICU units as needed. I've been in constant conversation with hospital executives to ensure preparedness for a potential surge cases as well as the upcoming pivot to vaccine storage and distribution.

I know that the holiday season brings unique challenges, but if we follow the guidance of our trusted public health professionals, we can save lives and keep our businesses and schools open while we eagerly await the distribution of the vaccine, our light at the end of the tunnel. We have worked so hard to contain this virus — let's not lose our progress now.

Lauran Curran is the Nassau County executive.

LETTERS

treatable by swallowing disinfectants and would be "gone after Nov. 3." His lack of leadership and churlish refusal to deal with reality led directly to the deaths of many. Now he appears to have locked himself in his room in a snit, coming out only to somehow claim responsibility for the work of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which he continually undermined.

Regarding the border, this reader is incorrect again. While the cells at the border were constructed during the Obama administration, they were planned for short-term holding of adults. Children were never held there. Under the Trump administration, 5,400 children have been separated from their parents, and 545 cannot be found one year after this separation. That the letter writer appears to be fine with isolating and imprisoning children and then losing them tells us all we need to know about her priorities.

Finally, anyone who believes that Trump is not a supporter of white supremacists need only look at his record since the 1970s. Or one could read *The Daily Stormer*, the American neo-Nazi message board that has shown support for the president. Trump has refused to condemn David Duke or Richard Spencer for their beliefs when directly questioned and appears to be a fan of the Proud Boys.

The reason Biden will become president in January is because over 81 million people decided they did not want a racist, incompetent bully for president, and that is a good thing. Even after the last four years, facts matter, and the fact is we are a better nation than demonstrated since 2016.

CYNTHIA LOVECCHIO
Glen Cove

LIRR should rethink its plans

To the Editor:

In our new Covid-19 world, Amtrak, Long Island Rail Road, Metro-North Rail Road and New Jersey Transit must re-evaluate anticipated future ridership growth projections. The same applies to any new proposed system capacity-expansion projects.

Clearly, more people are going to telecommute from home on a permanent basis. Add the increasing crime and the declining quality of life in New York City, making working in Manhattan less desirable. Many Manhattan-based corporations, including some in the Wall Street area, are considering relocating some employees to satellite offices in the surrounding suburbs.

The ridership growth for LIRR when the \$11.8 billion East Side Access to Grand Central Terminal opens in December 2022 will be thousands less than anticipated. That start date assumes there are no more delays in the most recent project-recovery schedule.

Our new commuting world calls into question the value of investing \$8 billion or more in Governor Cuomo's proposed Penn Station South project, comprising four new platforms and eight new tracks.

LARRY PENNER
Great Neck

Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously worked for the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office.

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



Celebrating the holidays patriotically — Freeport

CORRECTIONS

In "Glen Cove adopts definition of anti-Semitism for educational purposes," (Nov. 26-Dec. 2) we should have said the American Jewish Committee.

In "Brothers from Glen Cove release Christmas album," (Dec. 3-Dec. 9) both James and Matthew were the executive producers of "The Most Wonderful Time."



Daniel Gale

Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Wishing Everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday.

May the New Year bring peace and joy to you and your loved ones.

-Linda



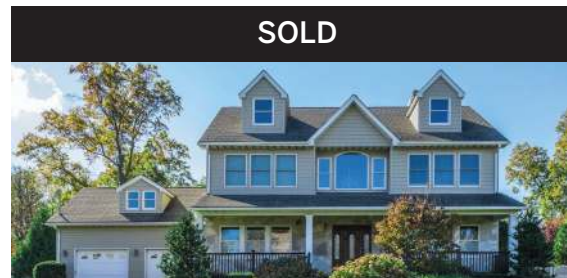
SOLD

89 Barkers Point Road | Sands Point, NY



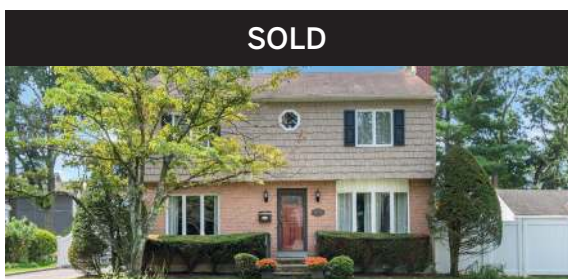
SOLD

112 Factory Pond Road | Lattingtown, NY



SOLD

18 Eastland Drive | Glen Cove, NY



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42 Circle Drive | Glen Cove, NY



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39 Circle Drive | Glen Cove, NY



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110 Pierce Street | Centerport, NY

Linda Faraldo | Associate Real Estate Broker

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