

CORONA VIRUS
COMMUNITY UPDATE
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 Infections as of Jan. 4
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N.S. residents weigh in on attack
 Page 4

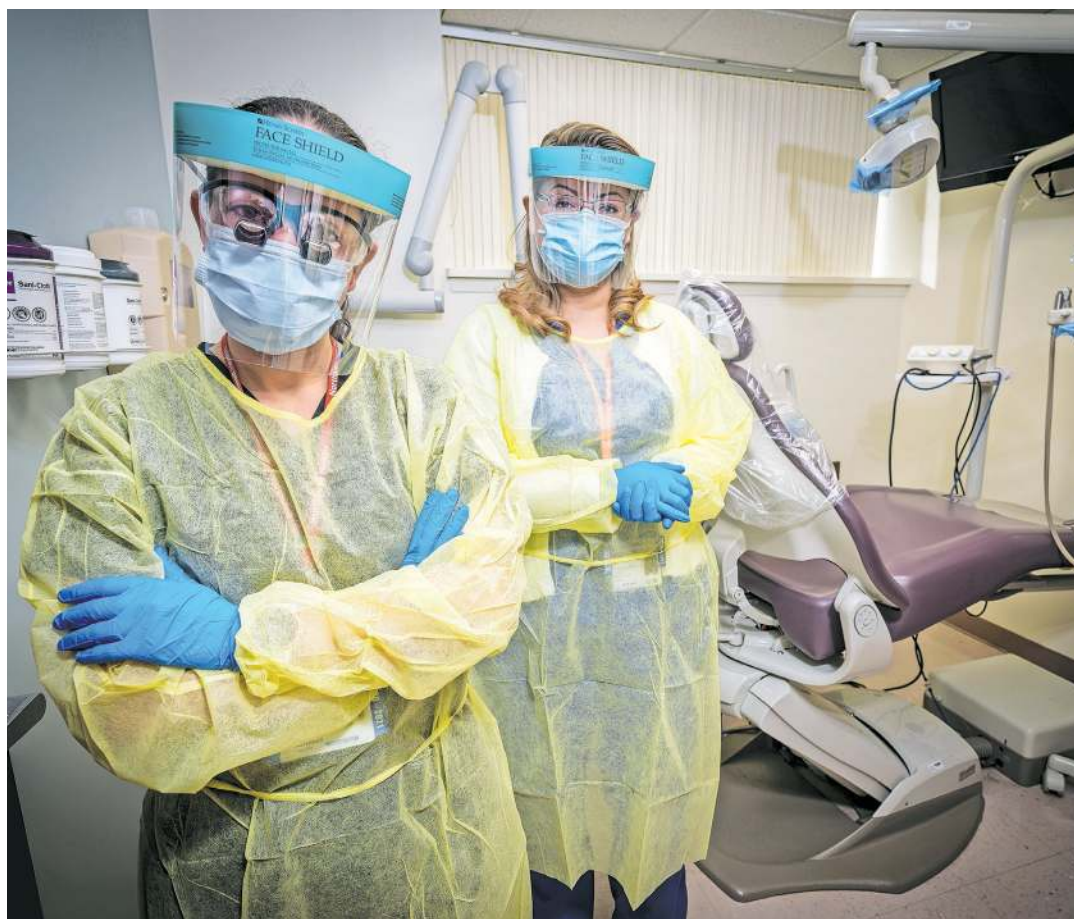


Small businesses adjust to Covid
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JANUARY 14 - 20, 2021

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Courtesy Northwell Health

DR. JAQUELINE SOBOTA, left, with Carina Jessica Chaile, a dental assistant, in one of the revamped dental suites at Northwell's Glen Cove Dental Medicine practice.

Safeguarding against virus at renovated G.C. dental practice

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

When the coronavirus peaked last March, the American Dental Association instructed dentists to postpone all but urgent and emergency procedures from March 16 until April 30. The directive was an attempt to slow the spread of the virus, keep dental patients out of hospital emergency rooms and con-

serve personal protective equipment. Many dental offices in New York reopened on June 1, but changes were made to offices to protect patients, doctors and staff.

Northwell Health renovated its Dental Medicine at Glen Cove, at 10 Medical Plaza. The clinical services there included routine dental care, crowns and bridges, dental implants, oral surgery and sleep apnea treatment.

Investing \$25,000, the hospital system added state-of-the-art equipment and changed its treatment rooms, which are now fully compliant with infection-control measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The hospital's dental practice reopened on Jan. 4.

"We are the only [medical] group seeing patients who do not wear a mask," explained Dr. Leonard Patella, chairman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Covid cases rising among 9/11 survivors

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

On Sept. 11, 2001, Glen Cove resident Frederick N. Fuchs, a firefighter for Ladder 127 in Jamaica, Queens, was coming off a 24-hour tour and had just been relieved for the day. But after watching the attacks on the World Trade Center on television, Fuchs said, he knew his day was not over. He had to serve the people of New York.

Nineteen years later, Fuchs would serve New Yorkers again by donating his plasma after recovering from Covid-19.

His experience with the virus was a quick one, he said, when compared with those of other firefighters he knows. He remembers starting to feel ill a week after returning from a firefighters' ski trip last February.

"I ran a 101 temperature for about five days," he said. "I didn't have any coughing. I felt very weak. I didn't eat anything.

I just drank a lot of liquids and took a lot of vitamins. I spoke to my doctor, and he thought I had a sinus infection, so he gave me an antibiotic. I took that, but it wasn't [an infection]. It went away in about a week. My wife kind of stayed away from me."

You don't know if your child's teacher was a volunteer firefighter back in 2001 or suffers from 9/11 asthma now.

SARA DIRECTOR
 Attorney,
 Locust Valley

After Fuchs learned that he had Covid-19, and that his blood would carry beneficial antibodies once he recovered, he donated plasma four times last spring and summer. "It comes with the territory of being a first responder," he said.

Recalling Sept. 11

Fuchs's unit didn't respond immediately to the terrorist attacks. Hundreds of off-duty firefighters who had responded to a recall were sent to Cunningham Park, in Fresh Meadows, Queens, with any supplies they could find.

"We wanted to go down there," Fuchs recounted. "There was no TV, so we huddled

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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Northwell invested \$25,000 to renovate G.C. dental facility

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

of dental medicine at Glen Cove Hospital. “Drilling is in the mouth, and it generates an aerosol, which can be infectious.”

Surgical extractions, dental implant placements and any routine use of hand instruments including teeth cleanings, also produce aerosols.

Three single-occupant isolation rooms were constructed at the dental center in Glen Cove to contain airborne pathogens. In the negatively pressurized rooms, air is pulled in and exhaust is routed through ductwork and high-efficiency particulate air filters. Unlike traditional dental-office configurations, the center’s reconstructed rooms have doors.

“We have purified fresh air circulating in the rooms,” Patella said. “And the aerosols leave the room through the negative pressure ventilation system. That’s why the room has to be sealed. The bad air is taken out and fresh air is always coming in.”

High-speed suction also helps contain aerosols, Patella said. “I use the Isodry self-isolation system, because while drilling, the saliva goes into it and it sucks in the aerosol.”

The dentists wear full personal protective equipment, including N95 masks, which they cover with surgical masks. After each patient, dentists and hygienists dispose of all PPE except the N95’s.

Complying with ADA recommendations, no one enters the sealed treatment room for 15 minutes after a patient leaves, because aerosols can still be in the air. The aerosol will settle, and can then be removed from surfaces when the room is cleaned.

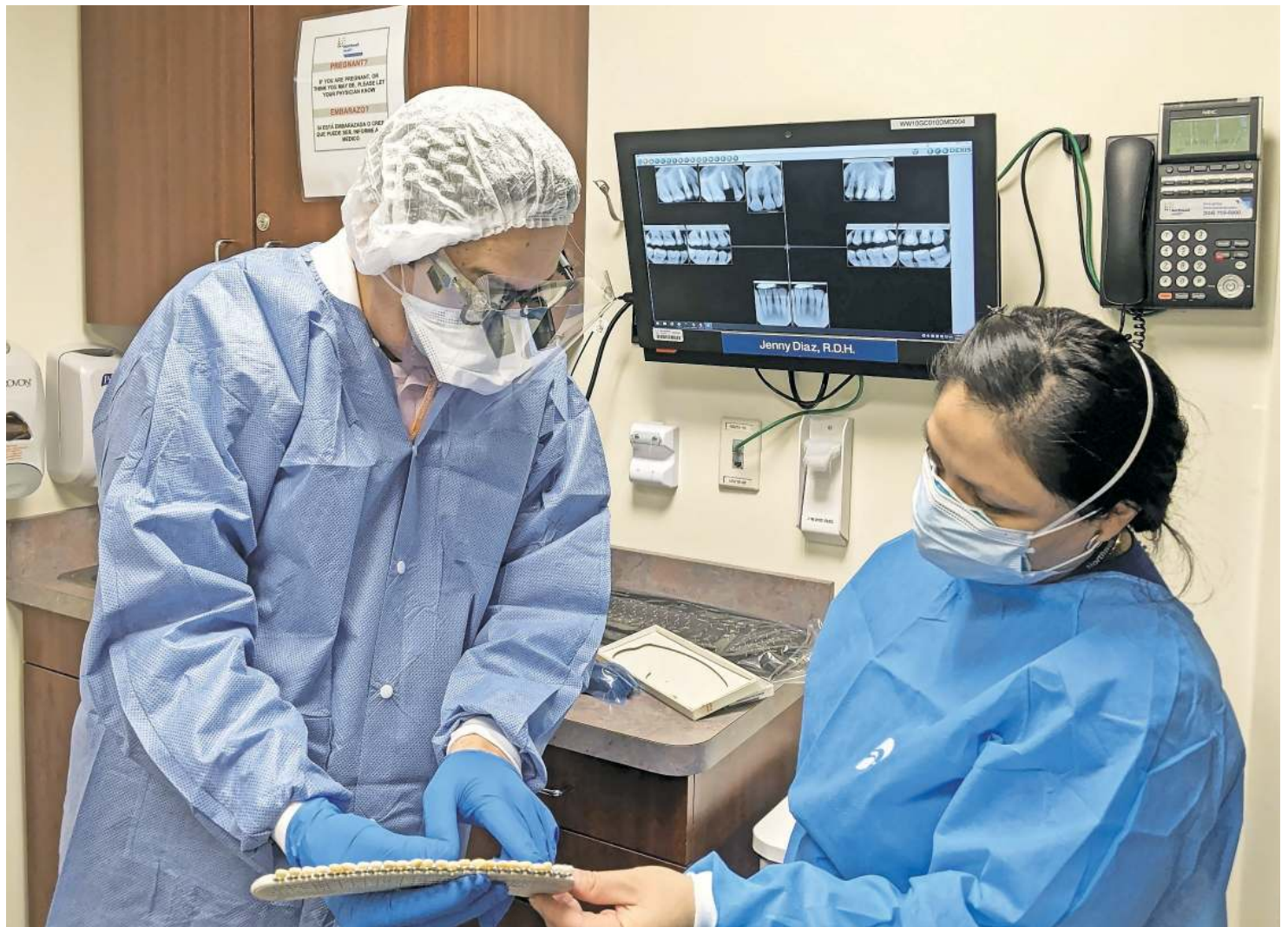
In the interest of safety, patients no longer sit in the waiting room. They wait outside the office for a call when it’s time to go in for their appointment.

Dr. Joshua Segal has been an oral surgeon at Glen Cove’s dental center for two years. The renovated center provides more opportunities for sedation to be used for extractions and dental implants, he said. Segal, the director of the oral maxillofacial surgery program at Northwell, said he enjoys working at the Glen Cove facility. “It’s nice to treat patients in a facility like this in a medical suite close to the Glen Cove Hospital,” he said.

Many people have avoided going to the dentist during the pandemic, Segal said. As a result, some have needed oral surgery because decayed teeth can no longer be saved. Patella said he had seen nine fractured teeth as a result of people delaying dental visits, or clenching and grinding excessively from the stress of the pandemic. “They come in and point to their jaw and think the pain is from their teeth,” he said, “but it’s from their jaw.”

Dr. Jacqueline Sobota, one of the center’s dentists, said that most patients accept the new precautions, which include a new procedure when patients sit down in the dental chair. They rinse for a minute with a peroxide-and-water solution to reduce the “viral load” in their mouth, Sobota explained.

Once they’re accustomed to the sight of their dentist in full-body PPE, Sobota said, “Then it’s the same, except for the use of extra suction, which the patient



Courtesy Northwell Health

DR. LEONARD PATELLA, chair of dental medicine at Glen Cove Hospital, and dental hygienist Jenny Diaz.

Medical terms

- **Airborne pathogens** — disease- or illness-producing agents such as viruses or bacteria that generally can’t be seen but are floating in the air. Airborne pathogens can make people sick simply because they have inhaled the pathogen.
- **Aerosol** — a mist of particles derived from blood, saliva, tooth debris, dental plaque, tartar and restorative material. It is produced during a teeth cleaning when a hygienist uses water spray and an ultrasonic scaler, which removes tartar deposits from teeth. Also, during polishing of teeth. Aerosols can float in air before being inhaled by dental staff and other patients. The ADA recommends that during the pandemic, after a patient is treated, the room be sealed for 15 minutes before it is cleaned due to the potential of aerosol.
- **Negative pressure room** — used in hospitals and medical clinics to prevent the spread of contagious illnesses from one area to another. Air is pumped out of the treatment area, creating a negatively pressured space so, for example, when a door is opened into that space, the air rushes in instead of out. The air that is pumped out of the affected space passes through a series of three filters, ending with a high-efficiency particulate air filter, which gives the same degree of filtration as an N95 mask.
- **Isodry dental isolation system** — A plastic mechanism that keeps the patient’s mouth open, improving visibility for the dentist, controlling suction and oral humidity, minimizing sources of contamination.

might notice. We’re probably doing above and beyond anything the [Centers for Disease Control] is recommending.”

As for the possibility of dentists having the virus, a study from the ADA Science & Research Institute and Health Policy Institute found that fewer than 1 percent of dentists nationwide were estimat-

ed to be Covid-19 positive as of June, during the springtime peak. The study was published in the November issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association.

Patella said he could still remember a patient who came into his Northwell Manhasset dental office in June, before

Questions to ask your dentist before you go

- Is your appointment one that can be delayed, or do you need to be seen soon?
- Are appointments being spaced out to cut down on the number of people in the office at one time?
- What are the social distancing policies for the common areas of the office?
- Does staff have all necessary personal protective equipment?
- Are patients required to wear masks in the office before and after their treatment?

— Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

renovations were complete in Glen Cove. “She said she had to stand six feet away at the window,” he recounted. “Then she opened her mouth and pointed to the area that was hurting her. I said, ‘I can’t see from here.’”

The patient asked him to change his gloves in front of her, and only then did she sit down in the dental chair and allow Patella to look into her mouth.

“Dentistry is about trust,” he said, “and that is developed over time.”

What happened at our Capitol in D.C. on Jan. 6?

By LAURA LANE and JENNIFER CORR

The Capitol was breached by insurrectionists on Jan. 6 at approximately 3:45 p.m. during a debate over certification of Electoral College results. Members of Congress were instructed to retrieve the gas masks from under their chairs, as Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, overrunning police barricades, scaling walls and entering the heavily protected building.

Americans nationwide watched the incident unfold on their televisions. They learned that security had barricaded the doors to the House chamber with furniture and that their weapons were drawn. One protester was shot, and later died. As National Guard troops were summoned to the Capitol to restore order, along with officers from the Federal Protective Service and Secret Service, ordinary citizens experienced a bevy of emotions.

Even as a 6 p.m. curfew was ordered in Washington, D.C., many Trump protesters lingered in the streets for some time. Then, at roughly 8 p.m., with members of the National Guard from Virginia and the capital district there to protect them, the House and Senate reconvened to count the Electoral College votes. During the wee hours of Thursday morning Joseph Biden was certified the winner of the presidential election.

Manhattan attorney John Napolitano, who lives in East Norwich, said he was sickened by the storming of the Capitol.

"When I saw Trump supporters in the Capitol, I said, 'You idiots. You cannot destroy public property,'" Napolitano said. "This is the Capitol. That was so wrong. They ruined it for the rest of us."

He said that the mayor of Washington, D.C. knew there would be thousands of Trump supporters but did not step up the police presence.

"Conservatives always get played," Napolitano said. "Yesterday was inexcusable. I love this country. I'm happy having a Hispanic-American citizen and a Black doctor living next door to me. Long Island is too white. But I think we are all being manipulated by the government."

Laura Savini, of Bayville, said she watched the protest unfold and was brought to tears. "I can't believe we're supposed to be the ideal of what freedom



Courtesy Martin Falbisoner via Wikimedia Commons

THE U.S. CAPITOL was attacked on Wednesday by a mob of angry U.S. President Donald Trump supporters.

is," she said. "We had people in the Capitol putting our elected leaders in harm's way with no respect for what we have done for nearly the last 250 years. It was heartbreaking for me."

Glen Head civil rights attorney Mahir Nisar said he had to turn off the news to take a break from it all. Describing the protest as an attempted coup, he said that the Trump supporters had committed treason.

"It also shows to many extents the white power and privilege," Nisar said, and then referred to the National Guard and police response to previous Black Lives Matter demonstrations as an example. "It's against the law, and if we don't hold the same standards of enforcement for all people and then we pick and choose who we are going to enforce the law with, then we're really catering to a very unjust society."

Bob Pemberton, who was a 60-year resident of Glen Cove before moving in March to an assisted-living facility in

Florida, is a retired Nassau County police officer. He said he had no problem with people peacefully protesting, describing it as an American right. But storming the Capitol is a violation of the law, he said.

"I think people across our country are in a state of anomie," Pemberton said. "They have lost their faith in all of the

things going on around them. We have to differentiate between those who were peaceful protesters, of which there looked like there were many, and those that unlawfully entered the Capitol with intent to commit a crime."

Ravin Chetram, an activist from Oyster Bay and the vice president of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce, said he questioned how people with baseball bats, chairs and flags, breaking windows in the Cap-

itol, could get away with that.

"They knew these people were coming here, and the police couldn't stop them from getting into the [Capitol]," Chetram said. "The [insurrectionists] felt no

It also shows to many extents the white power and privilege.

MAHIR NISAR
Attorney, Glen Cove

threat. There were no rubber bullets being shot. They're literally walking into the building of our Capitol."

Marie Gallagher, of Oyster Bay, said what she saw was a peaceful protest. She is suspicious of those who were shown wearing helmets and goggles, saying that people who support Trump would never do that. "I saw people waving an American flag, not an angry mob," Gallagher said. "... It's sad to compare the people during the summer who were rioting and looting stores to those who were there yesterday."

There was a permit approved for a 1 p.m. rally, she said, that was to take place in front of the Capitol. But it never happened. "They planned to be loud so the people inside, the elected leaders, could hear them," she said. "Now you had thousands of people standing around with nothing to do. I thought to myself, 'This is going to get out of hand.'"

Fred Nielsen, a veteran leader from Glen Cove, expressed sorrow that young people had to witness Wednesday's events. A Vietnam veteran, Nielsen said that he took an oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, both foreign and domestic. "Who in the world would be a domestic enemy to our Constitution?" he asked. "Now we know."

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

■ On Jan. 9, a 41-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for obstruction of breathing and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child on East Avenue.

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



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The Glen Cove Herald USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. **Subscriptions:** \$50 for 1 year within Nassau County, \$60 for 1 year out of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 **Copyright © 2021 Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.**



Jennifer Corr/Herald

PATRICK FUNK, THE owner of F & F Design Center – Kitchen & Bath, said that while business picked up until December, business has slowed since. He believes that rising Covid-19 cases and the slow business season is the culprit.

With Covid-19, G.C. businesses get innovative

By **JENNIFER CORR**

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The year 2020 was one of learning and adjusting for Glen Cove's local businesses, said Patricia Holman, the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District executive director. In 2021, it will be a year of continuing to apply those lessons to get through the year as cases of Covid-19 continue to rise.

"I think one of the things that we learned in 2020 is to really do things virtually," Holman said. "That was a huge thing for us, to do concerts virtually, to conduct all business virtually."

Businesses in Glen Cove's downtown had to adjust quickly to this new era of social distancing, with the use of third party delivery services like Postmates or Uber Eats, as well as curbside pick-up and takeout. Local retailers had to increase their online presence, because until June 2020 retail stores that were considered "non-essential" were not permitted to have customers inside.

"Covid or no Covid, online presence, whether it's Etsy or Shopify or Ebay expands their marketing," Holman said. "I think that and I'm hoping that many of our small businesses understand that and are either in the process of doing this or already started doing this, because I think the internet has been very important as far as helping our businesses."

In downtown Glen Cove, Holman said, five new businesses opened over 2020, including Bleu Clarinet, Simpliciti Café and Chef Morris Café.

"The businesses were able to get through it," Holman said. "The businesses supported them and I hope that until brighter days, it continues through 2021."

When asked how business has been on Jan. 9, Joe Valensisi, the owner of popular breakfast and lunch destination Henry's Confectionary in Glen

Cove, said it's been o.k. "I have about 15 tables, but we can only use eight and with delivery service, we use DoorDash delivery," he said. "It help's a little bit. Without that, it would be rougher."

Valensisi says the restaurant is sanitized twice or sometimes even three times a day. "I buy the sanitizer stuff by the gallons now," he said.

As time passes, more people are becoming comfortable with eating indoors, Valensisi says.

"If we didn't have that, we would have to shut the doors and it's scary," he said. "The mornings are always usually busy, steady. Then it gets quiet. I shortened the hours too. We used to close at 5 p.m. Now we close at 3 p.m."

Outdoor dining was offered at the restaurant up until the cold weather would make the experience uncomfortable.

"We're on the north side of the road so that means it's colder on this side," Valensisi said. "The heaters won't do anything out there. The sidewalk is small. This guy next door let me put a few tables in front of his store. Without it I would have only been able to put two outside."

The guy next door is Patrick Funk, the owner of F & F Design Center – Kitchen & Bath. Back in June, Valensisi and Funk were able to help each other by allowing Valensisi to place tables in front of the showroom in exchange for free advertisement. "He didn't mind," Valensisi said. "He said 'maybe this benefits the both of us. People look inside and say let's go shopping for some furniture.'"

During the initial first months of the pandemic, business had dropped off to almost nothing for his industry, Funk said.

"As time went on, people started to get a lot more comfortable with the situation and started to come out," Funk said. "Business started to get a little bit

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2021 Estate and Medicaid Planning

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Nassau lawmakers react to Capitol violence

By LAURA LANE, ANDREW GARCIA and SCOTT BRINTON

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“For those asking, my staff and I are safe,” tweeted Congresswoman Kathleen Rice at 4:03 p.m. Wednesday, as she and others barricaded themselves within the chambers of the U.S. Capitol against a mob of insurrectionists.

Lawmakers were scheduled to spend the day debating the certification of Electoral College results in the presidential election — a usually uneventful day in Congress.

It was interrupted, however, by thousands of supporters of President Donald Trump who stormed the Capitol, overrunning police barricades, scaling walls and invading the structure.

Sometime between 3 and 4 p.m., Congress members were instructed to retrieve gas masks from under their chairs.

“Tear gas had been used in the Rotunda,” said U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, of Glen Cove, during a call to the press from an undisclosed area. His voice was measured and calm when sharing his experience. “The chaplain of the Congress said a prayer. The doors in the chamber were locked, but then people began banging on them.”

The rioters had forced security to barricade the doors to the House chamber with furniture, their weapons drawn, prepared to fire. Republican and Democratic lawmakers huddled together, said Suozzi, a former Nassau County executive. One insurrectionist broke through the glass on the main door, which the president enters through for the State of the Union.

“The glass is broken, but I don’t know if it was shots or banging,” Suozzi said. “I did hear a ‘pop, pop, pop.’”

“My staff and I are safe and currently in lockdown,” U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said in a statement during the melee.



Kathleen Rice



Gregory Meeks



Andrew Garbarino

“The storming of the U.S. Capitol is a stain on American democracy. Make no mistake—this disgraceful violence will not stop the inauguration of Joe Biden on Jan. 20.”

Lawmakers in both houses of Congress later reconvened after a 6 p.m. curfew, during which time police escorted the insurrectionists out of the Capitol. The Congress members voted to certify the Electoral College results that declared former Vice President Joseph Biden as the president-elect.

Several representatives and senators have placed the blame of the attempted insurrection squarely on Trump, who for weeks had sown discord and spread lies about false instances of fraud in the November election. Protesters in and outside of the Capitol were clad with Trump merchandise.

“The president incited a domestic terror attack on the Capitol,” Rice, who represents the 4th Congressional District, wrote on Twitter. “He is an imminent threat to our democracy, and he needs to be removed from office immediately. The cabinet must invoke the 25th Amendment.”

Rice later re-tweeted a video from U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, a Republican from Illinois, who joined the call for Trump’s removal. Invoking the 25th Amendment would require the support of Vice President Mike Pence and a majority of the president’s cabinet. Pence would then assume the role as president if Trump were found



Courtesy Tom Suozzi

U.S. REP TOM Suozzi, a former Nassau County executive, was in the House of Representatives chamber when violence broke out at the Capitol last Wednesday. He is shown here in the early morning hours on Thursday, after lawmakers voted to certify the election of Joe Biden as president of the United States.

unfit for office.

Last Thursday, Rice again tweeted, questioning where Chad Wolf, the head of Homeland Security, was during the protests. “Absolutely unacceptable for him and the entirety of [the Department of Homeland Security] to be completely absent during this domestic terror attack,” she wrote.

Local reaction to last Wednesday’s events was swift. “For hundreds of years, the peaceful transition of power has been a foundation of our country,” Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said. “It doesn’t matter who you voted for — violence like what we are seeing in Washington today should never be accepted in a free society. This is not about politics. This is about safety, freedom and decency. I am lending my voice in support of law enforcement who are keeping everyone safe.”

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks, who represents the 5th Congressional District on the southwest Queen-Nassau bor-

der, spoke to the history of the moment on Twitter. “The world is watching as the greatest democracy braces against an attempted coup.” Referring to President Trump, he continued, the day’s events were “stirred by its leader who’d rather watch the country burn than transition power.”

“Our ability to advocate for democracy around the world,” Meeks said, “will be significantly hurt after this tragic day in America.”

Andrew Garbarino, the newly elected representative from the South Shore’s 2nd District, had only been in Congress four days when the Trump protesters stormed the Capitol. At a little before 4 p.m., he tweeted, “It doesn’t matter which side you support — violence is never the answer. This must stop now.”

He added, “Thank you to the law enforcement at the Capitol for working diligently to keep everyone safe.”

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Coliseum may see concert surge later this year

By **BRIAN STIEGLITZ**

bstieglitz@liherald.com

Nassau Coliseum may see a surge in the number of concerts that it hosts late this year and early next year, according to a report from the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency.

The IDA hired consulting firms Camoin Associates and RMG SportsVentures, which conducted the 13-page report last month to forecast the Coliseum's economic impact once coronavirus pandemic restrictions lift.

The consultants predicted that demand for live music would surge in the fall of 2021, during which Madison Square Garden, the Barclay's Center and other large music venues are booked with acts that had to reschedule during the pandemic. Such high demand could "create a short-term positive" for the Coliseum by drawing in more acts that could not secure a spot at the larger venues, according to the report.

The Coliseum may not see the same success with hockey games, however. The Islanders are expected to start playing games at the Coliseum this month, if the 2020-21 NHL seasons commences. Then, in late 2021, the team will relocate to its new home at the UBS Arena at Belmont Park. The report states, however, that "it is not clear whether there will be in-person attendance, and at what capacity, for games at either location."

The consultants developed the report from a series of interviews conducted in November with executives and officials from the music and sports industries. The report does not take into account other events that the Coliseum offers, such as LI Nets basketball games and family entertainment shows.

All of the consultants' findings depend on the venue's ability to meet certain Covid-19 guidelines, such as proper ventilation, vaccination availability, and rapid testing of employees and talent.

The report also states that the Coliseum is "a second-tier venue" and may have a slower economic recovery



Christina Daly/Herald

NASSAU COLISEUM IS expected to see a spike in concert activity in late 2021 and early 2022, according to a report from the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency.

than the larger venues like MSG and the Barclay's Center. Once the pandemic ends, the consultants predict, it may take another four to six months before the Coliseum is back to normal.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, the Coliseum generated about \$4 million in annual revenue to the county.

In August, the Coliseum's former tenant, Onexim Sports and Entertainment, defaulted on payments and handed control of the arena and the Nassau Hub development to its lender, the U.S. Immigration Fund, which is running the Coliseum under the name Nassau Live.

The deal reached between the two parties recovers \$2.2 million in overdue rent owed to Nassau County by Onexim, which temporarily shuttered the Coliseum two

months before because of the toll the venue took from coronavirus restrictions.

USIF is based out of Jupiter, Fla., and run by Nick Mastroianni II. Although not directly tied to the U.S. government, USIF created a \$100 million loan for the Coliseum renovation, soliciting 200 Chinese investors through a federal program that grants visas for job-creating projects.

Bruce Ratner, owner of Forest City Ratner, sold the Coliseum lease to Onexim in 2015 and developed the financing program. Mastroianni then secured the loan under another company called Nassau Coliseum Funding 100.

Staying home for college amid the pandemic

By **NICOLE ALCINDOR**

nalcindor@liherald.com

When college doors reopened in the fall and fears of spreading the virus were widespread, many Long Island colleges adopted a hybrid model of in-person and online classes and extracurricular activities—which changed the academic and physical dynamic of the college experience for many.

With new social-distancing guidelines also being applied colleges, Long Islanders attending university from home or those living in college dorms experienced many social, emotional and psychological changes and challenges.

With only a few weeks before the spring semester begins, and with the second wave of the pandemic in full effect, many college-aged Long Islanders are faced with the decision to return to their dorms for school or transfer to local schools.

Herald Inside LI hosted a free live Zoom webinar, sponsored by Molloy College, last Thursday to discuss many of the questions that college-aged students and their parents have about staying local for college.

During the webinar, representatives from Molloy College, Adelphi University, Nassau Community College and the New

York Institute of Technology provided insight about how their schools have become more flexible because of the pandemic, including their recent decision to accept students on rolling admissions to accommodate those making last-minute decisions to stay local for the spring semester.

"We went test-optional by eliminating the requirement of applicants having SAT and ACT scores for admissions, and now we are only looking at academic scores," said Marguerite Lane, assistant vice president of enrollment management at Molloy College. "They can send ACT or SAT scores if they want, but Molloy College won't use students' scores for their disadvantage, but only to their advantage, because many students might not have been able to test more than once or take a review course because of the pandemic."

Molloy College will start the spring semester Jan. 20, and students still interested in applying have up to two weeks into the beginning of the semester to apply.

"Most of our students had a good experience in the fall semester at home doing school, and I know they are continuing with that in this upcoming spring semester because our admission numbers for the spring are where we expected," Lane

said. "People have been resilient, and college students, particularly new ones, have adapted well to the hybrid model for events and classes, but we hope to return to a normal college experience in the new year."

Nassau Community College went 90 percent online for the fall semester, and it will continue that way in the spring. For the community college, SAT and ACT scores have always been optional. For the spring semester, NCC has adopted a late start semester to allow students to apply later than usual and start later than usual.

"Even though we have seen an uptick of 22 percent more students taking winter classes, we are under the normal enrollment for spring semester," said Dave Folllick, dean of admissions at Nassau Community College. "We are doing more initiatives to get more people to enroll, but we think a lot of people are not returning because they did not like online school."

In the new year, Nassau Community College will offer in-person sports options and mostly virtual clubs and extracurricular activities.

For Adelphi University, the vice president of enrollment management and university communications, Kristen Capezza, said enrollment has been the same for spring semester; however, she said she

has noticed a shift in students who are participating in clubs, with more students than ever joining virtual clubs.

"People can still remain connected if they want to, and we offer dorms, as well as virtual tours where students interested in applying can provide commentary and receive feedback while getting an online tour," she said. "This past semester, we also saw students who had stellar grades, and then because of the pandemic, we saw a fall in their grade point average. We know that the pandemic affected them, so we just asked those students to share what happened, and we are doing our best to be understanding."

In the same way, Karen Vahey, the dean of admissions and financial aid enrollment management at New York Institute of Technology, said students at her college have been more involved in virtual events.

"Even though I worry about students getting bored with virtual events, [many] more students are getting involved in virtual activities than they ever did before with in-person campus activities," Vahey said. "We pushed back our deadlines for enrollment and waved the standardized testing to get in. We just want to get these students over the finish line, despite the pandemic."

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

Glen Cove residents debut a website for their city

Glen Cove is a city with an impressive history, but as the new Garvies Point development welcomes new residents to the city, a group of local residents felt that it was important to help celebrate what makes Glen Cove special today.

"The 'We Love Glen Cove' website, [www.weloveglen-cove.com] was created to provide Glen Cove residents with short stories and other information about the people, facilities, organizations and businesses that call Glen Cove home," said Reggie Spinello, a former Glen Cove Mayor. "Glen Cove is a special place to live and work and we felt that more people needed to know about that."

The free website also includes information about Glen Cove's history, which dates back almost 250 years before it became a city in 1917. It is one of only two cities on Long Island.

The website celebrates the people, places and things that make Glen Cove the diverse, welcoming and "something for everyone" community it is, from outstanding restaurants, to lovely beaches, to a wide range of facilities and organizations, to the many historical homes that can be found throughout the city.

For Carolyn Willson, whose story appears on the website, moving from Manhasset to Glen Cove in 1967 was about wanting to raise her family in a diverse community where she always felt welcome.

Wilson, who twice served as Glen Cove's deputy mayor, helped to create Glen Cove's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and continues to serve in a number of areas, has watched the city grow, but never change.

History comes alive in Glen Cove, with almost all the "Gold Coast" mansions from the early 1900s still standing, and some being used as recreational, conference



Courtesy www.weloveglen-cove.com

RESIDENTS HAVE TEAMED up to create a website about the City of Glen Cove where people can find information about businesses, organizations, history and the people of Glen Cove.

center, healthcare and educational facilities.

"The people, places and things that make Glen Cove special add a quality of life to our city," said Spinello. "We just wanted to help everyone discover all the good there is in Glen Cove, because, now more than ever, it's important that we focus on what is positive."

North Shore Biz Network increases virtual networking events

During 2020, the North Shore Biz Network hosted a monthly Breakfast Club Zoom meeting and the feedback the business organization received was that the mornings were too difficult. Lunch break and after work hours were asked of the organization to increase networking opportunities. So now, besides the monthly Breakfast Club Zoom meeting, which is the first Tuesday of every month, the organization has added two new Zoom networking meeting options.

The North Shore Biz Network will be having "Spotlight Members" speak for 10 minutes at selected meetings about topics that either will help business or give them an opportunity to talk about their business. Moving forward, "Business of the Month" members are the spotlight members for their designated month.

The Lunch Break Zoom Meeting will be held on Jan. 19 at noon and the "Spotlight Member" speaking is Celeste Gullo of Allstate. Gullo will speak about recommended insurances for business owners.

The After Hours Zoom Meeting is on Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. and the "Spotlight Member" speaking is Gracie Donaldson, the North Shore Biz Network promotion manager. She will be speaking about tips for social media.

For links to the virtual networking opportunities, visit www.northshorebiznetwork.com.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Thursday, Jan. 14

Council of Advisory Teens

Virtual meeting from 7 to 8 p.m. The Council of Advisory Teens is a group of teens who help make decisions about the Locust Valley Library. This year, CATS will focus on a newsletter, podcast and book reviews. Get involved and register for the meeting at www.locustvalley-library.org. Call (516) 671-1837 for more information.

Evening yoga

Virtual session at 7 p.m. Donna Harragan will lead an online, hour long yoga session. Consecutive sessions will be held on Jan. 21 and 28 and Feb. 4, 11 and 25. To register for the yoga class, visit www.glencovelibrary.org.

Friday, Jan. 15

Arthritis seminar

Virtual program at 2 p.m. The Bayville Free Library invites patrons to learn about the risk factors of getting arthritis and what to do if one has it from rheumatologist Dr. Maria Labarca of Northwell Health. Register for the program online at www.bayvillefreelibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 628-2765.

Student loan debt forgiveness

Virtual program at 3 p.m. The National Student Debt Forgiveness program can help people solve their Federal Student Loan debt issues with their free workshops. A consecutive session will be held on Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. Register online at www.glencovelibrary.org. Call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

Saturday, Jan. 16

Online Dancercise

Virtual session from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Start the weekend moving with a Dancercise class with instructor Carol Rodriguez. 10 classes costs \$50 and consecutive sessions will be held Jan. 23 and 30, as well as on Feb. 6 and 13. Checks can be made payable to Locust Valley Library and can be mailed



Courtesy Christina Morillo via Wikimedia Commons

Learn to speak Spanish

Virtual lesson on Jan. 18 at 4:30 p.m. The Locust Valley library is offering a program for adults to learn how to speak, read and write in Spanish. Ten sessions cost \$50. Consecutive sessions will be held Jan. 25 and throughout February and March. For more information, visit www.locustvalleylibrary.org or call (516) 671-1837.

to the library at 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley, N.Y. 11560 (to the attention of Michael Vinas). Include a cell phone number on the check. For more information, visit www.locustvalleylibrary.org or call (516) 671-1837.

Indoor winter market

Village Square, 100 Village Square at Bridge Street, Glen Cove. Farmers market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Sea Cliff/Glen Cove Winter Market offers a selection of locally grown vegetables, eggs, along with fresh baked bread, sweets, honey and other goods. Most products grown or produced by Long Islands. For more information, call (516) 318-5487.

'Snowflake Snackin' Bowl'

Virtual program at 3 p.m. For children in grades kindergarten through fifth

grade, the Gold Coast Public Library is offering a kit that includes all the supplies needed to create a snowflake themed bowl that is perfect for snacking. The kit will include an instructional video. Call (516) 759-8300 for more information.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

Sea Cliff Zoning Board of Appeals

Virtual program at 11 a.m. Stay updated with the Zoning Board of Appeals in Sea Cliff. To join the webinar, visit www.seacliff-ny.gov. For more information, call (516) 671-0080.

Volunteers for Wildlife program

Virtual program on Jan. 19 from 4 to 4:45 p.m. In a program from the Locust Valley Library, children are invited to

join Volunteers for Wildlife to learn about different classes of animals and their characteristics. Register for this event by Jan. 15 at 9 a.m. To register, visit www.locustvalleylibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 671-1837.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Brain aerobics

Virtual program at 11 a.m. In a virtual event from the Glen Cove Public Library, join Victoria Lanza for brain aerobics. This class builds strength and increases memory skills. Lanza will explore the power of positive thinking, nutrition for the brain and many other useful tools. To register for the program, visit www.glencovelibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 676-2130.

Virtual children's yoga

Virtual program from 4 to 4:30 p.m. Children from ages 4 to 8 are invited for a yoga series with the Locust Valley Library. Children will learn breath work, new postures and they will have fun. Once registered for one program, children are registered for all. Consecutive sessions will be held Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 at 4 p.m. To register, visit www.locustvalleylibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 671-1837.

Virtual health workshop

Virtual program at 7 p.m. In a presentation from the Glen Cove Public Library, Dr. Belinda C. Basaca will give tips on how to take care of the body and skin during the winter months and how to stay healthy. To register for the program, visit www.glencovelibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 676-2130.

Thursday, Jan. 20

Learn to be a spy

For grades kindergarten through second grade. Children can go undercover and learn how to write in secret letter and invisible ink, puzzle out spy decoders and make a mask. For more information, visit www.goldcoastpubliclibrary.org or call (516) 759-8300.

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 Senior Center to strictly hold online programs until new reopening date.
- GCCSD pre-K and kindergarten registration began Jan. 6.
- Sea Cliff Architectural Review Board meeting to be held Jan. 25.
- Covid-19 cases reported in North Shore CSD. Call (516) 277-7800 for information.
- Town of Oyster Bay to accept applications for 9/11 Walls of Honor.

Businesses find they need to think outside the box ¹¹

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

better.”

The summertime had picked up business for Funk as people began doing home projects or were thinking of doing a project. There were a lot of estimates, Funk said, but inquiries began dropping in December. The beginning of the year is already a tough time for the field, he added.

“It’s been a little quiet the past couple weeks. I think a lot of that has to do with the new wave and everything with the country,” Funk said. “People are unnerved at how bad the virus is starting to get.”

Now is a good time to start planning home renovations on kitchen and bathrooms, however, Funk said, as the industry is seeing supply shortages. “It’s taking a lot longer to get fixtures, vanities, tiles,” he said. “Things are just taking longer from an import perspective. Places start to shut down and a lot of this stuff comes from California.”

Beginning to plan a project now can mean having a new kitchen or bathroom by the summer, Funk said.

“There were hard, quick lessons that we learned in 2020,” Holman said, adding that she was proud of the local businesses who have innovated, worked and collaborated their way through the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We’re all in this together,” Valensisi said. “We help each other. [Joe Zozzaro from Downtown Café] helps a lot. He does a lot of Restaurant Depot runs and if I’m out of supplies he always gets in touch. He’s a big help, so is Jeanine down at The View. We all try to help each other. All my neighbors here.”

“Patricia at the BID really did a lot over the summer and the fall to get people to come down to Downtown Glen Cove,” Funk added.

In this city, Valensisi said, everyone should help



Jennifer Corr/Herald

STEFANIA LISENA, LEFT, Stephen Valensisi, Joe Valensisi and Sal Mangano, of Henry’s Confectionary, sanitize the restaurant multiple times a day and serve customers at eight of its 12 tables in order to enhance social distancing. Delivery is done through DoorDash.

each other out. And supporting local businesses is one way to do that.

For more information about local businesses, visit the Glen Cove Downtown BID website at www.glencove-downtown.org.

www.downtown.org, the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce website at www.glencovechamber.org and the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at www.nshchamber.org.



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Sept. 11 heroes more susceptible to Covid-19

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

around people’s cars and listened to the radio to find out what was going on.”

Eventually the firefighters piled onto MTA buses, which took them to the World Trade Center, which had been reduced to rubble. “There were just people wandering around in various states,” Fuchs said. “We didn’t see a lot of dead bodies. It was just waist-deep [rubble]. It almost seemed like you were walking through snow, but it was finely ground dust. There were no respiratory protections, and basically they had us check a couple of buildings.”

Four days later, he was assigned to the Second Battalion and First Division in Lower Manhattan, where he remained for five years before going back to Queens. He was promoted to lieutenant, and for the month of December 2001, he was part of a cleanup detail, and searched through the rubble for human remains, often on his knees.

Fuchs had been a firefighter for 16 years at the time — his father was a firefighter as well — but he never expected to be doing that kind of work. “This is not what I signed up for,” he said.

After a month at ground zero, he came down with pneumonia and bronchitis. “I was really sick for about a month,” he said. “I came back and started developing all the usual 9/11 respiratory problems. I have GERD” — gastroesophageal reflux disease. “I have sleep apnea. You can’t be exposed to that kind of stuff and not be affected by it.”

Dr. Michael Crane, who directs the World Trade Center Health Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in Manhattan, estimated in a 2019 story in People magazine that about 40,000 people had conditions linked to 9/11, and that 50 to 80 new cancers associated with 9/11 toxins are certified each month.

Covid’s toll on 9/11 workers

The coronavirus pandemic has claimed more than 39,000 lives in New York state — and more than 100 post-9/11 clients of the law firm Barasch & McGarry. Covid-19 ultimately impacted the survivors’ 9/11-related illnesses, said firm partner Sara Director, of Locust Valley, who was studying at New York Law School in Lower Manhattan when the attacks took place.

“The 9/11 community is rightfully concerned about the pandemic, given that they have weakened immune systems, respiratory illnesses and are treating cancer,” Director said. “They’re part of the vulnerable community.”

Fuchs said that he has taken the virus very seriously, avoiding going on trips or eating at restaurants, and socially distancing. Masks, he said, shouldn’t be a political statement. “I don’t like wearing masks, but you have to wear a mask,” he said. “I’m concerned for myself and my family, and I want to get through this, safely.”

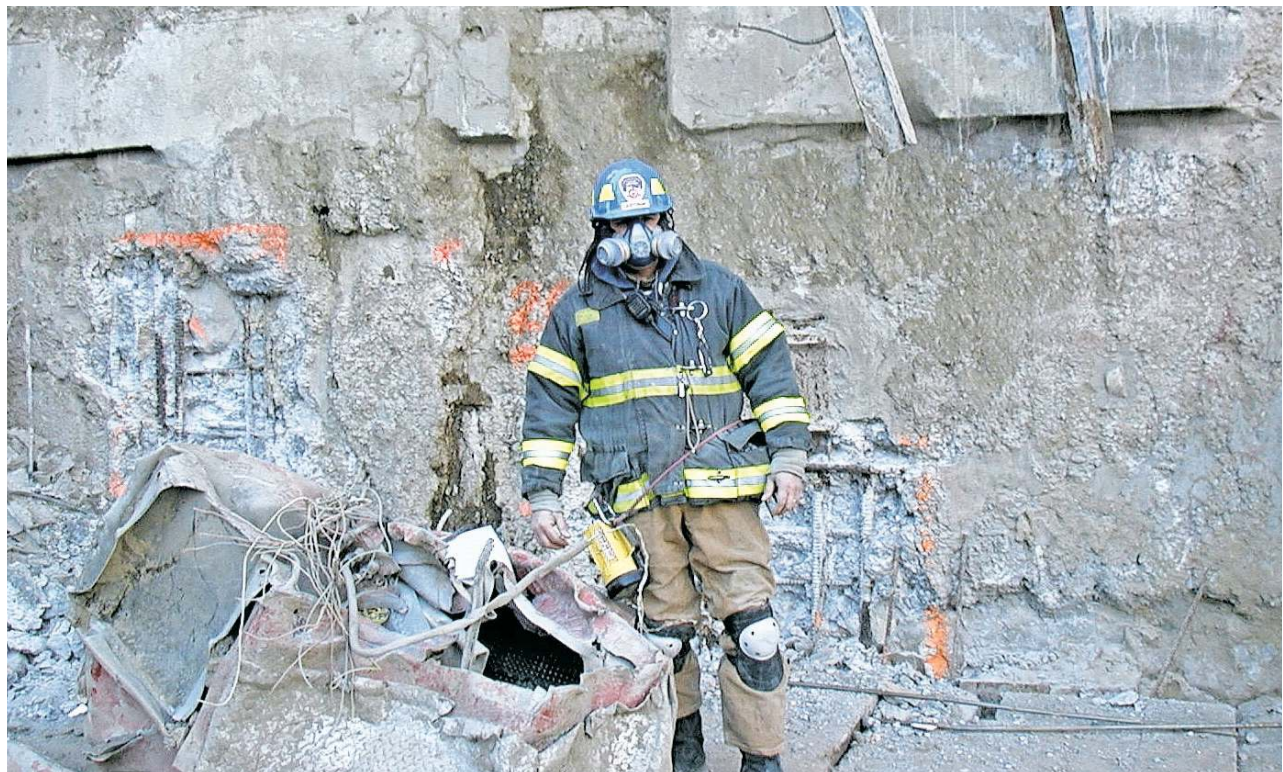
It is a scary prospect, Director said, that someone’s lack of “due diligence” could cause someone else to contract Covid-19 and suffer the severe consequences that can come with it.

“We urge everyone to follow the guidelines,” she said. “You don’t know if the person you’re sitting next to or near on



Courtesy Frederick N. Fuchs

FIREFIGHTER FRED FUCHS, far right, with his crew at the World Trade Center site in December 2001.



FUCHS SPENT THE month of December 2001 searching the rubble at ground zero.

the subway or bus is a 9/11 survivor or first responder. You don’t know if your child’s teacher was a volunteer firefighter back in 2001, or suffers from 9/11 asthma now. You don’t know if the person you’re getting coffee from lived in Lower Manhattan on 9/11, and had suffered from a 9/11 cancer and is in remission now.”

Compensation and health care is available for 9/11 first responders, office workers, nearby residents and students, among others, who were in Lower Manhattan between Sept. 11, 2001 and May 30, 2002, through the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and the World Trade Center Health program. To learn more or to request a consultation, go to www.post-911attorneys.com.

Sept. 11 survivors and Covid-19

The numbers below are a sample of cases through Jan. 1, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s World Trade Center Health Program Clinical Centers of Excellence and Nationwide Provider Network.

	Responder	Survivor	Total
Confirmed Covid-19 cases	2,239	357	2,596
Covid hospitalizations	216	52	268
Covid deaths	33	24	57

Courtesy the WTC Health Program Clinical Centers of Excellence and Nationwide Provider Network, programs of the Center for Disease Control.

HERALD SCHOOLS



Christina Daly/Herald

RAYNHAM HALL MUSEUM is a historic house and museum in Oyster Bay that interprets the life and times of the Townsend family during the Revolutionary War.

Students take virtual field trip to Raynham Hall Museum

Fourth grade students at Connolly Elementary School in the Glen Cove City School District recently engaged in a virtual field trip to Raynham Hall.

Raynham Hall Museum is a historic house and museum in Oyster Bay that interprets the life and times of the Townsend family during the Revolutionary War. Students viewed colonial rooms and learned about Samuel Townsend, a shipping merchant, and how he aided in planning the American Revolution.

Students also received a virtual tour of the house property and discussed historical figures. Students learned how Oyster Bay was occupied by several British regiments over the course of the war and how

the British spy John André stayed at the house in 1779, a year before he was captured and executed for his part in the Benedict Arnold treason plot.

Museum volunteers guided students through several topics about community life such as agriculture, trans-Atlantic shipping, commerce and the newly discovered true story of Liss, an enslaved teenage girl who escaped with the British in hopes of becoming free.

The Glen Cove City School District encourages educating students about history early in their education to help students understand how society can change and develop over time and how people can learn from mistakes.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day to go virtual this year

Due to social distancing concerns amid the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's 37th annual commemorative program in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that is presented by the City of Glen Cove and the Glen Cove City School District will be virtual this year.

The traditional symbolic march from the First Baptist Church in Glen Cove to the Finley Middle School prior to the formal program will not be held because of social distancing concerns either. The program will instead be



Courtesy the Nobel Foundation via Wikimedia Commons

MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. Day on is observed every year on his birthday, Jan. 18.

presented virtually. The City of Glen Cove/Glen Cove City School District Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commission has prepared an abbreviated program that will be inspiring, educational and entertaining. The program will include songs, spoken word, dance and words of reflection.

The virtual program, which is called "His Truth Will be Marching On," will be held on Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. The ZOOM ID is 874 4194 4850. The Password is 039090.



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HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Glen Cove Board of Zoning Appeals on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the public will only have virtual access to the meeting through the use of Microsoft TEAMS application, a platform which will enable residents to watch a livestream of the meeting on the platform or to call in and listen to the meeting in compliance with the Executive Order 202.1, as subsequently extended. A link to the hearing will also be posted the Glen Cove website (www.glencove-li.us) in advance of the hearing which can be accessed from the homepage by clicking the link labeled "Online Meetings" and then following the instructions thereafter, or by accessing the Board of Zoning Appeals page under the tab "Boards, Commissions and Agencies." If you have any questions about accessing this hearing, please contact Rosa Rizzo, the secretary for the Board of Zoning Appeals, at rrizzo@glencoveny.gov. Please note that although all interested persons will be given an opportunity to speak, all microphones will be muted until such time as the particular individual is authorized to speak. Anyone wishing to comment on the application, but who cannot join the Microsoft Teams meeting, can submit comments to Rosa Rizzo in advance of the hearing. Public comments received prior to the commencement of the public hearing will be made part of the public record.

CASE # 1-2021 - The Applicant is requesting variances from Section(s) 280-30, 280-58 (1)(10)(4)(5) of the Glen Cove Zoning Code to maintain a 35 SF barbecue area and wood arbor with less than the required lot area, lot coverage, front yard and side yard setback. Property has an existing lot area of 5,000 sf when 6,500 sf is the minimum permitted. Applicant is proposing lot coverage of 29.8% when the maximum coverage permitted is 20%; proposing 63.2 ft from the front property line when the minimum distance required is 65ft and proposing 2.10' ft side yard setback when 3 ft is the minimum required. The property is located at 18 Roosevelt St. Glen Cove, N.Y., designated as Section 31, Block 14, Lot(s) 177, 178 located in the City's R-3A Single Family Residence District.

CASE # 2-2021 - The Applicant is requesting variances from Section(s) 280-30 and 280-58 A (5)(10) & (12) of the Glen Cove Zoning Code to permit a Second Story Rear Addition on a non-conforming lot. The construction will result in a rear yard setback of 15.25 ft where 30 ft is the minimum required and lot coverage of 22.82% where a maximum of 20% is

permitted. Applicant has an existing floor area ratio (F.A.R.) of 2,185.35 sf (28.89%) and is proposing 2,452 sf (32.41%) when 2,269sf (30%) F.A.R. is the maximum permitted. The property is located at 2A Maryland Avenue Glen Cove, N.Y., designated as Section 31, Block E, Lot 346 and located in the City's R-3A Single Family Residence District

Dated:
January 8, 2021
BY ORDER OF THE
BOARD OF ZONING
APPEALS OF THE CITY OF
GLEN
COVETERI MOSCHETTA,
CHAIRPERSON
124406

To Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING

CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF GLEN COVE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Glen Cove shall conduct a public hearing on January 26, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the City of Glen Cove City Hall located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York to afford citizens of the City of Glen Cove and all interested parties an opportunity to be heard concerning a proposed amendment to the Cable Franchise Agreement between the City of Glen Cove and Verizon New York Inc. The proposed Amendment to the Franchise Agreement provides for an expanded definition of the term "Franchise Area" to incorporate the entire territorial limits of the City.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the public will only have virtual access to the meeting, pursuant to NYS Executive Order 202.1, and subsequent orders thereafter. The hearing may be accessed by following www.zoom.us/join and entering webinar ID number 813 2510 2196 and passcode number 144429. The hearing may also be accessed through

a computer link located on the home page of the Glen Cove web site (www.glencove-li.us/citycouncilstream/), which link will be posted on the web site in advance of the meeting. Anyone wishing to provide public comment can submit comments to svulin@glencoveny.gov in advance of the hearing. Public comments received prior to the commencement of the public hearing will be made part of the public record. In addition, live public comment may be received during the duration of the meeting by telephone, by dialing (929) 205-6099 and entering webinar ID number 813 2510 2196 and passcode number 144429. Please note that although all interested persons who dial in will be given an opportunity to speak, all telephones will be muted until such time as the particular individual is authorized to speak. The proposed amendment may be viewed at <http://www.glencove-li.us/city-council-documents/>. If you are unable to access the document, please contact Shannon Vulin via email at svulin@glencoveny.gov. A copy of the proposed amendment is also available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office and may be viewed by appointment during normal business hours, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. The amendment, if approved by the City, may not take effect without the prior approval of the New York State Public Service Commission. All interested persons will have the opportunity to be heard during the Public Hearing. 124407

permitted. Applicant has an existing floor area ratio (F.A.R.) of 2,185.35 sf (28.89%) and is proposing 2,452 sf (32.41%) when 2,269sf (30%) F.A.R. is the maximum permitted. The property is located at 2A Maryland Avenue Glen Cove, N.Y., designated as Section 31, Block E, Lot 346 and located in the City's R-3A Single Family Residence District

Dated:
January 8, 2021
BY ORDER OF THE
BOARD OF ZONING
APPEALS OF THE CITY OF
GLEN
COVETERI MOSCHETTA,
CHAIRPERSON
124406

To Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING

CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF GLEN COVE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Glen Cove shall conduct a public hearing on January 26, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the City of Glen Cove City Hall located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York to afford citizens of the City of Glen Cove and all interested parties an opportunity to be heard concerning a proposed amendment to the Cable Franchise Agreement between the City of Glen Cove and Verizon New York Inc. The proposed Amendment to the Franchise Agreement provides for an expanded definition of the term "Franchise Area" to incorporate the entire territorial limits of the City.

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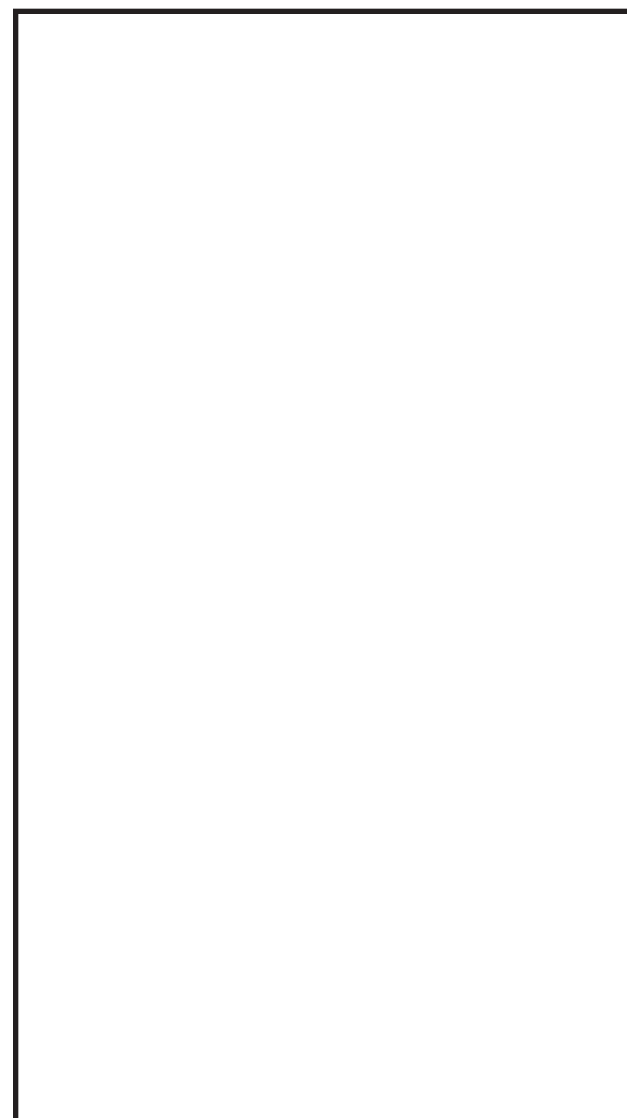
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GLEN COVE HERALD

Established 1991
Incorporating
Gold Coast Gazette

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Twitter: @NSHeraldGazette

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HERALD

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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Publishers, 1964-1987

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Published by

Richner Communications, Inc.

2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 569-4000

HERALD EDITORIALS

Please, get vaccinated when it's your turn

On Monday, New York entered Phase 1b of the state's Covid-19 vaccination program, meaning first responders, public safety and transit workers and anyone 75 or older can now get the vaccine. Phase 1a started in mid-December, with vaccinations first offered to health care workers and long-term care facility residents.

By all measures, the vaccines are safe and effective. If you can sign up, you should seriously consider doing so. Getting the vaccine is a personal decision. No one can be forced to receive it. If we want to beat this virus, however, the vaccine is the way to do it.

In Nassau County, we clearly need more vaccination sites, working around the clock, to get this job done.

Social distancing and mask wearing are critical, but these measures were never intended to defeat the virus, only to slow

its progression until a vaccine could be developed and administered.

Even after we have reached "herd immunity," when 60 to 70 percent of the population has been vaccinated, we will likely have to continue preventive measures for some time to ensure that we are doing all we can to eradicate this viral invader.

Last week, Nassau's Covid-19 test positivity rate hovered around 5 percent — among the lowest in the country. Only three states — Alaska, Hawaii and Vermont — and the District of Columbia reported positivity rates below that. We must continue working to drive the rate down, remembering that it was less than 1 percent just over three months ago.

New York state's positivity rate last week was 7.9 percent, which was good compared with many other states — only 12 had lower rates. Still, it wasn't good to see New York's rate rising. Only a month ago,

the state had the fourth-lowest positivity rate in the country.

In New York, and particularly downstate, we have suffered more than many other parts of the country, in large part because of our population density — the coronavirus breeds among people who are in close proximity to one another.

When you're wearing a mask in public, don't let it drop down below your nose. The mask does little to no good if your nose is exposed. When you're in line anywhere, respect social-distancing protocols. Stand six feet apart.

We know, people are tired of hearing this again and again. It's been 10 months since the coronavirus broke out in New York. We have to say it, though. If we can't keep the positivity rate down, then the alternative is another shutdown, which no one wants.

It's high time truth prevails once again

Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Germany's short, mercurial, ruthless propaganda minister, was known to many as the "poison dwarf." By all accounts, he was insanely obsessive and manipulative, practicing the dark art of disinformation distribution like no one else.

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it," Goebbels was quoted as saying, according to the Holocaust Research Project.

We have been told any number of big lies — again and again — in recent years. The biggest, undoubtedly, was the one perpetuated by President Trump that he won November's election. He did not. Joe Biden won — by a lot — as affirmed by our

courts, our state legislatures and now Congress.

Last week, however, that lie cost five people their lives, after Trump riled up an angry mob of insurrectionists with fiery rhetoric and they stormed the Capitol, smashing through doors, stealing government property and pushing, shoving and striking members of the understaffed and overwhelmed Capitol Police force.

During and after the melee, conservative news pundits and Republican lawmakers baselessly — and falsely — claimed that members of the left-wing, anti-fascist group Antifa were responsible for the riotous behavior of the loosely affiliated mass of Trump supporters, white supremacists and conspiracy theorists. That lie was

amplified by hundreds of thousands of retweets.

Last Wednesday, many have said, was a day of reckoning for Trump, and he now must own up to what he has done: peddled lies for political gain. It should also, though, serve as a day of reckoning for all of us — an inflection point when we decide, once and for all, to disown the disinformation campaigners and restore normalcy to our media stream.

Truth, based on knowable facts, must be our hallmark. It is a tough ideal to live up to, for sure, but we must do better than we have in recent years. The alternative, as we saw last week, is to descend into chaos and demagoguery, and we know how that turned out for Germany.

LETTERS

Hasn't Trump done enough damage?

To the Editor:

In my six decades of being a U.S. citizen, never have I been more ashamed than after the events that occurred on Jan. 6. Just as we are anticipating good things for 2021 — Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in the White House; vaccines to eradicate, or lessen, the effects of Covid-19; the end of social distancing, working remotely and mask wearing; being able to hug family members who don't live in the same household; sharing birthdays and holidays and any days with our friends and family — Trump trumps it all!

It's obvious he wanted to go out with a bang. But to incite a riot? He couldn't have left bad enough alone? Hundreds of children separated from their parents at the border, still possibly never to be reunited? Downplaying the danger of Covid-19, even when he and his family members



OPINIONS

New leaders are the suburbs' best shot at health equity

Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, will bring much-needed change in our country. President-elect Joe Biden has made controlling the coronavirus pandemic a priority, and for the first time, the incoming administration will have a presidential adviser who will focus solely on health equity and pandemic-related racial health disparities.



**MARTINE
HACKETT**

Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, a Yale physician and researcher, will lead a new White House task force that will focus on equitable access to testing, treatments and vaccines, particularly in communities hardest hit by Covid-19.

This national strategy promises

to give the appropriate attention to the longstanding issue of health inequity that existed long before the pandemic began. An effective approach will need to be adjusted based on place, because where you live plays a role in your health. More than half of Americans live in suburbs, and health equity will look different here.

Even with the political influence that suburban voters had in recent elections, there has been little attention paid to understanding the significant role that suburban spaces have on the health of their residents.

On Long Island and across the country,

Black and Latino residents have disproportionately been infected by and died from the coronavirus. The reasons for their increased risk include working in “essential” in-person jobs, taking public transportation, living in more crowded housing, and lacking access to quality health care and respectful treatment.

Though the task force’s immediate focus will be targeting medical resources and vaccines to vulnerable communities, members will also tackle the underlying social and economic inequalities that put them at risk in the first place.

Nunez-Smith said that “what’s needed to ensure equity in the recovery is not limited to health and health care. We have to have conversations about housing stability and food security and educational equity, and pathways to economic oppor-

tunities and promise.”

This comprehensive health equity approach needs to be understood in suburban regions like Long Island. Though we saw an outpouring of response to food insecurity in our communities as hundreds of distribution sites were set up,

many of our fellow suburbanites used these services for the first time.

The need for healthy and affordable food will persist when the pandemic has passed. Housing stability in the suburbs requires shifting from traditional single-family homes to multifamily housing and overcoming community resistance to supportive housing. Zoning changes will be required. At the same time, educational equity on Long Island is a fundamental suburban challenge as residential segregation and local control has restricted the quality of schools.

Even something as basic as having local data publicly available to quantify health disparities so actions can be targeted is often missing in the suburbs. Nowhere on Nassau County’s daily “Covid-19 by the Numbers” tracker, for

example, is there a count of coronavirus cases, hospitalizations or deaths segmented by race and ethnicity. We cannot address what we do not see.

Creating health equity in the suburbs will require a shift in how we approach what it means to be healthy. We cannot use the same approach and expect different results. The pandemic may have provided the push we need. Consider that the approved Covid-19 vaccines are based on a new approach to protecting against infectious diseases. Instead of putting an inactive germ in our bodies to trigger an immune response, mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that produces antibodies to protect us from infection. This approach has been around for decades, but it took a crisis to push it into reality.

The incoming Biden administration’s stated commitment to combating health care injustice during and after the pandemic is an opportunity for the suburbs to shift our approach to finally attain health equity.

Dr. Martine Hackett is an associate professor in the Master of Public Health and Community Health Programs at Hofstra University.

A new task force will focus on equitable access to treatment.

LETTERS

finally got the disease? Perhaps if “the people” he represents got the same VIP treatment and the same medicinal cocktail he received, then we could *all* say it’s nothing. But the staggering number of deaths in the U.S. indicates otherwise.

Last Wednesday, as the chaos unfolded, Trump’s hoards of followers were rampaging through the Capitol, trying to stop his chosen vice president, Mike Pence, from doing his job, and the members of Congress from doing theirs. Seeing photos of them cowering under chairs sadly reminded me of the awful images we have seen or heard about too many times in our country, of schoolchildren, religious worshippers and others being in that same unfortunate situation. Some were lucky enough to be led out of harm’s way, but too many were not.

We have seen so much ugliness in our country thanks to this “leadership.” I would be fired from my job if I ever referred to a colleague as “Pocahontas.” Yes, racial tensions have been around for a while, but they have escalated under Trump’s watch: BLM, anti-Semitism (yes, one of the rioters was wearing a “Camp Auschwitz” T-shirt). I could go on and on, but why? Until the powers that be open their eyes, I fear that things like this may just be allowed to happen, as they have been for the past four years.

Now we are hearing about the rioters being arrested and eventually prosecuted to the “full extent of the law.” The followers are already being pursued, but

what about the instigator? Why is the president still the president?

SUSAN WALD
North Bellmore

Taxpayers and commuters deserve accountability

To the Editor:

There is more to State Sen. Todd Kaminsky’s call to speed up repairs to the East River railroad tunnels. U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer said in June 2016 that the Federal Transit Administration provided \$432 million in Superstorm Sandy funding to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for repairs to the East River Tunnel. Almost five years later, there is no evidence that any of the funds have been used for their original intended purpose.

The MTA and LIRR have yet to complete negotiations with Amtrak to start this work. Are there any other FTA grant-funded capital projects still not under contract, behind schedule, over budget or with excessive change orders to base contracts?

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, Senators Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, MTA board members and other elected officials, including Kaminsky, and transit advocates need to look at how the billions of dollars in previously approved federal funds are being spent before complaining about future

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



He had the pier to himself — Oyster Bay

levels of Washington financial assistance being insufficient. Taxpayers and commuters deserve accountability.

LARRY PENNER
Great Neck

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

OPINIONS

A day of reckoning after four frightful years

I spent last Wednesday afternoon scurrying up and down the stairs at home, rushing between my desk upstairs and the TV downstairs. I flipped between CNN, MSNBC and Fox, my pulse, as measured by my watch, racing faster as the afternoon went on.

I was reporting on the insurrection at the Capitol for *liherald.com*, shooting emails to editors and reporters, talking with them on the phone and typing as fast as my fingers could move.

By 4:30, we had published a story in which U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi recounted the horrifying details of the Capitol takeover by a violent mob. He had escaped

unscathed, but he was clearly shaken.

The afternoon was the ignominious end to the Trump presidency, a final, inglorious melee that concluded with five people, including one Capitol Police officer, dead. President Trump, Donald Trump Jr., Rudy Giuliani and Rep. Mo Brooks spoke at a rally that preceded the Capitol takeover, stoking anger. And so, only days before Trump will leave office, he is, it appears, once again under investigation.

Karl Racine, the attorney general for Washington, D.C., told ABC News Friday that his office would examine the president's

alleged role in inciting the violence. "Clearly, the Capitol was ground central in the mob's behavior," Racine told "Good Morning America." "Donald Trump Jr., Rudy Giuliani, even the president were calling on supporters and hate groups to go to the Capitol, and in Rudy's words, 'exercise combat justice.' We're going to investigate not only the mob, but those who incited the violence."

It was all unfathomably shocking, but unsurprising, given the angry messaging that Trump had telegraphed ever since he ran for president in 2015. Since Wednesday, officials and pundits, both Democrats and Republicans, have spoken out, calling the president a clear and present danger to the American people. Trump is, and has been, a destabilizing force, continually acting to divide rather than unify, they correctly noted.

What we often lose amid Trump's rapid-fire tweets and fire-and-brimstone rally speeches, though, is the direct effect of his policies on the American people, in particular his dismantling of many environmental regulations enacted over decades to protect our health and our world.

Before the insurrection, I had intended to write this week on all that President-elect Joe Biden must do to clean up Trump's disastrous environmental policies, beginning with rejoining the Paris Agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions, which the

U.S. adopted in December 2015, President Obama signed in August 2016 — and Trump withdrew from in June 2017. The accord was signed by 196 nations before the U.S. pulled out. To date, the U.S. has been the only country to withdraw.

It might seem incongruous to write about

Trump's environmental policy on a week when insurrectionists, egged on by the president, stormed the Capitol. It might, but it's not.

Both are directly related to the well-being of the American people. The invasion of the Capitol desecrated one of our most sacred government institutions and posed a direct threat to our democracy. Loosening environmental regulations while defiling our sacred lands — our national forests and parks — poses a direct threat to the planet.

Humans — and all life forms, for that matter — require clean air and water. That was of little consequence to the Trump administration, however. According to the World Resources Institute, a Washington-based environmental think tank, Trump, nearly from the start of his presidency, targeted the Obama-era Clean Power Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Under Trump, the Environmental Protection Agency repealed the plan — which, according to an EPA internal analysis, could result in 1,400 premature deaths because of air pollution and \$30 billion in

health damages, with the worst effects in the industrial Midwest.

Imagine that: The federal agency vested with protecting our environment and our health actually rolled back a policy that would help protect our planet and save lives. Let that sink in.

That was Trump's macro approach to our environment — a wholesale reduction in sound standards — but he also took a micro approach. He blocked a U.S. Department of Energy policy, established under the Bush administration in 2007, to phase out energy-inefficient light bulbs. The rollback, according to WRI, is expected to cost the average American household an extra \$100 a year, and in the aggregate, families and businesses will spend an additional \$12 billion a year.

Imagine that: The federal agency charged with improving energy efficiency actually rolled back a policy aimed at doing just that.

Why? The only answer is greed. Such rollbacks, of which there were dozens more under Trump, benefited not the American people, but the president's corporate cronies. Yes, we must pay very close attention to the dangers before us in the here and now, but we also must address the slow-burning fires that Trump quietly set while distracting us with his Twitter tirades.

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.



SCOTT BRINTON



RANDI KREISS

ed, "TRUMP INCITES MOB." The San Francisco Chronicle went with one word, "INSURRECTION," and The Guardian, in England, wrote, "ANARCHY IN THE USA." Even though I saw the mob storming the Capitol in real time on television, I still could not fully absorb the impact of what was happening. Trump followers were incited by the president of the United States to loot and damage the Capitol building because inside, a fully legitimate election

was about to be formally signed and sealed.

The raging violence of the mob was shocking, even though, in hindsight, it was inevitable. The president has been stoking this fire for years. But "anarchy" in the USA? Photos flashing around the world of crazed vandals desecrating our cherished monuments, breaking through windows to ransack the speaker's desk? It looked like a Halloween melee gone berserk, complete with weird hats and freaky masks. One man wore a T-shirt that read "Camp Auschwitz." They were clownish and rabid, rather than organized in any way. They got lucky, because law enforcement agencies weren't organized, either; and so the mob raged for way too long, before the cavalry arrived.

These people are Trump's posse. He owns them; he owns the events of Jan. 6. And I sure hope we do more as a society than take away his freaking Twitter account. No one knows what will happen in the coming days, but in order to set the country right, every one of the thugs in the Capitol building that day, and every single one of the enablers and inciters, up to and including Trump himself, have to be held accountable for their parts in the riot. Otherwise, what has been undone,

what the mob did to destabilize our government, can never be reconciled. It won't do to wipe off the fingerprints and pick up the broken pieces. How can we feel good about ourselves as a country until the violators are brought to justice?

We Americans have always known our story. It is part of our national narrative. It goes like this: We are winners. We are optimists. We have a can-do attitude that allows us to face down our enemies and conquer any challenge that life presents. We invent things, fix things and help others. We are smart as hell, and we don't come in second.

Slowly, that narrative has unraveled. It didn't happen last week when the Trumpers stormed the Capitol; it has been happening since Trump took office. Our pride and position have been diminished, and our reputation has been sullied. Serendipity played a part as well, with a worldwide pandemic landing on our doorstep, crushing us into small, isolated spaces.

So, the new narrative is: In a creepy confluence of circumstances, a charismatic but fatally flawed leader rose to power in America at the same time that millions of people

were drifting, feeling disenfranchised as the rich got richer and more powerful. A match was struck in the weeds of this discontent, and the conflagration began. It is still consuming our nation. Witness the events of Jan. 6.

We have become reactive rather than proactive. Our leaders have had a failure of imagination. Rather than foreseeing and avoiding problems, we're in the business of doing patches and fixes and cleanups. Wasn't anyone reading Trump's tweets when he was urging followers to come to Washington? Couldn't anyone in the National Guard or the Capitol Police possibly have foreseen the danger ahead?

We begin to reclaim our dignity by finding and arresting the people who ran amok last week. We begin by giving our new president and his people a chance to do the right things. People can disagree. They can raise their voices loud and long and vote their hearts and minds, but they cannot break windows in the people's house or plant pipe bombs around the capital of the United States.

Something has permanently shifted in our collective consciousness. Something unthinkable is possible that was not possible before: TRUMP INCITES MOB.

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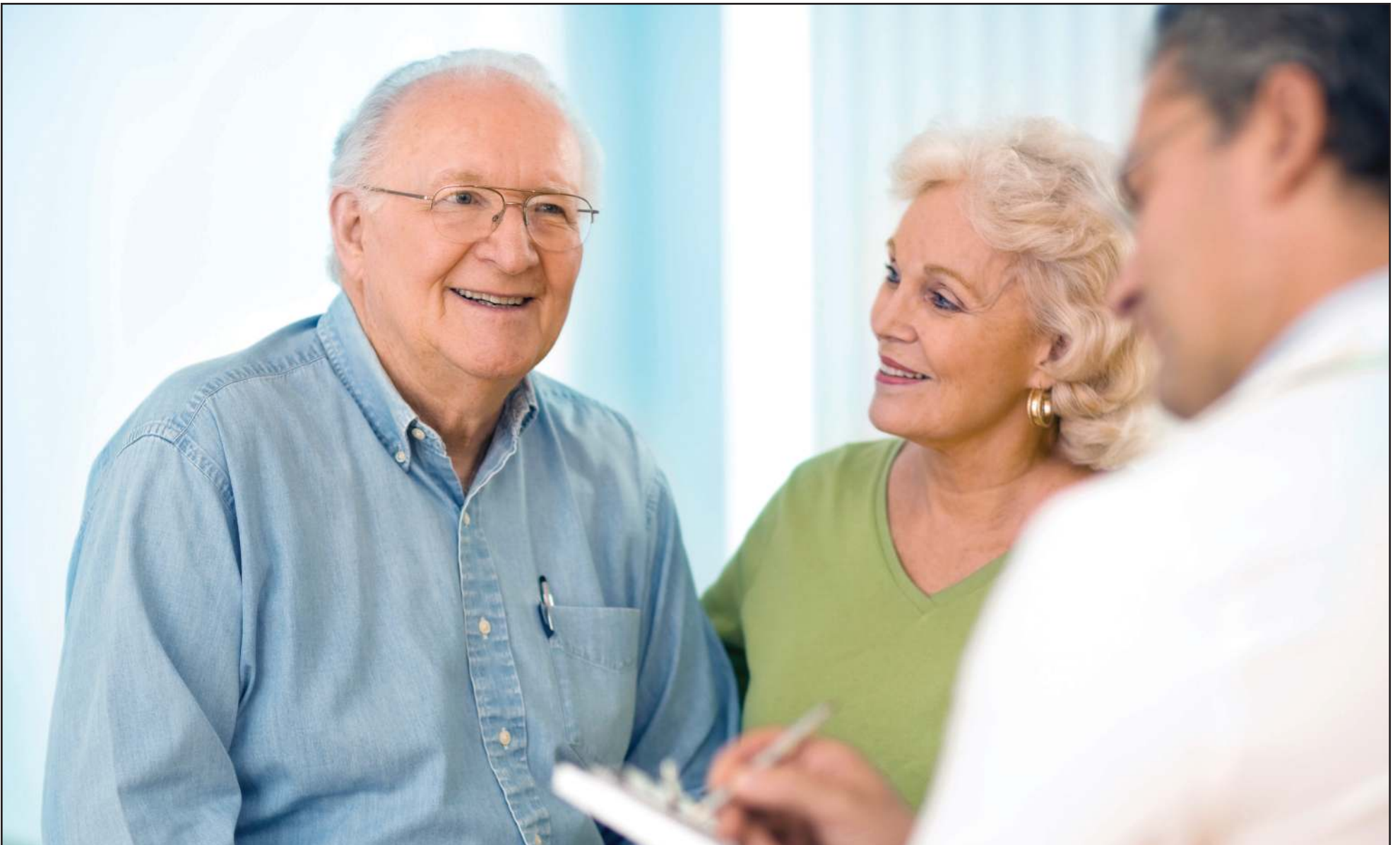
When it comes to Trump, newspapers go BIG

I have seen my share of heart-stopping headlines. In *The New York Times*, I read "MEN WALK ON MOON," "NIXON RESIGNS," "U.S. ATTACKED" and the one-word, stand-alone headline from Nov. 5, 2008: "OBAMA." These bold, 96-point

headlines are saved for momentous, ground-shifting news. One editor famously said that if a headline writer wanted to go bigger than 96 point, it better read, "THE SECOND COMING."

Last week, the day after armed Trump supporters stormed and invaded the Capitol building, the *Times* blast-

And I sure hope we do more than take away his Twitter account.



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