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COMMUNITY UPDATE
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 Infections as of March 29
3,694

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Higher Education
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Connolly students make their mark
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\$1.00 VOL. 30 NO. 15

APRIL 8-14, 2021

Senior Center prepares to reopen to members

By **JILL NOSSA**
jnossa@liherald.com

Local seniors will once again have a place to socialize with the anticipated reopening of the Glen Cove Senior Center on Monday. After a challenging year, the facility will welcome members on a limited basis.

The center initially reopened last October, but in mid-December, with Covid-19 case numbers rising and a holiday surge expected, Nassau County ordered it to close to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. It finally got the go-ahead to move forward with reopening late last month, and the staff has been busy contacting members and preparing the building. Because coronavirus protocols had been put in place for the October reopening, Executive Director Christine Rice said she expects this one to go smoothly.

“We did it successfully before,” she said, “and I think

We did it successfully before, and I think that we can do it again.

CHRISTINE RICE
 Executive director, Glen Cove Senior Center

that we can do it again.”

The center will reopen at 40 percent capacity, which means that as many as 96 people can be in the building at a time. Temperatures will be checked, masks will be required and members must call ahead to register. They will be assigned tables, and fill out health screening forms. Rice explained that tables and chairs would be sanitized between uses and after meals, and every afternoon would be devoted to deep cleaning.

“When we reopened the last

time, the members were really good about following the rules,” she said. “We really had no issues. I think that they were just so relieved to be back.”

Members will be able to take part in activities in person, though Rice said that programs would also be livestreamed to include those at home. There will be limited programs in the morning and afternoon, with lunch served at noon. The activities will vary from day to day, though Dancercise and tai chi will be offered three times the first week, and there will be daily Bingo.

“Each day is different,” Rice said. “We really try to continue and encourage exercise, because people are very stationary at this point. They’re not out walking, they’re not out doing what they would normally do, so we really try to give them more opportunities to exercise.”

Even when it was closed, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bingo makes Mondays fun again

Online game is still going strong a year later

By **JILL NOSSA**
jnossa@liherald.com

Despite all of the hardships of the past year, there has been some good news amid the coronavirus pandemic. As they have adjusted to a new normal, many people have gotten creative, particularly in the ways they connect to others. Seeing a need for socialization and personal con-

nection when everyone, it seemed, was staying at home, Glen Cove resident Eric Shuman created a website and began a free weekly online Bingo night that has continued to grow.

“Shortly after the pandemic started, I felt like I needed a way to keep in touch with family and friends, other than just a phone call or Zoom,” Shuman said. “I thought an interactive game

would be perfect.”

Bingo, he said, seemed like something people of all ages would be comfortable playing. And he was right: Since the program began last May, it has attracted players from ages 4 to 104.

“Every week since we’ve started, we’ve added something new, and we get more and more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



Courtesy Carolyn Dilgard-Clark

Hopping around the city

The Easter Bunny paid a visit to Glen Cove residents on East Island recently for the neighborhood’s annual egg hunt. Braylin Bullock and his grandmother Jackie Bruce looked delighted to meet him.

Glen Cove Senior Center set to reopen

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

center was actively supporting its roughly 2,000 members with virtual programs, meal deliveries and outreach. “From day one, the staff was willing to do whatever needed to be in order to make sure the seniors were being taken care of during this time,” Rice said. “We were relieved that we had the ability to continue doing our jobs even when we were at home. We knew that things were still moving along, and that our members knew we were still there for them.”

Over the past year, the center’s staff has delivered more than 17,500 meals to local seniors. They are dropped off at their front door, and often include something extra, like masks, hand sanitizer, thoughtful notes and desserts. Site Manager Jacqueline Tecce and her assistant, Heidi Clines, prepared and organized the delivery of the meals, with the assistance of kitchen supervisor Martha Benitez, kitchen staff Cynthia Rivera and Sherry Walker, and bus driver Tilman Brown.

The staff also provided counseling, referrals, outreach, resources and other assistance to those who needed it. Social worker Sherri Meagher has counseled seniors dealing with isolation and physical limitations, offered resources and referrals to those in need and arranged for help with food shopping and finding affordable housing.

Another way the staff helped members stay connected was through Zoom calls held twice a week by Laurie Huenteo, which gave members a chance to check in, see familiar faces and feel less alone. “It’s comforting for the members to have that connection, so they can see their friends,” Rice said.

Of course, video calls haven’t satisfied the need to



Courtesy Glen Cove Senior Center

MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN a chair yoga class at the Glen Cove Senior Center last fall. The center will reopen to members on April 12.

see people in person. “The majority of members are really looking forward to coming back,” Rice said, “and I think the vaccines have helped them feel comfortable about it.”

Mimi Simonetti, 94, the Bingo caller at the center, said she enjoys playing online Bingo, but added, “I’m looking forward to going back.”

Rice took over as director in October 2019, and the job has turned out to be much different than she expected. But it has been a learning experience, she said, and she is thankful for the support the center

has received from the City of Glen Cove, Nassau County and community members.

“I believe we truly learned that there are so many other ways we can help seniors,” she said. “This center is one of the best, and I think that we’ve all learned you can help on so many different levels, and make sure people know that they’re not alone.”

“It’s nice to do what we’ve been doing for them this year,” Rice added, “but I think everybody’s ready to get back to normal.”

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Photos courtesy Community Easter Dawn Committee

VIDEOGRAPHER ZACHARY GOTTERBARN looks on as the Rev. Roger Williams leads all clergy and other faith leaders in prayer prior to the fifth annual Community Easter Dawn Service held in Glen Cove's Morgan Park.

Community celebrates Easter at Morgan Park

By **JILL NOSSA**

jnossa@liherald.com

Early on Easter Sunday morning, nearly 150 people came together to celebrate the holiday in an outdoor, socially distanced ceremony at Glen Cove's Morgan Memorial Park.

Against the backdrop of the Hempstead Harbor and a 16-foot cross that was temporarily erected near the jetty, attendees once again gathered on the Morgan Park beach for the fifth annual Bilingual Community Easter Dawn Service. The service began with the playing of "Amazing Grace" by bagpiper Robert Lynch, who stood at the base of the cross. Lynch's presentation was followed by the 14 clergy members, faith leaders and vocalists leading the service sharing "Christ is Risen" in 11 different languages.

"It was truly a beautiful way to start the service," said Glen Cove resident Betty Ann Roel, who attended the service with her husband, Ron.

For last year's celebration, as Covid-19 was just beginning to impact the community, leading to the closure of Morgan Park, the service had to be held remotely and broadcast from Glen Cove resident Alba Gambles' front lawn, just beyond the park gates.

"While I was honored to host the service last year and all involved did an amazing job assuring the message still got out to our residents and to the over 2,500 who viewed the service on Facebook Live," Gamble said, "I could not be more pleased that this year's service is back in Morgan Park."

Mirna Garcia, who teaches Sunday school at St. John's of Lattintown and was one of several volunteers helping take temperatures and checking-in attendees as they arrived, noted that took



AS HAS BECOME a tradition, bagpiper Robert Lynch opened the service with the playing of "Amazing Grace" beneath the 16' cross temporarily erected near the jetty in Glen Cove's Morgan Park.

some work to follow the Covid-19 protocols. "Out of an abundance of caution we took extra precautions to assure everyone was safe," Garcia said, "but it was all worth it for our community to be together again in-person for what is always a moving celebration."

Organized by the Committee for the Annual Community Easter Dawn Service, this year's celebration not only was attended by close to 140 attendees, but was

also viewed by close to 1,000 people via Facebook Live. It included 14 clergy and faith leaders who shared words, thoughts and songs. While most participated in-person, a few of the participants either logged in via Facebook Live or shared their messages via recordings that were shared.

Those leading the service included Erika Bautista, Associate Pastor Josue Correa, Co-Pastor Yeny Correa, Margaret

Darson, Rev. Fr. Kevin J. Dillon, Rev. Fr. Mark L. Fitzhugh, Rev. Gia Lynn Hall, Rev. Lance Hurst, Pastor Tommy Lanham, Rev. Juanita Lopez, Piper Lynch, Evangelist Merle Richards, Rev. A.H. Sparkman, Elder Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, Rev. Roger C. Williams, Rev. Fr. Shawn Williams and Paul Schmalzried.

"With so much division in our society these days, it is important for fellow Christians to come together and celebrate and honor what unites us as Christians, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ," Kevin Dillon, pastor of St. Boniface Martyr Catholic Church, said.

While Easter services have long been held in Morgan Park, the formal committee for this community celebration was created in 2017, thanks to the efforts of three churches in close proximity to one another, including: Calvary A.M.E Church, Glen Cove's oldest historically African American church; Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio, Glen Cove's oldest historically Spanish language church; and First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1869. The committee has now grown to include eight churches adding First Baptist Church, Glen Cove Christian Church, St. Boniface Martyr Roman Catholic Church, St. John's of Lattintown Episcopal Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

"None of this would be able to happen were it not for the many volunteers and the incredible talent of our local clergy coming together to share their gifts and the message of Easter," Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, an Elder at Glen Cove's First Presbyterian Church who currently serves as chair of the committee, said. "I felt everyone who was gathered was ready to hear the beautiful messages of hope that were shared."

The service can be viewed at www.facebook.com/GlenCoveEaster.

Women's History panel highlights 'female firsts'

By JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

In recognition of Women's History Month, a virtual panel discussion took place last week highlighting the accomplishments of three women, one of whom is a Glen Cove resident. Organized by Glen Cove City Councilwoman Marsha Silverman and moderated by Lou Bernardi, sports specialist at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the Zoom discussion on Female Firsts provided an opportunity for these women to share their stories and offer advice.

The panel featured Dawn Riley, executive director of Oakcliff Sailing in Oyster Bay and the first female America's Cup Champion; Dr. Jen Welter, the first female coach of the National Football League; and Evelyn Kandel, a Glen Cove resident and U.S. Marine Sergeant.

They each touched on their backgrounds and discussed what it is like for women to succeed in typically male-dominated fields.

Riley, who grew up in Detroit, MI, said she learned to sail with her family, and said she was pushed from a young age to learn how to sail properly. "It was character building, learning to do a job and do it right," she said. "Those things in life have taken me through a lot of different things."

She was the captain and engineer of the first all-women crew of the Whitbread Round the World races, the first woman to ever manage America's Cup syndicate, and the first American to sail in three America's Cups. "It's super cool to see where being determined and having a background that pushes you to continue fighting," she said, "shows how far we can come."

Welter served as a defensive coaching intern for the Arizona Cardinals in 2015

and has held a 14-year career in professional woman's football.

"For me, they always called football the final frontier for women in sports, and I took that as a challenge," Welter said. "If this is the final frontier, and we can play this game, we can not only change the sport, but change the culture through sport."

Silverman asked them what skills they learned through sports that have helped them in other areas of their lives.

"Competition, because sports is to win, business is to win," Riley said, "and being able to hold your ground, look someone in the eye...having the ability to stare them down is absolutely powerful."

"One of the beautiful things about football is that it shines a light on diversity," Welter said. "It doesn't work if everyone looks the same. That has taught me that diversity is strength."

Kandel, who is the Nassau County Poet Laureate, was one of the first women to join the Marines. After graduating from high school in 1951, she could not afford to go to art school, so she enlisted instead. She modeled for a promotional campaign and was featured on poster displayed in Times Square, as well as on a 1952 postage stamp celebrating women in armed services.

During her time in service, she said, women had very specific roles. "When I joined, women couldn't marry or have children," she said. "Now women are sent to combat zones. I admire the women I meet and hearing their experience. Women have made huge gains in the military."

Attendees had a chance to ask questions, and multiple people said they found the women's stories inspirational.



Zoom screenshot

A VIRTUAL PANEL discussion on "female firsts" took place last week in honor of Women's History Month.

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

- On March 28, a 31-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child on Stephen Oval.
- On March 30, a 56-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for second-degree harassment and third-degree menacing on Brookdale Road.

■ On March 31, a 59-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for second-degree harassment and disorderly conduct on Glen Street.

■ On March 31, a 36-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for third-degree assault on Glen Street.

■ On April 2, a 40-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for second-degree menacing and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon on Shore Road.

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.

Residents evacuated on Glen Street

A building on Glen Street was evacuated on Tuesday morning due to high levels of carbon monoxide, according to police.

On April 6, at approximately 2:36 a.m., the Glen Cove Police received a call for an activated carbon monoxide detector at 59 Glen Street. When Glen Cove officers arrived they observed smoke emanating from a manhole at 69 Glen Street. The Glen Cove Fire Department arrived and detected high levels of carbon monoxide in the buildings

between 59 to 69 Glen Street. Glen Cove Mayor Timothy Tenke was at the scene and authorized the Glen Cove Senior Center as an evacuation site for the displaced residents.

Police said the cause of the carbon monoxide buildup was a small electrical fire in an underground access area to the building. At 9:43 a.m. the Glen Cove Fire Department deemed the buildings to be safe for reentry. None of the residents required hospitalization.

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Courtesy Planting Fields Foundation

DUNCAN C. SAHNER has joined the Planting Fields Foundation Board of Trustees.

Planting Fields elects new member to board and expands staff

Planting Fields Foundation has announced the election of Duncan C. Sahner to the Board of Trustees and two new additions to the staff. Caitlin Colban-Waldron joins the organization as the Michael D. Coe Archivist and Doris Del Valle will assume the role of Fundraising and Events Manager.

"I am pleased to welcome Duncan to the Planting Fields Foundation Board of Trustees and our new staff, as these appointments directly advance the goals outlined in the strategic plan initiated earlier this year," said Planting Fields Executive Director Gina Wouters. "Duncan's enthusiasm for the vision of Planting Fields as well as his passion for horticulture and history aligns seamlessly with our long-term plans. The addition of Caitlin and Doris in the areas of archival collections management and fundraising events, respectively, are essential to our goals of preserving our archives and making them accessible to the public and growing our revenue streams."

"Planting Fields is not only a historic landscape of extraordinary scale and integrity, but also a vibrant resource for our community and the New York region. This is truer today than ever as the need for public green spaces has become so crucial," Sahner said. "I'm thrilled to join the Board of Trustees at this pivotal moment. The depth of vision evident in their long-term plans for Planting Fields is exhilarating."

Duncan C. Sahner

Duncan Sahner is a partner at Abdiel Capital, an investment firm in Manhattan. He graduated from Princeton University with an A.B. in history and extensive coursework in art and architecture. He works with several organizations as a trustee, among them the Horticultural Society of New York, and serves as president of his college class.

Caitlin Colban-Waldron

Caitlin Colban-Waldron holds an MLS degree with a certificate in Archives and Preservation of Cultural Materials, and a B.A. in Women's Studies. Alongside her part-time role as archivist at the Foundation, she works part-time as archives assistant at the Queens College Special Collection and Archives. The archivist position at Planting Fields Foundation is named in memory of Yale anthropologist and Chairman Emeritus of Planting Fields Foundation, Michael D. Coe.

Doris Del Valle

Doris Del Valle joins the Foundation from the American Diabetes Association in New York City where she managed all phases of the organization's signature events, including planning, budget oversight and fundraising goals. A resident of East Norwich, Doris is currently pursuing her B.A. in Media Studies at Queens College.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, April 9

Movie at the Library

Watch "The News of the World" through the Gold Coast Public Library, 2 p.m. Starring Tom Hanks and Helena Zengel. Register at www.goldcoastlibrary.org.

Saturday, April 10

Virtual Seed Library Program

Join the Glen Cove Library on Zoom at 10 a.m. to learn how to direct sow lettuce, arugula and other early salad greens. Register at www.glencovelibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 676-2130.

Indoor Farmers Market

Village Square, 100 Village Square at Bridge Street, Glen Cove, 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 and sweets, honey, maple syrup and other local goods. All products are grown or produced on Long Island or by Long Islanders. Market is operating safely under state guidelines. For more information, call (516) 318-5487.

Virtual Family Food Festival

Through the Oyster Bay Library at 3 p.m. Chef Rob Scott will demonstrate three recipes: Spring Fusili with asparagus, Asian orzo chicken salad, and blueberry cheesecake galette. Recipes will be emailed in advance. Register at www.oysterbaylibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 922-1212.

Sunday, April 11

Meet the Author: Virtual Event

Brit Bennett, author of the Long Island Reads 2021 selection "The Vanishing Half," will appear live online at an event hosted by the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library at 2 p.m. Go to www.glencovelibrary.org for more information.

Mini photo sessions at T.R. Park

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park, 25 West End Ave., Oyster Bay. Starting at 9



Courtesy Bayville Free Library

Virtual lecture: Long Island in the 1920s

The North Shore Historical Museum will present a virtual lecture on Tuesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. A century ago, Long Island was dominated by farms, small villages, and Gold Coast estates, with suburbia still not a major presence. But it was a fast-changing time in technology, social issues, fashion, and pop culture. Historical links today with 1920s Long Island will also be discussed in this colorful presentation by Barry Rivadue. Cost is \$15. Zoom link will be sent on day of event. Go to www.northshorehistoricalmuseum.org for additional details and to purchase tickets.

a.m., participants can capture themselves and their loved ones, including pets, with a free 30-minute photoshoot at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park with one local photographers. For more information, call (973) 281-4503.

Sundays with Shakespeare

Every Sunday through April 18, join the Sea Cliff Village Library for a virtual discussion on the works of William Shakespeare at 1 p.m. Register at seaclifflibrary@hotmail.com.

Monday, April 12

Garden to Table Vegetables

Learn to choose the right location for your veggies, prepare your soil, and decide between vegetables from seeds or transplants. Learn general mainte-

nance needs that will lead to bountiful harvests. Presented by Master Gardener Fern Cohen of Cornell Cooperative Extension, 7 p.m. Register at bayville-freeibrary.org for the Zoom link.

Tuesday, April 13

Virtual Town Hall

State Senator Jim Gaughran will host a virtual Town Hall to discuss utility providers on Long Island. Participants can ask questions about local water, gas and electric, and cable and broadband utilities. Submit questions and RSVP at www.nysenate.gov/utilities.

Virtual Museum Tour

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County presents a virtual tour of HMTc's galleries. Join

Director of Education, Helen Turner and Museum and Programming Director, Dr. Thorin Tritter on a virtual tour of the museum galleries, exploring the history of the Holocaust at noon Register at www.hmtcli.org.

Documentary: 'Like'

Parents and kids ages 10 and up can join the community viewing event of this documentary about the impact of social media on our lives. A panel discussion and Q&A will follow. Go to www.NSCASA.org to register and get the Zoom link for the 7 p.m. viewing.

Wednesday, April 14

Hot Air Balloon Workshop

Students in second grade and up can learn about hot air balloons, and create

one of their own. Register for the virtual event at www.glencovelibrary.org.

Explore a Beautiful Garden

A virtual event through the Locust Valley Library, 7 p.m. Take a tour of Chanticleer, located in Wayne, PA and regarded as one of the best garden destinations ever. Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. Register at www.locustvalleylibrary.org.

Thursday, April 15

Teen Take and Make: Sugar Scrub

Give your hands (and feet) some TLC with this easy DIY hand scrub recipe. Kit with all of the material and recipe/instructions will be available for pickup in the children's room. Register through www.oysterbaylibrary.org.

Friday, April 16

Pop-Up Shop in Sea Cliff

Salt House, an online boutique run by a Sea Cliff resident specializing in beach-inspired apparel and handcrafted home decor, is hosting a pop-up shop at 208 Sea Cliff Ave. from 11 a.m. until dark. www.salthousecompany.com or email Lauren at salthousecompany@gmail.com.

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 jnossa@liherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The City of Glen Cove is seeking applications for lifeguards for the summer.
- Oyster Bay Harbor spring clean-up will be in TR Park on April 17 at 8 a.m.
- The Village of Sea Cliff Planning Board meeting is on April 14 at 7 p.m.
- The Glen Cove City Council will hold a meeting on April 13 at 7:30 p.m.
- The Sea Cliff Yacht Club is looking to hire qualified junior sailing instructors.

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Racial disparities persist in vaccinations

By DAMALI RAMIREZ

Scrolling through the Walgreens' Covid-19 vaccination homepage recently, 71-year-old Rase Denny, a retired nurse who worked for more than 30 years at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, had no luck finding an appointment near his Uniondale home. After weeks of having his name down on the waiting list and searching at different locations, Denny received a phone call about an available appointment.

Walgreens "didn't have anything, and then I got a call that somebody didn't show up, and at that point, I was able to automatically book my second appointment 30 days after," he said.

Denny is among the roughly 43,800 Black residents on Long Island — out of a total population of more than 250,000 — who have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and now he faces challenges securing an appointment for his sister.

Across the nation, the vaccination rate among communities of color has been significantly lower than in white communities, despite the higher Covid-19 infection rates in such areas.

On Long Island, of the nearly 811,000 people who have received at least one dose of the vaccine to date, 84.6 percent have been white, including Hispanic people; 8.6, Asian; 5.9 percent, Black; and .9 percent, other; according to New York State Department of Health data by race. The Census Bureau definition of white includes anyone of European, North African or Middle Eastern descent.

The state further parses out data by ethnicity. According to this data set, 9.6 percent of Hispanic or Latino people on Long Island have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

White people — not Hispanic or Latino — comprise about 63 percent of Long Island's total population, but to date, they have received 75 percent of Covid-19 vaccine doses. Meanwhile, the percentage of Black people receiving one dose is roughly 5 points lower than their percentage of the population, and for Hispanic people, it's more than 7 points lower.

That is, non-Hispanic white people are overrepresented among those receiving their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, and Black and Hispanic people are underrepresented, while Asians are slightly overrepresented.

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, the president and chief executive officer of the Garden City-based Family and Children's Association, said he was not surprised when the data showed lower vaccination rates among Black and Hispanic communities, noting past health-care disparities between white communities and communities of color.

"I think what Covid initially did was it exposed all the fault lines that have been around since the beginning of time and made them clearer," he said. "There's a number of reasons particular to Covid. The disparities were there, but some of them relate to the prevalence of pre-existing conditions, and some of them relate to essential workers and the jobs they're doing."

According to the Fiscal Policy Institute,



Damali Ramirez/Herald

AFTER MONTHS OF waiting, 71-year-old Rase Denny, of Uniondale, was able to secure a Covid-19 vaccine appointment through Walgreens.

a nonprofit, nonpartisan research institute, Long Island has roughly 311,000 essential workers; 11 percent of them support their families on low-incomes, with a family of four earning less than \$53,000 a year. Women, immigrants and Blacks are overrepresented among essential workers. Roughly 61 percent of women, 28 percent of immigrants and 17 percent of Black people are considered essential workers.

Reynolds explained that Black and Hispanic residents are more likely to live in tightly cramped homes and use public transportation, which leads to higher infection rates of communicable diseases, including the coronavirus.

Vaccine hesitancy

Experts like Reynolds believe low vaccination rates can be partly explained because of vaccination hesitancy. "There's a high degree of distrust in minority communities of the health-care system, vaccines, government," he said, "and there's a lot of history in place that reinforces some of that distrust."

Although he believes the 1932–1972 Tuskegee syphilis experiment — in which Black men, without their knowledge, were given a placebo rather than a promised treatment to see what would happen if the venereal disease went unchecked — explains the distrust that many Black people feel toward the health-care system, Reynolds does not think it is the only explanation. Health-care disparities, coupled with a general lack of cultural competence among many health-care workers, also are factors.

When Black and Hispanic residents go in for routine healthcare procedures, they often do not see workers who resemble them, and many times they need translators. If there are no available translators, non-English-speaking Black and Hispanic residents are put on a phone line. Reynolds said he believes these disparities rein-

force the notion in their communities that health care has no place for them.

"I've spoken to a lot of folks who have a fundamental distrust of vaccines and the medical establishment, and I want to be careful because we don't want to be in a position of calling anyone who has questions about the Covid vaccine an anti-vaxxer," he said.

Reynolds said he believes health and government experts should have an open dialogue with people of color and answer fundamental questions about the vaccine. He also said vaccine pop-up sites should be located in accessible places that the community knows and trusts and enlist community leaders who can promote the vaccines.

"I think it's very easy to say, well, the community doesn't trust it, they don't want it. Actually, there's a lot of people who do. You've got to make sure that that access

is there," he said.

State Sen. Kevin Thomas, a Democrat from Levittown, represents the 6th District, whose constituents are a little over a third Black and Hispanic. His office, he said, has been increasing efforts to make the vaccine more accessible to people of color, hosting more vaccine pop-up sites, sending out mailings, and attending church and PTA meetings to spread the word about the vaccines and vaccination sites.

"In the very beginning, there was a lot of misinformation out there about the vaccine. We had to get over that hurdle," he said. "We had to go into [Black and Hispanic] communities, talk about facts, and as more people got vaccinated that look like them, they start changing their mind."

Fundamental vaccine issues

Aside from vaccine hesitancy, Reynolds said he believes that a lack of resources is also causing the low vaccination rates. Many Black and Hispanic residents do not

have the technology or technological skills to navigate websites to schedule appointments.

"Lots of our employees talked about sitting with multiple screens opened up on their desktops, trying to get an appointment, as if they were buying concert tickets," he said. "Not everybody has the time to do that. If you're ambivalent about the vaccine, you're not going to take the time to do that."

Poor communities that are disproportionately Black and Hispanic are more likely to rely on public transportation and work two jobs to support their families financially. They are less likely to have the time to drive to far-away locations to get the vaccination and are restricted by public transportation.

When Reynolds recently received his vaccine at Suffolk Community College, he sat in the waiting area for 15 minutes and played on his phone. He then realized health and government experts are missing opportunities to tackle other health-care issues, he said.

According to Feeding America, 1 in 17 people struggle with hunger on Long Island. The U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) reported that roughly 26.6 percent of New York adults reported anxiety or depressive disorder symptoms this March.

Reynolds said vaccine waiting areas would be an ideal place for nonprofits to set up around the perimeter, offer people information about food, mental health issues and resources about substance abuse counseling. Research has shown mental health disorders, anxiety, depression and substance use have increased markedly during the coronavirus pandemic.

"We should be creating a catalog of the lessons learned, and there's been more discussion about minority health over the past year than there has been in a long time, because those disparities were on display," he said.

Scott Brinton contributed to this story.



Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds

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Discover more grilled cheese recipes at CabotCheese.coop/grilledcheese



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MSSN mobile vaccine unit hits the road

By REINE BETHANY

March 31 marked a milestone in the Town of Hempstead's battle against Covid-19.

At a news conference, Town Supervisor Don Clavin announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, you're standing in front of the very first mobile Covid-19 vaccination unit in the entire State of New York, otherwise known as the Vaxmobile."

Behind Clavin in the senior center parking lot was an oversized van with a medical team from Mount Sinai South Nassau ready to administer 100 doses of the Johnson & Johnson SARS-CoV-2 vaccine to the center's residents. The van was made possible by federal CARES funds.

Purchasing and equipping the van, Clavin said, required a five-month collaboration between the Town of Hempstead board and the MSSN administration and staff. Clavin particularly credited Councilman Anthony D'Esposito for responding when Richard Murphy, president and CEO of MSSN, reached out to the Town of Hempstead with the vision for the mobile unit.

D'Esposito represents the 4th Councilmatic District, where MSSN is located in Oceanside.

The mobile unit is vital, Clavin said, because widespread vaccination cannot be achieved without "getting into every community, and this mobile unit's going to start that process."

Dr. Adhi Sharma, MSSN's chief medical officer, said, "We want to thank the supervisor, his vision with Councilman D'Esposito and the town board, which allowed us to start planning way ahead of time for this. ... We're giving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. It's one shot, and we're getting it to those communities who are chal-



Reine Bethany/Herald

DR. ADHI SHARMA, chief medical officer at Mount Sinai South Nassau, stood with Town of Hempstead government officials at the unveiling of the Vaxmobile.

lenged" — seniors and anyone without transport to a vaccination site.

Elizabeth Haggood and Willie Dent, both of Uniondale, received the first doses. "I didn't even feel it," Haggood said.

At one of the five vaccination stations set up in the senior center parking lot, nurses Valentina Griffiths and Luz Otero were two of the official vaccinators assigned to the mobile unit.

Otero said, "The patients who can't come to us, we go to them," including setting up drive-by vaccination stations where "we do everything while [the patients] are

sitting in their car." The vaccinators also might arrange a central station in the activity room of a senior housing unit, or walk through the unit to vaccinate bedridden residents.

Vaxmobile shots are by appointment only. To be placed on a list and notified of when the Vaxmobile will come to their area, people can call the Town of Hempstead Clerk's Office at (516) 812-3046.

Organizations or centers interested in scheduling a visit for eligible residents or for more information may call the Town of Hempstead at (516) 812-3678 or send an email to VaxMobile@snch.org.

Nassau Dems:

More police oversight is needed in new plans

By MELISSA KOENIG

mkoenig@liherald.com

After an independent review board to oversee the Nassau County Police Department was left out of the county's police reform plan, the Legislature's three members of color have written a letter to state officials, calling on them to allocate the financial resources to create a regional office of the State Law Department's Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office.

The state office receives complaints about alleged police misconduct from the more than 500 police departments throughout New York, and evaluates each one. A more regional office, however, Legislators Siela Bynoe, Kevan Abrahams and Carrié Solages argue in their March 26 letter to Attorney General Letitia James — who oversees the LEMIO — would be dedicated to reviewing the complaints brought against Nassau County police and determining the proper courses of action for each complaint received.

"This is an opportunity to really circumvent what happened in the Legislature," Solages, a Democrat from Lawrence, told the Herald.

He and the two other legislators — all Democrats — have pushed for increased oversight of the police department for years, co-sponsoring a bill in 2014 to introduce a body camera program, which was shot down, and asking for more data to be



Siela Bynoe



Kevan Abrahams



Carrié Solages

collected and made public about arrest rates by race since Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced over the summer that all municipalities would have to create a plan to reform their local police departments after the killing of George Floyd and the nationwide protests that followed.

With cases like these in mind, Bynoe, of Westbury, proposed an amendment on March 17 to include an early-intervention system in the police reform plan as a "non-punitive tool whose purpose is to proactively identify and address potential issues before they become problems," like the final report to the county from the Police Executive Research Foundation suggested. Currently, Solages said, Nassau County police officers are only required to undergo a psychological evaluation when they are first hired.

Additionally, Bynoe proposed the creation of a review board to determine which officers might need intervention —

such as a change in assignment, additional supervision or training and referrals to counseling — before they are accused of police brutality, and the department, she said, should re-evaluate its programs regularly "to consider new and more effective interventions."

Abrahams, the Legislature's minority leader from Freeport, meanwhile, also asked County Executive Laura Curran on March 11 to consider creating a public safety committee that would release use-of-force data, information about complaints and traffic stop data at biannual public hearings on policing in Nassau.

Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder later agreed to hold biannual public hearings to release data on complaints made against police officers, which would also be available online, but said a local public review board could not be included in the plan without a collective bargaining agreement between the county and the

police unions. Instead, he said, every complaint is forwarded to the State Attorney General's Office for review, unless it is a complaint about a violation of the police department's rules.

"They're the early intervention," Ryder said at the public hearing on March 22. "We're not."

But without an independent board to review police misconduct, the three legislators said, the county's police reform plan does not include enough measures to oversee the police department, and they voted against it.

"It's not going to get us where we want to be," Solages said of the plan, which he voted against, with Bynoe adding at the hearing, "There needed to be a little bit more meat on the bone."

The plan, the legislators said in their letter to the attorney general, also failed to include alternative approaches to oversight, such as empowering a local county human rights agency to oversee it, like Suffolk County did, or creating a third-party police complaint hotline for the purpose of recording and transmitting complaints, and expanding the scope of a local ethics board to review police misconduct complaints, like the Village of Hempstead did. And while the plan includes a provision to give officers bonuses for body cameras, the legislators said, they are not "a panacea for officer misconduct and abuse."

Ensuring health safety at the new UBS Arena

By MELISSA KOENIG

mkoenig@liherald.com

A team of health professionals and engineers have spent the last year reviewing more than 250 strategies to keep patrons safe at the new UBS Arena when it opens in the fall, and are now ready to demonstrate some of the protocols they will have in place at the arena by welcoming sponsors, clients and sales prospects back to their Preview Club in Manhattan, while also working to attain GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation for the arena from the Global Biorisk Advisory Council.

The building is already code-compliant, according to Ed Bosco, managing principal for New York-based ME Engineers, and will feature a new ventilation system and operations designed to limit physical interactions. Parking payments could be made over the phone at the new arena, which will also have contactless grab-and-go food and mobile ordering, restrooms equipped with touchless fixtures and dispensers and cashless check-out options.

Additionally, anyone who visits the Preview Club over the next few months will be required to practice social distancing and wear face coverings, except when they are eating and drinking, and all staff will receive the "proper mandatory training" on Covid-19 disinfection and safety protocols, including PPE usage and Covid symptom reporting protocols.



Courtesy UBS Arena

THE NEW UBS Arena will feature new technology and protocols to protect patrons from the coronavirus.

"We know what works," Bosco said, "and we're trying to match it up with customer experience."

Bosco had been helping Australian Open officials deal with the wildfires last year, he said, when he saw the coronavirus start to spread throughout the East. He then became involved in two international task forces to address the spread of the respiratory illness, and soon, he said, "It became real clear that this was airborne."

Since then, Bosco has been recom-

mending that arenas use better ventilation and filtration systems, which is easier to install in newer buildings with precise control systems.

"We have a better understanding of these buildings," Bosco said, noting that he uses an equation to determine how much the virus could spread in a given location, and "as you start adding masks and ventilation, that risk drops."

In fact, he said, the risk of getting Covid at the new UBS Arena could be as low as 10 percent with more people receiv-

ing the coronavirus vaccine and more aggressive cleaning practices.

"From hockey games to concerts and other live events," Dr. K Elizabeth Hawk, a medical doctor who also assisted UBS officials in the design of the arena's Covid-19 protocols, said in a statement, "UBS Arena will cultivate an inviting environment in which guests can connect and enjoy a memorable experience as they look to safely take advantage of the arena's unique amenities."

It is scheduled to open in October.



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HERALD SCHOOLS

April 8, 2021 — GLEN COVE HERALD



Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

CONNOLLY STUDENTS WHO demonstrated leadership qualities imprinted their hands on the “7 Habits Tree,” a representation of how they have made their stamp on the community.

Students make their mark at Connolly School

In March, students at Connolly Elementary School in the Glen Cove City School District made their mark — literally, by imprinting their hands on the school’s bulletin, as part of a school-wide Social Emotional Learning initiative.

In January, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committee announced a new initiative based on the principles in “The 7 Habits of Happy Kids” by Sean Covey. The program teaches leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader. It demonstrates that when children are immersed in timeless, universal principles—such as responsibility, service, and honesty, both at home and at school, their worth and potential is affirmed and reinforced.

The book showcases lively animal characters and positive characteristics that align with key social-emotional learning principles:

- **Be Proactive:** manage feelings and learn to be motivated.
- **Begin with the End in Mind:** anticipate the good, persist, and be resilient.
- **Put First Things First:** prioritize positive choices, plans and accomplishment.
- **Think Win-Win:** adopt a growth mindset.
- **Seek to Understand and Be Understood:** manage feelings and be empathetic.
- **Synergize:** focus on strengths.
- **Sharpen the Saw:** take care of self and others and find meaning and purpose.



Connolly School has been practicing and instilling these teachings in order to help students build character and develop a sense of self — something crucial for children to learn at a young age. Students are chosen monthly and recognized for demonstrating these characteristics around the school community. They are labeled as “Mullan’s Marvels” for displaying such superhero behavior.

“It will provide students a sense of pride and acknowledgement that goes beyond praise, as well as demonstrating how they are contributing to our school community by displaying leadership qualities,” said Julie Mullan, Principal of Connolly Elementary School. “The student response has been great — they feel excited to be recognized beyond just their classroom walls.”

Students awarded for January and February recently gathered around the “7 Habits Tree” on the entrance hallway’s bulletin board decorated by art

teacher Korey Zalk. The awarded students have their hands, made to look like leaves, imprinted on the board. This is representative of how they have made their stamp on the school community with their leadership qualities. In addition to hand imprints, students who are awarded receive a certificate of achievement, selected to do an activity with Mrs. Mullan on the daily morning Zoom announcements, and are featured on the Connolly School website.

PBIS is a team of school staff who engage in creating a safer, more effective school environment. It is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of school to educate all children by developing research-based, school wide, classroom discipline systems through systemic problem solving, planning, and evaluation. This program encourages students to develop confidence, integrity, and the courage to do the right thing.



STUDENTS DECIDED WHERE to place their hands and leave their mark.

THE “7 HABITS Tree” is on display in the on the Connolly entrance hallway’s bulletin board decorated by art teacher Korey Zalk.

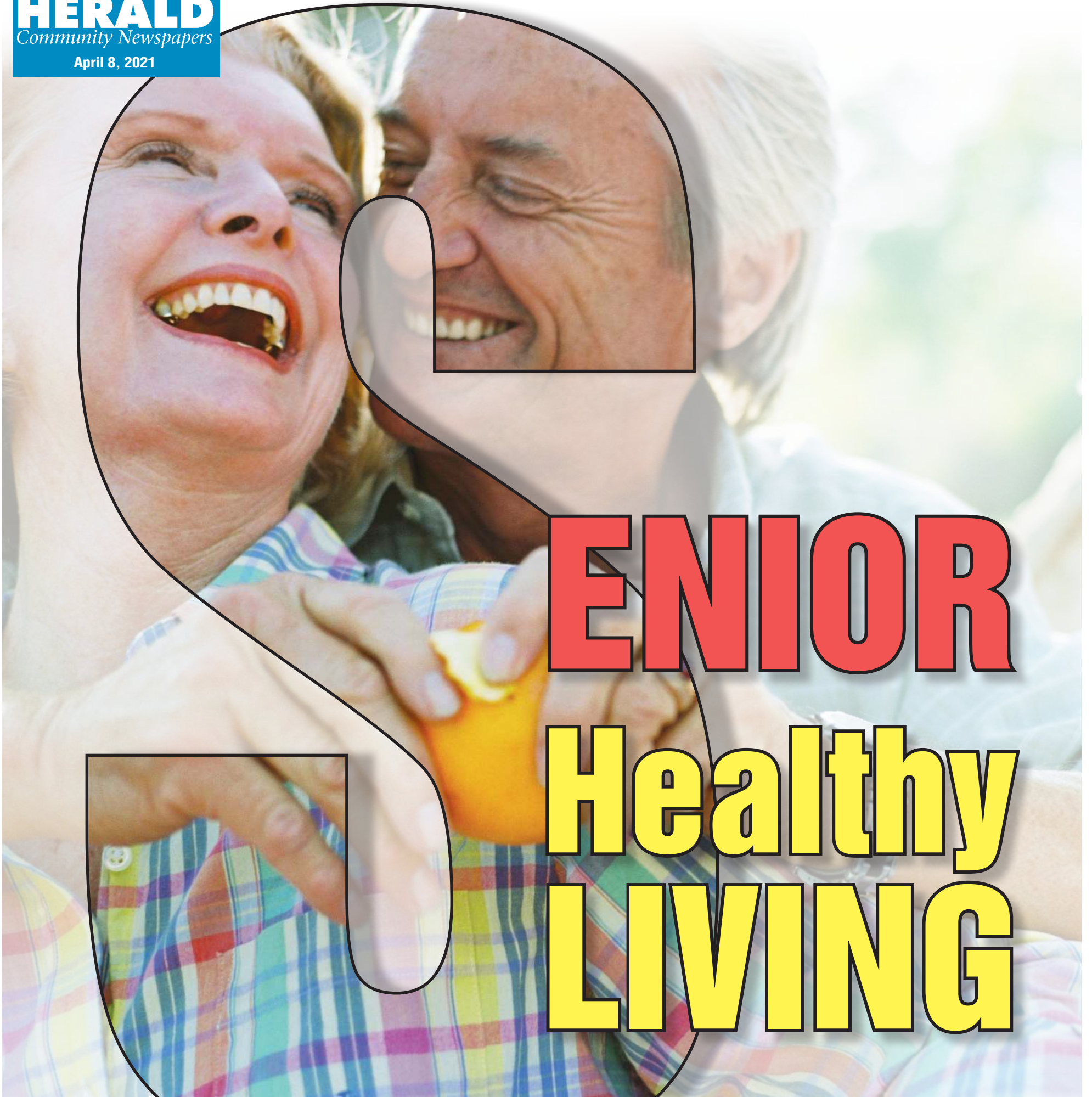


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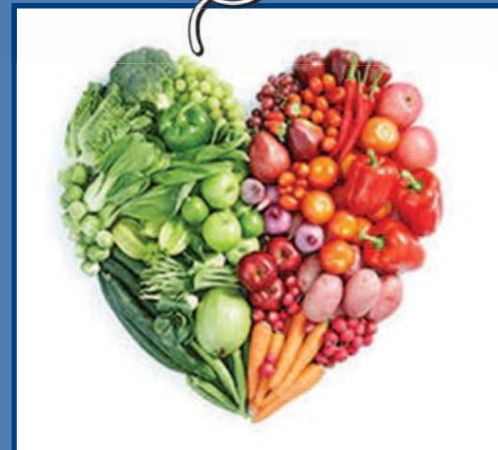


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Hope on the horizon

What older adults need to look out for
(and the people who love them)

If you're an older adult, or you care about someone who is, this is a pivotal moment in the pandemic. Covid-19 vaccination is well under way and many older adults have already been immunized and now inching toward a return to "normalcy."

But this hopeful moment comes at the exact same time that new, mutated forms of the virus threaten to speed up the spread, adding to already high levels of Covid-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

So as the pandemic enters its second year, older adults may feel a mixture of hope, anxiety, fatigue, anger, fear and resolve.

"Older adults have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic, and not just in terms of their physical health," says Preeti Malani, M.D., an infectious disease and geriatrics specialist at Michigan Medicine, the University of Michigan's academic medical center, and the director of the National Poll on Healthy Aging. "As this year moves on, it's important to find safe ways to engage with others, get outside and move around, and take care of your medical needs."

Here are top tips to follow through if you're an older adult, or if you live with or love someone who is (these tips also apply to younger people who have health conditions that make them more vulnerable to the worst effects of Covid-19, including people with autoimmune conditions, or immune systems that have been weakened by a condition they have or treatments they receive):

Get the vaccine as soon as you can

It's safe and will help keep you from getting a bad case of Covid-19 if you do get exposed. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need to use an unfamiliar website or mobile app to do so. Don't let a little technology stand between you and the vaccine that can protect you!

Also, make sure you're scheduling the appointment through an official source — don't be taken in by scam sites that have fooled some older adults.

Once you're vaccinated, don't act as if you have superpowers

First of all, it takes up to two weeks for the first dose to teach your immune system about the coronavirus. And it takes two doses of the vaccine, several weeks apart, to get full protection (unless you're getting the Johnson & Johnson version). You can still get seriously ill with Covid-19 in those first weeks if you were exposed to coronavirus just before or just after getting vaccinated (but the vaccine can't give you Covid-19, because it doesn't contain a whole virus.)

Even after your second dose, you can still get infected, though you probably won't get nearly as sick as you would have. You may still be able to infect others, though researchers are working to see how likely this really is. That makes this next step important too.

Whether you've gotten the vaccine yet or not, keep wearing masks and maintain social distancing protocols.

The virus is still widespread, so even as more people get vaccinated and their vaccine takes effect, it could take months for the spread to slow. It's still important to do all the things we've been doing (or should have been doing) since spring to reduce the chance of getting or spreading the virus. Masks are critical to slowing the spread of coronavirus,

Get outside

Make a plan to meet a friend outside, with masks on and staying apart, if you're feeling well. The weather is starting to warm up, but even if it's chilly, dress appropriately (including footwear with appropriate grip) and enjoy a walk, hike, explore a park, have a chat or do other activities.

If the sun is out, make a special effort to get outside by yourself or with others, since sun exposure can help your mood and vitamin D levels especially since we've just emerged from a difficult winter.

If you go outside to meet someone who doesn't live with you, keep masks on, and keep your distance physically. And don't leave home if you know you've been exposed to someone with Covid-19 in the last two weeks, or you have symptoms of any illness.

For dining or drinking outside or in 'igloo' type structures, which means no masks, it's still best to stick with members of your household or one other household that you agree to form a "pod" with.

Move every day

Even if you can't go outside, or don't want to brave a cold or rainy day, just walking around, climbing stairs, stretching, or tuning in to an exercise class online or on television can help you keep your mood up and your muscles working.

It may be tempting to sit on the couch or in front of the computer for hours on end, but even if you do, make sure to get up at least once an hour to move around, get a drink of water, look out a window, or even doing a "standing meeting" with coworkers, friends or relatives, where you stand or walk around while you talk or have a video chat.

Connect

Even if still you're not comfortable getting together with people outside, or going into stores for essential trips, you should make a special effort to connect with others virtually — especially if you live alone or are home alone most of the day. Loneliness and social isolation have doubled among older adults during the pandemic.

If you know another older person who may need more connection during this time, don't be afraid to reach out. Phone calls, texts, video chats, virtual classes and book clubs, television or movie "watch parties" and social media can all help.

Also be sure to check your local library, senior center or even a museum (such as Hofstra University Museum of Art and Nassau County Museum of Art, and arts venues, such as Tilles Center, which continue to offer online events.

Help others

The pandemic, and its economic effects, have hit some people much harder than others.

If you have the ability to give time, money or expertise to a cause or organization you believe in, or to help neighbors with simple tasks such as pet walking or outdoor chores, this is a good time to do so. You may find that helping others helps you too.

Above photo: Special risks mean special care is needed, even as the vaccine becomes available.



Social Engagement

Whether socializing in place or getting out, connections are more important than ever

Everyone needs social connections to survive and thrive. But as people age, they often find themselves spending more time alone. Growing older means adapting to new social challenges, which can be burdensome enough without dealing with a pandemic at the same time.

Being alone may leave older adults more vulnerable to social isolation, which can affect health and well-being. Studies show that loneliness and social isolation are associated with higher risks for health problems such as heart disease, depression, and cognitive decline.

Maintaining social connections and staying mentally and physically active is key to reducing social isolation and loneliness among older adults, particularly now, as we continue to deal with the Covid-19 national health crisis.

Here are some ideas to stay connected.

Reach out. Try to call a family member or friend every day, write them a note or send a card. Schedule time each day to stay in touch with family, friends, and neighbors in person, by email, social media, voice call, or text. Talk with people you trust and share your feelings. Suggest an activity to help nurture and strengthen existing relationships.

Find an activity that you enjoy. You might even restart an

old hobby or take a class to learn something new. You might have fun and meet people with similar interests.

Stay active, mentally and physically. Move more and sit less. Engage in physical activity such as a walk or online group exercise classes. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes (2 1/2 hours) of activity a week that makes you breathe hard.

Flex your brain. Draw a sketch, write a poem or short story, or start journaling.

Create connections using technology. Use online tools to connect with friends and family. Attend virtual events and concerts or tour museums from home. Read a book online. If you're not tech-savvy, sign up for an online or in-person class at your local public library or community center to help you learn how to use email or social media.

Welcome a furry companion into your home. Consider adopting a pet if you are able to care for them. Animals can be a source of comfort and may also lower stress and blood pressure.

Focus on your faith. Deepen your spirituality at your church or synagogue and engage with others in activities and events.

Above photo: Being socially engaged improves the quality of life for older adults and is associated with better mental and physical health.



Lessons learned in the time of Covid

By Jennifer B. Cona, Esq.

Marvin contracted Covid and wound up in the hospital for four months. A widower with two daughters on the West Coast, Marvin needed someone to attend to his financial affairs. But he never signed a Power of Attorney. There was no one who could step in to pay his mortgage, utility bills, keep oil in the tank to heat his house, and keep the pipes from freezing. Of course, Marvin never expected something like this would happen to him. We never do.

Ruth took care of her estate planning but was not comfortable with asset protection planning. She did not want to give up control. She became very ill from Covid due to underlying conditions and now resides in a nursing home. Because she did not protect assets, Ruth will have to spend down one-half of her assets on the cost of her care. Had she planned ahead when we did her estate planning, she could have protected ALL of her assets.

We've learned a lot of lessons in the time of Covid. Now is not the time to be complacent. Now is

the time to take action to protect your assets and your loved ones. You'll be ready to enjoy summer and live your best life!

Cona Elder Law offers a free Vaccine Assistance Hotline to assist older adults in securing vaccination appointments and currently offers free consultations to provide barrier-free access to legal services during these challenging times. Access both by calling 631-390-5000.

Cona Elder Law PLLC is an award-winning law firm concentrating in the areas of elder law, estate planning, estate administration and litigation, and health care law. The firm has been ranked the #1 Elder Law Firm by Long Island Business News for eight consecutive years. For additional information, visit www.conaelderlaw.com.



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'You are what you eat!'

Did you know that certain foods can help prevent the onset of Age-related Macula Degeneration (AMD) as well as extend the life of our brains? Recent studies have found that foods containing polyphenols, micronutrients found in certain plant-based foods, are extremely helpful in decreasing the incidence of both AMD and Alzheimer's Disease (AD).

There are many similarities between AMD and AD. Both have similar ages of onset (average 72.8 years) and similar percentage of onset before age 65 (6-8 percent). They both affect 50 percent of Americans over the age of 85 and their increase of incidence is growing every year. Both diseases can only be managed by health care providers, they do not have a cure.

Since oxidative stress and neuro-inflammation is common to both AMD and AD, eating food rich in polyphenols and phytochemicals can prevent or reverse cell damage. Focus on foods such as cloves, dark chocolate, berries, black currants, plums, sweet cherries, apples, black beans, hazelnuts, artichokes,



red onions, spinach, olives, black and green teas, and red wine. If you concentrate on having a Mediterranean diet, you can encompass most of these.



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Assisted living is safe again!

With a light at the end of this very long tunnel the staff at Oyster Bay Senior Campus want to let you know we are here and ready to care for your loved ones! This is a great time to start looking into assisted living communities.

Although the year brought us many ups and downs, we are ready to start living again in the communities while keeping everyone healthy and well. With vaccination clinics ongoing, we feel safer than ever. Oyster Bay Senior Campus is committed to care for your loved ones while giving them the quality of life they deserve and you the peace of mind that is needed.

Oyster Bay Manor Assisted Living and Harbor House Memory Care have been part of the community for 30 years. Family run and operated, this can be the right place for your loved one to call home. For more information, contact Melissa Schuhmacher, Director of Business Development, at 516-624-8400 or mschuhmacher@sralc.com.



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Eastern Audiology: Spring is in the 'ear'

Are you ready to get outside? Are you ready to start socializing again? With the arrival of spring, and vaccine roll out helping to keep more and more people safe, now is a better time than ever to get ahead of the game and renew your hearing to enjoy the little things in life that make every day a little better.

Whether conversations and playing games with friends and family, the sound of the birds chirping, professional interactions, or just entertainment, hearing the things around us is essential to maintaining a healthy and productive lifestyle. At Eastern Audiology Resources we pride ourselves on providing the most personalized and professional approach possible to our patients to improve every quality of life through better hearing. Our office is open five days a week and maintains all Covid-19 safety precautions.



Dr. Susan Bressi Hamilton



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Health memos are supplied by advertisers and are not written by the Herald editorial staff.

Register now for third NSPC "Virtual" Health Science Competition

Registration for the third NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery (NSPC) Health Science Competition (HSC), a program of the Center for Science Teaching & Learning (CSTL), is open at www.cstl.org/nspc. Like last year's event, the 2021 program will be staged online to assure the safety of participants, judges, educators, and sponsors.

Applications for the "virtual" competition must be received by no later than 4:00 p.m. (EST) on Friday, April 30, 2021. A \$30 non-refundable registration fee per team applies to all entries. The NSPC HSC is available only to Nassau and Suffolk County high school teams.

In 2020, over 280 students representing 37 Long Island high schools participated in the competition and 50 prize-winning teams shared over \$80,000 in score-based awards.

To compete, teams will create a Google site and upload: 1) Images of their poster board/digital poster board or a 20 slide PowerPoint presentation; 2) A 10 minute video in which team members can be seen explaining their project, and 3) All executed competition documents. Entries

must be received by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Results are to be announced and live streamed on Tuesday, June 15.

Student teams will be judged in one of five categories: Behavioral Sciences; Biology-Medicine/Health; Biology-Microbiology/Genetics; Health Related Biochemistry/Biophysics, and Bioengineering and Computational Biology.

The five first place winners in last year's competition were: Anushka Gupta of Great Neck North High School in the "Behavioral Sciences" category; Suchir Misra of Jericho Senior High School in the "Bioengineering and Computational Biology" category; Tiffany Guo of Paul D. Schreiber High School in Port Washington in the "Biology-Genetics" category; Lianna Friedman of Roslyn High School in the "Biology-Medicine/Health" category, and Chelsea Pan of Ward Melville High School in the "Health Related Biochemistry & Biophysics" category. Each first place winner received a \$5,500 prize. The exact breakdown of prizes can be found at www.cstl.org/nspc/hsc-prizes/.

"The young people who were part of our first two competitions," observes Michael H. Brisman, M.D., an attending neurosurgeon and chief executive officer of NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery, "were brilliant and inspiring. Their understanding of medicine and health-related subjects was impressive. These students are exactly the people we need to address the high demand for STEM, health science, and healthcare-related jobs here on Long Island and across the nation."

For more information about the NSPC Health Science Competition (HSC), complete competition rules, and deadlines, visit www.cstl.org/nspc or call 516-764-0045.

About Neurological Surgery, P.C. (NSPC)

Founded in Freeport in 1958, NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery (NSPC) has grown to become one of the largest, private neurosurgical groups in the U.S. with seven conveniently located offices on Long Island. The practice's 22 experienced neurosurgeons are experts in "Bloodless" spine and brain surgery, including

endoscopic spine surgery, laser spine surgery, ultrasonic spine surgery, radiosurgery, endoscopic brain surgery, and other advanced, minimally invasive techniques which are used to treat herniated disc, spinal stenosis, chronic back pain, brain tumors, brain aneurysms, trigeminal neuralgia, and other conditions. Please visit www.nspc.com for more information.

About The Center For Science, Teaching & Learning

The Center for Science, Teaching & Learning (CSTL) is a Rockville Centre-based, not-for-profit organization with a mission of encouraging learning and literacy. CSTL develops programs for people of all ages and uses inquiry-based learning at its foundation for program development. To learn more about CSTL, visit www.cstl.org.



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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

Glen Cove spreads Easter joy

This year, instead of the annual egg hunt held at City Stadium, the City of Glen Cove held a drive-through event for children to receive Easter treats. The Youth Services and Recreation Department

filled more than 6,000 plastic eggs for Glen Cove children, which were delivered to cars at the event held in the back of City Hall on April 2.

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1119010



Courtesy Office of Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Sons of Italy president turns 75

Anthony Naccarato, president of the New York State Grand Order Sons and Daughters of Italy In America, celebrated his 75th birthday last week with a car parade. Naccarato was presented with a citation by Joe Gallo, Jr., on behalf of Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton. "While I wish I could have been part of the birthday car parade that was held in honor of a man who does so much for our community through the Sons of Italy," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "I thank Joe Gallo Jr. for taking the time to present a Nassau County Citation in my absence to mark this happy occasion."



HELP WANTED

GRAPHIC ARTIST (GARDEN CITY)

Richner Communications, Inc., an expanding Long Island publisher and commercial printer seeks a Graphic Artist. Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to, ad design and layout, editorial layout, photo scanning and photo color correction. Candidates must be creative and have a good eye for design and detail, and should be able to remain motivated under pressure, as ours is a deadline driven environment. Must also be able to work well with others, and possess a flair for typography design. Proficiency in the Adobe Creative Suite and Mac OSX required. Previous newspaper experience a plus. The position is currently remote due to COVID-19, but will transition to our state of the art offices in Garden City. We offer paid time off, health plan and 401(k). Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with salary requirements and resume to careers@liherald.com

1127613



Photos courtesy Richard Ginsburg

THE NASSAU COMMUNITY College Theatre and Dance Department staged Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

At Nassau Community College, the shows went on

By BRIDGET DOWNES

bdownes@iherald.com

For Richard Ginsburg, taking on a new role as chair of the Nassau Community College Theatre and Dance Department turned out to be more challenging than he anticipated, because he did so during a pandemic.

Ginsburg, of Baldwin, started the job last August, after some 36 years in the department, teaching set and costume design and lending his expertise to theater and dance productions at the college.

"I'm not working with strangers," he said. "I'm working with family."

And with the use of modern technology and support from the school's administrators, the department's operations changed with the onset of the pandemic — quickly.

Ginsburg, 63, recalled the last dress rehearsal for "Smokey Joe's Café" last year, when the prospect of a lockdown became a reality. "When the school closed down by state decree, it was like a 2 o'clock phone call, and everybody was asked to be off campus by 3 o'clock," he said. "And we were in shock . . . We closed down, say, 3:15. We put whatever we could away, and I went to my office and I gathered the hard drives and everything I thought I might need for a couple of weeks."

The entire college geared up to go online, which meant that the faculty had to learn Zoom and adjust the curriculum accordingly. "We had one online class — theater appreciation — that had always been online," Ginsburg explained. "But the rest of us are very tactile experiences, be it dance, theater, even theater history . . . all in-house classes, as they say, face to face. It was an abrupt reboot for teaching."

Faculty members met on Zoom to discuss how to move forward. "In some ways, being the new chair, this became my nor-



THE STAGE WAS set like a television and film production studio.

mal," he said. "I didn't have to go, 'Well, we used to do it another way. OK, we're doing it this way.'"

The faculty had to reinvent and brainstorm innovative ways to continue teaching nearly 300 students in the department. Administrators helped professors and students adapt to the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state orders to allow for some in-person classes so Ginsburg and his colleagues could "keep our educational goals and still function as a theater and dance department," he said, adding that he was grateful to the NCC administration.

The dance program was moved to a larger space so that dancers could spread out. Acting classes changed venues, too,

for the same reason, and plastic barriers were installed in between students. And campus studios were equipped with WiFi and 84-inch monitors to allow students tuning in via Zoom to participate.

"A lot of the faculty had to deal with dual modality of some students are face to face and some students are on Zoom," Ginsburg said, "and you have to address them and give them material, and they have to be evaluated . . . at the same level."

But in the arts, there's learning in the classroom and there's performance. "Without the performance space, there's no proof in the pudding," Ginsburg said, explaining that putting together seven or eight shows a year and performing each one 10 nights in a row helps students

grow. That kind of growth can't happen in a classroom, he said. Performances are the students' labs.

The spread of Covid-19 meant that live audiences were a thing of the past, at least temporarily. After reimagining the format for productions, the department staged "Dracula" around Halloween via Zoom. Fully costumed actors used different Zoom backgrounds.

From there, the department focused more on becoming a miniature television and film production company. New equipment was brought in, and about 400 hours were devoted to revamping the school's multipurpose ballroom with lighting, projection and other technical features for the dancers.

Dance students also learned to edit their own video reels — a new opportunity — to be able to market themselves after graduation.

"Life goes on and we move to the right," Ginsburg said. "We have to shift. It is the nature of theater to reinvent itself and work its way out of every problem, because as the adage is, the show must go on, and we will find ways to make the show go on."

In the past year, the department put on productions of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Sistas on Fire," a homemade variety show and more. And its first streaming production, Dominique Morisseau's "Pipeline," is scheduled for the end of April. While many of the shows are available online, alongside a donation button in lieu of purchasing tickets, "Pipeline" will charge viewers \$5.

Ginsburg, who attended Hofstra University and earned a master's in theater design at Brooklyn College, didn't want to push his children into the arts, but they discovered them on their own. His kids, Max and Meredith, pursued their own arts dreams during and after attending Baldwin High School.

Bingo brings people together, virtually

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

viewers,” Shuman said.

Though Monday Night Bingo began as a way for him to connect with friends and family, it quickly evolved into something for the community. Shuman, 39, the activities coordinator for the Glen Cove Senior Center, created a website, glencoveathome.com, last May to provide some entertainment when not much else was going on. As he began developing it, he said, it became more involved.

“It took hundreds of hours to make sure everything was working properly, to test, and to get used to the production of it all,” Shuman said. “What started out as a simple group of 10 to 15 viewers with one camera is now a full production with music, chat, sound effects, cameras, lights and over 400 players from 16 different states and eight countries.”

When he saw the interest, he said, it made him want to keep improving the event. He enlisted the help of his brother-in-law to create the program, and his wife, Jessica, calls numbers and checks submissions. Other friends and family helped test the program and offered feedback.

“After playing several times with family and friends and getting the hang of everything, I thought it would be nice to offer it to the public, especially for the senior population,” Shuman said. “A lot of people may not be able to get in touch or do a lot

WINNING CARD

Eric's Bingo Night

Any Five IN A ROW

BINGO

1	16	31	46	61
2	17	32	47	62
3	18	33	48	63
4	19	34	49	64
5	20	35	50	65
6	21	36	51	66
7	22	37	52	67
8	23	38	53	68
9	24	39	54	69
10	25	40	55	70
11	26	41	56	71
12	27	42	57	72
13	28	43	58	73
14	29	44	59	74
15	30	45	60	75

LAST BINGO WINNER(S):
Cher, Paula Conti

TO PLAY GO TO: WWW.GLENCOVEATHOME.COM

Courtesy Eric Shuman

THE MONDAY NIGHT Bingo games often have a theme, especially around any holidays.

in that group.”

As the game grew, he said, he wanted it to have more of a show atmosphere and look more polished and professional. He created different theme nights, adding music and wearing costumes. “What started out as a family-and-friends thing ended up becoming a group of volunteers that put in a ton of money, energy and time to bring some happiness to people during this very difficult time,” Shuman said.

In addition to offering entertainment, the games — now held every other Mon-

day — have also raised money through sponsorships for the SAGE Foundation, the fundraising arm of the senior center.

Kathy Santucci is the community liaison for the Glen Cove Center for Nursing and Rehab and Emerge Nursing and Rehab at Glen Cove. Both companies have sponsored Monday Night Bingo. “There was such a need for socialization during this time, and we felt like we should sponsor the event to help support something that has been good for the community,” Santucci said of Shuman’s game. “It gives

people something to look forward to on a Monday night.”

The popularity also inspired Shuman to set up a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for a new Bingo machine for the senior center. It has raised nearly \$1,000 so far, and the goal is \$2,800.

Mimi Simonetti, 94, the Bingo caller at the senior center, said she enjoys the online games, and has been participating since Day One. “It’s great,” she said, “and he improves it every time.”

Sally DiMiceli, 78, of Glen Cove, a friend of Simonetti’s, said she also tunes in regularly. “It gives us something to look forward to,” DiMiceli said. “Eric plays different games and makes it interesting.”

Victoria Amendolara and her mother, Bridgett, spent their Friday nights playing Bingo at the Glen Cove Knights of Columbus prior to the pandemic. When they saw a post online about Monday Night Bingo last spring, they decided to give it a try, and have been playing ever since. Victoria, 24, said they use a projector to set it up on a big screen, pour a couple of glasses of wine and make a night of it.

“Monday nights were never fun, and now it’s my favorite night,” she said. “It’s a community we look forward to connecting with.”

The next Bingo night will be next Monday, from 7 to 9 p.m.

“It’s been so rewarding, just playing this simple game of Bingo,” Shuman said.

Good Shabbos, Long Island!

Friday April 9
Candle lighting 7:09
Torah reading — Parshat Shmini
Shabbos Ends 8:19

ALSO THIS WEEK:
Wed April 14: Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Memorial Day)
Thu April 15: Yom Haatzmaut (Israel Independence Day)

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N O M I N A T E
ā HERALD

HOMETOWN HERO

Throughout the pandemic, healthcare workers, first responders, grocery and pharmacy personnel, and so many others, have been dedicated to supporting and assisting our community. They are true heroes who deserve our respect, praise and recognition.

As many remain on the front lines in 2021, we invite you to nominate a Hometown Hero to be featured in Herald newspaper editions throughout the year.

To nominate, go to LIHerald.com/NominateAHero today!

HELP WANTED

Reporter/Editor

The award-winning Herald Community Newspapers group, covering Nassau County's North and South Shores with hard-hitting news stories and gracefully written features, seeks a motivated, energetic and creative editor/reporter to join our dynamic (and awesome) team! This education and general assignment reporting position offers a unique experience to learn from some of the best in the business. Historically, reporters who have launched their careers with us have gone on to The New York Times, Newsweek, Newsday, the New York Daily News, New York Post, CNN, BBC, NBC News and The Daily Mail, among many others. We look for excellent writers who are eager to learn, enhance their skills, and become well-established and respected journalists in our industry.

To apply: Send a brief summary in the form of a cover letter describing your career goals and what strengths you can bring to our newsroom, along with a resume and three writing samples to: careers@liherald.com



PUBLIC NOTICES

April 8, 2021 — GLEN COVE HERALD

LEGAL NOTICE
ASSESSOR'S NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF THE FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
 THE ASSESSOR OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that he has completed the 2021/2022 final assessment roll, which will be used for the 2022 levy of Town and County Taxes in the Towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay, and the City of Glen Cove and the City of Long Beach, and for the 2021/2022 levy of school taxes in such Towns and in the City of Long Beach. A certified electronic copy of the roll was filed with the Department of Assessment on April 1, 2021. The electronic roll may be examined on public terminals located in the offices of:
 DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENT
 NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
 240 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, FOURTH FLOOR
 MINEOLA, NY 11501
 where the same will remain open for public inspection for fifteen days.
 Dated this 1st day of April, 2021.

DAVID F. MOOG, IAO
 Nassau County Assessor
 125373
 To place a notice here call us at 516-569-4000 x232 or send an email to: legalnotices@liherald.com

LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDDERS
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the sealed bids will be received by the City of Glen Cove Purchasing Agent located at City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542 until 10:00 a.m. on April 29, 2021. The bid opening shall take place on April 29, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams and read aloud, and the contract awarded as soon thereafter as practicable for:
 REHABILITATION OF EAST ISLAND TIDAL GATES AND DOSORIS POND
 BID NO. 2020-009R
 Bidding documents and specifications may be obtained on the City of Glen Cove's BidNet page, <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/cityofglen Cove>. The Bidding Documents are available beginning April 8, 2021. The link to the bid opening will be posted to the City's website and can be viewed by hovering over "Finance" and then clicking the "Bid & RFP's" button. The bid opening will also be recorded and posted in this same section. Or you can access it live via the following link:
[a128-2fc44a1c8d4c%22%2c%220id%22%3a%22bd021793-3629-4204-a131-0958ee1f7cf%22%7d
 If you cannot join online, you can call into this meeting by calling 1 \(929\) 229-5717 and entering the conference No. 338 046 48#. All participating parties should choose either the call-in method or the preferred method of joining the meeting via Microsoft Teams, but not both to avoid reverberation of speakers. All parties/bids must meet M/WBE Goals in their bid: An overall goal of at least 20% for Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises \("M/WBE"\) participation, \(based on the current availability of qualified MBEs and WBEs\). There are no Equal Employment Opportunity goals required for this project. All bids must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on April 29, 2021. Late bids received by mail will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to the vendor. Delay in mail delivery is not an exception to the deadline for receipt of bids. Each bid must be made on the Proposal form prepared for this work and in the manner designated therein. The bid shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Purchasing Agent of the City of Glen Cove and marked on the outside with the name and address of the bidder, and the words "Bid for REHABILITATION OF EAST ISLAND TIDAL GATES AND DOSORIS POND Bid No. 2020-009R. Requests for information regarding this Invitation should be sent only in writing via email to the Purchasing Agent of the City \(Purchasing@glenconey.gov\). No phone calls will be accepted. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids received, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept that bid which in its judgement best serves the interests of the City.
 Dated: March 30, 2021
 By: Yelena Quiles, Purchasing Agent
 City of Glen Cove, New York
 125475
LEGAL NOTICE
 North Shore Central School District
 112 Franklin Ave.
 Sea Cliff, New York
INVITATION TO BID
 General A/C, Ventilation & Refrigeration Repairs & Service Cooperative Bid #001-2022
SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022
 On behalf of a cooperative of school districts in Nassau County, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District, Sea Cliff, New York, in accordance with Section 103 of General](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_NjU3YzliMjAtNDIiZS00NThlTGwYJEtNTgxZzQ5YzkyMTE%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ad84cf90-b365-48ca-</p>
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Municipal Law, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids from reputable and qualified contractors for the provision of labor and materials for the following contract:
 Cooperative Bid for General A/C, Ventilation & Refrigeration Repairs & Services
 Bid receipt day and time: April 27th 2021 at 11:00am
 This is a Cooperative bid. Participating school districts are as follows: Baldwin UFSD, Bellmore UFSD, Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, Bethpage UFSD, Carle Place UFSD, East Meadow UFSD, East Rockaway UFSD, East Williston UFSD, Elmont UFSD, Floral Park-Bellerose UFSD, Freeport UFSD, Garden City UFSD, Glen Cove CSD, Great Neck UFSD, Herricks UFSD, Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD, Hicksville UFSD, Island Trees UFSD, Jericho UFSD, Lawrence UFSD, Levittown UFSD, Locust Valley CSD, Long Beach CSD, Lynbrook UFSD, Manhasset UFSD, Massapequa UFSD, Merrick UFSD, Mineola UFSD, New Hyde Park-GCP, North Bellmore UFSD, North Merrick UFSD, North Shore CSD, Oceanside UFSD, Plainledge UFSD, Plainview/Old Bethpage CSD, Port Washington UFSD, Rockville Center UFSD, Seaford UFSD, Syosset CSD, Uniondale UFSD, Valley Stream UFSD #13, Valley Stream UFSD #30, Valley Stream CHSD, Wantagh UFSD, Westbury UFSD
 Bids for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 will be received until the above-stated hour of prevailing time and date at the Business Office of North Shore Central School District located at 112 Franklin Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. Promptly at 11:00am prevailing time on April 27th 2021, bids will be opened and read aloud by video conference/live stream for participation in which will be available on the District Website. Bids will be opened and read in this manner from the District Offices, located at 112 Franklin Avenue, Sea Cliff NY 11579. Note: In the event closure of the business office makes such video conference impossible on the bid opening date, video conference or live bid opening will be conducted on the next day the office is accessible as will be indicated at least 24 hours prior on the district website. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained via email on April 8th 2021, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm, excluding holidays. Requests for bid documents must be sent

via email to Mathew Cheravallil cheravallil@northshoreschools.org. All questions regarding this cooperative bid shall be submitted in writing and faxed to the attention of John A. Hall at 516-277-7833. Bids must be presented on the standard proposal form in the manner designated and as required by the specifications. All bids must be enclosed in sealed envelopes which should be clearly marked on the outside: "North Shore Central School District -Cooperative Bid for General A/C, Ventilation & Refrigeration Repairs & Services". Bids shall remain firm for a period of forty-five (45) days following the date of the bid opening.
Bid Submissions:
 Each board of education reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all bids, or to accept that bid which, in the Boards of Education's judgment, is in the best interest of the School District. The Boards of Education further reserve the right to consider experience, service and reputation in the above referenced fields. In addition, the Boards of Education reserve the right to consider the financial responsibility and specific qualifications, set forth in the bid specifications, of the prospective bidder in evaluation of the bids and award of contracts
BOARD OF EDUCATION
 North shore Central School District
 By: Elizabeth Ciampi, District Clerk
 125473
 Place a notice by phone at 516-569-4000 x232 or email: legalnotices@liherald.com
LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF GLEN COVE
BOARD OF ZONING 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, April 15, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The hearing will be on the appeal application of 115 Glen St Property Owner, LLC requesting variances to construct a new multiple residence building. The property is located on a 22,089 gross square foot lot at 115 Glen St, Glen Cove, NY 11542, designated as Section 23, Block 11, Lots 6-12, 134 and located in the City's B-1 Central Commercial District. The Applicant is requesting variances of the following sections of the Glen Cove City Code:
 1. Glen Cove City Code §280-6; to allow for 42 parking spaces, with three (3) parking spaces measuring nine (9) feet wide by sixteen (16) feet long, where nine (9) feet wide by twenty (20) feet long is required, and two

(2) proposed handicap parking spaces which do not meet ADA requirements for access aisles.
 2. Glen Cove City Code §280-45.2 A to allow a retaining wall with a setback of ten (10) feet, where twenty (20) feet is required.
 3. Glen Cove City Code §280-45.2 C to allow a retaining wall with a height of twenty (20) feet where a maximum of twelve (12) feet is permitted.
 4. Glen Cove City Code §280-52 B (1) to allow the development of 2,641.5 square feet of steep slope area of 25% or greater, where no land area covered by slopes measuring 25% or greater is permitted.
 5. Glen Cove City Code §280-65 G (13) to allow the construction of an exclusively residential structure on a lot with 16,351.3 net square feet (pursuant to Section 280-52 A (1)(a) "Preservation of Steep HillSides"), where 40,000 square feet is required.
 6. Glen Cove City Code §280-65(G) (13) (b) to allow nine (9) efficiency units and eighteen (18) one-bedroom units of the total thirty (30) units, where no more than one-third (1/3) of the total units may be one-bedroom or efficiency units.
 7. Glen Cove City Code §280-65(G)(13)(d), to allow a lot with 22,092.8 gross square feet and award of contracts
 16,351.3 net square feet (pursuant to Section 280-52 A (1)(a) "Preservation of Steep HillSides") where 46,500 square feet is required. Applicant is also seeking an interpretation from the Zoning Board of Appeals as to whether the slope land deductions pursuant to §280-52 A (1) (a) should be applied under §280-65(G)(13)(d).
 8. Glen Cove City Code §280-65 G (13) (g) to allow no interior side yard on the east side of the property, where a fifteen (15) foot side yard is required, and no landscaping to be provided in the west side yard of the property, where such side yard is required to be properly landscaped.
 9. Glen Cove City Code §280-65 G(13)(h) to allow 4,200 square feet of open space where 8,250 square feet is required.
 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.glenconey.gov) in advance of the hearing which can be accessed from the homepage by clicking the link labeled "Meetings, Minutes & Agendas" and then following the instructions thereafter, or by accessing the Board of Zoning Appeals page under the tab "Government" "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@glenconey.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. If you are unable to access the application, please contact Rosa Rizzo at the address.
 Dated:
 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
 March 31, 2021
 OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE
 TERI MOSCHETTA,
 CHAIRPERSON
 125479
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.
 NAME: YAWYEW, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 12/3/20. NY Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to: 35 Roosevelt St Glen Cove, NY 11542 Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity.
 124897
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public meeting will be held virtually via Zoom by the City Council on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. to afford citizen of the City of Glen Cove and all interested parties an opportunity to be heard concerning a proposed amendment to Chapter 200 of the City Code of Ordinances, Outdoor and Sidewalk Cafes. The proposed amendment is entitled "Glen Cove Downtown Summer Nights" and is intended to permit temporary street closures from 6 p.m. through 11

p.m., from May 1 through October 31, at (1) School Street, between Highland Road and Glen Street; and/or (2) Glen Street, between School Street and Pulaski Street for the purposes of promoting downtown businesses and outdoor dining.
 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 982 6995 8083 and passcode number 793206. The hearing may also be accessed through a computer link located on the home page of the Glen Cove web site (<https://glenconey.gov/city-council-meeting-livestream/>), 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@glenconey.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 (646) 558-8656 and entering webinar ID number 982 6995 8083 and passcode number 793206. 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.
 If you have any questions about accessing this hearing, please contact Shannon Vulin via email at svulin@glenconey.gov. The proposed amendment may be viewed at <https://glenconey.gov/city-council-documents/>. If you are unable to access the document, please contact Shannon Vulin via email at svulin@glenconey.gov.
 125476
LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE OF NASSAU COUNTY TREASURER'S SALE OF TAX LIENS ON REAL ESTATE
 Notice is hereby given that commencing on May 5, 2021, will sell at public on-line auction the tax liens on certain real estate, unless the owner, mortgagee, occupant of or any other party in interest in such real estate shall have paid to the County Treasurer by May 3rd, 2021 the total amount of such unpaid taxes or assessments with the interest, penalties and other expenses and charges against the property.

Such tax liens will be sold at the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding 10 percent per six-month period, for which any person or persons shall offer to take the total amount of such unpaid taxes as defined in Section 5-37.0 of the Nassau County Administrative Code. Effective with the February 2019 lien sale Ordinance No. 175-2015 requires a \$175.00 per day registration fee for each person who intends to bid at the tax lien sale. Ordinance No. 175-2015 also requires that upon the issuance of the Lien Certificate there is due from the lien buyer a Tax Certificate Issue Fee of \$20.00 per lien purchased. Pursuant to the provisions of the Nassau County Administrative Code at the discretion of the Nassau County Treasurer the auction will be conducted online. Further information concerning the procedures for the auction is available at the website of the Nassau County Treasurer at: <https://www.nassaucounty.ny.gov/526/County-Treasurer>
 Should the Treasurer determine that an in-person auction shall be held, same will commence on the 5th day of May 2021 at the Office of The County Treasurer 1 West Street, Mineola or at some other location to be determined by the Treasurer.
 A list of all real estate in Nassau County on which tax liens are to be sold is available at the website of the Nassau County Treasurer at: <http://www.nassaucounty.ny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/32293>
 A list of local properties upon which tax liens are to be sold will be advertised in this publication on or before April 22, 2021. Nassau County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodations such as those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be provided to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in all services, programs, activities and public hearings and events conducted by the Treasurer's Office. Upon request, information can be made available in Braille, large print, audio-tape or other alternative formats. For additional information, please call (516) 571-2090 ext. 1-3715.
 Dated: March 26, 2021
 THE NASSAU COUNTY TREASURER
 Mineola, York
TERMS OF SALE
 Such tax liens shall be

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Tourists traps?

Dear Great Book Guru,
We were able to get together on our porch with family this weekend (everyone is fully vaccinated) and as you might have guessed, conversation quickly turned to books we had read recently. Someone mentioned a new novel about tourism and its effects on communities. It sounded interesting. Are you familiar with it?

—Loving My Family



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

Dear Loving My Family,

Yes, “Brothers, Sister, Mother, Explorer,” by Jamie Figueroa, is an amazing first novel. Rafa and Rufina are brother and sister living in an unnamed Latin American country. Their mother Rosalinda has just died and these adult siblings are devastated at their loss, so much so that Rafa is planning suicide. To prevent this, Rufina makes a bar-

gain with him: If they don costumes and perform in the village square for the many visiting tourists, the money they earn will allow them to flee their country for a new life.

We are with the pair for three days as they dance and sing for a disparate audience of men and women interested in taking selfies, ogling the couple, romanticizing about their “exotic” lives, seeing their obvious sadness and poverty as “part of the charm.” A stolen wallet that yields only a few dollars, a shaming wife, convention goes who carelessly toss money at the siblings, all make us question what role we might play in this brittle, biting tale of cruel indifference to fellow humans. Highly recommended!

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at annmdipietro@gmail.com.



Courtesy Joseph Simoneschi

SISTERS FANNY GRELLA and Louise Simoneschi enjoyed having lunch together at Panera Bread in Glen Cove.

In Memoriam: Fanny Grella

Oct. 23, 1926 to April 10, 2020

Fanny Grella died on April 10, 2020, from Covid-19, at age 93. She is survived by her younger sister, Antoinette Chessler. She is predeceased by her husband Carmen, sons Michael and Daniel and grandson Michael Grella Jr. She is also predeceased by her brothers Thomas and Joseph

Famiglietti and her sister, Louise Simoneschi. She is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, notably her nephew Joey Simoneschi, who she referred to as her “guardian angel” and her niece Debbie Abraham, whom she loved dearly.

HERALD LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

subject to any and all superior tax liens of sovereignties and other municipalities and to all claims of record which the County may have thereon and subject to the provisions of the Federal and State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts.

However, such tax liens shall have priority over the County's Differential Interest Lien, representing the excess, if any, of the interest and penalty borne at the maximum rate over the interest and penalty borne at the rate at which the lien is purchased.

The Purchaser acknowledges that the tax lien(s) sold pursuant to these Terms of Sale may be subject to pending bankruptcy proceedings and/or may become subject to such proceedings which may be commenced during the period in which a tax lien is held by a successful bidder or the assignee of same, which may modify a Purchaser's rights with respect to the lien(s) and the property securing same. Such bankruptcy proceedings shall not affect the validity of the tax lien. In addition to being subject to pending bankruptcy proceedings and/or the Federal and State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts, said purchaser's right of foreclosure may be affected by the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA), 12 U.S.C. ss 1811 et seq., with regard to real property under Federal Deposit Insurance

Corporation (FDIC) receivership. The County Treasurer reserves the right, without further notice and at any time, to withdraw from sale any of the parcels of land or premises herein listed. The Nassau County Treasurer reserves the right to intervene in any bankruptcy case/litigation where the property affected by the tax liens sold by the Treasurer is part of the bankruptcy estate. However, it is the sole responsibility of all tax lien purchasers to protect their legal interests in any bankruptcy case affecting their purchased tax lien, including but not limited to the filing of a proof of claim on their behalf, covering their investment in said tax lien. The Nassau County Treasurer and Nassau County and its agencies, assumes no responsibility for any legal representation of any tax lien purchaser in any legal proceeding including but not limited to a bankruptcy case where the purchased tax lien is at risk.

The rate of interest and penalty at which any person purchases the tax lien shall be established by his bid. Each purchaser, immediately after the sale thereof, shall pay to the County Treasurer ten per cent of the amount for which the tax liens have been sold and the remaining ninety per cent within thirty days after such sale. If the purchaser at the tax sale shall fail to pay the remaining ninety per cent within ten days after he

has been notified by the County Treasurer that the certificates of sale are ready for delivery, then all amounts deposited with the County Treasurer including but not limited to the ten per cent theretofore paid by him shall, without further notice or demand, be irrevocably forfeited by the purchaser and shall be retained by the County Treasurer as liquidated damages and the agreement to purchase shall be of no further effect. Time is of the essence in this sale. This sale is held pursuant to the Nassau County Administrative Code and interested parties are referred to such Code for additional information as to terms of the sale, rights of purchasers, maximum rates of interest and other legal incidents of the sale. Furthermore, as to the bidding,

1. The bidder(s) agree that they will not work with any other bidder(s) to increase, maintain or stabilize interest rates or collaborate with any other bidder(s) to gain an unfair competitive advantage in the random number generator in the event of a tie bid(s) on a tax certificate. Bidder(s) further agree not to employ any bidding strategy designed to create an unfair competitive advantage in the tiebreaking process in the upcoming tax sale nor work with any other bidder(s) to engage in any bidding strategy that will result in a rotational award of tax certificates.

2. The tax certificate(s) the Bidder will bid upon, and the interest rate(s) bid, will be arrived at independently and without direct or indirect consultation, communication or agreement with any other bidder and that the tax certificate(s) the Bidder will bid upon, and the interest rate(s) to be bid, have not been disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder, and will not be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder prior to the close of bidding. No attempt has been made or will be made to, directly or indirectly, induce any other bidder to refrain from bidding on any tax certificate, to submit complementary bids, or to submit bids at specific interest rates.

3. The bids to be placed by the Bidder will be made in good faith and not pursuant to any direct or indirect, agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any other bidder to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive bid.

4. If it is determined that the bidder(s) have violated any of these bid requirements then their bid shall be voided and if they were the successful bidder the lien and any deposits made in connection with said bid shall be forfeited.

Dated: March 26, 2021
THE NASSAU COUNTY TREASURER
Mineola, New York 125394
To place a notice here call us at 516-569-4000 x232 or send an email to: legalnotices@liherald.com

OBITUARIES



Kelly Jean Cavanagh

Kelly Jean Cavanagh of Glen Cove, formerly of Long Beach, peacefully returned home to the kingdom of heaven on March 23, 2021, at the age of 59. Kelly had been an active member of her faith and had dedicated her life to helping others. She is survived by her son, Billy Cavanagh, 28, of Los Angeles, California; cousin Jean McElroy; brother John Cavanagh, and many others. Arrangements entrusted to the Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove, www.dodgethomas.com. Services and interment are private.



Sarah Sturges Bancroft

Sarah Sturges Bancroft, of Locust Valley, died on March 22, at age 83. Devoted wife of the late William Woodward Bancroft and loving mother, step-mother, and grandmother. An avid bridge player, loved movies, a good book and gardening. A proud supporter of the ASPCA. Survived by her brother, Ralph Sturges; her children, Fred and Libby; her step-sons, Billy and Monty; and her seven grandchildren, Charlotte, Lilian, Freddy, Will, Serena, Julie and Finn. A memorial service will be held later this year.

Donations may be made in Sarah's memory to North Shore Animal League or ASPCA.

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OPINIONS

Some of us are killing our friends without bullets

We Americans have experienced a horrible year since the coronavirus invaded our shores. We've been confined to our homes, prohibited from traveling to vacation places and denied most of the many pleasures we took for granted pre-Covid. We have lost loved

ones and been denied the chance to hug the people who are most important in our lives.

Millions of doses of vaccines have been distributed around the country. The news is promising, but to quote the great Yogi Berra, It ain't over till it's over.



**JERRY
KREMER**

President Biden optimistically promised that we would have 100 million vaccinations in his first 100 days, and now he has upped that goal to 200 million. Pfizer, using new and remarkable technology, has predicted that in a short time it will be able to produce 100 million doses a month. Johnson & Johnson has also made bold promises, even with the recent loss of 10 million doses due to

“human error.”

It is estimated that approximately 65 percent of all people over age 65 in New York state have been vaccinated. The numbers for people under 65 aren't as high, but with the announcement that anyone over age 18 will now be eligible for the shots, it's anticipated that by mid-summer, a vast majority of New Yorkers will have had one or both shots. Sounds good, doesn't it?

Not according to Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who tearfully stated recently that the country was in danger of a fourth wave of Covid-19 that could wipe out all of our progress to date. Her fear for the public is based on the fact that some 18 states have declared that there is no longer any need for masks and social distancing, and their inhabitants can go back to life as usual. Businesses have been told that it's time to open up, with no qualifications.

Similar warnings have come from Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Many doctors like sports analo-

gies, and Fauci has proclaimed that we shouldn't “spike the ball on the 5-yard-line.” In plain talk, Fauci says that the number of reported cases and deaths have plateaued, and despite all the vaccinations, more and more people are

defying health warnings and exposing themselves to the possibility of serious illness. The latest bump in new cases is hitting the 25-to-40 age group hard, and the people in it are just being declared eligible to get vaccinated.

The statistics that are announced every day don't reach most people, but the television reports of the spring break crowds in Miami, flashed on the news many nights in a row, showed how reckless the college and post-college crowd can be. Miami police were forced to make hundreds of arrests, and blocked off the bridges leading to downtown Miami. It's too early to assess how many new cases will be reported, but there's no doubt that there will be an uptick in Covid reports.

Many other people will contract Covid in the weeks and months to come due to other factors. For some stupid reasons, many people who call them-

selves Republicans have decided that wearing a mask is a political statement, and they want no part of it. The anti-vaccine movement has contributed to the increase in cases, and some right-wing groups have embraced the anti-vaccers as a way to gain attention.

Over the past year, we have learned other interesting facts. When cases go up in your hometown, businesses are hit with new restrictions. More reported cases cause occupancy numbers to be reduced, and that hits your suffering local business owner right in the pocketbook. Every bundle of new cases forces a local official to punish innocent merchants. When you take off that mask and flout social distancing, you punish a lot more people than you'd imagine.

Things could get a lot better in the months to come, and the increasing number of vaccinated people is promising. But Berra would be the first to acknowledge that as of this point in April, this national crisis is far from over.

Jerry Kremer was a state assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He now heads Empire Government Strategies, a business development and legislative strategy firm. Comments about this column? JKremer@liherald.com.

When you flout social distancing, you punish a lot more people than you think.

Oldies but goodies have the right stuff

I married an older man, and this week he's turning 75. When we met, I was 14 and he was 15. Fortuitously, on this landmark birthday, it's golden to be golden. All the good guys are over 75 these days. In fact, presidentially speaking, my guy isn't quite old enough. If he were running for office, he would

need another three or four years of maturing to be ready for the Oval Office.

I'm old enough to remember the election of Jack Kennedy when he was 43, and let me tell you, our Joe Biden is no Jack Kennedy. Apparently the passing of torches and



**RANDI
KREISS**

high-energy moon-shot talk are out of favor, and white hair and marital fidelity are in. Sailing off Cape Cod is out and riding Amtrak is in.

Politico released a story featuring President Biden's cabinet appointees, referring to the cabinet as his “senior center.” And with good reason. The average age of the first 12 nominees is 63. Among other leadership, House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi is 80. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is 70. The GOP's Mitch McConnell is 79. Not to mention Bernie Sanders.

In the run-up to the 2020 election, I wrote a column arguing that Biden was too old to run for presidency. I was concerned that his age could compromise his performance in office. Ideally, a president should be at the peak of his powers. But we don't live in an ideal world.

When the race came down to Trump vs. Biden, there was no question at all: Biden had to win. He had to replace the man and the messengers who were infusing corruption and authoritarianism into our government agencies and offices. Many of us who voted for Biden felt destabilized by the previous administration. We wanted someone we could count on.

There is something about Biden's age that makes it all work in this moment. He has the gravitas, the experience and the emotional stability to give us our best chance of building bridges, literally and figuratively. He walks in step with many diverse groups of Americans, and

they know he knows their lives.

He is building a team of professionals who have done this job before and know the ropes.

Perhaps the emergence of the old man as political hero began with Sanders in the 2016 election.

Among the many bizarre aspects of that race was the phenomenon of young people driving the Sanders election machine.

Bernie's supporters loved him because he seemed like an honest broker to them, and that's a rare commodity in modern political life. Biden's supporters stand with him because they connect with him on an emotional and ethical level. They are tired of trauma and melodrama emanating from the White House. They are tired of decrees by tweet and, truthfully, tired of a madman at the helm of our ship of state.

Watching Biden's steady hand on the wheel is heartening. His longtime relationships smooth the way for getting things done. Yes, he's old. Yes, he occasionally flubs a line, but this happens to be his unique time to change the course of American history.

With a landmark birthday, charting the emergence of the old man as political hero.

So what does this have to do with my husband turning 75? Biden has neutralized the age issue. What do I care if my partner of 48 years has wrinkles and white hair? What do I care if he gets out of breath playing basketball with the grandkids?

Sure, I remember the 17-year-old hunk I dated at Lawrence High School in 1964. Yes, I know he had shoulders to die for and a killer jump shot. Today he walks a bit more slowly, and sometimes searches for a word. But he's so *in*. Like the Bern, his voice is sometimes raspy, and he, too, waves his arms when he talks. But we have a meeting of the minds on the state of the world and politics. We have successfully worked together for more than five decades on raising our kids and grandkids and caring for aging parents.

It's true, my old man has arthritis in his neck, and sometimes heavy breathing means he is walking up too many stairs. But who would want a callow youth? The ascendance of Joe Biden has taught us that 70-something can be a starting line. Anything is possible.

My birthday boy has four years to decide whether to run for president.

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HERALD EDITORIALS

High-speed rail for L.I. deserves public support

With the Biden administration pushing a \$2 trillion national infrastructure plan, what once seemed like a fantasy — high-speed rail for the Northeast — is slowly, steadily becoming a distinct possibility, and Long Island could play a central role in the proposed project.

The Long Island Association last week hosted an hour-long Zoom panel discussion of plans for a high-speed rail line that would run from New York City to Ronkonkoma, across the Long Island Sound to Hartford, Conn., and then to Boston. Total trip time: 1 hour, 40 minutes, compared with the 3½ hours that it now takes by car — if you hit no traffic along the way. If driving conditions are poor, getting to Boston from New York can take four to five hours.

The \$100 billion rail line, a public-private partnership, would take an estimated 20 years to complete. Trains on the line would travel 150 to 225 mph.

Slower-speed spur lines from Oyster Bay and Riverhead would connect with the main high-speed branch, which would run down the middle of Nassau County and part of Suffolk County.

The rail line and its spurs, officials said, would connect Nassau's major research institutions, like Hofstra University, with its counterparts in Suffolk, like Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory, in Upton. Through the main line, such centers would be connected with other major research institutes in New York City and Boston.

The Northeast is one of America's most important research corridors, with many of the nation's great universities and institutes here, but they are now hopelessly disconnected by sclerotic traffic arteries. High-speed rail could very well lead to a renaissance of scientific — and economic — progress in the region.

At the same time, an injection of \$100

billion, 90 to 100 percent of which the federal government would provide under the proposed infrastructure bill, would be a massive economic stimulus to the region, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Local residents, officials noted, would not, for the most part, have to worry about their properties being taken by right of eminent domain to build the rail line, because most of it would be constructed on current underused or abandoned rights of way. And environmentalists needn't worry about disturbing the Long Island Sound's ecosystem, because a 16-mile-long tunnel would be constructed well below the bottom of the sound.

Clearly, this project would be a win-win for the Northeast — Long Island, in particular. To ensure that it happens, though, the public needs to apply pressure to Congress to pass Biden's infrastructure plan and include the North Atlantic Rail Initiative in it.

Should municipalities opt out on marijuana?

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, once an ardent detractor of any measure to legalize recreational marijuana, last week signed the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act, making the sale of all forms of cannabis in the state legal. New York joins 15 other states and Washington, D.C., in allowing use of the drug.

We're not here to debate the merits of the law. Legalizing recreational marijuana, the governor projects, will bring in around \$350 million in what we acknowledge is much-needed tax revenue each year and create 30,000 to 60,000 jobs.

Immediately after Cuomo signed the legislation into law, the mayors of four South Shore villages — Atlantic Beach, Freeport, Island Park and Rockville Centre — announced that they would opt out of the law and ban marijuana sales, as villages, towns and cities are allowed to do.

Atlantic Beach Mayor George Pappas told the New York Post that he would aggressively enforce no-smoking ordinances on the beach to ensure that people aren't getting high there. "It's a moral imperative to opt out," Island Park Mayor Michael McGinty said. "I'm not going to permit marijuana here. It's that simple."

But is it really that simple? Shouldn't the mayors have left it up to the people in their municipalities to decide whether they would forgo marijuana sales taxes from legal shops? Shouldn't they have put a ballot measure to a public vote?

Frankly, we would have preferred to see a statewide vote on whether to legalize recreational marijuana in order to gauge the will of the people — that is, whether a majority of New Yorkers were willing to accept the inherent risks involved with full cannabis legalization, including poten-

tially higher rates of use by children and teens (studies are mixed), in favor of the hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue that legalizing recreational cannabis is likely to bring in.

Our elected leaders, however, made the decision for us, based in large part, it appears, on the economics of legalization.

Now that marijuana is legal, does it make sense for any municipality to opt out without first checking with the local citizenry? If Rockville Centre users can't get marijuana in town, they'll simply drive to Baldwin or Lynbrook, potentially taking up along the way. Meanwhile, the village will lose out on the commerce generated by local cannabis shops.

Other local municipalities would do well to carefully consider how to proceed on legal marijuana before arbitrarily banning it.

LETTERS

Joy from snail-mail thing of the past

To the Editor:

U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's plan to purposely slow already slow snail-mail deliveries makes a mockery of the U.S. Postal Service's motto, chiseled into the granite above the entrance to its main post office in Manhattan: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

DeJoy, whose leadership seems less like a general's than what you'd expect from a newly enlisted private, seems as if he's aiming to destroy the Postal Service. I judge him — and not his hard-working "couriers," who do the best they can with what DeJoy hasn't



OPINIONS

New York has legalized marijuana. What now?

Now that state lawmakers in Albany have legalized recreational marijuana, it's time to ensure that public safety, public health and quality-of-life concerns are addressed as part of the rollout process. The stakes are high. If implementation is hurried or goes awry, the dreams of those who pushed for legal weed will go up in smoke and the worst fears of opponents will become reality. Then we all lose.



JEFFREY REYNOLDS

Here are some proactive steps that lawmakers can take in the next 30 days to ensure that one of the biggest policy changes in New York history is a success:

- Launch a state-wide public health campaign that educates the general public, including parents, consumers and retailers, on the potential health consequences associated with cannabis use, the importance of preventing youth access, the importance of safe storage and preventing exposure to second-hand smoke, information for pregnant or breastfeeding women and warnings about the overconsumption of edible cannabis products.

- Convene three broad-based, diverse

Implementation Workgroups — one for Long Island, one for New York City and another for upstate and the Southern Tier — to invite stakeholder input and hash out program details with a regional eye. Participants should include local government officials, law enforcement personnel, legal experts, mental health professionals, addiction specialists, clergy, labor leaders, school personnel and child welfare experts, community activists and advocates from both sides of the debate willing to work cooperatively to ensure the best possible outcomes.

- Fifteen other states and Washington, D.C., have legalized cannabis, and undoubtedly have lessons to share about their experiences. We could probably avoid some pitfalls and build on best practices by deepening our dialogue with other states, counties and municipalities that have wrestled with these issues in the past decade.

- Properly evaluating the impact of cannabis legalization in New York requires the state to start collecting and cataloging data now, so fair comparisons can be made. Key metrics include changes in marijuana use and public perceptions of the drug; emergency-room visits and poison-control-center calls; addiction treatment and psychiatric admissions; school incidents and

criminal complaints; car crashes, traffic tickets and impaired driving arrests; marijuana sales data and changes in pricing; energy consumption at cultivation sites; and tax revenues collected and jobs created. This research may be best conducted

by an independent firm rather than state personnel, but the study protocols, research questions and baseline data need to be determined immediately.

- Impaired driving is a universal concern, especially on Long Island, where many of us spend hours each day in our cars. Absent a “Breathalyzer” that can detect a driver’s level of marijuana impairment, well-trained police officers are our best tool for preventing crashes. New York should help the Nassau County Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies secure and complete the necessary training. We need both emergent technology to measure cannabis intoxication objectively, and a focused driver education campaign to promote highway safety.

- Businesses — especially those with safety-sensitive positions — will have to solve thorny dilemmas created by employee drug testing and workplace impairment, and should receive very clear guidance and support as the new law takes

effect.

- New York state has had a well-run medical marijuana program since 2016. Beyond the structural changes required by the recently approved Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act, the cannabis market is about to shift. Steps should be taken to ensure continued access for those with medical marijuana cards.

- Long Island’s cities, towns and villages have until Dec. 31 to opt out of having retail stores in their communities, though residents can force the issue through local referendum. Some municipalities, like the Town of Oyster Bay, have already started to pass new zoning laws to keep marijuana shops out of neighborhoods and restrict them to light industrial areas. These hyper-local conversations are bound to get heated, but we need to start talking now.

Finally, and most important, while all this is going on, and whether or not you choose to get involved in these community conversations, please talk with your own children and family members about marijuana and drug use in general. Just because it’s now legal doesn’t make it suddenly safe. As we navigate this policy change, we need to do more to keep our families and communities safe and healthy.

Dr. Jeffrey L. Reynolds is president and CEO of the Family and Children’s Association, one of Long Island’s oldest nonprofits providing addiction treatment and mental health services to local residents.

Impaired driving is a major concern, especially on car-centric Long Island.

LETTERS

taken away from them — by my recent experience. A box of 25 copies of the Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal, mailed to me on Feb. 11 by its editor from Providence, R.I., took 40 days to reach me, arriving on March 22. Ironic, since “40 days and 40 nights” was how long the rain pelted Noah’s ark during the Bible’s great flood, though for me the wait felt more like the 40 years the Israelites wandered the desert after Moses led them out of Egypt.

Strangely, the package started its journey moving quickly, traveling from Rhode Island to New Jersey in just two days. USPS tracking then informed me that it departed from Jersey City on Feb. 13, and on Feb. 17 was “in transit to the next facility.” But then I received no updates for 28 days. Finally I was told that my copies had made their way all of 10 miles, to Kearney, N.J., on March 17, during those four-plus weeks. And then, miraculously, my seven-pound box moved quickly once again to cross the Hudson River, cross state lines into New York, cross over Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens into Nassau County, and onto my front stoop in Plainview in just five days.

These 25 magazines could not have been delivered by email. DeJoy has taken all the “joy” out of anxiously waiting for

a package to be delivered by good old snail-mail.

RICHARD SIEGELMAN
Plainview

Nassau leads the way on vaccines

To the Editor:

As of last week, 500,000 Nassau County residents had received their first Covid-19 shots. That’s about half of the county’s adult population.

With four county Department of Health vaccination sites, a designated hotline for seniors and veterans, robust partnerships with community providers and a unique pre-registration vaccination website, Nassau has become a model of Covid-19 vaccine distribution in New York state. It currently has the highest percentage of residents — 36.7 percent — with at least one dose of the vaccine among state counties with populations greater than 500,000.

The county has been leading the state in vaccinations, and we will continue to move full speed ahead to get our residents protected against this deadly virus. Thank you to the award-winning Department of Health and the fantastic Medical Reserve

FRAMEWORK by Bill Bleyer



At low tide, an avian social hour — Mill Neck Creek

Corps volunteers who have been doing an extraordinary job of swiftly vaccinating our population.

The vaccine is our passport back to normal, and we have been building up infrastructure as both supply and eligibility increase. I am proud that we have reached the milestone of half a million residents vaccinated, but we’re not stopping here.

The county has established a designated way for both veterans and seniors to receive appointments. Veterans can make appointments through the county’s Veter-

ans Service Agency by calling (516) 572-6565. A hotline for seniors was also created to get shots in the arms of the vulnerable. Seniors can make appointments by calling (516) 227-9590.

For more information on the vaccine and for available appointments at county and partner locations, please visit www.nassaucountyny.gov/vaccine.

LAURA CURRAN
Nassau County executive



branch

real estate group



...She is a delightful, conscientious person, in addition to being a skilled and experienced professional. Molly was truly excellent throughout the selling process. She has my highest recommendation!"

P. Scheiner

We believe that Molly truly wanted to see us happy, and wouldn't stop until we found our perfect home (and we finally did!) We're so glad that we decided to work with her, and would definitely recommend Molly to anyone in the area considering buying or selling."

A. Goldin

Molly and the Branch organization are very reputable people and I highly recommend her as a "go to source" for either buying or selling property.

I have used her services several times being on both sides of the transaction and she has always come through for me. I can honestly recommend her without hesitation.

L. Israel



Molly Deegan

[licensed real estate salesperson]

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