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COMMUNITY UPDATE
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 Infections as of May 24
4,095

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City raises Pride Flag for June
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Ralph Panetta Turns 100
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\$1.00 VOL. 30 NO. 23

JUNE 3-9, 2021



Lee Goldstein/Herald

GLEN COVE MAYOR Tim Tenke presented a proclamation to relatives of the late Sgt. Ralph W. Young, of the U.S. Army Air Corps, at the Memorial Day ceremony.

Two Black Americans honored on Memorial Day

Officials stress importance of national unity

BY JILL NOSSA
 jnossa@liherald.com

Reflecting, remembering and uniting were the themes of Glen Cove's Memorial Day ceremony on Monday. Community members gathered at Veterans Memorial Monument Park to pay their respects to the fallen and to honor two Glen Cove resi-

dents who served the country. The ceremony was attended by a number of elected officials, many of whom stressed the importance of sticking together through a difficult time in our country.

"Memorial Day is a day to remember, a day to show appreciation, a day to be grateful and a day to reflect," Mayor Tim Tenke said.

"Today we remember all those from this community and from around the country who died fighting for us, and today we say thank you to them."

Tenke noted that, in keeping with the city's tradition, veterans and Memorial Day Parade Committee members had visited all four of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Docs answer parents' Covid questions

BY JENNIFER CORR
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After the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration earlier this month approved

Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 12 to 15, Dr. Shetal Shah, president of New York Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said pediatricians were inundated by parents' questions.

"Questions ranged from parents who were enthusiastic about their children getting vaccinated who wanted to know the quickest way to secure an appointment to those who were more hesitant about vaccinating their child," Shah said.

To help answer parents' questions, as well as alleviate the anxiety they might be feeling about vaccinating their children against Covid-19, Nassau County Legislator Arnold Drucker and

State Senators Jim Gaughran, Anna Kaplan and Kevin Thomas partnered with the American Academy of Pediatrics to host a virtual panel May 26 at which parents could ask pediatricians their questions.

All of these elected officials have shown tremendous dedication to this issue.

SHETAL SHAH
 President, New York chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

"All of these elected officials have shown tremendous dedication to the issue of child health," Shah said. "We are fortunate to be able to work with such wonderful partners."

The panelists included pediatricians from hospitals and medical centers across the state, many of whom are experts in pediatric infectious diseases. Parents had the opportunity before, during and after the panel to submit their questions to

the doctors. "Our panelists are all distinguished pediatricians and division heads of pediatric infectious disease at our nationally recognized children's hospitals,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Panel discusses vaccines and children

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Shah said. Gaughran said it was an honor to host a panel of distinguished medical experts, as well as his government colleagues. “You folks have been on the front line dealing with this from day one with testing, vaccinations and I know also what you’re dealing with your patients and helping them get through this,” he said.

Q&A with the doctors

Question: “How effective is the Pfizer vaccine in children between 12 and 15 years old?”

Dr. Leonard Krilov: “The data from the trial with the Pfizer vaccine in 12- to 15-year-olds, although a smaller number than the study that led to approval for adults, shows equal or even potentially better efficacy for the Pfizer vaccine based on the fact that of the 1,200 recipients of the vaccine, there were zero cases detected over time with follow-up versus 16 in the placebo group.”

Question: “Is the vaccine safe for children 12 to 15 years old? How do we know that?”

Dr. Sharon Nachman: “In order for something to get an [Emergency Use Authorization] approval, we need to know that two



Nicole Alcindor/Herald

FREEPORT RESIDENT MYLES Hollingsworth, 16, was vaccinated on May 13 at the Nassau Community College vaccination site for adolescents.

doses went into the arms and that two months after dose two, everybody was followed for safety . . . Safety signals were exactly the same as we saw in adults. They had some sore arms, some fatigue, some low-grade fevers, but in fact, they bounced back. If you’re asking me if we have six

months or 12 months of a track record of safety, of course we don’t. This is a new vaccine. On the other hand, we have to weigh that against the over 100 million people that were dosed with both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines across the U.S. . . . We do not expect to see any long-term safety signal in the children.”

Question: “I’ve heard, again, concerns from adults about the Covid vaccine and infertility. Should women be worried about this?”

Dr. Eve Krief: “There’s no evidence that suggests that the RNA vaccines, or any vaccines for that matter, affect fertility . . . The vaccine could not be tested in pregnant women. We just don’t do that. But, [by] chance, 23 women actually did get pregnant during the trials — half of them in the placebo, half of them in the vaccine — and there was no evidence that suggests there was an effect on fertility. Since then, 35,000 women have received the vaccine while pregnant. We don’t just give the vaccine and hope for the best when pregnant women start taking the vaccine.

Meet the doctors

■ **Dr. Eve Meltzer-Krief:** Huntington-based private practitioner and legislative advocacy chairwoman of New York Chapter Two of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

■ **Dr. Lorry G. Rubin:** Director of pediatric infectious diseases, Department of Pediatrics at the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children’s Medical Center in New Hyde Park.

■ **Dr. Leonard R. Krilov:** Chief of pediatric infectious diseases and chairman of pediatrics at NYU Langone Hospital.

■ **Dr. Sheila Nolan:** Section chief of pediatric infectious diseases at Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital in Westchester.

■ **Dr. Sharon Nachman:** Chief of division of pediatric infectious diseases at Stony Brook Children’s Hospital.

There’s something called DART studies — Developmental and Reproductive Toxicity studies — in animals before the vaccine can be given to women. All those showed no effects on the ability to get pregnant or the safety of the pregnancy and the fetus’s development.”

Question: “My child has already had Covid. Does he need the vaccine and is he or she already protected?”

Dr. Lorry Rubin: “The majority of people that have had Covid do develop antibodies and some level of immunity... There’s sort of a rule of thumb that you’re probably protected from another infection for 90 days after your original Covid infection . . . In this case, I would very much endorse getting the vaccine in terms of reliably getting immunity to a repeat infection.”

To watch the panel in full, and to hear more questions and answers from the medical experts, visit facebook.com/LegislatorArnoldWDrucker.

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Photos by Lee Goldstein/Herald

THE GLEN COVE Memorial Day Parade Committee sponsored the Memorial Day ceremony to honor the war dead on Monday.



STATE SEN. JAMES Gaughran, far left, and U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi presented proclamations to Craig and Leon Osborne, relatives of the late Sgt. Ralph W. Young.

Remembering and reflecting on Memorial Day

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

city's war monuments the day before. "In doing so, one cannot help but notice all of the names that are engraved on those monuments and realize that freedom is not free," he said. "It is paid for by the ultimate sacrifices our men and women have made for this country. They did not do it to be heroes, but to preserve our democracy."

Mike Mienko, civilian co-chairman of the parade committee, compared front-line workers battling the coronavirus pandemic to those who fought in traditional wars. "We need to thank the men and women who are on the front lines who continue to protect us," Mienko said. "The front may not be the trenches in France ... the battlefields are here on the home front, where we have to do our part to continue to work together, and together we shall overcome. We are a nation born of freedoms, and it is the men and women on the front line who protect our freedom."

During the ceremony, the parade committee honored Sgt. Ralph W. Young, who was killed on April 11, 1945. Young grew up in Glen Cove and earned a full scholarship to Lincoln University Law School, the first historically Black degree-granting university in the United States. After three years of college, he entered the U.S. Army as an infantryman, and was later transferred to the Army Air Corps. He was deployed to India, where his mission was to transport supplies over the Himalayas. His aircraft crashed while flying in dangerous weather conditions, and there were no survivors. He left behind his parents and sister in Glen Cove, and he is remembered in town for having a street named for him — Ralph Young Avenue. Young Simmons American Legion Post 1765 is co-named for him.

"We must honor men like Ralph,"



MARC MARTONE SPOKE on behalf of the family of the late Dr. Chester "Chet" Pierce, a World War II Navy veteran who was honored at the parade.

Tenke said. "If words cannot repay the debt we owe these men and women, surely, with our actions, we must strive to keep the faith with them and the vision that led them to battle until final sacrifice."

Young's relatives Craig and Leon Osborne accepted citations from the City of Glen Cove, U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, State Assemblyman Charles Lavine and County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton. "I'm so happy that we're honoring him today, to remind us that Glen Cove has an amazing history of African-Americans that

have given their lives for this country," Suozzi said before presenting the Osborne family with an American flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol in Young's honor.

"We think about Memorial Day honoring those soldiers who gave their lives throughout American history, from the Revolutionary War on," Suozzi said. "It's really for democracy and freedom, which in real life today is politics and government. And think of what a dirty word those things have become. If we're going to truly honor those that gave their lives

for this country, we all need to lift up this process in our country and participate — stop with the extremism and divisiveness and work together."

Lavine expressed similar sentiments. "We are all in this together and must remain all in this together," he said, "and unless and until we honor, observe and live with the truth of American history, which has not always been terribly pleasant, we are and remain an aspirational nation, because we believe in equality, we believe in brotherhood and friendship, and all Americans are neighbors. It is good that we all stand together."

"In order to truly honor those who sacrificed their lives to protect this country," DeRiggi-Whitton said, "we all have to remember we are one nation, under God, and we have to stick together."

The parade committee also recognized "Son of Glen Cove" honoree Dr. Chester "Chet" Middlebrook Pierce, who died in September 2016. Pierce was a 1944 graduate of Glen Cove High School, class president and valedictorian. He studied at Harvard Medical School and played on the football team, and was the first Black college athlete to play south of the Mason-Dixon line when Harvard visited the University of Virginia. He was a commander in the Navy, surgeon general of the Air Force and a psychiatrist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 25 years.

Pierce's classmate and friend Marc Martone spoke on behalf of the Pierce family, calling Chet a "truly great American." "It is great honor for me to represent the family and accept the citation on behalf of the family," Martone said. "He was great as a psychiatrist, greater as a human being. Because of his brilliant career, he has brought great honor to our country, our state and especially to the great city of Glen Cove."

G.C. schools chief moves up in superintendents group

Dr. Maria Rianna, superintendent of the Glen Cove City School District, was recently elected by her peers to serve on the Executive Committee for the New York State Council of School Superintendents, an organization that helps school superintendents and members succeed on behalf of the children and communities they serve.

Rianna was elected to the position in recognition of her strong leadership skills, achievements as superintendent in the Glen Cove City School District and the respect she has earned from her peers, which will play a crucial role in assisting the committee in its ongoing efforts to transform New York State public education, organization officials said.

"It is a great honor to be elected to the Executive Committee for the New York State Council of School Superintendents," Rianna said. "My colleagues on the committee and I will do everything we can to support school district leadership and staff while ensuring that public schools continue to provide a high-quality



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District.

DR. MARIA RIANNA, Superintendent of the Glen Cove City School District.

education for our children."

The council's Executive Committee consists of a 15-member board of school district superintendents, which includes five officers, six elected members and four diversity and under-represented presidential appointments. The Executive Committee, along with the executive director, are the administrative body of the council.



Leah Dwyer/Herald

SARAH KATE ELLIS spoke about the LGBTQ community during the Pride Flag raising on Tuesday.



MAYOR TIM TENKE, Marsha Silverman, Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews and Sarah Kate Ellis raising the pride flag.

City raises Pride Flag

BY LEAH DWYER

On June 1, at the Garvies Point ferry terminal, officials and residents of Glen Cove gathered, decked out in rainbow, to celebrate progress by raising the rainbow flag to mark Pride Month.

"In raising the Pride Flag," Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke said, "we can proudly display that we are a city that is about solidarity, unity, equality and inclusion."

Tenke said he plans to make the

Pride Flag raising an annual event. It will be flown throughout June.

Speeches were made by members of the LGBTQ community and Glen Cove City Council members Marsha Silverman and Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, as well as Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD (gay lesbian alliance against defamation).

"We want to make sure that Glen Cove is known as a place that supports our LGBT community," Tenke said.

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

N O M I N A T E a 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!

1123301

Glen Cove contending for top lacrosse spot

BY TONY BELLISSIMO
tbellissimo@lherald.com

Glen Cove girls' lacrosse coach Mark Checola credits captains Jennifer LaRocca and Ashley Brown with keeping the team united during the pandemic and serving as leaders of the defense and offense, respectively, once the action got going May 1.

The Big Red was leading the pack in Nassau Conference V through 10 games with a record of 8-1-1. Checola, who has spent 24 years coaching boys' or girls' lacrosse in the district, says the compete level is the team's biggest asset.

"The girls have been fantastic," said Checola, who served as the girls' varsity assistant from 2017-2019. "The pandemic was a major challenge, but Jennifer and Ashley were instrumental in keeping everyone on the same page. The kids have all bought in and are playing very well."

For various reasons, Glen Cove was forced into using three different goaltenders over the first four games. It still managed to start 3-1 and took a nailbiter over Valley Stream District, 7-6, when starting goalie Lily Knobel returned and made seven saves. Junior Sofia Kern and sophomore Caralena Genova held down the fort in the interim.

"There aren't too many positions in all of sports harder than a goalie in lacrosse," Checola said. "Lily is a hard worker and a strong athlete. She's played lights-out for us. She has a super high compete level and fights for everything. She's not going to give up soft goals. It

was great to see Sofia and Caralena step up when Lily was unavailable."

Knobel's most impressive game of the season so far came in the rematch against Valley Stream District on May 20 when she made 21 saves in a 10-10 tie. Brown, a junior, scored six goals and ranked among the county leaders with 48 heading into June.

"Ashley is fast with good vision and a strong left-handed stick," Checola said of Brown, who scored seven goals to lead a 13-5 win over Great Neck North on May 24. "I think where she's underrated is her ability to make things happen from the right side as well."


Freshman midfielder Maddy Kaffl (28 goals, 10 assists) is the team's second-leading scorer who was quick to develop chemistry with Brown. Kaffl also takes the lion's share of draws. "I don't sub Maddy off unless she says she needs a breather," Checola said. Senior Caroline Yee is another important piece in the midfield. In addition to being an emergency goalie, Kern contributes at midfield and attack along with junior Grace Spoto, who has 13 goals.

In the defensive zone, LaRocca, a senior, is a positive influence on the unit and brings plenty of energy, Checola noted. "She's like having a coach on the field," he said. Junior Tigist Wilson and freshman Ava Scagliola, a ground-ball machine, are additional keys to the success on defense. Glen Cove held opponents to single digits in goals in seven of the first 10 games.



Courtesy Mark Checola

SENIOR JENNIFER LARocca, left, and Ashley Brown provided Glen Cove with leadership during the pandemic and lost 2020 season.




Re-Elect

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GLEN COVE CITY COUNCIL

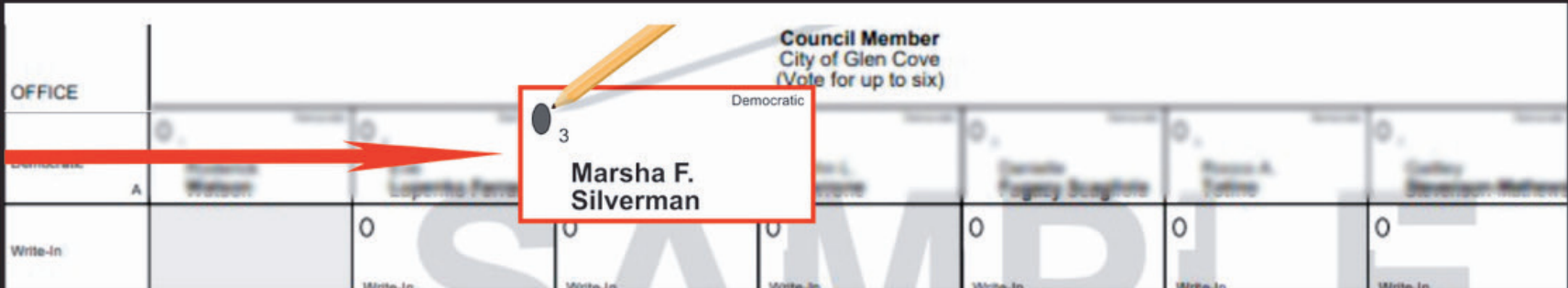
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DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY TUESDAY JUNE 22ND

EARLY VOTING AT GLEN COVE CITY HALL: SAT JUN 12 THRU SUN JUN 20



BOX #3

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, June 4

Long Island Chamber Music

Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Long Island Chamber Music presents a program for violin and cello inspired by artist Everett Shinn's renderings of theater scenes. Featuring Gergana Haralampieva on violin and Sarah Ghandour on cello, the performance will showcase a diverse set of composers from the Baroque era to present day who are widely known for their music for opera and ballet. Tickets \$32 for members, \$40 for non-members.

Movie at the Library

Gold Coast Public Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 to 4:15 p.m. Watch "Mister Roberts" (1955) at the library. This is the classic story of men fighting to survive not war's dangers, but its indignities. With Henry Fonda, Jack Lemmon and James Cagney. (121 minutes). Room A will open at 1:40 p.m.

Saturday, June 5

Sea Cliff Garage Sale Day

The annual village-wide garage sale day returns, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All village residents are invited to participate in this event sponsored by the Sea Cliff Civic Association. Rain date: June 6.

Sunday, June 6

Mini photo sessions at T.R. Park

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park, 25 West End Ave., Oyster Bay. Starting at 9 a.m., participants can capture themselves and their loved ones, including pets, with a free 30-minute photoshoot with local photographers. For more information, call (973) 281-4503.

Oyster Bay Market

The Oyster Bay Market is a food-driven market that also supports local small businesses and artisans. Customers will find produce, clams, oysters, bread, baked goods, honey and more. Located biweekly on Sundays on Audrey Avenue



Roni Chastain/Herald

Deep Roots Farmers Market opens

The weekly Saturday farmers market, formerly known as the Sea Cliff Farmers Market, reopens under a new name in a new location on Saturday, June 5. Deep Roots Farmers Market offers a selection of locally grown vegetables and eggs, fresh baked bread, honey, seafood and more every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 100 Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove.

and in the municipal lot by the Bandstand near the post office and 20th Century Cycles, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday, June 7

Virtual Lecture

Through the Gold Coast Public Library, 4 p.m. James Coll presents: What Does the Declaration Actually Declare? Few documents have had as much impact on world history as the one-page writing that formalized the serving of ties between the American colonies and England. In this lecture, participants will discuss the road to the declaration, the constitutional underpinnings of its necessity and the historical basis of its premise. Go to goldcoastlibrary.org to register.

Tuesday, June 8

A History of the Movie Musical

Through the Glen Cove Library, 7 p.m. As soon as movies could talk, they began to sing and dance—and musicals quickly became among the most popular film genres in America. This presentation will look at the fascinating history of this unique format, and include more than thirty excerpts, featuring artists like Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, the Nicholas Brothers, Busby Berkeley, Gene Kelly, and the Beatles. Presented by Brian Rose. Register at glencovelibrary.org.

Wednesday, June 9

Living with Wildlife on Long Island

A virtual program through the Sea Cliff Village Library, 7 p.m. Presented by the

Volunteers for Wildlife. In this program, participants will meet some of the reptiles, mammals and birds that call Long Island their home. Register at: seaclifflibrary@hotmail.com. A Zoom link will be sent upon registration.

The Power of Kindness

Through the Glen Cove Library, 7 p.m. What you focus on expands. Focus on fears, worries, and the negative actions of those around you and you will feel as if there is very little hope for you and your family's future. Focus on joy, abundance, and the absolute belief that this life is set up for you to succeed and watch very different results begin to manifest. Join professional speaker, success coach and hypnotist, Striker Corbin and discover how to take control over your health, wealth, and relationships. He will discuss personal growth, the power of compassion and

love, and how we are responsible for the quality of our own unique journey. Register at glencovelibrary.org.

Virtual Program: Heart Health

Through Nassau Libraries Health Share and hosted by Glen Cove Library, 11 a.m. In this virtual presentation, Maura Calio, MA, RN from St. Francis Hospital DeMatteis Center will discuss atherosclerosis, heart disease risk, heart attack and stroke warning signs, strategies to stay healthy as well as current treatment approaches. Register at glencovelibrary.org.

Thursday, June 10

Virtual Movie Discussion

Through the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, 100 Crescent Beach Rd., Glen Cove, 6 p.m. Join HMTCC for a program about the documentary film "Saul & Ruby's Holocaust Survivor Band" with Holocaust survivor Saul Dreier and the documentary filmmaker Tod Lending. Meet the dynamic man behind the band who is at the core of this heartwarming story. Note, film clips, not the entire film, will be shown as part of this program. To watch the film in its entirety check Amazon. Register at hmtcli.org.

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

- Fitness in Village Square takes place every Saturday in Glen Cove.
- Registration is open for swim lessons at Glen Cove's Prybil Beach.
- The Glen Cove Pre-Council meeting is on June 15, at 6:30 p.m.
- The Sea Cliff Village Board of Trustees meets on June 7 at 6 p.m.
- TOB residents can sign up for summer athletic programs.

Glen Cove maintains Moody's credit rating

BY JILL NOSSA

jnossa@herald.com

In a report released last month, the City of Glen Cove maintained its Moody's credit rating of Baa2 for the second year.

According to city officials, the unchanged credit rating – which increased last year – is a positive sign for the city, especially since pandemic had a negative impact on the city's finances.

"Basically, they reaffirmed our credit rating from previous ratings," City Controller Michael Piccirillo said. "They did show significant improvement over last year, however, they still added the negative deficit of the city. As a result of that, they were not able to upgrade the rating, but were able to maintain it."

The unaudited financial results of 2020 added to the city's negative available fund balance, Piccirillo said, the city's management team is working to stabilize its financial condition by developing structurally balanced budgets and replenishing reserves. In the 2020 fiscal year, the unaudited financial results showed significant developments over 2019, with the general fund reflecting a net change in fund balance improvement by about 70 percent.

"We feel that, with the city continuing to meet the obligations that we've set forth in our existing adopted budget that we will probably see much better ratings in the future," Piccirillo said. "It's not something that happens overnight; this is many years in the making that we're trying to right."

According to the report, "The city has historically struggled to implement balanced budgets which has resulted in multiple years of negative available fund balance, including fiscal 2020. However, new management is working to bring the budget into balance and grow reserves. Long-term liabilities are manageable and fixed costs are declining."

Some of the positive actions highlighted in the report include: conservative budgeting with respect to State Aid, which may assist in adding to the reserve balance; including tax certiorari claims and separation payments in the city's general fund; and a surplus in the water fund. The report said the city's management and governance has shown improvements following a "significant decline in operations through 2019," and that the city's budgeting "appears to have improved, and steps have been taken to improve its financial position." Two other positives listed on the report are the fact the city is no longer self-insured and it negotiated a new Police Benevolent Association contract that is "likely to bring significant cost savings to the city for the next two years."

"We are trying to right a ship that for a long time was going off course," Mayor Tim Tenke said. "For many years, we had no tax increases, and if they had just small increases over the

past years, we wouldn't have had to raise the taxes now, and we'd be in a better situation."

Tenke said he is staying away from one-shot revenues, which merely help to fill immediate holes. "We have to learn to live within our means, our cash flow and budgeted items," Tenke said. "We cut back on a lot of things, but we haven't cut back on services for the city, and we've maintained the workforce pretty much at full level."

According to Piccirillo, the one-shot revenues used in the city's budget in 2017 and 2018 – for the sale of the Coles

School and Garvies Point properties – "artificially" caused the Moody's rating to get an upgrade because it had a better bottom line. However, he said, "The deficit wasn't a deficit, it was a surplus. But, they weren't managed properly and we didn't use them to the best of our ability."

The controller's office has criticized the city in the past for one-shot revenues, Tenke said, because "rather than creating a revenue stream, we sold off assets."

According to Moody's, "These improved budgeting tactics are evident

that the financial situation in Glen Cove is improving and its likely reserves, and the city's credit quality, will begin to improve as well."

Tenke said the city is hoping to get an upgrade for next year and expect to do so if they stay on course. "They really want to see us following what we say we're going to do for several consecutive years," Tenke said. "I think we can do it."

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR CITY COUNCIL - VOTE JUNE 22ND

Early voting June 12TH - June 20TH



Re-Elect The Team To Get The Job Done In Glen Cove

teamwork *noun* the collaborative effort of a group to achieve a common goal or to complete a task in the most effective and efficient way.



Councilman PERRONE

- ✓ 40 years experience in business and insurance industry
- ✓ 27 years experience in zoning and planning
- ✓ Brings a common sense approach to solving problems



Councilwoman FUGAZY SCAGLIOLA

- ✓ Financial writer with 20+ years experience
- ✓ Staunch advocate of children and our school district
- ✓ Downtown business owner and BID member



Councilman TOTINO

- ✓ Experienced trial attorney with a major insurance carrier
- ✓ Independent thinker with strong analytical skills
- ✓ Lifelong involvement with our recreation and sports programs



Councilwoman LUPENKO FERRANTE

- ✓ Respected physician who brings a scientific mind to the city
- ✓ Passionate about the environment and health of our residents
- ✓ Active 25 years in Glen Cove organizations, boards and chamber

This team has a proven track record of involvement, public service and communication!

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Ducks are quacking stronger than ever

A fan-favorite Long Island team seeks fifth Atlantic League title

By JEFFREY BESSEN

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The minor league baseball Ducks run as one of Long Island's most popular summer attractions was interrupted last year because of the coronavirus pandemic, but this year the flock is back and aims to quack louder and stronger.

A "back to fun" theme begins with a four-game home series against the Lexington Legends to open the season (May 28 to 31); the Ducks seek their fifth Atlantic League of Professional Baseball championship. In 2019, Long Island set a franchise record with 86 wins and 15 players' contracts sold.

The Legends are one of three new teams in the league that is now a "professional partner" with Major League Baseball, not an independent league anymore. The Gastonia HoneyHunters, from North Carolina, and the West Virginia Power, in Charleston, are the other new teams. The league includes the High Point Rockers, also in North Carolina, the Lancaster Barnstormers and York Revolution, both in Pennsylvania, and the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs.

"We have an awful lot to be proud of in our first 20 years, becoming the first team in Atlantic League history to reach eight million fans," said team President and General Manager Michael Pfaff, who also noted the 2019 title and the team victory record. "It just set the bar higher. Our expectations have only grown. It's been 600 days since we last played a ballgame here and we can't wait to get going." When heading to the game look for the signs that now read Fairfield Properties BallPark.

Wally Backman, the former major leaguer who played for the Mets, returns as manager. Backman became a seer two years ago, when he told Ducks owner Frank Boulton that the team would win a championship that season.

"We're going to be good; we're going to repeat," Backman said, noting that the season had yet to get under way and the Ducks were already losing a fourth player to MLB. "We've got a lot of ex-major league guys on [the roster], and we expect to lose a lot of guys just like we did in '19. We'll fill those voids like we have in the past, but it's going to be an exciting brand of baseball."

Returning players from the 2019 squad such as Daniel Fields and new ones like Opening Day pitcher Mike Bolsinger, a right hander, will bolster a squad Backman said has "quality pitching" and is speedier. More base stealing and hit-and-run plays will be part of the Ducks' attack. "We'll do both," Backman said, "you've seen me manage before. I like to force the defense to make mistakes. We'll run a little bit more than in the past."

The players are ready to take the field. "I had to decide if I wanted to play and had the same love of the game," Bolsinger said. He last played in 2019 in Japan. "I still love the game and want to play."

Fields was on the field when the Ducks lost the 2018 title game to the Sugarland



Photos by Jeffrey Bessen/Herald

LONG ISLAND DUCKS manager Wally Backman answered a question at Media Day. To his left are Lew Ford, Daniel Fields and Mike Bolsinger.



Skeeters and there in 2019. "It was a pretty good feeling," he said, and looks forward to another championship season.

The Ducks will have a full slate of promotional nights and are abiding by the most up-to-date Covid protocols. For tickets and more information, go to www.li ducks.com.

GROUNDS CREW MEMBERS got the field ready for batting practice on May 26.

DUCKS HITTING COACH Lew Ford threw batting practice pitches on May 26.

THE STADIUM WHERE the Long Island Ducks play has a new name.



Audit questions veterans' tax exemptions

By **CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ**

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Nassau County taxpayers may still be footing an annual \$22.8 million bill for ineligible residents claiming veterans' property-tax exemptions, after the county Department of Assessment did not fully implement recommended measures that would remove exemptions that no longer qualify, according to a May 21 follow-up audit report.

In 2019, a third-party audit found that from 2013 to 2018, more than 8,400 of the county's veterans' property tax exemption applications — or 18 percent of the total — were incorrect under the previous comptroller George Maragos, with "military service dates that were unrealistic, incomplete or inconsistent," resulting in the removal of \$774 million in taxable market value.

The auditors recommended that the county update collected information, add fields to new applications, train staff, periodically assess death files and verify all — not just veterans' — exemptions not requiring annual recertification. Two years later, County Comptroller Jack Schnirman reports that "measurable progress" has been made, but the follow-up audit shows that the recommendations, except one, have not been fully implemented.

Veterans' exemption laws usually require the owner of a primary residence to be a veteran, a surviving un-remarried

2019 audit recommendations

- Obtain Social Security number and birth date with all future exemption applications.
- Arrange for a one-time verification and update of all existing veterans' exemptions.
- Implement a one-time systemwide verification for all exemptions not recer-

tified annually.

spouse or in some cases a surviving family member in order to receive an exemption that ranges from 5 to 15 percent of the property assessment, barring some exceptions, according to Nassau County.

The 2019 audit found that lack of quality control stems from placing the responsibility on the taxpayer to report disqualifying events that would remove the exemption, which by law does not require annual recertification. Under the current controls, if a veteran or dependent moves or dies and the home is then occupied by ineligible parties, the parcel could continue to receive exemptions for years.

Among the findings of the 2019 review, the auditors identified 8,289 exemption applications that had no military service dates listed; 101 showed that service began prior to 1929, which would make the veter-

ans 101 to 133 years old; and 20 said service started in 2020, which would be impossible for an exemption filed in 2016.

- Provide adequate staff training to ensure proper exemption applications processing.

- Periodically run Social Security numbers and birth dates against a death database.

The 2021 follow-up report also addressed other property assessment issues besides the veterans' exemptions, such as the ADAPT system, personally owned clergy property and leadership accountability. Out of a total of 31 recommendations, 15 were implemented, 14 were in progress, and two were not implemented.

The Department of Assessment agreed to verify all existing veterans' exemption files in three stages, starting on May 1 and ending on Sept. 30 last year. The department mailed letters requesting supporting materials to the 8,289 applicants noted in the audit, and received 5,887 responses. Officials were then able to remove 100

exemptions. There has been no update since Aug. 6, however.

Additionally, the department accessed death files to remove exemptions for deceased applicants on Jan. 14, 2020, but these files did not provide enough information to make any determinations.

Even though department officials said they were reviewing veterans' exemption files, they did not address a system-wide verification process for all exemptions not requiring annual recertification. The target date for implementing such a comprehensive system of Sept. 30, 2020, was not met.

The auditors reiterated the importance of such system-wide verification, as it affects other troublesome exemptions and would address the problem at its root.

The department did implement a request for staff training on exemption application processing. Officials provided special training to employees in 2019, a syllabus on the subject to all new staff and existing personnel, and operating procedures to auditors.w

Some county residents are confused as to how veterans' exemptions work. Baldwin resident Zoe Tague asked, "Don't they have to show proof of service?"

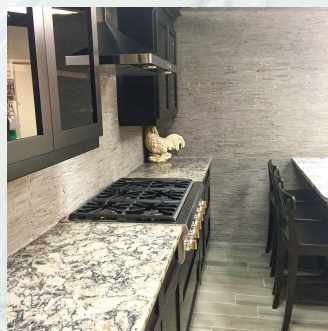
Meanwhile, other residents are concerned the county has not fixed the problem, including Maggie Conaty Eberhart, who said it's "ridiculous if the county is not on top of it."

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Photos by Jill Nossa/Herald

RALPH PANETTA JR. thanked the Regency staff for hosting a 100th birthday celebration for his father, Ralph Panetta.

Glen Cove celebrates a centenarian

Ralph Panetta has been “hanging around” Glen Cove for the past century. The Glen Cove resident celebrated his 100th birthday last month with family, friends and well-wishers at The Regency, where he has lived for the past eight years. The celebration included gifts, speeches, and tears of happiness.

“I was born in Glen Cove and I’m still hanging around in Glen Cove,” Panetta said.

“So many residents and staff members love his great sense of humor, his contagious smile, and love for the game of golf,” Beth Evans, administrator of The Regency said. “Golf and Ralph go back a long way.”

Panetta has had a long-time connection to Nassau Country Club, where he was part of the professional staff for more than 60 years. He started out by cleaning clubs, and then began caddying in 1934, when he was only 13 years old. When he returned from the U.S. Air Force in 1942, where he was a staff sergeant stationed in the Phillipines during World War II, he began working for Grumman, and worked at the club on the weekends. In 1996, he retired from Grumman and continued to work at the Nassau Country Club full time. He held many jobs at the club, but mainly he ran the club shop and even hand carved golf clubs.

When some of those people from Panetta’s past joined the party -- Nassau Country Club current president Eric Carlston, past president Peter Quick, former president Robert Vanderwag and Robert Miller – Panetta teared up.

“I always talk about you,” Panetta told Carlston. “You’re doing a good job up there.”

Panetta and his wife Sadie, who died in 2018, moved to the Regency from their home in Locust Valley in 2013. They raised three sons: Ralph Jr., Frank and Anthony, who were in attendance at the



NO BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION is complete without cake. Ralph Panetta told attendees, “I love everyone in this room.”

birthday celebration, and have three daughters-in-law all named Sue. Panetta also has five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

His brother Joe Panetta, 85, still lives in Glen Cove and was happily celebrating his brother’s milestone.

Mayor Tim Tenke gave him a citation on behalf of the city, and said, “You bring a lot of light to people’s lives.”

Panetta also received citations from the offices of County Executive Laura Curran, Leg. Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, State Sen. Jim Gaughran and Assemblyman Charles Lavine. Congressman Tom Suozzi presented him with an American flag flown over the United States Capitol in his honor, to congratulate him on his 100th birthday.

“You’ve served your country, you’ve served your family, you’ve served your

community,” Suozzi said to Panetta, “and I wanted to get something for you.”

Photographer Peter Budraitis took a portrait of Panetta and presented it to him last Tuesday, explaining his concept of creating a Wall of Heroes for veterans. His goal, Budraitis said, is to take photos of veterans to present free portrait to their families.

“It’s hard to even talk with all of the emotions I’m going through right now,” Panetta said. “I’m remembering a lot of things of the last 100 years, and they’re all good. I’m especially thankful for the people from Nassau Country Club that still remember me.”

The celebration, Panetta said, was “amazing.”

“Everybody in this room, I love,” he said. “I’ll always remember this day as long as I live.”

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Ask The Expert: MOLLY DEEGAN



Rightsizing is the new downsizing.

Let’s face it. Downsizing sounds like...a downer. For many, it means moving on from beloved homes full of cherished memories where families were raised, or relocating to a new unfamiliar place to start over. But downsizing doesn’t have to mean giving something up. Recent trends show that many people are opting to “rightsize” instead.

Rightsizing is a little flexible in its meaning. For Baby Boomers, rightsizing isn’t a move at all. It’s reconfiguring and redefining your current space for a new adventurous phase of life. That could mean getting rid of old furniture, or a renovation with an eye towards more free time and the pursuit of personal interests and hobbies. If moving to a smaller space is part of the rightsizing equation, Baby Boomers are likely to chose smaller spaces with more amenities and upgrades.

For millennials, the term reflects a commitment to minimalism based on issues like climate change or budgetary constraints from heavy student debt loads. They don’t want big things – they’re fine with having just enough space. A smaller, energy efficient home is far more conducive to a lifestyle that puts a higher value on travel and experiences over huge TVs and massive dining room tables.

Both of these scenarios have impacted the market in different ways. One of the things I love doing with my clients is helping them figure out what is “right” for them based on where they are in life. Often, an open ear is all it takes to lessen the stress of a big decision.

If you’re thinking about changing it up, reach out and let’s explore the possibilities together.



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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

June 3, 2021 - GLEN COVE HERALD

Virginia Cervasio recognized for service

Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton congratulated Glen Cove's Virginia Cervasio for her recognition as a recipient of the county's Distinguished Service to Veterans Award on Thursday, May 28.

"As the founder Heroes Among Us - a not-for-profit agency dedicated to the memory of her son U.S. Air Force Airman First Class Angelo Cervasio, Virgin-

ia has worked tirelessly to ensure veterans receive the love, assistance and support they need to recover and thrive," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "It was truly a pleasure to join County Executive Curran and Veterans Services Agency Director Ralph Esposito to congratulate Virginia and all of the truly deserving honorees who do so much to make a difference in our community."



Courtesy Office of Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

GLEN COVE'S VIRGINIA Cervasio, center, and her husband, Alex Cervasio, with Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

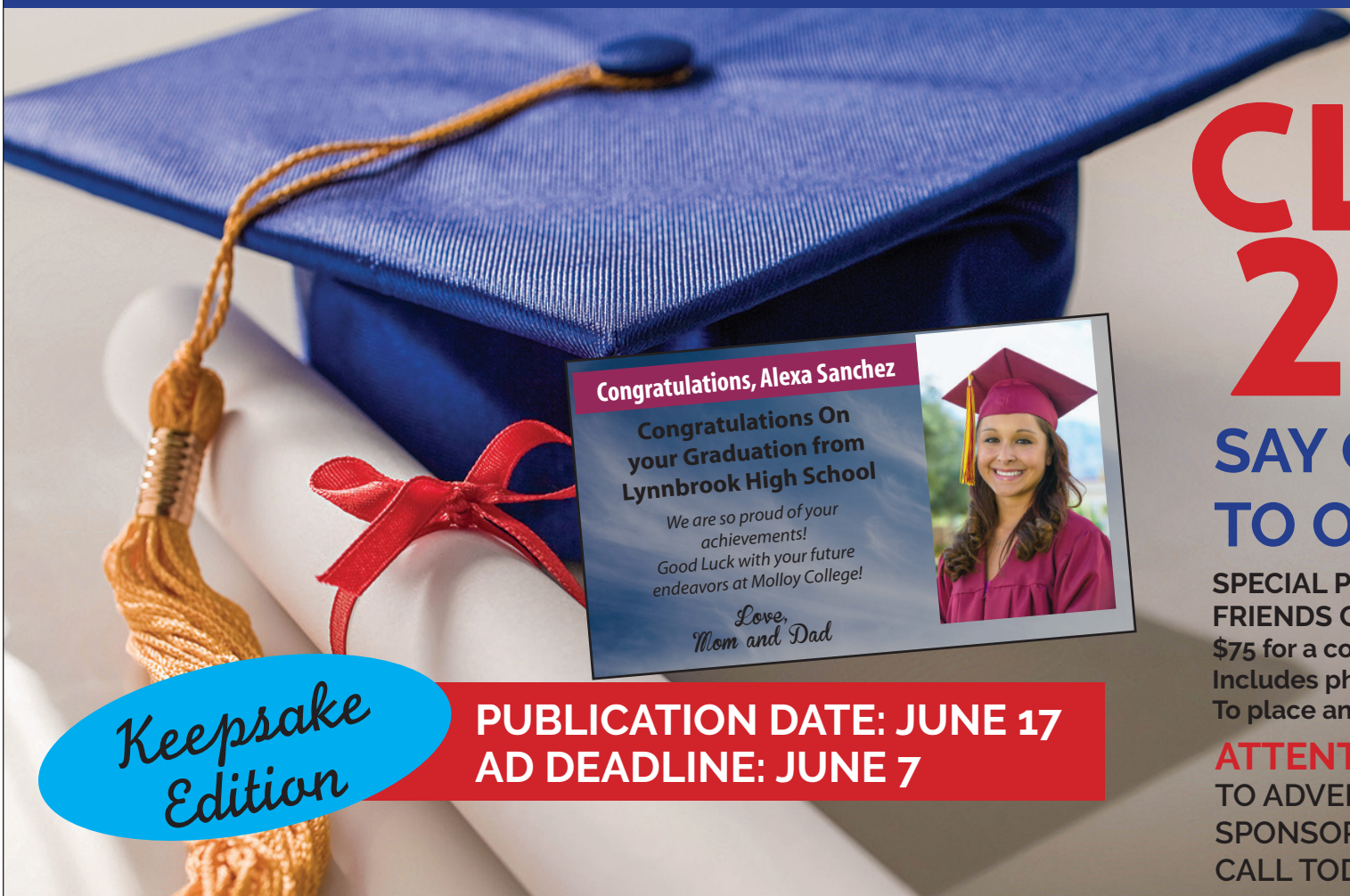


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Taking Long Islanders to new heights at Jones Beach

BY JENNIFER CORR

jcorr@liherald.com

The seagulls were not the only birds flying over Jones Beach over Memorial Day weekend.

The United States Air Force Thunderbirds rocked attendees of the Bethpage Federal Credit Union Air Show practice session on Friday, as cars sang out with their alarms from the vibrations as the jets soared above.

The annual and popular Bethpage Federal Credit Union Air Show commenced this year on Memorial Day. Though the tickets sold out, ABC 7 New York provided live coverage of the event that gave aviation enthusiasts a front-row view of the show.

Last year, because of the pandemic, the show had to be cancelled but fans were still able to tune in into a virtual experience, organized with EPOCH 5 and New York state parks. People were able to participate in sweepstakes, print out activity books and get behind the scene content as well as a special show available on the Bethpage Federal Credit Union Air Show Facebook page.

Air show fans this year were happy to view the rehearsal for the show from Jones Beach State Park, including a group of family and friends from West Islip.

"I'm having the best time," said Sue Waters. "It's so missed. Memorial Day on



UNITED STATE AIR Force Thunderbirds soared over aviation fans attending the Jones Beach air show practice session Friday morning. Jennifer Corr/Herald

Long Island is the air show and cold beer. This is the best group of people ever. It was sad last year. We had to sit in Gary's backyard."

The group made their mark in Field 1, befriending a New York State Trooper and U.S. Navy officers Antonio, Jasper,

José and Aaron, who were there walking the boardwalk and recruiting.

Also watching the event from Field 1 was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and an ex-chief of the Franklin Square Fire Department Bob DaSilva. Despite the cool winds, he said he was enjoying his Friday morn-

ing on the beach.

"I like [the show,]" he said, adding that he comes to the show every year. "I'm a Blue Angel guy, but the Thunderbirds are good too."

He said he would be back next year.

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Artist Gilbert A. Gallego dies at 89

Gilbert Gallego passed peacefully from this life on May 4, 2021 at the age of 89. Born in Astoria, Queens, he was only son of Antonio and Josephine Gallego. He attended the New York Industrial School of Art, and served in the Korean War on the aircraft carrier Midway as a plane captain. He moved his young family to the "country" in Glen Cove, lured by a love of fishing and suburban living. He was the principal and creative force of his own "boutique" advertising agency in New York City before establishing Gill Associates on Long Island, where he served many local and regional clientele.

An avid sports enthusiast, he was a Golden Gloves Boxer and competitive swimmer. As a parent to five children in Glen Cove, he coached many seasons of baseball and basketball, capturing the LI Championship for St. Patrick CYO Basketball for two seasons.

Best known for his creative talents, Gil was an artist, poet,

sculptor, painter and graphic designer. His imprint on the city of Glen Cove is still evident today, as the creator of logo designs for the City of Glen Cove, Glen Cove Beautification, Glen Cove High School, All Saints Regional School and more. His later professional career turned toward politics, serving as the creative design and communication strategy source for many campaigns, including council candidates, mayors, assemblymen, county executives and Supreme Court judges.

He was predeceased by his wife Yolanda (nee DiDonato) and son John. He is survived by two sisters, Gloris Moraitis (James), Carmen Murphy (John), his sons Anthony (Marian) and Christopher (Elizabeth), daughters Lori Jean Naso (Joseph) and Karen Massaro (Kelly), 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A private mass was held at the Church of St. Patrick, and he was laid to rest at Locust Valley Cemetery.

Remembering Thomas Molesky

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

After more than a year since his death, the family of Thomas W. Molesky will finally be able to give him a proper good-bye. Molesky, a lifelong Glen Cove resident, died from complications with Covid-19 on March 29, 2020, at age 77. A memorial service will be held on June 12 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Glen Cove, at 11 a.m.

His wife of 54 years, Diane, said her husband had been diagnosed with cancer and was undergoing treatment last winter, but in the end, "Covid got him." Shortly after her husband's burial, she contracted Covid-19 and wound up in the hospital for 10 days. Because of the circumstances and restrictions at the time, the family was not able to hold a funeral.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Thomas (Monique), Lori (Jeffrey), Dana (Geoffrey), Josh (Theresa) and Diane (Chris); and six grandchildren: Lily and Jack Molesky of Long Island; Grant and Rowan Foster of California; and Ava and Peyton Broderick of California. He is also survived by five siblings: Jack Molesky of Hicksville, Edith Famighlietti of Glen Cove, Joan Mini of Glen Cove, Ann Nelson of Dix Hills and Bill Molesky of Glen Cove.

According to his wife, Thomas was very active in the community.

"He was very well-liked and very caring," Diane said. "He did anything he could for anybody."



Courtesy Tommy Molesky

DIANE AND THOMAS Molesky

Thomas was an active business owner in the community for 50 years. He and Diane owned Carpets by Thomas in the 1970s through the 1990s, with locations on Forest Avenue and Glen Street. Diane and Tom later founded a contracting company, named DITO.

His son Tommy remembers his father as an outgoing person who was regularly surrounded by family and friends.

"My dad loved to host," his son Tommy said. "He was a very social guy. Our house was always a gathering place for friends and family and it extended to the grandkids."

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OPINIONS

A letter to the graduates

Congratulations to the class of 2021! You made it! This is no small achievement. Did you know that only half of the students who started at a private college four years ago are graduating this year? For public colleges and universities, the rate is one-third. You are not only survivors, but also success stories.



**ROBERT
SCOTT**

But you didn't achieve this success alone. Think of your families, faculty, friends and others who supported you along the way.

Graduation is a time of celebration, for sure. It's also a time to reflect on what it took to get here,

what you will do in your tomorrows and how you'll repay those who helped — how you'll justify their faith in you.

Today isn't the end of the journey to becoming more fully human. It isn't the beginning, either. It is a point, a marker, on your path to fulfillment. Think of your markers: first day, last day, this day. The day you started, the day you knew you had reached this milestone, and today, when you've donned cap and gown, signifying

academic achievement.

While you majored in a subject, you learned that knowledge can't be boxed, that problems require an interdisciplinary approach. You learned, we hope, that an open mind is an analytical mind, a mind that knows the differences among fact, faith and fear; empirical evidence, epiphany and emotion, especially prejudice.

We hope that you reflect on the fundamental elements of advanced education. It consists of history — that is, what came before, whether in politics or science. We hope that your historical approach is open to 1619, and that date's importance in U.S. history, when enslaved people from Africa were first brought to this land, as well as to 1916, and its significance to women's rights and national governance. We hope that your studies have ignored neither George Floyd nor Lloyd George, both significant in world history.

We hope that your education fostered the development of your imagination, the ability to ask "Why?" and "Why not?" and the inclination to ask "What about?" Through literature, drama, poetry, painting and other arts, we develop these abilities to wonder and form new ideas, new

images and new concepts. Do not let creativity end with your diploma.

Your education has also fostered compassion. By this I mean not just sympathy, feeling sorry for others, and not just empathy, imagining yourself in someone else's

circumstances. I mean compassion, the ability to do something to help others, to make a difference in society.

The fourth dimension of this education that you take with you is reflection, the ability and inclination to think deeply and carefully, to ask, "What can I learn from this experience?" or "Why did this happen?" or "What could I have done better or more of?" To reflect is

mean the most to you. Surely, trust, integrity and commitment will be on your list. What about civic engagement and community service?

During your time in college, we have witnessed the power of social justice movements. We have been reminded often of the importance of equal justice and just laws. We have witnessed the wisdom of science, we have celebrated the commitment of health care workers and we have become more aware of those vulnerable neighbors who serve in our cafeterias, restaurants, restrooms and hallways. They,

too, deserve our respect and compassion. They have inspired us to ask, "What more can I do?"

The pandemic has provoked opportunities to consider issues of fairness, equity and justice. Many learned for the first time that the diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints matters. They learned that multiple voices could contribute to more innovative solutions, and that character is more important than skin color.

The shutdown and remote learning reinforced the need for self-reliance and resilience, and the fact that you can be alone without feeling lonely. You succeeded because you learned how to learn on your own as well as in groups, a lesson that should last a lifetime.

So, graduates, on this day, remember that learning never stops, even if the grading system changes. Remember to listen before responding, to consider facts and alternatives before accepting someone's explanation and to understand another's point of view before reacting. We hope you will have the confidence to know that even if we couldn't teach you everything, we aspired to help you learn anything. That is our mission and commitment.

Congratulations!

Dr. Robert A. Scott is president emeritus of Adelphi University and author of "How University Boards Work" (Johns Hopkins Press, 2018, Eric Hoffer awardee, 2019).

It isn't your grandma's senior prom night

Prom 2021 is an act of faith. It is kids needing to shake off more than a year of lockdowns, shutdowns, sickness and isolation. It is a down payment on good times ahead after an avalanche of disappointments. It is teachers and parents and administrators wanting to make something good

happen for the kids. Prom looks different from school district to district as everyone struggles to plan a safe evening.

This was a different kind of challenge pre-Covid. The worst moment I remember from my prom was someone

showing up drunk and getting sent home before the evening began. It isn't hyperbole to say this year the stakes are life and death.

So much red tape festoons prom 2021 that it's almost not worth the effort. I said almost.

One school has so many forms to fill out that students who have been writing reports and taking tests online all year may find this joyless bureaucratic process

just too much. But I get it, it's necessary. There are forms for proof of a Covid test and forms for proof of vaccination. There are rules for wearing masks and for taking masks off. There are forms for a date who's from a different school year, and if your date is from another school, good luck! You'll need forms and photo I.D. and permission slips from everyone and his mother.

One school basically didn't want to talk about their prom. I'm not sure whether they're hyper-security-minded or, as the folks who are responsible for our children's safety during a pandemic, they're just burned out.

If we were in any way a normal country, vaccination would be universally accepted, and the kids could get the jab and then party on. But since we are now apparently America the Dysfunctional, we must work around a wildly infectious virus instead of neutralizing it.

Districts are promming in different ways, from outdoor venues, to mini-proms to virtual proms. Some towns have moved proms to the park or closed off streets to create block party proms.

In 1964, caught up in the drama of being 17, I probably thought I'd die if I

didn't go to the prom. Now the threat is reversed.

My husband, who graduated with me from Lawrence High School in 1964, says I wouldn't go to the senior prom with him because I was dating someone else. I wish

I could remember. I went to a few proms during my high school years, and they pretty much followed the program: girls in long gowns, corsages on wrists, boys in jackets, boasting boutonnières. A couple of the proms were at clubs in Atlantic Beach.

The go-to after-prom event in my crowd was building a bonfire on the beach and hanging out until dawn. Someone brought a

guitar, and we had a hootenanny. Go ahead, laugh. We really did sit around and sing. I'm sure couples wandered off into the dunes occasionally, but who can say? The answer my friends, is *still* blowin' in the wind.

When my son went to his prom, the stakes had changed. We agonized over giving him permission to go out to the Hamptons afterward, and for some incomprehensible reason, we let him go. I mean, who ever let me become a parent? When my daughter was a senior, I wrote

I probably thought I'd die if I didn't go to the prom. Now the threat is reversed.



**RANDI
KREISS**

a column advertising for a suitable prom date. She was in on the joke, having already agreed to go with some dude who disappeared into the dustbin of one-night wonders.

Last weekend, we traveled to our granddaughter's graduation and prom out of town. It was seniors only, and "dates" were very optional. The best part was a small dinner our son hosted at home in her honor: intimate, joyful and a great relief after this year of wonder during which she lived through a global pandemic, and applied and got into college.

The prom itself was a dinner at the school, and then there was an after party in the big city, which witnesses tell me was wet and wild with booze and vomit.

My hunch is that in our own communities, the school proms will be just a small part of the actual partying that takes place, from at-home gatherings to outings to the city to who-knows-what-the-kids-will-think-of-now. Thank heaven for the parents, teachers and students who are working so hard to find joy in an anxious time.

Good luck and God bless. Let the good times roll, and let everyone turn up at home after the ball, safe and sound.

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GLEN COVE HERALD

Established 1991
Incorporating
Gold Coast Gazette

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HERALD EDITORIALS

Fix SALT first, then infrastructure

The Biden administration has rightly proposed a massive \$1.7 trillion infrastructure bill, dubbed the American Jobs Plan, to repair and restore our crumbling airports, roads, bridges, tunnels and train trestles, and to fund projects ranging from increasing broadband connectivity in rural America to cleaning up polluted drinking-water supplies.

The U.S. is the wealthiest nation on earth when measured by economic output, yet we rank 13th in the world in the quality of our infrastructure. That's unacceptable.

Republican senators are at least starting to talk about infrastructure improvement. Last week they proposed their own \$928 billion plan, giving us a modicum of hope that a bill might eventually see the light of day.

That's a good thing. Congress and the president, however, must first fix the cap on deductions for state and local taxes that was implemented under former President Trump in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The act was anything but a tax cut for tens

of thousands of already tax-burdened Long Islanders.

The Island has among the highest property taxes in the country. We are known as a "high-tax region." Before 2017, Long Islanders could at least deduct their state and local taxes, including their property taxes, on their federal income tax returns, annually saving them at least a couple of thousand dollars, if not more.

It was only right. New York sends more in federal tax dollars to Washington than any other state in the nation, while receiving significantly less than most other states in federal aid. We deserved at least a minor tax break.

Trump's 2017 act, however, limited the SALT deduction to \$10,000, effectively forcing many property owners to take the standard deduction of only \$12,000 for single people and \$24,000 for married couples, costing them tens of thousands in deductions and raising their federal income taxes by thousands.

Biden proposes paying for his infrastructure bill by raising the corporate tax

rate. Limiting the SALT deduction, though, was a key component of Trump's plan to reduce the corporate rate.

If Biden doesn't first fix the SALT deduction before moving ahead with infrastructure, then high-tax regions like Long Island will effectively pay more than their fair share of the infrastructure bill.

An infrastructure bill would benefit all of America. Each of us should be expected to pay our share, and not more.

According to the Rockefeller Institute of Government, total economic activity lost in New York because of the SALT cap ranges from \$14.4 billion to \$24.5 billion annually. That's just plain wrong.

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, a North Shore Democrat, and Rep. Andrew Garbarino, a South Shore Republican, are among those leading the charge to repeal the SALT cap as part of the House of Representatives' recently formed SALT Caucus. Biden would be wise to listen carefully to caucus members, lest he risk losing the suburban support that helped catapult him to the White House.

Nassau County hits a welcome milestone

Last April and May, Gov. Andrew Cuomo described the coronavirus as a "fire spreading" across Long Island, with tens of thousands of Long Islanders infected with Covid-19 and hundreds dying of the disease.

A year later, we are seeing a new, brighter reality. On May 20, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran announced the county had recorded zero — yes, zero — Covid-19 deaths over the previous

seven days.

"This is a major milestone in our county's recovery from a once-in-a-lifetime crisis, and I want to thank our residents for the hard work and sacrifice that got us to this point," Curran said. "Our hearts remain with the loved ones of the precious lives we've lost to Covid-19."

Nassau's progress in beating back the virus is driven by one key factor, the county executive said: 74 percent of adult resi-

dents in the county had, as of last week, received at least one vaccine dose. Clearly, the vaccines are working. Clearly, anyone who has not been vaccinated should seriously consider getting a shot.

Masks have been coming off. Businesses have been opening up. People are crowding their favorite restaurants. Hope for recovery is in the air. Let's keep that progress going with a willingness to embrace sound science.

LETTERS

Let's end Covid-19 bias

To the Editor:

I applaud President Biden for signing the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act into law — an important, timely and refreshingly bipartisan piece of legislation that will provide federal law enforcement agencies with robust tools to push back against the alarming increase in senseless bias and violence that the Asian American/Pacific Islander community has endured throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer — who spoke recently on the front steps of the Nassau County Legislature about the importance of fighting this scourge — deserves our thanks for leading the Senate to a nearly unanimous vote in favor of the measure.

Here in Nassau, we have an obligation and a responsibility to add to that tool kit so members of our local AAPI communities can once again regain the sense of security that they deserve.

Last month, I filed a proposed local law that would



OPINIONS

Remembering the massacre in Tulsa

One hundred years ago, Memorial Day was the start of perhaps the worst anti-Black racist violence in the history of the United States in the Greenwood district of Tulsa, Okla. Thirty-five blocks were burned to the ground, 10,000 Black Tulsans needed emergency relief, more than



ALAN SINGER

800 people were treated for serious injuries and as many as 300, almost all African-American, died in the massacre. The Red Cross provided about 200 tents to survivors who had lost homes and were displaced by the violence.

On the morning of May 30, 1921, Dick Rowland, a

young Black man who worked at the Drexel Building in downtown Tulsa, rode in the elevator with a 17-year old white woman who was the elevator operator. The next day, Tulsa police arrested Rowland and charged him with assaulting her. An inflammatory article in the Tulsa Tribune led to a confrontation between black and white armed groups outside the courthouse where Rowland was held. Blacks feared Rowland would be lynched. The white mob probably included over 2,000

men, many of whom were armed. After shots were fired, the outnumbered African-American group retreated to the largely black Greenwood district.

That night, white rioters looted and burned over 1,200 buildings in Greenwood, a prosperous Black business and residential neighborhood known as Black Wall Street. White mobs bombed, looted and set fire to buildings and opened fire on Black residents who tried to defend their homes and businesses. According to the Tribune, “machine guns were set up and for 20 minutes poured a stream of lead on the negroes who sought refuge behind buildings, telephone poles, and in ditches.”

Municipal and police officials were complicit in the attack, deputizing and arming white men who participated in the riot and massacre. The governor of Oklahoma declared martial law, and National Guard troops were sent to the city, where they proceeded to intern Black Tulsans, supposedly for their own protection. Many were held captive for over a week.

After the massacre, a local African-American lawyer documented the events: “I could see planes circling in mid-air. They grew in number and hummed, darted and dipped low. I could hear something

like hail falling upon the top of my office building ... Lurid flames roared and belched and licked their forked tongues into the air. Smoke ascended the sky in thick, black volumes and amid it all, the planes — now a dozen or more in number — still hummed and darted here and there with the agility of natural birds of the air ... The side-walks were literally covered with burning turpentine balls. I knew all too well where they came from, and I knew all too well why every burning building first caught from the top. I paused and waited for an opportune time to escape. ‘Where oh where is our splendid fire department with its half dozen stations?’

I asked myself. ‘Is the city in conspiracy with the mob?’”

Charges against Rowland were dismissed when the woman refused to make a statement to police. No whites were ever prosecuted for the massacre of Tulsa’s Black citizens. Victims of the massacre were buried in unmarked mass graves, and postcards were distributed with photographs celebrating the anti-Black violence. Local officials destroyed documentation of the event and pretended the massacre didn’t take place.

A subcommittee of the House of Repre-

sentatives Committee on the Judiciary is holding hearings on a proposal to provide financial reparations to the remaining survivors of the massacre and the Tulsa African-American community as a whole. Survivors and descendants of people injured during the massacre have filed a lawsuit in Tulsa County District Court demanding payment for damages from the county sheriff, the Oklahoma National Guard and the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce.

One hundred years after the Tulsa Massacre, the United States needs to stop pretending that racism ended with the Civil War and take steps to address the lingering impact of slavery and systemic racism on American society.

Dr. Alan Singer is a professor of teaching, learning and technology and the director of social studies education programs at Hofstra University. He is a former New York City high school social studies teacher and editor of Social Science Docket, a joint publication of the New York and New Jersey Councils for the Social Studies.

LETTERS

update the county’s Human Rights Law to specifically outlaw discrimination based on an actual or perceived relationship to the pandemic. This bill would empower victims of discrimination and the county attorney to sue for compensatory and punitive damages, attorney’s fees and other relief deemed appropriate by the courts. Individuals who violate the statute would face further penalties of \$5,000 to \$25,000 per incident, which would be payable to the aggrieved victims, as well as thousands of dollars in additional fines.

I urge the members of the Legislature’s Republican majority to bring this measure to the floor so it can be debated and adopted unanimously. By doing so, we would send a clear message that we will aggressively defend the rights of all Nassau County residents to live lives free of fear, hatred and bigotry.

ARNOLD W. DRUCKER
Nassau County legislator
Plainview

Let the masks come off on the LIRR

To the Editor:

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently issued new guidance lifting mask-wearing requirements for those fully vaccinated against Covid-19,

both indoors and outdoors. Transit agencies were instructed to keep the mandatory mask requirements in place until Sept. 13, however. Does this make sense for everyone who rides the Long Island Rail Road?

A majority of Long Island residents are now fully vaccinated. We have the highest compliance rate in New York state. Many more who have not been vaccinated already have immunity from previous exposure to the virus.

Since April, it has become easy to obtain a vaccine. In many locations, you can walk in without an appointment. Most people who want vaccines have gotten them. All sorts of gifts and incentives are now being offered to entice those who remain unvaccinated.

We are well on our way toward meeting President Biden’s goal of fully vaccinating 200 million Americans by July Fourth. It’s time for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the LIRR to ask the CDC to reconsider its most recent mask guidance for transit agencies.

I propose that the LIRR begin lifting mask restrictions on all riders starting July 5. But first, the agency should conduct a survey of riders in June. Find out how many have been vaccinated or have immunity from a previous Covid-19 infection.

Use the Quiet Car model. On July 5, designate the first car of every LIRR train as mask-optional, so long as riders provide proof that they have been vaccinated. Those in the first car would be required to

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



No picture frame needed — Morgan Park, Glen Cove

show the conductor their vaccination cards.

It’s now easy to determine seating capacity by car thanks to the LIRR’s investment in new communication technology for riders. This includes digital screens, station announcements and apps that detail real-time seat availability for approaching trains by commuters’ location.

Over time, more cars could be designated mask-optional. Eventually we would reach the point where only one car would be reserved for those who still wanted to wear masks and only be around those who

also wore them.

The CDC periodically updates and modifies mask requirements. Why should all LIRR riders have to wait until Sept. 13 for another round of new guidance? The LIRR has spent millions of dollars on daily cleaning and disinfecting, and operating state-of-the-art air ventilation equipment. Lifting mask requirements might help the LIRR bring back thousands of riders who still don’t feel comfortable riding the trains.

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