

CORONA VIRUS
COMMUNITY UPDATE
 Infections as of July 5
4,109
 Infections as of June 23
4,104

HERALD



Rioter from Bayville arrested
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Open mic nights return to the city
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Railroad Museum opens in O.B.
 Page 9

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JULY 8 - 14, 2021



Christina Daly/Herald

Cycling with spirit

Isabella Linares, 11, right, rocked a Thin Blue Line flag, supporting police officers, on the back of her bike at the annual Children's Bike Parade on Sunday in Glen Cove. More photos, Page 14.

Remembering children of the Holocaust

BY JILL NOSSA
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At a ceremony on June 27, the Children's Memorial Garden at Glen Cove's Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center celebrated its reopening. Under a bright sun in sweltering heat, several dozen people gathered around the amphitheater of the garden, where more than 20 years of renovations have been completed.

"It has been a very long and tough year, and we're so happy to see people enjoying the outdoors," said Andrea Bolender, chair of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, which is adjacent to Welwyn Preserve. "This year, Welwyn and the memorial garden has become a beacon to this community."

Bolender introduced Jolanta Zamecka, chair of the HMTC Garden Committee, who has been involved with the garden

renovation project since its inception. "She had a vision," Bolender said of Zamecka, "and her dedication and spirit has brought us to this day."

These children must not be forgotten. They were innocent victims during an incredibly brutal period of human history.

JOLANTA ZAMECKA
 Chair, HMTC Garden Committee

"This Children's Memorial Garden is dedicated to the one and a half million Jewish children murdered in the Holocaust, and to all children throughout the world who died during World War II," Zamecka said. "It is the first public garden of its kind in New York state."

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 29, 2003, she explained, the garden was officially dedicated to those children. It was inspired by Holocaust survivor Irving Roth, who also started the Million Pennies Project, in which schoolchildren from suburban Long Island, Brooklyn and Queens collected pennies to create a garden as a living memorial. Each penny symbolized the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Developer breaks ground on affordable housing units

BY JILL NOSSA
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More development is in the works in Glen Cove, as construction begins on the first workforce housing to be built in the city in over a decade. As part of the Garvies Point waterfront development, Georgica Green Ventures, in partnership with RXR Realty, held a groundbreak-

ing ceremony July 1 on a 55-unit development at 100 and 200 Dickson St.

"This is the first affordable housing to be built in Glen Cove in a very long time," Georgica Green President David Gallo said. "We're excited to be delivering it with RXR."

The Jericho-based Georgica Green focuses on quality, long-term sustainable housing,

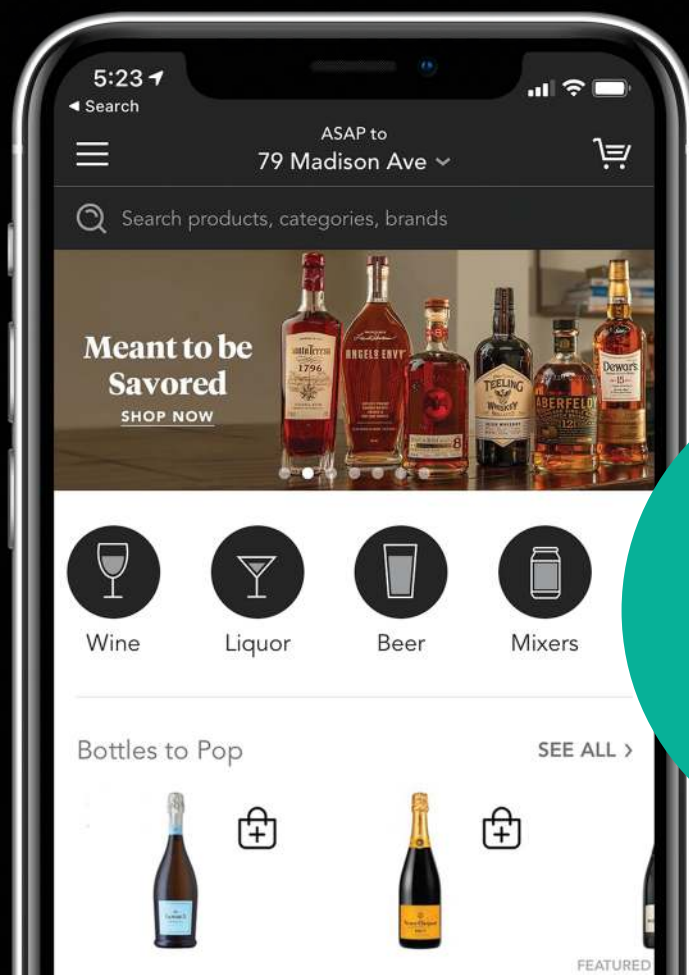
according to Gallo, who said his company's mantra is "Affordable housing has a place in all communities," and that "diversity of race, income and age make our community better."

The mixed-income, multi-family, transit-oriented rental housing complex is part of the 56-acre Garvies Point Master Development, being overseen by RXR's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Courtesy Georgica Green

FROM LEFT AT the groundbreaking were Joanne Minieri, RXR Realty's senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of construction and development; Todd Rechler, chief construction and development officer of RXR; County Executive Laura Curran; Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke; David Gallo, president of Georgica Green Ventures; Joseph Graziose, RXR's executive V.P. of residential construction and development; Brett Hebner, V.P. of multifamily finance for New York State Home and Community Renewal; Ann Fangmann, executive director of the Glen Cove CDA and IDA; Matthew Ardito, V.P. of Georgica Green; Jessica Faggioni, project manager of Georgica Green; and Kevin Crean, Nassau County director of community development.

Groundbreaking for new workforce housing units

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Glen Isle Partners. The development is intended to revitalize and transform the underutilized waterfront acreage along Glen Cove's shoreline at Hempstead Harbor into a vibrant place to live. The 55 units will be available to residents earning 30 to 100 percent of the area median income.

Georgica Green was selected by RXR to take "this piece of the puzzle and deliver affordable housing," Gallo said, adding, "This is a massive development, and it's incredible to be a part of."

During the ceremony, Gallo praised the City of Glen Cove and its various departments for helping the project come together. "From the get-go, it was an incredibly smooth process to be developing here," he said. "Affordable, quality housing is desperately needed throughout Long Island and has a place in all communities. It's exciting and satisfying to bring this project to the vibrant city of Glen Cove as part of an ambitious revitalization of the waterfront. Georgica Green Ventures believes that affordable housing options like this one build a strong community. We hope that Garvies Point can serve as a model to other cities, towns and villages, demonstrating living well on Long Island is a reachable goal for everyone."

A brownfield site

Because the area being developed is a brownfield site, potentially containing contamination, there were several agencies and entities involved in the process. Gallo said the project could not have happened without the investment of New

York state.

Brett Hebner, vice president of multifamily finance for New York State Home and Community Renewal, came from Saratoga to attend the ceremony. "We were very pleased to participate in the City of Glen Cove's larger redevelopment plan of the waterfront area with affordable housing," Hebner said. "We look forward to the finished product, which is really an affordable housing resource, an energy-efficient, attractive pair of buildings that are going to enhance this community and help the revival of this waterfront."

Nassau County also played a role, by helping to provide about \$900,000 in loans and securing a \$500,000 Brownfields Economic Development Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to County Executive Laura Curran. "Taking this area, a brownfield, toxic area and turning it into gorgeous housing is good for the community," Curran said. "This project is a great example of how government can partner with the private sector to provide affordable places for people to live while delivering much-needed economic development for our communities. I look forward to

continuing our revitalization efforts and attracting more investments into Glen Cove."

The county's Office of Community Development worked with Mayor Tim Tenke's office, as well as the Glen Cove Community Development Agency and Industrial Development Agency, to secure the grant.

"This is something that is desperately needed in Glen Cove," Tenke said, noting that the area was one of the first to be settled in the city. "To know this is going to be developed into sustainable and affordable housing... I am so supportive, because I know it will be quality, and I also know the need [for affordable housing] is there. This is exactly the type of project the IDA wants to support."

Adding to Garvies Point

"We do have many residential projects that exist throughout

the year, but... the IDA board truly felt that [this one] was needed based on its merits," Ann S. Fangmann, executive director of the Glen Cove CDA and IDA, said. "I'm just so thrilled that the residents here will enjoy 28 acres of public amenities in their backyards, a vibrant downtown and everything else that Gar-

vies Point has to offer."

Joe Graziose, RXR's executive vice president of residential development, explained that the waterfront project has an obligation to offer 10 percent of its 1,100 units as affordable housing, roughly 500 of which will be rental units. "Today we have 385 rentals in operation," Graziose said. "Dave [Gallo] is going to be constructing 55, so with the 38 from our rentals, we're already ahead of where we have to be, because it's needed."

To underscore his point, Graziose noted that the Village Square project that was completed last year had 14 affordable units, which attracted 250 applicants. "That gives you a sense of how much affordable homes are needed," he said.

The project at 100 and 200 Dickson St. will include the construction of two four-story buildings. Building A, on the northern portion of the site, will measure 28,814 square feet, and have 24 units. Building B will measure 30,422 square feet and have 31 units, a mix of studio, and one- to three-bedroom apartments.

"We've celebrated many substantial milestones in the Garvies Point community throughout the past year," Graziose said. "We completed all roadwork, making it easier for everyone in the surrounding areas to enjoy our local businesses, opened the popular dog park and children's playground, and introduced more parkland and waterfront access to all residents of Glen Cove. It's truly a community, and we look forward to welcoming more residents to join us."

Capitol rioter from Bayville arrested and charged

BY LAURA LANE

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Federal prosecutors have charged a Bayville man for his part in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

Gabriel Morgan Brown, 37, was charged with destruction or injury to buildings or property and committing an act of violence on the grounds of the Capitol. He was arrested at home on June 30.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation identified Brown perpetrating the offenses in videos that he recorded himself and posted to social media. In portions of the footage, he is seen kicking and stomping equipment belonging to media outlets as he encourages others to join him and steal the equipment. Brown can be heard saying, "Take a souvenir." And later, "Anything good in there? Yeah, smash that (expletive)."

Zvonimir Joseph Jurlina, 31, of Bethpage, was charged with the same offenses, though it is unclear whether he knew Brown.

Some Bayville residents said they have seen Brown around the community wearing a camouflage jacket and hat, and on Memorial Day he sells miniature flags.

"I don't know him personally but have seen him, and he has always been an odd person. Different," Bayville Mayor Bob De Natale said. "Does it surprise me that he was photographed at the Capitol? No."

Numerous attacks on members of the



Courtesy WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

GABRIEL MORGAN BROWN was arrested on Wednesday for his actions during the insurrection at the Capital on Jan. 6.

news media were documented Jan. 6. Many were harassed, threatened, robbed and assaulted because they were journalists. Additionally, several news organizations had their equipment stolen, damaged and/or destroyed.

Former President Donald Trump urged his supporters for weeks to go to Washington to stop the certification of the election results, which was to take place on Jan. 6, because Trump said he did not, and still does not, believe that he lost.

Thousands of people arrived in Wash-

ington Jan. 6. Waving Trump and Confederate flags, they showed their support for the former president at a rally that Trump led.

"We're going to walk down to the Capitol, and we're going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women," Trump told the crowd. "We're probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong."

Incorporated, the protesters walked to the Capitol. Some became violent and overwhelmed law enforcement, as they pushed past police barricades. And they were able to temporarily stop Congress from counting electoral votes. When it was over, five people died of their injuries.

When asked about that day, former Bayville mayor Doug Watson said what he saw was not an insurrection. The videos show people who were upset on the steps of the Capitol, he said. But he added that he does not support what Brown did.

"I'm a Trump guy," Watson said. "But I'm not out breaking anything. I have no sympathy for people breaking things."

Richard Walka, of Bayville, said it is unfortunate that the country is so divided. He did not know that Brown had been arrested.

"It's disturbing that he lives in Bayville," Walka said. "Bayville is a quiet,

seaside community. I would never be involved in anything like what happened at the Capitol. There are a lot of extreme people out there."

Christine Oddo, who also lives in Bayville, said she had seen Brown around town but did not know him.

"It makes me fearful to have someone that radical in our community," she said. "People are entitled to their opinions, of course. I always got the sense that he was a radical guy."

Brown and Jurlina, the complaints say, were on the northeast side of the U.S. Capitol at a media staging area when they tried to destroy the media equipment.

Video shows Brown later using a bullhorn. "You stole the Senate from us, you stole the House from us, and now you think you're going to steal the presidency from us?" he said. "Let me tell you something — you want to take peaceful revolution away from us? Well, you better prepare for [expletive] violent revolution. I don't want violence. I believe in peaceful resolve. But you're making it [expletive] impossible for us."

De Natale said he doesn't want any radicals of any persuasion living in the Village of Bayville.

"[Brown] should take that energy and put it to a good cause," De Natale said. "I'd rather see a man volunteering to do something good. This disturbs me."

Good Shabbos, Long Island!

Friday July 2
Candle lighting 8:11
Torah reading: Pinchas
Shabbos ends 9:20

Five Towns times from calendar of The White Shul in Far Rockaway

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N O M I N A T E
ā **HERALD**

H O M E T O W N
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.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, July 9

Movie at the Library

Gold Coast Public Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 to 4 p.m. Watch "The Bad News Bears" (1976) at the library. A bottom-of-the-barrel Little League team, made up of some of the worst players to ever set foot on a baseball field, is raised from dead last thanks to the arrival of a beer-swilling coach (Walter Matthau), a female pitcher (Tatum O'Neal), and a motorcycle-riding juvenile delinquent (Jackie Earle Haley). Room A will be open at 1:40 p.m.

Sea Cliff Beach Music Series: Alibi

Every Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. through the end of August, residents can head to Sea Cliff Beach to enjoy live music by the water.

Downtown Sounds: John Fogerty Tribute Project

Every Friday for the rest of the summer, the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District will host a free concert series in Village Square at the intersections of Glen, School and Bridge streets. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. spectators can head to the square with their lawn chairs and enjoy live music every Friday until August 27. For the full series lineup and live-stream of the event, head to glencovedowntown.org.

Saturday, July 10

Deep Roots Farmers Market

100 Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The weekly farmers market offers a selection of locally grown vegetables and eggs, fresh baked bread, honey, seafood and more.

Yoga in the Garden

From 8 to 9 a.m. enjoy summer at Planting Fields by taking an outdoor, 60-minute, all levels yoga and meditation class in the Cloister Garden. Partnering with Oyster Bay/Glen Cove Yoga, spend your morning at Planting Fields to continue your practice and connect mindfully with the natural landscape. Members: \$12 General Admission: \$20 Register For the event at plantingfields.org.



Courtesy Amalfi Pizzeria and Restaurant/Facebook

Open Mic Night at Amalfi

Every Tuesday night from 5:45 to 9 p.m. at Amalfi Pizzeria and Restaurant in Glen Cove, enjoy great music from talented performers, and great food and ambience at this wonderful restaurant. All ages and experience level welcome, no entrance fee or cover charge. Acoustic guitar amp and 2 mics are available, as well as mic cover, or bring your own. Accompaniment available as well. Amalfi is located at 197 Forest Ave in Glen Cove.

Native Gardening for Birds and Pollinators

At the Garvies Point Museum at 50 Barry Dr in Glen Cove. Learn about native plants and how beneficial they are for native birds and pollinators and how to encourage them in your own backyard. From 11 a.m. to noon and 2 to 3 p.m. Event included in museum admission price.

Sunday, July 11

Sundays with Survivors: Rosette Gerbosi

Each Sunday from 6 to 7 p.m. the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County at 100 Crescent Beach Road in Glen Cove hosts a series of presentations by Holocaust Survivors. In this program, Survivor Rosette Priever

Gerbosi will share information about her pre-war life in France, her experience of being sent into hiding by her parents, and her life after the war.

Oyster Bay Market - Fourth of July

In addition to the normal bi-weekly family market hosted by the Oyster Bay Main Street Association, there will be a special holiday market from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. by the bandstand on Audrey ave. There will be special guests, live music and children's activities.

Monday, July 12

Sea Cliff Fire Dept. Blood Drive

Between 3 and 9 p.m. donors can head to the Sea Cliff Fire Department to donate blood, platelets or plasma.

Appointments are strongly preferred and can be made online at nybc.org.

In-person Crafts: Mini Decoupage Herb Garden

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the backyard of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich public library, participants will decorate three mini terracotta pots with stickers and modpodge (decoupage style) with provided materials. They will be given seeds and soil for the herb garden part. Decorate the pots and then plant your seeds! Registration can be completed at oysterbaylibrary.org.

Tuesday, July 13

Mother Goose & Toddler Time: in-person Storytelling

Held in the backyard of the Oyster Bay-

East Norwich public library, children up to the age of two can enjoy a stimulating mix of stories, songs, fingerplays and rhymes. You will leave each storytime with a different paper craft. Begins at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 14

21st Century Media: Bursting the News Bubble

Our founding fathers recognized that democracy can't survive without a vibrant, free press. Beginning at 7 p.m. via Zoom, presenters will discuss the changes in news media since the country's founding. What went wrong? How did we get into our current divisive situation - clickbait, news bubbles- and how can we move beyond? To register for the event, those interested can email seaclifflibrary@hotmail.com.

Thursday, July 15

Sunset Serenade: Rusty String Band

Every Thursday for the rest of the summer, the Sea Cliff Civic Association will host a free concert series in Clifton Park. Beginning at 6 p.m. spectators can head to the park and enjoy live music every Thursday until Sept 2.

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 at 10 a.m. in Glen Cove.
- The Oyster Bay Town Board will meet on July 13, at 10 a.m.
- Glen Cove Downtown Sounds free concert series continues July 9.
- The Music Under the Stars concert series at TOBAY beach will continue through Aug 4.
- The Village of Sea Cliff Board of Trustees will meet on July 12, at 7 p.m.

Children's Memorial Garden reopens

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

stolen life of a child.

"These children must not be forgotten," Zamecka said. "They were innocent victims during an incredibly brutal period of human history."

The Holocaust center was founded in 1992, and in 1998, Zamecka said, she was asked by its board of directors to create a garden with the proceeds of the Million Pennies Project. "At first, the thought was to create a small garden in the back of the building," she recalled, "but we gathered information from the Glen Cove Library that a formal garden already existed at Welwyn that was developed in 1911 by the residents of the house, Harold and Harriet Pratt."

In 1998, Zamecka recounted, the garden "was an overgrown mess," adding, "It was so overgrown you couldn't recognize it as a garden, and certainly couldn't enter it. With a machete, I hacked my way into the center and uncovered remnants of the old garden."

The steps leading down to the garden, as well as the walls surrounding it, were deteriorated. "But I knew then, in my heart, this is where the Children's Memorial Garden should be located," Zamecka said.

In 2018, Garden Committee Vice Chairman Bob Praver got involved with the second stage of the revitalization. "There



Jill Nossa/Herald

ATTENDEES GATHERED AROUND the amphitheater for the Children's Memorial Garden reopening ceremony on June 27 at the Holocaust Museum and Tolerance Center.

were two aspects to this effort," Zamecka said. "One was the physical upgrading to the garden, and the second was to achieve the all-important goal of creating a connection between the garden and the mission of the Holocaust Center."

For years, she said, the garden has been used as an outdoor classroom, but before the amphitheater was built, children "would sit around the old reflecting pool, which did not have water, with their feet dangling over the edge."

Then, she said, there was the inscrip-

tions project, Praver's brainchild, seeking to develop a theme in which the garden would relate to the diverse aspects of the Holocaust: the origins of Nazi tyranny, the struggle against that tyranny, and the incalculable suffering. "The objective was accomplished by creating a series of 14 stanchions throughout the garden," Zamecka said. "Each of them contains a quotation that captures a voice of the Holocaust."

"We knew the direction we needed to go" in 2018, she said, "but to make dreams

come true, you need to have a vision, and you need others who share that vision and want to fulfill [it]."

The ceremony honored two people who helped fulfill the dream for the garden: landscaper Steven Dubner and Steven Fleisher, of the Shirley and William Fleischer Family Foundation, which provided financial support.

"Steve Dubner not only shared our vision," Zamecka said, "but he took us on a magical ride of grand possibility."

In redesigning the amphitheater around the reflecting pool, Dubner said, the idea was to allow visitors to have space to "reflect on what they experienced" in a peaceful and tranquil environment. "This would be their opportunity to comprehend the impact on society of what had transpired in the past," he said.

Fleisher, whose foundation donated more than \$100,000 to the project, said that the values promoted by the center align with what his parents always believed in. "The idea of children coming and taking classes, learning lessons from the Holocaust — not just about what happened, but most importantly, so these lessons can be used so that others don't suffer from bigotry and hatred, and how to become upstanders, not to just be passive — is so important," he said.

HMTC is a small organization, Zamecka noted, but "the work that is done here is critical," she said.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT LA BUSSOLA RESTAURANTE

MOTOWN NIGHT

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When Covid hit, I was considered an essential worker. One of the nearby colleges was making their football field into an overflow hospital and we got the job to print up the plan very late at night, which had to be delivered at 8 a.m. the next morning. We felt like we were helping. But after that business slowed down. We are a contract printer and construction had stopped.

I'm the chair of the Bayville Beautification Committee. We all wanted to help. We make "Bayville Strong" signs and sold them for \$20 a sign. Cars would line up. We all wore our protective clothing — the gloves and hats — and when people drove up, they would pop their trunk open and there would be \$20 in it. Even then we kept taking names and phone numbers.

Originally I printed up 50 signs but we had like three pages of names that wanted to buy a sign and we ran out of them in like 20 minutes. I had to send the print job out to another company. Once we paid them we ended up collecting \$12,000.

We got in touch with Bayville Cares to donate the money. They told us to buy gift certificates from our stores and the market in Bayville, which Bayville Cares distributed. We ended up helping our neighbors and our businesses, which were suffering. I think the sign sales showed we are a community and are there for each other.

I always considered myself a caring family person that was grounded. Covid was a reset button for me. It made me step back and realize, you can't take anything for granted.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

FRED GUARINO NORTHPORT

Owner
Tiki Recording Studios
Glen Cove



As the chairperson of the Downtown Sounds Committee, I saw that there was no way live music was going to happen last year, so I presented an idea to Patricia Holman, executive director of the Downtown Business Improvement District, to provide the shows virtually. I wanted to also reach out to the community in a different way — the idea wasn't just to have a show so people could watch a band play, but I wanted people to interact and to engage the community. I thought this was a perfect opportunity to be more interactive with the community.

It worked out, as we had Patricia in my studio control room, the bands in a Deer Park studio, the director in his home studio, and people commenting and making requests via Facebook Live. We purchased big screen TVs

so people could see the bands while eating in Glen Cove restaurants. It was like having a little local news network here in town. It worked because I had great, enthusiastic team who wanted to embrace the future. The main mission was to engage the public and keep our presence alive.

This year, we decided to go hybrid with live shows and streaming. Another benefit of recording the shows is that they will be archived. It's interesting because we discussed streaming the shows over the years, but the goal was always to bring people downtown. But we thought about it and now we can have the show visible and give Glen Cove a brand around the world.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

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We're committed to achieving a Net Zero future, while ensuring a safer, more reliable, and cleaner energy future for all. First and foremost, we're determined to ensure that none of our customers are left behind as we transition to a Net Zero future. To help define our short and long-term energy needs, we've issued a second **Long-Term Capacity Supplemental Report** that provides an update on our Net Zero planning, our progress on targeted infrastructure solutions, future energy demand forecasting, and alternative solutions that will help support and meet our customers' energy needs.

As part of our commitment to work together, we want to hear from you on how best to meet our region's projected energy needs while leaving no customer behind.

- ▶ On July 14, 2021, we invite you to participate in a virtual public information meeting to learn more about the report's findings and share your thoughts. Meeting details and more information on the updated report are available at ngrid.com/solutions
- ▶ More information about our own Net Zero plan is available at nationalgrid.com/responsible-business-commitments

Your feedback is important. Please attend.



Photos by Elisa Dragotto/Herald

AT THE MUSEUM'S opening were, from left, volunteers John Voelpel, Douglas Kassner, Sheree Fuller, George Schlichter, John Specce and Gary Farkash.

Taking a spin on a railroad turntable

BY GEORGE WALLACE
newsroom@liherald.com

It had been 50 years since James Kaufman, of Glen Head, had seen the historic railroad turntable in Oyster Bay do its thing.

“The year was 1971, I was 4 years old, my family brought me out here to see it operate,” Kaufman recounted moments after stepping off the fully functioning turntable June 26 at a celebration of the restoration of the turntable and railway station in Oyster Bay. “It was a lot louder then, and faster. Or maybe I was just smaller. But it sure gave the train engine a ride — that turntable spun like a top!”

Fast-forward 50 years, and Oyster Bay’s unique 360-degree railroad turntable was at it again for the celebration, under the practiced hand of railroad enthusiast John Petshe, a member of the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum.

“I got up early this morning and practiced running the turntable several times,” Petshe, a Hicksville native now living in New Jersey, admitted. “I got the rotation just right the first time, but missed the mark by just a little on the second run. It takes timing to get it to coast to a stop at just the right spot.”

The turntable was brought to Oyster Bay from Locust Valley and installed in 1904, to turn eastbound engines back in the direction of Manhattan by rotating them 180 degrees.

The operational debut of the 117-year-old turntable, described as the only operating turntable in the country by museum volunteer Joel Friedman, was the highlight of the day’s celebration, which included tours of the Railroad Museum’s displays inside the same station that President Theodore Roosevelt used to travel from his home at Sagamore Hill to Washington, D.C. Not only did Roosevelt come and go at the station, but during his presidency, dignitaries went through the same doors visitors used during the event. The station was “an integral part of the scene in the early 1900s,” according to museum officials.

Built in 1889 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005, the



ONE OF THE displays of locomotive #35.

depot was constructed by Bradford Lee Gilbert, and was touted as one of the finest stations in the country. Its restoration is a multi-year work in progress, but with the exhibits in place and key decorative and design elements completed (full restoration of the western and southern facades; the refabrication of a ticket window), last month’s event marked one of two major steps forward: the station’s grand opening. That, combined with the operational debut of the turntable and the easing of coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings, made a celebration of the structures particularly appropriate.

“We’re all about preserving the history of our community and providing a forum for heightened awareness and understanding of the railroad’s impact on local life,” said John Speece, board president of the Railroad Museum. “And we’re all about having fun while doing that.”

For James Kaufman and the dozens of railroad enthusiasts and community celebrants who joined him for a spin on the historic railroad turntable, the fun has just begun.

KATHLEEN DIRESTA

SEA CLIFF

Owner

K.DiResta Collective & K.DiResta Design



I own a jewelry store in town and my husband owns a restaurant as well so our biggest challenge during the pandemic was that we had to shut down for two months.

While my store was closed I just kept in touch with people on instagram and used the extra time to improve my website. Eventually, around Mother’s Day, people started reaching out to me and needed gifts for their loved ones. I started meeting people by appointment here and there and eventually enough people came in that I was able to reopen and keep my business open with that little boost.

My husband and my son got Covid back in November. It was a very challenging and scary time for us so I’m grateful they both made it through that. It made me so grateful for our health, and the freedom to move around

again after we were in quarantine for almost a month.

I love connecting with the community by giving back too. In the last year, I helped with a fundraiser for NOSH, a program with the North Shore Soup Kitchen; I still collect food for them outside the store. I created special pendants for the Love Your Neighbor project and the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor where 50 percent of the proceeds go to each organization.

I also run the Sea Cliff Arts Council and Being able to create and organize Springfest a few weeks ago where the community was able to come out and enjoy each other’s company was great. It really was very special because it was kind of the kick-off to the summer for the community and was a great success.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

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The award-winning Herald Community Newspapers are seeking an editor and a reporter to cover the diverse hamlets of Nassau County’s South Shore. The ideal candidate in both cases is adept with news and feature writing and holds a bachelor’s or master’s degree in journalism, English or a related field. A newspaper internship or prior publishing experience is a must for the editor’s post, but not required for the reporter’s position. Work on a student newspaper or other publication is always a plus.

Herald Community Newspapers, with a readership of roughly 200,000, is among the largest and most respected community news groups in New York State, covering 26 communities on Nassau’s South and North Shores. The group has consistently ranked among the top five community news groups in the New York Press Association’s annual Better Newspaper Contest, garnering hundreds of awards over the years. Herald alumni have gone on to work for many major media outlets, from Newsweek to The Daily Mail, and CNN to the BBC.

Qualified candidates should email their cover letters and resumes to Executive Editor Scott Brinton, sbrinton@liherald.com.

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'Normal' may not seem the same

It's still the world we knew, but different

By Karen Bloom

After a year of anxiety and burnout, even anger, many people are struggling with returning to their pre-pandemic lives. Experts say that lingering traumatic effects from the pandemic may alter our collective behavior, despite our eagerness to embrace reopening and return to "normal."

While outwardly, there are signs that we're moving forward with life as we knew it — airline bookings are up (along with the increased fares), restaurants are seeing an influx of eager patrons, entertainment venues, cultural institutions and sports stadiums are welcoming back visitors, etc. — there's still anxiety associated with moving forward. Especially when it involves returning to the office, for the many who have been working at home since the onset of lockdown.

Some experts are now calling this "the fourth wave" of the pandemic, citing that the mental health impacts will be profound and far-reaching.

"They're all very afraid," says Loretta McManus, clinical director of Friends of Bridge, the Valley Stream-based counseling center. "Afraid to come back for treatment and to return to work. Our clients had to fill out forms to let us know about how they felt about coming back in, and 80 percent of them said they don't want to be coming in. They've become used to the virtual world. You can do it from the comfort of your home; you don't have to drive here."

"One of the things, though, that I do understand," she adds, "is a lot of our clients take public transportation and they're very afraid of it. We're always told how clean it is but it's really not."

Like many counseling agencies, Friends of Bridge is seeing more people reaching out for support. "So many of our clients and who weren't our clients but are coming in now — we're getting a lot of referrals right now — have mental health issues. They either lost their job, or being back there and commuting is very stressful."

"The amount of people who have relapsed, especially with alcohol, is high," McManus says. Another big stress factor for our clients is that there have been so many shootings in New York City and here on Long Island that have been attributed to the pandemic. It's a very stressful time, especially for our clients."

The transition period that individuals and companies are facing as people return to a post-pandemic work environment "is anxiety provoking for a lot of people," says Cindy Wolff, executive director of Tempo Group. "We recommend that people move at the pace they're comfortable with."

For example, she says that as people go out more, even though there may not be a mask mandate in place, individuals can choose to wear one if it makes them comfortable. "For some, it is still a sense of comfort and normalcy," she explains.

Redefining the office post-pandemic

All the discussion, within the news media and in the workplace, about leaving home behind getting back out there has dialed up the anxiety for many. For some, a return to the office, leaving zooming behind and business socializing cannot come fast enough. For others, the

thought of sharing an office again and all goes along with that, fills them with dread. Plus, now that we've become so comfortable with our home "office" routines, many simply don't want to give that up.

As companies begin to reopen offices, Wolff says, "It is important that they have open dialogues with their employees around safety and protocols."

Of course, every work setting will be different, but Wolff explains it is important to note that in general, people have gotten used to protocols, such as hand sanitizer and socially distanced spaces. "Being around people will also help with the return to work," she says.

Re-engaging with the physical workspace and colleagues

"People think that change is so hard, but people are adaptable," says Janet Kahn-Scolaro, PhD, administrative director of behavioral health at Mount Sinai South Nassau. "They adapted to working at home and so now the process of adapting back to going to the office is going to happen similarly. People are going to find that it is a familiar, sometimes comforting pattern to get back into. But, I think there's going to be some anxiety, angst, and a bunch of new rules."

"There have been a lot of studies of folks after some kind of trauma — and I believe this is a worldwide trauma — and people who recover often find that they re-think what is important to them, she explains. "They have a way to prioritize their health and loved ones differently. Some things that seemed terribly important prior to this [Covid] may not seem so important anymore. And other things like your health and how fragile we are as human beings become apparent. So there is a re-ordering for a lot of people."

Back to work, back on the road or rails

Then there is the commuting slog, which prior to the pandemic was already fatiguing and stressful for many — now even more so. "I do not think people will walk onto a crowded subway or LIRR train again without taking pause and thinking 'Does this feel too much, too close, too fast?,' says Kahn-Scolaro. "And I think companies are aware of this and are working to create environments and schedules so people can ease back in."

"Being on a subway train where the door closes and you are literally on top of someone else is probably an experience that none of us are ready for. And I get that, however I also think that we have to have conversations about what the real risk is for us."

Wolff adds that this is something her staff has already begun to deal with, providing guidance to their clients. "Whatever mindful technique you used in the past," she says. "Re-integrate that into your life."

Clearly, the process of readjustment is a daunting one. The world, for many of us, feels different now. Being fully comfortable is a process that will take time and will involve a re-examining of societal and institutional roles, including a re-evaluation of how the workplace functions.

Reported by Jordan Vallone, Robert Traverso and Tom Carrozza

Above photo: If you're unsure how you will manage your re-entry to the post-Covid office, or everyday life in general, you are not alone.



Growing up during a pandemic

Will our kids struggle to socialize after Covid-19?

By Karen Bloom

Our children have gone through an entire school year-plus since our lockdown last March. This has sure changed the way kids and teenagers have grown up. They have spent more time at home with only close family, minimal time hanging out with friends and haven't been in crowded areas in a long time.

Many parents started to wonder how this will impact their kids' socialization skills as we emerge from the pandemic. Young children have been home with parents or other close family members during the Covid-19 pandemic, which means many have been taking a break from daycare or school. As for teens, Covid-19 made the teenage years, which can be difficult to begin with, only harder. Many teens have missed out on some of the biggest or most monumental moments of their young lives: prom, sporting events, senior-year activities, college transitions and so much more.

Throughout the pandemic, parents have worried about what all this lack of socialization could be doing to kids' development. As vaccine rollouts continue, it's time to think about reacclimating kids to the wide world of in-person togetherness.

Shari Lurie, senior director of mental health services at South Shore Guidance Center and EPIC Long Island, doesn't anticipate much of an anxiety spike in kids with the return to post-pandemic normalcy. "Kids obviously missed each other for a variety of reasons during this pandemic. I don't see, depending on the age, much of an issue" Lurie says.

"For preteens and teens, there's not going to be much of a problem because they've really missed their friends. Their friends are an outlet for them emotionally. Friends are the main support for that age group," Lurie says. "So I don't foresee much anxiety around that. Other than maybe

a little bit of, "will they still be my friend," but for the most part it's going to be a very smooth transition. Kids are going to be very happy about it because this has been very hard on them."

Different age groups might have different times acclimating. "If you're talking about really little ones who haven't gotten the hang of socializing yet, they may have regressed a little bit and need some support from their parents or whoever adult is watching them help them get back into socializing," Lurie says.

Different circumstances result in different anxiety levels. "I think it may be hard for the kids who have been bullied," Lurie says. "This break has been a reprieve for them. They've been home and not in that situation. I think those are the kids it's going to be a struggle for."

Technology has certainly helped kids maintain connections. "With social media and technology and being able to FaceTime, it's easier. If it was years ago before technology became more advanced I would say kids wouldn't understand why they couldn't see each other," Lurie says. "For lower-income or socioeconomic communities that may not have as much technology, they may struggle a little more."

"They crave being with each other and from the groups I've seen, they're so happy to see each other in person," Lurie adds.

Pediatric psychologist Kate Eshleman, PsyD, shares tips for parents to bear in mind during the transition from online socializing to back to the playground.

Temper your expectations

First and foremost, don't expect everything to go perfectly. "It's impor-

Continued to Will

Above photo: The kids are all right — or they will be anyway.

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Living with a brain tumor, new treatment methods offer hope

You have a brain tumor." That's a diagnosis that

no one wants to receive. However, having a brain tumor now, asserts Ramin Rak, M.D., FAANS, a neurosurgeon at NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery, and Director, Brain & Spine Tumor Center, Mount Sinai South Nassau, is not the same as being diagnosed with one 20, 10, or even five years ago.

"Recent advances in diagnosing and treating tumors of the brain," he notes, "mean those words do not have the same meaning that they used to."

Dr. Rak points out that "we are finding tumors sooner, and in many cases, we're able to address them before they cause a problem." Improved MRI and targeting systems have allowed for more accurate minimally invasive biopsies. Once a tumor is identified, technology such as 3D computer stereotaxis, intraoperative functional MRI, and hand-held carbon dioxide lasers have improved the precision of surgical removal while minimizing damage to the surrounding normal brain. Another advanced treatment for brain tumor is the use of awake



*Ramin Rak, M.D., FAANS,
Attending Neurosurgeon,
NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery*

craniotomy with functional mapping to preserve function while producing excellent clinical outcomes.

With the patient awake during the procedure, Dr. Rak uses functional (fMRI) and electrophysiology to map the brain while a neuropsychologist leads the patient through a series of cognitive and language tests. That allows him to identify the sources of various functions in the eloquent brain to avoid them as much as possible during tumor resection. Dr. Rak has been performing awake craniotomy with functional mapping for a decade and is a regional leader in this procedure.

"Awake craniotomy with functional mapping is individually designed care based on the patient's needs, lifestyle, and profession," Dr. Rak says. "I operate based on functionality by mapping the areas of the brain responsible for speech, language, and motor and sensory functions. The entire procedure is custom designed for each patient."

The advent of non-invasive options such as stereotactic radiosurgery (Gamma Knife) have revolutionized the treatment of tumors once thought to be "inoperable." Patients with multiple tumors, in particular, can benefit from the accuracy and precision of radiosurgery. This same technology is also used to prevent tumors that have been removed from growing back.

Dr. Rak performs most of his radiosurgery procedures using the Gamma Knife at the Long Island Gamma Knife Center at Mount Sinai South Nassau in Oceanside which was the first on

Long Island to acquire the Gamma Knife system and has hosted thousands of procedures over nearly two decades. Dr. Rak's colleague and partner, Michael H. Brisman, M.D., is the co-medical director of the center.

Now more than ever, participation in clinical trials offers patients advanced treatment options while improving our knowledge of which methods offer the best results. Until recently, for example, medical treatment of brain tumors has been somewhat limited due to something called the "blood brain barrier" which prevents most drugs from affecting tumors within the brain. Remarkable advances in drug delivery options, as well as the drugs themselves, have allowed us to break down that barrier and begin treating these tumors directly.

What was once described as suffering from a brain tumor has now become living with a brain tumor. Or, in some cases, without one.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment for a consultation with Dr. Rak, please call (516) 442-2250 or (631) 864-3900. Or visit, nspc.com.



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Photos by Christina Daly/Herald

GEORGE AND GRACIE went along for the ride with their mom, Councilwoman Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante.

Children ride in annual bike parade

Sporting their best patriotic spirit, children and their families participated in the annual Children's Bicycle Parade on Sunday morning. Participants lined up on Forest Avenue at Robert M. Finley Middle School before heading down to School Street and through downtown Glen Cove.



LAURA AND BARBARA Molnar rode together during the bike parade on Sunday.

DECKED OUT IN crazy helmets, 5-year-olds Alessia Quarto, Guiseppe Quarto and Thomas Bannon had fun riding.

CHLOE PITTMAN AND her father, Darren Pittman, were among the participants.



ISABELLA LINARES, 11, rocked the thin blue line flag, supporting officers, on the back of her bike.



OBITUARIES

Nicholas Riciputo

Nicholas Riciputo died on June 21, 2021, at age 71, formerly of Brookville. Proud U.S. Army veteran from 1969-72. Longtime employee for Taylor Products, Inc. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Interment Calverton National Cemetery.

Felicina Solomita

Felicina Solomita of Glen Cove died on July 1, 2021, at age 68. Beloved wife of the late Michele. Loving mother of Angelo (Kiera) and Mario (Alison). Proud grandmother of Michael, Abigail, Liliana, Stella and Hannah. Also survived by loving nieces, nephews and family in Italy. Visitation held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Mass held at the Church of St. Rocco. Entombment Holy Rood Cemetery.

Pasquale Giovanniello

Pasquale "Geraldo" Giovanniello of Glen Cove died on July 4, 2021, at age 73. Beloved husband of Anna. Loving father of Lou (Julie-Ann) and Emilio

(Lina). Proud grandfather of Jessica, Susan, Michael, Emilio Jr. Geraldo and Alessio Luca. Dear brother of Rocco, Antonio and Rosina. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins. Proprietor of Giovanniello Landscaping from 1968-2021. Faithful member on the committee of St. Michael Arc Angel. Pasquale was very proud of his son's accomplishments. Visiting at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Mass held at the Church of St. Rocco. Entombment Holy Rood Cemetery.

Emilya Shurygina

Emilya Shurygina, formerly of Sea Cliff, died on June 30, 2021, at age 83. Former professor of economics at Civil Engineering college. Beloved mother of Dmitri Chouryguin. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Service and interment at Mountain View Cemetery.

Grace R. Oddo

Grace R. Oddo, 85, of Glen Cove, passed away on June 28, 2021. Loving wife of Anthony. Beloved mother of Val-

erie (Brian), Wayne, Liesl (Chris), Glenn, and Andrea (David). Cherished nana of 11 grandchildren. Loved her family, friends, and especially her two little dachshunds, Gretel and Hannah. Visiting held at Whitting Funeral Home, 300 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head. Mass held at St. Patrick's Church, Glen Cove. Burial at Saint Patrick Cemetery, Upper Brookville.

Pauline Capobianco

Pauline Capobianco, of Glen Cove, died on June 28, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Angelo. Devoted mother of Concetta (late George) Bivona, Maria, Angela (late Jeff) Zupa and Joseph (Kristen). Loving grandmother of Angelo, Ryan (Nicole) and Carina. As per Pauline's wishes, all services will be private.

Sandra Waring

Sandra Waring of Glen Cove died on June 21, 2021, at age 61. Beloved mother Kasion (Yvonne Mack), Akiya Mack and Robert Waring. Dear sister of Mellynn Reese, the late Martha Reese and the late Jabbar McBride. Proud grandmother of Shanise Jefferson, Kasion Mack

Jr., Jerion Parker, Nyia Pailliere, Annesa Rudolph and Destiny Mack. Great-grandmother of Aiyden Jefferson. Also survived by loving nieces, nephews and cousins. Sandra loved spending time with her family. She will be greatly missed. Visitation and service at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Interment Nassau Knolls Cemetery.

Obituary Notices

Obituary notices, with or without photographs can be submitted by individuals as well as local funeral establishments. They should be typed and double spaced. The name of the individual or funeral establishment submitting the obituary should be included. A contact phone number must be included. There is no charge for obituaries.

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THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Destructive dynasty

Dear Great Book Guru, As July begins to get hot I remain committed to a strong summer of reading. I'd like to read some non-fiction. What do you think is the best piece of non-fiction you have read this year?

—Strolling into Summer

Dear Strolling into Summer,

I have no problem choosing this one: "Empire of Pain," by Patrick Radden Keefe, author of "Say Nothing," another GBG pick.

Keefe writes about the Sackler family and how their dynasty changed the world forever. In exquisite detail, Keefe recounts their history from 1930's Brooklyn, to Creedmoor Psychiatric Hospital in Queens, to palatial mansions here and abroad. Arthur, Mortimer and Raymond are the three brothers whose lives, wives, children and grandchildren populate this book.

Known for their lavish gifts to the Metropolitan Museum (think Temple of Dendur), the Louvre, the Smithsonian and

many, many other institutions, their most enduring legacy will undoubtedly be the addiction crisis that has spread throughout the world fueled by their revolutionary advertising techniques and corrupt practices. Many consider Richard, one of the second generation Sacklers, to be the most responsible for the carnage, but others feel the oldest of the three brothers, Arthur, bears the largest share of blame. It was he who masterminded the family drug empire through inventive advertising, a glamorous drug sales force, lavish gifts to physicians, a group of dedicated lawyers and a myriad of lies. His brothers and he became billionaires many times over as millions became addicted to

their drugs. Keefe's book is an indictment of one family and a culture that allows the few to accrue so much. Highly recommended!

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



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF GLEN COVE
ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
that a PUBLIC HEARING
will be held by the Glen
Cove Zoning Board of
Appeals on Thursday, July
15, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., at
the Council Chambers,
City Hall, 9 Glen Street,
Glen Cove, New York.
CASE # 3- 2021 -
Applicant is requesting 5
Variances from Sections
280-56 D (6) (7); 280-45
R (1) B (10) and 280-45 R
(1) of the Glen Cove
Zoning Code. The
Variances requested are
to maintain an existing
swimming pool, wood
deck, raised patio, wood
gazebo and metal garage

with less than the
required front and side
yard setback and
exceeding the maximum
lot coverage. The
structures also violate the
sky exposure plane. The
property is located at 5
Viola Drive, Glen Cove
N.Y. designated as
Section 23, Block 61, Lot
6 located in the City's R-2
Half Acre Residence
District.
CASE # 4- 2021 -The
hearing will be on the
application of Dana T.
Davidson and Yosef Ben-
David who seek two
Variances from Sections
280-56 B (6) and B (10) of
the Glen Cove Zoning
Code to construct a one-
story addition, front porch
and wood deck with less
than the required
minimum side yard and

lot coverage. Applicant is
proposing 9 feet 8 inches
from the property side
yard when 20 feet is the
minimum required and
proposing 24.73% lot
coverage when 15% is
the maximum coverage.
The property is located at
28 Reynolds Road, Glen
Cove N.Y. designated as
Section 31, Block 81, Lot
5 located in the City's R-2
Half Acre Residence
District.
CASE # 5- 2021 The
hearing will be on the
application of Jodi
Imbrano who seeks a
Variance from Section
280-45 R (1) of the Glen
Cove Zoning Code to
construct a detached
garage which exceeds the
maximum sky exposure
plane. The property is
located at 12 LaMarcus

Avenue, Glen Cove N.Y.
designated as Section 21,
Block 258, Lot 65 located
in the City's R-2 Half Acre
Residence District.
The above Applications
are on file at the City
offices located at 9 Glen
St., Glen Cove, NY where
they may be seen during
regular hours of the usual
business days until the
time of the hearing.
All interested parties will
be given an opportunity
to be heard.
June 30, 2021
BY ORDER OF THE
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The states, including New York, get into the pot business

In 2011, I had the pleasure of meeting then Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper. He was visiting New York City to raise money for his re-election campaign. His state was considering the passage of a law legalizing the sale of marijuana, and Hickenlooper expressed to me his concerns over whether it would

produce any serious money for the state and the impact of the law on his constituents.

It's now 10 years later, and 18 states have legalized the sale of cannabis to those over age 21. Hickenlooper is now a U.S. senator, and Colorado has earned almost \$1.5

have legalized pot will be joined by at least six more states this year.

Unlike the politics of wearing a mask during the coronavirus pandemic, there's no such thing as red states vs. blue states when it comes to marijuana sales. Alaska, Arizona, Montana and South Dakota are among the Republican states that have made the leap, and others are getting in line. The main reason for this acceleration of state interest is just plain dollars. Many governors are afraid to impose income taxes or increase user fees, and taxes on cannabis are becoming the easy way to fill up the treasury.

I offer no judgment on whether cannabis is good or bad for the public. There are lots of experts who oppose its legalization because they consider it a "gateway" drug that leads people to try more serious drugs. Only time and science will tell whether that's a fact, but the rush to legalization is real. In April of this year, New York state joined the crowd, with the backing of Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

But New York's law stands out, and is

very different from those in the other 17 states. Unlike many states that have deposited the sales tax revenue in their general funds, New York has mandated how that revenues will be spent. Forty percent will be reinvested in communities that have high addiction and crime rates. Twenty percent will go to the state's public schools, and forty percent will be directed to drug treatment and health services. This is the only tax program New York has that lays out where the dollars actually go.

Cannabis legalization in New York is expected to become a major business development tool. Under the new law, there are nine types of licenses that will be available, ranging from growers to processors to retailers. Fifty percent of those licenses will be targeted to minority businesses and individuals, and the other half will be available to the public. Local governments will receive partial tax revenues from the sales, but they have the option to ban such sales before Dec. 31. It is projected that on Long Island alone, cannabis-related businesses will hire 7,000 new

employees.

The new law will also have a major impact on many businesses. Employee rights and conduct will be a major issue going forward, and those seeking cannabis for medical reasons will present challenges for hospitals, nursing homes, assisted-living facilities and a variety of other adult-care operations. There is no doubt that law and accounting firms will benefit. (Full disclosure: My firm, Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, has a Cannabis Practice Group.)

There are philosophical questions about whether government should be in the business of allowing marijuana sales to generate tax revenue — a so-called sin tax. But our country has been living off taxes on alcohol and cigarettes for decades, and without lottery money, many states would be in deep economic trouble. Perhaps we can learn to live with — and benefit from — another sin tax.

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.



JERRY KREMER

billion in tax revenue from marijuana sales since 2014. Reports from Colorado law enforcement appear to show that there hasn't been a spike in driving arrests, and the state is spending millions of dollars on health care and fixing its roads and bridges. It is anticipated that Colorado and the 17 other states that

There's no such thing as red states vs. blue states when it comes to marijuana sales.

Is it fair to ban Trump from social media platforms?

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

I, for one, am comforted by the silence. I am relieved that the stream of misinformation, disinformation and general mean-spirited lunacy has been plugged.



RANDI KREISS

For years, former President Donald Trump used social media platforms to connect with tens of millions of followers who appreciated his raw commentary. And now he can't.

Now his vitriol is reserved for public appearances. The drumbeat of news reporting his insulting, or inaccurate, or dangerous posts has been silenced by "oversight boards" and social media company officers. This raises the question of how much power over our rights

and freedoms we should relinquish to oversight boards.

Despite the First Amendment to the Constitution, quoted above, and the child's chant dating back to the 1800s, Trump has been banned from most popular social media, including Facebook, where he had 35 million followers; Twitter, 88 million; Instagram, 24 million; Snapchat 1.5 million; YouTube, 2.8 million, and Twitch, 1.5 million. He has no account on TikTok, or chances are that he'd be banned from that, too.

I am relieved, and yet uneasy, about this silencing of anyone's public voice, no matter how antithetical to commonly held values and views. The idea that someone would be banned from posting his or her ideas runs counter to our nation's ideals. However, and it is a big however, the former president's irresponsible posts became as dangerous as yelling "Fire!" in a theater, and likely led to the violence of Jan. 6.

Still, tens of millions of people believe the Trump posts and read his false and inflammatory statements as gospel. If he talked crazy and was marginalized by an American public that saw through him, the narrative would be different. The

dilemma is that so many citizens believe what he has to say, even that the 2020 election was stolen from him, a provably false assertion. The danger of letting him back on social media is the prospect of another Jan. 6 insurrection or worse if he starts priming the pump again with coded support for violence against our government.

Private companies, including Facebook and Twitter, have the right to ban people from their sites, because while the First Amendment states that while Congress may not limit free speech, it does not prevent private companies from setting their own standards and rules for participation. But having the right to ban someone from social media, especially a former president, is serious business. How do we know who the deciders of free speech will be on social media boards of the future? We are traversing new ground, with no precedents to follow.

"The First Amendment only restrains government; it does not restrain a private company," says Gene Policinski, senior fellow for the First Amendment at the Freedom Forum. "In fact, those companies have their own First Amendment

right to determine, as would a newspaper, for example, what will appear on their sites."

Let's look back at Trump's social media history, including his leadership by tweet. It is a four-year-plus river of toxic speech, at times personally insulting to individuals, at times promoting Trump's private businesses and interests, at times encouraging his followers to act on his behalf.

According to David Byler in The Washington Post, the worst Trump tweet, among thousands, was his October 2020 post telling Americans they shouldn't be afraid of the coronavirus. This wasn't just false, Byler said, it became a public health catastrophe. At that point, Trump was just recovering from his own Covid infection, and some 200,000 Americans had died. We were in the throes of the worst pandemic in 100 years.

In the case of social media and Trump, I'm relieved that the companies took away his microphone. But the better scenario would be to let him spew, shake out the cobwebs in his head and let the spiders fly. Then trust the good judgment of the American public to sort the truth from the lies.

If only.

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HERALD EDITORIALS**Lessons learned from the pandemic**

For nearly 16 months, Long Islanders remained in a state of suspended animation, unsure of their next moves while staring down a killer virus, anxiously awaiting the latest set of coronavirus pandemic protocols from Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Then, on June 23, it happened: Cuomo lifted the state of emergency declaration. We were suddenly free — for the most part — to resume living our lives as we had before Covid-19 ravaged New York.

Other than having to mask up on public transportation and in hospitals, nursing homes and, for now, schools, people could return to their normal lives, maskless.

More than 2 million New Yorkers contracted the potentially deadly disease from March 2020 to the present. Some 54,000 state residents — and more than 600,000 Americans — had died of it as of last Friday. Each life lost was precious. Collectively, the devastation was immea-

surable, a once-in-100-years tragedy that we will talk about for decades to come, passing stories from one generation to the next until the memory of this horrifying time fades from our collective consciousness.

Such was the case with the flu pandemic of 1918-19, which killed 675,000 Americans. By the middle of the 20th century, the memory of those terrible two years had been erased from many Americans' minds, enshrined, for the most part, only in news articles and books. Such is the case with any great tragedy. We cannot continue reliving it in our minds indefinitely.

We must not, however, allow this society-altering year and a half to be forgotten easily. The victims must be remembered. At the same time, we must guard against another such pandemic for as long as we humanly can. The price that we paid for forgetting the pandemic of 1918-19 was steep indeed.

Had the federal government taken the threat of this virus more seriously from the beginning, tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of lives could have been saved. This lesson we cannot forget.

In the near term, we must also not forget that, though we are no longer in a state of emergency, we are still vulnerable to this disease. More than 70 percent of New Yorkers had received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine as of last week, but variants lurked around the globe. We are still not entirely sure how effective the vaccines will be against the variants, though they appear to work well.

If you have not been vaccinated, we'll keep saying it: Please, please get your shot. The day after Cuomo lifted the state of emergency, eight New Yorkers died of the coronavirus. According to medical experts, most who are dying now are unvaccinated.

State must ensure THC products don't target kids

The New York State Department of Health should move immediately to ban cookies laced with the THC chemical delta-8, a natural hemp extract that is now legal under the state's medical marijuana law. Natural and legal, perhaps, but it gives users a high just like marijuana.

State lawmakers like Sen. Todd Kaminsky, a Democrat from Long Beach, and Long Beach school officials recently brought to light the sale of THC-containing cookies like Trips Ahoy! that are cleverly packaged to look like the familiar Chips Ahoy! cookies sold at your local supermarket. The THC-infused cookies are sold at specialty shops.

Cookies like Trips Ahoy! send a bad

message to children, who can easily be fooled into believing the cookies are innocuous. They aren't.

This was one of the great fears associated with legalizing marijuana: that children would be targeted by the purveyors of pot. There was good reason to believe that. The tobacco industry had long targeted kids with cartoon characters like Joe Camel, until the Federal Trade Commission charged in 1997 that the character violated federal law. The beer industry went after kids with funny-looking frogs. We see children being targeted with

THC-infused gummies. A Florida 6-year-old recently overdosed after ingesting a THC-infused gummy labeled Hawaiian Punch. It looked much like any other bag of candy found on a supermarket shelf, except it was covered in red marijuana leaves.

Recreational marijuana will become legal in New York next year. We must ensure that kids aren't targeted with friendly-looking THC products before pot goes on sale statewide. Otherwise, marijuana legalization could very well become a bigger youth crisis than it already is.

LETTERS**More on Brinton's wild Long Island**

To the Editor:

I loved Scott Brinton's column on otters and other Long Island wildlife ("Long Island getting wilder by the day, (June 17-23). As a Bronx boy, I am in awe of the persistence of birds, insects and animals in the face of "development" by humans.

We winter in south Florida. A few winters ago, we heard unidentifiable barking at night, emanating from the lake behind our property. The next morning, a lake otter paddled by our Florida room, barking loudly. Mystery solved.

A bit later, while driving on a busy stretch



OPINIONS

Building our schools back better

Summer vacation for students this year follows almost a year and a half of coronavirus shutdowns and precautions. The learning loss during school closures was significant, and unless steps are taken, the U.S. risks the education of a generation of young people.



ALAN SINGER

Covid-19 isn't disappearing, but medical specialists are pushing for a full reopening of public schools this fall. Caution will be necessary; there will need to be regular cleaning and inspections to ensure that ventilation systems are working properly.

When possible,

children and staff should be vaccinated. Indoors, children in all grades should still wear masks. Research shows that when precautions are followed, reopening of classrooms won't be the cause of serious viral outbreaks.

The American Rescue Plan Act includes \$122 billion for an Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. New York state is scheduled to receive about \$9 billion from the fund if its recently submitted proposal is approved by the federal Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The law mandates that 90 percent of the federal money go directly to help local educational agen-

cies, and at least 20 percent of those funds be used "to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on underrepresented student subgroups."

New York's 83-page school reopening plan stresses three priority areas that local school districts must address with the federal funds: academic performance gaps caused by school closings and problems with online instruction during the pandemic; the need for culturally responsive social and emotional support for returning students; and implementation of evidence-based interventions.

Interventions are also stressed in the federal call for proposals. While school districts will have flexibility in how they use federal funds to achieve state priorities, the State Education Department is making recommendations. It identifies specific needs, including expanding full-day pre-kindergarten programs for 4-year-olds and increasing facilities funding for New York City charter schools whose enrollments rose during the pandemic.

As an educator, I welcome the infusion of much-needed federal dollars, but I have major concerns about how the money will be used. I worry when school

districts establish their own priorities. Before the pandemic, there were 370 schools in New York state listed as in need of support and improvement, an additional 43 placed in priority "receiver-ship" and over 100 "targeted districts."

There were also districts like Hempstead and East Ramapo, in Rockland County, that required state-appointed special advisers because of their histories of poor academic performance and questionable financial activity.

The requirement for evidence-based interventions in both the state proposal and the federal application reads suspiciously like a call for renewed high-stakes standardized testing. This year, because of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, New York required students taking in-person classes to sit for English and math tests. The exams interfered with already reduced instructional time and were worthless because so few students took them, and because the state reused earlier exams that had been given to students for practice.

We already know that many students are far behind because of interrupted education over the past 16 months. The pandemic should give us pause to reconsider the state's questionable testing regime, which should not be automatically reinstated.

Covid-19 relief continues federal support for charter schools, including some highly suspicious operators. In Pennsyl-

vania, online charter school operators received more than \$200 million, even though students never attended in-person classes. In North Carolina, segregated "white" academy private schools have morphed into charter schools so they can collect federal and state dollars.

During the pandemic, some charter schools were accused of double dipping, receiving federal money from funds earmarked for schools and money from programs designed to prevent layoffs of employees at small businesses.

New York's proposal calls for increased funding of poorly regulated charter schools that are already draining money from public schools. Hidden deep inside the \$1.9 trillion federal pandemic rescue package, largely because of efforts by Sen. Chuck Schumer, is a giveaway to private and religious schools, a provision that seems to violate the fundamental wall of separation between church and state that dates back to the first decades of our country. In New York state, a number of religious schools have been investigated for failure to provide students with a required secular education.

President Biden campaigned on the slogan "Build Back Better." That goes for our schools as well.

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.

Welcoming federal money, but wondering whether it will be used wisely.

LETTERS

of road in Delray Beach, we stopped, halting traffic, to allow a young otter to cross the road. Even with water all around, otters are elusive.

RICK HERMAN
Lido Beach

East River tunnels need attention, too

To the Editor:

U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg forgot to visit the East River tunnels during their recent news conference and Hudson River tunnel tour on the proposed \$11 billion Gateway Tunnel project. There are the \$11 billion basic (two new tunnels plus rehabilitation of existing tunnels) or full-build \$33 billion (including new track and platform capacity) versions of Gateway.

The ongoing cancellation and

combining of trains because of signal and other problems in the East River tunnels, along with other locations on all nine branches of the Long Island Rail Road, will continue for years.

Amtrak will not initiate decades-overdue major repairs of the 110-year-old East River tunnels until 2025, two years after East Side access to Grand Central Terminal begins. This work on all four tunnels, including two that suffered significant damage in Superstorm Sandy in 2012, may not be completed until 2029. Until this work is over, it will be impossible to guarantee reliable Penn Station service for LIRR commuters.

LARRY PENNER
Great Neck

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

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



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