

GLEN COVE
HERALD



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Tab Hauser/Herald

Celebrating art and autos

Artist Dean Adams spent last Saturday afternoon painting some of the cars on display at the Art and Automobiles event in downtown Glen Cove. Story, more photos, Page 3.

A new school year, more Covid challenges in Glen Cove

BY JILL NOSSA
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The Glen Cove City School District has had a rough start to the new academic year, with flood damage and the lingering impact of the pandemic, but nearly a month in, the schools are beginning to run more smoothly. While students at all four elementary buildings

returned as scheduled on Sept. 2, flooding from Hurricane Ida caused delayed reopenings at Glen Cove High School and Finley Middle School, and high school students returned a week later than planned.

“We had flooding in three buildings,” Victoria Galante, assistant superintendent for business, said at the Sept. 22 Board of Education meeting,

“and the high school took the brunt of the storm.”

The high school had more than five feet of water in the basement, Galante said, and it was three feet deep in the boiler room. “We had put in new expansion tanks at the high school two days earlier,” she said, “and now they need to be reinstalled.”

Some of the district’s side-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

‘She has an eye for it’

Glen Cove teen creates music video for local songwriter

BY JILL NOSSA
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With the prevalence of iPhones, editing software and platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, anyone with a digital camera can create and share videos. Having the tools doesn’t necessarily mean a person has talent, but for 15-year-old Ava Solange of Glen Cove, an amateur interest in videography led to a paid opportunity.

The high school junior already has a portfolio of completed video projects, including a professional music video. Initially, she said, her interest was in photography. But, she added, “As I started working with my camera more, I realized I could film videos.”

Like many teens, Ava taught herself how to use the camera by making TikTok videos, and expanded the scope of her projects. This summer, after hearing a song by singer-songwriter Chris Armata, of Oyster Bay, she was inspired to do something

bigger: shoot and edit a music video. She created a video for Armata’s song “Gratitude” while vacationing in Southern California, enlisting her mother and her aunt as subjects.

“I knew that I’d have some nice shots for scenery, and I thought that would go well with the song,” Ava said. “I was just picturing a lot of fun dancing and a good time, because that’s what the song is about — appreciating the happy moments.”

After four days of filming with her iPhone and a drone, she spent two days editing down about 90 minutes of footage for the three-minute song. “I had to look for the best parts of the videos and see what went well with the song and the rhythm of the song,” she explained.

Using the drone footage in addition to the phone footage made the editing process more complicated, Ava said, but the final result flows together well.

I feel like it really captures the vibe and the feeling that the music gives you.

AVA SOLANGE
Glen Cove

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Glen Cove man sentenced to 25 years to life for 2018 murder

Lawrence Grammer, a mechanic from Glen Cove, was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for the August 2018 shooting death of his co-worker at an automotive repair shop in Glen Head.

The sentencing on Sept. 23 came more than three months after Grammer, 74, was convicted by a Nassau County jury of second-degree murder and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

According to authorities, Grammer shot and killed his co-worker, Bashir 'Bobby' Ward, 35, on the morning of Aug. 4, 2018, at the Citgo Gas Station/D&R Auto Services in Glen Head, following an argument the two had the day before. Authorities said that, on Aug. 3, 2018, Grammer and a third co-worker got into an argument over gas station receipts, and Ward intervened. The following day, Ward was working on a customer's Jeep on a lift, while Grammer was working on his own vehicle, a Dodge Durango. According to the indictment, Grammer retrieved a gun from his vehicle, walked up to Ward, shot him once in the back of the head from two feet away and left the scene.

Next, Grammer called 911 and told the dispatcher, "I just killed a guy," adding that the murder weapon was in the



Courtesy Nassau County Police Department
LAWRENCE GRAMMER

seat of a Toyota. He returned to the shop and was placed under arrest. The gun was recovered in a Toyota that was registered to the defendant's son.

"Bashir 'Bobby' Ward was effectively executed when this defendant approached him from behind and mercilessly shot him once in the back of the head at close range, killing him," Acting District Attorney Joyce A. Smith Smith said. "Grammer took a man's life after a petty argument and will now spend decades in prison paying for his crime."

As of press time, Grammer's attorney could not be reached for comment.

Suozzi continues to fight for SALT deduction

BY JILL NOSSA

jnossa@liherald.com

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi of Glen Cove has been fighting for the reinstatement of the State and Local Tax deduction for more than four years, and might finally make progress this week. In a news conference held over Zoom on Monday, Suozzi discussed the pending legislation, reiterating that he will not support President Joe Biden's \$3.5 trillion tax-and-spend reconciliation package unless there is a full reinstatement of the deduction.

"If we don't have a fix of the SALT deduction, I'm not voting for it," Suozzi said. "No SALT, no deal. I've been saying that consistently for six months."

The SALT deduction was rolled back in 2017 by President Donald Trump, Suozzi has been trying to get it reinstated ever since. The deduction allows residents to deduct any taxes over \$10,000 from their federal taxes, which is particularly important to residents of heavily taxed states such as New York. In 2019, a reversal of the deduction cap passed in the House of Representatives, but the Senate did not approve it. This time, Suozzi said, he has more leverage. Earlier this year, he and 10 members of the House Committee on Ways & Means told Biden in a letter that they will not support any economic package unless it includes the repeal of the SALT cap.

"I'm very confident we're going to get a restoration of the SALT deduction," Suozzi said, "and I'm pushing for full repeal."

The bipartisan infrastructure package is expected to go before the House of Representatives on Thursday, and includes massive spending increases for improving roads and bridges, broadband, health-care and fighting climate change.

"I support this package and I want to get this deal done," Suozzi said of the infrastructure package, noting that the measure includes an extension of the

child tax credit, paid family and items related to the environment. "We as a nation will finally be taking the dramatic steps necessary to address climate change."

"There are so many things that are essential, but my big thing is SALT," Suozzi said. "The bottom line is, it's killing New York State. People are leaving New York because taxes are higher in New York than they are in Florida or Texas."

In New York, he said, taxes are high because "civil servants get paid more, we insure our children, and we have a mass transit system that is unparalleled and given us one of the strongest economies in the world."

People are moving to "cheaper" states from those that are most affected by the SALT cap, he said, not only from New York, but also from other states, including New Jersey, Illinois, Maryland, California, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Historically, he explained state and local taxes was the first deduction in the federal tax code. "It was taken away in 2017 and it's crushing us," Suozzi said. "We built our whole system around it, and we have to

get it back."

When asked whether the SALT deduction would give more advantage to the wealthy at the federal level, Suozzi stressed that the deduction is not about the wealthy, but will benefit the middle class, particularly union workers. He said there are other initiatives that will tax the wealthiest Americans. He also said that many wealthy New Yorkers are leaving the state, and he doesn't want that to happen.

"It's a challenge," he said. "We need to restore the SALT deduction so that New York is a more competitive and more attractive place to live."

The plan needs unanimous support from Democrats in the Senate to pass, and can only afford to lose three Democratic votes in the House.



No SALT, no deal. I've been saying that consistently for six months.

**CONGRESSMAN
TOM SUOZZI**
U.S. House of
Representatives



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COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL



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HERALD NEIGHBORS



Photos by Tab Hauser/Herald

JASON LANE SPENT the day with his sons, Drayer and Stockly, enjoying the cars and artwork.

Celebrating art and autos in Glen Cove

Residents had a chance to view artwork and exotic cars while strolling the streets of Glen Cove on Saturday, when the Arts and Automobiles event took place downtown.

Spearheaded by local business owner and philanthropist Joe LaPadula, Art and Automobiles is the latest in a series of events that aim to supercharge downtown Glen Cove's post-Covid-19 economic recovery by attracting families to the downtown business district with innovative and immersive culinary, art, and automotive experiences.

The event was presented in partnership with First City Project and with support from exotic car dealers, car clubs and lifestyle publications. It also included food truck vendors Red Tomato Artisanal Pizza and Mattitaco.



DANIELLE AND ROBERT Bacon viewed the artwork on display.



GLEN COVE POLICE Officer Roberto Telese took a moment to check out the cars.



IVANA BATISTA, ROSEMARIE Castillo, Kiara Munoz, Abdulla Sharhan and Eddie Bereznyak admired the Lamborghini.

Glen Cove addresses school Covid guidelines

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

walks and parking lots were damaged in the storm, and flooring at the high school had to be replaced. The middle school gym foundation has since been sealed with rubberized tar, Galante said, to prevent water from getting in. She also said that the district was working with the city to submit claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Superintendent Dr. Maria Rianna said the district was able to prioritize the cleanup in order to open the high school a week later, and would continue necessary repairs over the next few weeks. "I want to stress that we had to deal with this during a shortage of supplies," Rianna said. "Some of the floors had to be repaired, and asbestos testing was done in a timely manner. I have to say what an amazing job the company and our crew did working together. It was really a cooperative effort."

Covid concerns

The pandemic continues to challenge the district. Requiring all students to be in the buildings full time, without a remote learning option, has raised more questions about the district's quarantine and testing policies, which were addressed at the board meeting. Dr. Kim Rodriguez, assistant superintendent for human resources, presented the current Covid guidelines, which include a decision-making flow chart that is posted on the district website.

"When I came to the district, I inherited Covid," Rodriguez said, noting that she joined the staff in January. "I've learned a lot, and we all know that things have changed. We got lots of guidance early on from the Nassau County Department of Health and the New York State Department of Education, but it's quieted down."

This year the quarantine period is 10 days instead of 14. Rodriguez explained that if a student or district employee has been exposed to the coronavirus, the day the district receives that information is considered day zero. "We count out 10 days from there," she said, "and they can exit the quarantine on the 11th day."

Rianna pointed out that the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are not always the same as the state's or Nassau County's, and the dis-



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

THE GLEN COVE Board of Education discussed its current Covid-19 guidelines at the Sept. 22 meeting.

trict follows the county's guidelines for quarantining contacts, which can change from day to day.

"We usually get info from the county Department of Health when it changes," Rianna said. "It's not cut and dried, but specific questions are not unusual, and we use the DOH to help guide us through."

Those who test positive for the virus follow the directions of their health care provider, she said.

Rodriguez said that the majority of quarantines so far this school year have involved younger, unvaccinated students. Vaccinated people who are exposed do not have to quarantine unless they show symptoms. And there is no "test out" option to reduce the quarantine period.

Anyone who has symptoms of Covid-19 must stay home from school. To return, they must provide a negative PCR test or remain in quarantine for 10 days.

Many of the students who have had to quarantine this year have been deemed contacts due to potential exposure on the school bus.

"Right now, we don't have info on who sat where, or how crowded the bus is," Rodriguez said, "so we must quarantine the entire bus."

However, she said, the district is working on creating seating charts to reduce disruption and identify the proximity of

the contact. Once students have assigned seats, she said, only those within a certain radius will be deemed contacts.

For sports, Rodriguez said, all mandates have been lifted, so athletes are treated like any other contacts. "It's not automatic quarantine if child on a team tests positive," she said. "It depends on the nature of the sport."

Rodriguez said that a student who is waiting for the results of a PCR test, even if he or she has tested negative with a rapid test, should remain at home. "If a child has been identified as a contact or is exhibiting any symptoms which led you to get the rapid test," she said, "please keep them home until you get the results of the PCR test. People could be exposed in the meantime."

Quarantine disruptions

With no remote learning option this year, board trustees expressed concern that students forced to quarantine are not getting the same level of instruction, or

might be penalized for their long absences.

"I'm very concerned about what I'm hearing about students on buses and in the upper schools," Trustee Karen Ferguson said, "that students are home, with no instruction."

Rianna replied that she had met with representatives of the Glen Cove Teachers Association to discuss the situation, and noted that teachers post assignments on Google Classroom and can be emailed directly for additional support. "We're trying to put something in place so a subject area teacher is available to provide support during that period of time," Rianna said. "It's not remote instruction; it's support. We have to be consistent in how we provide that."

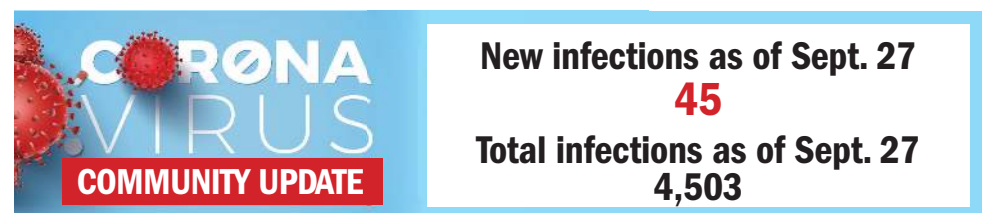
Trustee Maureen Jimenez asked about the policy for absences due to quarantine. "Has any thought gone behind the way absences are marked?" she asked.

"We are documenting the reason for the absence," Rianna said, "so the child record shows a more transparent record of why the child is not in school."

Ferguson said she had heard of parents allowing their child to play on sports teams while in quarantine, and asked if parents of students who are quarantined receive a letter explaining the rules of quarantine. "I'm saddened to know we can't shorten it," she said. "I think it's a hardship. But I think some parents need to be reminded of the rules."

Rianna reiterated the importance of communication between parents and the schools. "We need parents to work with our schools," she said. "You don't want to chance exposing others."

Staff, students and community members can get tested for Covid-19 at the high school on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Having the lab come to the school helps the district meet the state mandate of either providing proof of vaccination or being tested weekly.





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Long Island

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ELECT CITY COUNCIL



With a background in Marketing and Finance, Roni's desire is to improve the quality of life and affordability of Glen Cove. Roni has 3 children in our schools; a past PTA president; coached several local youth sports teams; received recognition as a "Hometown Hero" for organizing car parades during the pandemic; a

Member of boards of several charitable organizations. As a small business owner, Roni is passionate about making Glen Cove a better place to live and thrive for all of us.

RONI JENKINS

ELECT CITY COUNCIL



Kevin is a local attorney in a family run law firm. He served as a member of the Glen Cove City Council during 2018 - 2019. Kevin had a staunch record of voting against raising taxes, and advocating against overdevelopment and increases of fees for residential services. A lifelong resident of Glen Cove homeowner, Kevin

has an extensive record of volunteer and civic service in our community working with organizations such as Glen Cove Jr. Baseball & Softball, Glen Cove Hall of Fame, and the Sons of Italy.

KEVIN MACCARONE



PAMELA PANZENBECK
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Courtesy Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center

THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove, which has been vandalized in anti-Semitic acts at times.

Bridging the Holocaust understanding gap

By **ROKSANA AMID**
newsroom@liherald.com

New York has the highest Jewish population outside of Israel. With that in mind, many young New Yorkers are misinformed about the Holocaust at the same time that the state is seeing a rise in anti-Semitic attacks.

A recent, first-of-its-kind survey, conducted by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, found high levels of inadequate Holocaust education among young people in all 50 states. In New York, 58 percent of Millennials and Gen Zers — those born between 1981 and 1996 and 1997 and 2010, respectively — could not name a single World War II concentration camp, death camp or ghetto, according to the survey. Sixty percent of New York young people also did not know that 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust, and 57 percent reported seeing Holocaust denial or distortion on social media and elsewhere online.

Dr. Stacie Locascio, a certified BrainCore Neurofeedback provider and mother of two from Glen Cove, said, “It’s absolutely shocking, and that just shows you how much anti-Semitism there is out there. I think [young people] are probably getting it from social media, which they probably believe more than they believe their teachers.”

Social media has become a politically charged platform to spread misinformation, and the extent of that misinformation is cause for concern to Holo-



Courtesy Andrea Bolender

ANDREA BOLENDER, ACTING executive director of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove.

caust educators like Andrea Bolender, who is acting executive director of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove.

“Education has changed over the years. I remember when I was in high school — you know, a hundred years ago — that you could take a Holocaust elective for a whole semester, and I think education has changed,” Bolender said.

Elected leaders like State Sen. Todd

Kaminsky, a Democrat from Long Beach, are working to ensure New York schools provide adequate Holocaust education. Kaminsky said he believes there are schools on Long Island that are doing a good job of educating students about the horrors of the Holocaust, but he stressed the need for schools to undergo audits to see how students are being educated, and whether school curricula need to be amended.

“It’s not just enough to mandate it in the law that Holocaust education should be taught. We actually have to make sure it’s being taught, and it’s clearly not, or not well,” Kaminsky said in an interview with The Long Island Advocate. “And so, something has to be done, and we need to know where the problems are and direct our resources there.”

A bill proposed by Kaminsky to authorize the state education commissioner to undertake a study of which school districts are teaching about the Holocaust and which are not is currently under review in committee in the State Legislature. Kaminsky is now running for Nassau County district attorney.

Bolender said that without in-depth education about the past behaviors that led to the Holocaust, history could repeat itself. Bolender said young people must understand the context behind the history.

“That’s what we do here at the Holocaust [Memorial and Tolerance Center]. We identify the period of hate, which

behaviors will lead up to a genocide, but also examine the roots of anti-Semitism. A lot of people think it started with World War II,” she said.

In 2019, anti-Semitic hate crimes rose by 14 percent across the United States, according to the FBI. New York was among the states where they were on the rise. On Long Island, swastikas have been etched into sidewalks in Oceanside, Ku Klux Klan stickers placed on poles in Bay Shore and swastikas spray-painted at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center.

Bolender shared that most youths who have vandalized the Holocaust museum have not been Glen Cove locals. As a consequence, most must perform community service and take part in Holocaust education, including the meaning of Nazi symbols.

“We have to spend a little more time developing their emotional intelligence, not just their mathematical and science intelligence,” Bolender said of today’s students. “Emotional intelligence will get you much further in life and make you a better human being. Isn’t that what we all want for our kids, for someone to say they were a good person

Locascio said parents play a key role in their children’s emotional development, especially regarding current events in the Middle East.

“I think their parents just need to pay a little bit more attention to what their kids are doing, thinking and who they’re hanging out with,” she said.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, Oct. 1

Guns 'N Hoses Softball Game

The City of Glen Cove's police and fire departments will compete in a softball game at John Maccarone Memorial Stadium. Opening ceremonies are at 6:30 p.m. and the game starts at 7 p.m. Concessions will be open.

Movie at the Library

Gold Coast Public Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 to 4 p.m. Watch "Queen Bees" (2021) at the library. After reluctantly agreeing to move to a senior's home, a woman encounters a clique of mean-spirited women and an amorous widower. With Ellen Burstyn and James Caan.

Saturday, Oct. 2

'Not Your Usual Church Bazaar'

Starting at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 253 Glen Avenue, Sea Cliff, St. Luke's Fall Bazaar's ever popular Country Kitchen will feature homemade jams, jellies, chutney, pickles, Vermont cheese and an expanded bake sale. Additionally, the bazaar will have a variety of vendors selling beautiful handmade items, a White Elephant Sale, apple pressing, and an exciting raffle.

Hope Walk to End Human Trafficking

Walk, run and cycle to break the cycle of human trafficking. West Harbor Beach Memorial Park in Bayville beginning at 9 a.m. Participants can look forward to free food, shirts, popcorn, water, raffles, music and a police escort to make the route safe for all participants.

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.



Courtesy Half Step

Fall Music Festival at Eisenhower Park

The first ever Fall Music Festival at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre at Eisenhower Park will take place on Oct. 2 from noon to 7 p.m. The music festival will feature performances from the Grateful Dead tribute Half-Step, country music by Two for the Road and Eagles' tribute band Desert Highway. The event will also feature more than a dozen food trucks, games and a classic car show. Admission is free and residents are encouraged bring blankets or chairs. Food and alcohol will be available for purchase from the County's concession stand and the array of food trucks. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre is located at Eisenhower Park, field 6.

Sunday, Oct. 3

Tobay Beach Classic Car Show

Long Island's premier car show will take place on Sunday, October 3, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at TOBAY Beach. The event will feature hundreds of automobiles, trucks, military vehicles and emergency service vehicles. A live concert performed by That 70's Band will take place during the day, followed by trophy presentations. The event is free for spectators. Car owners can pre-register their vehicles at www.carshowli.com for \$15 per car or register the day-of for \$25 per car.

Monday, Oct 4

St. Francis Hospital Outreach Bus

The Bayville Free Library will be providing free health screenings that include

a brief cardiac history, blood pressure and a simple blood test for cholesterol and diabetes for adults 18 and older. Patient education and referrals will be provided. Free flu shots will be available, while COVID-19 vaccines will not. No appointment is necessary; last screening will be at 1:45 pm.

Book Discussion with the Author

The Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center at 100 Crescent Beach Road in Glen Cove is hosting a book discussion at 6:30 p.m. with author and photographer Daniel Levin for a discussion about his new book that explores master violin maker Amnon Weinstein's effort to restore violins that survived the Holocaust. Learn about the 86 violins that have been restored.

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Humorous and Unusual Tidbits About New York City

This presentation about New York City will include interesting and often little known facts about many of the people, places and things connected with the city. Join Susan and Art Zuckerman at 2 p.m. for this virtual presentation to learn about the interesting tidbits that make New York City the unique place that it is. Register online at glencovellibrary.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Cooking with Cactus

Join Maria Hernandez at the Locust Valley Library as she demonstrates how to prepare Ensalada de Nopales and Nopales with Chorizo and Eggs. Samples will be handed out to the audience.

You must register online at locustvalleylibrary.org or call (516) 671-1837 to reserve a table.

Karaoke at the Senior Center

At 130 Glen Street, Glen Cove. The Glen Cove Senior Center hosts karaoke weekly at 1 p.m. Participants must be 60 or older and a resident of Nassau County. Call (516) 759-9610 for more information.

Thursday, Oct. 7

Movie Showing: "News of the World"

Beginning at 2 p.m. at the Oyster Bay - East Norwich Library community room, enjoy a movie at the library. Five years after the Civil War, Captain Kidd moves from town to town as a storyteller where he crosses paths with Johanna, a kid taken in by the Kiowa people six years earlier. As they travel hundreds of miles, the two will face tremendous challenges of both human and natural forces as they search for a place that either can call home.

HAVING AN EVENT?

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

5 things to know about your town

- The Glen Cove Senior Center Rose Shoppe Boutique is open Mon - Fri, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Oyster Bay Town Board will meet on Oct. 19 at 10 a.m.
- The Sea Cliff Mini Mart scheduled for Oct. 3 has been postponed until October 2022
- The North Shore Board of Education will meet on Oct. 7.
- Sea Cliff United Methodist Church's thrift store is now open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

DEPUTY MAYOR MAUREEN Basdavanos, GCPD Deputy Chief Chris Ortiz, Mayor Tim Tenke, Chief of Auxiliary Police Frank Pronesti, GCPD Police Chief William Whitton, and GCPD Lt. Patrick Wright

New chief of Auxiliary Police

The Glen Cove Auxiliary Police Department has a new chief. On Sept. 15, Frank Pronesti took over the role and was sworn in as the City of Glen Cove Chief of Auxiliary Police by Mayor Tim Tenke.

Kindergartners receive books

The Glen Cove Teachers Association welcomed the new kindergarten students at Deasy and Gribbin elementary schools this month. The GCTA presented each

kindergarten student with the book, "How Do Dinosaurs Go To School?" by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague.



Courtesy Glen Cove Teachers Association

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS FROM Marci Notice's class at Deasy Elementary School were happy to receive a new book.



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with Special Guest

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Long Island Correspondent,
WABC-TV'S Eyewitness News

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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.

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Courtesy Ava Solange

AVA SOLANGE, OF Glen Cove, has completed several video projects.

Inspired by a song, teen creates a video

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"I'm very proud of how it came out and how it was put together," she said. "I feel like it really captures the vibe and the feeling that the music gives you."

However, she said, "I did run out of good clips to use in the end, and it still kind of bugs me. But overall, I'm really proud of how it came out for my first project, and it's opened a lot of doors for me."

Before her collaboration with Armata, Ava worked as a volunteer for Downtown Sounds, the weekly summer concert series in Glen Cove presented by the Downtown Business Improvement District, and she connected with Downtown Sounds Committee members and made several promotional videos. Some of them aired during the virtual concerts in the summer of 2020. Fred Guarino, chair of the committee and owner of the Tiki Recording Studio in Glen Cove, was impressed with her work.

"She'd been dabbling with doing amateur videos, and I noticed that she has an eye," Guarino said. "She's doing something a little more advanced for someone

her age. She has an artistic flair for doing these things."

Guarino has worked with Armata for more than 40 years, and "Gratitude" is one of the more recent songs the musician has recorded at Tiki.

"I was very impressed with the video she did for Chris, in a major way," Guarino said. "I didn't expect it to have the maturity, camera angles and the direction. I knew she was good, but that took it to another level."

Armata was also impressed with Ava's work. "I was caught by surprise," he said of his first viewing of the video. "I was absolutely blown away. She edited it to be a beautiful piece. Quite honestly, if I had hired a professional, I don't think they would have done better."

Though he works full time as a produce distributor in the Bronx, Armata, 63, has been writing and recording songs for decades, but had never made a music video. After seeing Ava's work, he wants to make more with her.

To view the video, find Chris Armata on YouTube. To view Ava's other video projects, find Ava Solange Productions on Facebook.

She's doing something a little more advanced for someone her age.

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Rice votes against lower drug costs – and her party

By **CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ**
carroyo@liherald.com

U.S. Rep. Kathleen Rice, of the 4th District, was one of three moderate Democrats who voted against a key provision that would lower prescription drug prices in President Joe Biden's \$3.5 trillion infrastructure package, known as the Build Back Better Act, in the House of Energy and Commerce Committee. The others were Rep. Kurt Schrader from Oregon and Rep. Scott Peters from California.

On Sept. 15, the three Democratic votes, in addition to the unanimous disapproval from the Republicans, tied the vote 29-29 in the committee, blocking the plan that would allow Medicare programs to negotiate lower costs for prescription drugs instead of pharmaceutical companies setting their own prices with little competition.

This drug pricing provision is based on H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, which passed with zero opposition in 2019. The Congressional Budget Office found that this bill would save the government \$456 billion over 10 years

and reduce drug prices by 57 percent to 75 percent.

Before the vote, Rice, who represents a swath of the South Shore, acknowledged that the Build Back Better Act would improve the lives of Long Islanders, but she said she does not support advancing provisions "that are not fiscally responsible and jeopardize the bill's final passage." In a letter sent after the vote, however, Rice shifted her stance, saying that she supports H.R. 3, but she does not think the act would pass the Senate.

According to Data for Progress, 90 percent of Rice's constituents support the provision that she voted against.

Schrader and Peters offered their own alternative drug pricing plan before the vote, which was co-sponsored by Rice. Their proposal limited Medicare to negotiate prices on only older drugs that are off patent but do not have any generic competition—a sliver of what the original provision

proposed.

Pharmaceutical companies have spent the most of any industry on federal lobbying this year. Combined, they have spent \$171 million in 2021, more than twice the amount of the next highest spending industry, and their lobbying expenditures have increased since 2013, topping at \$309 million in 2020.

In a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi signed by Rice and nine other moderate Democrats in May, Peters argued that reduced drug prices would hamper research and development of new medicines in the pharmaceutical industry, echoing the statement that the leading pharmaceutical federal lobbying contributor this year, PhRMA, published in an open letter that was signed by the heads of major pharmaceutical companies.

While Peters and Schrader have received large campaign contributions from pharmaceutical PACs and employees throughout their political careers,

collecting \$860,465 and \$614,830, respectively, Rice has only received \$6,150 this cycle, as her major donors are tied in the financial services industry.

Growing up in Garden City, Rice originally registered as Republican in 1984 and did not vote until 2002. She switched parties in 2005, when she was elected as Nassau County district attorney as a Democrat. During her tenure, she formed Nassau's first-ever Medicaid and public assistance fraud unit, which has secured millions of dollars in restitution for Nassau taxpayers.

On Sept. 22, protesters held a rally in front of Rice's office in Garden City to allow patients to speak out against high drug prices and share their stories. Many said Rice "betrayed" voters with her vote.

Despite the failed vote, Democratic leaders said they are looking to push the price control legislation through different committees before floor debate on the social spending package, including through the Ways and Means Committee, which shares jurisdiction over health policy and backed the plan, and the Rules Committee.



Kathleen Rice

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OBITUARIES

John Casey Dolan

John Casey “Johnny” Dolan of Glenwood Landing died on Sept. 27, 2021, age 26. Beloved son of Susan Dolan (née Kundler) and John Dolan. Loving brother of Kelly. Proud grandson of Vera and Joseph O. Kundler and Beverly Dolan and the late John E. Dolan. Dear nephew of Denise Dolan Wright and Joseph Kundler. Loving cousin of Cassidy, Tyler, Sarah and Anna. Visiting at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Funeral Service at Dodge-Thomas. Interment East Hillside Cemetery.

Doris Puccio

Doris Puccio of Locust Valley died on Sept. 23, 2021, at age 91. Beloved aunt of Lysander, Laurie, Nicole, Danielle and Edmund. Also survived by Mickey and Jack. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Service at Nassau Knolls Cemetery.

Janet A. Hicks

Janet A. Hicks of Glen Cove, died on Sept. 21, 2021 at age 81. Beloved sister of Frederick C., Ret. Army General David H., and Harry W. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Visitation and service held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Interment is private.

Christopher George Crosby-Gugig

Christopher George Crosby-Gugig, known as Chris Crosby, died suddenly on Sept. 5, 2021.

Beloved husband for almost 12 years of Jeab Sirimart, precious youngest son of Victoria Crosby and Herman Gugig, loving brother of Darry Gugig, Brett Gugig, and Jason Crosby. Loving brother-in-law to Catherine Lassi. Special uncle to Jessie Gugig, Max Gugig, and James Lassi.

Relatives in England include his uncle David Crosby, aunt Helen Graham and cousin Clare Graham.

Crosby was a graduate of the Greenvale School and Lutheran High School, a talented musician and bass player in many bands, and a familiar figure who worked at the Glen Cove and Syosset Libraries as his “day job”.

In Syosset, he was known for his “Bookface Fridays” where he would be photographed holding a book, and a part of his body or his face would merge with the book cover.

In Glen Cove his talent for songwriting and singing little ditties promoting a library service creating a cartoon-like video, shown on the website and social media.

His musical talent was appreciated by many across the country.

The Christopher Crosby Memorial Scholarship Fund will help provide local music students in financial need to obtain lessons and/or instruments.

Donations in his memory may be sent in lieu of flowers to the Glen Cove Arts Council www.glencoveartscouncil.org.

The memorial service at St. John’s of Lattingtown is private.

A public musical memorial tribute will be held on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Morgan Park from 1 to 5 p.m.

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.

Send to: llane@liherald.com or 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530

District social studies head earns national recognition

Dr. Sheena Jacob, district coordinator for social studies for the Glen Cove City School District, was appointed by the National Council for the Social Studies as Advisory Council President for Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society.

Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society is the only national organization for high school juniors and seniors that recognizes excellence in the field of social studies. Any accredited public or private high school can apply for a local chapter, through which individuals will be inducted into Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society.

“Our district is lucky to have an individual who is heavily involved in the National Committee for Social Studies leading our social studies department districtwide,” said Dr. Maria Rianna, Superintendent of the Glen Cove City School District. “We are very proud of Dr. Jacob’s accomplishment. She has done a wonderful job implementing the Rho Kappa programs at both the high school and middle school levels.”

Jacob has been on the Advisory Council for three years before being appointed to this leadership position. As a member of the council, she disseminated information to local chapters in her region, encouraged and stimulated active chapters, and encouraged the formation of new chapters.

“We’ve not only successfully implemented Rho Kappa in Glen Cove at the high school level, but Jr. Rho Kappa at the middle school level as well,” Jacob said. “I’m looking forward to ensuring that we continue to grow, support our local chap-



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

DR. SHEENA JACOB, Glen Cove School District Coordinator for Social Studies K-12, has been appointed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) as Advisory Council President for Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society.

ters and provide them with guidance and opportunities to work collaboratively.”

When asked what her goals were for this new position, Jacob stated, “I want to continue to develop the community civic education component, giving students an action item to do through Rho Kappa and Jr. Rho Kappa. I also want to ensure that we have a network for support and collaboration amongst the advisors and bring in our administrators to allow them to get to know who we are as an organization and what we consist of.”

THE GREAT BOOK GURU Adoption angst

Dear Great Book Guru,
This weekend would usually have been Mini Mart Sunday in Sea Cliff but, alas, it is not to be, a casualty of Covid. However, there are some smaller events planned such as the St Luke’s Fall Fair on Saturday. Before heading over there, I will have time to get started on a good novel but not too long, maybe something about families. Any suggestions?
–Missing MiniMart



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

Dear Missing MiniMart,
I just finished a book that came out last month — “Immediate Family,” by Ashley Nelson Levy. I think you will find it interesting. The unnamed narrator has been asked to give the wedding toast for her brother and this 192-page book is in effect the toast, a long tribute and analysis of their sibling relationship. The brother, Danny Larsen, is the only named character and this is not his original name. Born in

Thailand 25 years ago, Boon-Nam Prasongsanti was adopted by the Larsens. Our narrator describes the years of anticipation as she and her parents plan for the child’s arrival. He is not the infant they had expected but a three year old, malnourished, painfully shy, frightened child who is terrified in his new home. The love that develops between the siblings is beautifully recounted, but racism and bullying mar his early years and their repercussions are felt as he reaches adulthood. The family adjusts and readjusts as we see the journey Danny and they have undertaken. The book offers insight into family dynamics and the price everyone, especially Danny, must pay. Recommended!

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

HERALD LEGAL 0930 PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Glen Cove Planning Board PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the City of Glen Cove Planning Board on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their comments on the Applications of RXR Glen Isle Partners LLC (Applicant) for (i) Special Use Permit for

Amended Planned Unit Development (PUD) Master Development Plan Approval, (ii) Amended PUD Subdivision Approval, and (iii) PUD Site Plan Approval for the construction of 172 rental units, an approximately 165-space parking lot, and other improvements on Blocks D/E/F, in connection with the proposed Garvies Point Waterfront Redevelopment Project on the north side of Glen Cove Creek, in the MW-3 Zoning District.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER

NOTICE that a copy of the proposed Amended PUD Master Development Plan, proposed Amended PUD Subdivision Plan, and the proposed PUD Site Plan for Blocks D/E/F, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Planning Board, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY, as well as on the City of Glen Cove website at <https://glencoveny.gov>. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested in the above matter will be given an

opportunity to be heard at said Public Hearing. For further information, contact Rosa Rizzo, Planning Board Secretary, at 516-676-4490. Dated: September 24, 2021
ANDREW KAUFMAN
Chairman
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OPINIONS

Are interscholastic sports really worth the cost?

I was mowing my backyard lawn in Merrick last Saturday when I was suddenly struck by the strange sensation that I had missed the bus to my race — that I should, at the moment, have been running a 5K or a 10K at a frantic pace instead of plodding along, mower in hand.

The temperature was a perfect 72 degrees, with no wind. Sunshine streamed down. The leaves on the trees were half-brown and turning crisp. Fall was clearly in the air.

Year after year, from my early adolescence to my young adulthood, I ran cross-country every fall, from middle school through college,

missing only two seasons in high school. I was conditioned to gear up for the racing season as September neared an end. When the fall air and the angle of the sun in the sky turned just so, I had to be ready to run — hard.

The nervous anticipation I felt as the racing season approached was embedded in my brain, and every now and again it pops up, even now, more than three decades later. Such was the case on Saturday.

That got me thinking about how screwy the past 18 months must have been for our

young athletes, how all of the coronavirus delays and cancellations in their sports seasons must have messed with their heads, whether they were elementary-age kids a few years into athletics or college competitors. When you've participated for years in a sport, there is an intuitive sense you feel for its up-and-down rhythms and well-timed rituals.

As a cross-country runner, I knew I had from mid-September to late October to qualify for season-ending championships in early November, a narrow window within which to achieve that year's goals, for sure. It was six straight weeks of focused energy, of exacting routines and, potentially, of great disappointment or glory on the field of play.

I was never a star runner, though in college I did eventually achieve my goal of breaking 17 minutes in the 5K, running it in 16:40, and 5 minutes in the mile, finishing it in 4:31. What cross-country, and track in college, gave me was a sense of belonging, camaraderie, place. That's important for a young person. Athletics also gave me a routine — I knew where I had to be after school and on Saturday. My schedule revolved around sports.

I thought about how disruptive the pandemic must have been over the past year and a half to the routines of tens of thousands of young athletes, and the joy they

must be feeling as they return this fall for their regularly appointed seasons.

Then I thought about Bulgaria. From 1991 to 1993, I served in the Peace Corps there, teaching English at the Vasil Drumev High School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in Veliko Tarnovo, an ancient city in central Bulgaria. There were no after-school athletics in Bulgarian schools. If you wanted to play sports, you attended a specialized high school, open only to those displaying natural athletic ability.

At Vasil Drumev, there wasn't even much of a gym program. The students, in grades seven to 12, hung out in the school courtyard during a free period when the weather permitted, playing basketball or volleyball. Boys did most of the playing. Girls often sat on the sidelines, chatting. There were no grass fields, no bleachers or scoreboards, only two basketball hoops set on one downward-sloping asphalt court, which, in the U.S., would no doubt have been a lawsuit waiting to happen.

One day, I asked my students what they did after school without sports or even clubs. Mostly, they said, they walked around town with friends, stopping for coffee at a café, where they would sit for an hour or two before heading home to finish homework and eat dinner with their fami-

lies. Afterward, they might watch TV on the handful of channels that were available then, and they were usually in bed by 10 p.m. It all sounded shockingly stress-free.

High school and college athletics in the U.S. can be wonderful, but the competitions are frequently high-stress events. The emphasis is too often on winning, on beating the competition, on rising to the top. Even youth athletics can be anxiety-provoking, which I found as a volunteer soccer and track coach when my kids were younger.

I hope the pandemic might give us pause to think more deeply about our high school and college athletic programs. I would never suggest that we do away with them and adopt a Bulgarian-like system. As a former interscholastic athlete, I see the intrinsic value in sports. I also see the downside — the over-programming of students' schedules, the often intense rivalries that can develop between teams and lead to divisions among young people, and the prioritization of victory over young athletes' health, including their mental health.

Pushing young people beyond their limits to the point of a physical or mental breakdown in order to win a trophy is never worth the cost. Never.

Scott Brinton is the Herald Community Newspapers' executive editor and an adjunct professor at the Hofstra University Herbert School of Communication. Comments about this column? SBrinton@liherald.com.



SCOTT BRINTON

I'd never suggest that we do away with them, but they do have a downside.

It's fall 2021. Can summer 2022 be far behind?

My earliest memory of a family vacation adventure ended with my mother and father falling into each other's arms and sobbing. I was 7 years old. They were 31. We traveled 11 hours in our black Oldsmobile to a rental my dad had found in the newspaper known as Stony Hill Farm. It was in the

armpit of New Hampshire, and we had dreamt of it, talked about it, and planned for it over an entire grim New York winter.

I can still see the scene where we drove onto the property. I was sweating in the back seat with my 3-year-old sister and my Grandma Annie.

We had turned off the main road, and when we saw the sign for Stony Hill, we were thrilled that all the days of our two-week vacation lay ahead. Then we saw the "cottages" — tiny, shabby huts that were more than chicken coops but not acceptable dwellings for humans who could walk upright.

We moved in, but not really. At 4 a.m. my parents woke us up, and we jumped into the car and fled, presumably skipping out on

our reservation and any financial commitments to the scamming "resort" owner.

The story came back to me this week as I started fantasizing about finding a rental for a few weeks in Maine next summer. I know it's crazy early for planning anything, but I'm dreaming. I need to

buy into a future when we can travel again without risking our lives. In case you're wondering, everyone is going to Maine; it's become the "it" place for summer. Ogunquit is the new East Hampton. Part of Maine's popularity has been its shabby chic, inexpensive cachet.

No more. Long gone are the days when early colonists fed lobsters, considered trash food, to their prisoners.

Since my early trauma in New Hampshire, the renting of vacation properties has become big business on Vrbo, Airbnb, HomeToGo and other platforms that bring owners and renters together — not without issues. The companies have gotten so big, and so many people are looking to escape, that the fees have soared and the potential for scams is always present. That said, we've found reasonably good vacation apartments and houses over the past 30 years, and I was looking to Maine for our

getaway.

Maine may still be shabby, but the prices are for the rich and famous. For the uninitiated, when you rent on the platforms, for any time from one night to several months, you get to see photos and a list of amenities and house rules and availability.

I am now the world's expert on deciphering what the house descriptions and photos actually reveal. Whenever you wander, I offer this as a public service:

When reading about a property, look no further if you see the words "cozy" or "adorable." This is online speak for cramped. You may have to crawl into the dormer bedroom. If the list of amenities

includes "washing machine available," it may be coin-operated. You don't want to play your washer like a slot machine. "Basic" kitchen supplies is a red flag. Expect only salt and pepper. "Evolving" neighborhood also not a positive.

Study, study, study the photos. The angles can make a 6-by-8 room look like a football field. We nearly booked one appealing place until we looked at a photo of a bedroom and spotted what turned out to be a toilet right next to the bed. Another place had beautiful

wood floors, white walls and spiffy-looking appliances, but no other furniture aside from beds in otherwise empty bedrooms and living areas.

"Waterfront" can mean anything from waves crashing on a beach in front of the house to a glimpse of a canal from an attic window.

You must read all — every one — of the house reviews posted by renters. People will write on and on about how perfect the house is and then, perhaps prompted by conscience, add something like, "Just one little thing. There were mice in the walls. But, really, the owner took care of it immediately."

One house looked very promising until I read a review that said, "This was a spectacular house with a beautiful view of the bay. I would definitely go back again except for the man living in the basement."

Now I'm pursuing non-Maine properties, slightly off the grid, with more acceptable prices. Canada is a possibility if it stays open to travelers from the U.S.

I did see a nice house in South Dakota. It boasted "stunning mountain views" and a "chef's kitchen." But one reviewer complained of bears breaking into cars, more than once. There's always something.

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RANDI KREISS

As you search for a future vacation rental, pay very close attention to details.

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HERALD EDITORIALS**We need storm-hardening projects now, not later**

Here we are, nine years after Superstorm Sandy pummeled Nassau County's South and North Shores, still waiting for the federal and state governments to take meaningful action to harden our coastal infrastructure to withstand the likes of such a storm in the future.

For sure, strides have been made. The City of Long Beach has a new, much sturdier boardwalk, constructed of hardwood rather than pine. Smart move. It also has new dunes, with cord-grass plantings, to hold back the ocean. And here and there, small flood-mitigation projects have been undertaken in various communities.

We have yet to see the types of large-scale hardening projects that were promised in Sandy's wake, however. Check valves, for example, were supposed to be installed on storm drains that let out into the bays in any number of communities, but they are yet to materialize. Check valves prevent the tide from flowing backward into storm drains and flooding streets.

During Sandy, backflow caused by the storm's rush of seawater flooded hundreds of blocks nowhere near the bays.

Our communities need check valves. Where are they? Our new governor, Kathy Hochul, needs to answer us on this one.

For that matter, where are the street-raising projects? Is there any word on a \$300 million proposal by Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy to construct tidal flood-gates across Jones Inlet? He first proposed the idea five years ago. So far we've had nothing but studies.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently released a draft report of its Nassau County Storm Risk Management Study, which suggests elevating more than 14,000 homes across the South Shore, at a cost of \$3.8 billion, to mitigate the risk of flood damage during big storms, which are only expected to grow more powerful in the coming decades because of climate change.

Global warming not only heats up the atmosphere, but also increases sea surface temperatures. Warmer oceans provide greater energy for hurricanes to feed off. So, yes, we need to act, as the study asserts.

At what point, though, do we stop studying and start taking decisive action? The risk management study began in

2016. It is not expected to be complete until 2023 — more than a decade after Sandy ravaged our shorelines.

Beyond that, it's unclear where the billions of dollars in funding to elevate thousands of homes would come from. This isn't right. People deserve answers from our elected leaders.

State Sen. Todd Kaminsky, a Democrat from Long Beach who heads the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee and is running for county district attorney, recently expressed frustration with the lack of action on the storm-hardening front. Speaking of the Army Corps study, he said, "This study, while welcome, needs to become more than just paper and evolve into funding and real deliverables as soon as possible. This must go from concepts to actual, physical storm hardening — and that's what matters as sea levels rise and storms intensify. Time is of the essence."

We agree. So we are pleading with Hochul and local elected leaders across Nassau to take definitive action and push for more than studies. We need projects now, before it's too late.

Safety first, especially at the fair

Fair and festivals season is upon us again. Last weekend, the Chamber of Commerce of the Bellmores staged its famed Family Street Festival, touted as the largest such fair in Nassau County, annually attracting as many as 100,000 people. This year, the crowds were back, despite the coronavirus, thronging Bedford Avenue.

It was, on one hand, a much-welcome relief to see people back together, laughing, smiling, chowing on roasted corn and zeppole. On the other, it was more than a little concerning that so many people were elbow to elbow in relatively close quarters. Social distancing — and masking — were out.

In no way are we suggesting canceling such festivals. We need them now to help rebuild our tattered spirits. We would like to see more people wearing masks during such events, however.

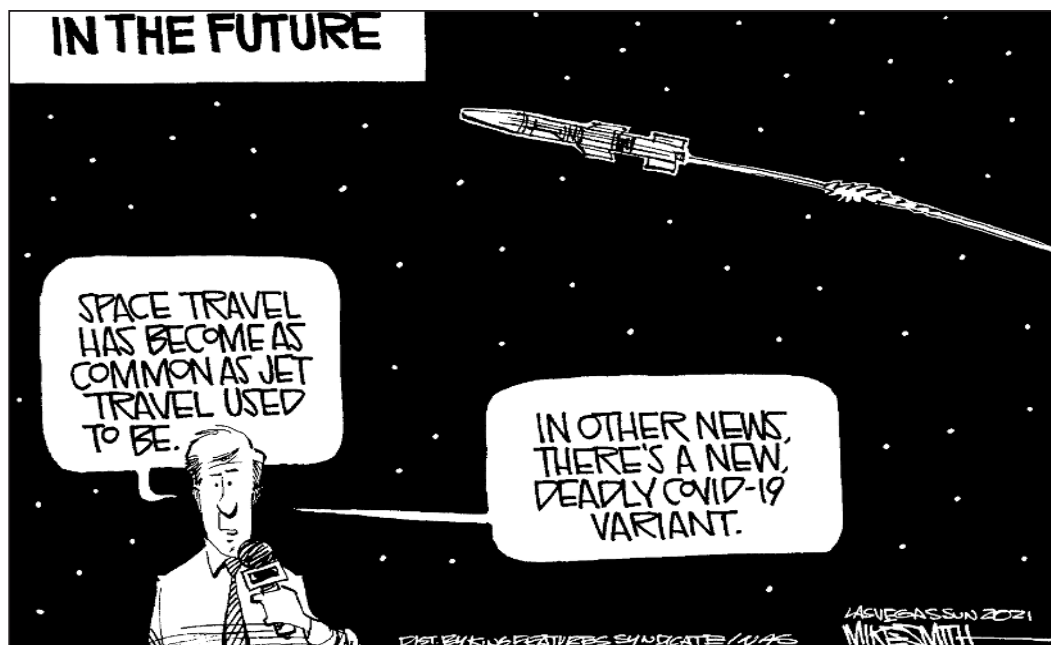
Yes, folks are outdoors, so ventilation isn't a problem. Yes, many Nassau adults are vaccinated. We should make every attempt, however, to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in all ways possible, and masking helps.

By the way, the Bellmore chamber wasn't the only organization holding a

festival over the weekend. Huntington Mobilization for Sustainability did as well. The Huntington Environmental Festival brought together conservation groups from across Long Island to teach about subjects ranging from electric cars to geothermal energy, composting and more.

What a wonderful idea! We suggest

that other groups, like our chambers of commerce, incorporate their own environmental corners into their festivals and fairs in the coming years. Long Island juts into the Atlantic Ocean, so it's vulnerable to the effects of climate change (see editorial above). We need all the environmental education we can get.



OPINIONS

What's up with the anti-vaxxers?

A friend was lamenting the anti-vaccine movement and those who advocate their freedom from mandates, government or otherwise, to become vaccinated against Covid-19. After commenting on the irony of “pro-life” advocates wanting freedom from life-saving vaccines, my friend said, “What’s up with them?”



**ROBERT
SCOTT**

Fortunately, about 75 percent of the adult population in the U.S. has been vaccinated at least once. Vaccination coverage, however, varies widely across the country and among different racial and ethnic groups. Black and Hispanic people

are less likely than whites to have received vaccines, leaving them at high risk, especially with the Delta variant. As of September, nearly 60 percent of white people had received at least one dose of the vaccine, compared with only 10 percent of Black people, 17 percent of Hispanics, 6 percent of Asians, 1 percent of Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, and under 1 percent of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

The low rate of vaccination among Blacks may be explained in part by their history with American health care. From

the time of slavery through the Jim Crow era, the Flexner reforms of medical education and medical care that disenfranchised Black citizens, through the syphilis “experiments” and segregation, Black people have been discriminated against, and have good reasons to be skeptical of government and corporate health care. In recent months, however, owing in large part to citizen and community advocacy, vaccinations are reaching larger numbers of Black and Hispanics.

Nevertheless, there are elected officials and activist groups who argue against sensible public health measures such as vaccinations and mask-wearing. Unfortunately, these zealots brook no questions about their assertions and assumptions. Their responses to questions like “Why not?” often is, “You just don’t get it.”

Perhaps one of the major challenges in our country is that we hesitate to engage those with other views. We have conservatives who think in terms of conserving privilege instead of promoting policies for the common good, and liberals whose lifestyles or attitudes at times belie their principles of equality and inclusion.

A former state senator in New Jersey was known for his familiar refrain: “We can disagree without being disagreeable.” I sometimes wish this phrase were posted on every street corner in America.

Those who object to vaccinations not only put themselves in harm’s way, as many have learned, but also put the health of others in jeopardy. They must acknowledge responsibility for illness and death when not following the guidance of science-based public health protocols. How ironic it is that many who argue for the rights of the unborn act against the rights of the living to be protected from disease.

The anti-vaxxers might think they are making a political or perhaps theological choice, but in fact they are making a moral choice. They are asserting a set of values that can harm and kill others. We are taught to love one another, even the meekest among us, but anti-vaxxers often prefer antipathy to empathy.

A defense offered by some is that mandates violate their freedom. Yes, a democracy honors freedom and provides that its citizens are free to question orthodoxy, to express opinions without fear of consequence, within the boundaries of law. Consequently, members of a democracy must exercise freedom with responsibility, not freedom unfettered from concern for others.

Those who refuse to wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle may cite their freedom to feel the air flow through their hair, but to do so is to ignore the societal

costs incurred when they crash. Society pays for their irresponsible behavior. The same is true for anti-vaxxers.

Freedom isn’t a simple concept. We can be free “from” bondage and free to exercise our will, but as members of a society, whether it be a family, a community or a nation, we are free, with responsibilities. Freedom “with” derives from our founding principle expressed as “We the people.” “We,” not “I.”

To flout this freedom is to fail to understand the different ways of knowing what we think of as truth. Public-health policy depends on truth as established by science, through rigorous experimentation and replication. Those opposed to vaccine mandates cling to a truth based on faith, which cannot be replicated, or a truth based on fear of authority and suspicion of government, which may at times be justified. These forms of truth generally focus on “I” instead of “we.”

As American citizens with equal voices and residents of the world community, we must bear witness to the health and safety of others as well as ourselves. We must engage in boundary-spanning discussions and promote education about public health. We must honor the humanity of our neighbors and fellow citizens if we are to have a viable democracy.

Dr. Robert A. Scott is president emeritus and university professor emeritus of Adelphi University and author of “How University Boards Work” (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018; Eric Hoffer Awardee, 2019).

LETTERS

Help the VFW rebuild

To the Editor:

Be advised, I am nothing more than an almost 92-year-old former 71-year resident of Glen Cove, and a proud life member of the Matinecock Rod and Gun Club.

Our club will never forget how much the Glen Cove Veterans of Foreign Wars did for us when we had to rebuild our clubhouse following Hurricane Katrina damage. For almost a year we could not hold meetings there. It was none other than the Glen Cove VFW that came to our rescue by providing meeting space and facilities.

Recognizing the VFW as a strong community resource, I wonder whether the City of Glen Cove, or the County of Nassau, might be able to appropriate \$20,000 for the retro-fit of the VFW at 15 Hill St., as being in the best community interests of the city’s war-fighting veterans and their families.

I am pledging my donation of \$100 for the above purpose.

BOB PEMBERTON
Nassau County Police (Retired)
The Villages, Fla.

Two votes for DeRiggi-Whitton

To the Editor:

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton deserves to be re-elected as county legislator for the residents of Glen Cove. She has long been at the forefront of issues involving taxes, development, seniors, food banks and financial oversight. Ms. DeRiggi-Whitton is the living embodiment of Glen Cove residents, and is a moderate with an eye toward a thoughtful and sustainable future.

She is always approachable, and has time and advice for people with everyday problems. Most important, she knows how to get things done for her constituents, and stands strong for a principled result without regard to politics. Do not let her kindly demeanor fool you, as she can be tough as nails when she stands opposed to something that is not in the best interests of the people of Glen Cove.

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