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Glen Cove holds NYE concert
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G.C. teachers give back
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JANUARY 6 - 12, 2022



Tab Hauser/Herald

The mayor is sworn in

Pamela D. Panzenbeck was sworn in by Judge Richard J. McCord as the mayor of Glen Cove last Saturday, becoming the second woman to take on the job. The inauguration took place at Glen Cove High School. Story, more photos, Page 4.

Glen Cove sees spike in Covid cases at schools, hospital

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@iherald.com

Cases of Covid-19 continue to climb in Glen Cove, and the increase continues to cause disruptions. Public schools reopened Monday, as planned, after the holiday break, but a day later, the Glen Cove City School District switched to remote learning for two days because of

an increase in the number of staff members who were infected or exposed. Students were expected to return to classrooms on Thursday, after the Herald went to press.

In a letter to parents written Monday evening, Superintendent Maria Rianna wrote that, along with the staff, a “significant number of students” were absent on Monday, and many

more were picked up during the day as parents either got word of exposure or received test results. “Our principals worked diligently to cover staff shortages and ensure proper supervision and instruction,” Rianna wrote. “Although we were prepared for this to occur, the number of new cases reported today from staff put our buildings at an even

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Pickleball raises funds for NOSH

BY ANNEMARIE DURKIN
adurkin@iherald.com

A pickleball tournament held over the weekend raised more than \$4,300 for a local food pantry in need of help. Alistair Wright, 16, a junior at Friends Academy in Locust Valley, is the founder of Rally For Hunger, a pickleball tournament created with the goal of raising enough money for NOSH to find a permanent home on the North Shore.

In August last year, a fire broke out at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 hall in Glen Cove, destroying the headquarters of NOSH, a program of the North Shore Soup Kitchen. The food pantry had operated out of the Hill Street building since April, serving about 500 families on the North Shore each week.

“In doing research into different charities to donate the tour-

namment proceeds to, I found out that NOSH’s building burned down in August, and that they were leasing out a temporary space, but that the lease for that

My hope is that I can . . . raise enough money for NOSH to rent out a space, but also to raise awareness for all the great work the charity does so others can contribute themselves.

ALISTAIR WRIGHT

space just ended on Dec. 10,” Wright said. “When I heard they were looking for a permanent space, I wanted to help because I know that they do a lot of great work.”

Wright is an avid tennis player, training for the last six years at Robbie Wagner’s Tournament Training in Glen Cove. After tearing a ligament in his ankle in September, Wright, suddenly with an abundance of free time on his hands, decided to use his extra hours to give back to his community.

“I thought if I’m not playing tennis, I want to do something good and something that I can say I made a good use of my time, and I’ve done a lot of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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HERALD NEIGHBORS



Gill Associates Photography

Photos courtesy Anthony Gallego/Gill Associates

THE SOLID 70S Band performed downtown Glen Cove on New Year's Eve.

Glen Cove rings in the new year

Glen Cove rang in the new year in style: A New Year's Eve concert took place at Village Square, bringing the community together to celebrate the holiday. The Downtown Sounds Concert Series brought a final concert of 2021 to the city, and the first New Year's Eve celebration presented by the Downtown Business Improvement District.

For two hours, the Solid 70s Band performed a number of cover songs from the 1970s and 1980s, as people danced, listened and mingled in the streets, enjoying the mild weather. Starbucks provided coffee and hot cocoa for concertgoers, and the Downtown BID supplied audience members with party hats and noise makers to ring in the new year. A countdown took place at 9:30 p.m. as the concert came to a close.



© 2021 Gill Associates Photography

AS DOWNTOWN BID Executive Director Patricia Holman counted down to the new year, Councilwomen Marsha Silverman and Danielle Fugazy Scagliola sprayed confetti.

RESIDENTS ENJOYED BEING outdoors for the live music.

THE MILD WEATHER helped make for a fun evening.

Glen Cove to create an updated master plan

By JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

The City of Glen Cove is looking ahead, and is on track to create a new plan for the city's future. Last month, the city was awarded grant funding from New York State to prepare a new master plan for the first time in more than a decade.

"The city's current master plan is nearly 12 years old," Mayor Pamela D. Panzenbeck said, "and ready for an update."

The grant was pursued by the Glen Cove Community Development Agency, chaired at the time by former Mayor Tim Tenke. Tenke, along with CDA Executive Director Ann Fangmann and Jocelyn Wenk, created a work plan to request the funding. In December, the grant application was approved, and New York State awarded \$150,000 in funding to the city for a new master plan through the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. With the funding, the city will prepare a new comprehensive plan—PlanGC—that is the blueprint for Glen Cove's future.

According to Fangmann, the plan will guide the city's investment, development, and growth over the next decade.

The award includes \$100,000 in grant funding from New York State Department of State through the Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Program and \$50,000 in grant funding from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Climate Smart Communities Program.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to embark on this collaborative planning journey," Fangmann said, "engaging broadly with city stakeholders and residents."

Because of the many changes that have occurred in recent years throughout the city, as well as the current economic conditions, Fangmann said, the CDA felt that it was the right time to

apply for the grant. Additionally, she said, master plans are typically updated every decade or so. The city's current master plan was completed in 2009.

The new plan, she said, will account for the of changes that have occurred since then, including large-scale redevelopment in the downtown and waterfront areas, and for current trends such as commercial real estate market changes resulting from the pandemic.

"There is heightened urgency to prepare for the impacts of climate change in Glen Cove," she said, noting that the city has 10 miles of coastal shoreline. "The new master plan will also enable the city to tackle critical local issues such as drinking water."

The process of creating a new plan will take about two years, Fangmann said, and will include a lot of public outreach.

According to the work plan submitted with the application, the updated plan will be "user friendly, interactive and web-based," with an emphasis on sustainability goals. PlanGC will also develop growth strategies for Glen Cove that foster recovery from the pandemic; reinvigorate the retail/commercial sector; produce a new generation of sustainable, well-paying jobs; facilitate access to high-quality childcare; stimulate vibrant community life; enhance parks, historic places, and arts venues and organizations; integrate Smart Growth principles; and rebuild and expand infrastructure to revitalize downtown and areas near transit.

Community input will be used to prioritize strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to enhance understanding of ways in which residents are already experiencing the impacts of climate change.

"Our public outreach will be very interactive," Fangmann said. "We want to get into the community and make it accessible so everyone has input."



Tab Hauser/Herald

THE NEW GLEN Cove City Council: Marsha Silverman, Kevin Maccarone, Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, Mayor Pamela D. Panzenbeck, Jack Mancusi, Joseph Capobianco, and Barbara Peebles

Pamela D. Panzenbeck sworn in as new Glen Cove mayor

By JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

Glen Cove has a new mayor, as Pamela D. Panzenbeck took the oath of office on Saturday afternoon at Glen Cove High School.

Despite the gloomy weather, a number of honored guests, residents, families and friends attended the inauguration ceremony, where Glen Cove City Council members Joseph Capobianco, Kevin Maccarone, Jack Mancusi, Barbara Peebles, Danielle Fugazy Scagliola and Marsha Silverman were also sworn in to office.

To get the ceremony underway, John Hubbs and Tim Burns played the bagpipes, followed by a procession of honored guests and the presentation of colors. Glen Cove resident and advocate for veterans Eva Casale led the Pledge of Allegiance, Richie Cannata played the National Anthem on saxophone, and Ben Farman, former VFW 347 Commander, gave the opening remarks. John Maccarone then led the program as Master of Ceremonies.

Guests included Congressman Tom Suozzi, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, and Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips.

In her speech, Panzenbeck spoke of her youth and how her family and neighbors shaped the person she is today. She emphasized the role of community and was taught that it takes "hard work, perseverance and dedication" to achieve your goals.

Guest speaker Michael Renga, an eighth-grader at Finley Middle School and president of the middle school National Honor Society, worked with Panzenbeck and her team on the election campaign. "It was a wonderful experience and I got to meet lots of people in the community," Renga said. "I wanted to help out and do my part and support a team that had a different vision for our city."

Singer Shye Roberts and videographer tech Zach Gotterbarn were thanked by new mayor. Reverend Gabriel Rach performed the invocation and Reverend Richard M. Wilson gave the benediction.

CORONA VIRUS

COMMUNITY UPDATE

New infections since Dec. 20, 2021

426

Total infections as of Jan. 3

5,647

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Courtesy Michael Pordy

BARBARA AND MICHAEL Pordy moved to the Atria Glen Cove from Ohio to be closer to family.

Vaccine specialist moves to Glen Cove from Ohio

A doctor on the forefront of the Moderna vaccine study has chosen to make Glen Cove his new home.

Dr. Michael Pordy, currently a resident with his wife Barbara at the Atria Glen Cove, is a retired rheumatology specialist from Ohio whose research center was one of the 100 research centers chosen to participate in the 30,000 Moderna patient study that began in July 2020.

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the efficacy and side effects of the Moderna vaccine; in particular, looking for hospitalizations and severe adverse events in the study patients. As a sub investigator, Pordy's role was to evaluate 350 patients enrolled in the Moderna vaccine study. Half of the patients in the study received a placebo and the other half received the vaccine. Pordy monitored side effects, hospitalizations, blood tests and collected data for six months. As the data looked good with positive outcomes, the FDA approved the vaccine for emergency usage.

Pordy received his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine in 1976 and specialized in rheumatology and internal medicine. He opened his private practice in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1981 where he practiced until 2016. From 2016 to 2021, Pordy was an integral part of

a Cincinnati-based research team where he led research studies in arthritis, diabetes and Alzheimer's disease.

Michael and Barbara celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Atria Glen Cove in August 2021. They recently relocated to Atria Glen Cove after retirement to be near their daughter and family. Pordy is multi-lingual and enjoys conversing with some of the other residents in French and German. They have travelled to Europe and are connoisseurs of French cuisine, travel and culture.

The Atria Glen Cove is a licensed assisted living community that has been in Glen Cove since 1997. Already known as one of the best senior living communities on Long Island, the newly remodeled community offers North Shore seniors an even higher standard of supportive living service. The tenured, 24-hour staff ensures quality, customized care for every resident. With a licensed nurse on site, four levels of care are offered and a care plan is tailored to each person's individual needs. Residents enjoy comfortable amenities in their private apartments, chef-prepared dining experiences and discreet support from the 24-hour staff – as well as daily opportunities and activities (inside and outside) for connection, creativity and fun.

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Glen Cove Teachers' Association

ALISON FLETCHER, PRESIDENT of the GCTA, and Spiro Tsirkas, Executive Director of Glen Cove Youth Bureau.

Teachers union gives back

The Glen Cove Teachers' Association continues to support the Glen Cove Youth Bureau with its annual holiday toy

drive. The GCTA collected over \$700 in gift cards for the Youth Bureau to purchase toys for children in the community.



Considering Assisted Living? Why Choose Atria Glen Cove...

MEET DR. MICHAEL PORDY

When Dr. Michael Pordy and his wife Barbara decided to retire, they chose Atria Glen Cove. The beautiful location, friendly staff, and the first rate services and amenities offered by Atria Glen Cove proved to be most appealing. Dr. Pordy says that they have delighted in the group excursions, the live entertainment, movies, the wonderful food, and the congenial sense of community. With no need to worry about household chores, they can relax in the courtyard, or work out in the gym. He says that the medical assistance provided weekly on site is as good as any to be found outside of Atria. As a doctor himself, he should know.

Contact Judith Rivera, Director of Community Sales, to discuss your future home at Atria Glen Cove.
judith.rivera@atriaseniorliving.com

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- **Medical Assistance:** Nurses available onsite.
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Atria Glen Cove is the Winner of a Best of Senior Living Award for 2021 from SeniorAdvisor.com

Atria
GLEN COVE

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Saturday, Jan. 8

Yoga with Kim - Hybrid

Saturdays through Feb. 19 at 9:30 a.m., join Kim Mercadante for four sessions of yoga. Classes are scheduled for Jan. 8, 15 and 29, and Feb. 12 and 19. Kim will live stream her in-person yoga class via Zoom to accommodate anyone who isn't yet comfortable with an in-person class. The cost for this hybrid yoga class is \$25 per person, payable at the time of registration. Registration can be completed in person only, at the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library.

Sunday, Jan. 9

Meet the Author

Beginning at 1 p.m., Sherwin Gluck will be on hand at Theodore Books, 17 Audrey Ave. in Oyster Bay, to talk about his book, "TR's Summer White House - Oyster Bay," which reveals the intriguing story of the first peacetime relocation of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government. Through newspaper articles, government documents, photographs, cartoons and insightful commentary, this book recreates the summers of 1902 through 1908 when the President and his staff governed the United States from Oyster Bay. Discover the national and international events that occurred during the Administration of President Roosevelt that make Oyster Bay historically significant. Register online at theodorebooks.com

Deep Roots Winter Market

Offering locally grown produce, eggs, meats and dairy, fresh baked bread and sweets, honey, maple syrup, grab-and-go as well as bake-at-home prepared foods and other locally made goods, the Deep Roots Winter Market will take place on Saturdays through April, at 100 Village Square, on Bridge Street, in Downtown Glen Cove.



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Journaling Club

Every other Wednesday from 4:30 to 6 p.m., at Hive Market and Maker's Space, 100 Audrey Avenue, Oyster Bay. author and textile artist Jessica Alexandrakis will lead thoughtful sessions with a focus on journaling style as well as guided writing sessions. Bring a journal, notebook, or sketchbook- old or new. Pens, stickers, tapes, stamps, and other ephemera will be provided. Registration for these workshops is \$12 each session, or \$65 for the full six weeks. Sign up at hivemarketob.com. The next scheduled workshop is on Jan. 19.

Monday, Jan. 10

Start the New Year with Meditation

The New Year is a time to create a clean slate-- in collaboration with the Glen Cove Library, Arlene Samsel will inspire participants to bring joy, peace, positivity and relaxation into their daily lives. This virtual event will begin at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Register online at glencovelibrary.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 11

Canvas Roulette for Kids

Beginning at 4 p.m. at the Bayville Library, kids 6-12 will start at one canvas, and when the music stops, move on to the next one and add their artistic touch. Finished canvases will be displayed in the Library. Register online at bayvillefreelibrary.org.

Highlights of the Hudson Valley

In 1609, voyager Henry Hudson sailed up the great river that would later bear his name. Join seasoned travelers, Lisa Wemett and Terry Mulee in this virtual

program presented by the Glen Cove Library, as they share their explorations of the Upper and Lower Hudson Valley. You'll learn all about the homes of the artists that established the Hudson River School to today's contemporary art centers. The presentation will begin at 2 p.m. Register online at glencovelibrary.org.

Resurrecting the Woolly Mammoth

Woolly mammoths have been extinct for nearly 10,000 years, but soon they may walk again. Teams of scientists are currently working on recreating the woolly mammoth through cloning and gene migration. If they are successful, the woolly mammoth could be one of the first extinct species to ever be resurrected. Class attendees will come away with a better understanding of how everything old might be new again. Presented by Archaeologist Patty Hamrick via the Bayville Library. Register online for the Zoom link at bayvillefreelibrary.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Trivia Night

Head to the Oyster Bay Brewing Company, located at 36 Audrey Ave., every Wednesday night at 7:30 for an evening of free trivia. Tango Time Trivia shows are fun and free to play and the winner gets a prize. Oyster Bay Brewing Co. serves a diverse selection of beer to enjoy while you compete for first, second and third place prizes

Curator's Corner: Photographs from the Liberation of Auschwitz

In this virtual presentation, the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center's museum and programming director, Dr. Thorin Tritter, will talk about two photographs in the center's galleries taken at Auschwitz shortly after liberation by the Red Army on Jan. 27, 1945. He will talk about the images and the events that led to the liberation of the Nazi's most notorious camp. Register online at hmtcli.org.

Thursday, Jan. 13

How to Reduce College Costs: Strategies You Need to Know

Learn about the little-known financial strategies parents can use to reduce college costs, improve admissions chances, and increase scholarship opportunities. Presented by My College Planning Team, of Naperville, IL, in collaboration with the Locust Valley Library. Registration required for this virtual event, and can be done at locustvalleylibrary.org.

Friday, Jan. 14

Acrylic Paint Pour Workshop

Attendees of this workshop hosted by Hive Market and Maker's Space will learn the basics paint pouring, including mixing the paint to proper consistency, how to layer the paint and more before picking colors and pouring their own painting. In this class, you will be learning two different techniques and creating two different projects. You will need to leave your paintings at The Hive to dry on a flat surface for about four days. Those attending are encouraged to wear clothes that they don't mind getting paint on. All materials supplied. Registration is \$55 and can be completed in person at Hive, or online at hivemarketob.com.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Items on the Community Update pages are listed for free. 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 adurkin@iherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The Homestead restaurant in Oyster Bay hosts an open mic night every Wednesday night.
- The next Oyster Bay East Norwich Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- The Sea Cliff Board of Trustees' next meeting will be Jan. 10, at 7 p.m.
- The North Shore Board of Education will meet next on Jan. 20 at 7:45 p.m.
- The Oyster Bay Town Board's first meeting of the new year is Jan. 12 at 10 a.m.

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8 Helping to make the holidays brighter

January 6, 2022 - GLEN COVE HERALD

Hundreds of toys were collected for local children and delivered to them just before Christmas.

Assemblymember Charles Lavine delivered the toys collected during his holiday toy drive for children at the Glen Cove Child Day Care Center. The facility had been severely damaged by flooding associated with the remnants of Hurricane Ida, and has since undergone extensive repairs, including the renovation of two outdoor playgrounds.

"I am so pleased to have brought a little joy to the adorable kids at the Glen Cove Child Day Care Center after everything they have been through the last year with the pandemic and the damage caused by the storm," Lavine said.

The hundreds of toys collected at Lavine's office, the Bryant Library in Roslyn, and the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library in Oyster Bay were the most donated since the office began hosting toy drives.



Photos courtesy Office of Assemblymember Charles Lavine
ASSEMBLYMEMBER CHARLES LAVINE delivered toys to the Glen Cove Child Day Care Center on Dec. 20, 2021.



TEACHER ASSISTANT JENNIFER Reyes, Parent Involvement Coordinator Mareza Rivera, Assemblymember Charles Lavine, Glen Cove Child Day Care Center Executive Director Christine Curra, and teacher Lisa Mermelshstein



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KIDS & EDUCATION

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Hempstead Adult & Community Education
Hofstra University
Molloy College

Art School
Hue Studio
South Shore Art Center
The Art Guild

Beauty School
Long Island Beauty School
Long Island Nail Skin & Hair Institute
Nassau BOCES Joseph M. Barry Career & Technical Education Center

Charter/Parochial/Private School
Kellenberg Memorial High School
Lawrence Woodmere Academy
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Reg. School

College/University
Adelphi University
Hofstra University
Nassau Community College

Dance School
Hart and Soul
Let's Make Music and Dance Studio
Oceanside Dance Center

Day Camp
Dorothy P. Flint 4-H Camp
Lawrence Woodmere Academy
Rolling River Day Camp

Day Care
Five Towns Early Learning Center
Inch By Inch
Kids Campus Child Care

Driver's Education
Bell Auto Driving School
Nu-Way Auto School
Precision Driving School

Gymnastics Center
All American Gymnastics
Gold Medal Gymnastics Center
LI Elite Gymnastics

Kids Birthday Parties
Epic Escape Rooms LI
Long Island Children's Museum
Royal Princess Prep Party Company

Learning Center/Tutor
Cornerstone Behavioral Services
Kumon Math and Reading Center
Long Island Children's Museum

Martial Arts
Ryu's Martial Arts
Tiger Schulman
Warren Levi Martial Arts & Fitness

Music Schools/Classes
Lynbrook Music Instruction
Music & Arts
School of Rock

Nursery School
Bellmore United Methodist Nursery School
Grace Methodist Nursery School
United Church Nursery School

Pre-school
Bellmore United Methodist Nursery School
Grace Methodist Nursery School
Lawrence Woodmere Academy

Sports Camp
Hofstra University
Pro Diamond Baseball
SPORTIME

Day Camp
Dorothy P. Flint 4-H Camp
Lawrence Woodmere Academy
Rolling River Day Camp

Trade School
Long Island Business Institute
Nassau BOCES Joseph M. Barry Career & Technical Education Center
Wilson Tech School

PEOPLE & PLACES

B&B/Inn
Ram's Head Inn
Southampton Inn
The Harbor Rose Bed & Breakfast

Event Venue
Barnum Ballroom
Epic Escape Rooms LI
Swan Club On The Harbor

Hotel
Gurney's Montauk Resort & Seawater Spa
The Allegria Hotel
The Garden City Hotel

Local Tourist Attraction
Jones Beach State Park
Long Beach
Montauk Lighthouse Museum

Long Island Singer/Band
Big Shot
Disco Unlimited
Elizabeth Edquist,
Royal Princess Prep Party Company

Museum
Cradle of Aviation Museum
Long Island Children's Museum
Nassau County Museum of Art

Park
Eisenhower Park
Jones Beach State Park
Planting Field Arboretum State Historic Park

Place to Have a Party
Epic Escape Rooms LI
Michael's Billiards
Royal Princess Prep Party Company

Place to Work
Epic Escape Rooms LI
Girl Scouts of Nassau County
Royal Princess Prep Party Company

Place to Worship
Temple Am Echad, The South Shore Reform Congregation
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United Church of Rockville Centre

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Christina Daly/Herald

NEW NASSAU COUNTY Executive Bruce Blakeman gave his first speech after his inauguration at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City.

Bruce Blakeman takes oath of office

New county executive says he won't follow statewide mask mandate

By **TOM CARROZZA**
tcarrozza@liherald.com

Hundreds packed into the lobby of the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City on Monday as new County Executive Bruce Blakeman, County Comptroller Elaine Phillips and County Clerk Maurice O'Connell took their oaths of office.

In his first remarks after taking leadership over one of the country's most populated counties, Blakeman made it clear that he would not abide by Governor Hochul's mask mandate, which was implemented in early December amid a new wave of cases caused by the highly contagious Omicron variant.

"Starting today, Nassau is normal again," Blakeman told a largely unmasked crowd. "We have seen the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic, but we can no longer be afraid. Yes, we still have challenges, but they are manageable."

According to The New York Times' online tracker, Nassau's hospitalization rate had increased by 47 percent in the previous 14 days, with 58 deaths in that same period. The seven-day positivity rate climbed to 24 percent, as well.

Blakeman said the county would continue to encourage and support free vaccinations and testing for residents. He said

this approach would account for the economic, social, and mental health consequences of lockdowns and mandates.

"Nassau County is not in crisis," Blakeman continued. "Our hospital admissions are rising by a manageable and predictable rate. Reason and common sense must supplant hysteria." Blakeman promised to lobby Albany to keep students in class without masks.

Blakeman also took aim at the previous administration's approach to the tax reassessment system, describing it as "unfair" and "secretive," alluding to the algorithm used by Laura Curran's office. Blakeman pledged to provide transparency by investigating the previous system with Comptroller Phillips.

"There is no reason why millionaires should pay zero taxes, and then homes that are identical in the same communities pay vastly different tax rates," Blakeman said. "It's broken and we will fix it." Reducing taxes to retain young people and keep older adults comfortable would be another major focus of the new administration, Blakeman said.

Blakeman closed by saying he and new District Attorney Anne Connelly would demand the repeal of the state's bail reform bill.

HERALD

Rep. Suozzi fights for SALT repeal Page 2

Fall music fest this weekend Page 8

Auxiliary police chief appointed Page 10



'She has an eye for it'

Teen creates music video for local songwriter

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

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 16-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 decided to shoot and edit a music video. She created a video for Armata's song "Gratitude" while vacationing in Southern California, utilizing 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 30 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 the video, she

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

AVA SOLANGE

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

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

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Teen organizes fundraising tournament

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

work with food charities throughout the past year or so due to Covid, so I was familiar with the need for help," Wright said.

As he researched charities around Glen Cove, Wright said he was heartbroken to find that NOSH had burned down over the summer, and was unable to operate at maximum capacity.

"My hope is that I can both raise enough money for NOSH to rent out a space, but also to raise awareness for all the great work the charity does so others can contribute themselves," Wright said. "Being a tennis player, I thought that I ran a pickleball tournament that could raise a good amount of money for NOSH to relocate, so I started organizing [the event] from there."

Twenty-three players took part in the round-robin style event, with the goal of completing as many matches as possible within the allotted time. Wright said the event was intended as a fun way to raise money for a good cause, rather than a serious tournament with bracket structure, declared winners or hard-and-fast rules. In total, Wright had raised \$4,300 for NOSH by the end of the tourna-

ment, with a goal of collecting \$4,500 for the pantry.

"I think one thing I was surprised by was everyone I've talked to knows about NOSH and was kind of aware of what happened and was excited to help out. Whenever I would go to someone and tell them what I'm doing, they'd be like, 'Oh my gosh, NOSH is such a great organization,' and would help out right away," Wright said.

Present at the Rally for Hunger tournament was Renee Swanson, of Sea Cliff, a NSSK/NOSH board member and the fundraising chair, who said the group was gratified "at the number of people who have come forward to recognize the importance of our work and to raise funds for us."

Swanson added, "I'm so impressed that such young people as Alistair and his Rally for Hunger team recognized the need and stepped up with such a well thought-out and executed event."

Player Arline Jacobs, of Locust Valley, also lauded the student organizers for "a flawless event. They did a great job start to finish."



Courtesy Doris Meadows

ALISTAIR WRIGHT, 16, hosted a pickleball tournament on Sunday that benefited the local nonprofit NOSH. The event has raised \$4,300 for the organization so far.

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Cases, hospitalizations on the rise in Glen Cove

January 6, 2022 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

greater shortage.”

The spike is also having an impact at area hospitals, including Glen Cove Hospital. Across the Northwell Health system, 1,506 patients were hospitalized with Covid-19 at 19 hospitals as of Monday, according to Betty Olt, Northwell’s senior advisor of media relations.

“In the last few weeks, there’s definitely been a surge in the number of patients hospitalized and the number of patients who are positive,” said Dr. Bradley M. Sherman, Glen Cove Hospital’s medical director and chair of its Department of Medicine. “Many of the hospital patients we’re seeing are either patients that are unvaccinated, or are vaccinated but have not yet received the booster shot, or patients that have a lot of other complicating co-morbidity conditions.”

When patients with conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or cancer get Covid, they often have complications or difficulties that require hospitalization, Sherman explained. But, he added, “At least with our staff, and the overwhelming majority of people within the community, the symptoms have been pretty mild.”

Cold-like nasal stuffiness, sore throats and fatigue have been the predominant symptoms of the latest cases, Sherman said, and they tend to last a shorter time,

only two to three days. “After five to six days,” he said, “most people are feeling considerably better.”

Since the hospital is part of the Northwell system, Sherman said, services have not been affected. “Luckily, we’ve been able to manage with the staff that we have,” he said. “The staff has had to work harder in some cases, but it hasn’t affected our daily operations.”

Cases are also on the rise among children, although those who require hospitalization would go not to Glen Cove Hospital, but to Cohen’s Children Hospital, which has seen a spike in child and adolescent patients, Sherman said.

Get tested

With the surge, Sherman said, “We’ve encouraged our staff and patients in the community to get tested earlier.”

Unlike last spring, when the need for testing was not deemed as important, he said, health care professionals now recommend it, because there are medical

options available for those who need them, and those who test positive can isolate and avoid spreading the virus to others.

“Having onsite testing here is really beneficial, and it’s being utilized,” Sherman said. On Monday, he said, more than 200 people were tested at the hospital. To minimize exposure, they wait in their cars until they are called in, so the lobby isn’t crowded.

And home tests can still be useful, Sherman said. “It seems that positive tests seem to be fairly reliable,” he said.

In recent months, antiviral and monoclonal antibody treatments have become available, but Sherman said they are not necessarily a go-to for those who are infected. “Not everybody that tests positive requires treatment,” he said. Likening the virus to the flu, he said that many people can stay at home with supportive care without any medical intervention. “The treatments are reserved for people at high risk for developing a serious complication,” he

said.

That includes those with underlying medical conditions or who are immunocompromised, or elderly patients. “The overwhelming majority of people can be at home and take over-the-counter medication to help them with their symptoms,” Sherman said, “and they’ll be fine in a couple of days.”

Those with difficulty breathing, high fever, chest pains or extreme fatigue should be evaluated sooner rather than later, however.

If you test positive, Sherman said, you should isolate yourself for a minimum of five days, wear a mask if you’re around others in your home, and treat the symptoms with medications such as Tylenol or cough syrup. “You’re better off doing that than going out and potentially exposing other people,” he said.

The school district received home test kits from the state and gave them out to all students starting Monday afternoon. Additionally, community members can make appointments for tests on Tuesdays or Fridays at Glen Cove High School. Go to glencoveschools.org for more information or to register.

The overwhelming majority of people can be at home and take over-the-counter medication to help them with their symptoms.

DR. BRADLEY M. SHERMAN

Medical director and chair of the Dept. of Medicine, Glen Cove Hospital

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MARIE PARDO MCMANUS

Marie Pardo McManus

Marie Pardo McManus died on Dec. 21, 2021, at age 68, of Glenwood Landing. Beloved wife of William McManus. Loving mother of Marissa Da Silva (Victor), Ashleigh Moccia (Angelo), and Brian (Mimma). Cherished grandmother (nana) of Cristiano Joaquim, Nico William and the late Tyler Axel. Also survived by many loving relatives, brother and sister-in-law, nieces and nephews, cousins, and her many Cheerful Cherubs she took care of over the years. Visitation held at Whitting Funeral Home, 300 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head, www.whitting.com. Mass held at St. Boniface Church, Sea Cliff. Interment Queen of Peace Cemetery, Old Westbury.



ANTHONY CACCIALINO

Anthony Caccialino

Anthony Caccialino, of Glen Cove, died on Dec. 25, 2021, at age 58. Beloved son of Nancy and the late Ettore. Dear brother of Marsy. Proud uncle of Gianna. Also survived by many extended family members. Tony was a talented artist. He loved to cook and was an excellent chef who loved his family and friends. Visitation held at Dodge-Thom-

as Funeral Home. Mass held at St. Rocco's Church. Entombment Holy Rood Cemetery. Donations may be made to Diabetes.org.

Robert A. Langone

Robert A. Langone of Glen Cove, formerly of Roslyn Heights, died on Dec. 24, 2021, at age 92. Beloved husband of the late Margaret and the late Philomena. Loving father of Patricia (Raymond), Robert (Lenise), Thomas, Gerald (Antonietta) and John (Stefanie). Brother of Richard (the late Marianne) and Virginia. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of one. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Korean War Army veteran. Life-long member of Roslyn Rescue Fire Department. Active member of Glen Cove Senior Citizen Center for many years. Langone enjoyed golf, boating and traveling. Visitation held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Firematic Service held. Mass held at St. Patrick's RC Church. Interment private.

Jessica Rosario

Jessica Rosario, of Glen Cove, died on Dec. 24, 2021, at age 35. Beloved daughter of Linda and Luis (Karen). Dear sister of Luis, Clarissa, Timmy, Jayden and Nylise. Loving granddaughter of Mikki and Luis Rosario. Also survived by nephew Mateo and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Visitation held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Interment is private.

Robin Anne Johnson

Robin Anne Johnson of Port Washington died on Dec. 26, 2021, at age 75. Wife of Timothy. Mother of Timothy Jr., David, Faith Santiago, James and the late Jennifer. Sister of James McClay. Grandmother of eight. Graduate of Notre Dame of Maryland University. Team member of Catholic Marriage Encounter. Mrs. Johnson also performed with the Port Singers. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Catholic Memorial Mass held at Our Lady of Fatima. Interment private.

Josepha Vega

Josepha Vega of Glen Cove died on Dec. 29, 2021, at age 104. Beloved mother of Ivonne Dorton (Homer). Dear sister of Porfi (Pasquale) and Liduvina. Proud grandmother of Christopher and John Kyle. Great-grandmother of Christopher, Allison, and Neo Cato. Special aunt of Madeline. Visiting held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Interment private.

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Security Entrance
Addition and Science
Research Addition Add
Alternate No. 1 at the
North Shore High School,
450 Glen Cove Avenue,
Glen Head, NY 11545

Contract 2: Interior &
Exterior Renovation of the
NSHS Press Box, 450 Glen
Cove Avenue, Glen Head,
NY 1145

Contract 3: Interior &
Exterior Renovation at the
Glen Head Elementary
School, 7 School Street,
Glen Head, NY 11545

Contract 4: Interior &
Exterior Renovation at the
Glenwood Landing
Elementary School, 60
Cody Avenue, Glen Head,
NY 11545

Contract 5: Interior &
Exterior Renovation at the
Sea Cliff School, 280
Carpenter Avenue, Sea
Cliff, NY 11579

Contract 6: Interior &
Exterior Renovation at the
Administration Building,
112 Franklin Ave, Glen
Head, NY 11545

Contract 7: Combined Bid
Elementary Schools.
The Scope of Work
described in the
documents consists of the
following:

2019 Capital Project,
Phase 2

Contract 1
• North Shore High
School Contract 1 GC:
General Construction

• North Shore High
School Contract 1
MC: Mechanical

• North Shore High
School Contract 1 PC:
Plumbing

• North Shore High
School Contract 1 EC:
Electrical

2019 Capital Project,
Phase 2

Contract 2
• NSHS Press Box
Contract 2 GC:
General Construction
and associated MEP
(Single Prime
Contract)

2019 Capital Project,
Phase 2

Contract 3
• Glen Head ES
Contract 3 GC:
General Construction

• Glen Head ES
Contract 3 MC:
Mechanical

• Glen Head ES
Contract 3 PC:

Plumbing
• Glen Head ES
Contract 3 EC:
Electrical

2019 Capital Project,
Phase 2

Contract 4
• Glenwood Landing ES
Contract 4 GC:
General Construction

• Glenwood Landing ES
Contract 4 MC:
Mechanical

• Glenwood Landing ES
Contract 4 PC:
Plumbing

• Glenwood Landing ES
Contract 4 EC:
Electrical

2019 Capital Project,
Phase 2

Contract 5
• Sea Cliff ES Contract
5 GC: General
Construction

• Sea Cliff ES Contract
5 MC: Mechanical

• Sea Cliff ES Contract
5 PC: Plumbing

• Sea Cliff ES Contract
5 EC: Electrical

2019 Capital Project,
Phase 2

Contract 6
• Administration
Building Contract 6
GC: General
Construction and
associated MEP
(Single Prime)

2019 Capital Project,
Phase 2

Contract 7
• Combined ES Schools
7 GC: General

• Combined ES Schools
7 MC: Mechanical

• Combined ES Schools
7 PC: Plumbing

• Combined ES Schools
7 EC: Electrical

The bids shall be in
accordance with the
Specifications, Drawings,
and Terms of this
Contract. Bids will be re-
ceived by Olivia Buatsi,
Assistant Superintendent
for Business, until 11:00
a.m. prevailing time on
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at which
time they will be publicly
opened and read aloud.
The bid opening will take
place at the North Shore
Central School District's
Office at 112 Franklin
Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY
11579. The North Shore
Central School District
will make the bid opening
available via video
conference/live stream
arrangements for
participation in which will
be available on the
District Website Note: In
the event closure of the
business office makes
such video conference
impossible on the bid
opening date, video
conference or live bid
opening will be
conducted on the next

day the office is
accessible as will be
indicated at least 24
hours prior on the district
website.

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dollars (\$100.00) for each
combined set of
documents. Checks or
money orders for the
deposit shall be made
payable to "North Shore
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The deposit is refundable
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condition within 30 days
after the bid date. All bid
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transmitted to registered
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and will be available at
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. Potential bidders, who
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Each bid must be
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the form and subject to
the conditions stipulated
in the Instructions to
Bidders. No Bidders shall
withdraw his/her bid
within sixty days (60)
after the formal opening
thereof.

The Owner reserves the
right to waive any
informalities in any
proposals, or to reject any
or all proposals and to
advertise for new
proposals. The accepted

low bidder(s) will be
required to furnish a one
hundred percent (100%)
Performance Bond, Labor
and Material Payment
Bond, and produce all
insurance in amounts not
less than specified under
the General Conditions
and Special Provisions.
Site Inspection: An
informational meeting
and pre-bid walkthrough
with the bidders will be
held as outlined in the
Information for Bidders.
The pre-bid walkthrough
is not mandatory;
however, it is strongly
recommended that all
Bidders attend. It will be
held at the main entrance
of each site as follows:

a. Projects: North Shore
HS Additions &
Renovations and HS Field
Press Box

b. Date: Tuesday, January
18, 2022

c. Local Prevailing Time:
3:30 p.m.

d. Location: starting at
High School

e. Projects: Administration
Building Renovations, Sea
Cliff ES Renovations, Glen
Head ES Renovations and
Glenwood Landing ES
Renovations

f. Date: Wednesday,
January 19, 2022

g. Local Prevailing Time:
3:30 p.m. meet at
Administration Building,
then heading to Sea Cliff
ES, then at
approximately 4:30 p.m.
at Glen Head ES, then at
approximately 5:15 p.m.
at Glenwood Landing ES

h. Location: starting at
Sea Cliff Elementary
School and
Administration Building

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OPINIONS

Some things to look forward to, and some to be scared of

With 2021 behind us, I'm trying hard to be optimistic about 2022. When you've lived past your 70s, you have the benefit of having seen multiple ups and downs in our country, and those experiences give you some insight into what might lie ahead.



**JERRY
KREMER**

The coronavirus pandemic has taken a big toll on most of America. Our daily rhythms have been scrambled. We've been forced to work from home, and have patiently suffered through lockdowns and the loss of social interaction. But because we are such an innovative nation, by the end of 2022, it's likely that we will have tamed this disease and possibly be better prepared for any new health challenge.

Last year was a tough one for the business world. The lockdowns around the world and the constant flare-ups of Covid-19 caused shortages of critical products. Some manufacturers who have

ample inventory have taken advantage of the shortages and have raised their prices unnecessarily. Oil refineries with large inventories have joined the parade and jacked up the price of gasoline. Millions of small businesses have been forced to close, and in many cases they will never return.

2022 promises to be a better year for our long-suffering industries. Our strangled shipping ports are likely to catch up with the backlog of containers, and the uncontrolled buying of 2021 will slow down. By midyear, many members of the workforce who stayed home will finally find new job opportunities, or bargain their way into better-paying positions.

I'm thinking optimistically about the challenges we face, except for one. Surveying the scene from Minnesota or Montauk, I am most pessimistic about the political world. I have served over 30 years in state and local government. I have seen bold new programs, and marveled at political stars in both the Democratic and Republican parties.

For the most part, today's crop of

electd officials is as different as night and day from my time in state government. Once upon a time, leaders in my political world were willing to sit down and discuss the needs of the people, and got things done with simple handshakes.

The backroom meetings were about the next 10 years, not the next 10 minutes. Quite a few of today's incumbents, especially those in Congress, are interested only in getting re-elected, and are willing to say and do whatever it takes to hold on to power.

It doesn't make you a socialist if you believe in child care tax credits, more day care, pre-K programs and relief for young people struggling with college debt. Pollsters will tell you how widely accepted these initiatives are. But a handful of entrenched politicians will tell you they aren't worth the cost or are being abused. Those same ideologues will eagerly vote for tax cuts for the rich and the purchase of more military equipment, needed or not.

The biggest threat of 2022 will be the ongoing attacks on our voting system. Republicans in more than a dozen states

have passed laws putting state legislatures in charge of *their* voting systems. Dedicated independent professional election workers are being supplanted by party hacks whose only job is to protect their political base. It's possible that hundreds of actual winning Democratic candidates will be denied victories under these new systems. These machinations should be the target of a real 2022 Stop the Steal campaign.

Do we have any political heroes left on the national stage? Some of the 10 Republican House members who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump have been willing to give up their seats in the name of protecting the nation. A few in that brave group are seeking re-election, and were willing to take the risk.

These are just random thoughts about the new year from a mostly optimistic columnist. I am eternally hopeful that the better angels will prevail in 2022.

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.

I'm thinking positively about the challenges we face this year, except for one.

Readers tell their Covid stories in 50 words, or more

In the Dec. 2-8 issue, I invited readers to say how they were getting through the coronavirus pandemic so far, noting that all eyes were on the Omicron variant, and that our stories would surely evolve. Thank you so much for sharing these snippets of your lives.



**RANDI
KREISS**

"Friendship got me through Covid. I would not have made it through this unexpected plot change in life without my peers. The sudden death of my dog put a wave of grief over me for months. My best friend brought light into my shadowy sadness." — E.K.

"So far' are the operative words. No crystal ball here but by late February [2020] you could see it coming. Was still shocked by the incompetent and misleading, politicized government response and the willing denial by so many that killed and threatened. Read 'The Great Influenza,' spent months on the terrace and stayed as isolated as we could. Got a puppy." — T.G.

"During the early days, I would take long walks in the early morning to clear

my thoughts. As time went on, I would run into other walkers, with many of us stopping to say hello and ask if everything was OK. On Thanksgiving 2020, a group of us got together outside and set up our tables six feet apart. We couldn't be with family, but were happy to have found new friends."

— Anonymous

"I was reminded of all the things I used to love about myself. I read more than I had in years. I had genuine conversations with my family, who, despite living in the same house for years, never were quite on the same page. Most important, I was aware of all I had taken for granted: I was finally satisfied with the life I had created for myself. I was reminded of the little girl who smiled and laughed and loved herself." — R.G.

"I feel blessed just being here in Merrick with my mom, Rose, after losing my dad, Fred, to mantle cell lymphoma during the pandemic. As a resident of Australia, I had to secure a Travel Exemption from the Australian government to be allowed to board a flight to New York." — L.H.

"I temporarily moved next door to my daughter and her family in July 2020.

They were expecting a baby in August. I was there to help them out and they were there, providing precious moments at a time I would have been isolated and anxious." — Anonymous

I read more than I had in years. I had genuine conversations with my family.

"We were three couples, close-by neighbors living in comfortable condos on the beach. We met every evening to talk, swim, have drinks and share extra supplies we were able to find. I painted every day. I have 42 completed paintings, three of which I sold. I let my hair grow out and am no longer a slave to my roots. My husband and I played board games." — C.T.

"I not only 'got through' the pandemic, I rather enjoyed the peace and serenity afforded by the lockdown. My life revolved around a few people with whom I really love doing things. I enjoyed cooking, reading, card and game playing, long walks. I see a definite beauty in stepping off the world, albeit temporarily." — A.C.

"At first I thought Covid would disappear quickly, but when I realized it was here to stay, I felt resentful. I'm 74, and I felt that a year and a half of my time was stolen from me while I locked myself inside. But I came to realize I was lucky. My family was healthy, and I didn't have

to go off to work. I just had to stay alive!" — B.C.

"Minus side: masking, no city, travel, theater, movies, felt restriction of movement. Plus side: more quality time to spend with family and friends, read, needlepoint, dining al fresco, a slower pace and longer phone conversations, spending less but giving more." — B.G.

"Morning: television and telephone to family, friends. Afternoon: taking walks with husband through Cedarhurst. Evening: paint and write in a journal. I have kept seven journals — and I have tossed out two with the most negative thoughts." — L.M.

"Volunteering at the People Loving People Food Pantry in Oyster Bay was rewarding: It proved that during the most difficult times, people share with those less fortunate." — K.G.

"Dealing with the pandemic is a slam dunk when you're never alone. Lola and Mackenzie are my two small, hairy best friends. Never more than a few feet from wherever I am, they are great listeners. We rarely disagree, and they think I'm a brilliant conversationalist." — Anonymous

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Established 1991
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LAURA LANE
Senior Editor

LETISHA DASS
reporter

RHONDA GLICKMAN
Vice President - Sales

OFFICE

2 Endo Boulevard
Garden City, NY 11530

Phone: (516) 569-4000

Fax: (516) 569-4942

Web: glencove.liherald.com

E-mail: glencove-editor@liherald.com

Twitter: @NSHeraldGazette

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Nassau should enforce state's mask mandate

Bruce Blakeman's first public act as Nassau County executive-elect, in the second week of December, was one of rebellion. Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, had ordered mask use in indoor spaces where people gather to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Blakeman, a Republican, said he would defy the order, refusing to enforce it once he took office Jan. 1. The governor had left enforcement to the counties.

We understand Blakeman's reluctance to reinstate a mask mandate. People have grown tired of obeying orders. Most of us just want our freedom back. We want our old pre-pandemic lives. We crave normalcy.

Apologies for the blunt language, but the coronavirus doesn't give a damn about our desire to return to the way things were before all hell broke loose. It is a virus. It has an innate need to replicate, and to replicate it requires host bodies. Nature has granted the virus a seemingly incalculable ability to mutate to avoid eradication.

That is why we must do all in our power to eliminate the coronavirus — including wearing masks in public spaces. That is why the state mandate is necessary.

Blakeman has said there is little scientific evidence to demonstrate that masking reduces transmission of the coronavirus. That is not true. He only need look to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Science Brief from Dec. 6, titled "Community Use of Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2," to find it.

The CDC cites numerous studies, conducted over the past two years in a variety of settings, demonstrating that mask wearing, when carried out properly, can reduce the transmission of Covid-19.

According to the CDC, at least 10 studies have "confirmed the benefit of universal masking in community level analyses." The agency, considered one of the world's leading authorities on infectious diseases, further states, "Each analysis demonstrated that, following directives from organizational and political leadership for universal masking, new infections fell significantly."

Data from 200 countries, including the U.S., demonstrated reductions in the death rate as well.

Furthermore, the CDC concludes, "increasing universal masking by 15 percent could prevent the need for lockdowns and reduce associated losses of up to \$1 trillion, or about 5 percent of the gross domestic product."

If Blakeman is sincerely concerned about protecting the interests of Nassau businesses, as we firmly believe he is, then he will enforce the mask mandate to ensure that they stay open. No one — no one — wants the type of lockdowns that we are increasingly seeing in other countries. At some point soon, however, they could become inevitable if patients were to overwhelm our hospitals once again.

The Omicron variant, clearly far more transmissible than previous strains, has spread like wildfire across the U.S. over the past month. As of press time Monday, Long Island's daily positivity rate stood at nearly 25 percent — the

highest in the state, despite our high vaccination rate.

Preliminary data indicate that Omicron, which is fueling this most recent surge, may be less virulent and less deadly than previous strains. Given the exponential growth of this new form of the virus, however, we are seeing hospitalization rates rising fast, which, once again, is straining our health care workers, who are already worn out by nearly two years of battling a relentless foe. At least one president of a major Nassau hospital has asked the public to consider staying home for two weeks to minimize spread.

When Hochul enacted the indoor mask mandate on Dec. 10, it was supposed to last until Jan. 15. She recently extended it to Feb. 1. We urge Blakeman to consider enforcing it.

The county mustn't fine businesses that are earnest in their efforts to carry out the mandate — as many have been. Without enforcement for egregious violators, however, there will be those who disregard the law entirely, and therein lies the problem.

To defeat this terrible, highly transmittable disease once and for all, we need a far greater sense of unity and resolve than we have shown to date. As a nation, we have always managed to summon our better angels and come together for a cause greater than ourselves. Now we are faced with yet another crisis of epic proportions that requires us to think beyond ourselves and do what is best for the greater good.

Mask up!

LETTERS

Thank you for your help

To the Editor:

I want to offer my sincerest thanks to the multitude of friends and neighbors who graciously donated to help make our annual toy drive the most successful to date. We collected hundreds of great toys which were dropped off and given to kids at the Glen Cove Child Day Care Center which had suffered extensive flood damage from the remnants of Hurricane Ida. It was great to see the pure joy on the kids' faces when my staff and I delivered such a diverse array of toys, including everything from educational games to STEM toys and the hottest in-demand toys like gaming amplifiers. In fact, we had so many toys that we were also able to provide them for other organizations such as the Glen Cove Equal Opportunity Coalition and Birthday Wishes of Long Island.

I would also like to recognize the Rev. Shawn



Betty White 1922-2021

OPINIONS

‘Biking Borders’ brings out the best of humanity

The 2019 documentary “Biking Borders,” chronicling the nine-month, 9,320-mile cycling adventure of two college friends, Max Jabs and Nono Konopka, from Berlin to Beijing, opens with the pair struggling to stay upright as they pedal down a snow-covered road in eastern Turkey shortly after Christmas 2018.



**SCOTT
BRINTON**

These guys are just nuts, I thought. Immediately, I was hooked. I had to watch this travelogue — twice.

Following its opening scene, the film, recently released on Netflix, cuts to Germany and thereafter follows the

pair’s journey chronologically, starting in the summer of 2018 at the Brandenburg Gate and ending at China’s Tiananmen Square in the spring of 2019.

Viewers quickly learn that their trek was far more than a sightseeing tour of Europe, the Middle East and Asia. It was fundraiser to build a school in Guatemala, which has the highest illiteracy rate in Central America — roughly 25 percent.

We also learn that the two, despite attending university in the biking capital of the world, the Netherlands, had barely

pedaled anywhere before their epic trek. Apparently, Jabs had ridden a little while in school, but Konopka not at all. In fact, the two undertook no special athletic training for their journey. According to a Forbes article on them, they figured they would get in shape on the way.

As noted, these guys just seemed nuts — but in the best of ways.

The two 20-somethings, both German, graduated together with degrees in international marketing from Fontys University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands in 2018, and set out on their journey only months later, headed to some of the most remote, inhospitable, potentially dangerous places on the planet. Yet they were all smiles, veritable fonts of infectious positivity. Chalk it up to irrational exuberance or youthful naiveté, but they just went for it — and succeeded — continually promoting their trek via social media along the way to bolster donations for their cause.

If you watch anything on Netflix this winter, be sure to catch this film. For starters, it just makes you feel good. With so much pain in the world these days, it reminds us that there is hope for humanity, that we are not all irredeemably greedy, self-centered creatures. We can, through the power of belief and teamwork, do enormous good for the world.

Jabs and Konopka started out hoping they might raise 50,000 euros (about \$56,500) to build a one-room, cinder-block school in Guatemala. By the time they reached Iran, they had collected that sum and more. As of press time, the project had raised 288,700 euros (about \$326,400), enough to construct five schools. Their new goal is a million euros — enough for 20 schools in Guatemala, Ghana and Laos.

Jabs and Konopka partnered with the New York City-based nonprofit Pencils of Promise, which builds the schools. Adam Braun, 38, a Brown University graduate who worked on Wall Street, started the organization in 2008, prompted by a conversation he had had with a little boy on a street in India while in college. The boy was begging for money. What he wanted, though, was a pencil so he could write and learn. Braun gave him one. Later, feeling unfulfilled in high finance, Braun recalled that chance meeting and left behind his safe, well-appointed world for international nonprofit work, starting Pencils of Promise with \$25. The organization has since raised \$75 million for education in the developing world.

I knew none of this before watching “Biking Borders.” When I learned the story behind the film and Pencils of Promise, I just had to donate to the cause,

which can be done at bikingborders.com. The site is in German, but Google Chrome can translate it into English.

Whether or not you donate, you should watch this documentary. The scenery is stunning, and on the road Jabs and Konopka encounter many kind-hearted people who offer them aid when they need it most. And yes, things go awry from time to time, despite all their optimistic planning.

Jabs and Konopka just embrace the people they meet, and people embrace them back. The two seem unafraid, no matter the circumstance, even in countries that are known to be hostile to westerners. In Iran they are met as something like heroes, with people waving to them, cheering for them and pouring food into their hands — and strangers welcoming them into their homes for a night’s rest and a rice-filled Persian meal.

As an avid cyclist, I am at once envious of and fascinated by their trip. You needn’t love cycling, though, to enjoy this hour-and-a-half-long film. At its core, it’s really about our shared humanity, and these days, we can use all the humanity that we can muster.

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.

LETTERS

Williams and the good people at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Glen Cove; the Glen Cove Anglers Club; Brooke Schwartz; William Golden of Glen Head; and Joe Podbela, of Muttontown. While so many kind and generous people donated this year, these wonderful people and organizations played an integral role in making our drive such a resounding success. Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library in Oyster Bay and the Bryant Library in Roslyn for serving as collection sites.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

CHARLES D. LAVINE
Assemblyman,
13th District

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2021 North Shore School District Real Estate Market Report

The North Shore School District encompasses the villages and hamlets of Glenwood Landing, Glen Head, Sea Cliff, Old Brookville, parts of Greenvale, and Roslyn Harbor. All data is per MLSLI Residential.

Total Residential Sales - 236



| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Under \$499K | 8 |
| \$500K - \$999K | 130 |
| \$1M - \$1.999M | 74 |
| \$2M - 3.999M | 23 |
| \$4M+ | 1 |

Where Are Buyers Moving From?

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| NYC (Mostly Queens) | 50% |
| Nassau County | 46% |
| Other | 6% |

Days on Market



| | |
|---------|----|
| Median | 46 |
| Average | 81 |

Median Sale Price

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 2021 | \$880,000 |
| 2020 | \$799,500 |



Presented by:
Sandi Lefkowitz
Associate Real Estate Broker
c.516.816.3461
sandilefkowitz@danielgale.com

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Glen Head/Old Brookville Office
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