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**Fellowship Cafe  
hosts food drive**

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**Suozzi: Hochul  
is ignoring crime**

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\$1.00 VOL. 31 NO. 5

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2, 2022



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews

**IAN JACKSON, LEFT**, Jeffrey Jackson Sr. and Carrie Jackson marked Jeffrey's 80th birthday on Jan. 19 with a drive-through celebration.

## Celebrating Glen Cove F.D. Co. 4's first Black firefighter

**BY LETISHA DASS**

ldass@liherald.com

Fifty years ago, Jeffrey Jackson Sr. officially joined the Glen Cove Volunteer Fire Department, the first Black man to serve in Company 4. Throughout the years, while also working in Glen Cove's Department of Public Works until his retirement about 30 years ago, Jackson moved up the GCVFD ranks. He served

as secretary, second lieutenant and line officer in Company 4. Then, after injuring a knee, Jackson joined the Fire Police, where he was a third officer, first officer and captain.

Jackson, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Jan. 19, always knew he wanted to be a firefighter, but it wasn't easy for a Black man to join in the 1960s. Before his acceptance into the department in 1962 as

a probationary firefighter in training, Black recruits were required to have a sponsor to vouch for them.

"That was a way of holding anybody that was a minority out of there," Jackson said. "You had to be recognized by somebody white or somebody else that you knew to get in there. We walked the picket line. We did a little bit of everything, and we finally

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Elly Vega, beacon for others, dies

**BY LAURA LANE**

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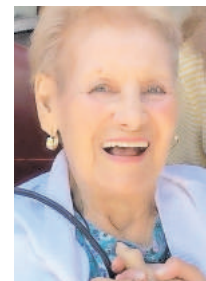
The room where Elly Vega lay in repose at Dodge Funeral Home was dark on Jan. 2 when Carol Waldman arrived. It was near closing, but she needed to say one last goodbye to her friend. Waldman said she was relieved when the funeral director gave her permission to go inside.

"I didn't expect to have private time with Elly, but we had a quiet, intimate time together for 15 minutes," Waldman said. "I have so many memories in my head, and said them out loud."

Josepha Vega, who preferred to be called Elly, died on Dec. 29, in her Glen Cove apartment, at age 104, while waiting for an ambulance. Her daughter, Ivonne Dorton, said her mother had been at Glen Cove Hospital for two days in December, suffering from shortness of breath. The diagnosis was valve blockage in her heart, but because of her age, doctors thought it best not to operate. Dorton took her home on Christmas Eve, but

another bout with shortness of breath led to Vega's death.

One day before she died, she had gone to the Glen Cove Senior Center to play bingo, her favorite pastime. She had met Waldman there 18 years ago, when Waldman was the center's director, and they struck up a lasting friendship.



Courtesy Carol Waldman

**JOSEPHA (ELLY) VEGA** died Dec. 29.

"Elly was a force — she had what most people wish they had, that love of life," recalled Waldman, who retired from the center in 2019. "As people get older, they go in a lot of different directions, with some becoming closed off and angry. Elly had a sparkle in her eyes and cared a great deal about other people."

The senior center was Vega's second home. She was a volunteer in the kitchen for 17 years, arriving every morning at 7 to make sure the coffee was ready. When she was no longer able to volunteer — well into her 80s — she continued going to the center every day, and took part in whatever activities were offered.

Vega was born without a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12





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# St. Paul's Fellowship Café expands beyond Glen Cove

BY LETISHA DASS

Ldass@iherald.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Glen Cove held a one-time food drive from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 22. Donated boxed pastas, sauces, bags of rice, and canned beans were contributed for the church's pantry for the Fellowship Cafe. Parishioners and community members drove or walked up to the church where Jonathan Wyatt, St. Paul's warden and Fellowship Café liaison, and team members stood outside to receive donations.

"It's just this January because we are running lower than we usually do," Wyatt explained. "We are just giving it a shot because we are serving so many more people than we used to because of Covid and price increases and job insecurity. A lot of those people are seniors too."

St. Paul's Fellowship Café was founded in 2013 by Wyatt and his wife Tracie, Glen Cove residents. The design for the program came from the Wyatt's reading about the Fellowship Café at another church. "We owe it to St. Thomas of Farmingdale," Wyatt said. "They gave us the idea and the advice and away we went."

Their mission has been to help bring homecooked meals, groceries and clothes to families in need. The event is held the third Saturday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Before the pandemic, families and community members would be given an opportunity to enjoy a hot meal together in the church's hall. When available, clothing would be offered to each visitor for roughly 10 to 25 cents or



Letisha Dass/ Herald

**BILL GLASGOW, FAR** left, Cathy Glasgow, Rev. Shawn Williams, Jonathan Wyatt, and Tracie Wyatt were integral to the food drive for Fellowship Cafe on Jan. 22. Together, they have distributed hundreds of hot meals for families in need at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

for a bundle of four, \$1.

Currently, the program has been a takeout service to enforce social distancing regulations. Visitors can drive or walk up to the parish to receive their goods. For the month of January, the parish has been able to serve 102 meals to families.

"Our mission is to provide them with a healthy hot meal and treat them like humans," Wyatt said. "We call it the Fellowship Cafe because you used to come in and sit down and you could talk to people. It was beautiful that way because you

would see people from all different cultures sitting together."

From the start of the program, every meal has been made by Tracie Wyatt. "I want to provide a full balanced meal," she said. "I love everything about St. Paul's. I wish I could do it fulltime. I wish I could donate 100 percent."

Local community businesses have been able to aid in the growth of the program. St. Rocco's Bakery has been donating bread for the meals. Living Waters for Women, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods in

Glen Cove have been able to contribute groceries. And Holiday Farms in Glen Head has helped in providing reusable grocery bags for the carryout meals and groceries. No food goes to waste as any leftovers are given to Living Waters for Women.

"This is really an important outreach thing for the parish because not every place has something that enables them to reach out beyond their four walls and touch people," said Father Shawn Williams of St. Paul's.

The reach of the program has extended past the borders of Glen Cove. Bill and Cathy Glasgow, residents of Syosset, have been volunteering for the program for nearly five years. "I just like that we are helping people," Cathy said. "There is a big need in the community. I am kind of grateful that I have the time and I am able to do this."

"The advantage that we have is while we have parishioners and volunteer that take up half of the spots, we have a number of people from outside of the parish who really don't have any affiliation or connection with the church, but who heard of it from friends who have gone here," Williams said.

"I would love to expand it to maybe even twice a month because I think our community certainly needs it especially in these covid times," Tracie Wyatt said. "It's all about volunteers. Having volunteers who don't even belong to St. Paul's is a testament to what we are doing."

To help, volunteer or donate to the Fellowship Café, email Tracie or Jonathan Wyatt at [Jonwyatt316@yahoo.com](mailto:Jonwyatt316@yahoo.com).

## Blakeman: Gov. should "stand down" from mandate

BY REINE BETHANY

rbethany@iherald.com

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman held a news conference on Tuesday on the steps of the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola. He called on Gov. Kathy Hochul to accept yesterday's ruling regarding mask mandates by the Hon. Thomas Rademaker, justice of the NYS Supreme Court in Nassau County.

Rademaker adjudicated a lawsuit that challenged the state mandate concerning masks inside public schools. His ruling declared the Dec. 10 state mandate invalid from Gov. Hochul's office that New York State public school students wear masks inside school buildings.

Rademaker wrote in his ruling that because New York is not legally in a state of emergency, State Commissioner of Health Mary Bassett, M.D., could not direct that masks should be worn in schools, and Hochul could not issue a mandate based on that directive without approval from the state Legislature.

The basis of Bassett's directive was a section of state regulatory code, 10 NYCRR §§ 260; 260 (a). Rademaker declared that Bassett's and Hochul's use of that section of the code violated the

state constitution, so the section "as promulgated and enacted" was unenforceable.

At the news conference, Blakeman said bluntly, "First of all, we're here today to request that the Governor stand down, that she not further appeal the decision of Justice Rademaker."

Blakeman expressed confidence that, if Hochul were to follow through on her decision to appeal Rademaker's ruling, the Appellate Court will uphold the ruling because "the decision that Justice Rademaker made is principled, it's well founded, it's on solid ground."

Blakeman stated that the lawsuit was about choice, not about masks.

"If a parent chooses to send their child to school with a mask, that's fine," said Blakeman. "We're not anti-mask. We're anti-mandate."

Standing with Blakeman at the news conference were Legislators Steve Rhoads (R-Bellmore) and John Ferretti (R-Levittown), Michael Demetriou, who is the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, and members

from four local school boards, including two members from the Locust Valley School Board.

Demetriou thanked Blakeman for his support.

**T**he fact of the matter is, I would never, ever, ever endorse any policy that would put our children in jeopardy.

**BRUCE BLAKEMAN**  
Nassau County Executive

"He gave us his word that he was going to stand with us shoulder to shoulder as a united people," Demetriou said. "We didn't elect somebody as a party, we elected somebody that said, 'We want to prioritize our choice as parents and our choice for children.' This is about the children — always."

Demetriou said that his two young children, who attend school in Bellmore, had "both suffered directly as individuals" from the mask mandate. His daughter has sensory issues exacerbated by the masks and his son had manifested anxiety and tics.

"I believe in protecting your child's innocence, always," Demetriou said.

Massapequa School Board President Kerri Wachter also spoke, saying, "Our peer nations, they're not masking their kids. Most of our country, they are not

masking kids. This is really only in New York. ... It's time to move past this, and I urge the governor to just let it go."

After a few questions from people who attended the news conference, Blakeman went through a timeline of the CDC's changing recommendations for mask wearing from the start of the pandemic in March of 2020.

"I think the science has been somewhat dubious," Blakeman said. "I've asked for, from the governor, from the health commissioner, I'd like to see the data, I'd like to see the science. It hasn't been forthcoming. There've been no clinical trials on the effectiveness of masks."

He added that individuals who wish to wear masks will thereby be protected from the Coronavirus even if others don't wear them. Doctors, he said, who opposed the state mask mandate had been bullied by the state Department of Health.

"The fact of the matter is, I would never, ever, ever endorse any policy that would put our children in jeopardy," Blakeman added.

On Tuesday afternoon, Justice Robert J. Miller, the state appeals court judge, sided with the state, granting a stay. It allows for the mask mandate to temporarily go back into effect.



# After 50 years, G.C. firefighter keeps serving

January 27, 2022 - GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

broke it. We finally got in. It took a little while.”

“At that time, there shouldn’t have been discrimination,” Lucy Jackson, Jeffrey’s wife of 58 years, said. “Kids were going to school together. Everything was like black and white.”

James Davis, former president of the Glen Cove NAACP, worked to reform the Fire Department. Davis advised Jackson to join when a position opened, after Leander Willet, from the Harlem Hellfighters, was initially denied because of his Oyster Bay address. “What happened was, the city wouldn’t take his application . . . because he had an out-of-town address,” Jackson recalled. “Mr. Davis came back to me and asked if I would take Leander’s spot. And I told him, ‘Yeah, I’ll take it. I’d like to join.’”

Jackson’s wife described him as a dedicated firefighter, eager to be on the front lines when he was younger. “He would just run,” Lucy said. “We could be sitting down at the table for Christmas dinner, Thanksgiving dinner, Easter dinner, and if that fire [alarm] were to go off, his plate is on the table and he’s gone.”

Jackson started in the department with Thermond Greene, a Black firefighter who served in the Pacific Engine & Hose Company. They led the way for others such as Jimmy Holmes, the first Black in the Chemical Company, and Jerome

Goodine, the first to serve in Hook and Ladder.

Throughout his career, Jackson said, he worked to fight the stereotypes of Black men. “It was no walk in the park, because a lot of times they expected you to mess up, especially being Black,” he said. “They expect you be drunk all the time, don’t know what you’re doing, never make your meetings. And that is one thing I never did.”

According to his wife, Jackson was known as “the chaplain” in the department. “He was the only one down there that didn’t smoke or drink,” Lucy said.

By example, Jackson began a legacy. His son, the late James Jackson, was a second lieutenant for Hook and Ladder for about 10 years. Now his grandson Ian Jackson, 25, is following in his grandfather’s footsteps, as a firefighter in Chemical Company.

Jackson’s daughter and Ian’s mother, Carrie Jackson, 50, set up a drive-through celebration of her father’s birthday last week, to honor his accomplishments with the help of family, friends and the Glen Cove community. “We’ve always been very proud of him, just extremely proud to have him as our father,” Carrie said. “He’s just our hero. He gave us a lot of ambition to do things.”

Jackson is still first officer of the GCVFD Fire Police. He will officially celebrate his 50 years of service in the depart-



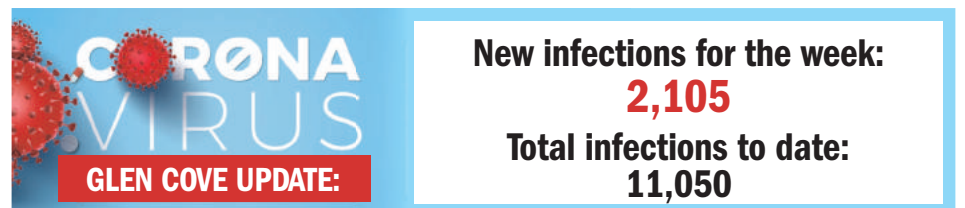
Courtesy Carrie Jackson

**JEFFREY JACKSON SR.** will celebrate his 50th anniversary with the GCVFD in March.

ment in March.

“You don’t retire from the Fire Department,” Jackson said. “You just fade away. I’ll do it as long as I can.”

“It’s beautiful how the department has grown,” Carrie Jackson said, “and it’s so much more welcoming.”



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## NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy GSM Communications

**LUZ MALDONADO, FAR left,** Leyda Mejia, Christopher Salka, Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, Stacy Vrionedes, Alicia Neppi wore kilts during their 5 a.m. workout to honor the birthday of Robert Burns, poet and bard of Scotland.

## Glen Cove's Max Challenge honors Scottish poet Robert Burns

Adorned in kilts, Christopher Salka, a trainer at Max Challenge of Glen Cove, and his classes exercised in celebration of Robert Burns' birthday on Jan. 25. Burns, the famous bard of Scotland, was a poet who lived in the 1700s and his life has been honored by Scots around the world.

"We have several members who are of Scottish ancestry, and we thought it would be fun to incorporate this celebration as part of our early morning workout," Matilde Tysz, owner of Max Challenge, said. "It's important to stay with a regular

exercise program, but we always find ways to keep it fun."

In Scotland, Jan. 25 has been named Burns Night. As a tradition, Burns' poems and ballads are recited over a dinner of Scottish dishes such as haggis, neeps, and tatties. Christine Follet, who was born in Scotland and still has family in the country, appreciated the chance to honor the tradition. "It was nice that the Max acknowledges different cultures in the community," Follet said. "It was a fun twist on our morning group workout."

## Residents invited to tax grievance workshops

Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton has partnered with the Nassau County Assessment Review Commission to host free virtual community tax grievance workshops on Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon and Feb. 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. During the virtual workshops, taxpayers can learn how to navigate the online grievance process and dis-

pute their assessment. Appeals can be submitted from Jan. 3 to March 1.

For further information, contact Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton's office at (516) 571-6211. To participate in the virtual workshops, visit <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/LD11>.

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# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Friday, Jan. 28

### Movie at the Library: "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?"

In the midst of the Great Depression, a manipulative emcee enlists contestants for a grueling dance marathon. Jane Fonda, Red Buttons, and Susannah York star. The movie will begin at 2 p.m. at the Gold Coast Library.

## Saturday, Jan. 29

### Sip n' Sew: Placemat Edition

In this fun workshop, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hive, 100-102 Audrey Ave in Oyster Bay, you'll make friends, learn a new skill, and go home with a set of placemats you created yourself. This is a beginner friendly workshop. All materials and instruction are included in the workshop's \$65 fee. Register online at [hivemarketob.com](http://hivemarketob.com).

### Artisan Jules "Cash Mob"

Join North Shore Biz Network at Artisan Jules Gifts & Goodness, 215 Glen Cove Ave. in Sea Cliff, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a "Cash Mob." Cash Mobs are events where people agree to patronize a specific local business on an appointed day and time. They not only have a positive impact on the business, but also spread public awareness about local businesses and their positive impacts in the community.

### 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 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

### Curvebreakers virtual SAT practice test

Taking the SATs this year? Take a virtual practice exam with Curvebreakers at the Locust Valley Library from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Become comfortable with exam



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

## Wheel of Life Workshop: Health at O.B. Yoga

A visual representation of 12 areas of your life, the wheel of life is a tool that is used to understand and recognize which areas of your life feel out of balance and how to guide yourself into more alignment. Each participant will identify what health means to them and create action steps to utilize in the coming months. This workshop, beginning at 2 p.m. and is a blend of a 50 minute yoga flow and post-yoga meditation and coaching session. \$40 per person. Register online at [oysterbayyoga.com](http://oysterbayyoga.com).

restrictions and section timing. Each student will receive their cumulative score and an optional diagnostic score.

## Sunday, Jan. 30

### Blood drive

From 1 to 7 p.m. head to the Gold Coast Library to donate blood and save up to three lives with your donation. Visit [nybc.com/donate](http://nybc.com/donate) for more information and to schedule an appointment to donate.

## Monday, Jan. 31

### Last Mondays film discussion

The Sea Cliff Library, Located at 300 Sea Cliff ave in Sea Cliff, is hosting a film discussion each month on the last Monday to watch and discuss a film. To register, and find out the movie chosen for discussion, send an email to [seaclifflibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:seaclifflibrary@hotmail.com).

## Tuesday, Feb. 1

### The Super Bowl: How America's Top Sports Event Was Created

The Super Bowl is coming up, but have you ever thought about how it started and the impact that it has? Beginning at 7 p.m. Evan Weiner, a veteran sports broadcaster will take attendees on a journey from the birth of the Super Bowl, its origin in the Civil Rights movement, halftime shows and everything in between. Register online at [bayvillefreelibrary.org](http://bayvillefreelibrary.org) for the Zoom link.

### Filling our hearts with love through meditation

Join Arvind Naik as he explains and demonstrates the practice of meditation to transform the heart. The workshop will include how to incorporate more love and peace in your life, which will have a profound transformation on your overall wellbeing. Learn how to let go of anger, fear and worry to create more harmonious relationships, improve work and home environments and experience a deep sense of personal peace and love. This virtual event begins at 6:30 p.m.

and those interested can register online at [glencovelibrary.org](http://glencovelibrary.org).

## Wednesday, Feb. 2

### The Basics of Medicare - Medicare Made Clear

This webinar beginning at 3 p.m. will cover your Medicare options -- "What does Medicare cost?" "When can I enroll and how do I choose the right options?" Registration required for this online Zoom event, presented by the Locust Valley Library.

### Glen Cove City Schools Board of Education meeting

The Glen Cove City Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Glen Cove High School.

### Groundbreaking Black comedians

In this unique presentation by the Glen Cove Library, attendees will celebrate the contributions Black comedians brought to the world of comedy. Each, in their own distinctive voice, introduced an incomparable style of comedy to the world, breaking

racially prejudiced barriers along the way. Register online at [glencovelibrary.com](http://glencovelibrary.com) for the zoom link.

## Thursday, Feb. 3

### "Catch the Sparrow" book discussion

Growing up, writer Rachel Rear knew the story of Stephanie Kupchynsky's disappearance; her mother had married Stephanie's father after the crime. Rear grew up in the shadow of her stepsister's legacy and wrote "Catch the Sparrow," a gripping story of a young woman's murder, unsolved for over two decades, investigated and reconstructed. At Theodore's Book's, 17 Audrey Ave. in Oyster Bay, this discussion begins at 7 p.m. Rear will discuss this true crime story, take questions and autograph copies of "Catch the Sparrow," purchased at Theodore's Books. Call to reserve your spot at (516) 636-5550.

### Virtual valentine storytime

As Valentine's Day approaches, join the Locust Valley Library for a virtual Valentine storytime where attendees will read love-filled stories and sing a valentine song. The Zoom link will be emailed out the week of the program. Go to [locustvalleylibrary.org](http://locustvalleylibrary.org) to register.

## 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](mailto:adurkin@iherald.com)

## 5 things to know about your town

- The next Oyster Bay East Norwich Board of Education meeting is scheduled for FEB. 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- The City of Glen Cove will hold a City Council meeting on FEB. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.
- The North Shore Board of Education's budget presentation will be on Feb. 3 at 7:45 p.m. at NSHS Library
- The Oyster Bay Town Board's next meeting will be Feb 8 at 10 a.m.
- The Sea Cliff Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.



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# Catholic Schools Week



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### The benefits of a Catholic education

**T**he week is set aside to promote the unique nature of the Catholic schools in each community. Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses and open houses to thank parishioners, to welcome visitors and to introduce new families to the benefits of a Catholic education. It frequently kicks off with a Mass and open house on the first Sunday (Jan. 30), and a series of events designed to recognize the contributions of students, parents and faculty during the course of the week. Many schools offer additional open houses and opportunities to visit during the week as well.

Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. In addition to the internal events (teacher and parent recognition events, school 'spirit' days, special assemblies, etc) it is also a week where the schools open their doors to the families of their Parish/Parishes they serve, and to the general public who might be considering the benefits of a Catholic education.

**As a family considering a Catholic education, how do I learn more?** Catholic Schools Week features Open Houses at the schools where parents and students can visit the school(s) they think they might be interested in and get a tour of the facility, be introduced to the teachers, meet some of the current families and children and generally learn about the academic, spiritual, social and physical development programs.

**As a prospective family, do I have an 'assigned school'?** One of the first differences you will notice about Catholic school is that you get to select the school that you believe your children will be most successful in. There is no direct 'assignment' based on where you live and most school districts provide busing to the school of your choice within a 15-mile radius.

**Is there a difference in tuition to attend a different school?** Long Island's Catholic Elementary schools set their own tuitions, so they vary slightly, but there is no penalty for choosing a school outside of your Parish or town if you are a parishioner in the Diocese. The system of schools is an asset here on Long Island for all of the families of the Diocese and for all of the families of Long Island.

**What should parents look for during their visit?** Many parents of current students tell us that their decision was emotional and based on a feeling of warmth and caring they got during their visit. Others are more analytical and make direct comparisons based on the results on standardized test scores and high school admittance history. Regardless of how you make your decision, the schools are

**Catholic Schools Week is upon us — Jan. 30-Feb. 5 — with the goal of raising the awareness of Catholic schools as an outstanding educational option.**

'open books' during this week, providing whatever information prospective families desire to support their decision.

**When parents select Catholic elementary school, what are the most frequently cited reasons?** The reasons that are most frequently mentioned are: academic excellence, the reinforcement of the values lived at home,

Catholic religious identity, a safe, nurturing environment for learning, more individualized attention to each student's learning needs, an outstanding extracurricular program and the level of partnership established with parents.

**Will attending Catholic elementary schools help my child get into a prestigious Catholic high school?** Attending a Catholic elementary school isn't the only way to get into a Catholic high school, but it is still the best way. The Catholic high schools are open to all students and typically have a very significant number of students from a public school background. Students qualify for Catholic high school through a test for 8th graders that is administered in October of

each year. Typically the students from Catholic elementary schools are best prepared for the academic rigor, the integrated program of faith and values, and the service orientation of the high schools. Virtually all of the students from Catholic elementary school (99 percent) are admitted to a Catholic high school with the vast majority getting into the school that is their first choice. You can learn more about the high school entrance exam, and about the Catholic High Schools at <http://chsee.org>.

**Are non-Catholics welcome in the schools?** The schools are welcoming places to everyone without regard to race, religion or national origin. A religion class is a requirement, students participate in Liturgies, and faith is an integrated part of daily activities, but many schools have a significant population of students who attend because of the quality of the education alone.

**How can I learn more or choose the school(s) I would like to visit?** There is a resource for families on the Internet that provides a very complete picture of the Catholic elementary school experience. It features an interactive map that is your guide to each of Long Island's distinctive Catholic schools, and that lets you view the geographic options for your children at <http://licatholicelementaryschools.org>.

Above photo: In this unique community environment, children are surrounded by other children, families and a parish that serve to reinforce moral values and beliefs.





# Open House

Sunday, January 30th, 2022 11am-1:00pm



Please visit our website at [www.stdomsob.org](http://www.stdomsob.org)  
to schedule your tour or call 516-922-4888 ext. 5315



# A proven record of achievement

Students excel today and gain the confidence to succeed all their lives

Long Island Catholic schools provide the academic rigor and study regimen, moral and spiritual instruction, along with all the extracurricular programs that nurture and set the foundation for the future success.

By receiving this complete education in an inspiring environment, children gain the knowledge, skills, and self-esteem that prepare them for a life of personal and professional achievement.

### Demonstrated student success

Various objective standards illustrate the advantages of a Catholic school education. Elementary school students in the Diocese of Rockville Centre score higher than the national average on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a nationally recognized benchmark. A higher percentage of Catholic elementary school students exceed the standards of the New York state examinations in English Language Arts than other students in the state. More than 90 percent of elementary students go on to Catholic high schools, and over 99 percent of those graduates go on to college.

Most Catholic elementary school graduates go to the most prestigious Catholic high schools, attend highly sought after colleges, and go on to live accomplished lives.

### By the numbers

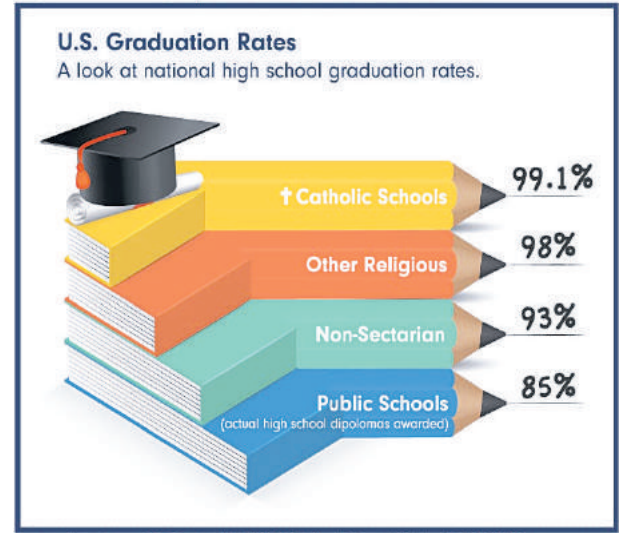
- ✓ Nationally, almost 20 percent (19.8 percent) are racial minorities. The largest part of that group is Hispanic students representing 15 percent. Non-Catholic enrollment is 16.4 percent of the total.
- ✓ The student/teacher ratio is 13:1.
- ✓ 96.8 percent of the staff are Laity and 3.2 percent are Religious/Clergy.
- ✓ Nationally, college bound religious school students scored an average of 1595 on the 2013 SAT (Reading 531, Writing 528, Math 536) vs.. an average of 1474 for college bound public school students (Reading 491, Writing 480, Math 503)
- ✓ High school students are "college ready": ACT, the college admis-



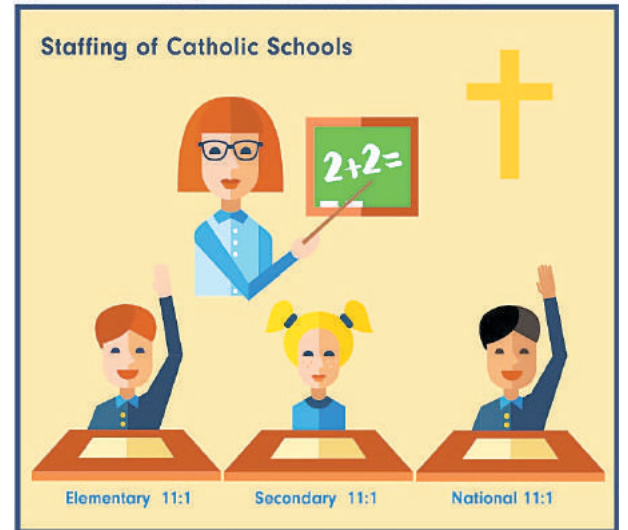
sions testing company reported significant differences in the assessment of the percentage of students deemed to be ready for college coursework.

- ✓ Graduation from college: A study by the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) found that almost twice as many Catholic high school graduates likely to attain their Bachelor Degree when compared to their public school counterparts.

Above photo: Catholic schools provide a balanced curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.



Source: Broughman, S.P., Swain, N.L. (2019); Stillwell, R., and Sable, J. (2018-2019).



Source: U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2020-2021: The Annual Statistical Report

## NEW EVENT DATE: APRIL 5, 2022



Thank you for voting in the Herald Long Island Choice Awards!

Winners will be announced Live at the Heritage Club at Bethpage and in the Winners Guide Magazine April 5.

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# OPEN HOUSE

*for* **ADMISSIONS**

Join us to learn about our Catholic faith community, academic curriculum, athletic program, and extracurricular offerings.

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ALL COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN EFFECT.

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JAN 30**  
12:00-2:00PM

**1340 NORTHERN BLVD., MANHASSET, NY 11030**  
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1161553



# Loving life, and others, until the end

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

right hand, but that never stopped her, Dorton said. "With one hand she could sew buttons on a shirt and iron," her daughter said. "She cooked and loved to bake, and brought her cakes to the center. She had a strong will to do things. That's what kept her alive."

If anyone told her she couldn't do something because of her disability, Vega would be sure to do it. "She was a good example for people with disabilities," Dorton said. "She'd prove to them that they could do it."

Vega was born in Puerto Rico in 1917, one of nine children. She came to the U.S. seeking a better life when she was in her 20s. By then she was already a widow and single mother: Her husband had died in World War II, and they had a daughter.

Vega initially settled in the Bronx, living with a sister. Although she had been a nurse in a hospital in Puerto Rico, she could not pursue her career in the U.S. because she could not master English. She volunteered at a hospital instead.

Ivonne was 6 when she came to America, and she went to school in the Bronx. When her mother moved to Glen Cove in the 1960s, however, she stayed in the Bronx. She married Homer Dorton, and they had two sons. When the family visited Puerto Rico, Homer said he wanted to move there, and they did.

During one visit to Puerto Rico, when Vega was in her 70s and had had three operations on a leg, she told her daughter she didn't feel well. But she was very independent, and didn't want to move back to Puerto Rico.

When Dorton visited her mother in Glen Cove when she was 98, Dorton could see that she could no longer live by herself. Not wanting to put her in a nursing home, and with her own sons grown, Dorton moved in with her.

"She needed to stay in her apartment," Dorton said. "A lot of older people get set aside and are taken to nursing homes, and they deteriorate there. That's no life for a person who gave you life."

But Dorton's husband, she said, was the real hero. Homer supported her decision and stayed in Puerto Rico, visiting her whenever possible.

"Caring for Mom was nice," Ivonne said. "We always got along. She was my best friend, a good listener. I miss everything about her."

Waldman said it was Dorton's love that kept Vega alive. Laurie Huenteo, secretary to Christine Rice, the senior center's executive director, said Dorton was devoted to her mother. "Elly and her daughter were inseparable," Huenteo said. "Ivonne was a very loving daughter."

Although Vega was a centenarian, her death surprised some. "I was shocked she



Courtesy Carol Waldman

**ELLY VEGA, RIGHT**, always attended the events at the Glen Cove Senior Center. In her later years, her daughter, Ivonne Dorton, would accompany her. Vega died on Dec. 29.

died, which I know is ridiculous, because she's 104, but I just thought she would never die," said Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenbeck, who knew Vega well. "She was stunningly beautiful, and happy all the time."

Former City Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews said he never saw Vega not smiling, and he found it hard to fathom that she was over 100. Although their backgrounds were different, he said he felt connected to her.

"She was one of the kindest people I ever met," Stevenson-Mathews said. "What was important to her was family and caring and looking out for one another.

er. She was a great beacon for so many people."

Rice described Vega as the most loving and happy person she had ever met. Other senior center members gravitated toward Vega, Rice said. They were protective of her.

Dorton is now going through her mother's belongings, and said she would make sure they go to people who need them or those who helped her mother. She said she is fulfilling her mother's wishes.

"My mother taught me to be good to people, to care and to love everyone," Dorton said. "And she taught me to help someone if I could."



Courtesy GSM Communications

**FORMER CITY COUNCILMAN** Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews joined Vega at the Senior Center's Christmas luncheon last year.

## CRIME WATCH

### Arrests

- On Jan. 16, a 57-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for second degree criminal contempt.
- On Jan. 18, a 30-year-old male from Locust Valley was arrested on Forest Avenue by Glen Cove Police. The

defendant was wanted by Nassau County Police for second degree criminal contempt that occurred in Locust Valley.

- On Jan. 21, a 39-year-old female was arrested on St. Andrews Lane for fourth degree criminal mischief and harassment.

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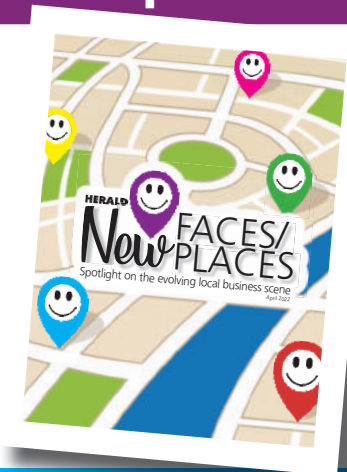
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1161466



# Suozzi: Governor Hochul failing to lead

Glen Cove resident Congressman Tom Suozzi, the Democratic candidate for governor, took Governor Hochul to task on Tuesday at a press conference in Manhattan for not taking immediate action to address the crime crisis in New York. Suozzi criticized Hochul for staying silent on the Manhattan District Attorney's controversial prosecution policy, fixing bail reform and voting against common sense gun safety laws as a member of Congress.

"Hochul's lack of action is an abdication of leadership and endangers police and innocent New Yorkers across the state," Suozzi said. "She has not put out a plan to comprehensively address the crime epidemic, she is silent on critical issues, such as bail reform and the Manhattan DA's controversial policy to not prosecute some crimes. And her ultra-conservative record in Congress is wholly out of step with how we need to tackle gun violence across the state."

In the month of January, five NYPD officers were shot, including two officers who were killed. Last week, an 11-month-old, two days away from her first birthday, was struck by a bullet in the Bronx, and earlier this month a 19-year old woman was shot and killed while working at Burger King in Manhattan.

During her short tenure in Washington, Hochul voted against several bills that would have strengthened gun safety in N.Y. and prevented the flow of firearms

from entering the state. She earned an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association and took campaign contributions from the gun lobby.

Among the legislation that Hochul voted in favor of was the federal bill to allow people to bring guns across state lines from outside of N.Y., a major challenge recently cited by New York City Mayor Eric Adams. She also bragged about her work to make it easier to purchase a firearm when she served as Erie County Clerk.

In addition to her conservative record in Congress, Hochul has since refused to take a position on whether she agrees with the Manhattan District Attorney's new controversial policy of downgrading armed robbery to a misdemeanor and not prosecuting resisting arrest.

To date, Hochul has not stated whether she believes the Manhattan DA meets this threshold or whether she agrees with the new directive. Suozzi has made it clear that as governor he would remove any DA who did not enforce the law.

Hochul has also refused to say what she will do to fix bail reform or if she will persuade the Legislature to act during the legislative session. Suozzi faulted her for refusing to say whether she believes judges should have more discretion or if judges should be permitted to take dangerousness into account.

## Suozzi State Action Plan

- Fix the bail reform law by allowing judges to take violent offenders off the street.
- Remove any DA who refuse to enforce the law.
- Implement a targeted "Stop, Question, and Frisk" program that respects civil liberties that will use only properly trained, certified officers and use statistical monitoring on use of force, and racial data.
- Improve juvenile justice records so judges have enough information on prior offenses.
- Sufficiently fund DA offices so they can implement the Discovery Process overhaul.
- Expand gun buybacks in coordination with community groups.
- Fully implement NY's Red Flag Law with an effective enforcement mechanism.
- Unite behind common sense federal legislation.
- Implement Nassau County's revolutionary "No Wrong Door" program statewide.
- Expand Kendra's Law to allow judges to get troubled people the help they need.
- Get better social services to children and families, especially in underserved areas.
- Hire more social workers who can provide compassion and tough love to struggling New Yorkers.
- Expand the SNUG neighborhood violence prevention program.

### As a way to remove guns off the street, the plan would:

- Create a tri-state commission to stop the flow of illegal guns into New York.
- Expand ShotSpotter to more areas of New York.

### The plan would also help vulnerable people to prevent future crimes. This would:

- Implement Nassau County's revolutionary "No Wrong Door" program statewide.
- Expand Kendra's Law to allow judges to get troubled people the help they need.
- Get better social services to children and families, especially in underserved areas.
- Hire more social workers who can provide compassion and tough love to struggling New Yorkers.
- Expand the SNUG neighborhood violence prevention program.

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LEGAL NOTICE  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
GLEN COVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT48th PROGRAM YEAR  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR  
9/1/22 - 8/31/23NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
that a public hearing will  
be held on Tuesday,  
February 8, 2022 during  
the Glen Cove City  
Council Meeting held at  
Glen Cove City Hall Main  
Chambers, 9 Glen Street,  
Glen Cove, NY that  
begins at 7:30 p.m.The purpose of this public  
hearing is to provide  
residents with an  
opportunity to propose  
activities for inclusion in  
the 2022-2023Community Development  
Block Grant Program for  
the City of Glen Cove  
pursuant to TITLE 1 of the  
Housing and Community  
Development Act of 1974,  
as amended, (Public Law  
93-383) and Title 24 of  
the Code of Federal  
Regulations (Part 570).  
These funds are made  
available through the  
Nassau County Urban  
Consortium, of which the  
City of Glen Cove is a  
member. All residents,  
non-profit organizations  
servicing the residents of  
the City of Glen Cove and  
other interested parties  
are invited to provide  
input and comments in  
person at the meeting or  
in writing by email to  
AFangmann@glencovecda.org or via U.S. mail to  
Ann Fangmann, Glen  
Cove Community  
Development Agency, 9  
Glen St., Glen Cove, NY  
11542. Comments will  
be received through February  
22, 2022.Electronic version of the  
application will be  
emailed to all existing  
public service agency  
program participants and  
may also be found on the  
Glen Cove Community  
Development Agency  
website at:  
www.glencovecda.org -  
click on "Applications  
and Forms."Applicants must attend  
an on-line workshop via  
Microsoft Teams to apply  
for funding on Thursday,  
February 10th at 3PM.  
Information to join the  
meeting via livestream or  
conference call can be  
found on the Glen Cove  
Community Development  
Agency website calendar:  
http://glencovecda.org/cal  
endar/One electronic copy and  
one hard copy with  
required attachments  
must be received by 3PM  
on Thursday, February 24,  
2022 to  
CByrne@glencovecda.org -  
Glen Cove CDA, Room  
304, City Hall - 9 Glen St.,  
Glen Cove, NY 11542.For further information or  
to provide comments,  
contact Camille Byrne,  
Executive Assistant of the  
Glen Cove Community  
Development Agency at  
516-676-1625 or via  
email to  
CByrne@glencovecda.org  
Glen Cove Herald Gazette  
Publication Date: 1/28/22Posted: City Hall & CDA  
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www.newyorkpublicnotices.comLEGAL NOTICE  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF  
NASSAU COUNTY  
TREASURER'S  
SALE OF TAX LIENS ON  
REAL ESTATENotice is hereby given  
that commencing on  
February 15th, 2022, will  
sell at public on-line  
auction the tax liens on  
certain real estate, unless  
the owner, mortgagee,  
occupant of or any other  
party in interest in such  
real estate shall have paid  
to the County Treasurer  
by February 11th, 2022  
the total amount of such  
unpaid taxes or  
assessments with the  
interest, penalties and  
other expenses and  
charges against the  
property.Such tax liens will be sold  
at the lowest rate of  
interest, not exceeding 10  
percent per six-month  
period, for which any  
person or persons shall  
offer to take the total  
amount of such unpaid  
taxes as defined in  
Section 5-37.0 of the  
Nassau County  
Administrative Code.Effective with the  
February 2019 lien sale  
Ordinance No. 175-2015  
requires a \$175.00 per  
day registration fee for  
each person who intends  
to bid at the tax lien sale.  
Ordinance No. 175-2015  
also requires that upon  
the issuance of the Lien  
Certificate there is due  
from the lien buyer a Tax  
Certificate Issue Fee of  
\$20.00 per lien  
purchased. Pursuant to  
the provisions of the  
Nassau County  
Administrative Code at  
the discretion of the  
Nassau County Treasurer  
the auction will be  
conducted online. Further  
information concerning  
the procedures for the  
auction is available at the  
website of the Nassau  
County Treasurer at:  
https://www.nassaucount  
yny.gov/526/County-  
TreasurerShould the Treasurer  
determine that an in-  
person auction shall be  
held, same will  
commence on the 15th  
day of February 2022 at  
the Office of The County  
Treasurer 1 West Street,  
Mineola or at some other  
location to be determined  
by the Treasurer.A list of all real estate in  
Nassau County on which  
tax liens are to be sold is  
available at the website  
of the Nassau County  
Treasurer at:  
http://www.nassaucounty  
ny.gov/DocumentCenter/  
View/17674A list of local properties  
upon which tax liens are  
to be sold will be  
advertised in this  
publication on or before  
February 03rd, 2022.Nassau County does not  
discriminate on the basis  
of disability in admission  
to or access to, or  
treatment or employment  
in, its services, programs,  
or activities. Upon  
request, accommodations  
such as those required by  
the Americans with  
Disabilities Act (ADA) will  
be provided to enable  
individuals with  
disabilities to participate  
in all services, programs,  
activities and public  
hearings and events  
conducted by the  
Treasurer's Office. Upon  
request, information can  
be made available in  
Braille, large print, audio-  
tape or other alternative  
formats. For additional  
information, please call  
(516) 571-2090 ext.  
1-3715.Dated: January 12, 2022  
THE NASSAU COUNTY  
TREASURER  
Mineola, NewYorkTERMS OF SALE  
Such tax liens shall be  
sold subject to any and all  
superior tax liens of  
sovereignities and other  
municipalities and to all  
claims of record which  
the County may have  
thereon and subject to  
the provisions of the  
Federal and State  
Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil  
Relief Acts.However, such tax liens  
shall have priority over  
the County's Differential  
Interest Lien, representing  
the excess, if any, of the  
interest and penalty  
borne at the maximum  
rate over the interest and  
penalty borne at the rate  
at which the lien is  
purchased.The Purchaser  
acknowledges that the  
tax lien(s) sold pursuant  
to these Terms of Sale  
may be subject to  
pending bankruptcy  
proceedings and/or may  
become subject to such  
proceedings which may  
be commenced during the  
period in which a tax lien  
is held by a successful  
bidder or the assignee of  
same, which may modify  
a Purchaser's rights with  
respect to the lien(s) and  
the property securing  
same. Such bankruptcy  
proceedings shall not  
affect the validity of the  
tax lien. In addition to  
being subject to pending  
bankruptcy proceedings  
and/or the Federal and  
State Soldiers' and  
Sailors' Civil Relief Acts,  
said purchaser's right of  
foreclosure may be  
affected by the Financial  
Institutions Reform,  
Recovery and  
Enforcement  
Act(FIRREA),12 U.S.C. ss  
1811 et.seq., with regard  
to real property under  
Federal Deposit Insurance  
Corporation(FDIC)  
receivership.The County Treasurer  
reserves the right,  
without further notice  
and at any time, to  
withdraw from sale any  
of the parcels of land or  
premises herein listed.  
The Nassau County  
Treasurer reserves theright to intervene in any  
bankruptcy case/litigation  
where the property  
affected by the tax liens  
sold by the Treasurer is  
part of the bankruptcy  
estate. However, it is the  
sole responsibility of all  
tax lien purchasers to  
protect their legal  
interests in any  
bankruptcy case affecting  
their purchased tax lien,  
including but not limited  
to the filing of a proof of  
claim on their behalf,  
covering their investment  
in said tax lien. The  
Nassau County Treasurer  
and its agencies, assumes  
no responsibility for any  
legal representation of  
any tax lien purchaser in  
any legal proceeding  
including but not limited  
to a bankruptcy case  
where the purchased tax  
lien is at risk.The rate of interest and  
penalty at which any  
person purchases the tax  
lien shall be established  
by his bid. Each  
purchaser, immediately  
after the sale thereof,  
shall pay to the County  
Treasurer ten per cent of  
the amount for which the  
tax liens have been sold  
and the remaining ninety  
per cent within thirty days  
after such sale. If the  
purchaser at the tax sale  
shall fail to pay the  
remaining ninety per cent  
within ten days after he  
has been notified by the  
County Treasurer that the  
certificates of sale are  
ready for delivery, then all  
amounts deposited with  
the County Treasurer  
including but not limited  
to the ten per cent  
theretofore paid by him  
shall, without further  
notice or demand, be  
irrevocably forfeited by  
the purchaser and shall  
be retained by the County  
Treasurer as liquidated  
damages and the  
agreement to purchase  
shall be of no further  
effect. Time is of the  
essence in this sale. This  
sale is held pursuant to  
the Nassau County  
Administrative Code and  
interested parties are  
referred to such Code for  
additional information as  
to terms of the sale,  
rights of purchasers,  
maximum rates of  
interest and other legal  
incidents of the sale.Furthermore, as to the  
bidding,  
1. The bidder(s) agree  
that they will not work  
with any other bidder(s)  
to increase, maintain or  
stabilize interest rates or  
collaborate with any  
other bidder(s) to gain an  
unfair competitive  
advantage in the random  
number generator in the  
event of a tie bid(s) on a  
tax certificate. Bidder(s)  
further agree not to  
employ any bidding  
strategy designed to  
create an unfair  
competitive advantage in  
the tiebreaking process in  
the upcoming tax sale nor  
work with any other  
bidder(s) to engage in any  
bidding strategy that will  
result in a rotationalaward of tax certificates.  
2. The tax certificate(s)  
the Bidder will bid upon,  
and the interest rate(s)  
bid, will be arrived at  
independently and  
without direct or indirect  
consultation,  
communication or  
agreement with any other  
bidder and that the tax  
certificate(s) the Bidder  
will bid upon, and the  
interest rate(s) to be bid,  
have not been disclosed,  
directly or indirectly, to  
any other bidder, and will  
not be disclosed, directly  
or indirectly, to any other  
bidder prior to the close  
of bidding. No attempt  
has been made or will be  
made to, directly or  
indirectly, induce any  
other bidder to refrain  
from bidding on any tax  
certificate, to submit  
complementary bids, or to  
submit bids at specific  
interest rates.directly or indirectly, to  
any other bidder, and will  
not be disclosed, directly  
or indirectly, to any other  
bidder prior to the close  
of bidding. No attempt  
has been made or will be  
made to, directly or  
indirectly, induce any  
other bidder to refrain  
from bidding on any tax  
certificate, to submit  
complementary bids, or to  
submit bids at specific  
interest rates.3. The bids to be placed  
by the Bidder will be  
made in good faith and  
not pursuant to any direct  
or indirect, agreement or  
discussion with, or  
inducement from, any  
other bidder to submit a  
complementary or other  
noncompetitive bid.4. If it is determined that  
the bidder(s) have  
violated any of these bid  
requirements then their  
bid shall be voided and if  
they were the successful  
bidder the lien and any  
deposits made in  
connection with said bid  
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## OBITUARIES

## Kevin Patrick Casey

Kevin Patrick Casey, 63, of Long  
Beach, formerly of Glen Head, died on  
Jan. 23 from kidney disease. He was the  
eldest son of John and Eileen Casey  
who predeceased him. He is survived by  
his sisters, Mary Anne Wonn (Dave) and  
Eileen Marshall (Jeff); brothers, John  
(Ann Marie), and Michael (Donna); and  
many nieces and nephews.He was raised in Elmont, N.Y. After  
living and working in Glen Head for  
over 20 years he moved to Long Beach,  
N.Y. Kevin was a loving son, brother,  
uncle and friend. He was an inspiration  
to many.There will be a viewing at Christo-  
pher Jordan Funeral Home, Island Park,  
N.Y. on Friday, Jan. 28 from 8:30 to 10:30  
a.m. Mass of Christian burial at St.  
Ignatius Martyr Church, Long Beach at  
11 a.m.

## Harry B. Waller Jr.

Harry B. Waller Jr., 75, of Glen Cove,  
died on Jan. 15. Beloved father of  
Michelle Seaman and Mingyong Waller;  
dear brother of Eddie Waller, Dolores  
Waller, the late Ora Waller, and Linda  
Berry. Cherished grandfather of Marina  
Vasquez and Charles Hackley Jr.  
(Kiera). Adored great-grandfather of  
Xylah Hackley. Arrangements and ser-  
vice entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funer-  
al Home. Interment at Calverton Nation-  
al Cemetery.

## Florence K. Lane

Florence K. Lane, 95, of Glen Cove,  
died on Jan. 22. Beloved wife of the late  
Jack; cherished mother of Stephen  
(Jeanie), Frances Staab (Tommy) and  
the late Joseph (Eva); loving sister of  
the late Charles (the late Jean). Dearest  
grandma of John, Timothy, and Joseph.  
Also survived by cousins, a niece, and  
good friends. Florence was the kindest,  
sweetest and most devout woman. She  
will be dearly missed. Visitation held at  
Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Mass  
held at St. Rocco's Church. Internment  
at St. Charles Cemetery.

## Madeline A. McAleer

Madeline A. McAleer, 84, of Locust  
Valley, died on Jan. 21. Beloved wife of  
James L.; loving mother of Dawn A.  
(Pat), the late James F. (Helen) and Lau-  
rie (Richard). Proud grandmother of  
Jessica, Heather, and Ashley. Visitation  
at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Mass  
at St. Rocco's Roman Catholic Church.  
Entombment at Holy Rood Cemetery.

## James Flood Stebbins

James Flood Stebbins, 90, of Mutton-  
town, died from complications of Covid on  
Jan. 9. Born in Manhattan to Theodore  
Ellis Stebbins and Mary Emma Flood Steb-  
bins, a sculptor; Stebbins lived in his child-  
hood home in Muttontown. Despite having  
dyslexia, he attended Salisbury School and  
graduated from Trinity College in three  
years. He handled his disabilities with dig-  
nity and determination.An ardent patriot, Stebbins served in  
the Air Force. He was president of the  
Sons of the Revolution and a Peace Officer  
in New York, a member of the Military  
Order Loyal Legion of the U.S., and deputy  
sheriff of Rockland County.Like his father, Stebbins enjoyed hunt-  
ing and fly fishing, especially at the Aus-  
able Club. He also valued the camaraderie  
at the Brook, the Saratoga Reading Room,  
Meadow Brook Club, Seawanhaka Corin-  
thian Yacht Club and Piping Rock Club,  
where he was a member for over 60  
years. His love for dogs and his commit-  
ment to their humane welfare led to his  
appointment as chairman of the ASPCA,  
president of The Leash, and most proudly,  
treasurer of Westminster Kennel Club, to  
which he dedicated 50 years.His career began at Hoppin, Watson  
Inc., before he and Walter L. Ross II found-  
ed Ross, Stebbins, Schellbach, Inc., a N.Y.  
Stock Exchange firm.Stebbins was predeceased by his  
beloved sister, Jane Stebbins Greenleaf. He  
is survived by his devoted wife, Cynthia;  
brother, Theodore E. Stebbins Jr.; sons,  
Edwin E. F. Stebbins and Richard R. Steb-  
bins, from a previous marriage; grand-  
daughter, Taylor S. Stebbins; grandson,  
Spencer J.F. Stebbins; and his dog, Cassie.Gifts in Jim's memory may be made to  
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## OPINIONS

## Governor Hochul's timely arrival

**A**s a former state official, I get many questions from readers, clients and friends about our political leaders. Lately, the most frequent one is, what do I think of Gov. Kathy Hochul? The short answer is I think she's great, but there's more to it, based on the fact that I've been following



**JERRY  
KREMER**

state politics for almost 66 years. Governors come and go, and many of them attract little or no attention. I have seen a lot of governors, from afar and up close. My first sighting was in 1959, when W. Averell Harriman attended a Democratic cocktail party in Lido Beach. While finishing law school, I was working as a part-time reporter for a weekly newspaper, and met Governor Harriman for a brief interview. He was a tall, patrician figure who held many government posts before becoming the state's 48th governor, but he attracted little attention from the public.

Nelson Rockefeller succeeded Harriman. Rockefeller was a man of many tal-

ents, and like Harriman, was the son of a billionaire. In his time he was a political rock star, and he brought a great deal of attention to the position. He built the Albany government complex, and spent your money like it was his. I met him frequently as a new state legislator and he had that rare quality known as gravitas.

His successor, Malcolm Wilson, served for only a few months after Rockefeller resigned before losing to former Congressman Hugh Carey. Carey was a jovial and highly competent public servant who successfully took on many challenging projects, while occasionally battling with his own Democratic Legislature. His Irish charm made him well known around the state for two terms in office.

Carey was succeeded by Mario Cuomo. Cuomo was one of the state's most liberal governors, which often put him at odds with the Legislature. He was known for his brilliant oratory, and he turned down the chance to run for president as well as membership on the U.S. Supreme Court. When I was chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, we sometimes butted heads, but always stayed friends.

Cuomo served three terms, but as is

the case with all long-tenured officials, the public eventually gets tired of you, and, seeking a fourth term, he lost to Republican George Pataki. Pataki never gained the notoriety of his predecessor, but he was known to be a hardworking

official. During his time in office, he supervised the takeover of the Long Island Lighting Company and helped set up the Long Island Power Authority.

Then, in the space of three years, New York had two new governors. In 2007, Eliot Spitzer came into office with a bold agenda, but personal issues drove him from power the following year, and Lt. Governor David Paterson succeeded him. A native Long Islander, Paterson was a bright, sharp-tongued elected official, but he failed to win his party's nomination and he stepped aside for Andrew Cuomo.

Unlike many of his predecessors, the younger Cuomo quickly became a well-known figure. He attracted national attention last year, when the coronavirus pandemic gave him the opportunity to be a television star. Whether they are pro- or anti-Cuomo, fair-minded people will acknowledge that he became another

Robert Moses, completing major projects that no other governor would dare undertake.

Last August, Cuomo resigned in disgrace and was succeeded by Hochul, his lieutenant governor and a seasoned western-New York political figure. She has swiftly embraced her new role as the state's first woman governor. Her success to date is primarily due to the fact that she is experienced in handling people issues, both at a national and local level. She has attracted strong financial support from the state's power brokers because they like her personal style.

While few are counting, she has made over 75 appearances in downstate New York, and has displayed wit and charm while manifesting take-charge talents. Upstate New Yorkers are big supporters, because she acts and talks like one of them. There is no doubt in my mind, based on all the governors in my life, that she is the right person for the job at the right time.

*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.*

## Greatest hits from this month's read-a-thon

**E**very book ever written is about the pandemic — at least that's what I'm discovering after trying to escape the here and now through fiction.

Honestly, I could read "Dick and Jane Go to School" and I would be thinking, not so fast, kids. Where are your masks?



**RANDI  
KREISS**

Everything we do, everything we read, every plan for the future is now viewed through the prism of the ongoing health crisis. But that's OK. We always bring our own lives to the first page of a new book.

Reading is a diversion, but alas, it is not an escape.

I read four books this month, which I chose specifically because I hoped to get away from the grind of the daily news and from other books featuring pandemics, natural disasters, environmental catastrophes and family trauma. Ultimately, my choices did not offer escape from the moment, but they did offer comfort, and the knowledge that painful life challenges are part of the human condition.

Because my attention span is a casualty of pandemic anxiety, I selected relatively short books. I want to read Jonathan Franzen's "Crossroads," for example, but I'm not yet up for a nearly 600-page read.

My first choice was "Midnight in the Library," by Matt Haig. A young woman decides to end her life, and winds up in a kind of supernatural middle space called the library, managed by a kindly old librarian who may or may not be her former teacher, or God. She has the chance, then, to choose other lives she might have lived, and is transported into those lives to try them out.

Despite the serious theme, the writing is clever and entertaining. Naturally, it made me think about my own what-ifs. Over the past two pandemic years, who didn't feel like clicking their ruby slippers and going back to a pre-Covid world? Who didn't romanticize other un-lived lives?

I also read "Klara and the Sun," by Kazuo Ishiguro. The story imagines a future in which parents can purchase artificial friend robots, or AF's, for their kids. Children spend all their time indoors, learning on screens called

"oblongs." They attend special classes to learn how to socialize with their friends because their lives are so solitary.

I thought the robot story would be so removed from real life that it would offer distraction. However, the lives of the children in "Klara and the Sun" are prophetic of this exact time in history, when children are isolated and suffering from that isolation. Again, the novelist had his ear to the ground in a way no one could have predicted. His descriptions of a future dystopian society are prescient in many disturbing ways.

None of these novels can offer a flying carpet out of our own predicaments. What they can do, and it's worth the ride, is validate the richness of the human experience and offer hope.

My third suggestion is "Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line," by Deepa Anappara. This story had the best chance of getting me out of my head and into the life of the 9-year-old Indian narrator who hopes to solve the mystery of disappearing children in his "basti," or slum neighborhood. Strangely, the novel is buoyant and funny and ultimately hopeful, although it follows a tragic series of events. The joy was in the narrative "voice" of the

young boy, whose observations of adult behavior are keen and funny.

I enjoyed the immersion in the sensory kaleidoscope that is India. The story depicts, too, the contrast of the "hi-fi" rich people who live in the "hi-fi" buildings outside the slums. So, before long, I was thinking about how our own home-grown disparities in wealth alter the experience of living through a global pandemic.

The last book I read this month was "Northern Spy," by Flynn Berry, a thriller about the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the divisions within the population and the mistrust between the IRA and the Brits. Countrymen and women turned against one another. Families divided over politics. Governments abusing their power. Politicians lying to their constituents and choosing personal power over service to the voters. Sound familiar?

The descriptions of scenery along the coast near Belfast are stunning. And the story is a page-turner. Of course, it also brought home the destabilizing political division in our own country.

Perhaps we cannot read to escape. No matter. We read to know that others survive tragedies. We read for the comfort of knowing that we are not alone.

*Copyright 2022 Randi Kreiss. Randi can be reached at randik3@aol.com.*

**I**n 'Klara and the Sun,' the children's lives are prophetic of this exact time in history.



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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## N.Y. reaps benefits of federal infrastructure bill

**S**peaking last Friday in Woodbury before the Long Island Association, Gov. Kathy Hochul devoted much of her speech, delivered with characteristically biting humor, to touting the array of projects now in the planning stages that were made possible by the Biden administration's signature achievement to date, the \$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The measure, passed late last year, will mean tens of billions of dollars for infrastructure improvement across New York state, including here on Long Island.

For starters, Hochul said, New York will invest \$1 billion in short order to fix potholes on our state thoroughfares. Potholes, she noted, cost New Yorkers an average of \$635 a year in

repairs. "I have a personal experience with every single pothole," the governor remarked, half-jokingly.

The infrastructure bill will also provide \$32.8 billion to repair and restructure New York's crumbling roads and bridges, including \$103.4 million for Nassau County.

New York will receive \$9.8 billion to modernize public transportation systems, making them cleaner and more efficient. Long Island MacArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma, for example, will receive \$40 million to improve and further develop terminals, improving the flight experience of many Long Islanders there.

Some \$500 million will go to develop sustainable offshore wind farms in the Atlantic Ocean, providing clean energy for New Yorkers for generations to come and helping to protect Earth

against climate change. The wind farms will also mean hundreds, even thousands, of high-paying, high-tech jobs for Long Islanders.

And New York is set to receive \$175 million to build out a network of electric-vehicle charging stations across the state, reducing or eliminating gasoline costs for those with electric cars and helping to fight climate change.

We could go on and on.

The federal investment in New York transportation and electric systems will reap benefits for years, even decades, to come. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act tells us, in no uncertain terms, that good things happen when Democrats and Republicans work together. We, the people, expect — demand — more such examples of bipartisanship in Congress.

## LETTERS

### Celebrate Black History Month

To the Editor:

We celebrate the month of February as Black History Month, a time of reflection on the history and accomplishments of our African-American brothers and sisters. We focus on progress and diversity as well as celebrating vast achievements and contributions that have been vital in building our strong and vibrant nation. In this month, we listen and learn from the brilliance of African-American writers, poets, thought leaders, musicians, athletes, scientists, physicians, entrepreneurs, ministers of faith, as they speak with eloquence on the African-American experience of accomplishment in spite of struggle, pain, and inequality endured on the historical road to freedom. And in this month we celebrate Maya Angelou becoming the first African-American woman to appear on the U.S. quarter as the U.S. Mint begins distribution.

History can give us the answers to the questions we ask of one another. Black History Month is an opportunity to educate ourselves so we can have conversations that can help bridge the gap of inequality. Embracing this rich history can ensure that we don't repeat hurtful injustices of the past, but instead, we can work together to create a story of love, hope and understanding as one humankind. Black history is American history, and since



1976, when President Gerald Ford proclaimed February as Black History Month, we have become richer for what we have discovered and learned since that first proclamation.

We hold close the words of James Baldwin, African-American writer/poet and activist:

"It is not a romantic matter. It is the unutterable truth: All men are brothers. That's the bottom line."

CYNTHIA SILLETTI

City of Glen Cove Democratic Committee

### 'Uninformed' is too strong a word

To the Editor:

Re Dr. Michael Ludwig's letter to the editor, "Blakeman's decision is 'misguided'" (Jan. 13-19):

Dr. Ludwig's unhappiness with the way the race for Nassau County executive went last November is apparent, with name-calling. Two dozen "blue" cities have defied federal law over



## OPINIONS

## Rape victims need counseling. They also need justice.

**B**efore I started working for the *Heralds* last year, a coworker raped me at a previous job. I didn't immediately report it to police. I didn't tell my family in Puerto Rico, or my then husband. I didn't keep the torn dress or the photos of the bruises.

With only 31 percent of rapes reported to police, according to the Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network, we need to empower rape victims to seek justice in a system that they believe is fair and equitable — and one in which they feel safe and supported. Under the current system, though, for every 1,000 sexual assaults that are



**CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ**

reported, only 25 perpetrators will be incarcerated, according to RAINN. My story is not a 0.025 percent story.

Six months after I was raped, I received a screenshot from a different coworker in which my rapist mentioned me by name, saying he hadn't raped me, that it was consensual. He also mentioned two other women, as if listing membership in a club one out of five women join against their will.

I reached out to the women. One answered. She said he had bought her

drinks, and she awoke the next morning, unable to remember the night before, to a text from him that read, "Thanks for sex, hope you remember."

That was when I decided to call the police. Late one night, four male officers came to my home to write a report. I told them about the man who raped me and the other woman, that he had admitted two weeks after the incident that he raped me, and that I suspected he might have done the same to others, based on this woman's report and the text he sent her.

The police dismissed my rape allegation as "sex," asking, "When did he have sex with you? Did anybody else witness you having sex? Had you had sex before with him? Finally, they offered me a counseling services number.

A few weeks later, I met with a special-crimes detective for three interviews. I shared texts and named witnesses to the crime. The detective tried to contact my rapist but could not. I was offered counseling services pamphlets.

Not only did I relieve the trauma, but I also had to endure victim blaming, with police saying, "Maybe you agreed, but you don't remember?" "Are you sure you weren't in a relationship with him?" "You both made bad decisions that night." "You should talk to someone — RAINN offers

great counseling services."

The detective interviewed witnesses who had told me they saw what happened, but no one would admit to authorities that they had seen anything. A year and half later, after I had quit my job because I

didn't want to run into my rapist, he posted on social media that he had exacted revenge on me, calling me a terrible person and himself a "genius." I immediately went to the police. They said they could do nothing, because my rapist was never arrested and the harassment wasn't chronic. I tried to get a restraining order but couldn't, because he wasn't related to me or my live-in boyfriend.

Police said I should've reported the rape when it happened, and again referred me to counseling.

Now my rapist still works in the same place. I walk with my keys between my fingers toward my car, and check the back seat. I pretend to be on my phone when I walk alone at night, having 911 pre-dialed. And I keep an aluminum bat nearby at home.

For rape victims, no amount of therapy offers the healing that justice can. Our justice system and social institutions are fraught, however, with puritanical misbeliefs about female sexuality — the woman is almost always to blame — and a history

of categorizing women as property, both of which fuel rape.

New York made some progress in 2020 when the Democratically controlled State Senate passed a bill to prohibit a rape suspect from using an alleged victim's intoxication as a defense in court. But the measure failed to pass the Assembly, also controlled by Democrats, signaling to women that our Legislature, dominated by men, cannot protect us.

Want to hold rapists accountable? Stop asking their victims why they waited to report. Instead, call out men when they objectify women; advocate for greater female representation in formal and informal organizations, especially in leadership; unionize for living wages and work-life balance; and vote for elected leaders that will support women's autonomy.

Victims cannot trust systems that fail them, at best, and retraumatize them, at worst. Once women gain a degree of financial and workplace autonomy and equitable systemic power, particularly in government, our institutions will change. Then, we hope, our criminal justice system will become a safe place for women to come forward.

*Cristina Arroyo Rodriguez is editor of the Baldwin Herald. She has also lectured in psychology at Baruch College and Bronx Community College in the City University of New York, and has taught Master Executive classes for NYPD leadership at John Jay College.*

**T**o hold rapists accountable, stop asking victims why they waited to report.

## LETTERS

enforcement of immigration laws, so let's not be naive. In his letter, Ludwig comes off like Hillary Clinton when she referred to conservatives as "deplorables."

"Uninformed" is a strong grade to apply to anyone who isn't a liberal. I'm not disappointed by such daily attacks. People should, however, use their brains before they engage their mouths.

We are Americans with some slightly different views. The ballot box is the field of honor. We should not defame one another.

ROBERT F. CASALE  
*Glen Head*

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## FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



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