

HERALD

Hometown Heroes Yearbook Inside



Chamber installs new officers

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Birthdays marked at senior center

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Courtesy Derek Grosso

DOMINICK GROSSO, HOLDING trophy, coached the Glen Cove Comanches in the 1980s.

'Coach' Dominick Grosso dies

Fixture of G.C. baseball impacted kids' lives

BY LETISHA DASS

ldass@liherald.com

Dominick Grosso, 77, known not only in Glen Cove but across Long Island simply as Coach, was laid to rest at St. Charles Cemetery in Farmingdale on Feb. 3. He died on Jan. 28, having had Stage 4 Hodgkin's lymphoma. Late last month he was admitted to Glen Cove Hospital for a lung infection, and after about a week he was transferred to Long Island Jewish Hospital, in New

Hyde Park, where he died.

"Unfortunately, he had a variety of other illnesses, [so] if things weren't attacking one part of his body, they were attacking another," said former Glen Cove Mayor Reggie Spinello, Grosso's brother-in-law. "A lot of people never realized how sick he was."

Grosso was a Vietnam veteran, and worked in New York City's Department of Sanitation until his retirement. His son, Derek, described him as a people

person who would chat with anyone he met, from sanitation workers to grocery clerks, and who was always looking for a good laugh.

"He was a big presence," Derek said. ". . . He was boisterous. He had a lot of things to say. But he wasn't, like, intimidating."

Last summer, Derek took two weeks off from work to take his father and mother, Diana, to Atlantic City. Gambling was a favorite pastime

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Hochul: End zoning focus on single families

BY LAURA LANE

llane@liherald.com

Will there be an end to the residential landscape that people in New York state take for granted?

Gov. Kathy Hochul included a \$25 billion plan in her Jan. 5 State of the State Address that could eliminate singlefamily zoning laws and direct municipalities to allow "accessory dwelling units" on owneroccupied lots in residential zones. Put more simply, apartments would be encouraged, and local governments would not have the power to stop them.

An email on Monday from Hochul's press office said her proposal does not end single-family

zoning. Its purpose is to give homeowners freedom to create an ADU on their property. The units could be basement, garage or attic apartments, or separate units adjacent to their singlefamily homes. The size of the units would be subject to regulatory limits.

don't believe

away the zoning

control for local

in taking

government,

and I don't

eliminating

home rule.

TOM SUOZZI

U.S. REP.

believe in

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, a Democrat who is running for governor, held a virtual news conference on Jan. 27 at which he criticized Hochul's plan, and he was

supported by town supervisors, several mayors and civic leaders from Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester and Queens.

"The end of single housing in New York state — that sounds like a pretty dramatic change," Suozzi said. "I don't believe in taking away the zoning control for local government, and I don't believe in eliminating home rule. And I don't believe the governor of New York or the State Senate and Assembly should impose their will upon local gov-

ernment. I will fight against this."

Assemblyman Michael Montesano, a Republican from Glen Head, said on Feb. 3 that he would not vote for such a measure. The elimination of single-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





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HERALD NEIGHBORS



GAITLEY STEVENSON-MATTHEWS, FAR left, board leader, Thomas Bunger, treasurer, Jamé Krauter, vice president, Matt Nartowicz, president, Maxine Cappel Mayreis, vice president, Mary Stanco, board leader and community liaison, and Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante, member of the board of directors, were sworn into Glen Cove City's Chamber of Commerce by Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck.

G.C. Chamber of Commerce has a new president

he Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce has a new president, Matt Nartowicz, formerly board leader of the chamber and senior vice president of American Community Bank. Nartowicz and his fellow members were officially sworn into Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce by Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck at Sweet Mandarin on Jan. 26. Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante, director of dermatology at Greenberg Cosmetic Surgery & Dermatology, has rejoined the chamber's board

of directors, along with new board leader, Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews, a freelance communications professional and speech coach.

Nartowicz has a threefold plan to help Glen Cove businesses during his term as president: to support the chambers and its member; promote businesses through social media and local advertising; and help business owners network.



Courtesy GSM Communications

THOMAS BUNGER, LEFT, the chamber's treasure, Florence Barbour, executive director of Harbor Child Care, and Erica Giddens, director of Harbor Child Care, networked.



Courtesy GSM Communication

CLIFF KRAUTER, LEFT, Chamber of Commerce's director of business development, and Councilwoman Barbara Peebles spoke at the chamber's first meeting.



Courtesy GSM Communications

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON, left, and Ron Roel, president of Roel Resources, attended the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce meeting at Sweet Mandarin on Jan 26.



Courtesy GSM Communication

JAMÉ KRAUTER, LEFT, vice president, and Ernie Feliciano, board leader, discussed chamber business at the meeting.

Apartments in residential neighborhoods?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

family zoning laws would be an example, Montesano said, of an unpopular bill being included in something that people want to vote for — in this case, in the budget.

"This is all coming together now, and mayors are contacting me," Montesano said. "It's going to be a big issue, and is just catching fire now."

Hazel Crampton-Hays, Hochul's press secretary, said the five-year plan would create and preserve 100,000 affordable dwellings, making affordable housing more accessible and stable.

"The proposed bill would not end single-family zoning," Crampton-Hays said, "but would further the rights of individual homeowners to determine how best to use their property by providing homeowners on fixed incomes the opportunity to have additional rental income to stay in their homes or create multi-generational housing to care for elderly relatives, and would allow municipalities to require necessary health and safety measures for new units."

The reason such a change is needed, proponents like Hochul say, is the shortage of affordable housing across the state. But Suozzi said that the elimination of single-family zoning laws isn't necessary, because there are efforts in the works to create more affordable housing, which he supports. A resident of Glen Cove, he said he has been fighting for affordable housing his entire career, including when he was mayor of Glen Cove, from 1994 to 2001, and Nassau county executive, from 2002 to 2009.

When he was mayor, Suozzi said, there was more two-family housing and affordable housing in Glen Cove than anywhere else on Long Island, and he added that he was very familiar with the need for



Courtesy Tony Galleg

U.S. REP. TOM Suozzi, who is running for governor, said he doesn't support Gov. Kathy Hochul's zoning plan and will fight it.

affordable housing.

"We have to work on it, and on segregated neighborhoods," he said. "But to take the power of local government away is not the way to do it."

Mike Schilliro, the town supervisor of North Castle, in Westchester County, said the change would raise quality-of-life issues in his area. Two-family units are already legal. In Hochul's proposal, four-family units would be permitted in North Castle, making already problematic parking conditions worse.

"We are responsible for our communities and know what the impact will be," Schilliro said. "What worries me is that there is money in the budget this year, which there wasn't last year. This could change our lives."

The Nassau County Village Officials

Governor Hochul's housing plan

- It will give homeowners the freedom to choose whether to create an accessory dwelling unit on their property. It does not end single-family zoning.
- The accessory units can be basement, garage or attic apartments, or separate units built adjacent to the primary residence in single-family zoned areas. The size of the units would be subject to regulatory limits.
- Municipalities will be able to require health and safety measures for new ADUs, and can restrict their use (ex. in areas with flood risks).
- The plan includes an allocation of \$85 million over five years for municipalities and nonprofits to create loans or grants to legalize or create new ADUs.

Courtesy office of Gov. Kathy Hochul

Association represents 64 villages and some 475,000 residents. Brookville Mayor Daniel Serota, who is also president of the association, said he couldn't imagine any villages supporting Hochul's plan. "This is a separate issue, and doesn't belong in the budget, and it's completely insane," he said. "It's not one-size-fits-all. You need vetting and discussion."

Hochul has said that ending single-family zoning will create the option of multi-generational housing. Homeowners would be able to tap into an additional revenue stream that could help them stay in their homes, which would be beneficial for seniors and those on fixed incomes, she said.

But land use advocate Paul Graziano, of Queens, said that so-called mother/daughter units are already legal in Nassau County.

"There is nothing affordable about ADUs," Graziano said. "This is about increasing housing supply. It has more to do with unleashing chaos in communities that don't have the infrastructure to deal

with this, not to mention increasing land use value and housing prices."

Hochul's plan would dramatically change the character of Upper Brookville, Mayor Elliot Conway said. "Upper Brookville has been shaped by a 90-year history of zoning," he said. "Doubling the density will tax the infrastructure that's already in need of renewal. Think about it. [More] police protection, more traffic, so roads will wear out quicker, more solid waste disposal and garbage — we already have an issue on landfills. And the possible pollution of our aquifers, which is 100 percent of the source of our clean water for drinking. All that means higher taxes."

Graziano said that Hochul's idea was an existential threat to a large percentage of the state's population. "The last time something like this happened was when Robert Moses was still running the show in the 1940s and '50s," Graziano said, "when he just bulldozered over local government and made decisions like this."



Getting married?

Email execeditor@liherald.com to put your engagement, wedding or baby announcement in the paper



New infections for the week: 85

Total infections to date: 7.512



HOW TO REACH US

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Grosso was source of love and laughter for many

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

of Dominick's, and especially poker, so he enjoyed spending hours at the casinos with his son. Diana Grosso said that was the highlight of the vacation for her husband. It was the last time Derek spent time with him outside a hospital.

Grosso was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens. After he married Diana, whose family has lived in Glen Cove for generations, he made the city his home, and became known for his involvement in the community.

As a coach for Glen Cove Junior Baseball and Softball since the 1980s, Grosso made an impact on many players' lives. According to those who knew him, he loved being a mentor to the athletes. At his funeral, some of his former players described him as a second father.

"I couldn't believe how many of them were there to pay their respects," Spinello said. "He had a way with these kids of being firm, yet gentle at the same time. He made them all feel they were the most important person on the whole team."

Throughout Spinello's mayoralty, Grosso lent his support. And, Derek said, City Council members got his father's help, too, because he knew what was going on in Glen Cove, and kept them informed. "He would coach them," Derek

Diana took care of her husband every day, their son said, taking him to doctors'



DOMINICK AND DIANA Grosso were married for almost 48 years.

appointments and managing his medica-

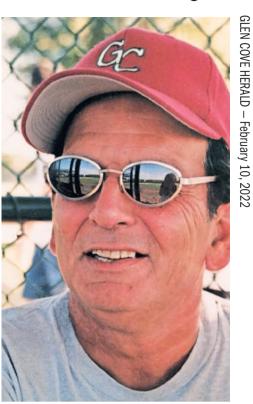
tions. "He would never want to be away

from my mom for, like, a second," Derek

The Grossos had two other sons,

said. "It was really cute and special."

Darin and Dustin, and four grandchildren. Dominick, Derek said, taught his sons that the most important things in life were love, laughter, family and con-



DOMINICK, 77, WHO was known to many simply as Coach, died on Jan. 28.

there," Derek said. "He did what he needed to do to get us to where we needed to be, whether that was through high school, college, careers. He was my necting with people. "He was always



Daily Specials on Instagram at Loafers Bakery & Gourmet Shoppe



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, Feb. 11

Movie at the library: "Citizen Kane"

In telling the story of the meteoric rise and precipitous fall of newspaper magnate Charles Foster Kane, Orson Welles not only created the defi nitive portrait of American megalomania, he also unleashed a torrent of stylistic innovations that have ensured that Citizen Kane has remained fresh for each new generation. The movie will begin at 2 p.m. at the Oyster Bay East Norwich Library,.

Community Tax Grievance Workshop

The Nassau County Assessment Review Commission is hosting a free virtual community tax grievance workshop, to inform residents about how to challenge their property taxes online. The virtual workshop begins at 10 a.m. at nassaucountyny.gov/ID11.

Miss Alex's Valentine's Day Storytime

Beginning at 10 a.m. join Miss Alex for a fun seasonal toddler storytime at the Gold Coast Library in Glen Head. Attendees will read interactive books, learn fingerplays, dance, sing and make a craft. Ages two to five

Saturday, Feb. 12

All You Need is Love

Join Love Your Neighbor Project for their 2nd annual "All You Need is Love" event. Starting at 8 p.m., "stand up for stand-up" for a night of laughs and fundraising with LYNP. The event will be live streamed from Still Partners in Sea Cliff; those interested can register online at lynp.org/lol by Feb. 11 to receive the link. Appearances by Scott Schendlinger, Mike Keegan and Rich Walker

Deep Roots winter market

Offering locally grown produce, eggs, meats and dairy, fresh baked bread and sweets, honey, maple syrup, grab-andgo as well as bake-at-home prepared foods and other locally made goods,



Susan Herbst - Winter Sunset Centre Island Beach, Courtesy BVAC

Art exhibition at Bayville Historical Museum

The Bayville Village Arts Council is hosting an exhibition of artwork by Bayville artists, presented at the Bayville Historical Museum, 34 School St., Bayville. The exhibit's final weekend viewing will be on Feb. 12 and 13, from noon to 3 p.m. More than 30 works will be on view along with many of the items from the museum's permanent collection.

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.

Sunday, Feb. 13

Sundays with Shakespeare

Sundays with Shakespeare presented by the Sea Cliff Library continues to meet virtually weekly to discuss one of the Bard's plays for five weeks, Sundays at 5 p.m. Register online at seaclifflibrary.org for the Zoom link.

Monday, Feb. 14

Fall Prevention Workshop

Taking some simple steps to prevent falls can help you or those you love stay active, confident and independent. This program begins at 1 p.m. and will covers vision, hearing loss, community Safety and more. Register online for this virtual event at bay-villefreelibrary.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Prevent the Event: Heart-Smart Cardiology Lecture

This informative class, presented by Dr. Guy Mintz, Northwell Health's Director of Cardio-vascular Health & Lipidology, will discuss cardiac risk factors for heart disease, diagnostic tests and treatments, and the effects of COVID on the heart.ditorium. Starting at 6:30 p.m. and presented by the Glen Cove Public Library, registration can be completed online at glencovelibrary.org to receive the Zoom link.

Ludwig van Beethoven's music and influence

The influence that composer Ludwig van Beethoven had on the progression of music history cannot be overstated. His defiant approach towards music and composing paved the way for artists today to express themselves as they truly desire. Gain an understanding of this complicated genius and learn how, over 150 years later, he is still influencing the world today. Presented

by Dan Lupo and the Glen Cove Library via zoom. Register online at glencovelibrary.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

What is Your Digital Footprint?

Starting at 6:30 p.m., learn how to keep track of your internet activity. What trail are you leaving on the World Wide Web and how easy is it for someone to access your digital footprint. Learn how to control the flow of information, and if necessary, have it removed from the net. Register online at locustvalleylibrary.org.

Preparedness 101

Join the Sea Cliff Library in this virtual program presented by Janice Imbrogno, home economist and essential oils educator, where attendees will learn to create a home which is their safe haven. Learn the how-to's for careful food planning, storage and preparation. Imbrogno will show you how to build up a stocked pantry, a stash of emergency supplies and natural remedies. This virtual event will start at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Register online at seaclifflibrary.com.

Conversations in Coe Hall: Our

Our Truth – The Power and Resilience of African Americans on the Gold Coast, will begin at 6 p.m. Led by Denise Evans-Sheppard, Director of the Oyster Bay Historical Society, in honor of Black History Month, attendees will learn the deep-rooted history of local African Americans and highlight their contributions to our North Shore community. Register online at plantingfields.org; tickets are \$25.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Thomas Germano presents "The 36 Most Expensive Works of Art"

Auctions, private sales and backroom deals have led to extraordinary prices for works of art. This virtual lecture presented by the Gold Coast Library discusses the 36 most expensive priced works recorded. This program is being offered via Zoom only, beginning at 7 p.m. Visit goldcoastlibrary.org

New York State Police Recruitment Event

New York State Police will be at The Glen Cove Public Library from 3 to 5 p.m. Stop in to learn more about the New York State Police and how to apply to become a New York State Trooper.

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@liherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The next Oyster Bay East Norwich Board of Education meeting is scheduled for March. 1 at 7:30 p.m.
- The City of Glen Cove will hold a pre-City Council meeting on Feb. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.
- The Locust Valley Board of Education is meeting on March. 8 at 7:30 p.m. for their budget presentation.
- The Oyster Bay Town Board's next meeting will be March 1 at 10 a.m.
- The Sea Cliff Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

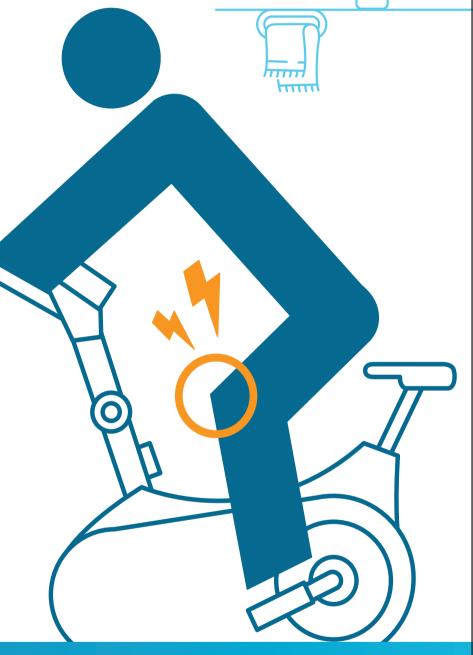
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Fios available in downtown Glen Cove

By LETISHA DASS

Glen Cove businesses have been fighting to have Verizon available to the downtown area for years. Last week, the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District announced that Verizon is making its service open to the downtown. But some business owners are finding this not to be the case.

Upon contacting Verizon, owners, John Zazzaro coowner of Downtown Café, and Alvin Batista from Glen Fitness Center, were told that Fios is still inaccessible.

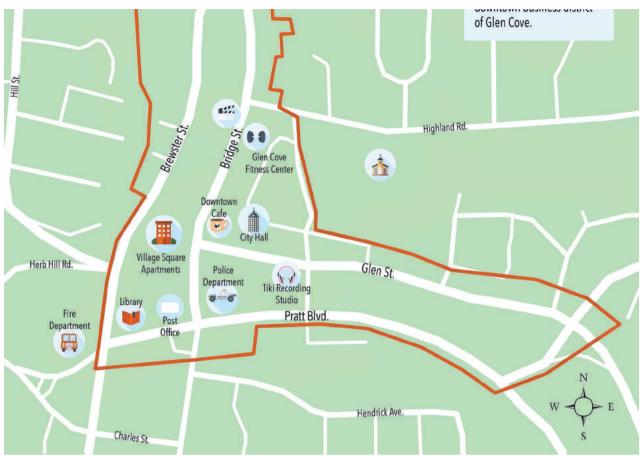
'I went on the Fios website, and they didn't say they had it available," said Batista. "When I check, it doesn't give you that option.'

Patricia Holman, executive director of the BID, has been working to find a solution to the discrepancy. "There seems to be a little bit of a disconnect between the sales office and what Verizon is technically saying,' Holman said. "The City of Glen Cove is working with us as far as having the businesses that have an interest and have tried to get Fios ... get Fios."

Although businesses have the option to use the cable and internet provider, Optimum, many have been dissatisfied with it and want to switch. "We had so many problems with optimum," Batista said. "When there are a lot of users on, the entire area slows down."

Businesses like Batista's rely on internet access for their devices to improve efficiency and service to customers, so the lack of high-speed internet makes it difficult to achieve that.

Holman has reached out to downtown business owners to find out which want to switch providers. Her list, which includes Downtown Café, Glen Cove Fitness Center and Tiki Recording Studio, was sent to the city and Verizon to consider how to have the service made avail-



Christina Daly/Herald

GLEN COVE DOWNTOWN business district, as highlighted by the red, does not have Fios. Coverage for the area has only been made available this month. Village Square, as shown on the map, and 126 School Street had Fios since last year, but it did not extend to other businesses in the area.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9





Businesses: Fios website says it's not available

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that wants Fios

will be able to

DANIELLE FUGAZY

have Fios.

SCAGLIOLA

councilwoman

Glen Cove

l everyone

able on a case-by-case basis. Businesses that have not yet sent in their information can still do so by contacting the BID.

Glen Cove Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola has been working with the BID and business owners to help move the situation forward. This week, Fugazy Scagliola and the BID worked to

help Downtown Café with the process of getting their service changed.

'This is the business district," Fugazy Scagliola said. "It seems like one of the more important parts to have options for internet access,"

After contacting Verizon again with the help of the city, Zazzaro and Shawn Scoyni, who also owns Downtown Café, were told that they needed approval from their landlord.

Verizon needs permission from landlords to install the wires in their buildings so a renter can't just do it. A landlord has to say yes,' Fugazy Scagliola said.

On Monday, Verizon would be sending out surveyors to make a site plan to expand the coverage to downtown. "It may sound like small steps. It's really very big steps because we have been trying to get Fios in this area for over five vears." Hollman said.

Frustration has surrounded the lack of options for internet providers in the downtown. The fight for service resurfaced when Fios was made available in Glen Cove last year to 126 Glen Street and

the apartments in Village Square. The rest of the downtown businesses were left out of the coverage zone.

"I'm very disappointed that all of Glen Cove has it and just our area doesn't," Zazzaro said. "They are definitely hindering us from moving forward, especially in this technology-driven world.'

In the past, petitions were signed to

bring awareness to the issue but nothing changed. "We had a petition a couple years ago and we had a petition a couple of years before that," Holman said. "At each time when we sent in the petition Verizon had said that they have no plans to bring in Fios to the downtown area."

And Fugazy Scagliola said there had been a push and calls to City Hall even before she became a councilwoman.

Downtown Café has approval from its landlord to move forward with the wiring. The next step was to help make sure that all downtown businesses, such as

Glen Cove Fitness Center and Tiki Recording Studio, receive the service. But after hearing that Verizon was unavailable for years and not seeing any progress in the past, Zazzaro continues to be skeptical. "I won't believe it until its true," he said.

"I hope that more and more of our businesses follow suit and apply for it and try to order the service so it's not a big deal for people that come behind them to get it." Holman said.

NEWS BRIEF

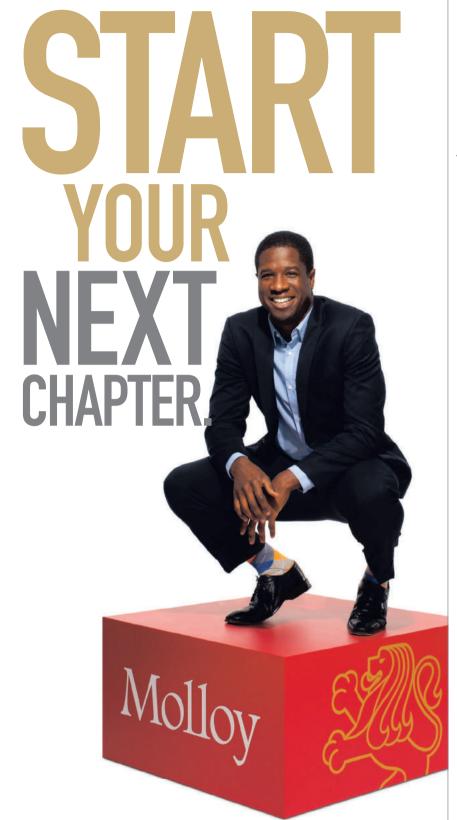
Tax grievance deadline extended

The Nassau County Legislature voted on Feb. 7 to extend the tax grievance deadline to April 30, giving residents an extra two months to file their property assessment challenges with the Assessment Review Commission. Presiding Officer Richard Nicolello stated that the extension was necessary because Notices of Tentative Assessed Value were not mailed to property owners in a timely manner. Members of the Minority Caucus, including Minority Leader Kevan M. Abrahams, advocated for the extension.

"Today's action is a victory for taxpayers who are continuing to struggle with economic impacts caused by the pandemic," Abrahams said. "We are glad that the county executive and the majority heeded our call to ensure that property owners have every opportunity to robustly exercise their rights."

Let us Know

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well. Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication. Send to execeditor@liherald.com



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Herald file photo

Suozzi to host fundraiser to rebuild Glen Cove's VFW

Congressman Tom Suozzi is hosting a fundraiser to help rebuild Glen Cove's James E. Donnelly VFW Post 347, which was destroyed by a fire this past August.

"We need Glen Cove to rally together for the James E. Donahue VFW Post 347," said Suozzi. "Never Forget the Vet!"

The VFW Hall was built in 1920 by a group of veterans, mostly tradesmen, when they returned from World War I. The hall is also the headquarters of NOSH, a food pantry program of the North Shore Soup Kitchen serving about 500 families on the North Shore each week

"We've been to tougher places and thanks to Congressman Suozzi's efforts, we'll rebuild and keep going," said Henry Nowicki, commander of Glen Cove VFW James Donohue Post 347.

The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 2 p.m., at the Polish National Home, 10 Hendrick Ave., Glen Cove, and will feature live music, food, beer, wine and camaraderie.

For information on making a donation and/or to RSVP, please contact Suzanne Anderson at Anderson.suzanne15@gmail. com or (516) 456-0506.

CRIME WATCH

Glen Cove crew charged in \$8.4 million scheme

The U.S. attorney's office charged four people from Glen Cove and one individual from Brooklyn with conspiracy to commit securities fraud and operate unlicensed money transmitting businesses, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and operation of unlicensed money transmitting businesses in connection with a \$8.4 million money laundering scheme.

The "D'uroso Crew:" Michael D'uroso, 54, Alyssa D'uroso, 28, Jay Garnock, 75, and Antonella Chiaramonte, 36, from Glen Cove, ran a network of shell companies and associated bank accounts in New York, stated the U.S. attorney's office. Using these shell companies, the "D'urso Crew" partnered with Lenard Booth, 68, from Brooklyn, creating a boiler room operation to steal funds from victims through fake identities, misleading webpages, email addresses and then laundered the money. The "D'urso

Crew" received more than \$8.4 million from the scheme and laundered more than \$4.6 million that was sent overseas.

According to the U.S. attorney's office, Booth stole more than \$1 million and ran a boiler room scheme in Thailand where he lied to investors telling them the boiler room was a Manhattan-based investment firm.

Michael D'urso, Alyssa D'urso, and Chiaramonte were arrested in Glen Cove and Garnock was arrested in West Palm Beach, Florida Wednesday morning. Booth was arrested in August 2021 at John F. Kennedy International Airport and was previously indicted on his role. Michael D'urso was further charged with three counts, and Alyssa D'urso, Garnock and Chiaramonte were further charged with one count each of operating an unlicensed money transmitting business.



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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

Courtesy Peter M. Budraitis

DR. EVE LUPENKO Ferrante, second from left, and Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, second from right, delivered COVID-19 tests and care packages to seniors at the Butler Street Apartments on Friday, Jan. 21.

Senior receive Covid-19 Tests, PPE Kits

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton and Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante, a former city councilwoman, distributed Covid-19 tests and personal protective equipment packages to senior citizens residing at the Butler Street apartments on Jan. 21. The donations were in contribution to Glen Cove's "Do Good to Feel Good" program, which was launched after the Covid-19 pandemic began in March 2020.

"The Do Good to Feel Good Program

is not just about me and my husband feeling good about helping others," Ferrante said. "It's also about making other people feel good, happy, and safe. We were so pleased to donate and deliver more N-95 and surgical masks, surgical and heavyweight gloves, laundry packs and hand sanitizers to senior citizens who can't get out or don't have the resources to purchase these items themselves."

Glen Cove Senior Center celebrates members' January birthdays

It is Capricorn and Aquarius season. Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton visited the Glen Cove Senior Center to celebrate this month's birthdays on Jan. 21.

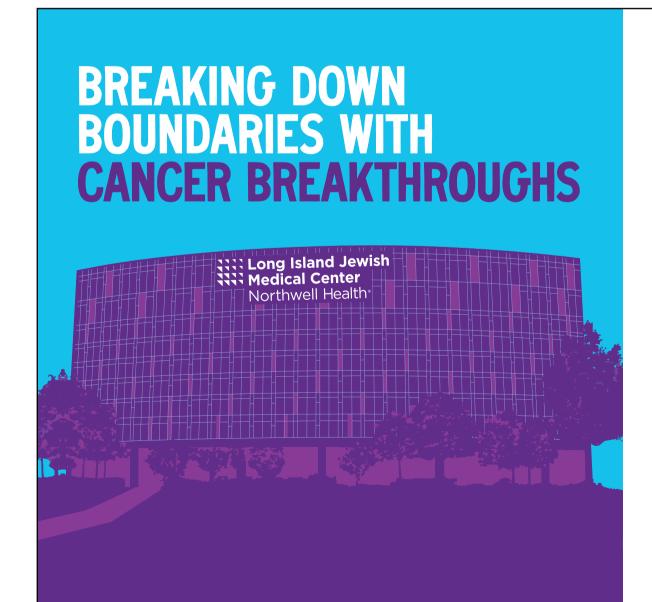
"After such a long hiatus during the pandemic, it was absolutely wonderful to

resume a cherished tradition that celebrates our seniors and fills my heart with gratitude," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "I wish all of the Glen Cove Senior Center's 'January babies,' three of whom were born on Jan. 1, a happy birthday and a year filled with good health and love."



Courtesy Peter M. Budraiti

TONY JIMENEZ, FAR left, from Glen Cove Veterans Affairs, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, Cynthia Rivera, Senior Center kitchen staff, Ann Marie Martinez, Angie Basile, Annette Medugno, and Christine Rice, executive director of the Glen Cove Senior Center celebrated members' January birthdays on Jan. 21.



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Council hires new attorney, retains outside firm

By LETISHA DASS

ldacc@liherald.com

Discussion was heated Tuesday night during the Glen Cove City Council's public session. Some residents voiced their concern regarding a decision made by the council to hire the firm, Chase, Rathkopf & Chase LLP for city attorney services. The firm's lawyer, Tip Henderson, will be replacing Gregory Kalnitsky, the current in-house city attorney. However, the firm's retainer would not cover all current responsibilities of the position.

The vote was five to two, with Councilwomen Marsha Silverman and Danielle Fugazy Scagliola voting against the agreement. "I have my reservations," Fugazy Scagliola said. "Switching the model from the in-house to out-house with so much outside that retainer agreement could become very costly,"

The firm would not be responsible for providing counsel on collective bargaining agreements, bonds matters and amending the Code of the City. The firm's will be paid at roughly \$17,000 in monthly installments from Feb. 14 to Dec. 31 totally \$200,000. Henderson will be receiving a salary of \$1 per month.

Non-retainer services, such as the defense of Small Claims Assessment Review proceedings, representation in cases by or against the city, and judicial appeals, will be paid upon an at-need basis. The set expense disclosure for these



Letisha Dass/Herald

THERE WERE QUESTIONS during the public hearing portion of Tuesday's City Hall meeting surrounding the hiring of a lawyer from an outside firm to be the new city attorney.

services was not provided at the meeting.

Other firms and lawyers were not vetted for Kalnitsky's position, which was held over from the previous administration.

Silverman had personally reached out to other legal practices for recommendations and submitted them to the council.

"Mayor after mayor just goes with who they know, and it shouldn't be that way," Silverman said

"The whole city is represented by the same law firm," Fugazy Scagliola said. "It

lacks perspective. It lacks oversight. They didn't give us any other resumes."

Questions arose regarding Henderson's time commitment to the city as a lawyer affiliated with a firm. The council voted in 2018 to transition to an attorney solely hired by the city. The switch in model was due to the expenses and lack of on-call assistance from previous outside firms. "There were things that would get delayed often," Silverman said. "Personally, I thought in-house serves the city better."

The goal for the in-house attorney, according to Silverman, was to assist in day-to-day obligations such as contracts and personnel which would reduce costs when compared to seeking outside legal counsel. Even so, Panzenbeck pointed out that the city attorney does use a lot of outside counsel on cases where there is a conflict of interest.

"... this firm is the best option?" Silverman said after the meeting. "I don't know that because we weren't given options ... Is there somebody out there with better services and better rates?"

The firm will be continuing their role representing Glen Cove's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. At the start of this year, Chase, Rathkopf & Chase LLP, received an increase in pay for their representation of the two boards. They will receive \$3,150 per month with a litigation fee of \$350 per hour.

The Herald learned that Henderson's attorney status is delinquent, according to the New York State Unified Court System, meaning he did not complete his biennial registration with the state. On Wednesday during a phone call, Panzenbeck said she was not aware of Henderson's status and said it would be addressed before he begins.

Henderson will begin his position on Feb. 14. "He will be here probably 90 percent of the time," Panzenbeck said. "We will be putting him to work...he will be dedicated to us."





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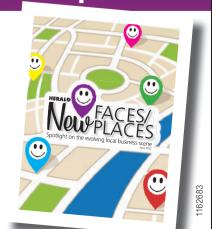
DISHWASHER (PT) 4 to 8pm to join and assist our evening food service team

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TAVA gets a big welcome from G.C. community

TAVA: Fine Indian Cuisine

61 Glen St., Glen Cove

(516)-277-1684

Tuesday to Sunday.

Noon to 3 p.m. and 4 to 10 p.m.

BY LETISHA DASS

ldacc@liberald.com

Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District and community leaders welcomed family-owned restaurant, TAVA: Fine Indian Cuisine at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 31. Over the past eight months, the once known Andros Grill at 61 Glen Street, has been converted into a modern Indian restaurant serving traditional family recipes and specialty cocktails.

Sukhdev Singh, TAVA owner and chef, collaborated with his son Kam Singh and nephew Supy Singh -Tava coowners- to open the establishment last November. The restaurant's name comes from the Punjabi, Hindi, and Urdu word, "tava" also spelled as "tawa," meaning cooking pan. In a large circular pan, traditional dishes such as chapati, paratha, and dosas, and a variety of other Indian flatbreads are cooked to crispy perfection.

The menu at TAVA uses the same ingredients and spices found at the Singh's other two locations. "Our menu is extremely traditional," Supy said. "These are recipes that have been in our family for over thirty years. They were passed down."

The Singh family business started when Sukhdev and Supy's father, Harpal Bhola, were saving money as taxi drivers to open their first restaurant, House of India in Huntington, in 2001 and later Mango in Bellmore. After 20 years of witnessing their father's successes, Kam and Supy decided it was their turn to take over and further enhance the business by opening in Glen Cove.

"Kam and I decided it was time for expansion and we looked at a lot of different neighborhoods and realized in Glen Cove, there was really no sitdown, high-end Indian restaurant," Supy

said. "We thought this was the perfect spot for that."

In recognition of the family's new chapter in the city, Glen Cove Downtown B.I.D., the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Pamela D. Panzenbeck, Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, and the offices of Assemblyman Charles Lavine and Senator James Gaughran presented the restaurant with citations.

"I'm happy to see another new res-

taurant in downtown Glen Cove," Patricia Holman, executive director of the Business Improvement District said. "I thank them for investing in our community and hope more people support them – the food is incredible."

Since their opening around Thanksgiving, the restaurant has received positive feedback from the community. On Facebook, customers have been raving

about their unique flavors and are happy about their opening in Glen Cove. Christa Gonzales, a Glen Cove resident, said she looked forward to returning to the restaurant and enjoys ordering their takeout.

"TAVA was such a delight! My husband and I came when they first opened and we're greeted with open arms by the staff and management," Gonzales said. "The food was delicious, and you could tell how much effort they invested in transforming the inside from the previous establishment."

Like many other businesses, the coronavirus pandemic, especially with the rise of the Omnicorn variant, slowed

the demand for indoor dining. However, TAVA has persevered and continues to draw in customers.

"In the beginning people were scared to dine in, but slowly they're coming in. They love the décor – it's comfortable, it's cozy, the drinks are amazing," Kam said, noting that the popularity is also spreading by word of mouth. "As more people try the food, more customers come in."

TAVA serves distinctive cocktails with quirky names like Saari, Not Saari, a word play on the South Asian women garment. The menu is accommodating to all dietary needs. The restaurant serves dishes such as chicken karahi, lamb madras, tandoori shrimp; and vegetarian options like gobi manchurian, panir tikka, and aloo chole curry.

"Being a vegan, I loved the Aloo Gobi," Gonzales said. "The staff was happy to customize the dish for me by removing the potatoes and making it extra spicy."

Closed on Mondays, TAVA is open for lunch Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. and for dinner from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is available for takeout and catering events. To make a reservation or explore their menu visit www.tavacuisine.com or call (516)-277-1684.



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AVISO LEGAL AVISO DE UNA REUNION ESPECIAL BIBLIOTECA DFI DISTRITO EL 29 DE MARZO 2022, DE LA BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA DE GLEN COVE PARA VOTAR EN EL PRESUPUESTO DE LA BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA PARA ELEGIR A UN JUNTA DE FIDEICOISARIO DE LA BIBLIOTECA

POR MEDIO DEL PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que se llevara a cabo una reunion especial losvotantes calificados de la Biblioteca Publica de Cove conformidad con lo dispuesto en la Seccion 260 y 270 de la Ley de Educacion de Estado de Nueva York, en dicho Distrito el 29 de Marzo 2022 entra las 9am y las de ayunda para siguientes fines: 9pm Dicha reunion sera

votar sobre las siguientes

prosiciones: SE HA RESUELTO que el presupuesto propuesto de la Bilioteca Publica de Glen Cove, Deistro Glen Cove, Deistro Escolar de la Ciudad de Glen Cove segun lo preparado por los Fideicomisarios de dicha Biblioteca publica para el ano 2022/2023, y segun se haya modificado, apruebe por la presente: v que la cantidad de los mismos. menos recibos, se aumenta mediante la recaudacion de un impuesto sobre inmuebles gravables en Distrito Escolar. en dicho

Con el fin de elegir; un (1) Fideicomisario de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove por un (5) mandato

La votation sobre los emitira mediante urnas. POR FAVOR, TOME NOTA que la Biblioteca, la junta de conformidad dispuesto en la Seccion 260 y 270 de la Ley de Educacion, convoca dicha

Especial

reunion

SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL que las peticiones que al candidato nominan cargo para . administrator Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove deben presentarse al secretario entre las horas de 9am y las 9pm., a mas tardar el 15 de marzo de 2022, el trigesimo dia anterior a la eleccion, momento en el cual sera elegido el candidato asi nominado. peticion nominacion debe dirigirse al Secretario del Distrito, debe estar firmada por al menos veinticinco (25) votantes calificados del Distroto, debe ondicar la residencia de cada firmante y debe indicar el

formularios muestra las peticiones se pueden obtener del Secretario de Distrito en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove

nombre y la residencia del

candidato.

ADVISO DΑ ADICIONAL, que una los gastos

copia de estimaados propuestos para ser votados estara disponible en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York, entra las 9am y 5pm todos lod dias, except los sabados, domingos festivos durante los catorce dias anteriores a dicha reunion.

DA ADICIONAL, que la Junta de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove realizara una audiencia especial sobre el presupuesto el 29 de Marzo 2022 en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave,.

Glen Cove, Nueva York. a las 7pm SE DA ADVISO ADIOCIONAL, que los votantes califacados del Distrito pueden inscribirse entre las 9am y 4 pm. La fencha final para fencha final para inscribirse en la reunion que se celebrara el 15 de marzo es el 28 de febrero. Si un votante ha votado en alguna eleccion en los ultimos 4 anos 2018 o si es elegible para votar conforme al Articulo 5 de la Ley Electorial, el o ella es elegible para votar en es elegible para votar en este eleccion. Todos las demas personas que deseen votar registrarse. La lista de registro preparade por la Junta de Elecciones de Condado de Nassau se Archivaran enla officina del

secretario de Distrito de la Biblioteca Publica de

Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove, Nueva

York, y estara abierta a

inpeccion por cualquier votante califcado Del

Distrito entre las horas de

9am y 4pm hora vigente

cualquier, dia despues del

martes 2 de Marzo de 2022 y cada uno de los

dis anteriores a la fecha

establecids para la Eleccion de la Biblioteca y

la Votacion de Presupuesto, except los

sabados, domingos o dias festivos, incluida la fecha

POR FAVOR, TOME NOTA, que las solicitudes de boletas de votacion en

ausencia Para la Fleccion

de la Bibliotecs y la

Votacion de Presupuesto se puede solicitar en las

oficinas del Secretario del Distrito, de la Biblioteca

Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove, Nueva York. Tales

solicitudes deben recibirse al menos (7) siete dias antes de las

elecciones si se va a envir la boleta al votante. Ninguna boleta de votante ausente sera

votada a menos que haya sido recibida en la oficina

de Secretario de Distrito, en la Biblioteca Publica

de Glen Cove, 4 glen Cove Ave,. Glen Cove, Nueva York a mas tardar

a las 5:00 pm hora del

dia, en el Fecha de la

establecida para

BOLETAS AUSENTES

year term The vote on the aforesaid

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Library Board pursuant to the

NOTICE HFRFRY petitions nominating the candidate for the office of Public Library must be filed with the Clerk of the District between hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., no later than February 28, 2022, the thirtieth day preceding the election, at which time the candidate so nominated is to be elected. Each nominating petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District, must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, shall state

Sample forms of the petitions may be obtained from the Clerk of the District at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Cove Ave., Glen 4 Glen Cove Ave., Cove, New York

129566

PUBLIC AND LEGAL NOTICES. Printed in this publication can be found online. Search by publication name at: www.newyorkpublicnotices.com

LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL IIRRΔRY DISTRICT MEETING ON MARCH 29, 2022, OF GLEN COVE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO VOTE ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND ELECT ONE TRUSTEE OF THE GLEN COVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special meeting of the qualified voters of the Glen Cove Public Library will be held pursuant to will be held pursuant to the provisions of Section 260 and 2007 of the Education Law of the State of New York at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York, in said District on March 29, 2022 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Said meeting will be held for

the following purposes:

To vote on the following proposition: that RESOLVED proposed budget of the Glen Cove Public Library, Glen Cove City School District, as prepared by the Trustees of the said Public Library, for the year 2022/2023, and as the same may have been amended, be and hereby is approved; and that the amount thereof. less receipts, be raised by the levy of a tax upon the

taxable real property in the said School District. For the purpose of electing; one (1) Trustee for the Glen Cove Public Library. For a (5) five-

matters will be cast by ballot in a ballot box.

provisions of Section 260 and 2007 of the Education Law hereby calls said Special District Meeting. FURTHER

GIVEN that Trustee of the Glen Cove the residence of each signer, and must state the name and residence of the candidate.

HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the proposed estimated expenditures to be voted upon shall be made available at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. New York, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day other than Saturday, Sunday or holiday, during the fourteen days preceding

such meeting.
FURTHER NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Glen Cove Public Library will hold a special budget hearing on March 15, 2022 at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York at 7:00 p.m. FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the District may register between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at the Glen Cove Public Library, A. Glan Cove Ave. Glan

Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York. The final date to register for the meeting to be held on March 15, 2022 is February 28, 2022. If a voter has voted in any election within the last 4 years (2018) or if he or she is eligible to vote under Article 5 of Election Law, he or she is eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register. The registration list prepared by the Board of Elections of Nassau County will be filed in the Office of the District Clerk of the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York and

will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the district between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. prevailing time, on any day after Tuesday, March 15, 2022, and each of the days prior to the date set for the Library Election and Budget Vote, except Saturday, Sunday or holiday, including the date set for the meeting.

ARSENTEE BALLOTS PLEASE TAKE FURTHER that application for an absentee ballot for the Library election and budget vote may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk, of Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York. Such application must be received at least (7) seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

nnexed hereto ARE HEREBY No absentee voter ballot shall be canvassed unless it shall have been received at the office of Date/Time: 10,2022 at 9:30AM the District Clerk, Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., New

To Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232

Glen Cove Ave., New York, not later than 5:00 Determined
Presiding: Hon. Ellen R. p.m., prevailing time, on the date of the election. Greenberg Gina Rant Location:Courthouse 1200 Old Country Westbury, NY 11590 129564

Part:4

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PUBLIC NOTICES

IFGAL NOTICE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU In the Matter of Felix Luis Nieves (DOB: 11/29/2011), Natasha June DOB: 12/26/210 Children under Eighteen Years of Age Alleged to be Neglected by File #:568007 Docket#:NN-05660-19 NN-05661-19 NEGLECT CASE) Felix Luis Nieves, Respondent. NOTICE: IF YOUR CHILD STAYS IN FOSTER CARE FOR 15 OF THE MOST RECENT 22 MONTHS, THE RECENT 22 MONTHS, THE AGENCY MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO FILE A PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND MAY FILE BEFORE THE END OF THE 15-MONTH PERIOD. IF THE PETITION IS GRANTED, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD MAY BE ADOPTED CHILD MAY BE ADOPTED WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. BY ORDER OF THE FAM1LY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK To:Felix Luis Nieves 87 Glen Cove Avenue Apt. Mailbox #2 Glen Cove, NY 11542 Nassau County
Department of Social Services 60 Charles Lindbergh Blvd

and Equipment Uniondale, NY 11553

A Petition under Article
10 of the Family Court
Act having been filed
with this Court, and Department YOU AND EACH OF YOU SUMMONED to appear before this Court on Map of Nassau County which is located in the March City's MW-1 (Marina Purpose: Permanency Planning Hearing 4 Waterfront District 1). The above Application is on file at the city offices located at 9 Glen St., Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular hours of the usual Floor/Room:Floor To Be

business days until the time of the hearing.

and to be dealt with in accordance Article 10 of the Family Court Act. On your failure to appear as herein directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest. Dated: January 27,2022 John Aiken, Chief Clerk

129568

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF GLEN COVE ZONING LEGAL NOTICE APPEALS CITY OF GLEN COVE NOTICE HEARING 70NING BOARD PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING APPEALS PUBLIC ΩF NOTICE HEARING will be held by the Glen NOTICE PLEASE TAKE Cove Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Glen Cove Zoning Board of Appeals on February 17, Thursday, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all interested persons will be New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to

interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views. The hearing will be on the application of Christopher Kelly residing at 58 St. Andrews Lane, Glen Cove, N.Y 11542 who seeks a Variance from Section 280-57 (R) express their views. The hearing will be on the application of I Cusumano who is Lora appealing determination from Section 280-57 (B) (6) of the Glen Cove of Building Department
Director that the current Zoning Code to construct a second-floor addition above an existing garage with less than the required side yard Cutting Tree Services, Boat Storage required side yard setback. Applicant is proposing 4.9' feet when 15 feet is the minimum Repair, Heav Commercial Truck Parking" is a legal preexisting nonconforming use on the subject side yard setback permitted. The property is premises, and 2) appealing the Building located within the R-3 Quarter- Acre Residence District and designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 23, Block 55, Lot Director's issuance of Certificate of Existing Use No. 1912 dated July 21, 2021 for the same. The subject premises is located at 100 392 The above application is Shore Road, Glen Cove, New York, known as Section 21, Block A, Lot 22 on the land and Tax

on file at the city offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of the usual business days until the time of the hearing. Dated: January 27, 2022 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING

APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE MOSCHETTA, THERESA M CHAIRPERSON

CITY OF GLEN COVE **BOARD OF 70NING** 70NING BOARD APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE THERESA MOSCHETTA, CHAIRPERSON ΟF NOTICE HEARING

ΩF

PUBLIC

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE will be held by the Glen Cove Zoning Board of Thursday, Appeals on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all interested parties will be given an opportunity to he heard The hearing will be on the

PUBLIC

application of Michele Cagner, residing at 54 Cagner, residing at 54
Pembroke Drive, Glen
Cove, N.Y. 11542 who
seeks Variances from
Sections 280-55 (B)(5)
and (B)(10) of the Glen
Cove Zoning Code to
construct a second-floor
deck with less than the required rear yard setback and lot coverage. Applicant has an existing rear yard setback of 36.3 feet; proposing 22.5' feet when 50 feet is the minimum required and having an existing lot coverage of 18.8%; proposing 21.8% when 15% is the maximum permitted.

The subject property is in the City's R-1 One Acre Residence District and designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 31, Block 51,

Lot 575.

The above application is on file at the city offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of the usual business days until the time of hearing.

Dated: January 27, 2022 BY ORDER OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE THERESA MOSCHETTA, CHAIRPERSON 129570

Place a notice by phone at 516-569-4000 x232 or email:

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OPINIONS

Farewell, dear readers

rom entrylevel

reporter to

leading the

team over 28

eventful years.

his will be my last Herald column, at least for a while. After 28 wondrous and wonderful years, I am leaving the Herald Community Newspapers on Friday. It is a bittersweet moment.

I am moving on to focus on my teaching at Hofstra University, where I will be fulltime this spring and undertake a long-term



SCOTT BRINTON

research project. I am honored, excited and humbled — my two research partners are both Fulbright Scholars. I have taught at Hofstra for 13 years, and it is where I belong at this moment in my life.

Serving as the Heralds' executive editor for the past five-plus years has been the honor of a

lifetime, particularly over the past two, as I have had the privilege to lead an incredibly talented team of journalists, some veterans and many early-career reporters, through the coronavirus pandemic, which, thankfully, mercifully, appears to be abating.

I began with the Herald as an entry-level reporter three months after completing Peace Corps service in Bulgaria, and have remained with the company ever since. I must thank my publishers, Cliff and Stuart Richner, for all their support and kindness through the years. I must also thank so

many of my colleagues, in particular Tony Bellissimo, Lori Berger, Jeff Bessen, Karen Bloom, Rhonda Glickman, Jim Harmon, Laura Lane, Jeff Lipton, John O'Connell, Tony Rifilato and Mike Smollins.

Most of all, I must thank my lovely wife,

Katerina, and my two amazing (adult) kids, Alexandra and Andrew.

When I first took the job, I didn't intend to stay so long. Mentored by two of Long Island's best community journalists, Leatrice Spanierman and Randi Kreiss, I quickly learned the critical role that hyperlocal reporting plays in our society, and I fell in love with the work. I will forever be grateful for all they taught me.

One of my first Herald investigative series, in the mid-1990s, was on a park that was supposed to have been built at the Five Towns Community Center in North Lawrence, but had not been. I was in the office of Jonathan Davis, then the center's executive director, for another story when I spotted a set of blueprints on a table. Curious, I asked about them, and Davis explained that they were for a park that should have been built in the center's back field. Nassau County had promised to construct it 20 years earlier, but never did.

Davis explained that North Lawrence, a community of color, had no real park where kids might play. I hit the local streets, talk-

ing to teenagers about the need for such a play area. The story ran on the front page and quickly caught the attention of Tom Gulotta, then the county executive. I'll never forget the call from Dave Vieser, his press secretary, who said that Gulotta had read

my stories on the lack of a park and wanted to build one at the 5TCC, which he did.

As a recently returned Peace Corps volunteer looking to do good for the world, I was hooked on this journalism thing. Many more stories — 4,000 — and investigative series — 25 — followed over the years. One series, on plans to demolish the 300-year-old Hewlett House, also in the mid-1990s, grabbed the attention of Bruce Blake-

man, who was then the County Legislature's presiding officer and is now the county executive. He had an idea to preserve the white-shingled farmhouse, on a bend in the road across the street from Hewlett High School, as a breast cancer resource center. It has been the home of 1 in 9: The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition for more than two decades.

My greatest reporting challenge was a 44-part series I undertook from 2001 to 2003, examining the health and environmental threats posed by Freeport Electric's 30-year-old Power Plant No. 2, which sits on the edge of Emory Creek in Freeport, just west of the Meadowbrook Parkway. I met some of

the best people I know while reporting that story — civic activists Joe Kralovich and Bob Young, then State Sen. Charles Fuschillo and then Long Island Power Authority Chairman Richard Kessel. The lengths they went to to shut down the plant, with no pollution controls, and replace it with a modern, clean-burning natural-gas model cannot be understated.

I run at the Town of Hempstead's Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve in Merrick at least a couple of days a week. The plant is visible from most points on the preserve's west side, and looking out on it, I marvel at the good that was done by a group of about 300 concerned citizens, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the diesel plant never spewed its acrid exhaust into local neighborhoods again.

At the height of the George Floyd protests in June 2020, I was covering a protest in Merrick when I shot a Twitter video of 7-year-old Wynta-Amor Rogers. Nearly instantly, it went viral, garnering more than 23 million views in seven days. I was shocked, but it showed the power of street-level reporting to connect with people world-wide.

One thing I know: Local journalism does indeed matter:

Scott Brinton is the Heralds' departing executive editor, set to become a full-time professor at the Hofstra University Herbert School of Communication. Comments about this column? SBrinton@liherald.com.

Grab a slice of life at your nearest pizzeria

t is, after all,

something

whose greatness

we can all agree

on. But please,

no pineapple.

o wonder I'm feeling full. In the past year I consumed 23 pounds of pizza. That's an average figure, of course, according to PMQ, the largest pizza industry media company, but it feels about right to me.

Between the freezing cold, the isolation and the dreaded question, "What's for din-



RANDI KREISS

ner?" we're all busting out of our pants. Forget Covid; we're going to eat ourselves to death.

Especially during the pandemic, pizza has been the go-to food for ordering in, since it moves from the superheated baking oven into the box and then onto

our plates untouched by human hands. I do believe I ate more pizza between 2020 and 2022 than in the five years before. It not only felt safe but, in a happy coincidence, it tasted delicious and comforting and indulgent. When you're contemplating a possible early demise from a fearsome plague, I say bring on the pizza pie.

On Wednesday we celebrated National Pizza Day, a tribute to this perfect food com-

prising bread, cheese and dozens of toppings that may include pepperoni, peppers, mushrooms, onions, sausage and eggplant. I refuse to mention outlier toppings like pineapple or clams, which honestly are a sacrilege, a violation of the single food that

is on everyone's last-meal list. Someone I know has asked his family to slip a pizza into his own box when the time comes, so he will have nourishment for his journey to the great beyond. Hey, the ancient Egyptians did it.

There is no exaggerating the popularity of pizza in our culture. At this pivotal time in America, when people cannot and will not agree to take proven, lifesaving vac-

cines, when they cannot decide whether to read a book or burn it, when they refuse to wear masks that will keep them safe from a deadly virus, when, ladies and gentlemen, America is basically coming apart at the seams, behold the pizza. In all its round deliciousness, it pulls us together, completing the circle of life.

National Pizza Day helps us appreciate that this humble food may be the last thing holding us together. I have never encountered a human being who disliked pizza. And we all claim rights to its origins. The common wisdom is that it came to us from Italy, possibly as early as the time of the Romans, when people ate *panis foccacious*, the beta version of modern-day focaccia and the precursor to pizza. According to

Wikipedia, Persians were baking flatbreads with cheese and dates on top as early as the sixth century B.C. In Ancient Greece, citizens made a flatbread called plakous that was flavored with toppings like herbs, onion, cheese and garlic.

Some have suggested that the origins of modern pizza can be traced to *pizzarelle*, Passover cookies eaten by Roman Jews after they returned from the synagogue

on that holiday. Israeli leader Abba Eban famously wrote, "Some scholars think pizza was first made more than 2,000 years ago when Roman soldiers added cheese and olive oil to matzah."

Nice try, Mr. Eban, but no way. Pizza comes our way from Naples. It was always the basic food of the poor in southern Italy, and it was there that people first discovered the delights of adding tomatoes to the flatbread they baked. It was only a matter of time until someone thought to slice some

nice mozzarella on top.

Today it's the big chains that do the booming pizza business, bouncing back nicely from Covid lockdowns and accommodating the situation with advanced delivery options. Privately owned pizza places are also climbing out of the pandemic slump with more business and much higher prices. A pizza that sold for \$1.50 in 1950 can go for \$25 today, depending on the toppings.

In Naples, people eat pizza for breakfast, lunch and dinner, which seems like a fine idea to me. It first came to America in the early 1900s. In 1943, Chicago deep-dish pie was created, a misguided attempt to improve on the original.

Today, some folks prefer "healthy" pizza, with kale and cauliflower crusts. Totally unacceptable.

It is a fine thing to open that cardboard box and slide out a greasy slice. We can agree on this, right? And no frozen pizza, no bagel pizza, no flatbread pizza or any other adulteration will suffice. In addition, and for all time, let's agree that the best pizza topping is pepperoni, made from mysterious cured pork and a random mix of spices.

Tell me that bright red color doesn't scream "health food."

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HERALD EDITORIAL

We should be discussing accessory apartments

s part of a five-year, \$25 billion plan to increase New York state's stock of affordable housing, Gov. Kathy Hochul proposed legislation on Jan. 5 to permit accessory "dwelling units," more commonly known as accessory apartments, across the state.

Nassau's new county executive, Republican Bruce Blakeman, held a news conference last week outside an East Meadow home, surrounded by a cadre of likeminded GOP leaders, to denounce Hochul's proposal, saying it threatens to "destroy" suburbia and turn the county "into the sixth borough of New York City."

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, a Democrat who plans to challenge Hochul in the gubernatorial primary, also came out against the proposal, calling it "radical."

Both acted as if accessory apartments exist nowhere on Long Island. Funny thing is, there are many towns across the Island that allow them. In fact, most of Suffolk County permits them — and we haven't heard folks out there complain that these housing units are wreaking havoc on their suburban way of life, whatever that might mean.

According to a 2017 map developed by the Center for Urban Research at the CUNY Graduate Center, using data supplied by the Long Island Index, accessory apartments are allowed in these Suffolk towns: Babylon, Brookhaven, East Hampton, Huntington, Islip, Riverhead, Shelter Island and Southold.

They are allowed on a limited basis in Southampton, and Smithtown permits them for family members and domestic staff. Only about a dozen tiny villages across Suffolk prohibit them.

Different government agencies manage permitting for accessory apartments. In Babylon, it's the Accessory Apartment Review Board; in Huntington, the Accessory Apartment Bureau; in Islip and Southold, the boards of zoning appeals; in Brookhaven, East Hampton, Riverhead and Shelter Island, the building departments.

"Affordable accessory apartments" have been allowed in East Hampton in one form or another since 1984, but in 2016, the town loosened its zoning laws, allowing an even greater number of them.

Strangely, it seems, local governments in Suffolk have embraced the notion of accessory apartments, while in Nassau, most of our local governments have either allowed them in limited circumstances only or banned them outright. Why?

Let's begin with why they're so popular in Suffolk. According to a 2017 study by the Long Island Index — "Home Remedies, Accessory Apartments on Long Island: Lessons Learned," by former Newsday reporter Elizabeth Moore — if just 10 percent of the Island's single-family homes had legal accessory apartments, that could help solve our housing crisis by increasing the stock of safe, affordable apartments available to young people and older adults.

"Accessory apartments have proven their worth as the most affordable type of rental housing in the region," the Index stated. "They can be easily accommodated because they don't require large infusions of capital, new roads, new sewers or expansion of the electrical grid. Instead, existing neighborhoods absorb the rentalseeking population like a sponge, while stabilizing finances for tax-strapped homeowners. They also provide affordable housing that is blended throughout the community rather than clustered, and having a resident homeowner usually means that they are better maintained than rentals with absentee owners."

Long Islanders pay among the highest taxes in the country, which are most likely to destroy the Island's suburban way of life, not accessory apartments. High taxes, coupled with high mortgage and rental costs, have been driving young people out of the region to less costly parts of the country since the 1990s, and even earlier than that. They are also forcing older adults — retirees on fixed incomes — out of their homes.

Accessory apartments are a low-cost alternative for young people looking to strike out on their own. Many young people from around the country, even the globe, come to Long Island to study at our prestigious universities, but too many never stay past graduation because they simply can't afford to live here. That's a shame, because our region could use their talents as we strive to become one of the nation's high-tech corridors.

Accessory apartments also give older adults, particularly those on fixed incomes, a way to offset their high property-tax burden, allowing them to stay put. Talk about a win-win.

Yet politicians like Blakeman and Suozzi eschew them because, some worry, accessory apartments might add a few extra cars to our blocks and a few extra kids to our schools. We encourage them to rethink their positions, considering all of the facts at hand.

LETTERS

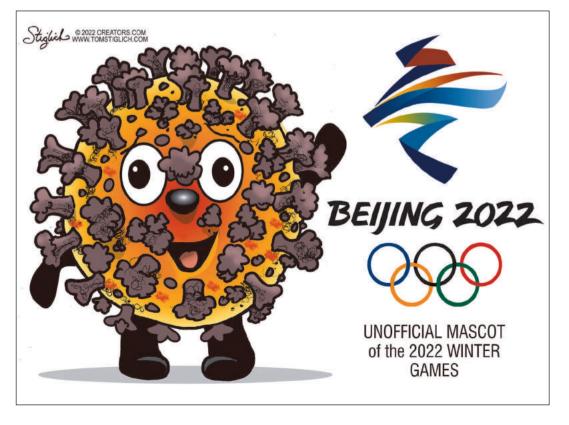
Rail lines need barriers

To the Editor:

The tragedy of Michelle Go, the young woman who was fatally pushed in front of a moving train in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority system last month, was preventable.

The most basic protections for commuters — platform doors and barriers — are both much needed and long overdue at the busiest Long Island Rail Road and Metro North stations throughout the system. I recently traveled from Metro North in Westchester to the LIRR station in Syosset to call on the MTA to step up and protect LIRR and Metro North passengers and install barriers before anyone else is injured or killed.

Preventing tragedies like the death of Michelle Go ought to be the top priority of New York public servants. As the MTA receives an infusion of new funds from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and



OPINIONS

For the new county executive, no shortage of challenges

he Coliseum

complex.

assessments

transportation.

to name three.

and mass

uring my time as an elected official, I was frequently asked whether being a state legislator was one of the toughest public jobs. My position was very demanding, but being a village mayor or a school board president is right up there in the ranks of jobs closest to the people. A state

JERRY KREMER

legislator will meet constituents at supermarkets, community events and many other places on weekends, but your mayor or school board official is confronted by the public on a 24/7 basis.

The follow-up question was, what job has the potential to get the

most done in the shortest amount of time? I always went with county executive. I have interacted with eight people who have held that job, dating back to the late A. Holly Patterson. Some of the executives were go-getters, and were effective at getting the job done. Others were caretakers, focused on serving out their terms and collecting a pension.

The new county executive, Bruce Blakeman, will have an opportunity to make his own history, because the county faces so many challenges.

The coronavirus pandemic has taken a great toll on small businesses in Nassau

County, and too many innocent people have died. Our health challenges are not over, and the statistics prove it. Blakeman, whom I have known and respected for many years, will face a number of new headaches in addition to the Covid fallout, and here are just a few.

There is no doubt that at the top of the list is the archaic way that homes and businesses are assessed. Blakeman's predecessor,

Laura Curran, did the best she could with a temporary plan, but the system needs a permanent solution, and to date the challenge has proven unsolvable.

Next in line are the Mitchel Field property and the Nassau Coliseum. The land surrounding the arena is extremely valuable. There have been numerous discussions about the development of that property, but nothing has been finalized. The opening of the UBS arena at Belmont Park may have made the Coliseum obso-

lete, but some fresh thinking could make it a viable public asset. Young people are desperate to remain on Long Island, but most developers focus on luxury housing with high-end prices. The Mitchel Field land could be the solution, a way to keep

hundreds of our youth on the Island.

The county's mass transportation needs a fresh look. Any bus system has to be reexamined periodically to determine whether it is accommodating the workers who need to travel from distant points to get to their jobs. Bus operators want only profitable routes, but sometimes buses have to go where the jobs are, and that takes some imagination,

and comes at a cost. To assume that the current bus system is perfect would be a mistake. An objective look at the operation is in order even if it steps on some toes. A look at the county's day care program goes hand in hand with getting people to work.

A potential job windfall for the region is waiting to be unleashed. At this moment, Amazon and other tech companies are buying numerous properties, planning to turn them into training sites for delivery jobs. At the same time, they are gobbling up large office buildings in the five boroughs, creating high-paying positions for engineers and technicians. Why not have a sit-down with these companies to get them to expand their footprint in Nassau County, beyond package services? We have great rail service and a quality of life that you don't get in the city.

Thanks to President Biden's infrastructure law, communities all over the country will be eligible for funding to improve roads and bridges. Our county has hundreds of miles of roadway that could use upgrade, whether in technology or maintenance. An updated infrastructure plan could merit fresh federal dollars and make our communities safer. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The list of things we need to get done is endless, and beyond the reach of just one person. But there are plenty of opportunities for Blakeman to write a positive chapter in our county's history book.

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.

LETTERS

Jobs Act, I am calling on our local transportation leaders to find the political will to do the right thing.

Last week, the State Legislature approved new congressional districts that added portions of the Metro North to the district I hope to represent.

In Congress, I would work to make sure even more resources are available to the MTA, LIRR and Metro North to protect the hardworking men and women who rely on the system to get them to and from work without incidents like what happened to Michelle Go.

What happened to her should never happen to another New Yorker — and installing barriers would see to that.

JOSH LAFAZAN Woodbury

Lafazan is a Nassau County legislator running for the 3rd Congressional District seat.

Train station needs more seating

To the Editor:

Manhattan State Senators Brad Hoylman and Robert Jackson, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, New York City Council Member Erik Bottcher and U.S. Rep. Jerry Nadler sent Amtrak a letter requesting that additional seating be installed in the \$1.6 billion Penn Station Moynihan Train Hall.

There is currently only very limited seating in a small waiting area for ticketed passengers. Just as bad, there is no seating for Long Island Rail Road riders waiting on the \$300 million West Concourse level for arriving trains. There are also no restroom facilities adjacent to the West Concourse. When there are periodic delays in service due to signal or other problems in either the Hudson or East River tunnels, thousands of LIRR and New Jersey Transit commuters must stand for long periods.

Adding adequate seating would be inexpensive and easy to accomplish. It would go a long way toward attracting more riders to return to the rails following the coronavirus pandemic.

LARRY PENNER
Great Neck

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

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



South Shore shells, hand-painted — Wantagh Craft Fair

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