GLEN COVE



Puppies up for adoption

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Paying tribute to powerful women

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MAY 19 - 25, 2022





SALLY DIMICEOI PUSHED her longtime friend Mimi Simonetti down Glen Street during Walk with a Doc on May 11, which started at the Glen Cove Senior Center.

On 'Walk with a Doc,' seniors get advice on health in transit

By LETISHA DASS

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Advanced age didn't stop two friends from enjoying exercise and receiving free one-onone medical tips from a doctor in Glen Cove.

Sally Dimiceoi, 79, of Glen Head, pushed her longtime friend and housemate Mimi Simometti, 95, of Glen Head, in her wheelchair down Glen Street to downtown.

Walking alongside them on their May 11 stroll was Dr. Barbara Keber, chair of family medicine at Glen Cove Hospital. The ladies were given the opportunity to ask medical

questions and learn how to improve their health, all while exercising safely.

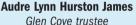
"We enjoyed it," Dimiceoi said. "I don't get the opportunity to get out often, so this is a good opportunity.

The educational experience was part of the age-friendly program Walk with a Doc, which first came to Glen Cove last year. but coronavirus concerns reduced the walks to just one. The rest were virtual, with Keber giving advice via video. This year, most of the walks will be in-person, giving seniors a chance to ask Keber questions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

ELECTION WINNERS







Lia Leone Glen Cove trustee

Glen Cove City School District board

Lia Leone won re-election to the school board, picking up 828 votes. She was joined by first-time candidate Audre Lynn Hurston James, who earned 655 votes. Coming in third — and falling short of a school board seat — was former Trustee David Huggins, with 628 votes.

Glen Cove City School District budget

Total: \$101.9 million. Passed, 751-449 Covers, among other things, a nine-period day at Finley Middle School, at a cost of \$550,000, and an increase in special education funding of roughly \$3 million. The cost of health insurance for faculty and staff members remains at about \$1 million.

Proposition 2

Total: \$7.5 million. Passed, 847-384 Uses coronavirus stimulus funds from the district's capital reserves to fund the extensions of Deasy and Landing elementary schools.

Proposition 3

Passed, 789-435

Creates a student seat on the school board.

Letisha Dass

Budget passes, time for school renovations

By LATISHA DASS ldass@liherald.com

ported our budget."

The votes are in and Glen Cove City School District's \$102 million budget passed with 751 votes in favor and 449 votes against on Tuesday. "It's an amazing and wonderful feeling," Superintendent Dr. Maria Rianna said, "because we see that the majority of the district has sup-

Along with the budget, voters have chosen incumbent Lia Leone and Audre Lynn Hurston James, a Glen Cove parent and an entrepreneur, to fill the two seats on the Board of Education.

Leone, the current board president, who received 828 votes in favor, will remain on the board as president until a vote is taken on July 1.

"It feels amazing," Leone said after the results. "What's more important is that the propositions passed and we can start to fix our schools.

James, who won with 655 votes in favor, will be taking a trustee seat on the board that has remained vacant since Karen Ferguson left in December 2021. She will have the option to start immediately at the next board meeting on May 18.

"I am very happy to be able to make a contribution beyond volunteering," James said. "I've been volunteering in the school since 2008 and [been] in it up to my elbows. Now it's in a different way and it's



WITH THE PASSAGE of the budget and propositions, Deasy Elementary School will be renovated, adding four classrooms, a bathroom and an elevator.

a learning curve, but I'm very happy."

The school budget includes a 1.8-percent tax levy, which is a \$500,000 increase from last year. Part of the budget are capital projects totaling \$1 million, which include the improvements to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning at Landing, repairing the fire alarms system at Deasy, and the renovations to the 1910 building patio at Deasy.

There will also be an implementation of a nine-period day at Robert M. Finley Middle School at an expense of \$550,000. It will allow for the district to open the curriculum to world language experience in

sixth grade, research opportunities for eighth and seventh graders, additional English Language Arts and math support for eight and seventh grade, opportunities to participate in Seal of Civic Readiness and complete projects to gain credits, and regent level math and science courses for the eighth grade.

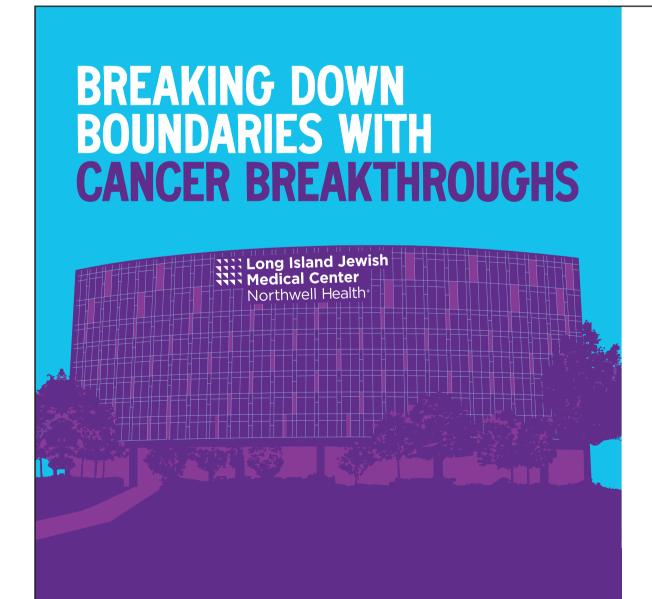
Included in the vote on Tuesday was the passing of two other propositions: the transfer of \$7.5 million in capital reserve to fund the extensions of Deasy and Landing elementary schools, and the approval to create a student seat on the Board of

The transfer of \$7.5 million in capital reserves to fund the extensions of Deasy and Landing, which passed with a vote of 847 in favor and 384 against, involves the addition of four classrooms, a bathroom, and an elevator in each school. The funding came from the federal coronavirus stimulus funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and Americans Rescue

"We will be working to move the renovations in the right direction." Rianna said. "We are able to use this stimulus money with the capital reserve, and we will be able to do the much needed renovations.'

Now, students can participate on the Board of Education. The third proposition, regarding the BOE's student seat, passed with 789 and 435 against. The student will have to be a senior from Glen Cove High School who is elected as class president by the student body. They will have no voting rights and are on the board to provide a student perspective to discussions.

"Students are my heart," Rianna said. "I am very, very happy that we will have a student voice and that student will have a lot of responsibility to really speak for all the children in our district, and I'm looking forward to working with the young people in that capacity."



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HERALD NEIGHBORS



Photos by Roni Chastain/Herald

JEN PASUCCI AND Karen Cohen from Volunteers for Friends Dog Rescue worked together at the animal rescue puppy adoption on April 24.

Adopt your next best friend

nimal rescue shelters across Long Island came together with the support of the Animal Rescue Paw Foundation to encourage the community to adopt a dog and raise awareness of rescues on April 24.

At Garvies Point Dog Park, shelters such as Ani-

mal Lovers League, Cove Animal Rescue, and Yorkie 911 had stalls and even puppies available to showcase their hard work in protecting and finding a forever home for the furry friends. There were also vendors available selling jewelry and other pet-related products.



MAYA CITAK PLAYED with a puppy at the adoption event held at Garvies Point Dog Park on April 24.



HEIDI WALKER FROM Yorkie 911 Rescue with the three-legged dog named Joan Jet.



A VARIETY OF dogs were at the fundation's adoption event.



PUPPIES WERE ALSO up for adoption on April 24.

Downtown Sounds to celebrate 25th anniversary

By LETISHA DASS

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Downtown Sounds has brought music, laughter, and family fun to Glen Cove for the past 25-years.

As part of the Glen Cove Business Improvement District's plan to revitalize the city's businesses, the Downtown Sounds initiative started in 1997 as a free concert series called Jazz in the Square, which was held every Friday in July Hosted at the intersection of Glen and School streets, the concerts showcased local musicians and businesses.

'Our aim is to bring business to the downtown, and to give the restaurants and the shops business," Fred Guarino, owner of Tikki Recording and Downtown Sounds chair said.

Throughout the years, the concert series grew with the help of sponsors. To accommodate the various musical preferences of the community and to attract a greater audience, the musical series evolved into Downtown Sounds, which was first coined by former BID executive director Francine Koehler.

"After a couple of years, I felt that it needed to appeal to a wider audience in order to grow," Koehler explained.

The lineup for the concerts is confirmed by March each year. Motown, rock, country, tribute, and Hispanic art-

Line-up for Downtown Sounds 2022

July 1: Decade of Soul July 8: The Rustlers

July 15: Paradigm

July 22: Dancing Dream,

an ABBA tribute

July 29: Strawberry Fields

Aug. 5: Milagro

Aug. 12: Unforgettable Fire,

a tribute to U2

Aug. 19: Jesse Kinch

Aug. 26: Soul Sound Revue



Photos courtesy Gills Associates Photography

DOWNTOWN SOUNDS COMMITTEE with the band La Sonora 495 ahead of the Aug. 13, 2021 concert.

ists have participated, with their own respective nights. The 2022 lineup includes bands such as Decade of Soul, Jesse Kinch, Strawberry Fields, Dancing Dream, and Milagro.

'We really tried to outdo ourselves with this lineup," Patricia Holman, executive director of the BID, said. "And we're very proud of it."

Holman's daughter, Ava Solange, 16, said that she has found the crowd to be livelier over the years. "It really brings the whole community of Glen Cove together because everybody just comes for the sole purpose of enjoying music and dancing together," Solange said.

After becoming a hit and partnering with Glen Cove City in 2010 under former mayor Ralph Suozzi, the concerts have been able to expand into Fridays in August as well. In the city partnership, Holman added, the BID still has full control of the concerts' production.

"I think because I have a very supportive board of directors and the support from the city, and support from the community, we were able to really make it grow," Koehler said.

Under Holman, the concert series



THERE WERE CROWDS of enthusiastic concertgoers at the Richie Cannata and Lords of 52nd Street concert in August 2021.

has extended into a New Year's concert. Starting this year, Holman created Downtown Teen Idol to allow aspiring teenage artists perform on stage at this year's concerts.

"Every year we try to do a lot more or make it better than the prior year," Holman said. "So, every year is a lesson about what we can do to make it bigger and better for our community and our visitors.'

"She tries to make it as inclusive as she can [and] something that people can enjoy," Solange said about her mother's plans.

By advertising on TV, radio, and newspapers, the concerts have been able to attract people outside of Glen Cove. "People love coming to it," Guarino said. "And we've gotten out of towners coming, which is a wonderful thing because people coming from other towns means it has grown in appeal."

Guarino said that he envisions Downtown Sounds growing bigger with the help of nationally recognized sponsors and artists joining one day. Even with the growing publicity and crowds, he added, there are no plans to move beyond the borders of the Downtown Village Square.

"We don't have the room to grow even bigger," Guarino said. "Because we don't want to take it out of the downtown because our mission is to serve as the downtown community."

Volunteers are essential in making the magic happen for every concert. Solange has been volunteering to work the concert since she was 11 years old.

By volunteering for the events to do the setup and cleanup, she has learned great leadership skills, she said. And sometimes her mom asks her for ideas and people at the concerts recognize her to ask for help.

They know they can come up to us if you have a question and it's something that has developed my life skills in a way and I really enjoy it," Solange



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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Ed Shin

GAITLEY STEVENSON-MATHEWS, FAR left, Ever Padilla and honorees Connie Pinilla, Dr. Gexi Geron, Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq., with Blase Whitting, and Nelson Rivera Jr. were at an event that paid tribute to powerful women.

Paying tribute to powerful women

International author, political consultant, and women's advocate, Gexi Girón, was honored on May 4 at the Swan Club. The event, sponsored by the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce featured dining, dancing, and an awards ceremony.

Also honored at the event were Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq., president of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association and principal law clerk for the Nassau County Supreme Court; and Connie Pinil-

la, Esq., vice president and counsel to NSHCC and a highly successful attorney and realtor with The Connie Pinilla Team Compass.

Girón read a few excerpts from her most recent book, "Mujeres Para Gobernar"—Women to Govern. In addition citations were also presented on behalf of U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi and County ExecutiveBruce Blakeman.



Courtesy Glen Cove Baseball Softball Association

THE GLEN COVE varsity softball team and the junior varsity squad hosted a clinic at their home field on April 21, with the help of the Glen Cove Baseball Softball Association.

Big Red Softball hosts youth clinic

The Glen Cove varsity softball team, with the help of some players from the junior varsity squad, hosted a successful clinic at their home field for local youth in collaboration with Glen Cove Baseball Softball Association on April 21.

Coach Kim Kessel and her high school softball players helped run the clinic for over 40 young girls who were eager to learn the sport and play Little League this season. Whether they were learning how to throw, bat, or run, the most important skill taught by the undefeated Big Red was not about form, timing, or technique. It was about teamwork and that working together really works.

Glen Cove Baseball Softball Association will also host two one week camps this summer in July and August. For more information, visit www.glencovebaseballandsoftball. leagueapps.com





COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, May 20

John Avlon

Visit Theodore's Books at 6:30 p.m. for an evening with senior political analyst and anchor at CNN John Avlon as he speaks about and signs copies of his new book, "Lincoln and the Fight for Peace." The evening will begin with a wine reception at Theodore's, before guests move to Raynham Hall Museum at 7:30 p.m. for the conversation and book signing.

Feast by the Shore

After a two-year break, Saint Boniface Feast By The Shore is back. It will take place at Harry Tappan Beach in Glenwood Landing on May 19, from 6 to 10 p.m.; May 20 from 6 to 11 p.m.; May 21 from 1 to 11 p.m.; and May 22 from 1 to 6 p.m. There will be fun for everyone, featuring rides from Newton Shows, food and drinks. Musical entertainment will take place nightly in the Town of Oyster Bay Showmobile: Alibi will perform on May 19 from 7 to 11 p.m.; Chicken Head on May 20 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Livestock on May 21 from 8 to 11 p.m.; and Frank Ferrara and Students on May 22 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 21

Yoga in the garden

Head over to the Planting Fields Arboretum for an 8 to 9 a.m. yoga session. Enjoy a morning of mindfulness in the historic gardens of Planting Fields with a yoga and meditation class led by Oyster Bay Yoga. Guests are reminded to bring their own yoga mat, water, and props. Those interested can register on the Planting Fields' website, \$10 for members and \$18 for non-members.

Sunday, May 22

Lego gallery

Come create a Lego sculpture at the Bayville Free Library between 1 and 3 p.m., no registration necessary. Children of all ages are welcome. Finished pieces will then be put on display for all to enjoy.



Courtesy Joanna Sasso

Muttontown Equine Festival

Come to the Muttontown Horsemen's Association Equine Festival on Sunday, May 22, starting at 11 a.m. Watch the skills of various Long Island horses and riders performing, while relaxing at the beautiful Muttontown Preserves. There will be a petting zoo and pony rides set up by Uncle Carmine for children to enjoy, along with equine demonstrations by the Nassau County Mounted Police.

Steve Forbes

Join Theodore's Books at 2 p.m. for an afternoon with chairman and Editor-inchief of Forbes Media, Steve Forbes, and co-author Elizabeth Ames, as they speak about and sign copies of their new book, "Inflation: What It Is, Why It's Bad, and How to Fix It." The book explains what's behind the worst inflationary storm in more than 40 years — one that is dominating the headlines and shaking Americans by their pocketbooks.

Asian cultural festival

Stop by the Planting Fields Arboretum from 2 to 5 p.m. for a celebration of East Asian culture. The grounds surrounding Coe Hall will feature traditional Chinese performances and artists. At 2 guests will watch The Art of Face Changing by Li Ping Zhang, followed by Humor acrobatic performer Xiao Di Yang. At 3:30 p.m. festivalgoers will enjoy Music Across the Map: a performance by young musicians of the

School of Music and Art. All daytime performances and activities are included in the \$8 parking fee.

Monday, May 23

Optimize your immune system

Join the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library for a Zoom lesson at 7 p.m. and learn about science-based ways to protect yourself from unnecessary illness. This lesson will be presented by Marie Ruggles, who holds an M.A. in Nutrition and Public Health

Tuesday, May 24

NewsBank database training

Visit the Glen Cove Library for a virtual lesson on NewsBank from 10 to 11 a.m. NewsBank is an online resource that consolidates articles from local newspapers,

national newspapers, blogs, broadcast transcripts and more, into one place. It is one of the most comprehensive news databases in the world. Join them to learn how to search current and archived editions of these publications.

Finding inner peace and calmness

Join the Bayville Free Library and Arvind Naik, long time meditator for this deep and engaging meditation workshop at 7 p.m. Arvind lectures regularly on the benefits of meditation and has been practicing himself for many years. During this workshop he will talk about the journey of finding lasting peace, happiness and a greater sense of well-being. Arvind will share a simple technique of spiritual meditation (explained and practiced during the session) that can help us achieve a lasting state of peace and happiness found through no outer experience.

Wednesday, May 25

Turner and the modern world

Stop by the Gold Coast Public Library for a visual lecture by Professor Thomas Germano at 7 p.m.The exhibition organized by the Tate Britain in 2021, traveled to Ft. Worth, TX (2021-22) and comes to The Boston, Museum of Fine Arts in Spring, 2022. This unique examination of J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) explores the English Romantic artist's lifelong interest in the inventions, events, politics, society, culture and science of his time, which resulted in many of his most original works that guided his subjects, and transformed his way of painting.

Thursday, May 26

Tai Chi

Practice Tai Chi either at the Gold Coast Public Library or at home under the guidance of Linda Cafiero from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Imagine being rooted to the earth with your head holding up the sky. Imagine billowing clouds floating all around you. Imagine the whole universe alive within you ... tai-chi, a moving meditation.

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
wsheeline.com

5 things to know about your town

- The Glen Cove Public Library will be holding a board meeting on May 17 from 6:45 to 9 p.m.
- The Village of Bayville will be holding a board meeting on May 23 at 6:30 p.m.
- The Town of Oyster Bay will be holding a board meeting on May 24 at 7 p.m.
- The Village of Sea Cliff Zoning Board of Appeals will be meeting on May 24 at 7 p.m.
- The Village of Sea Cliff Architectural Review Board will be meeting on May 24 at 7:30 p.m.

GLEN COVE HERALD — May 19, 2022

Seniors 'Walk with a Doc' in Glen Cove

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"We're so excited that we're able to do an in-person walk, especially since Dr. Keber has been so supportive of us the entire time whether virtually or in person," said Christine Rice, executive director of the Glen Cove Senior Center.

Leisurely exercise, according to Keber, is important because it can help prevent heart disease and cancer, and boost mental health and cogni-

tion in seniors.

"Walking is a great exercise for those who can do it," Keber said. "Even if you walk short distances, or short amounts of time, they add up. And that really has many, many health benefits."

The idea for the ini-

tiative has been in the works for years, said Carol Waldman, consultant to Age-Friendly Glen Cove and the former director of the senior center. With the assistance of the Nassau County Office for the Aging, state grants have been secured to implement the ideas. However, the senior center is searching for additional grants to continue their programs.

"People will be getting to see what we're doing, how we're trying to help the community and the whole goal is to get everybody on board," Waldman said. The Walk with a Doc program was created in 2005 by Dr. David Sabgir, a cardiologist in Columbus, Ohio. Since, then the program has grown to over 500 chapters globally, including Glen Cove.

"The purpose of Walk with the Doc is really to make the general population very comfortable just talking (and) having a conversation with a physician," Keber said

Glen Cove's chapter is powered by the City of Glen Cove and was initiated by Age-Friendly Glen Cove, a division of the Nassau County Age Friendly Center of Excellence.

The walk began at the senior center, on Glen Street, and the walkers made their way downtown by

Pulaski Street.

Walk with a Doc

View future events for Walk with

a Doc on the app Me and Move

in June; or agefriendlyglencove.

com/why-walk-with-a-doc/ to

access previous virtual events.

"To have it start here at the senior center is very meaningful," Rice said. "Our seniors are so excited about it."

As a bonus, members of the New York Coalition of Transportation Safety led the group, offering advice on the best way to walk while following state pedestrian laws.

The helpful tips included walking in the direction of oncoming traffic to see passing vehicles; wearing close-toed shoes to prevent tripping; wearing sunscreen



Letisha Dass/Herald

THE NORTH SHORE community joined Dr. Barbara Keber, fourth from right, chair of family medicine at Glen Cove Hospital, on a walk to learn about the benefits of exercising.

and a hat for protection against the sun; and paying attention to surroundings to prevent accidentally falling.

The Age-Friendly Glen Cove mission is to collaborate with the city to make it welcoming to seniors. One of the walkers, Ann Fangmann, executive director of Glen Cove Community Development Agency and Industrial Development Agency, highlighted the improvements the city has accomplished in making it safe for seniors and the community.

For example, she said, making major

crosswalks and parking garages in and around the downtown area American Disability Act compliant, replacing sidewalks with bricks popping out with either concrete or stamped concrete to make smooth walkways, and potentially planting trees to provide shade for pedestrians during the summer are a few of the improvements.

"We try to make little improvements," Fangmann said. "I think that Glen Street in general, could use some TLC in terms of pedestrian connectivity."



Protect Patients. #EndMedicalDebt.

#ENDMEDICALDEBT

Medical costs are strangling New Yorkers. Patients face hidden charges and are unable to find out how to apply for hospital financial aid.

As a result, tens of thousands of New Yorkers struggle with medical debt. Thousands are sued every year, and many more are harassed by collection agents.

New Yorkers need relief from hidden fees and a streamlined process to apply for hospital financial aid.



To take action, visit <u>cssny.org/EndMedicalDebt</u>.

Task force set to explore antisemitism surge

Will host public discussions, suggest legislation

By LISA MARGARIA

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Nassau County officials have created a special legislative task force to combat antisemitism and, immediately after being sworn in, went right to work.

Made up of eight legislators — four from each political caucus — as well as 18 members of the public, the task force is tasked to gather facts about the origins and extent of antisemitism in the county while working toward prevention methods like education and community collaboration.

The commission has a number of tasks before it, said County Executive Bruce Blakeman, who is part of the task force.

"What is the cause of antisemitism? How do we educate people? How do we liaison with the police department when a hate crime occurs?" Blakeman told the task force after they were sworn in. "These are just some of the things that you'll be tackling here in this commission, and it's important work."

The task force is expected to host public hearings before developing a report filled with recommendations to the county legislature to combat antisemitism.

"We are living in a polarized time," said Rabbi Eli Weinstock of the Jewish Center of Atlantic Beach, who chairs the task force. That time "has seen the rise of hate speech, which has seen a dramatic rise in antisemitic acts. A large proportion of hate crimes, overall, are antisemitic in nature. We're here and we're tasked to try and find mechanisms and ways to combat that."



Lisa Margaria/Herald

A 27-PERSON SPECIAL legislative task force is expected to research and ultimately recommend prevention methods in the hopes of combatting antisemitism in Nassau County.

The task force plans to host a virtual youth roundtable targeting antisemitism with a focus on how the law and public policy can help diminish bias and insensitivity.

The initiative to create the task force was spearheaded last summer by Plainview legislator Arnold Drucker. A bill establishing the task force was adopted unanimously by the County Legislature last August, and amended this year

"It was clear that the need for action was urgent,"

Drucker said in a statement. In an audit of antisemitic incidents, last year, reported antisemitic incidents jumped 34 percent compared to 2020, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

"Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and work collaboratively with residents and community leaders," Drucker said, "to devise and enact meaningful, enduring legislation that will strike directly at the fetid sources of antisemitism in our county."

Blakeman champions partnership with West Bank

By ED WEINTROB

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Nassau County cemented its relationship with Israel last week, signing an economic and cultural agreement with the Shomron.

It's an area in the northern part of an Israeli territory commonly referred to as the West Bank, or Judea and Samaria.

"This is an agreement of friendship, understanding and solidarity," Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman proclaimed during a ceremony in Mineola.

Blakeman's Israeli counterpart, Shomron Regional Council chair Yossi Dagan, says his region has been the Jewish heartland since the days of the religion's forefathers and prophets.

Mazi Melesa Pilip, a Great Neck-based legislator and a former Israeli Defense Forces paratrooper who emigrated to the Jewish state from Ethiopia during Operation Solomon in 1991, said the agreement would "continue an important and meaningful partnership and friendship based on social, economic, security and cultural" links.

"This event perfectly exemplifies the beautiful relationship between Israel and America," Assemblyman Ari Brown said. At a time "when people are trying to put a wedge between us, the county executive brings us together."

In fact, that's an aspect that sometimes gets lost, said Davidi Ben Zion, deputy head of the Samaria Regional Council.

"These are not easy days in Israel because of the attacks and the terrorist



Courtesy Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman

IT WAS ALL smiles and friendship for Shomron Regional Council chair Yossi Dagan and Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman after signing an economic and cultural agreement between the two 'sister' regions. Joining them were, at far left, Assemblyman Ari Brown, and former Boro Park Assemblyman Dov Hikind, Rabbi Anchelle Perl of Chabad of Mineola, and County Legislator Mazi Melesa Pilip.

campaigns," he said. "And sometimes for you, it is not easy days. But if we move together, we can win."

Dov Hikind, the firebrand former Assemblyman from Boro Park, applauded what he called Blakeman's leadership in joining with Israel.

"We are united with the people of Israel, and we are united with the communities — not 'settlements' — in Judea and Samaria," Hikind said. "These are mag-

nificent cities with the most special people."

Yet, it takes more than simply saying, "I support Israel," the onetime lawmaker said, although it's "a good start."

"But this is called action," Hikind said.
"This is called doing something real. You are saying to over half a million people in Judea and Samaria, 'You are not alone. We the people of Long Island — of America — we are with you."

Judea and Samaria is a subject of international controversy, with some referring to it as "occupied territory," where development by Israel violates international law. Others maintain Israel is acting legally.

Blakeman, who's visited the Shomron, described the area as critically situated relative to the rest of the country.

"It's the high ground overlooking the Tel Aviv airport," he said. "To give away that strategic area would put all of Israel in danger."

Meanwhile, Israeli development there poosts everyone.

"What you won't hear in the media is how many Palestinian Arabs are employed in Judea and Samaria in the factories, earning three times what they would if they were in the Palestinian Authority areas," Blakeman said, explaining that Israelis "are providing a lot of economic opportunity for their Palestinian neighbors as well as for Israelis."

While Judea was not represented at Thursday's event, Blakeman — whose wife is Israeli — emphasized his support for them as well. Blakeman highlighted his latest personal link to the Jewish state, introducing his daughter, Ariel, a former student at Bar-Ilan University near Tel Aviv. Just last week, she announced her engagement to a former defense forces paratrooper.

In 2016, the Town of Hempstead proclaimed the Region of Shomron a "sister municipality." Blakeman, a Hempstead councilman at the time, said then that "they are truly on the front lines."

Feisty Yolanda Ruthkowski dies at 96

By LETISHA DASS

ldass@liherald.com

A force of goodwill, Yolanda Ruthkowski, of Glen Cove, was a feisty woman who left an imprint on everyone she met. Known as the 'salad queen' of St. Rocco's Feast, she devoted her life to her Catholic faith and family.

"She always had time for her family, her friends, [and] for me," Phyllis Gallick, Ruthkowski's daughter, said. "Nothing was more important to her than her children and her grandchildren."

For the past 24 years, she lived with Gallick until six months ago when she moved into Glengariff Rehabilitation and Health Center, a nursing home. Ruthkowski, 96, died on April 29, after years of struggling with poor health and dementia.

"She wasn't herself for these past two and a half years," Gallick said. "So, it was time to mourn the loss of the woman that she had been to us all."

Robin Ruthkowski, a grandchild who lives in Florida, recalled how during the summers of her childhood, her grandmother booked flights for her to visit Glen Cove to spend the summer.

Ruthkowski fell in love during World War II when she met her husband, Frank Ruthkowski, a veteran of World War II. After marrying in 1946, the couple spent 42 years together, raising their two children Nicholas and Phyllis until Frank died in 1988.

Ruthkowski was a survivor of loss. Born to Italian parents, Carlo and Filacetta Ceglia, she was one out of 11 children, all of whom predeceased her.

Her eldest child, Nicholas Ruthkowski, died in 2014



Robin Ruthkowski

YOLANDA RUTHKOWSKI, 68, strutted down the runway for the St. Rocco's fashion show in 1993.

after battling bone marrow cancer. His daughter, Robin said it was remarkable that her grandmother was able to stay so strong after losing so many people she loved.

Part of her strength could be attributed to her dedication to her faith, Robin said, adding that her grandmother was devoted to her prayers.

"Praying for her was a lifelong thing," Robin said.

"She never failed to pray the rosary, really. And we would do the Divine Mercy together."

At St. Rocco's she volunteered for everything before her health began to decline during the past three years. Always ready to express her faith through service, Ruthkowski was part of St. Rocco's Rosary Society, helped

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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COUNTY EXECUTIVE BRUCE Blakeman seeks to end the Housing Assistance Program that aimed to send one-time \$375 checks to lowincome households.

Blakeman ends pandemic relief program

was an onerous

process to

be able to do

people simply

didn't appear

in it.

to be interested

STEVE RHOADS

county legislator

it. And most

By MALLORY WILSON

mwilson@liherald.com

Bruce Blakeman is ending Nassau County's Household Assistance Program, intended to offer lower-income residents a one-time direct payment of \$375.

Signed into law last October when Blakeman's predecessor, Laura Curran, was still county executive, the program was supposed to allocate up to \$100 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act as direct payments for up to 400,000 qualifying Nassau residents. The county overall received \$193 million from the act, which President Joe Biden signed into law in March 2021.

In a letter to county legislators, Blakeman said he wanted to stop the program because of "extremely low participation" and because the program seems to be "trickling out." He would pull the plug May 15, allowing any applications submitted by that day to be processed, but nothing more after that.

Roughly 70,000 payments were processed amounting to a little over \$26 million — just a quarter of the monies budgeted for the program. To get the check, a household would have to submit an application with documentation verifying income, typically in the form of an income tax return, as well as provide proof of residency.

The program has had a rather complicated history since Curran, a Democrat, first introduced it a year ago. The program's first draft would have automatically issued checks to anyone receiving rebates through the state's school tax relief or enhanced school tax relief programs. Homeowners with household income less than \$500,000 and receiving the school tax exemptions would qualify.

Some county legislators were skeptical about the program from the beginning, especially on the Republican side of the

aisle. Legislator Tom McKevitt, for example, wanted to see proof from either the U.S. Treasury Department or another counsel saying the county was allowed to run this program with the designated federal funds — proof Curran never provided.

Instead, Curran revised the program last August, this time with the income requirement under \$169,000.

"The second time she unveiled the program, we still wanted to see documentation that said we could do this program," McKevitt said. "It took months for us to get the documentation, and when we did it, wasn't from the Treasury Department. It was from outside counsel.'

Steve Rhoads said he also questioned whether the money was being used for the right purpose.

"One of the concerns was that the money could have been used in a better way," the Republican legislator said. "We weren't going to stand in the way of providing \$375 checks to those who wanted to

apply for them, but it was an onerous process to be able to do it, and most people simply didn't appear to be interested in it."

The requirements were lowered last month to those making less than \$76,050.

Verbiage on the county's website stated the requirements were updated to "conform to the U.S. Treasury final rule's income eligibility thresholds."

Democrats in the legislature wrote their own letter to Blakeman on April 28, claime weren't going ing the administration failed to "adequately communicate a crucial and significant to stand in the change in eligibility requirements." This change, they way of providing said, "drastically" restricted \$375 checks the number of Nassau County families that can receive to those who the payments, adding it would result in "economic harm to wanted to apply taxpayers at a time when they for them, but it can least afford it.'

Rhoads and McKevitt disagreed, however, believing the low participation was more a product of the application process than changes at the federal level.

"A lot of people who called my office were either very hesitant to provide their income or refused to do it," McKevitt said. "People just felt that the county shouldn't have that information, or whatever it may be. People are just not very willing to give up their income tax returns.

"You had to go through a lot of documentation,'

Rhoads said. "You had to provide a lot of critical information to the county just to qualify for \$375.'

Democratic legislators blamed the slowdown on the "willful decision to essentially mothball this program by refusing to adequately promote it." But Rhoads points out the program was advertised on the county website, and through a direct mailer to eligible households.

"It's tough," Rhoads said. "Information was also sent out in email blasts, but ultimately that only works if people read and take a look at it.'

Blakeman has yet to share his plans for the remaining federal money, but county legislators urge him to get the ball rolling soon. Any funds not used by 2026 must be returned to Washington.

"I want to make sure that people are receiving the money they're entitled to,' McKevitt said. "But the last thing I want to see is the federal government take the money back.'

Democrats want Blakeman to keep the program in place at least through the end of the year, especially since the pool of eligible households grew significant with the income requirements dropping to below

There are restrictions as to what the county can do with the money — 50 pages of rules, in fact, Rhoads said. But Blakeman could use money to offset taxes, essentially giving homeowners a break there.

Rhoads also would like to provide tuition assistance for anyone who lost their job, or students of parents who lost their jobs, to go to Nassau Community College either for job training or to simply qualify for scholarships.

"I think there are lots of good the government could do with the money," McKevitt said. "Whether it's for infrastructure, whether it's aid to veterans, I just want to make sure the money is used here and not sent back to Washington.'

Northwell hospitals state's best for cardio

Two newly released New York State Department of Health reports rank five Northwell Health hospitals as among the state's best for cardiac surgery and percutaneous coronary interventions a nonsurgical procedure used to treat narrowing of the heart's coronary arteries and cited several of its physicians for superior outcomes from 2016-2018.

The Sandra Atlas Bass Heart Hospital at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset was rated among the state's best outcomes for certain types of openheart surgery and superior survival rates for PCI cases. The hospital also earned the prestigious double-star asterisk for statistically superior outcomes as reported by the DOH.

The cardiac surgery report also showed that SABHH at NSUH was among four hospitals across the state to receive double-star rankings for superior outcomes in isolated coronary artery bypass graft surgery for 2016-2018 discharges, meaning that all three of these Northwell Health hospitals had mortality rates significantly less than the statewide average of 1.58 percent.

OBITUARIES

Robert William Shaddock

Robert William Shaddock, 85, of San Diego, California, formally of Locust Valley, died on Feb. 11, 2022. Predeceased by parents, George and Jennie Shaddock and brothers Christopher (Patricia) and George (Elinor) and wife Delores. Beloved husband of Glee for 45 years and brother of Janice Deegan (George deceased). Father of Jeffrey (Jessica) and Corryn (Owen) Nevin. Devoted grandfather of Emmett Shaddock and Brooke and Patrick Nevin.

Robert graduated from Glen Cove High School in 1954 and from Lafayette College in 1958. He earned his master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Southern California and spent a long career working for the Department of Defense at various naval laboratories in Southern California, most notably the Naval Ocean Systems in Point Loma, California. A Memorial will be held on July 2 in San Diego, California. Donations may be made to the San Diego Humane Society.

Lorraine Ann Ieraci

Lorraine Ann Ieraci, 68, of Locust Valley, died on May 13, 2022. Beloved wife of Michael: loving mother of Stela: dear sister of Nancy (Michael McCabe). Also survived by cousins, nieces, and nephews. Ieraci was an avid reader and loved spending time in Montauk. She loved to garden and her flowers. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.

The DOH report analyzed 67 503 total adult cardiac surgeries - including isolated CABG, valve, valve/CABG, and other cardiac surgeries – performed at 38 hospitals across New York from 2016-2018. In addition, 153,201 PCI and 12,579 transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedures. which are minimally invasive, catheterplaced valves, were reported.

Audubon Society presents mural project

The next meeting of the North Shore Audubon Society will feature a presentation by Leigh Hallingby, a licensed New York City tour guide, on "The Audubon Mural Project.

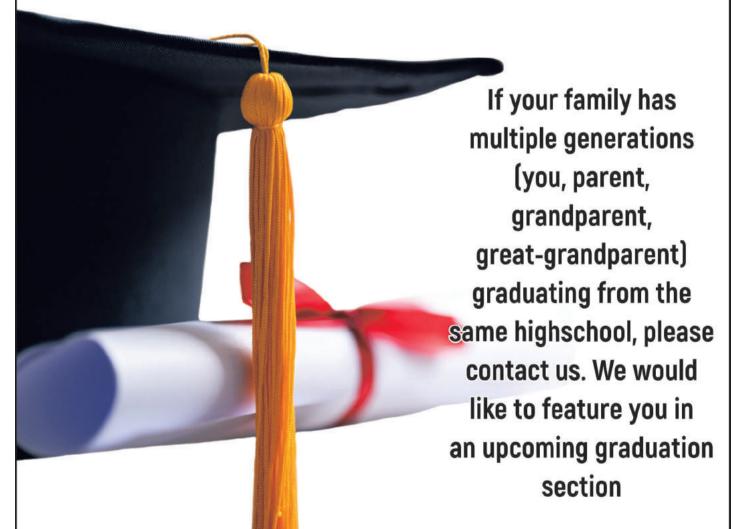
Free to the public, the event will be held at Manhasset Public Library on May 24 at 7 p.m. This is a hybrid live Zoom presentation and is the second live meeting since 2020. All are encouraged to attend in person if possible. Alternatively, the meeting can be viewed via Zoom using the link on the website calendar at http:// northshoreaudubon.org/calendar/.

The Audubon Mural Project is an impressive effort to create murals of over 300 North American birds. Most of the murals are in the Harlem neighborhoods

of Hamilton Heights and Washington Heights, where John James Audubon Heights, where John James Audubon lived the last 10 years of his life. All of the birds painted are threatened by climate change. So, the project is designed not only to display the birds' beauty, but also to make us aware of the challenges that

Guests will be able to see about 40 murals, plus Audubon's grave site, in a 50-minute slide presentation with live commentary. A Q&A will be included.

Are you a three generation or more high school graduating family?



If you would like to be interviewed for this special feature, please contact Amanda by Friday May 27 at 516-569-4000 ext 249 or email amarte@liherald.com

New maps change District 3, some say for the better

By LAURA LANE

llane@liherald.com

Jonathan Cervas, the court-appointed special master, released new redistricting maps on Monday, which are being touted as a victory for Republicans, who had complained that the initial maps drawn by the Democratic State Legislature were unfair and unconstitutional.

Republican candidate for New York's Third Congressional District George Santos said he is grateful for the new maps. "Based on these maps, I am even more confident in a fair fight that will end in victory this November," he said. "Taxpayers want change."

With the new maps, which should be adopted on Friday, some elected Democratic leaders are now in the same district, but not so in Congressional District 3. But the lines have been dramatically redrawn [See box], with the elimination of Suffolk County, the Bronx and Westchester from the original maps. Additionally, there is only a sliver of Queens included in the new maps and South Shore areas, including Massapequa and Mineola, Republican strong-

"The state Senate maps are a mess with incumbents going against each other," James Scheuerman, Nassau County's Democratic election commissioner, said. "There is an opportunity for people to weigh in before the Friday deadline. I believe they would have to submit it in writing to [Steuben County Supreme Court] Judge [Patrick] McAllister.'

The current new maps could cause at least one candidate to reconsider her run. None of Sen. Alessandra Biaggi's Bronx district is included in the new maps. Prior to its release, the Democrat, unknown to most in the North Shore, opened a campaign office in Sea Cliff. Biaggi could not be reached for comment.

There are 10 candidates running for U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi's seat. Some were quick to confirm that they would continue their bid for a seat on the House of Representatives.

"Regardless of the map, the issues that brought me into this race remain of vital importance to our communities," Robert Zimmerman, of Great Neck, said. "If the map proposed today is adopted, I plan to run in New York's 3rd District. We will win a Democratic primary and deliver a victory



Courtesy Josh Lafazan

WITH THE NEW maps, Leg. Josh Lafazan no longer lives in District 3.

in November for the people of Nassau and

Nassau Legislator Josh Lafazan, of Woodbury, said he would continue his campaign as well, although with the new maps he now lives in District 2, where much of his support has been. But unlike Biaggi, he is known, now a legislator in his second

"Josh Lafazan is a common sense Democrat who spends every day talking to Long Islanders about affordable and accessible health care, lower taxes and common sense gun laws and that is what he will continue to do in his campaign for New York's Third Congressional District," Chase Serota, Lafazan's campaign manager said.

Jon Kaiman, of Great Neck, said he sees the new map as an advantage. All of the Town of North Hempstead is included in it, where he was elected five times as supervisor serving more than 10 years.

"And most of the district is contained in Nassau County now," he added. "There are additional areas included from the South Shore where I did my work on New York Rising.'

Melanie D'Arrigo, who lost to Suozzi in the 2020 primary, is continuing her campaign too. Having grown up on the South Shore and raising her family in Queens, she now lives in Nassau County. "The new

Areas in District 3 new court-appointed maps

Baxter Estates Mineola Munsey Park Bayville Bethpage Muttontown New Cassel Brookville Carle Place

Centre Island North Hills Cove Neck North Massapequa North New Hyde Park East Hills

East Massapequa East Meadow - 1 percent Old Brookville Old Westbury **East Williston** Farmingdale

Floral Park - 14 percent

Flower Hill

Garden City - .02 percent Garden City Park

Glen Cove Glen Head Glenwood Landing **Great Neck**

Great Neck Estates Great Neck Gardens Great Neck Plaza

Greenvale Harbor Hills Herricks Hicksville Jericho Kensington

Kings Park Lake Success Lattingtown Laurel Hollow

Levittown - 92 percent Locust Valley

Manhasset Manhasset Hills Manorhaven

Massapequa Massapequa Park Matinecock

Mill Neck

New Hyde Park - 58 percent

Old Bethpage Oyster Bay

Oyster Bay Cove - 82 percent

Plainedge

Plainview - 60 percent

Plandome

Plandome Heights Plandome Manor Port Washington Port Washington North Roslyn Estates Roslyn Harbor Roslyn Heights Russell Gardens Saddle Rock

Salisbury - 24 percent Sands Point Sea Cliff Searingtown South Farmingdale Syosset - 57 percent

Saddle Rock Estates

Thomaston University Gardens Upper Brookville Westbury Williston Park

Woodbury - .1 percent

NY-03 Congressional boundaries reflect the community I've spent years organizing in before I ever considered a run for Congress," D'Arrigo said, "and I am proud to keep that fight up as we head towards the August 23, 2022 primary.'

Much can happen between now and Aug. 23. But one thing is certain. If the new maps are confirmed on Friday, it would make for more competitive races.



THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Hoops and dreams

ANN

DIPIETRO

ear Great Book Guru, I am a great fan of John Grisham and his legal thrillers, but apparently, last year, he wrote an amazing book about a basketball player from Africa. I love basketball so this

seems like a perfect choice for me. Are you familiar with the book? -Lover of Hoops and Books

Dear Lover of Hoops and Books, I too was unaware of this outstanding book: "Sooley," by John Grisham, until recently. The storyline is as exciting as any of Grisham's more typical legal mysteries, but as always, his

characters are vividly described, especially the lead, Sooley - a nickname given Samuel Sooleyman, a 17-year-old boy from South

The story starts optimistically with Sooley leaving his small rural village to try out for a traveling international basketball team. His family and fellow villagers are ecstatic when he wins a coveted spot, but immediately joy turns to horror as the village is attacked by rebels and destroyed. For

> the remainder of the novel, the chapters alternate between Sooley's life in the United States and his family's perilous existence in horrific refugee camps. The banal intricacies of the professional world of basketball contrast bizarrely with the horrors of daily life in war-torn Sudan. Throughout, Sooley tries to reconcile his good fortune with the tribulations of his family. American immigration policies and a multitude of societal missteps

make Sooley's story much larger than that of one young man. A long — 489 pages but worthwhile read and highly recommended.

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



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Courtesy Robin Ruthkowski

NORTH SHORE CENTRAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT
IN THE COUNTY OF
NASSAU, NEW YORK

NOTICE

AT THE ST. Rocco's fashion show in 1993, she even modeled the swimsuit collections. She was one of the oldest women to have walked the runway for the fundraiser.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
NORTH SHORE CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEA CLIFF, NEW YORK
INVITATION TO BID:
CARPENTRY SUPPLIES

Participating Districts:
North Shore Central
School District & Glen
Cove School District
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby
given that sealed bids will
be receive by the Board of
Education, North Shore
Central School District,
112 Franklin Avenue, Sea
Cliff, New York, 11579,
for Carpentry Supplies
Bid Receipt Day & Time:
May 31st 2022 at

May 31st, 2022 at 11.00am Bids will be received until the above-stated hour of prevailing time and date to the attention of John Hall, Director of Facilities at the Business Office of North Shore Central School Distict located at 112 Franklin Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. Promptly at 11:00am prevailing time on May 31st, 2022 11:00am Bids will be opened and read aloud by video conference/live arrangements participation in which will available District Website. Note: In the event closure of the business office such video conference impossible on the bid opening date, video opening date conference or

OBTAINING
DOCUMENTS:

website.

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained via email Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm, excluding holidays. Requests for bid documents must be sent via email to Mathew Cheravallilm@northshores

opening will be conducted on the next

hours prior on the district

office

least

be 24

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accessible as indicated at

cheravallilm@northshores chools.org . Bid Submissions:

Bid Submissions: Each board of education reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all bids, or to accept that bid which, in the Boards of Education's judgment, is in the best interest of the District. The of Education **Boards** further reserve the right consider experience. service and reputation in referenced above fields. In addition, the Boards of Education the right to consider responsibility and specific qualifications, set forth in the bid specifications, of the prospective bidder in uation of the bids and award of contracts BOARD OF EDUCATION North Shore School District Ciampi, Elizabeth

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a Public Hearing
shall be held on Tuesday,
May 24, 2022, at 7:30
p.m. in the Council
Chambers at Glen Cove
City Hall, 9 Glen Street,
Glen Cove, New York, to
discuss the addition of
certain fees to Ch. 239:
Streets and Sidewalks for
road openings to cover
inspection and
administration fees.
All interested parties will

District Clerk

All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. Tina Pemberton City Clerk 131511

Place a notice by phone at 516-569-4000 x232 or email: legalnotices@liherald.com

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a Public Hearing
shall be held on Tuesday,
May 24, 2022 at 7:30
p.m. in the Council
Chambers at Glen Cove
City Hall, 9 Glen Street,
Glen Cove, New York, to
discuss Local Law
02-2022, amending Sec.
C9-8. Tax penalties and
Discount (A) of the City of
Glen Cove Charter.

All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. Tina Pemberton City Clerk 131513

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a Public Hearing
shall be held on Tuesday,
May 24, 2022 at 7:30
p.m. in the Council
Chambers at Glen Cove
city Hall, 9 Glen Street,
Glen Cove, New York, to
discuss Local Law
03-2022: Collection of
delinquent taxes; sale and
foreclosure of tax liens:
1. removing Sec.
C9-9 (E) 2 Interest on tax

liens; how computed;
2. a m e n d i n g
Sec. C9-9 (O)(1)(a)[3]
When tax lien may be
discharged;
3. adding Sec.

C9-9 (O)(4) of the City of Glen Cove Charter.
All interested parties will be given an opportunity

to be heard.
Tina Pemberton
City Clerk
131514

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES To place a notice here call us us at 516-569-4000 x232 or send an email to: legalnotices@liherald.com

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN a Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday May 24, 2022, at 7:30 in the Council Chambers at Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY to discuss amending Schedule Sec. 265-51 XIX: Loading Zones, of the Code of Ordinances, as it relates to Glen Street. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. Tina Pemberton

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NAJSAU, NEW YURK NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District, in the County of Nassau, New York, shall hold a Public Hearing during a regularly scheduled public meeting of the Board of Education on Thursday May 2022 at 7:45 pm at: North Shore High School Library for the purpose of discussing the of dis Resolution: WHEREAS the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to appropriate existing funds from the District's Repair Reserve for the purpose undertaking wide repairs remediation necessary to (1) restore existing HVAC systems to code compliant operating condition ("HVAC condition ("HVA Repairs"); now, therefore BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District authorizes the following appropriations from the District's Repair Reserve to fund aforementioned districtwide repairs and remediation work: (1) an amount not to exceed \$580,000.00 purpose of funding the Repairs; authorizes and directs the Superintendent of Schools and/or his designees to undertake the necessary steps to effectuate and undertake the aforementioned repair work in accordance with this resolution, including the execution of contracts for public work and/or the purchase of supplies, material or equipment in

connection therewith.

Remembering the 'salad queen' of St. Rocco's

S he waited all year for

the feast, and

she attended

worked every

night.

PHYLLIS

GALLICK

daughter

Ruthkowski's

every night and

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

raise money for the church's fashion show fundraiser, donated a statue of the Sacred Heart, and worked at the annual feast every year.

"She waited all year for the feast, and she attended every night and worked every night," Gallick said.

And although Ruthkowski was recognized for running the salad department, she helped everyone at the feast.

"She was there early in the morning with everyone," Lori Testa, president of the Rosary Society said. "She would prepare the foods [for] whatever we were making, or whatever they were making. She was always a part of that"

Because of her commitment to working at the feast serving salad, the church dedicated a banner to Ruthkowski after she was no longer able to continue volunteering or attending the celebration. The banner, which calls Ruthkowski the salad queen, is

hung every year in the church during the feast in the Madonna Hall.

"She was very active in the feast for many, many years," Lori Testa, president of the Rosary Society said. "She never said no to anyone."

For the fashion show fundraiser.

For the fashion show fundraiser, Coleen Spinello, a longtime friend of Ruthkowski, remembered how she would walk door-to-door with her friend Mary Jane asking people to donate. "They would pound the pavement rain or shine or snow or sleet," Spinello said.

At one of the church's fashion shows,

Testa recalled that Ruthkowski was the oldest woman to model, even for the swimsuit collection. She loved being a part of it. "She had such confidence," Testa said.

Forever the independent woman, Ruthkowski drove until she was 92 years old. Robin remembered how her grandmother

used to speed down the road like "Speedy Gonzales."

"She had it in her mind that she was the best driver in the world.," Robin said. "She was literally the worst driver."

When Ruthkowski was unable to drive to church anymore, she would seek out Testa or Spinello to give her a ride.

"If anybody remembers her, it would be that she never sat still for a moment," Gallick said. "She would literally come home and go literally right back out."

"I would swing by and we would carpool together," Spinello said. "We would laugh the whole time and she would

tell me stories of the good old days."

Her outgoing personality always was evident at events, especially if there was dancing. Gallick said she knew every dance of her era. She never had a filter to anything she said.

When Phyllis's daughter, Colleen, got married in 2020, Ruthkowski attended, despite not being unable to share her dance moves with everyone.

"She was just fun," Robin said. "She was a very independent, very feisty, very lively person. She loved to dance. She was outgoing, outspoken."



Courtesy Phyllis Gallick

IN 2020, YOLANDA Ruthkowski, center, attended her granddaughter, Colleen's, wedding,

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OPINIONS

In the governor's race, Suozzi is stuck on first base

e's to the right of

center, unlike

most voters

who show up

for primaries.

n just under six weeks, New York state voters will get a chance to select the candidates for governor and State Assembly. With no disrespect to that branch of the Legislature, and having been an Assembly member myself, it is obviously the race for governor that is the most significant one from

JERRY KREMER

the standpoint of the millions of New Yorkers who will cast their ballots.

New York is a state that tilts heavily toward the Democratic Party, so the party's primary contest on Tuesday, June 28, will more than likely choose the person who will run our state for

the next four years. I'm not ignoring the fact that there's a Republican challenger, U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin, but with the highest vote concentration in the downstate region, a big Republican vote from upstate won't be significant enough to drown out the heavy Democratic enrollment elsewhere.

Candidate Tom Suozzi, another member of Congress, has spent a substantial amount of money on television ads introducing himself to the general public. He has a list of promises on taxes, crime and a variety of other issues. But considering the fact that he's running against Gov. Kathy Hochul, who already has the job, Suozzi has yet to tell voters why they

should choose him over Hochul, who would be the first woman elected governor in state history.

Suozzi is running as a right-of-center candidate in a state where most of the voters who show up for primary elections lean to the left. Whether the progressives will turn out for Hochul is still an open question.

The recently passed state budget was a big victory for Hochul. While som

tory for Hochul. While some armchair critics have blamed the lateness of the spending plan on the governor, the delay was partially caused by her insistence that there be bail reform changes in the package. Because the new budget had so many of Hochul's proposals, the Senate and Assembly leadership refused to attend the traditional news conference following its passage.

Having served as chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee for 10 years, I can attest to the fact that the new spending plan spreads equal amounts of money throughout the state, as opposed to previous budgets, which were heavily weighted toward New York City and Long Island. The city got substantial amounts of money for health and day care workers and big dollars for

mass transit. Long Island was a big winner, with record amounts of school aid, money for road improvements and for clean water projects.

Suozzi has been critical of the approval of public funds for a new stadium for the NFL's Buffalo Bills. Historically, western New York, like most upstate areas, has been an orphan when it comes to state dollars. If there were a grant

of state money for a football stadium on the West Side of Manhattan, you'd hear the same gripes from upstate voters. Previously, Gov. Andrew Cuomo awarded funds for numerous upstate programs, but many, like a Buffalo solar factory, produced no economic gain.

There is no doubt that crime will be a big issue for voters, but the responsibility for New York City's current crime wave is an issue for Mayor Eric Adams, and can't be shifted to the state. The controversial bail reform law that was signed by Cuomo has now been amended

with revisions aimed at giving judges more discretion over criminals with gun charges and others with histories of violent crime.

Thanks to recent revelations about an upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision that may overturn Roe v. Wade, Hochul has set aside \$35 million in funds for women in need of abortions where appropriate. There are no differences between the two Democrats on this issue, but the governor has the money, so she has the upper hand.

Suozzi has one self-made disaster to deal with when it comes to the LGBT community. His recent description of Florida's controversial so-called "Don't Say Gay" law as "reasonable" resulted in some serious pushback against him that will be hard to controvert. How bad a hit he will take is still up in the air. The electoral clock is ticking, and six weeks go by quickly. Suozzi is facing a big challenge to capture the attention of the voters, and at this point he has failed to get any big wins on the campaign trail, which leaves him where he started — on first base.

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.

A Memorial Day like no other in our lives

want to

honor teens'

sacrifice, and I

wish there were

medals of honor

for parents.

he things we carry to this Memorial Day, 2022, are freighted with more recent events than past battles. On the last Monday in May, we look back to honor our war dead; this year we also hold in our hearts love for the friends and family members who died this year and last in the pandemic.



RANDI KREISS

We stagger under the weight of one million Americans dead of Covid-19. This has been a war, too.

This year, especially, it feels appropriate to broaden the meaning of Memorial Day to honor the sacrifice of all those who have lived through the

plague of our time, including the medical teams and the teachers and the workers who kept showing up and, especially, the parents who have fought a front-line battle every day since winter 2020. The efforts of scientists to develop vaccines with unprecedented speed have been astonishing and heroic.

My special heroes are our teenagers, who gave up nearly every single aspect of joy in their lives to stay healthy and keep their parents and grandparents safe. Teens live for connection and freedom and breaking through boundaries and trying new things. During Covid, the constraints have been particularly oner-

ous for them. In an ironic twist, just as the world was awakening to the dangers of screen time, so many millions of kids were pushed ever further into the digital world of texting and Zooming. As we all know, our teens are experiencing a secondary epidemic of depression and stress and mental health crises.

I want to honor their sacrifice. I say this out loud to my teenage grandkids, and I want them to know that we know how tough it has been.

The parents of young kids have been raising their children without the relief of school and play dates and family gatherings. Many struggled to keep the home front safe and productive. They were also trying to work, to pay the bills, to get meals on the table. I wish there were medals of honor for them, too.

Growing up, I watched Memorial Day parades along Broadway in Woodmere. Later, my kids marched down the avenue with their school bands, tooting on their clarinets. In my mind's eye I can see them looking so proud to be part of the parade, glancing sideways to catch my eye as they walked by. They stopped at the war memorial on the corner of

Broadway and Conklin and, in a solemn ceremony, offered gratitude to those who died in our great wars.

I imagine that as children march in this year's Memorial Day parades and parents gather on the sidewalks, with or without masks, thoughts of other losses will bleed into the moment — as it should be when so many are scarred by painful memories of the past two years.

Many Americans visit cemeteries and place flags on the graves of soldiers who defended American democracy in conflicts going back to the Civil War. We have seen images of hundreds of thousands of flags on the Mall in the nation's capital, each a reminder of someone who died too soon or too young during this raging pandemic. For me, it is all threaded together.

These past two years have been a battle, complicated by divisions and conflicts among our citizens. Add to this the suffering in Ukraine beaming into our homes and onto our devices every single day in recent months. This aggression, an amalgam of old-fashioned warfare and new-age weapons, is displacing millions of people and killing children and civilians in staggering numbers. Doesn't this war have an unofficial place in our Memorial Day as well?

It's a big job being a thoughtful American citizen today. We want to keep up our traditions and we need to move along with life, somehow weaving our most recent pandemic losses into the fabric of our days

According to NPR, Marked By Covid, a grass-roots group, is advocating for a National Day of Remembrance to honor those who died.

In the meantime, on this Memorial Day, I will think about all those brave kids who carried the American flag onto beaches in Normandy, and friends who died in Vietnam and those who were killed in Afghanistan and on so many other foreign fields far from home.

I will remember the more recent losses of friends who died of Covid, and I will also go to a barbecue and eat a hot dog and celebrate our lives, which are ever so precious. We just have to do it all.

This Memorial Day is like no other.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Another tragedy, and no hope on the horizon

elestine Chaney, 65. Roberta Drury, 32. Andre Mackneil, 53. Katherine Massey, 72. Margus Morrison, 52.

Heyward Patterson, 67. Geraldine Talley, 62. Ruth Whitfield, 86. Pearl Young, 77.

And then there was Aaron Salter, a 55-year-old retired police officer. He spent his days after his time on the force greeting customers as they walked into the Tops supermarket in the Masten Park neighborhood of Buffalo. His job was security, and everyone knew him. And he knew evervone.

Well, not everybody, unfortunately. Not the monster who was tearing through the store's parking lot on Saturday, using what police believe were illegally modified semiautomatic assault weapons, emblazoned with racist sentiments like, "Here's your reparations." While at first glance it seemed he was firing his weapon indiscriminately, authorities believe his targets were quite deliberate: anyone who was

Salter had been trained to deal with this very scenario, an unfolding mass shooting. He had never come face to face with it, but he knew what he had to do — protect the lives of everyone around him, even if that meant taking the life of the man who threatened all of them.

Salter pulled his handgun from its holster and took aim. Police said he fired a number of shots, and hit the perpetrator at least once. Except the bullets didn't stop him. They didn't even slow him down. The young man was reportedly wearing body

armor, protecting him from heroes like Salter.

The gunman reportedly turned his own gaze toward Salter — who did not have the benefit of protective armor — and pulled the trigger.

Another senseless mass shooting. No. 198, in fact, according to NPR and the Gun Violence Archive — in 2022. That's right. Last Saturday was the 134th day of the year, yet this country has already had 198 mass shootings. They claimed the lives of 210 people, and forever changed the lives of 836 more who survived.

On Jan. 1 alone — New Year's Day – the nation was victim to seven mass shootings, including one in Philadelphia that claimed the life of one person, and injured four others.

What happened in Buffalo is believed to be racially motivated. And as evidence continues to accumulate about the shooter, it's hard to believe otherwise. And while tackling racism is a different discussion that needs far more space than we have here, the fact is that this is a nation where there are too many guns are on the street, and more often than not, they are used to instantly destroy families, and communities.

The Philadelphia shooting wasn't believed to be racially motivated. It was just a dispute, enhanced by alcohol, that turned deadly simply because a gun was available. It's the kind of violence you almost never hear about anywhere else outside the U.S.

But here it's something we expect on any day that ends with a "Y."

The alleged gunman in the Tops shooting is said to have illegally modified his

primary weapon, a gun that's perfectly legal in New York, holding no more than 10 rounds. But the modifications, illegal in New York, are legal in Pennsylvania, and this monster only needed to walk from his home in Binghamton across the state line to get what he needed. Legally.

Following the tragedy, many lawmakers took to social media and called up reporters to express their condolences and outrage. Gov. Kathy Hochul made the rounds on national television, preaching about the need for better gun control. But as quickly as those sentiments flare up, they just as quickly flame out. Over and over again, we get the same action aimed at ending this true pandemic: absolutely nothing.

That must end. The excuses must end. The silly arguments that any regular person needs a weapon that can instantly kill or maim a large number of people must be put to rest. The time for talk is over. The time to act is now.

Aaron Salter should have never spent the final moments of his life face to face with a monster. He had a distinguished career with the Buffalo Police Department, regularly putting his life on the line. Yet even a neighborhood supermarket proved to be more dangerous for him than some of the most violent hotspots in the

No more. Read their names again -Celestine Chaney. Roberta Drury. Andre Mackneil. Katherine Massey. Margus Morrison. Heyward Patterson. Aaron Salter. Geraldine Talley. Ruth Whitfield. Pearl Young. And remember them the next time you think there's something more important than ending this nation's gun crisis once and for all.

LETTERS

Hooray for SAGE's new president

To the Editor:

The Herald published such a moving article about Carolynn Eipel, "New leader at SAGE" [April 21-27]. She is an outstanding young lady who has been joyfully immersed in the space of our beloved seniors for many decades, guiding them through numerous facets of senior life and challenges. Every fiber in me knows that Carolynn is an able, experienced, dedicated and compassionate leader with many gifts to support our seniors and lead SAGE onward and upward. You go, Carolyn!

> MAXINE CAPPEL MAYREIS Glen Cove



OPINIONS

Must a girl in STEM be a 'girl in STEM'?

find the focus

on my gender

distracting from

my work and

very weekday at 10:06 a.m., I walk into my high school engineering class and take a seat among my peers. I spend the period learning the same material as my classmates, completing the same assignments as them and receiving the same education. I wouldn't think twice about attending if it weren't for the fact that 15



ILANA GREENBERG

pairs of eyes are on me the moment I walk into the room, for one reason and one reason only: I'm a girl in a classroom full of boys.

Amazingly, this one simple attribute of mine has the power to instantly draw so much attention. For roughly 40

minutes, I am no longer a student who loves engineering. Rather, I'm a girl who loves engineering.

I'd like to imagine a perfect world, with equal participation of men and women in all professions. However, while there is more opportunity these days for both men and women to break into rigidly defined, gender-specific jobs, an imbalance still holds in certain career paths, including science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. I'm a high school freshman who has always been passionate

about STEM. Yet despite efforts by well-meaning stakeholders and educators to promote more enthusiasm among women in these subjects, I can't help but feel that today's inspiring message for girls in the field is too wrapped up in their gender.

Instead of pushing for girls to be treated like everyone else, there is an unhealthy obsession with making gender the centerpiece of today's advocacy for girls in STEM.

frustrating, to say the least.

Say the least.

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I often receive praise for being "confident enough" to pursue what has been labeled an unlikely passion for my gender. I garner attention and adulation for defying gender barriers by deciding to enroll in STEM-based classes.

But I find this focus on my gender distracting from my work and frustrating, to

say the least. I just want to escape the label of feminism attached to my interest in STEM, and simply be able to enter my engineering class without getting noticed, just like boys do.

Today's educational programs, like

Girls Who Code, while inspiring and well-intentioned, inadvertently call attention to the fact that STEM isn't a "normal" activity for girls. By singling out girls in creating specialized female-oriented programs, educators seem to acknowledge that girls aren't expected to be like their gender opposites in science. To me, it's akin to creating a group called Teenagers Who Respect

Their Parents or Kids Who Aren't Always On Their Phones.

Granted, there is no mistaking that my interests in STEM as a girl are considered rare by today's standards. Women account for roughly half of the population, but they comprise only 28 percent of workers in STEM fields, according to the American Association of University Women. Perhaps that's because math and science

continue to be promoted as "male-oriented" subjects.

I've seen this firsthand. In middle school, I was one of two girls in a class of 20 students in a computer animation program. On the website of a prestigious math summer program, girls were especially encouraged to apply, because most of its participants are male. Disturbingly, even my early-childhood day camp discouraged girls from choosing science-related activities, and our choice of workshops didn't include the boys' activities of engineering and rocket science. Our choices included ceramics, dance and "beauty school."

Yes, there is still a lack of equality in perception, but the way to fix this isn't by forming a club exclusively for girls that puts the emphasis on "girls coding" instead of simply "coding." Educators should create courses that include both boys and girls. While I'm grateful for the progress women have made in STEM, I look forward to the day when walking into my engineering class won't be cause for surprise.

Ilana Greenberg is a freshman at North Shore Hebrew Academy High School in Great Neck.

LETTERS

Enough of the 'my body my choice'

To the Editor:

Don't know about you, but I've had just about enough of the "my body, my choice" crowd. They are useful robots for those who would destroy our country and its future ability to function without the resources of great minds to come, all because they have been brainwashed to believe it's all about them. It is not! Rights are God-given. The founders of this country knew that, and the Declaration of Independence lays it out beautifully. How many have taken the time to read it and/or know what is says? Is it even in the curriculum of our high schools and/or colleges anymore?

Since rights are God-given by birth, how does one choose to destroy what we now really know to be another generation of humanity? Both Christians and Jews adhere to the Commandments, one of which is, "Thou shall not kill."

Thanks to sonograms and medical studies, science has shown human existence in utero earlier than ever. Heartbeats have been detected as early as 21 days, and as it grows, doctors know it feels pain, hears sounds and is moving usually by the end of the fourth month.

It is criminal to me that former Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law the ability to abort a baby up until birth, that our senator supports this and is now badgering the Supreme Court. Last I

heard, that is a criminal act. In what is supposed to be a checks-and-balances system of the government, the courts are doing their job!

I find it interesting that those who would so easily dispose of a child become apoplectic at the disposal of a newborn litter of puppies, a calf or colt, or tiny kittens. And heaven forbid, one removes fertilized eggs from a bird's nest and destroys them. Their concern for the environment and the natural resources of this country is admirable, but allowing children to grow up to enhance it, to live better and to enjoy it, is somehow criminal.

Something else to ponder: In the case of the murder of a pregnant woman, the criminal would be charged with two murders. Wake up, America!

MARIE COYLE Glen Cove

A decision that was theirs to make

To the Editor:

I cannot agree with Randi more about what she wrote. Her decision to have an abortion was only for her and her husband to make. I am certain they did not make this decision lightly or quickly. Whatever their reasons, they did what they thought was the right decision at the time.

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



A performance for the Sea Cliff Parent Community Association - Bayville

I have known women who have had the procedure, and whatever their reasons were, I supported them.

It is an extremely personal matter, and I applaud Randi for coming for-

ward, and thank her for sharing her story.

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