

# HERALD



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Elisa Dragotto/Herald photos

## Saint Boniface Feast kicks off summer

There were smiles all around at the Saint Boniface Martyr Feast by the Shore on rides large and small, from the thrilling Pharaoh's Fury, right, to the fire engine ride, above, where twins Michael, left, and Killian Flannigan, 3, pretended to race to a fire. More photos, Page 10.



# City secures credit upgrade from Moody's

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
ramid@iherald.com

The credit ratings agency Moody's has upgraded Glen Cove's credit rating to Baa1, reflecting the city's gradual fiscal improvement. According to the May 17 report, the upgrade is attributed to structurally balanced budgets, significant reserve growth and the city's robust tax base. Nonetheless, Glen Cove's financial position, despite considerable improvements, remains in negative territory, limiting its financial flexibility.

"This upgrade reflects a significant improvement in the city's financial condition," controller Mike Piccirillo said, adding that the city's operating surpluses have totaled about \$5 million across the past three years, and the city's year-to-year bottom line improved from minus \$5.4 million in 2020 to minus \$545,000 at the end of the 2023 fiscal year. The city has accumulated a sur-

plus in its operations budget during that span.

The report states that while reserves remained negative at the end of fiscal 2023, fiscal 2024 is already trending positively, and there will likely be a return to a positive fund balance over the next two years.

**T**his upgrade reflects a significant improvement in the city's financial condition.

**MIKE PICCIRILLO**  
City controller,  
Glen Cove

is a significant achievement, yet it comes with a cautionary note that Glen Cove's financial position still has vulnerabilities. Officials say that some of them stem from concerns with the city's 2016 Master Tax Agreement with RXR Realty Inc., which is constructing a 345-unit condominium complex at Garvies Point.

"I'm really happy that we had an upgrade — this didn't happen overnight," City Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy-Scagliola said. "Our controller has done a great job managing the city's finances. However, we need to be careful. Depending on what happens with RXR, our

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Photos courtesy Lisa Viscovich

Gene Adams and David Hubbard of the Alumni for Youth, Inc. award students Jaden Aguillar, left, Caleb Ham and Emmanuel Olivier with the Howard Davis Sr. Scholarship, in memory of Howard Davis Sr.

# Glen Cove H.S. honors its top students

By JENNA STANCO

Intern

Glen Cove High School held their end-of-the-year awards ceremony on May 30, celebrating a multitude of achievements by students of all grades. Hundreds of students were honored in the school auditorium for their academic, philanthropic and athletic efforts throughout the 2023-2024 school year, cheered on by an auditorium filled with proud family, faculty and members of the Glen Cove community.

Initially, students from grades 9 through 11 were honored, followed by the recognition of seniors who received scholarships.

“Each student being recognized tonight has demonstrated an unwavering passion for learning, a thirst for knowledge, and an insatiable curiosity that fuels intellectual endeavor,” said Allen Hudson, III, GCHS’s principal.

The underclassmen awards ceremony praised dozens of students for their excellence in fine arts, language, history, sciences, and mathematics. The Bausch & Lomb Honorary Junior Award, an award given in conjunction with the University of Rochester to honor a student who excels in science, was given to junior Mert Suyabatmaz, who was also recognized for representing the city during the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Local Exam earlier this year.

Many awards holding deep significance in the community were administered to accomplished seniors. They were presented by individuals connected to the award. The Susan Satriano Memorial Scholarship was presented by her husband Joe Satriano to students Jaden Aguillar, Matteo Cameron, and James Coelho to recognize their perseverance through times of hardship. Susan Satriano, an Oceanside math



Senior Jaida Ciampi, right, is awarded the Dr. Glenn Howard Jr. Scholarship by Dr. Maxine Cappel Mayreis. Joining her in celebrating Jaida were Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce members Katherine Serrano Sosa, left, Sonya Lowe, Mary Stanco and Ylisa Kunze.

teacher, battled cancer for 13 years.

Friends of Arts & Music Enrichment Glen Cove also distributed several awards in honor and memory of GCHS teachers who went above and beyond to enrich and inspire students to achieve self-growth, self-awareness and self-creativity. The FAME Thom Ruckert Memorial Scholarship, an award intended to honor the creator of the GCHS TV studio and given to a student who displays excellence and creativity in GCTV, was presented by treasurer Mark Kohn to Harrison Velentzas.

Cameren Staley, recognized for his

outstanding community service and exemplary leadership, was given the New York State Senator Jack M. Martins Rising Star Award.

The Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce was in attendance to present the Dr. Glenn Howard Jr. Scholarship to Jaida Ciampi for her exceptional essay writing, academic record, and extracurricular activities.

Finally, the ceremony was also joined by Joe Graziose and Ylisa Kunze of RXR development. They presented the RXR Garvies Point Scholarship to Jose Anaya Sanchez and Virginia Graziosi,



Principal Allen Hudson III recognizes senior Virginia Graziosi as the valedictorian for the 2024 graduating class at Glen Cove High School.

students intending to pursue degrees in Marine Biology, Science, or Environmental Science.

The night concluded with the naming of the 2024 class valedictorian, Virginia Graziosi and salutatorian, Jaida Ciampi.

Members of the community commended the winning students on their incredible performance throughout the year, bidding their best wishes to the graduating students as they move forward into the world.

“I can assure you,” Hudson said, “looking at the students that are in front of me, our world and our town is in good hands.”

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### When Does a Trust Make Sense

By now most people know that trusts avoid probate which is required with a will — if there are “probatable” assets, in other words those in your name alone. While many assets may be set up to avoid probate by putting joint owners on or by naming beneficiaries, titles to real estate in New York may not have beneficiaries and there are tax and liability reasons for not naming joint owners on real estate. As a result, real property generally goes through probate.

Other reasons to use trusts, besides avoiding probate for the home, are as follows:

**1. Out-of-State Property.** New York residents who own property in another state face two probates, one in New York and another in the other state. However, you may transfer both properties into your New York trust and avoid the “multiple probate problem”.

**2. Trusts Are Private.** Unlike wills, trusts are not filed in court, so there is no public record of how much you had, who

you left it to, where they live, and who you left out.

**3. Special Needs Children.** If you leave assets to a special needs child in a will, the court will appoint a lawyer to represent the special needs child which will require your estate to pay two lawyers and significantly delay the proceedings.

**4. Keeping Your Assets in the Bloodline.** Wills generally leave assets to your children and have no provisions for what happens after they get the inheritance. As a result, when your child dies, assets often go to in-laws and their families. Trusts can provide that your assets will stay in your bloodline for generations to come.

**5. Protecting Assets from Long-Term Care Costs.** Wills take effect on death and offer no long-term care asset protection. Often, the cost of care ends up leaving nothing for the heirs at death. Medicaid Asset Protection Trusts not only avoid probate, but also protect assets from being lost to long-term care costs.

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Photo courtesy Bank of America

It was a big day for Girls Inc. of Long Island and New Ground as each organization earned \$200,000 after being named Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders.

## New Ground, Girls Inc. this year's Neighborhood Builders awardees

New Ground and Girls Inc. of Long Island have now joined a prestigious group of more than 100 non-profits across the country —becoming the latest to be named Neighborhood Builders by the Bank of America.

With that comes grants of \$200,000 each for the organizations, which will help them continue their programs over the next two years.

“Local non-profits provide critical support and services to address our community's needs and advance equity on Long

Island,” said Bank of America Long Island president Marc Perez, in a release. “Both New Ground and Girls Inc. of Long Island are dedicated to creating lasting change by breaking the cycle of homelessness and equipping young women with the skills and resources to become the next generation of leaders.”

Bank of America has invested more than \$300 million in nearly 100 communities since 2004. There have been 38 Long Island awardees since 2005, earning \$8 million in grants.

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# HERALD

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# Biden's asylum restrictions spark debate

June 6, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

In a significant move to address the ongoing migrant influx at the southern border, President Joe Biden signed an executive order on Tuesday that temporarily limits access to asylum for migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally. This measure, which comes just months before the presidential election, aims to address one of Biden's most pressing political challenges.

The order will shut down asylum requests when the average number of daily encounters exceeds 2,500 between official ports of entry and will reopen to asylum seekers when the number of daily encounters falls below 1,500. Exceptions to this order include unaccompanied children, victims of severe trafficking, those presenting acute medical emergencies, and individuals facing imminent life-threatening situations. Migrants who do not meet the requirement of having a "credible fear" when they apply for asylum will be removed, a departure from the longstanding protocol of allowing migrants to seek asylum regardless of how they entered the country.

The executive order has elicited varied responses from community leaders and officials. Glen Cove resident Mary Rose Paster, who has experience helping

children gain U.S. political asylum, highlighted the complexities of migration and the importance of not denying asylum to refugees.

"If they were returned to El Salvador after rape and beatings there, they would have been murdered," Paster said in a Facebook comment to the Herald. "This is a complex question to respond to. Migration must be contained; asylum should not be denied to refugees."

Sea Cliff administrator Bruce Kennedy highlighted the broader impact of the border crisis, describing it as a humanitarian issue.

"It is a crisis that has spread far beyond the border, as a flood of migrants has overwhelmed the resources of cities as far away as New York," Kennedy said. "The suffering of the migrants at the hands of drug cartels, human traffickers and exploitative employers is heartbreaking. We must recognize that the foremost victims of a porous, chaotic border are the immigrants themselves. Compassion and decency demand that we do not allow the current situation to continue."

Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck criticized the Biden administration's

handling of the border crisis, saying the order is "nothing more than a cynical ploy, five months before the election, to convince Americans demanding a return to law and order that he's on their side."

"Our community welcomes those who come here legally to pursue the American dream," Panzenbeck added. "But the Biden administration has ignored the crisis at our southern border, as drugs and criminals have flowed steadily into communities like ours, and voters are fed up."

Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino echoed Panzenbeck's sentiments, saying the order fails to address the core issues at the border.

"After rolling back border protections and encouraging millions of illegal migrant crossings, President Biden is now signing weak laws that still allow thousands of migrants to enter our nation illegally each day," Saladino wrote in a statement. "This political stunt is not nearly strong enough to solve the border crisis."

In contrast, Connie Pinilla, President of the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, supported the executive

order as a responsible approach to managing the border crisis.

"I don't think it's unjust in that it is taking action and approaching it in a responsible way," Pinilla said. "I'm not savvy to the staffing of what they have, and the issues that come up on a day-to-day basis, but I can make the general comment that I do believe it's a problem that has to be managed properly to keep the right from pointing at the Democrats in saying you're not doing anything about it."

In response to the growing border crisis, Congressmen Tom Suozzi and Congressman Henry Cuellar have launched the Democrats for Border Security Task Force, 26 House Democrats dedicated to addressing immigration and border security. Suozzi and Cuellar will serve as co-chairs.

"This task force will advocate for commonsense, bipartisan compromise to achieve much-needed and long-overdue comprehensive immigration reform," Suozzi said. "We will work with anybody from any wing of any party if they genuinely care about solving this problem. Too many in politics today are focused on pointing out the problem and keep busy figuring out what tricks they have 'up their sleeves' to weaponize the border crisis, this task force will 'roll up our sleeves' to try to fix it."

**T**his political stunt is not nearly strong enough to solve the border crisis.

**JOSEPH SALADINO**  
Supervisor,  
Town of Oyster Bay

## Sea Cliff, Glen Cove unite for Pride Stride

The communities of Sea Cliff and Glen Cove celebrated their first-ever Pride Stride on June 2, welcoming in this year's pride month. Over 300 people of all ages came to support the festivities, hosted by The Love Your Neighbor Project and Glen Cove Councilwoman Marsha Silverman.



Striders proudly displayed signs which highlighted their bravery in the face of many years of bigotry.



Hundreds of Sea Cliff and Glen Cove residents came out to support their neighbors and the LGBTQ+ community.



Jenna Stanco/Herald photos

Jaime Teich, left, and Glen Cove Councilwoman Marsha Silverman were the organizers who made the first ever Pride Stride happen.

# Financial position is better, but not great 7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

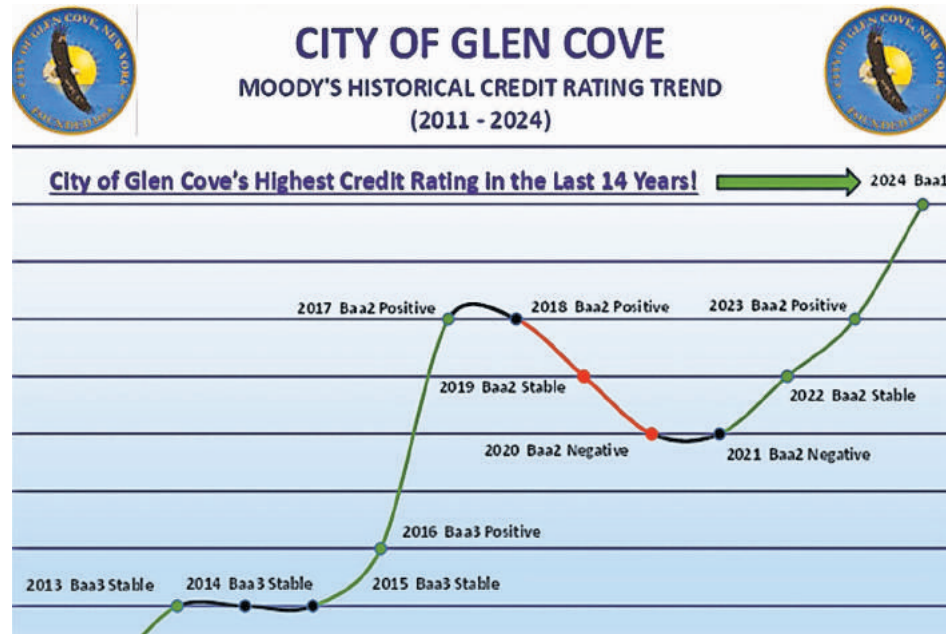
rating could swing in the other direction. We now have a hole of more than a million dollars in our budget. The school district lost \$1.7 million this year as well. It's a terrible situation to be in."

According to the agreement, RXR's payment structure, managed by Muni-Cap, prioritizes bondholders through a "waterfall" mechanism. Funds received from projects first go to bondholders, who finance much of the city's infrastructure. If funds are insufficient, bondholders are paid before the city, the school district and the library. This has led to a pause in payments to the city because of construction delays on the Garvies Point project.

Joe Graziose, RXR Realty's executive vice president, said that RXR notified the Glen Cove school district about the payment pause in January. RXR has had regular meetings with the City Council and the mayor since 2016, he added.

Graziose blamed the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic for construction delays, but noted that RXR has paid the city a total of \$21.5 million in payments in lieu of taxes since January.

"We couldn't anticipate this pandemic, but we also would never be able to forecast this historic spike in interest rates," Graziose said. "The inflation wasn't forecast. It puts a damper on our ability to continue to build when we're in this economic environment."



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

The credit ratings agency Moody's has upgraded Glen Cove's credit rating to Baa1, reflecting the city's gradual fiscal improvement.

Graziose said he approached the planning board last November to suggest that the Garvies Point project be built in three phases, reasoning that introducing all 345 units to the market at once would be impractical due to the "soft market, high interest rates and slow sales."

RXR anticipated that the development would be completed this year, but it is not required to finish it by a specific

date. RXR is, however, responsible for paying taxes on the land, whether it is vacant or developed, which ensures that it is in full compliance with the agreement.

"We're expecting larger building permits to come in towards the end of the year that weren't budgeted, that are very sizable," Piccirillo said. "They will help offset that potential loss from our RXR

PILOT. We're also working on certain contract negotiations to help increase our sales and revenue."

Councilwoman Marsha Silverman was skeptical about the long-term sustainability of the city's finances, likening them to a ship that takes time to turn around but can easily drift back in the wrong direction.

"I don't really see much in the structure of our finances that says we can continue to improve," Silverman said. "This rating is definitely a positive thing, but I'm concerned that it masks the reality. The rating we had is like a D minus, and now we're at a D. Who runs home and tells their parents that they just got straight D's?"

Silverman added that much of the city's recent financial improvement is attributable to one-time revenue, from the American Rescue Plan Act and other pandemic relief, which is now either gone or budgeted to be spent this year. But Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck expressed her satisfaction with the credit rating upgrade from Moody's.

"We're really looking to minimize our expenses, and we've done really well," Panzenbeck said. "We're at the highest point we have been in 14 years. Moody's was aware that we're not getting this money before they gave us the upgrade. They obviously have a tremendous amount of faith in what we've been doing."

GLEN COVE HERALD - June 6, 2024

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# Long Island's choice honored at annual gala

By Melissa Berman

It truly was a beautiful evening for more than 160 of Long Island's best businesses at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury on May 14 for the third annual Herald's Long Island Choice Awards gala.

More than 250,000 ballots were cast from 15,000 people choosing their favorite businesses and organizations in categories ranging from dining to finance to shopping to sports.

"What an accomplishment to be selected as one of the best on Long Island," said Amy Amato, the executive director of RichnerLive. "And by your customers and clients no less. With thousands of businesses across Nassau and Suffolk counties, to be named a finalist is quite an accomplishment."

The Long Island Choice Awards was made possible through PSEG Long Island. The event itself drew 700 attendees, and was hosted by Miss New York herself, Amelia Collins.

"One of our driving forces is to support small to medium-sized businesses as much as possible, because they are what drives our economies on Long Island," said Veronica Isaac, the customer and community partnerships manager for PSEG Long Island. "It's one of our missions to ensure that they thrive."

As far as the Long Island Choice awards, for many of the participating businesses, it's an honor just to be nominated and make the finals. But it's also nice to win, like it was for Ron Gold, owner of Marketing Works.

"It's something we've never been a finalist in before," Gold said. "But the big question is, will we win? It's just so special to be here and be recognized for our work."

Adam Schneider of Sip n Say Craft Wine and Spirits oozed confidence ahead of the awards presentation, saying he's thankful for the customer appreciation.

"We're not only happy to be winning," Schneider said, "but we're happy to be here and supporting other winners and connecting with other Long Island businesses that are just trying to get by."

Frank's Steaks of Rockville Centre earned recognition for his company's work, and owner Chris Meyer made sure he gave a special shout-out out to his team.

"It shows how wonderful my staff is," he said. "And our customers, we have the best loyal clientele who constantly support us and a ton of regulars building a lot of new business."

Taking home multiple awards was the Long Island Children's Museum, which has been a community staple since 1993.

"It's exciting because we're up against a lot (of) larger venues than ours, so we're really excited to have that opportunity to be recognized by the public," said James Packard, director of the museum's theatre programs. "It's just one of many opportunities to serve the children and families of Long



The poolside cocktail hour was a hit with attendees at the Long Island Choice Awards.

Tim Baker/Herald photos



Veronica Isaac — from presenting sponsor PSEG Long Island — gave welcoming remarks.

Island."

"All of us know small businesses are the heartbeat of our communities," said Stuart Richner, publisher of Herald Community Newspapers. "They foster local identity, create jobs, and nurture connections that transform neighborhoods into thriving ecosystems. They are the economic engines of our communities, and we love celebrating them — not only for the Long Island Choice Awards, but each week in our Herald community newspapers and websites."



The band, Elegance Quartet, gave guests a wonderful performance at the annual Long Island Choice Awards.

Holden Leeds/Herald photos



Miss New York 2023, Amelia Collins was the host for the evening.



Stuart Richner, publisher of Herald Community Newspapers, helped honor Long Island's best choices.





Edwin Chavez/Herald photos

The Prager Metis CPAs team with the winner in the best accountant category, Marianna Mooney and Diane Walsh.



Winter Bros. Waste Systems are all smiles over their wins.



The team at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek PC have plenty to celebrate.



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Dr. Eve Lupenko of Greenberg Cosmetic Surgery.

To see more photos and winners, visit [RichnerLive.com/lica](http://RichnerLive.com/lica)



Elisa Dragotto/Herald photos

The feast featured numerous rides for children and families, like the Rock Star.

# A feast for the senses at Tappen Beach

St. Boniface Martyr Church in Sea Cliff held its annual Feast by the Shore, raising money and ringing in the start of summer at Tappen Beach in Glenwood Landing. Hundreds came out for the four-day extravaganza, featuring live music, food, carnival rides and games of all kinds.



Charlie Crago, 8, left, Saska Fleming, 7, Charlie Rixon, 7, and Amira Agi, 8, enjoyed snow cones and cotton candy at the feast.



Attendees got the chance to test gravity on rides like the Super Shot.



Carolyn Mills, 4, left, and her sister Natalie had a blast riding their own fire engines.



Mercy Rodriguez and her son Leo Lizarzaburo, 3, took a turn on the merry-go-round.

# STEPPING OUT



Images courtesy Heckscher Museum of Art  
**Marching Stick Men, 1947**, depicts a Zombie-like parade of gray stickmen marching in unison behind the image of a rainbow-colored effigy in the shape of a man.



**Eclipse of the Sun, 1926**, is a masterpiece of political art. As signaled by the dollar sign darkening the sun — a symbol of life — the artwork critiques the greed and violence of Germany's military, politicians and industrialists.



**Battalion of the Hole, 1948**, is another representation of Grosz's emaciated and wounded figures in his abstract, expressionistic style.



## 'The Rocketman Show'

Remember when rock was young? You will after this enthralling show. Prepare to blast off into the stratosphere with this electrifying tribute to the Rocketman himself. With a nostalgic setlist that'll take you right back to when rock was young, this is the perfect night out for Elton John fans — of all generations. Rus Anderson, Elton John's official body double for his Farewell Yellow Brick Road world tour launch, recreates an early Elton concert complete with gorgeous, colorful costumes actually worn by Elton himself. Enjoy a nostalgic night of Elton's greatest hits, wildest outfits, and outrageous stage antics. Anderson recreates the magic and live persona of a young Elton like no other as he storms around the stage with a fun-loving sense of flamboyance; part diva, part soccer player, killer vocalist, fierce piano player, all rock 'n' roller.

Friday, June 7, 8 p.m. \$65, \$45, \$35, \$30. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [ParamountNY.com](https://www.paramountny.com). The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington.

# ART that 'sticks' with us

## George Grosz's groundbreaking series on view at Heckscher Museum

By Danielle Schwab

Perhaps, there is nothing more symbolic than the "stick man." We see it on signs, in sketches, in games.

George Grosz, a German-born artist, takes a different symbolic approach with his "Stick Men" series to ponder a post-World War II landscape.

Born in Berlin, Grosz's political art offered a strong commentary on the German government following World War I. After observing the horrors of war as a soldier, Grosz became involved in pacifist activity, publishing drawings in satirical and critical periodicals — also participating in protests and social upheavals. His drawings and paintings from the Weimar era sharply criticize what Grosz viewed as the decay of German society.

His art was branded "degenerate" by the Nazi regime due to Grosz's criticism of Hitler and aggressive nationalism.

The Heckscher Museum's current exhibition, "George Grosz: The Stick Men," brings the artist's works "home." Fleeing persecution, Grosz and his family left Germany and arrived in Queens in 1933, eventually settling in Huntington in 1947. He became an American citizen in 1938, and lived in Huntington until shortly before his death in 1959.

The exhibition — featuring 33 watercolors, oils and drawings — is the first dedicated to the Stick Men series since it debuted in New York City in 1948. The majority of works on display — 23 in all — are from the Stick Men series.

Seventy-five years later, Grosz's warning against fascism and global conflict is as relevant as ever, according to Karli Wurzelbacher, the museum's chief curator, and exhibit co-curator.

It was in Huntington — and in response to the harrowing atrocities of World War II — that Grosz created the Stick Men, his last major series of works. The series represents starved beings wandering aimlessly through a polluted, post-apocalyptic world. In search of food and shelter, these victims of adverse circumstances in turn become perpetrators themselves.

Writings of the period portrayed Grosz as living a suburban and apolitical life in America, in contrast to his earlier fierce political art in Germany. The opposite is true: his Stick Men series culminates his lifelong political and artistic struggles.

"Stickmen are these abstracted figures who are really dehumanized. They are skeletal, they are transparent, we can see right through them," Wurzelbacher says. "I don't even know if you could say they're people anymore. They are beings who have lived through this period of time, and really have kind of forfeited their humanity."

The exhibit makes its way here from Das kleine Grosz Museum in Berlin,



- Now through Sept. 1
- Open Thursday through Sunday, noon-5 p.m.
- Heckscher Museum of Art, 2 Prime Ave., Huntington
- (631) 380-3230 or [Heckscher.org](https://www.heckscher.org)

Germany, a museum dedicated to the career of this important artist. Curator Pay Matthis Karstens and co-curator Alice Delage organized the original exhibit, which includes works from The Heckscher Museum and European public and private collections.

Now it's arrived at Heckscher in an expanded version, featuring additional works from its own collection, including Grosz's 1926 masterpiece "Eclipse of the Sun." The painting, done while he was in Berlin, is almost prophetic in nature, telling of the turmoil leading up to World War II. The scene depicts headless German bureaucrats

at a conference table being influenced by militarists and industrialists.

"It's called 'Eclipse of the Sun' because, in the upper corner, a dollar sign has eclipsed the sun," Wurzelbacher says. "The sun — the symbol of life, health and nature — is being eclipsed by capitalism, war and greed."

Grosz uses watercolors to show the emotional hollowness of the characters, employing thin washes to show faded husks of humanity.

"Watercolor as his choice of medium helps communicate what the stickmen are," Wurzelbacher adds. "He also kind of splatters the canvas with flecks of paint that can look like mud or blood."

The series gives us insight to Grosz's own experiences. Another work, "Painter of the Hole," shows a stickman artist painting a hole on the canvas in front of him.

"He is surrounded by such a loss of meaning that he doesn't even know what to paint, and all he can paint is this emptiness," Wurzelbacher says.

Ensnared in the United States during World War II, Grosz's art demonstrates the impact of war separated by an ocean.

"There's this thinking that because Grosz was on Long Island, he was somehow separate from what was happening in Europe," Wurzelbacher explains. "We wanted to make the case that that wasn't true, that the war did touch his life and touched the lives of many Long Islanders."

Visitors to the museum will have free access to this and all other exhibits, continuing the legacy of founders August and Anna Heckscher. A Bank of America grant enables Hecksher to offer free admission into 2025, welcoming more visitors and families to enjoy art and community.

Of course, donations are always welcome.



## Northwinds Symphonic Band

Sands Point Preserve's historic mansions and waterfront grounds are the majestic backdrop for a lively musical afternoon. Be immersed in a feast for the senses, with the Northwinds Symphonic Band. Led by conductors Helen P. Bauer and Brandon Bromsey, the band has curated a delightful repertoire that traverses Broadway, Hollywood and classical favorites. Adding an extra layer to the performance are Broadway vocalists Karen Murphy and John Preator, whose dynamic voices delightfully interpret cherished classics. Before the concert begins, consider indulging in the quintessential summer tradition of a picnic on the Preserve's majestic grounds. The audience, including children, are invited to meet the musicians following the performance and learn about the instruments they play.

Sunday, June 9, 3-4:15 p.m. \$10, with additional \$15 parking fee. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit [SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org](https://www.SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org) or call (516) 571-7901.

# THE \$ SCENE

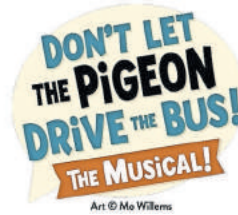
June 14

## Jessie's Girl

It's time to drag out that neon once again and give your hair its best '80s 'do. Those crazy days are back — as only Jessie's Girl can pull off, on the Paramount stage, Friday, **June 14** 2, 8 p.m. So slip on some Jordache jeans, legwarmers, grab an extra-large bottle of Aqua Net and get ready to dance the night away as you travel back to

that wild and crazy decade. There is no decade like the '80s and no band that has mastered the music of the time period like Jessie's Girl! Hear all of your favorites '80s hits by Prince, Madonna, Eddie Money, Duran Duran, Whitney Houston, Cyndi Lauper, Pat Benatar, Van Halen, J. Geils Band, Soft Cell, The Police and many more. The show is led by New York City's top rock and pop vocalists and backed by a phenomenal band, who get everyone into that "Back To The Eighties" vibe with the latest edition of their popular concert experience.

With a lineup including four vocalists dressing and performing as '80s icons, with their terrific band, this is the definitive '80s experience. Throw on top of that: a load of super-fun choreography, audience participation, props, costumes bubbles, and confetti — and you have a party that audiences don't want to leave. Jessie's Girl has mastered over-the-top renditions of the some of world's most unforgettable songs, all while dressed up as the iconic characters of that decade. This is theater meets live music, covered in plenty of '80s glitz. \$45, \$37.50, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



## Family theater

Families will enjoy another musical adventure, "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!" ripped from the pages of Mo Willems' beloved children's books, on the Long Island Children's Museum stage, Friday, **June 7**, 10:15 a.m. and noon; also Saturday, June 8 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Sunday, June 9, 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, June 11-13, 10:15 a.m. and noon. Back by popular demand after a sold-out 2023 run, see Pigeon, Bus Driver, and some zany passengers sing and dance their way to help Pigeon find his "thing" in this upbeat comedy based on Willems' popular Pigeon books.

Featuring a live band to bring the jazzy score to life, audiences will thoroughly enjoy singing and flapping along with The Pigeon and friends. The audience is part of the action, in this innovative mix of songs, silliness and feathers. It's an ideal way to introduce kids to theater and the humorous stories from Willems' books. \$10 with museum admission (\$8 members), \$14 theater only. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.



## On exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, "Urban Art Evolution," is a comprehensive exhibit featuring a diverse range of compositions from the 1980s through the present by creators who were based in the rough and tumble downtown area of New York City known as Loaisaida/LES (Lower East Side/East Village) and close surrounding neighborhoods.

Artists pushed the boundaries of what was considered "art" with a primary focus on street/graffiti art. The exhibit's scope, guest curated by art collector/gallerist Christopher Pusey, offers an even broader view from other creative residents, who worked inside their studios but still contributed to the rich fabric of the downtown art scene from different vantage points and aesthetics.

Works include sculpture, paintings, photography, music, and ephemera from many noted and influential artists. On view through **July 7**. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

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## Keynote Speaker

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Co-Founder

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**For sponsorships and opportunities contact Amy Amato at [aamato@liherald.com](mailto:aamato@liherald.com) or call 516.569.4000 x224**



### Seasonal Sprouts

Bring the kids to Old Westbury Gardens for a Seasonal Sprouts session, Wednesday, **June 19**, 11 a.m.-noon. Children (ages 4 to 6) can explore the grounds on a guided walk within the formal gardens and informal woodlands. Families will enjoy activities and plant a flower to take home. \$10 per child. Registration required. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information, visit [OldWestburyGardens.org](http://OldWestburyGardens.org) or contact (516) 333-0048.

### Deep Roots Farmers Market pop-up at Village Square

Deep Roots Farmers Market returns to Glen Cove, Saturday, **June 8**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The market offers locally grown vegetables, farm fresh eggs, meats and dairy, fresh baked breads and pastries, artisan cheeses, fresh seafood, local honey, prepared foods, pastas, jams, coffees, and more. 100 Village Square. Saturday, June 15



### Celebrate Israel

Salute Israel, while welcoming Eisenhower Park's summer concert season, at the annual Celebrate Israel concert, presented by Jewish Community Relations Council of Long Island, Sunday, **June 30**, 6 p.m. Israeli superstar Raviv Kaner performs. Bring seating. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/jrcldi](http://Facebook.com/jrcldi).

### Seed Library open

Glen Cove Public Library's Seed Library is now open for the season. Glen Cove Library cardholders can receive up to 15 packets of seeds, with a limit of one packet per variety. Ask for your seeds at the Information Desk. 4 Glen Cove Ave. Visit [GlenCoveLibrary.org](http://GlenCoveLibrary.org) for more information.



### Marching through history

Step back in time and observe different eras of military history, at Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Saturday and Sunday, **June 15-16**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. As you "march through history" be side by side with knowledgeable and welcoming reenactors from Long Island and numerous other states portraying soldiers, their uniforms and weaponry from Colonial America through more recent conflicts.

With firing demonstrations throughout the day, as well as tent and camp life displays. \$15, \$12 children, \$12 seniors 60+. Old Bethpage Village Restoration, 1303 Round Swamp Road Old Bethpage. Visit [OldBethpageVillage-Restoration.org](http://OldBethpageVillage-Restoration.org) for more information or call (516) 572-8409.

### On stage

Plaza Theatrical brings back its acclaimed Broadway series. With the recent passing of Stephen Sondheim, regarded as one of the most important figures in 20th-century musical theatre for reinventing the American musical, Plaza honors him with a staging of "Into the Woods," the clever interpretation of four well-known fairy tales, Saturday **June 8**, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 9, 2:30 p.m. See it at Plaza's stage at the Elmont Library Theatre. 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$49, \$45 seniors. Elmont. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit [PlazaTheatrical.com](http://PlazaTheatrical.com).



### Flag Retirement Ceremony at Glen Head American Legion

Glenwood Landing American Legion Post 336, conducts a dignified and solemn ceremony to respectfully retire unserviceable American flags, Saturday, **June 15**, 9:30 a.m. Unserviceable flags deposited in the big mailbox the driveway by June 14 will be included in this year's ceremony. 190 Glen Head Road, Glen Head.

### Golf outing

Glen Cove Education Foundation holds the 10th annual golf classic, Monday, **June 10**, at the Glen Cove Golf Club/ Tee off is 1pm, and foursomes are available. Sponsorships are also open. Non golfers can buy a ticket for dinner and open bar only at The Marker, the new restaurant at the Glen Cove Golf Course. 109 Lattingtown Road, Glen Cove. For more information, visit [TheGlenCoveEducationFoundation.com](http://TheGlenCoveEducationFoundation.com) or call (516) 801-8140.

### Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture" at the museum, Thursday, **June 13**, 1 p.m. She'll discuss the current exhibition, "Urban Art Evolution." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the in-depth program and also participate in a guided exhibition tour following the lecture, at 2 p.m. No reservations required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or [NassauMuseum.org](http://NassauMuseum.org).

### Having an event?

Items on The Scene page are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to [thescene@liherald.com](mailto:thescene@liherald.com).

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NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**INDIA vs. PAKISTAN**


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1258318



Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 2, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the North Side steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court located at 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, N.Y. 11501 "Rain or Shine" on the 13th day of June, 2024 at 2:00 PM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff, Town of Oyster Bay, County of Nassau and State of New York. Premises known as 1 Richardson Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. (Section: 21, Block: 222, Lot: 431) Approximate amount of lien \$624,040.05 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 018968/2009. Malachy P. Lyons, Esq., Referee. McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 Tel. 347-286-7409 For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832 Dated: April 11, 2024 During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale. 146761

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
Public Notice is hereby given that separate sealed bids for 2024-2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM-REBID project will be received until 2:45pm prevailing time on JUNE 18, 2024 at the Administrative Offices of the GLEN COVE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT located at 154 Dosis Lane, Glen Cove, NY 11542, at which time they will be received, opened, and read aloud.  
**CONTRACT #1-GENERAL CONSTRUCTION**  
**CONTRACT #2-PLUMBING RECONSTRUCTION**  
**CONTRACT #3-HVAC RECONSTRUCTION**  
SED # 28-01-00-01-0-005-013-DEASY SCHOOL-REBID

Complete digital sets of the Contract documents may be obtained online (with a free user account) as a download for a nonrefundable fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) at the following website www.jagplanroom.com under 'public projects' beginning on JUNE 4, 2024 Optionally, in lieu of digital copies, hard copies may be obtained directly from Island Digital Reprographics 200 Broadhollow Road Suite One Farmingdale New York 11735 (631-753-3000) upon a deposit of fifty(\$50.00) Dollars for each complete set. Checks for deposits shall be made payable to the GLEN COVE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT The bid deposit for hard copies shall be refunded to each Bidder only if the plans and specifications are returned in good condition, with no handwritten notations thereon within thirty (30) days following the award of the contract or the rejection of the bid of such person or corporation. Unsuccessful bidders who request more than one (1) set of the plans and specifications will be partially reimbursed for extra sets in accordance with General Municipal Law § 102 if returned in good condition, with no handwritten notations thereon, within thirty (30) days following the award or rejection of the bids Any person or corporation who fails to submit a bid will receive the return of a single deposit less reproduction costs if returned in good condition, with no handwritten notations thereon, within thirty (30) days following the award of the contract or rejection of the bids Each Bidder must deposit, with their sealed bid, security in an amount not less than 10% of the base bid and all Alternate Bids in the proper form subject to the conditions set forth in the Instructions to Bidders (Page 3). Attention of the Bidders is specifically directed to the prevailing wage rates to be paid under the contract, as well as to other provisions set forth in the bidding documents. Bidder will also be required to show, to the satisfaction of the GLEN COVE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT that they are carrying Workers' Compensation Insurance as required by law and all other Insurance in amounts not less than that specified under the General Conditions. Performance Bonds Labor/Material Bonds and Maintenance Bond, as called for in the General Conditions are a requirement of each contract. The GLEN COVE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT reserves the right to reject

any or all bids submitted, to waive any informality or irregularity in any bid, and/ or to accept any bid in whole or in part and/ or to award or not award the contract, if in the opinion of the GLEN COVE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, the best interest of the SCHOOL DISTRICT will thereby be served. This invitation is an offer to receive bids for a contract. The successful Bidder will be required to execute a formal contract in the form contained in the Contract Documents. Bids received after the time stated in the Notice to Bidders will not be considered and will be returned unopened to the bidder. The bidder assumes the risk of any delay in the mail or in the handling of the mail by employees of the SCHOOL DISTRICT. Whether sent by mail or by means of personal delivery, the bidder assumes responsibility for having its bid deposited on time at the place specified. Each Bidder shall agree to hold their bid price for (45) days after the formal bid opening. Per Article 8, Section 220 of the New York State Labor Law, every contractor and subcontractor shall submit to the SCHOOL DISTRICT within (30) days after issuance of its first payroll, and every (30) days thereafter, a transcript of the original payroll record, as provided by this article, subscribed and affirmed as true under penalties of perjury. The SCHOOL DISTRICT shall be required to receive and maintain such payroll records. The original payrolls or transcripts shall be preserved for (5) years from the completion of the work on the project.  
**BY ORDER OF:**  
GLEN COVE CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING  
DOSORIS LANE  
GLEN COVE, NY 11542  
IDA JOHNSON  
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147298

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**TO PLACE AND AD CALL**  
516-569-4000 x 232

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that a Special Pre-Council Meeting will be held on June 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the second-floor conference room and a Special Council Meeting will be held immediately following, in the City Hall Main Chambers, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York. Tina Pemberton City Clerk 147299

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Notice of Complete Application  
Date: 05/28/2024  
Applicant: LATTINGTOWN PONDS HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION INC  
4 CARDINAL CT  
GLEN COVE, NY 11542  
Facility: LATTINGTOWN PONDS HOA INC  
E OF 12 SWAN CT|30-88-57B & 57C  
GLEN COVE, NY 11542  
Application ID: 1-2805-00226/00001  
Permits(s) Applied for: 1 - Article 15 Title 5 Stream Disturbance  
1 - Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands  
Project is located: in GLEN COVE in NASSAU COUNTY  
Project Description: The applicant proposes to replace a failed weir to restore the water level of the pond to the invert level of the drain pipe. Collapsed wall sections will be removed and new prefabricated interlocking concrete block walls installed, including a longer headwall. Washout areas will be restored with 30 cubic yards of clean fill and planted with native grasses, and shrubs and trees will be replanted. A temporary berm will be installed on the upstream side of the work area. All areas of disturbed vegetation will be restored with native plantings. A Dam Safety permit is not required as the existing dam is 11 feet in height and has a maximum impoundment capacity less than 3 million gallons. The proposed project is located 227 feet east/northeast of 12 Swan Court, Glen Cove, Nassau County. Availability of Application Documents: Filed application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person. State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination Project is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration is on file. A coordinated review was not performed. SEQR Lead Agency: None Designated. State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination Evaluation using a Structural-Archaeological Assessment Form or other information has concluded that the proposed activity will not impact registered, eligible or inventoried

## CRIME BRIEF

### Stanco to pay \$170K, wage theft, kickbacks

Angelo Stanco, 59, of Glen Head, and his Glen Cove company, American Paving & Masonry Corp., have been ordered to pay more than \$170,000 in restitution to former employees after being convicted on charges of wage theft and demanding kickbacks. This sentence was announced by Nassau County District Attorney Anne T. Donnelly and stems from violations related to public work projects in Brookville and Sands Point.

Stanco was convicted of petit larceny, a misdemeanor, and received a one-year conditional discharge. His company, American Paving & Masonry Corp., was convicted of grand larceny, a D felony, and was sentenced to a three-year conditional discharge. In addition to these sentences, the company is required to pay roughly \$171,278 in restitution to 18 former employees. The payments range roughly from \$1,853 to \$21,227.

Both Stanco and American Paving & Masonry Corp. are barred from performing any New York public work contracts until May 23, 2029.

"This defendant failed to pay his employees their fair and rightly owed prevailing wage," Donnelly said. "And further victimized and bullied workers by shaking them down for checks they received as compensation from the state and threatening their future employ-

ment if they did not hand the checks over."

"In New York state, we are committed to protecting workers' rights and ensuring they receive fair compensation for the work they do," Roberta Reardon, the New York State Department of Labor Commissioner, said. "This restitution serves as a crucial step in rectifying the harm done and emphasizes our continued commitment to enforcing prevailing wage laws."

The case began when Stanco and his company executed stipulations with the New York State Department of Labor's Public Work Bureau, acknowledging underpaid prevailing wages owed to employees on public work projects in the Villages of Brookville and Sands Point. The initial stipulations required Stanco and American Paving to remit \$102,631 to the Department of Labor for underpaid wages and interest.

However, between December 2018 and January 2019, Stanco demanded several employees return the restitution checks they received from the Department of Labor as a condition for future employment. This kickback scheme involved fraudulent or double endorsements of checks totaling \$42,595.57. Additionally, Stanco committed further wage theft amounting to \$128,682.45 on various Nassau County public works projects between 2019 and 2022.

# HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

archaeological sites or historic structures. Availability For Public Comment  
Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person no later than 06/27/2024 or 15 days after the publication date of this notice, whichever is later.  
Contact Person  
MATTHEW R PENSKI  
NYSDEC  
SUNY @ Stony Brook|50 Circle Rd  
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409  
(631) 444-0358  
147297

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BROOKVILLE 18 Horse Hill Road Brookville, N.Y. 11545 (516) 626-1792  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing will be held before the Board of Zoning Appeals of the Incorporated Village of Brookville, Nassau County, New York in the main administration

building of AHRC located at 189 Wheatley Road in said Village on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. The hearing will be on the appeal of David Diaz, owner of a 2.07 acre parcel of land in the Village known as 5 Glenby Lane. Said property is designated as Section 18, Block 6, Lot 15 on the Land and Tax Map of Nassau County and is located in the Village's R-2 Residence District which permits single family homes on lots having a minimum area of two acres. Applicant seeks variances from the provisions of Chapter 218, Section 218-24.4 (N) and (K) of the Village to construct a new dwelling and related site improvements including an in ground pool and a cabana which will result in a combined building volume of 95,055 cubic feet where the maximum allowable is 75,572 cubic feet and a lot coverage of 14,477 square feet where the maximum allowable is 13,197 square feet. The above appeal is on file at the Village office

located at the above address where it may be seen during the regular hours of the usual business days until the time of the hearing. May 29, 2024  
Scott Spector  
Chairman  
147296

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## OPINIONS

# Who knows which way this presidential race is headed?

**T**he 2024 presidential campaign is already one like no other.

The candidates are the oldest ever nominated by a major party for president. The presumptive Republican nominee is not only the first president to be criminally indicted, put on trial and now convicted of felonies, but



**PETER KING**

has been indicted four times — and seen his popularity gain with each indictment, pulling him ahead of the incumbent. The Democratic putative nominee has extraordinarily low favorability numbers for a sitting president, yet has encountered no serious opposition on the way to obtaining his party's nomination for a second term.

Debates between the presumed nominees, which have always been held during the heart of the campaign, in September and October, have been moved up to June 27 and Sept. 10. It was President Biden who called for these debates,

in what has to be described either as a Hail Mary pass or an act of political desperation. It is almost always the trailing challenger who hollers for debates, to get attention, while the incumbent delays for as long as possible. No scriptwriter could have envisioned the scenario playing out this year, at this point still the opening act.

Donald Trump left office with markedly low poll numbers, in the aftermath of not only a losing re-election campaign, but also the shameful Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the nation's Capitol. Biden took office promising to heal the national divide. If there was any consensus among the cognoscenti, it was that Trump was finished as a candidate, if not as a political force altogether.

Trump did re-enter the political wars that were the 2022 House and Senate campaigns, in what was expected to be a Republican blowout year. But when the GOP failed to win back the Senate and barely recaptured the House, much of the blame was placed on Trump for having foisted unqualified candidates

on the Republicans in key races. Once again he was written off, and the main question was whether the 2024 Republican nominee would be Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis or Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador. Coming off a landslide re-election win, DeSantis was the strong favorite.

Though Democrats had survived the 2022 election cycle, Biden was considered a flawed candidate by many in the party. His falling poll numbers reflected the unpopularity brought about by mass illegal immigration, inflation, gas prices still being considerably higher than what they were during the Trump years, and what appeared to be mental confusion and incoherence during Biden's public appearances. Yet no serious Democratic challenger emerged.

On the Republican side, DeSantis waited and waited to announce his candidacy, and by the time he did, Trump had passed him in the polls. Once again defying all the rules of gravity and poli-

tics, Trump's emergence as frontrunner was fueled not by grand strategy, but by the reaction of his base to his being indicted in New York, accused of paying off a porn star. Recent polls show not only that Trump is leading Biden in the swing states, but also that a majority of Americans look on the Trump administration more favorably than the Biden years. And Biden shows no signs of gaining momentum.

But while all had been going well for Trump, his criminal conviction adds a great deal of uncertainty. It's still a long way to Election Day in November, and if these past few years are any guide, the numbers can change overnight. Is this month's debate Biden's opportunity to turn the campaign around, or could Trump land a crushing knockout blow? Or will it be just one more transitory moment in this unprecedented campaign?

My prediction, which means nothing, is that this campaign won't be over until it's over — and maybe not even then.

*Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security. Comments? pking@liherald.com.*

**I**f the past few years are any guide, the polling numbers can change overnight.

## What kind of Long Island matters most to you?

**I**f you turn on the TV or scroll TikTok, there seems to be a fight over our nation's soul: two increasingly opposed camps, with extremists in each viewing themselves as the hero in a good-vs.-evil passion play. But "seems" is the key word. The members of my district — from Glen Cove to Oyster Bay to Hicksville, Plainview and Farmingdale — care about the economy. They care about the safety of their families, about their property taxes, and about their kids getting a good education and having a prosperous future.



**JAKE BLUMENCRAZ**

It's also fair to say that people across Long Island, and the state and the rest of our vast nation, are more concerned about the price of gas than identity politics or virtue signaling. Unfortunately, virtue signaling and identity politics are easier for politicians than finding reasonable solutions. "Amateurs talk strategy; professionals talk logistics," as Gen. Omar Bradley is reported to have said, and our current Democratic majority has, in that sense, proved itself an amateur. We, as a state and as a nation,

need to start focusing on how we can make all of our lives better, rather than wasting our lives fighting meaningless culture wars with our neighbors.

For example, taxpayers don't need to fund a study to prove that Americans are anti-traffic. It damages our environment and health, and costs us all in dollars and stress. According to a study commissioned by TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit, traffic congestion on Long Island costs \$1.9 billion per year, and represents over 40 million gallons of wasted fuel — and that study is from 2020, before our inflationary spike. The average Long Islander loses over three days a year sitting, staring at brake lights. Those 40 million gallons also represent a huge volume of air pollutants, pushing the state further from achieving its carbon-emission goals as set forth in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

To reduce traffic, governments can improve road systems, expand public transportation, or dissuade potential drivers from hitting the road. Our road system is in a state of disrepair. Additionally, the already insufficient Long Island Rail Road service to the northern part of my district was further cut in

the past year, leaving drivers with no reasonable alternative but to pay congestion pricing — yet another income stream that will start on Long Island and flow into the five boroughs.

**O**ur legendary traffic congestion wastes 40 million gallons of fuel per year.

The Oyster Bay Line is caught in a top-down-imposed Catch-22 wherein service is reduced because demand is low, and demand is low because service is poor. Its users also lack direct access to the city, because the Metropolitan Transportation Authority gives us its dirtiest diesel engines, which are not permitted to travel west of Jamaica. Those engines also have to run 24/7, and

so Oyster Bay residents are subject to the noise and air pollution of diesel engines idling all night, every night.

The solution seems to be using hybrid electric-diesel engines to ensure direct, reliable access. Otherwise people need to get in their cars and drive to the Hicksville, Syosset or Manhasset station, defeating the strategy of using public transportation to reduce the number of cars on the road. The current Democratic supermajority has instead chosen to do nothing, and because it is a supermajority, there is little that we, as a minority party or citizenry, can do.

The Democratic Machine's ideology

says that cars are bad, suburbs are worse, and the two together deserve nothing but scorn. Instead of trying to help the citizens of Long Island, the state is punishing them for the crime of living in Nassau or Suffolk County. There is no actual incentive for the party to offer reasonable solutions, because that is the furthest thing from their minds.

Just look at the botched rollout of bail reform, the 2019 tenant law, or marijuana legalization. The winds shifted enough that it was worth supporting a new cause, and with little thought of how to actually achieve their goals, Democrats voted "yea," Gov. Kathy Hochul signed, and non-action (and disaster) followed, and continue to this day.

We Long Islanders — we Americans — need to turn our attention to how we get things done. For too long we have allowed the loudest, least productive voices to impose a conversation that prioritizes ideology over practicality. We need good public-transportation service. We need to take our traffic signal system out of the mid-20th century and use any of the several "smart" traffic control systems that exist. We need to work together and meet our CLCPA goals.

All of us.

*Jake Blumencranz represents the 15th Assembly District.*

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Safe day at the beach? Thank the lifeguards

**W**hether it's Jones Beach, on the South Shore, or Stehli Beach, in Bayville on the North Shore, summer on Long Island means that hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors will look to find fun under the sun.

But there is also danger.

Amid the excitement and relaxation, it's essential to recognize the importance of beach safety and the indispensable role lifeguards play in protecting beachgoers. Beaches are more than just picturesque landscapes; they are dynamic environments with inherent risks that require vigilance and expertise to navigate safely.

The ocean is unpredictable. Those venturing into the water often underestimate the power of the waves and currents, leading to life-threatening consequences.

Six people drown, on average, each year at regulated beaches and pool facilities across the state, according to the state Department of Health. But losing even one life is one too many.

Rip currents, in particular, pose a significant threat on beaches, swiftly pulling swimmers away from shore with alarming strength. Without proper knowledge and awareness, even experienced swimmers can find themselves in perilous situations.

It's crucial for beachgoers to understand the signs of rip currents — murkier water, where sand is being churned up, or water that is flowing away from the beach instead of crashing onto it — and how to respond effectively, by swim-

ming parallel to the shore and staying calm. But it's just as critical to have trained professionals on hand to provide assistance when needed.

Lifeguards protect all who venture into the water. They undergo rigorous training to identify hazards, respond to emergencies, and perform rescues swiftly and effectively. They scan the water constantly, and are prepared to spring into action at a moment's notice: Last summer, they rescued more than 2,500 swimmers in distress across Long Island. And beyond their lifesaving abilities, lifeguards also offer valuable guidance on water safety for all who ask, to help prevent accidents before they occur.

Lifeguards serve as a reassuring presence for beachgoers. Families can relax and enjoy their time on the sand, knowing that these trained professionals are on duty to ensure their safety. This sense of security encourages more people to visit the beach, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community space for all.

Despite their indispensable role, lifeguards often face challenges in securing adequate resources and support. Budget constraints and staffing shortages can strain lifeguard services, putting both beachgoers and guards themselves at risk.

The state recently earmarked \$5 million for hiring lifeguards, amid a nationwide shortage that affected a third of the country's water attractions last year. The hiring initiative is expected to raise pay by as much as 34 percent among the municipalities that employ lifeguards. Those municipalities have

until July 26 to apply for the state grant money.

It's imperative for governments, communities and beachgoers alike to recognize the value of lifeguards and prioritize the funding and resources necessary to maintain strong teams of rescuers. Investing in lifeguard training, equipment and facilities is an investment in public safety and the vitality of our beaches.

To that end, the New York State Lifeguard Corps — which represents roughly 1,200 lifeguards — is campaigning to have them recognized as first responders, the same designation as police, fire and emergency medical technicians. That would give lifeguards access to the same medical and survivor benefits afforded other first responders, as well as legal protection from victims' claims when performing lifeguard duties.

Lifeguards also play a crucial role in emergency response and disaster management, providing essential support during natural disasters and other crises.

Beach safety is a collective responsibility. While the allure of the ocean is undeniable, it's essential to approach it with caution and respect for its power. Lifeguards serve as the backbone of beach safety. Their dedication, expertise, and commitment to public safety make our beaches safer and more enjoyable for everyone. As another summer season gets under way, let's recognize and appreciate the vital role they play in safeguarding our shores and preserving the joy of beach-going for all.

## LETTERS

### D'Esposito forgets Jan. 6 police attackers

To the Editor:

In his opinion piece last week, "We must back the blue, now more than ever," Congressman Anthony D'Esposito calls out the "unholy alliance of radical legislators, soft-on-crime prosecutors and district attorneys, and the perennially out-of-touch progressive activist class" for unjustly targeting the police.

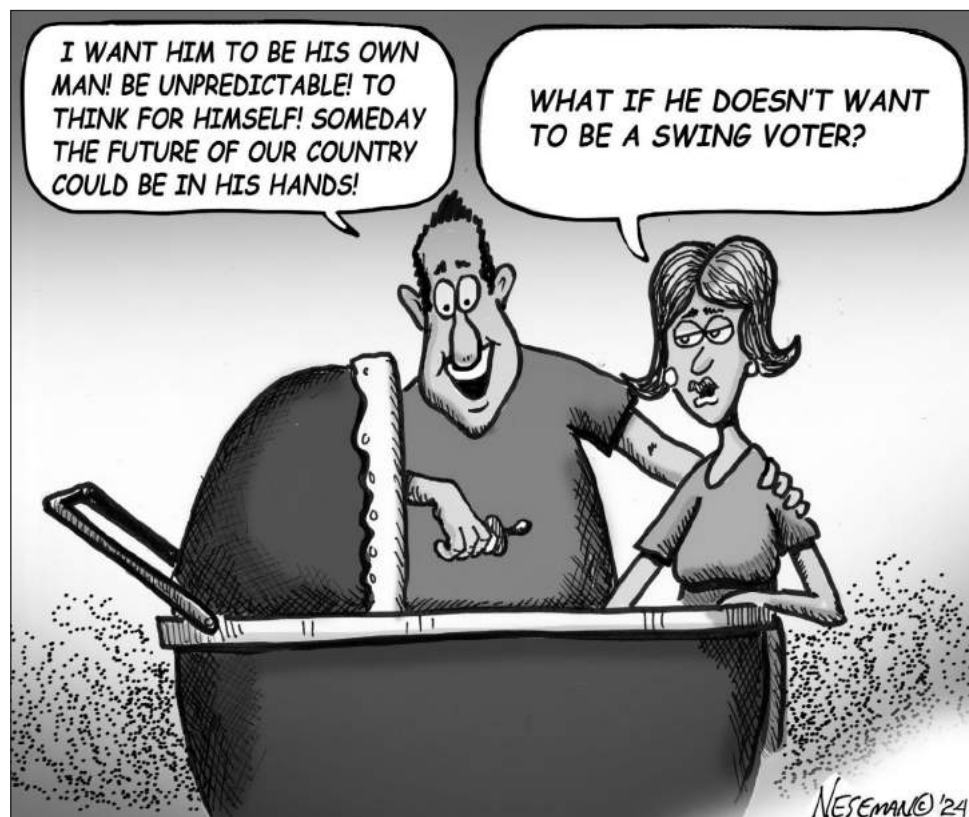
Significantly, he disingenuously omits to call out the right-wing insurrectionists who viciously attacked the Capitol police officers on Jan. 6, 2021.

ROBERT TOLLE  
Cedarhurst

### Jerry Kremer is correct: College protesters are confused

To the Editor:

Jerry Kremer's recent column, "The blemish of



## OPINIONS

# For neighborhoods of color, local media offer hope

I was surrounded for nearly a week by thousands of protesters, any one of whom might have infected and potentially killed me, according to health officials, yet I was unfazed.

You might wonder why I was unconcerned that I might have caught Covid-19 while walking amid the river of Black Lives Matter demonstrators who streamed through Bellmore, Merrick and Freeport in June 2020, following the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer.



**SCOTT BRINTON**

I just wasn't. And I didn't get Covid.

I covered the protests for the Bellmore Herald, Merrick Herald and Freeport Herald, diving right in. These were historic demonstrations taking place down the

street from my Merrick home. I had to experience and record them, the insistent government warnings against attending mass protests be damned. This was my job. This was my calling.

On Day Two of the demonstrations, June 3, I shot a 15-second video of a 7-year-old girl, Wynta-Amor Rogers, chanting, "No justice, no peace!" as she marched alongside her mother, Lakya Jackson. Within hours, the video went viral on Twitter (now X), garnering more than a million views by midnight and 23.5 million within days.

Based on the hundreds of online comments that I read, for many Wynta-

Amor represented a measure of hope for better days in the most contentious presidential election year in decades (perhaps ever). This dark period was racked not only by the global pandemic, but also by worldwide joblessness and financial turmoil, leading to a suffocating sense of helplessness and mass psychic malaise.

Floyd's murder by a police officer who knelt on his neck for 8 minutes, 46 seconds transformed an already growing unrest into a social and political movement that united millions of Americans seeking peace and justice for Black and Brown people around the country. Wynta-Amor served as a powerful symbol of fearlessness, a beacon on whom people could project their desires and aspirations for a more equitable and inclusive society.

Adult Black Lives Matter protesters knew precisely whom they were fighting for: millions of children like Wynta-Amor.

She became a charismatic speaker at BLM marches. She was immortalized in poems, paintings and building-size murals.

The video of her was shared thousands of times on social media, and played by news outlets around the globe and at the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee. Google even included it in its Year in Search, the final footage in a long line of remarkable viral videos. I can think of few years in my lifetime as terrifying, heart-wrenching

and exhilarating as 2020.

I came away from the experience feeling enthused about the media's ability to telegraph a message that aided in a movement to effect social change, to improve society. Four years later, I am less sanguine, though still hopeful.

After 28 years at the Herald, I left the

newspaper group in early 2022 to teach journalism full-time at Hofstra University. Almost immediately, I started researching the effect of media coverage on communities of color, in particular at the hyperlocal level. Fellow Hofstra professors Mario Murillo and Aashish Kumar and I interviewed 40 leaders of community-based organizations in Freeport, Elmont, Hempstead, Roosevelt, Union-

dale and Westbury, asking about their perceptions of media reporting on their neighborhoods. The adjective most often used to describe the coverage: negative.

Crime, the leaders repeatedly said, dominated news reports on their neighborhoods, with little positive coverage and virtually no reporting on critical issues besides education. A news audit of 469 stories on their communities from January to June 2022 largely supported their assertions, with two exceptions: the Franklin Square-Elmont Herald and Freeport Herald.

In these community publications, crime comprised less than 10 percent of coverage, whereas it made up anywhere from 25 to 80 percent of reporting in

regional news outlets. Fingers crossed, we are set to release the study's complete findings this month in a paper titled "The Suburban News Desert: Where Communities of Color are Starved for Critical Information Amid Crime-centered Coverage."

We know this from the social sciences: According to cultivation theory, the more people are exposed to violence in the media, the more they believe the world is dangerous, even if they live in peaceful places.

The more people read or view reports on crime in communities of color, without positive coverage to provide context, the more they believe these neighborhoods to be crime-ridden and deviant, even though they may in fact be largely safe and harmonious communities in which to live, work and raise a family.

This is where community newspapers come in. They cover crime, yes, but they also report regularly on the good stuff — neighborhood block parties, volunteer efforts, graduations, marriages and births, along with the crucial issues that matter most to people.

Having made my career as a community journalist, I believed in community media before I became a professor. Having studied the media as an academic researcher, I appreciate, more than ever, the need for community news outlets, particularly in neighborhoods of color.

*Scott Brinton is an assistant professor of journalism, media studies and public relations at Hofstra University's Lawrence Herbert School of Communication.*  
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**T**hey cover crime, yes, but they also report regularly on the good stuff.

## LETTERS

college demonstrations," was very interesting. I think the colleges were put in a bad position. Freedom of speech and the right to protest are important rights, but I think Kremer nailed it when he wrote that the protesters were confused on the issues. (And New York Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, who I think started all the problems, did so because she was attacking Harvard after she was kicked off a board she was a member of.)

If the protesters want the war in Gaza to stop and have the Israeli hostages returned, that's one thing. But many of them were protesting to destroy Israel. That's totally different. Israel is our ally. Once students started protesting to destroy Israel — and America, with some reportedly chanting "Death to America" — all their benefits should have been removed, including scholarships, health care and anything else we supply them with.

RANDY PERLMUTTER  
*Oceanside*

## King's right about the wisdom we could use

To the Editor:

I want to commend former Congressman Peter King for writing the wonderful op-ed "Wishing for some of that World War II-era wisdom" (May 23-29). It certainly pointed out what the United States is all about. We can and should be able to come together and unite for the common good. We have so much potential for doing the "right thing" that benefits us all.

It seems that today's decisions in government policy are more about winning than cooperating. We should learn to make wise decisions that benefit the "governed," not just for political expediency. Being wise is a lot better than trying to win the popularity contest. I agree completely with the concept that we should always learn from history, so we don't repeat the mistakes of the past. Keep up the good work, Mr. King.

JEROME I. ROSEN  
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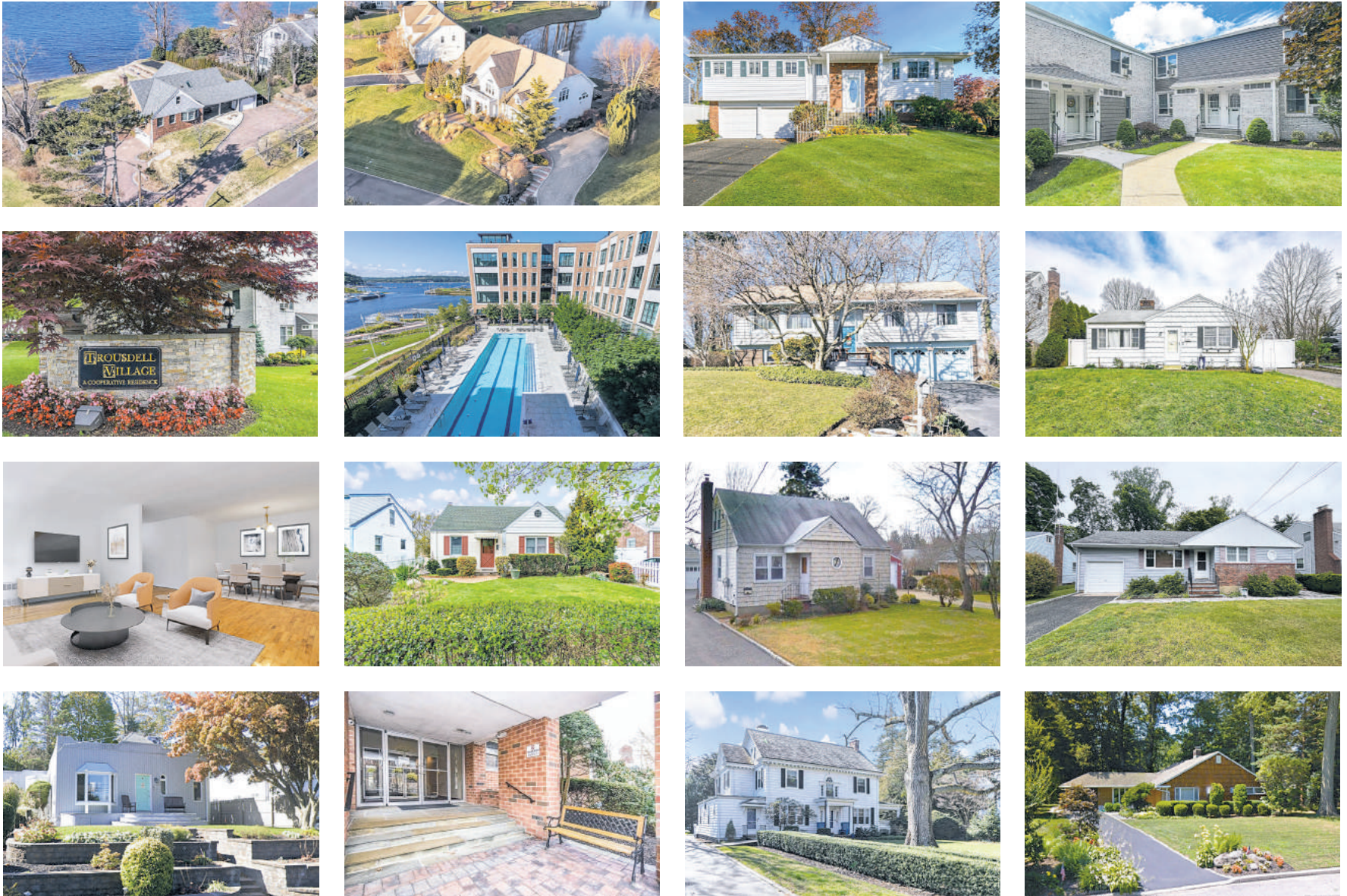
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Balls, and jets, were flying at Jones Beach's Bethpage Air Show — Wantagh



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