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Courtesy Peter Cappiello

Antoinette Cappiello's support dog, Cooper, helped her through difficult times during her cancer treatment.

Remembering Antoinette Cappiello

Mourners recall her unwavering support, civic spirit

By JENNA STANCO

Intern

Thousands of Glen Cove residents were left in the dark during Hurricane Sandy in October 2012, but one house remained lit, full and lively: the home of Antoinette D. Cappiello, a mother to the entire Glen Cove community, as her closest friends describe her. Loved ones recall passing the hours together over games of Apples to Apples and homemade pizza during the blackout, a lively gathering even in the darkest hours.

"It was always a full house full of great memories," Cappiello's longtime friend Teresa DiPoala said. "She was always helping taking care of everyone, and always doing it for the kids of Glen Cove."

Cappiello died at age 57 on June 8, after battling Sarcoma, a rare group of cancers, for

five years. She was considered a miracle by doctors and fought her condition courageously, not just for herself, but to be with her family and children and to continue watching them grow.

A Glen Cove native, Cappiello was a beloved leader in the community. She is credited for impacting many lives with her unwavering support, creating Glen Cove's junior cheerleading team, and hosting extraordinary Sunday dinners. She is survived by her husband, Peter, and her children, Peter Jr. (Emily), Cristina, Alessandra and Joseph.

Peter Jr. recalls his mother always being there to give a helping hand to him, his friends and his siblings' friends when they were growing up. Her nurturing encouraged them to grow into successful adults, inspired by her kindness.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Keiserman secures Dem nomination

By ROKSANA AMID

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Kim Keiserman celebrated a decisive victory in the Democratic primary in the state Senate's Seventh District on Tuesday, securing 73 percent of the vote against her opponent, Brad Schwartz.

Keiserman is a Port Washington resident known for her passionate advocacy in the local school district. Her campaign has focused on education reform, reproductive rights and environmental protection, which she sees as the most pressing issues facing her community.

"I'm running for state Senate because the people of this district face major challenges," Keiserman told the crowd of friends and family at her home after declaring victory. "We deserve to be represented by someone who can bring us together to find real and lasting solutions to these challenges. Not someone who panders,

sows division and put politics over people."

Despite being a first-time candidate Keiserman said she believed her lack of political experience was offset by her extensive advocacy work and involvement in the community, and that she aimed to be a strong, effective voice for Long Island in Albany.

**I'm running
 for State
 Senate because
 the people of
 this district
 face major
 challenges.**

KIM KEISERMAN
 candidate for
 State Senate

She will face the Republican incumbent, Jack Martins, in November.

"This victory is just the beginning of the hard work that needs to be done to flip this seat," Keiserman said. "We're currently standing right in the heart of one of New York's true battlegrounds. The work we do here on Long Island has national implications for the future of our country and the future of our democracy. That work is not going to be easy."

Her foray into politics, she has said, was inspired by Donald Trump's 2016 election as president. Horrified by his

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Walk with a doc enhances health ties

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Carol Rubin, a 102-year-old Glen Cove resident, credits her impressive longevity to staying active and being deeply involved in her community. Most days, she can be found swimming at the YMCA or participating in the “Walk with a Doc” program through Glen Cove’s Age-Friendly initiative.

The program is part of the broader Age-Friendly Glen Cove initiative, which began three years ago and is powered by the City of Glen Cove in collaboration with the Nassau County Age-Friendly Center of Excellence. The program aims to improve seniors’ quality of life by facilitating access to information, services, community events, transportation, and affordable housing opportunities.

On a recent walk held at the Boys and Girls Club of Glen Cove on June 20, Dr. Barbara Keber, chair of Family Medicine at Glen Cove Hospital, led a group of seniors, offering participants the chance to ask medical questions and learn health-improvement tips while exercising safely. Some of Dr. Keber’s advice included being aware of traffic to see oncoming vehicles, wearing closed-toed shoes to prevent tripping, using sunscreen and hats for sun protection, and paying attention to surroundings to avoid falls. In the case of this month’s walk, the program was moved indoors to protect participants from the high temperature that day.

Participants were given the opportunity to ask medical questions and learn how to improve their health, all while safely exercising. Before each monthly session, participants submit surveys on topics that interest them for Dr. Keber to cover the next time the group meets.

“Walking, or even running, people think that those things aggravate, worsen or cause arthritis,” Dr. Keber said. “Regular walking can actually prevent arthritis by keeping joints lubricated.”

The Walk with a Doc program started in 2005 by Dr. David Sabgir, a cardiologist in Columbus, Ohio, and has since grown to hundreds of chapters globally, including Glen Cove.

Carol Waldman, Age-Friendly Liaison to Nassau County added a future goal of the program to create a safe, visible, and accessible walking path within the city.

“The goal is to create a path that’s welcoming to everyone, not just seniors,” Waldman said. “We want people to feel incentivized to walk, knowing they have a safe and measured path.”

The proposed Downtown Walk Path will start from the senior center, extend down Glen Street, turn onto School Street, and lead into downtown Glen Cove. This path, which Waldman anticipates will be available in the coming months, aims to promote health and draw more visibility and customers to local businesses. Waldman added that the program at one point will also serve to address infrastructure issues in the community by identifying problems like cracked sidewalks, excessive shrubbery,



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Exercising with one another is a great way for seniors like Laraine Peterson and Abigail Montes to socialize.



Carol Rubin and Carol Waldman walked side-by-side as they discussed the benefits of walking and the ‘Walk with a Doc’ program.

and insufficient lighting or benches.

“Walking together helps people connect, reducing feelings of loneliness,” Waldman said. “This program is not just about physical health but also about building relationships and engaging with the community.”

Rubin, who finds joy and satisfaction in each walk, added that she walks whenever she can.

“Walking is excellent exercise,” she said. “I think this program is fantastic, and I really enjoy every time I come.”



Ro Pizziatolla and Janet Viel walked at the gymnasium of the Boys and Girls Club of Glen Cove to stay safe from high summer temperatures.



Debra Leraci and Dr. Barbara Keber discuss aspects of health care such as staying safe from the sun’s rays and wearing proper footwear during walks.

Cappiello: 'She was always there to listen'

June 27, 2024 - GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"That guidance, and her love and support as a friend, was just something that some people really needed, and she was always there to listen and offer support any which way she could," Peter Jr. said. "If I can be half of that person, I consider myself to be doing a good job."

Cappiello was constantly taking care of everyone she could, her longtime friend Sue Anderson recalls. Her children remember heR bringing snacks to their sports games for any child who was hungry, offering travel tips from her years spent traveling the world in the airline industry as a travel agent, and attending every important event in her family members' lives.

"As a testament to her, no matter the distance and whatever it was, she was always there and present for us," Peter Jr. said. "That was her biggest joy, just making sure her four kids were successful in finding their own way."

DiPoala recalls times spent watching the sunset over

the bay at Pryibil beach together. Cappiello always came prepared with food.

She had a remarkable talent for cultivating togetherness. While watching her son in the city's Junior football league Cappiello came to notice that other teams had cheerleaders to rally behind them, but not Glen Cove. So she began to recruit the team, which began practicing in neighborhood streets, and within a few months, they had official uniforms.

The rest was history.

Throughout her years of cancer treatment, Cappiello was accompanied by her best four-legged friend, her support dog, Cooper. "He was always at her feet, ready to give her all the love and attention she could possibly need," Peter Jr. said. "It's amazing to see how far that was able to take her. It kept her looking forward."

Cappiello's legacy extends beyond her family to her community outreach. She was a member of the PTA, the Glen Cove High School Athletic Booster Club, and

the Music Performing Arts Parent Association. She earned an associate's degree from SUNY Sullivan in Loch Sheldrake, and worked in a doctor's office before she had children.

She and Peter also played a large role in Glen Cove's junior baseball and softball leagues.

"She hosted events left and right, and it showed through the amount of people that showed up for her," Peter Jr. said of her funeral service at St. Rocco's Church on June 12. "Everyone was there to pay respects to the woman that, in a way, could have raised them herself. I saw a lot of people deeply touched and impacted by my mom."

Cappiello's family established a scholarship fund dedicated to other families that have been affected by cancer. Donations may be made in her memory to the Glen Cove Community Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 691, Glen Cove, NY 11542, with her name written on the check's memo line.

Keiserman poised for general election showdown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

attacks on women, immigrants, people of color and the press, Keiserman felt that she needed to be part of the fight for democracy and decency. She joined the Port Washington Democratic Club, and quickly became a central figure in grass-roots organizing, including efforts to oust former U.S. Rep. George Santos.

Jody Kass Finkel, founder of Concerned Citizens of NY-03, a group

Keiserman joined to help force Santos out of Congress, highlighted her leadership and dedication to good government policies, stressing her integrity.

"I've gotten to know Kim through her leadership of Concerned Citizens of NY-03," Finkel said. "I've seen her in action. I've seen her under pressure. It's very clear that we will be so lucky to have her as our representative in Albany, because she'll bring integrity and

her smarts."

If she were to defeat Martins in the general election, one of Keiserman's first actions, she said, would be to join the bipartisan pro-choice Legislative Caucus, emphasizing her commitment to protecting and expanding women's reproductive rights. She supports codifying those rights in the state Constitution, and ensuring comprehensive reproductive care, including pre- and post-natal care.

"It's time for us to all fight back," Keiserman said. "Protect reproductive freedom and enshrine reproductive freedom into the New York State Constitution."

Her campaign garnered a number of significant endorsements. Will Murphy, a candidate for the Assembly in the 15th District, praised Keiserman's understanding of local issues and her commitment to affordable housing, quality public schools and safe communities.

"Kim is the type of person who gets it, and knows how to attack it and start solving it," Murphy said. "We don't need career politicians who have no clue about the struggles everyday people

face."

Glen Cove City Councilwoman Marsha Silverman commended Keiserman's proactive approach to understanding public issues and her commitment to engaging with residents.

"She took it upon herself to get to know the issues of interest to the public and put in the hard work it takes to meet residents and listen to their concerns," Silverman said. "I think she will be a great partner in government, and I look forward to working with her."

Keiserman acknowledged that taking on the incumbent will be a challenge, noting Martins' time in public life and extensive name recognition, but she added that she has built strong relationships in her communities by listening to residents in her frequent visits to events, and even grocery stores.

"When I go and talk to voters in the district, what I hear is they want someone who's going to be more present in the community, and able to deliver for the unique needs, values and interests of Long Island," Keiserman said. "That's the message that I'll be bringing to them, is that I'm going to be a full-time legislator. I'm going to be listening to their needs and interests, and I'm going to be a voice in the majority in the State Senate that can deliver for them."



KIM KEISERMAN

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Book Review: "SuperAging" by David Cravit and Larry Wolf

Subtitled "Getting Older Without Getting Old", this new book starts with the premise "... imagine bringing a whole lifetime of knowledge, experience, skills, talent, relationships, wisdom (and, let's face it, money) to two or three more decades ahead of you in which to leverage all those assets into an ongoing wonderful experience." With the Baby Boomer generation far outliving and "outhealing" any prior generation, we are in the era of the "superager", founded upon seven pillars.

Attitude: Believing in exciting new possibilities, optimism is a major life extender. Purposes and goals are a result of an active curiosity about the potential for the gift of these years. Practice a positive thinking booster program everyday. Search for "positivity apps" and get daily positive quotes. They work!

Awareness: Whereas older adults previously accepted the advice of professionals as gospel, today's superagers are avid consumers of information. The challenge today is the approach to information gathering and the curating of the "informational torrent". Tips and techniques for searching and filing your information are provided.

Activity: Keeping fit, mentally and physically

delves into the nine components, arising out of the Blue Zones Project, for extending longevity -- move naturally, have a purpose (worth an extra 7 years!), downshift, the 80% rule for eating, plant-based diet, moderate alcohol, faith-based community, family, social networks.

Accomplishments: Viewing post-65 as a continued opportunity to grow and achieve goals, this section outlines myriad ways to continue personal growth. As the authors point out, "Accomplishment, promoted by longevity, produces even further longevity."

Attachment: The health risks of loneliness are well documented. Superagers reach for more connection, often digitally. New adult communities are arising right on college campuses, creating exciting new intergenerational possibilities.

Avoidance: Avoiding ageism, especially against oneself, means challenging your own and society's outdated views on aging -- stereotypes as to what older adults look and act like.

Autonomy: The dazzling new array of living options, and various means for affording them are explored, including using the home as an asset. For more, visit superagingnews.com.

Visit us at trustlaw.com to learn more or search Ettinger Law on YouTube for our elder law estate planning videos

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Baboolal celebrated for exceptional achievement

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Victoria Baboolal, this year's Honorarian at the Glen Cove High School, has been recognized for her exceptional academic and extracurricular achievements. This fall, she will be attending Long Island University CW Post, where she plans to major in psychology.

"Victoria easily adapts to different situations and she knows what she wants," Alyssa Andersen, school guidance counselor, said.

"Her flexibility has helped her understand that you cannot plan for all situations, but you can make adjustments and still meet your goals. Victoria has continuously met and even surpassed her goals over the years."

From an early age Baboolal demonstrated a passion for community service. At Connolly School, she joined the K Club, which focuses on community service activities akin to the Kiwanis Club. Her dedication to helping others continued through her involvement with the Glen Cove Public Library, where she participated in various programs such as making holiday cards for soldiers, shelter residents, and elderly people, as well as assisting with crafts and book buddy programs for younger children.

Baboolal's commitment to academic excellence and community involvement continued in middle school, where she

became a member of the Social Studies Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society. Her high school years have been marked by active participation in numerous clubs and honor societies.

She is particularly proud of her role in DECA, a business club for entrepreneurs. Victoria joined DECA as a freshman and quickly rose through the ranks to become president.

Under her leadership, she encouraged participation in competitions and fostered leadership skills among her peers. Her involvement in DECA has been influenced by her father's business, Dave's Kitchen and Bath Cabinets, sparking her interest in possibly combining business with her psychology studies.

In addition to her work with DECA, Baboolal has been involved in a variety of other clubs and honor societies. She is the vice president of the English Honor Society and a member of the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Social Studies Honor Society, and Science Honor Society. Victoria has also been active in the Environmental Club, Mindfulness Club, and Yearbook Club. Through these activities, she has engaged in numerous community service projects, such as tutoring, hosting educational events for younger students, and participating in food and toy drives.

Baboolal's academic interests are broad, spanning from the sciences, where she took AP Biology and other specialized

courses, to her AP Research project on the therapeutic effects of cinema. This project, which explored how movies can help individuals process emotions and work through problems, solidified her desire to pursue a career in psychology.

Looking to the future, Baboolal aims to become a clinical psychologist, focusing on adult clients and potentially conducting research alongside her clinical practice. Her passion for mental health advocacy has been evident through her high school initiatives promoting mental health awareness and stress management.

"I've just been a part of all these clubs, because I just love getting involved and doing all these different extracurriculars knowing that when I leave I just lived my high school experience out to the fullest," Baboolal said. "I'm not coming back here, so I might as well just do it all."

In addition to her academic and extracurricular achievements, Baboolal has made significant contributions to her community through projects like the installation of "little libraries" in Morgan's Park and local elementary schools, promoting literacy and a love for reading.

"She's humble, intelligent, smart, and I think her track record here speaks to the fact that she really will help others," Allen Hudson, high school principal, said. "She's really determined, and psychology is definitely a road to success, she'll make an impact on the world."



Courtesy the Glen Cove City School District
Victoria Baboolal is this year's Honorarian at the Glen Cove High School.

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Pickleball is for all, these athletes say

By **NICOLE FORMISANO**

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Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in America — and it's time it got a little more diverse.

"You don't really see a lot of African Americans playing pickleball," said Annette Dennis, president of the African American Pickleball Association. "And when you do see people outside in the park, or even in some of the clubs, and you don't see people that look like you, you kind of shy away."

Michael Atherley, of West Hempstead, set out to change that. He and his wife Desiree have been playing pickleball for four years, and wanted to introduce it to more people of color.

"What we've found from it is a great social sport," said Atherley, 61, who serves as treasurer of the organization. "We've been able to forge some friendships from there, and had some really great interactions with people in the community we would not have known otherwise. So we just felt that would be great to have within our own community, those of color."

"And maybe it would be something that would galvanize the community, and join us together and get rid of some of those stigmas and fears that we may have with each other."

The pair approached Dennis, who's been playing for eight years, and the African American Pickleball Association, or AAPA for short, was born. In only five months, they've gathered more than 60 members, and hundreds more on Facebook.

The organization held a special event at Pickleball Plus, in West Hempstead, to celebrate Juneteenth. Neighbors enjoyed sandwiches and refreshments, group warm up and cool down exercises, and a raffle for a basket of pickleball equipment, donated by Onix Salva, a Malverne High School alum who now runs an athletic training company.

They filled eight pickleball courts — some were for well-seasoned players that were looking for a challenge. Others were for intermediate players that wanted to build up their skills. But most were for people who perhaps had never picked up a pickleball paddle in their lives, but thought it looked fun and wanted to learn more. That's the beauty of the sport, Atherley and Dennis both said.

"When I was learning, people who had been playing were very helpful in teaching," Atherley said. "And everyone I've come into contact with playing pickleball has been so friendly. And even though it can be competitive, everybody's in it just to play and get exercise, and really are trying to help the next person get better."

Perhaps best of all is that pickleball makes sports accessible again. It's popular among all ages.

The Juneteenth event, for example, saw everyone from younger adults to seniors.

"I just love the fact that I'm active, I get my steps in, I can hold my own without having to be a rock star," Dennis, 65, said. "I can find people to play at my level and then the game is competitive. It's just so much fun. I'm addicted."

"And then you're meeting people in your age group," she added. "It just opens up a whole other network of friends."

"It's such a social event for a lot of people who may have played sports in their youth, and as they get older, they're not really playing much," Atherley said. "So it's really a way of not just socially but, as far as health wise, getting people more active."

The organization has introduced many new people to the social and health benefits of pickleball. That's their favorite part, both Dennis and Atherley said — watch-

ing someone pick up a paddle for the first time and go from a beginner to a fellow pickleball lover in the span of an hour.

"I love to see when they love it," Dennis said. "And then they get excited and they have a little rally, and the rally lasts a couple of shots back and forth, and then they're clapping their hands, they go up and they're all excited and whatnot. And I'm like — yep, they're hooked."

And now, what started as an idea between friends has snowballed. People from out of state — as far as Anchorage, Alaska — are reaching out to AAPA to see about starting their own local chapter.

In the meantime, the organization is focused on introducing pickleball to more people of color on Long Island.

"Come on," Dennis said. "Jump on the bandwagon."

For those interested in learning more, visit the African American Pickleball Association Facebook page.

Even though it can be competitive, everybody's in it just to play and get exercise, and really are trying to help the next person get better.

MICHAEL ATHERLEY
 Treasurer,
 African America
 Pickleball Association

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Summit stresses cyclist, pedestrian safety

By SCOTT BRINTON

Special to the Herald

Martin Buchman talked up the Long Island Greenway Trail outside the amphitheater at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow last week, a table full of maps, charts and pamphlets before him.

The retired high school teacher who's also a board member of the New York Bicycling Coalition, said ground will break next year on the nearly 200-mile-long cycling trail that will connect Eisenhower Park with Montauk, nearly 200 miles away.

"The real hope is to get bicycle infrastructure that does not compete with cars," Buchman said.

The cycling advocate and enthusiast was at NUMC for the second annual Walk Bike LI Summit, at which "vulnerable road users" such as bicyclists and pedestrians were the primary point of discussion. He understands all too well the dangers cyclists face on the island's heavily trafficked roads — and the need for safe spaces of their own.

Buchman has been hit twice by cars while riding his bike over the last seven years. The first time was Bike-to-Work Day in 2017. He was cycling 25 miles from Stony Brook to Plainview-Old Bethpage High School when a left-turning driver ran into him.

He broke his collarbone, and was one of three cyclists who wound up in the same emergency room together, all biking to work.

Buchman was struck a second time in 2022, cracking his fibula and needing 45 stitches to repair a gash in his lower leg.

A number of crash victims who enter NUMC — including pedestrians and cyclists — do so "hoping to walk out," said Daniel Flanzig, a personal injury attorney at the Mineola-based Flanzig & Flanzig, who's also a bicycling coalition member with Buchman. But "a lot of people do not. When my phone rings, somebody's never having a good day."

Nassau County recorded more than 37,700 crashes last year that killed 62 and injured more than 12,500 others, according to state statistics presented at the summit. Of those accidents, 421 involved bicyclists, with 358 injured and one person killed.

That means the injury rate involving vehicle-on-vehicle crashes was roughly 33 percent. The rate when a vehicle struck a cyclist was 85 percent.

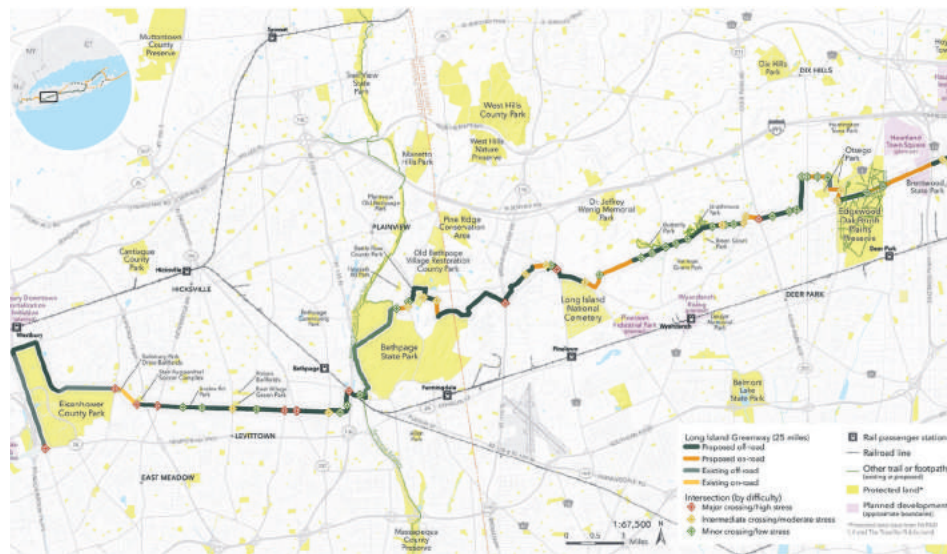
Megan Ryan, NUMC's interim chief executive and president, explained that most anyone who has suffered a traumatic injury in a crash throughout the county — in particular, a cyclist or pedestrian — will be sent to NUMC because it is a Level I trauma center.

Ryan, who sits on the North Merrick education board, spoke of a high school student who was recently hit while riding his bicycle in her neighborhood and was rushed to NUMC. And then, on the day of the summit, a 12-year-old was hit by a car while riding his bike on the North Bellmore-Wantagh border. He was airlifted to Cohen Children's Medical



Courtesy Scott Brinton

Daniel Flanzig — a member of the New York Bicycling Coalition board — and Cynthia Brown, executive director of the New York Coalition for Transportation Safety, were among the featured speakers at the second annual Walk Bike LI Summit at Nassau University Medical Center, where bicyclist and pedestrian safety was front and center.



Courtesy Trust for Public Land

When complete, the Long Island Greenway Trail will stretch from Manhattan to Montauk, measuring nearly 200 miles — 60 percent of which will be off-road. The trail will connect with the Empire State Trail, which begins at the Battery in Lower Manhattan, and runs 750 miles to Buffalo. The Greenway Trail will connect with 60 bus routes and 46 train stations, and will be within a 10-minute walk of 27 Long Island communities, according to the Trust for Public Land, which is spearheading the effort to construct the pathway.

Center in Queens, where he was reported in stable condition.

"Pedestrian safety, bicyclist safety, it's very important," Ryan said. "It's something that I think is overlooked. We try to teach (pedestrian/bicyclist safety) for younger children, but it's very important for the older students, older children, and adults, as well."

Wendy Tepfer, executive director of the Community Parent Center in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, came to the summit to hear any

suggestions that might help improve the center's driver education programming.

The center, Tepfer said, stresses the need to stay focused on the road, without distractions, in large part to protect cyclists and pedestrians. She noted that when drivers are distracted by cell phone calls, they are only able to focus 35 percent of their attention on the road, so their mind zeroes in on the cars in front of them while limiting their peripheral vision.

Pedestrians and cyclists, however, are

Tips for staying safe

Given the 2.2 million cars in the region, cycling on Long Island involves a degree of risk. But it's risk that can be mitigated, according to the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University, with these safety tips:

- Always ride to the right with the flow of traffic
- Leave three feet of space between you and parked cars to avoid opening doors
- Wear a helmet
- Use bike lights
- Use hand signals when turning

most likely to be found on the sides of roads — that is, in drivers' peripheries.

"We talk about distractions all the time," Tepfer said.

Cynthia Brown, executive director of the Westbury-based New York Coalition for Transportation Safety, said redesigning roads to improve safety is tough, if not impossible, because doing so often involves condemning properties to make way for new infrastructure.

"The only thing that you can really try to change," Brown said, "is driver behavior."

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HERALD NEIGHBORS

June 27, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD



Will Sheeline/Herald photos

Hundreds of car fans from across Long Island make their way to Oyster Bay every Tuesday in the summer for Cruise Night.

Cruising into the L.I.'s favorite car show

The Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce's classic Cruise Night event has returned to downtown Oyster Bay, bringing classic cars and visitors from across Long Island. Every Tuesday evening until Sept. 10, the streets of the hamlet will be packed with cars, conversation and car-lovers.



Cruise Night lets car enthusiasts get under the hood of classic cars, like a Dodge Challenger.



Bill Pedalino, right, showed off his built-from-scratch 1979 Harley Davidson alongside his friend Ralph Romano.



Matt LaRocca, left, Bianca LaRocca, Charlie Kliger, Valentina LaRocca and their loyal puppy Pluto explored some cool cars.



Attendees made way for this 1958 Chevy, one of the many which sets itself up along Audrey Avenue on Tuesdays in Oyster Bay.



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Fresh produce coming your way this fall

By NICOLE FORMISANO

nformisano@liherald.com

Thousands of people across Nassau County go to food banks and soup kitchens each month for much-needed sustenance. But soon, the food bank may come to them.

Long Island Cares, a nonprofit focused on helping hungry families, expects to debut its Mobile Food Truck in September.

The new service specifically aims to make fresh fruits and vegetables more accessible to those who otherwise struggle to purchase them. When people have to pay for their medication, clothes and children's school supplies, for example, spending the extra money on fresh produce is often out of the question.

"When people struggle with food insecurity, they oftentimes have to make difficult decisions with what they do with their money," said Paule Pachter, chief executive of Long Island Cares. "And sadly, oftentimes what's considered healthy food options — like lean chicken, lean proteins, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit — sort of become less important than paying for your rent. And so it becomes a focus — and almost, in my opinion, a responsibility — of food banks to make sure that people have access to the most healthy foods possible."

Long Island Cares works with more than 350 local food pantries, but many



Courtesy Long Island Cares

The Mobile Food Truck for Long Island Cares — expected to deliver fresh produce across Nassau County — was made possible by a \$250,000 grant from Bank of America Long Island. Bank of America executives Mark Perez and Jaime Stojanowski, left — as well as Jennifer Porti, fourth from left — presented the grant to Long Island Cares representatives Jessica Rosati, Yenny Buitrago and Paule Pachter.

simply do not have the storage capacity to house the fresh produce people need.

The Mobile Food Truck, by contrast, could deliver enough fruits and vegetables to fill up nearly five refrigerators, Pachter said. Local pantries can simply schedule a time for the truck to visit them, and their produce needs will be supplemented by the truck's refrigerated storage.

The program is more needed now than ever, Pachter said. Fresh produce — already more expensive than less healthy

options — has skyrocketed in price since the coronavirus pandemic, according to multiple studies in the National Institutes of Health. Only around 1-in-10 people get their recommended daily serving of fruits and vegetables, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Mobile Food Truck is expected to improve those statistics for hungry people on the island.

A refrigerated food truck is a concept Long Island Cares has worked on for a

while now — but it was a \$250,000 grant from Bank of America's Long Island branch that finally brought the produce truck to fruition.

With that money, Long Island Cares can buy the truck with refrigerated storage and wrap it with the charitable organization's name.

The partnership isn't new. Bank of America is one of the largest donors helping hungry people, Pachter said — the bank's previous \$500,000 grant to Long Island Cares was directly responsible for opening new satellite locations, including one that is coming to Valley Stream.

"Access to healthy, nutritious food is more important than ever, and the new mobile farmers market will allow Long Island Cares to distribute fresh produce to more individuals and families in need," said Mark Perez, president of Bank of America Long Island, in a statement.

And the program helps more than the hungry.

"This can be seen, in many ways, as a real boon to both the state and regional economy, because we always make it our business to first buy from Long Island when produce is able to be harvested in season" Pachter said. "So, this is really supporting New York in many ways, and supporting the Long Island farm community in many ways."

To find food near them or to volunteer, visit the Long Island Cares website at LICares.org.

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COMPASS

HERALD NEIGHBORS



Photos courtesy Peter M. Budraitis

Special birthday surprise

The Glen Cove Senior Center's monthly birthday bash last week welcomed former councilman and current veteran affairs office director Tony Jimenez as a special guest host for a day filled with cake, celebration, roses and revelry for all of June's 'birthday babies.' The tradition dates back nearly two decades, and is regularly attended by the Nassau County Legislature minority leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, who was unable to make this month's celebration.



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Be smart with your sprinklers, experts urge

By NICOLE FORMISANO

nformisano@liherald.com

More than 100 billion gallons of water will be used for lawn maintenance alone across Long Island this summer — enough to fill 150,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools — and the cost shows up in more than just your water bill.

It's also hitting the ecology hard, according to officials, which is why the Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection is urging neighbors to be mindful of their water usage.

"The heat wave has to make us realize that water, particularly in Nassau County, is a finite resource," Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, told reporters last week at the West Hempstead Water District.

"It is all of our responsibility to protect that water supply."

The entirety of Long Island's drinking water comes from natural aquifers. They're like giant underground sponges — when it rains, the water seeps underground and is absorbed by sand and gravel, creating natural reserves of freshwater.

"In Nassau County, we're experiencing what's called groundwater mining, which means that we're taking more water out of the groundwater system than the rain is able to replace naturally," Esposito said. "This is not a good recipe for sustainability."



Nicole Formisano/Herald

Protecting Long Island's groundwater is about protecting its longevity and local ecosystem, said Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

The groundwater serves three vital functions, explained Bret Bennington, chair of Hofstra University's Department of Geology, Environment and Sustainability. First, it's pumped to the surface to be used as freshwater. Then it directly feeds just about every lake, stream and tributary on Long Island. Finally, when it travels to the shoreline and is released along the coast, it prevents saltwater from moving in underneath the island.

In other words, as long as groundwater

is continually flushing outward, the saltwater doesn't intrude upon Long Island's natural freshwater resources, which could ultimately destroy this vital reservoir.

There needs to be enough groundwater to adequately perform all three of those functions, Bennington explained. So, the problem isn't that Long Island will entirely run out of water — it's that the more neighbors drain these natural reserves, the more significant consequences they'll see on the entire groundwater system.

Lakes and rivers become dry. Saltwater contaminates the fresh water under the island, rendering the reserves undrinkable. To compensate, more drinking water must be pumped from other reserves. The process snowballs into a vicious cycle — and it shows up on water bills.

"The more we pump, the more it costs to treat," said Jason Belle, who chair the aquifer protection commission. "So, by reducing our pumps, not only do they reduce their water bill, it reduces the district's bill, which will in turn keep the rates low."

So how can people do their part? As the island approaches the peak season of water usage, officials said, perhaps the best way for residents to be efficient with their landscape-related water usage may be to adopt smart irrigation.

Smart irrigation is a "holistic approach to using water" in landscaping, said Mike Dwyer, director of the Irriga-

tion Association of New York.

If someone notices a brown spot on their lawn, Dwyer said, don't just turn up the sprinklers run time. Check out the sprinklers in that zone to see if they're running efficiently.

Are the nozzles clogged? Are the sprinklers blocked by plant growth? Are the heads rising fully out of the grass?

Plus, not all brown spots are from lack of water — insects or disease may be culpable.

And rather than relying on timers, he added, switch to a controller based on evapotranspiration — or ET — which adjusts how long sprinklers will run depending on how wet the ground is.

Why water your lawns on a rainy day?

"We're not here to tell people to not water their lawns," Belle said. "All we're saying is that you can have the best of both worlds — a nice healthy lawn, while also reducing the amount of water to achieve it."

"There are many good reasons to preserve groundwater, whether it's for drinking water, for our ecology, or for our sustainability," Esposito said. "We're asking people to start now. Don't wait until August when we're in another summer heatwave and a drought. Start good water conservation practices today."

Those who take the conservation pledge on the commission's website at OurWaterOurLives.com has a chance to win a smart sprinkler controller.

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STEPPING OUT



A future train conductor checks in.



Visitors collaborate to repair Percy's wobbly wheels.



Explore the Island of Sodor for an adventure on the rails.

“ON TRACK” with Thomas the Tank Engine

Go on an adventure on the rails
at Long Island Children's Museum

By Danielle Schwab

All aboard! The lovable blue tank engine Thomas and his friends have rolled into Long Island. With a cargo full of interactive STEM activities for families to explore, Long Island Children's Museum staffers — and visitors — are excited to welcome back the returning exhibit, “Thomas & Friends: Explore the Rails.”

“Long Island Children's Museum had opened the exhibit in early 2020 to great audience reaction,” explains museum president Erika Floreska. “Then Covid happened and the museum shut down. The exhibit sat in our empty building for months, anticipating the return of visitors. By the time the museum was able to reopen, the exhibit had to move on to its next scheduled destination.”

At long last, everyone can board once again as the train fulfills its intended route.

In real life, the islands just off the English mainland near Barrow in Furness, in Cumbria, has been home to the engines of industry — submarine manufacturing plant, undersea coal mining, petrochemicals and a hotly contested nuclear energy plant.

But for generations — baby boomers who read the Rev. Wilbert Awdry's Railway Series books and the children of the '80s who experienced those stories, too, on a popular television series — the only island that counts in the gleaming distances of the Irish Sea is Sodor.

Sodor — home to Thomas the Tank Engine, that is, where the trains are as busy as ever.

“You're stepping into another world, visiting Knapford Station on the Island of Sodor,” says Long Island Children's Museum education director Ashley Niver.

Awdry originally created the beloved trains in the early 1940s as stories for his son, Christopher. The fictional tank locomotive has since captivated families worldwide.

While the look of trains has changed since Thomas first came to be, the message is clear: trains don't lose their appeal.

“There is something super magical and enticing about playing with toy trains. It seems to triumph over any other vehicle,” Niver says. “When you see a train, it's like, ‘Wow, that's a special trip.’”

The traveling exhibit, created by the award-winning Minnesota Children's Museum in partnership with Mattel's Fisher-Price, rolled into the museum in late May and will continue to charm families through Sept. 8.

Targeted especially for kids between 2 and 7, the exhibit incorporates foundational STEM learning that can perhaps inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and physicists.

Through engaging play, families arrive at creative solutions to problem-solving using mathematical thinking and experimentation as they respond to challenges.

“Kids are learning how to engineer together,” Niver says. “It's a really nice area where you can let your kids roam free. They can explore, and there's a lot of socialization happening too.”

First, look inside a Sodor train.

“You're welcomed with a bright, shiny Thomas, a giant life-size one which the kids can board,” Niver says. “Some levers and parts create train noises, whistles and steam.”

Then, help out the green train, Percy, repair a wobbly wheel. Continue on to move coal into Percy's coal box and fill his tank with water. Also load luggage,



- Now through Sept. 8, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- \$17 museum admission, \$16 seniors 65 and older; additional fees for theater programming
- View the events calendar at LICM.org for additional information or call (516) 224-5800
- Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City.

livestock and additional cargo into two train cars.

Even become part of Thomas' world by suiting up as a conductor, exchanging money, and selling tickets to passengers.

And naturally, it wouldn't be a “Thomas & Friends” experience without some toy trains.

Families can play at an oversized Thomas wooden railway table, bringing people through all Sodor's iconic destinations such as Tidmouth Sheds, Brendam Docks, and the Sodor Search and Rescue Station.

While in actuality trains connect us to various places both familiar and new, the “connection” here is an emotional one.

“What's really important about Thomas is that he is super hard-working,” Niver says. “He's the smallest train, but he never gives up, and he always tries to help people learn to work

together, to cooperate, to be kind to one another.

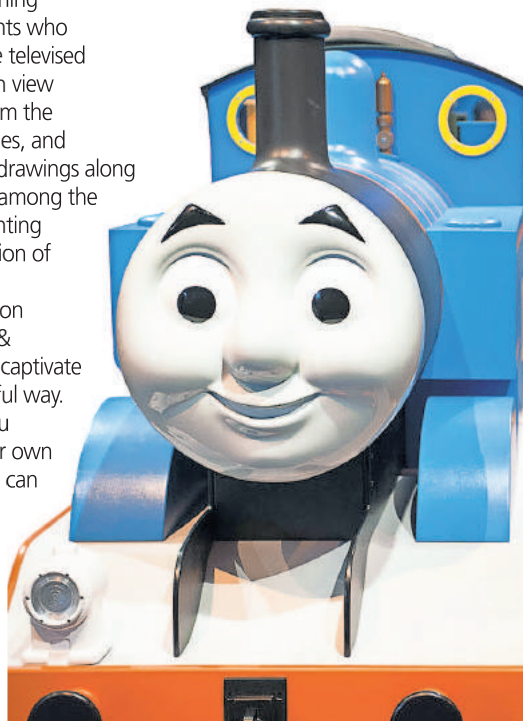
“Children find him really endearing and connect on a deep level with him.”

As North Western Railway Controller Sir Topham Hatt always says: “Thomas is a very useful engine.”

There's also something nostalgic for the parents who grew up watching the televised version of Thomas. On view are model engines from the original live-action series, and copies of the original drawings along with 75 manuscripts, among the memorabilia documenting the history and evolution of Thomas.

From one generation to another, “Thomas & Friends” continues to captivate audiences in a powerful way.

“Anything that you remember raising your own children with that you can then pass down is the coolest thing, to have that connectivity years,” Niver adds.



Thomas has chugged into the museum and invites families to stop on by.



‘And stars fill my dream...’

Get the Led Out rocks out with their tribute to what many consider rock 'n roll's greatest band, in ‘A Celebration of the Mighty Zep.’ From the bombastic and epic, to the folksy and mystical, GTLO has captured the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin and brought it to the concert stage. The six veteran musicians who make up the Philadelphia-based group deliver all passion these blues-soaked rock anthems deserve. GTLO re-creates songs, in all their depth and glory, with the studio overdubs that Zeppelin themselves never performed. No wigs or fake English accents, the band brings what the audience wants — a high-energy Zeppelin concert with honest, heart-thumping intensity with a strong focus on Led Zeppelin's pivotal early years.

Friday and Saturday, June 28-29, 8 p.m. \$75, \$45, \$30. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



Gilbert and Sullivan's ‘Iolanthe’

Mortals and immortals come face to face in the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company's of Long Island's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's classic ‘Iolanthe.’ The comic opera, which debuted in 1883, is one of the most beloved of all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Its perfect balance of words and music, humor and drama, and political satire resonates to this day. The whimsical story involves a half fairy/half mortal shepherd lad who falls in love with wealthy heiress that sets up a conflict between the wily Lord Chancellor and the cosmically powerful Fairy Queen. Featuring some of Sullivan's most stunning music, including ‘Oh Foolish Fay,’ and what is popularly known as ‘The Nightmare Song,’ expect an evening of first class entertainment and riotous fun suitable for all ages.

Sunday, June 30, 3 p.m. \$30, \$25 seniors/children. Madison Theatre, Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. Tickets available at MadisonTheatreNY.org or call (516) 323-4444.

Photos courtesy Long Island Children's Museum

THE SCENE

July 7

The English supergroup, fronted by original member Geoff Downes, along

with a brand new lineup, is reinvigorated and back on tour, appearing on the Paramount stage, Sunday, **July 7**, 7 p.m. Today, the legendary band comprises Geoff Downes, John Mitchell, Harry Whitley, and Virgil Donati. Their new tour, "Heat of the Moment," additionally features Focus, Martin Turner (Wishbone Ash), Curved Air, and Roger Dean as special guests. Asia was the biggest selling album of 1982, Number 1 on Billboard for nine weeks and pioneers of the MTV era!



Downes' new iteration of Asia first began to evolve last summer, at the concert held in memory of late lead singer, songwriter and bassist, John Wetton (King Crimson, Roxy Music, Uriah Heep, Wishbone Ash, UK, Asia, John Wetton Band, Icon). Downes invited old friend John Mitchell (It Bites, Frost*, Lonely Robot, Kino, John Wetton Band, Icon) and newcomer Harry Whitley to join him on stage to celebrate Wetton's life by performing some of the classic Asia hits. Such was the uproarious reception to their set that Downes wondered if something magical was beginning to take shape. Downes' new-look Asia once again features Mitchell on guitars and Whitley on lead vocal and bass. The quartet is made complete by the addition of Virgil Donati (UK, Southern Sons, Steve Vai, Allan Holdsworth) on drums. The band will perform the hits you know and love, including "Heat of the Moment," "Only Time Will Tell," "Sole Survivor," and more. \$99.50, \$79.50, \$69.50, \$69.50, \$59.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



Dramatic Play

Theatre Playground returns to Long Island Children's Museum with "Dramatic Play!," Monday, **July 1**, 1 p.m., taught by Lisa Rudin, Director of Theatre Playground. In this interactive, theater-inspired workshop, children will act out an original story and help choose how it unfolds. Music, props, and sound effects create a theatrical world where participants are immersed in the story.

Children are encouraged to express themselves as they create characters, explore different worlds, stretch their imaginations and build self-confidence. This week's theme: Calling All Superheroes! Costumes encouraged. \$5 with museum admission. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

Summer sounds

Visit Eisenhower Park's Field #1 for its Noontime Concert series, Wednesday, **July 3**, noon-2 p.m. Enjoy "The Many Voices of Dennis Dell." Dell's vocally stylings transport his audience to another world. Hear your favorite songs brought to life with originality and authenticity. Bring seating. For information, visit NassauCountyNY.gov.

Check out the Seed Library

Glen Cove Public Library's Seed Library is open for the season. If you're still in need of seeds for your garden, stop by. 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 for more information.

Dancing in the Street

The Oyster Bay Main Street Association hosts its 13th season of "Dancing in the Street," an annual series of free dance evenings on the streets of historic downtown Oyster Bay. Building on the success of previous years, OBMSA welcomes dancers of all ages and skill levels. "Dancing" begins on **July 5** and continue every Friday until **Aug. 16**, 6:30-:30 p.m.

The event takes place on Audrey Avenue around the Bandstand. Use 74 Audrey Avenue for GPS. Feel free to bring a chair if desired. With special "Dancing in the Street Block Party" will be held on Aug 2. And Audrey Avenue will be shut down to make way for activities, music, food, and drinks. For more information contact Diane J. Meltzer, Promotion Chair, at diane.writes4@gmail.com

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Aug.
6

National Night Out

Join in the annual event, celebrated nationwide, Tuesday, **Aug. 6**, 6-8:30 p.m., on Bridge St., Glen Cove. It is presented by the City of Glen Cove with support from the Glen Cove Police Department, Police Benevolent Association, Youth Bureau, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, Housing Authority, Downtown Business Improvement District, and local businesses and organizations. The annual community-building campaign promotes police and community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

Broadway show outing

Glen Cove Public Library hosts a trip to see "Water for Elephants," a new Broadway musical, Wednesday, **Sept. 25**. Tickets are \$139 and include seats near the orchestra and transportation. The bus will leave the library at 9 a.m. Register at the information desk with a credit card or check payable to Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave. Visit GlenCoveLibrary.org for more information.



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/jcrcli](https://www.facebook.com/jcrcli).

Library Walking Club

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, every Thursday, at 9:15 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome. Meet people, keep moving and see sights in Glen Cove. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at GlenCoveLibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.



Celebrate America

View the pyrotechnic spectacle, as part of Eisenhower Park's annual holiday double bill, TD Bank's Celebrate America, which also includes a concert, at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Wednesday, **July 3**, 5:30-10 p.m. With performances by the popular local Allman Brothers tribute act Almost Brothers and Chicken Head. Bring seating. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For information, visit NassauCountyNY.gov.

Barnaby Bye

The band returns to My Father's Place, Saturday, **June 29**, 8 p.m. Come celebrate the music, the memories and the good times with Billy, Bobby, Peppy and Mike! Doors open at 6 p.m., concert is at 8 p.m. 221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn,. For tickets/information, visit MFPProductions.com or call (516) 580-0887.

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.

Film Screening

Visit Nassau County Museum of Art for a viewing of "Wild Style," a 1983 film regarded as the first hip-hop movie, Saturday, **June 29**, 3 p.m. A hybrid project that exists as both a musical and a documentary, the film features hip-hop pioneers of the period, including Fred "Fab Five Freddy" Brathwaite, Lee Quiñones, Lady Pink, The Rock Steady Crew, The Cold Crush Brothers, Queen Lisa Lee of Zulu Nation, Grandmaster Flash, and Zephyr, who play themselves in a loosely scripted story shot entirely in the South Bronx, the Lower East Side, and MTA subway yards. A Q&A follows with director Charlie Ahearn and critic-curator, Carlo McCormick. Seating is limited and reservations required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



Downtown Sounds

The Glen Cove Business Improvement District presents its annual Downtown sounds concert series from July 5 to Aug. 26 at Village Square in downtown Glen Cove. The shows begin at 7:30 p.m.; this year's schedule includes The Dance Mechanics and Let It Bleed, a Rolling Stones tribute band, and much more. For more information visit: Glencovedowntown.org

Game Time

Drop by Bayville Free Library, Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m., for casual table games. Bring your own games or use games offered by the library such as; cards, Canasta, Mah Jongg, Scrabble, chess, checkers, backgammon, and jigsaw puzzles. No registration required. 34 School St. For more information, visit BayvilleFreeLibrary.org or call (516) 628-2765.

Oyster Bay Music Festival

The Oyster Bay Musical Festival brings the next generation of world class musicians to Long Island for a week of free concerts in historic, charming, and unusual landmarks along the Gold Coast, **June 27 to July 4**.

Each OBMF concert is an energetic variety show featuring inspiring musical selections from a performing cast of around 25 prize-winning musicians, including vocalists, pianists, strings and wind players. Concerts are free and no tickets required. Donations are encouraged to support the festival's longevity and are gladly accepted. Visit OysterBayMusicFestival.org/ for more information, venue locations and times.



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School district implementing tech upgrades

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Anna Policastro, coordinator of instructional technology for Glen Cove City School District, delivered a comprehensive technology update during the Board of Education meeting on May 22. Her presentation detailed significant advancements and future designs to enhance both educational and operational efficiency across the district, focusing on energy efficiency, cybersecurity and improvements funded by the Smart Schools Bond Act.

To promote sustainability and cost savings, the district has implemented smart plugs as part of an energy performance contract. Installed across various buildings, the smart plugs allow for the scheduling of device power usage, which minimizes power consumption during non-peak hours, such as nights and weekends, when the buildings are unoccupied. This initiative is a step towards reducing the district's overall energy footprint and operational costs.

In another significant development, the district has completed a district-wide upgrade to Windows 10 in almost all its buildings. This transition is set to enhance security, productivity and the overall quality of instruction. Safety and security have also been enhanced with the deployment of a new, AI-enhanced security surveillance system. This state-

of-the-art platform aims to improve the safety of students and staff throughout the district. Comprehensive training has been provided to building administrators and security personnel to ensure effective use and management of the new technology, reinforcing the district's proactive stance on safety.

Addressing the need for updated printing and fax solutions, the district plans to replace its outdated Dell printers with new copiers in communal locations over the summer. Additionally, an E-fax solution has been purchased to replace traditional fax machines. This move to a paperless, eco-friendly alternative is anticipated to be both cost-effective and efficient, aligning with the district's broader sustainability goals.

The district will also implement multifactor authentications for all employees in the coming months. This added layer of security is crucial for verifying user identities and protecting sensitive data. The initiative aligns with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and ensures compliance with cybersecurity insurance requirements.

A significant portion of the update focused on the Smart Schools Bond Act, created in 2014, which authorized the state to borrow up to \$2 billion to finance technology improvements in schools throughout the state. It provides funding to improve educational technology infrastructure. Glen Cove City School District

has been allocated \$921,754, of which \$169,500 is designated for private entities, leaving \$687,323 for district projects.

"Funds are allocated based on enrollment data," Policastro said. "This means that 22.6 percent of Glen Cove City School District's funds will be shared with non-public entities. Funds must be spent using district dollars first, then we'll seek reimbursement from the state after the monies have been spent."

One of the primary projects involves upgrading the district's wireless internet infrastructure. The district plans to purchase 250 upgraded wireless access points to replace those installed in 2015. The current access points struggle to support the increased number of devices and connectivity demands.

The new access points will ensure faster and more reliable internet connections, crucial for modern educational requirements.

This upgrade supports the district's long-term technology goals and ensures that students and staff have reliable access to online resources. Policastro noted that faster and more reliable internet connections are crucial, highlighting that modern wireless access points can handle a greater number of connections since students and staff are connecting with multiple devices at one time.

"As the number of devices in schools continues to grow, upgraded wireless access points can scale to meet the

increased demand without compromising performance," Policastro said. "Upgrading wireless access points ensures that this long-term investment can support the district's educational goals and technology plans for years to come."

In addition to upgrading the wireless infrastructure, the district will invest in 200 new interactive display boards to replace outdated projectors. These new boards will significantly enhance the learning experience by allowing students to interact with content directly. Teachers can incorporate multimedia elements into their lessons, catering to diverse learning styles and making lessons more engaging. This investment is part of a broader effort to integrate advanced technology into classrooms, preparing students and teachers for a tech-driven future.

The installation of the new wireless access points and interactive display boards, commonly referred to as Smartboards, will take place over the course of the year. Technicians have assessed the current state of technology in each classroom, prioritizing replacements based on the need for upgrades. Classrooms with the most outdated equipment and highest repair frequencies will be the first to receive new devices. The district is coordinating with building and grounds facilities to ensure that necessary cabling and infrastructure are in place for the new installations.

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Town music festival makes a grand return

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

At beautiful and historic venues scattered throughout the Town of Oyster Bay, the Oyster Bay Music Festival is set to enchant audiences for its thirteenth consecutive year. From July 1 through July 8, this event promises eight days of musical splendor, featuring a diverse lineup of talented performers in venues ranging from grand estates to community landmarks.

Co-director Pippa Borisy explained that the event was founded with a vision to blend music education with community engagement. Since then, the festival has evolved into a beloved tradition that bridges generations of music enthusiasts and budding professionals alike.

"We started at the suggestion of the parish at Christ Church, who loved music," Borisy explained. "Little by little we evolved as we realized the needs of the festival evolved."

The festival's appeal lies not only in its high-caliber performances but also in its unique venues. Audiences can expect to be transported to the Western Waterfront Building J at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park, where a historic boat-building warehouse serves as an acoustically rich backdrop. Additionally, the lush gardens of Old Westbury Gardens and the intimate settings of St. John's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring Harbor offer ideal settings for the festival's diverse repertoire.

One of the festival's performers, bass baritone Christopher Lau, shared his journey from discovering the festival online to becoming a mainstay performer.

"I live in the township of Oyster Bay, so it's a really special festival to me," Lau explained. "We perform in these unconventional spaces, like the boat shop, which adds a really interesting dimension to the music we share with the community."

The festival's commitment to showcasing emerging talent is evident in its lineup, which includes pianists, classical singers, and various instrumentalists. Many of these artists are professional musicians, who willingly lend their talents to the town's residents for the duration of the festival.

"Mostly these are all people in their twenties embarking on their own professional music careers," Borisy emphasized. "We have pianists, violinists, we have a double bass player, we have a bassoon, this year we have a flutist. It's just phenomenal different instrumentalists and we do some chamber music where we group them together and, and some solo repertoire, but every single concert is a mix."

Beyond its evening concerts, the festival enriches the community with daytime lectures, masterclasses, and informal performances in downtown Oyster Bay. These activities not only educate but also foster a deeper connection between the performers and their audience.

"I feel like it's a bit of a festival that's grown with me throughout my development as a singer," Borisy said, "and it's been great to see it evolve from when it was first starting up to what it's become



The musicians at the Oyster Bay Music Festival like Tassilo Probst, left, Maxim Lando and Marc Andre bring their talents to the community for free.



Photos courtesy Pippa Borisy

Vocalists like Teddy Siegel will perform at beautiful venues across the North Shore as part of the Oyster Bay Music Festival.

now."

In keeping with its community-focused mission, most festival events are free of charge, with only a few ticketed concerts to manage space.

"Our goal is to make classical music accessible," Borisy explained. "We want everyone to experience the joy and beauty of live performances without barriers."

As preparations for the festival enter their final stages, anticipation is high among performers and organizers alike. Lau expressed excitement about this year's lineup, noting the international caliber of musicians set to grace the stage. "Each concert promises to be incredible," Lau enthused, "and with new venues like Old Westbury Gardens joining our lineup, there's a freshness and excitement that keeps us all inspired."

For those interested in attending, more information about the festival, including concert schedules and venue details, can be found on the Oyster Bay Music Festival's official website, OysterBayMusicFestival.org.

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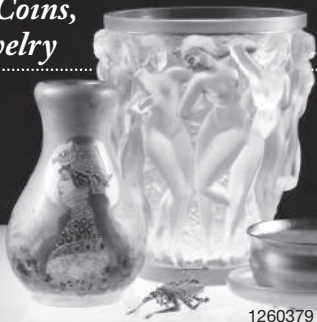
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OPINIONS

The need for gun violence awareness

On Jan. 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Barack Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago.

Hadiya's friends commemorated her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others. "Wear Orange" is now observed every June, which is recognized as Gun Violence Awareness Month. If only Hadiya's story was some sort of freak occurrence. The reality is that more than 43,000 Americans are killed by guns every year, and



CHARLES LAVINE

roughly 76,000 more are shot and wounded.

Mass shootings like the Route 91 Harvest music festival in Las Vegas (60 killed, more than 850 injured); the Pulse Night Club in Orlando (49 killed, 53 injured); Virginia Tech (32 killed, 17 injured); Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut (26 killed); and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida (17 killed) grab the

headlines, but it's the countless stories similar to Hadiya Pendleton's that are far more commonplace, and, I believe, preventable.

That's why I have made it one of my top priorities to do all I can to prevent needless deaths resulting from gun violence. In October 2021, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed the Scott J. Beigel Unfinished Receiver Act, banning the sale and possession of so-called "ghost guns." The bill, which I sponsored in the Assembly, honors Beigel, who lost his life trying to save his students on that tragic Valentine's Day in Parkland.

The legislation was championed by his mother, Linda Beigel Schulman, who has dedicated her life to fighting gun violence in Scott's memory. It significantly increases protection to communities by creating much more accountability. It is intended, just as Scott intended, to save lives.

With many other examples of strong but sensible gun legislation signed into law since then, the Democratic majority in the Assembly, working with our colleagues in the Senate and the governor, have consistently shown a commitment to ensuring that New York state has some of the toughest gun laws in the country. This against fierce opposition

from NRA apologists on the right who think that any legislation on guns is bad legislation, and that everyone has the right to keep an assault rifle handy. Despite our progress, this large and powerful contingency, with support from a

Trump-stacked Supreme Court, continues to get its way in many states with Republican majorities. It's led by none other than our living cartoon of a former president, now a convicted felon who, at least in theory, should be barred from owning a gun himself.

Unfortunately, it's unclear when or if Trump will be required to surrender any guns after being found guilty in his hush money trial. The Class E felony carries a maximum sentence of four years in prison. According to federal law, anyone convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year in prison is barred from possessing firearms, so Trump should be prevented from owning guns even if he is ultimately sentenced to probation.

As reported in *The Trace*, Judge Juan Merchan did not ask the former president to surrender any firearms after the verdict — this despite state law requiring the court to do so. While it has been widely reported that efforts are being made to revoke Trump's suspended

carry license in New York City, it isn't clear whether any law enforcement entities in New York — or Florida, where he lives — plan to enforce the felon gun ban.

The situation underscores the lack of federal procedure for how recently convicted felons should surrender their guns. As stated in *The Trace*, "New York is one of at least seven states that have created a statutory process for firearm relinquishment, but only California, Connecticut, and Nevada expressly require prohibited people to provide proof of relinquishment to courts or law enforcement."

Surely Trump, who has made no secret of his gun ownership, is going to take full advantage of this situation. But so should those who oppose the idea that gun proliferation is a good thing and are willing to stand up for that belief. We must highlight the hypocrisy in a supposed advocate for the idea of law and order flouting — or in this case breaking — the law every chance he gets.

There really shouldn't need to be a specified month to remind us we need to do all we can to end the scourge of gun violence in America. However, the astonishing number of incidents, the proliferation and accessibility of guns, and the number of those willing to turn a blind eye to this crisis, make it a necessity.

Charles Lavine represents the 13th Assembly District.

Hello, Harrison Butker? Women can be heroes, too

If history has proven anything, it's that the world wasn't set up for women to succeed.

Countless trailblazers have incited change, but there is still an overarching prejudice against us. The struggle that we internalize may vary, but I think we can agree that some days, it's just hard to be a woman.

Every time our gender makes strides, it's easy to be humbled — by something someone says, by something someone does. And it's easy for us to deflect, and say, "Well, that's just the way things are." But why are we OK with the way things are?



JORDAN VALLONE

A few weeks ago, as universities around the United States began holding commencement ceremonies, a well-known athlete spoke to the graduates of Benedictine College, a Catholic institution in Atchison, Kansas.

Harrison Butker, the kicker for the Kansas City Chiefs, addressed the crowd of young men and women. And it wasn't

his presence, but rather what he said, that created an aura of polarity.

"For the ladies present today," Butker said, "congratulations on an amazing accomplishment. You should be proud of all that you have achieved to this point in your young lives. I want to speak directly to you briefly because I think it is you, *the women*, who have had the most diabolical lies told to you."

Butker went on to say that while "some" of the graduating women might lead successful careers, he'd "venture to guess" that the majority of them were excited about marriage, and the children they will bring into the world.

I have nothing against opinions, and I respect everyone's right to voice their own. But all that comes to mind as I reread Butker's words is, *really?*

The internet jumped to his defense, but let me riddle you this: He chose to single out "the women."

Imagine being a young woman in Benedictine's graduating class, who at the very least just completed four years of college. She deserves to be celebrated for her degree, and instead she's told

that it's more likely that she's looking forward to a life of marriage and motherhood.

The concepts of modern feminism are broadly misunderstood, by men and women alike. A true feminist would support a woman on any path she chooses, whether it be a career, a home life or something in between, and it was insulting and ignorant of Butker to project that most women in the audience would want to devote themselves to their partner and their future children.

On the days when women feel the most unsupported, by people in their lives or public figures like Butker, they should remember that there are always things to turn to. I find it exceedingly important to read and watch content that is created with the best intentions for people just like us. For women.

What do I mean?

A few months ago, as I enjoyed some time off from work in Florida, sitting poolside at my cousin's house on International Women's Day, I picked up "The Women," a novel by Kristin Hannah, released earlier this year. Hannah is an

extraordinary writer who has been telling the tales of important women for decades, and this book is no different.

I've read several of her novels over the past year, and I've come to love the way Hannah crafts stories of inspiring women, and the positive effect she has on my self-worth, every time I finish one of them. "The Women" offers readers an in-depth look at what it was like to be a nurse during the Vietnam War, and what it was like to return home afterward. If you love history, this read is for you.

In the first few pages, you'll stumble across a striking notion. Women can be heroes.

So, to the women reading this — and the men — internalize *that*. All of us can be heroes.

And while people like Harrison Butker may continue to make speeches that threaten to strip us of everything we've worked for, remember that what we choose to do, in every walk of life, matters. Our accomplishments and choices, at home or in the workplace, matter.

And our feelings, and the way we view ourselves, matter, too.

Jordan Vallone is a senior editor who writes for the Bellmore, East Meadow and Merrick Herolds. Comments? jvallone@liherald.com.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Lessons learned, grads take the next step

As the hot days of June envelop Nassau County, a palpable sense of achievement fills the air. It's the season of graduations — when students from every corner of our communities take center stage to mark significant milestones in their academic journeys. Whether they're stepping up from kindergarten, advancing through middle school, or donning their caps and gowns to receive high school diplomas, each graduation represents more than just an academic feat — it's a celebration of resilience, growth, and the promise of a brighter future.

Here, this tradition of honoring our graduates is more than ceremonial. It's a testament to our values as a community. It underscores our commitment to nurturing young minds and preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Each graduation ceremony isn't just a rite of passage, but a collective acknowledgement of the dedication and hard work that students, educators and families have invested throughout the academic year.

For those moving up from kindergarten, it's a moment filled with innocence and wonder, marking the beginning of their formal educational journey. These young learners are applauded not just for completing a grade level, but for embracing the joy of discovery and laying the foundation for future academic success.

Their excitement is infectious,

reminding us all of the boundless potential in every child.

Middle school graduations — often overlooked amid larger celebrations — hold a special significance. They signify a pivotal transformation from childhood to adolescence. It's a time of exploration, self-discovery and personal growth. Recognizing these students' achievements empowers them to embrace the challenges of high school with confidence and determination.

And then there are the high school graduations — perhaps the most anticipated and emotionally charged of all. These ceremonies are not just about crossing a stage; they are about crossing a threshold into adulthood. They mark the culmination of years of academic rigor, extracurricular dedication, and personal development.

Each diploma handed out represents a unique story of perseverance, triumph over adversity, and the unwavering support of families and educators.

Beyond the individual achievements, celebrating graduations strengthens the fabric of our community. It fosters a sense of pride and belonging, reinforcing our shared commitment to education and the future of our youth. These ceremonies serve as poignant reminders of the impact that a supportive community can have on shaping young lives and inspiring future generations.

In a world often marked by rapid change and uncertainty, these rituals

provide a sense of continuity and tradition. They remind us of the enduring values that bind us together — values of knowledge, compassion, and the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.

By celebrating our graduates, we not only honor their accomplishments, but also reaffirm our collective responsibility to nurture and uplift future leaders, innovators and change-makers.

As we gather to applaud the Class of 2024 and beyond, let us remember that their achievements aren't just milestones in their lives, but milestones for our communities as a whole. Each graduation ceremony is a testament to the strength of our educational system, the dedication of our teachers, and the unwavering support of families and mentors. It is a moment to reflect on the past with gratitude, embrace the present with joy, and look to the future with optimism.

So, to all of our graduates — from kindergarten to high school — congratulations! Your hard work, determination and resilience have brought you to this momentous occasion. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, may you carry with you the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the dreams that fuel your aspirations.

We stand proud of every one of you, celebrating not just what you have accomplished, but the boundless potential of what you will achieve.

LETTERS

Vallone kicked Butker's butt (metaphorically)

To the Editor:

Herald Senior Editor Jordan Vallone was absolutely on point in her criticism of Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker in her column "Hello, Harrison Butker? Women can be heroes, too." In his commencement speech to the graduating class of Benedictine College, Butker singled out the women in the class when he said, "I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into this world."

I would echo Ms. Vallone's one-word response: *Really?*

Is this the summation of values that Butker espouses for these young women who have spent four-plus years dedicated to their education? I would venture to say they are most excited about applying their hearts and minds to careers in their chosen fields. Butker went on to say, "I'm on the stage today and able to be the man I am because I have a wife who leans into her vocation ... and embraces one of the most important titles of all: homemaker."

Really? Butker was only on that stage because he can kick a pigskin farther than most humans. And I'm fairly certain that when he was selected 233rd in the 2017 NFL draft, he wasn't focused on his potential role as a stay-at-



OPINIONS

Fighting antisemitism and hate needs to start early

As a former Board of Education member and president in the Long Beach school district who has worked to provide a safe and more inclusive environment for our students, I am gravely concerned about the unprecedented escalation of antisemitism on our college campuses that many young Jewish people in our community will be facing in just a couple of months.



**TINA
POSTERLI**

An Anti-Defamation League and Hillel International survey found that Jewish college students feel significantly less safe since Oct. 7, and that more than 75 percent are dissatisfied with their schools' response to antisemitism. The study also found that 73 percent of Jewish college students, and

44 percent of non-Jewish students, have experienced or witnessed antisemitism since the start of the 2023-24 school year. Subsequently, the ADL published its Campus Antisemitic Report Card in April, in which it assessed 85 of the top national and liberal arts colleges in the U.S. with the highest Jewish student populations. Grades were assigned to public and private schools based on "Jewish life on campus," antisemitic incidents, and how the administration addressed those

incidents and took action to fight antisemitism. None of the 14 New York schools included in the report received an A grade. Four received D's and two received F's. The schools ranked as follows:

- Barnard College: D
- CUNY Brooklyn: B
- Columbia University: D
- Cornell University: D
- Hofstra University: B
- Ithaca College: B
- New York University: C
- SUNY Albany: C
- SUNY Binghamton: B
- SUNY New Paltz: D
- SUNY Purchase: F
- SUNY Rockland Community College: F
- Syracuse University: C
- Queens College: C

During what should be one of the most hopeful times in young people's lives, they should feel excited and secure about taking the next step in their future, not fearful of what may await them on college campuses.

During my tenure as school board president, the Long Beach district began taking part in Names, Not Numbers, an interactive media Holocaust film documentary project. Created by Tova Fish-Rosenberg, Names, Not Numbers brings students out of the classroom and into

the lives of people who lived through the history being taught about the Holocaust. This past year, I was proud of our Long Beach High School students, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, who interviewed Holocaust survivors and created their own documentary, which was

shown at a well-attended screening and will be used in the school's curriculum. Programs like these are the cornerstone of combating the disturbing rise in antisemitism and all forms of marginalization, by providing education and awareness at a young age.

Fighting antisemitism must start before students enter college. This year's legislative session in Albany has come to a close without legislation in place to address this vital issue. As a candidate for the State Assembly, it is my goal to work on comprehensive, bipartisan, statewide legislation against antisemitism that will bring education, awareness, accountability and action.

Legislation to combat antisemitism at the state level should:

- Ensure that school systems are following state mandates to teach about the Holocaust, and add studies of contemporary antisemitism to the curriculum.
- Provide state funding and support for educational programs like the ADL's No Place for Hate.

■ Ensure that college codes of conduct for faculty and students include discussion of antisemitism.

■ Ensure that college administrators are held accountable for enforcing these codes of conduct and are responsible for the safety of Jewish students. The same protections against discrimination offered to other groups must be offered to Jewish students as well. This includes revoking funding for student groups that support terrorism or call for violence.

■ Ensure that hate crimes are investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

■ Continue providing state funding for security at houses of worship and religious institutions.

■ Ensure that state-mandated diversity, equity and inclusion programs include antisemitism awareness.

■ Provide resources to work with federal investigators on the infiltration of campus groups by outside agitators.

Putting this legislation in place will empower Jewish young people and allies to work toward creating a future climate of inclusivity without antisemitism and all other forms of hate.

Tina Posterli is a former member of the Long Beach City Council, a former president of the Board of Education and a candidate for the Assembly in District 20.

LETTERS

home dad.

Ms. Vallone's article brought to mind Elizabeth Keller, a clinical medical physicist at Emory University. According to Wikipedia, a medical physicist is a health professional with specialized education and training in the concepts and techniques of applying physics to medicine, particularly in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Keller is married, and is now Elizabeth *Butker*, the proud mother of, you guessed it, Harrison Butker. Did he not pause to see the irony in his condescending speech before he delivered it?

Ten years ago, as a school board trustee in the East Meadow School District, I wrote an article about my musings on Graduation Day as to where our children would be in the future. I ended by saying that I envisioned myself sitting anxiously in a hospital waiting room years later. Across the room, I saw a young woman to whom I had handed a diploma quietly approaching me and saying, "Don't worry, Mr. D., she's going to be just fine." I sincerely hope that she is now delivering these words to other worried loved ones.

Maybe Mr. Butker should think of his mom's profession while writing his next commencement speech. Or better yet, just confine his thoughts to putting the ball through the uprights.

JOSEPH DANENZA
East Meadow

There's plenty more advice that Biden needs

To the Editor:

Re Jerry Kremer's recent column, "Some advice Joe Biden badly needs": Please add the following to "It's the economy, stupid": It's the grocery shock, stupid. It's the gas prices, stupid. It's the high interest rates, stupid. It's the southern border, stupid. It's the illegal migration, stupid. It's the revolving crime, stupid. It's the raging wars, stupid.

And above all, it's the weaponization of the Department of Justice, stupid!

I was a lifetime Democrat until 2016, when I gave my vote to Donald Trump. The Iraq war and the Libyan war that Hillary Clinton had voted for were turning points.

No Russian told me to vote for Trump. I have not regretted my vote ever since.

In 2020, I was hesitant to vote for Trump, but the vaccine his administration had produced in Operation Warp Speed in just 10 months gave me hope. Despite hearing all the media about the Trump administration, I still voted for Trump.

With the weaponization of the DOJ, I have lost all hope in the Democratic Party.

KUSH MAKHIJANI
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