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Build it and they will come

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Courtesy NBC Studios

Shye Roberts appeared on NBC's "The Voice" on Oct. 8, and performed Five for Fighting's 2001 hit "Superman."

Shye Roberts, 18, wows the coaches on 'The Voice'

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Eighteen-year-old Shye Roberts, who is originally from Glen Cove, has always had a deep connection to music. That passion took center stage on Oct. 8, when she appeared on NBC's "The Voice," performing Five for Fighting's 2001 hit "Superman."

Her voice, rich with emotion and power, impressed the show's four celebrity coaches — Gwen Stefani, Reba McEntire, Snoop Dogg and Michael Bublé — who all turned their chairs to secure Roberts for their team. Roberts chose to join Bublé.

Her journey to that defining moment began when she was a child, and was sur-

rounded by music. Her mother, Sheila Roberts-Creen, remembers noticing her daughter's natural musical abilities when she was 2. "She was barely walking, but she could whistle," Roberts-Creen recalled. "It was something that caught our attention immediately. I knew there was something special about her."

By the time she was in third grade, it was clear that Roberts had more than just a knack for singing. In a school talent show, she amazed her family and teachers with her ability and even added riffs to her performance.

"We thought it was going to be a regular kid performance," Roberts-Creen recounted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Morgan Park set for major restoration

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Morgan Memorial Park serves as a picturesque backdrop for music festivals, car shows and other community events, and is a serene place to enjoy casual walks along the shore of the Long Island Sound. Much of the park's infrastructure remained unchanged for 88 years, until Hurricane Sandy struck Long Island in 2012, damaging the park's seawall and restrooms.

Restoration work began after Sandy, but now the City of Glen Cove has hired the Bay Shore-based Land-Tek Group, for two contracts totaling more than \$412,000, to repair and restore the seawall and pavilions, with completion expected next spring.

The seawall, which serves as a critical buffer between the city and the Sound, is deteriorating, so the project will reinforce it with rapid-setting concrete and replace the failing brick in the pavilions with new

masonry. Additionally, the work will extend to the lifeguard building and the Japanese teahouse. The much-needed improvements are being funded by a grant from Eastern Suffolk BOCES.

The walking path at the park and the teahouse were scheduled to close for a month or so of renovations to repair the seawall on Wednesday.

If you stand under them, you'll see major sections of the bricks missing.

PAMELA PANZENBECK
Mayor,
Glen Cove

The 40-acre waterfront park was built by financier J.P. Morgan Jr. in honor of his late wife, Jane Norton Grew Morgan. It has been a beloved spot for Glen Cove residents for decades, offering scenic views and recreational spaces.

But the park has had a number of infrastructure issues over the years, most notably in 2012, when the iconic gazebo, built in 1932, collapsed, injuring a fisherman who had sought shelter beneath it.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck has made the restoration of the park a priority during her ten-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Glen Cove is off comptroller stress list

October 17, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

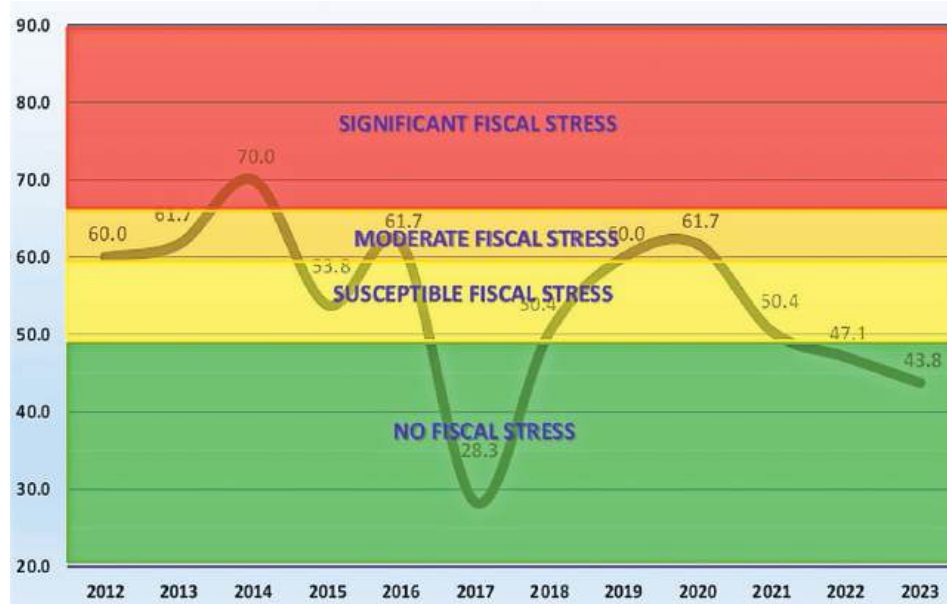
By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

In a significant financial milestone, the City of Glen Cove has been removed from New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's fiscal stress list for the first time since 2017, marking a major achievement in the city's long-term financial recovery. The city earned a fiscal stress score of 43.8 for 2023, officially placing it in the "No Fiscal Stress" category for the first time in six years. The score is based on nine financial indicators, including operating deficits, debt levels, and the ratio of cash to liabilities.

The city's improved fiscal health is the result of three consecutive years of surplus, with Glen Cove generating a total surplus of approximately \$5 million from 2021 to 2023. This turnaround has reduced the city's once-daunting general fund deficit, which stood at over \$4 million in 2020, to a positive fund balance of \$778,582 by the end of 2023. Glen Cove had been consistently categorized under various forms of fiscal stress since the Comptroller's Office began monitoring municipalities in 2013. The city's latest score represents its first period of financial stability in over a decade.

"We are thrilled to see this validation of the hard work and difficult decisions that have been made over the last few years," said Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck. "The fact that we've achieved 'No Fiscal



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

In 2023, Glen Cove achieved a score of 43.8, marking the city's return to "No Fiscal Stress" for the first time since 2017, reflecting improved financial health.

Stress' for the first time since 2017 is a testament to our commitment to sound financial management. We've tackled long-standing fiscal issues head-on, and the results speak for themselves."

The Fiscal Stress Monitoring System, overseen by the Comptroller's Office, evaluates municipalities across the state by analyzing key financial indicators, including year-end fund balances, operating deficits, reliance on short-

term debt, and fixed costs. Glen Cove's fiscal stress scores were 50.4 and 47.1 in 2021 and 2022, respectively, placing the city in the "susceptible to fiscal stress" category during those years. However, its new score of 43.8 marks a major improvement, bringing the city out of fiscal distress for only the second time in 12 years.

In addition to the removal from the fiscal stress list, Glen Cove has also seen

its credit rating upgraded by Moody's Investors Service. The city's credit rating was elevated to Baa1, its highest rating since 2010. This improvement will help Glen Cove secure better interest rates when borrowing for future projects, potentially saving taxpayers significant amounts in interest expenses.

Councilwoman Marsha Silverman cautioned on the importance of not relying on one-time revenues, such as the federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, which has contributed to Glen Cove's recent surpluses, saying current spending levels will not be sustainable without these one-shot revenues. She added that the city needs to plan for a future without ARPA funding and also ensure that its financial health remains strong even as the funds wind down.

Panzenbeck acknowledged the city must stay vigilant in managing its finances and exploring new revenue streams. "We are keenly aware of the challenges ahead but remain committed to fiscal responsibility," she said. "Our goal is to continue to grow our reserves while maintaining the financial stability we've worked so hard to achieve."

As Glen Cove moves forward, city officials are focused on managing expenses and identifying new revenue sources to offset potential future budget shortfalls, including the anticipated loss of revenues from RXR's Payment in Lieu of Taxes program.

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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

The North Country Reform Temple has built their Sukkah, a temporary hut built during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, for 40 years.

Celebrating the holiday of Sukkot together

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Members of the North Country Reform Temple began constructing their community Sukkah on Oct. 14, marking the start of preparations for Sukkot, the Jewish festival that celebrates the fall harvest and commemorates the Israelites' time in the desert. The festival, which runs from Oct. 16 to Oct. 23, involves building temporary shelters known as Sukkahs, symbolizing both the fragility of life and God's protection.

The Sukkah is the central symbol of Sukkot, representing the huts the Israelites lived in during their 40 years of wandering. Rabbi Michael Churgel explained, "The Sukkah itself represents these portable huts that our ancestors lived in." These structures are required to have at least three walls, each a minimum of 28 inches long, and the roof must be made of natural materials such as palm fronds or cornstalks, arranged loosely enough so that those inside can see the stars at night.

Sukkot is not just about remembrance but also a time for celebration and community. "We love coming here. It's great for building community," said Sam Israel, a member of the temple. This spirit of togetherness is echoed by the practice of inviting guests into the Sukkah, a tradition known as Ushpizin, which symbolizes hospitality and generosity.

Churgel noted that Sukkot is one of the three major pilgrimage festivals in Judaism, alongside Passover and Shavuot, which align with the agricultural cycles of ancient Israel. "Sukkot is the Fall Harvest. It's the last harvest before winter," he explained, underscoring the festival's ties to both historical and agricultural themes.

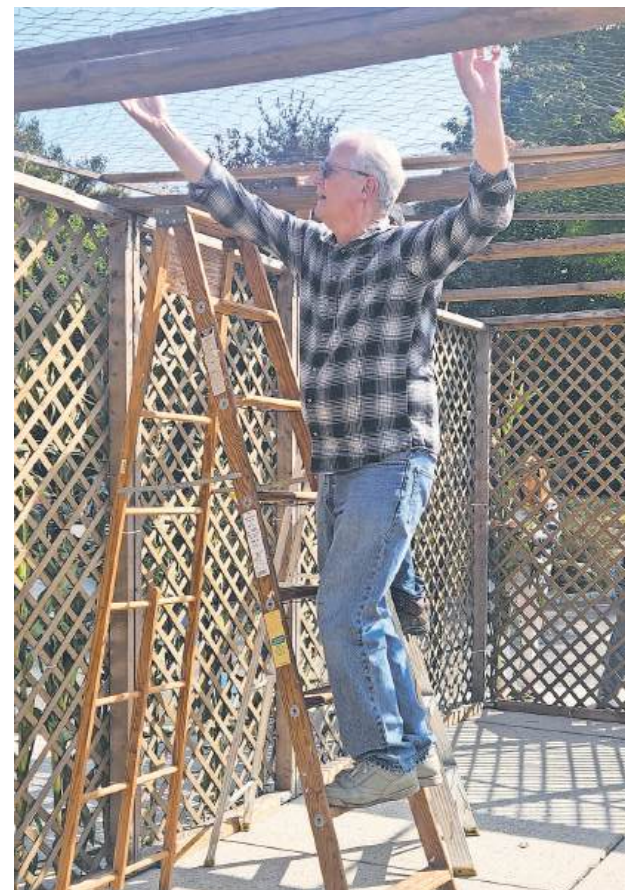
In addition to the Sukkah, the festival features another key element: the four species. These include the lulav, a palm branch, the etrog, a citron fruit, three myrtle branches, and two willow branches, which are bundled together and waved in six directions during prayers. "It means that God is everywhere," Rabbi Churgel said. "It's an acknowledgment that we recognize God is eternal and present in every direction."

Sukkot also has a spiritual connection to the High



Pam Loher helped decorate the inside of the Sukkah with traditional fruits including citron.

Holidays, which include Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. According to Cantor Amelia Fox, the themes of repentance and forgiveness continue through Sukkot. "It's a joyful thing, but it's also a reminder of impermanence, and that the land we live on belongs to God and not to us," she said. The permeable structure of the Sukkah, open to the elements, serves as a reminder to remain humble and give back to the community.



Dean Mayreis was among the dozens who helped decorate the top of the Sukkah, making sure not to cover the top completely so the night sky can be viewed from inside the structure.

The week long festival culminates with Simchat Torah, a celebration marking the completion of the annual reading of the Torah. "We rejoice that we have completed and are beginning again another cycle of Torah readings," said Rabbi Churgel. The holiday is marked by singing, dancing, and the joyful spirit of renewal as the congregation reads the final verses of Deuteronomy and begins again with Genesis.

Tax credit initiative is saving newspapers

By AMANDA MOTT

Special to the Herald

Earlier this year, the Glen Cove Herald joined over 200 other local newspapers in New York State to launch the Empire State Local News Coalition, which successfully advocated for a state tax credit to support jobs in local newsrooms across the state.

Now, the fruits of this effort are paying off.

Spurred by the Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program — the nation's first tax credit incentivizing hiring at local media outlets — three new local newspapers launched earlier this month in areas previously impacted by newsroom closures in Westchester and on Long Island.

Two of the three Westchester communities that lost their newspapers earlier this year saw the founding of the Rivertowns Dispatch (Ardsley, Hastings-On-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington) and The Recorder (Bedford, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge). A third newspaper, the Floral Park Villager, debuted on Long Island in a community that lost its own weekly paper during the Covid-19 pandemic, further demonstrating the program's ability to revive local journalism and reestablish connections within these communities.

"When we support local journalism, our communities win," said Zachary



Courtesy Empire State Local News Coalition

Co-founders Lloyd Trufelman, Karen Sabath and Ed Baum celebrate the successful printing of the Bedford Recorder's first issue.

Richner, founder of the Empire State Local News Coalition and director of Richner Communications, which owns the Long Island Herald newspapers. "The launch of new local, independent news outlets in Westchester and Long Island is a testament to the momentum created by New York's passage of the

nation's first tax credit for hiring at local media outlets. We started the Empire State Local News Coalition after some of these very communities lost vital news sources earlier this year and are thrilled by this resurgence in a shockingly short amount of time."

The Empire State Local News Coalition, which represents over 200 New York newspapers, was instrumental in advocating for the program's inclusion in the State budget, which offers a 50 percent refundable tax credit on the first \$50,000 of each employee's salary, with a cap of \$300,000 per business over three years. The passage of this bill aims to help combat the state's rapid decline in local journalism in New York. The state has lost nearly half of its newspapers and thousands of media jobs over the past two decades.

Publishers of the new newspapers shared their optimism and positive outlook for their industry in light of the Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs program. Allison Schulte, publisher of the Rivertowns Dispatch stated, "We launched the Rivertowns Dispatch to bring back local news to the

communities of Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington, Ardsley & Dobbs Ferry, New York after our old local newspaper closed earlier this year. We launched the Rivertowns Dispatch because we believe starting with a shared set of facts makes for richer community life, and that newspapers can be fun as well as useful. We are thrilled for the passage of the New York Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program because it makes it easier for us to hire full-time, quality journalists to share the news and information our communities want and need. We are so grateful to the Empire State Local News Coalition for its advocacy in bringing urgency to the challenges facing New York's local media industry."

Lloyd Trufelman, co-founder and publisher of The Recorder, highlighted the critical role of local news in preserving democracy: "The launch of The Recorder, a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom, shows New Yorkers recognize that a healthy democracy depends on access to reliable, quality news sources to stay informed." Trufelman expressed hope that similar policies would continue to bolster nonprofit news outlets and support a diversified local news ecosystem.

On Long Island, Meg Morgan Norris, publisher of the Floral Park Villager, emphasized the program's importance in the decision to launch the new paper. "The loss of Floral Park's longtime newspaper, the Gateway Bulletin, during the Covid-19 pandemic was devastating for this tight-knit community. With the tax credit, there is a path to long-term fiscal stability for outlets like ours," Norris said.

As local journalism continues to face evolving challenges, the Empire State Local News Coalition and Glen Cove Herald remain committed to advocating for long-term sustainability in the industry so that communities like Glen Cove have trusted local news sources. These new publications mark a hopeful step forward in the resurgence of local media across New York, with the coalition pushing for continued legislative support to ensure the long-term sustainability of local journalism.

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Estate Planning for the Estranged Child (Part One)

All too often a client comes in with a sad tale about an estranged child. Naturally, they are at a loss as to what to do about the situation when it comes to leaving that child an inheritance.

Years ago, the famous advice columnist Ann Landers wrote that her all time most requested column for reprint was on this very subject. Ann wrote that an inheritance should be considered a gift and that if the gift is not deserved one should not be expected. While that may have been good advice at the time and perhaps still is in most cases, like many things it is more complicated today.

In practice, we find that many of these once loving sons and daughters have married individuals with borderline or narcissistic personality disorders. Their spouses are manipulative and controlling. They seek to separate the loving son or daughter from their family so as to better control their spouse. The estranged child knows from experience that going against the wishes of their narcissistic spouse is like throwing gasoline on a fire —

so they go along to get along.

Why does this happen? The manipulator has an enormous advantage over the clients' son or daughter. The manipulator is a professional, having been this way all their life, honing their skills. The estranged son or daughter is an amateur — they have no experience in being manipulated. It may take years for them to even understand they are being manipulated and then more years, if ever, to build up defenses to the manipulation.

When young children are involved, the estranged child well knows the adverse consequences of having any normal relationship with their children should they seek a divorce from the narcissist.

Our advice is to try to understand and be compassionate with an estranged son or daughter in this situation. An Inheritance Protection Trust (IPT), that may only be used for them and your grandchildren, managed by either a sibling or a professional, may be the answer to such a heart-rending situation.

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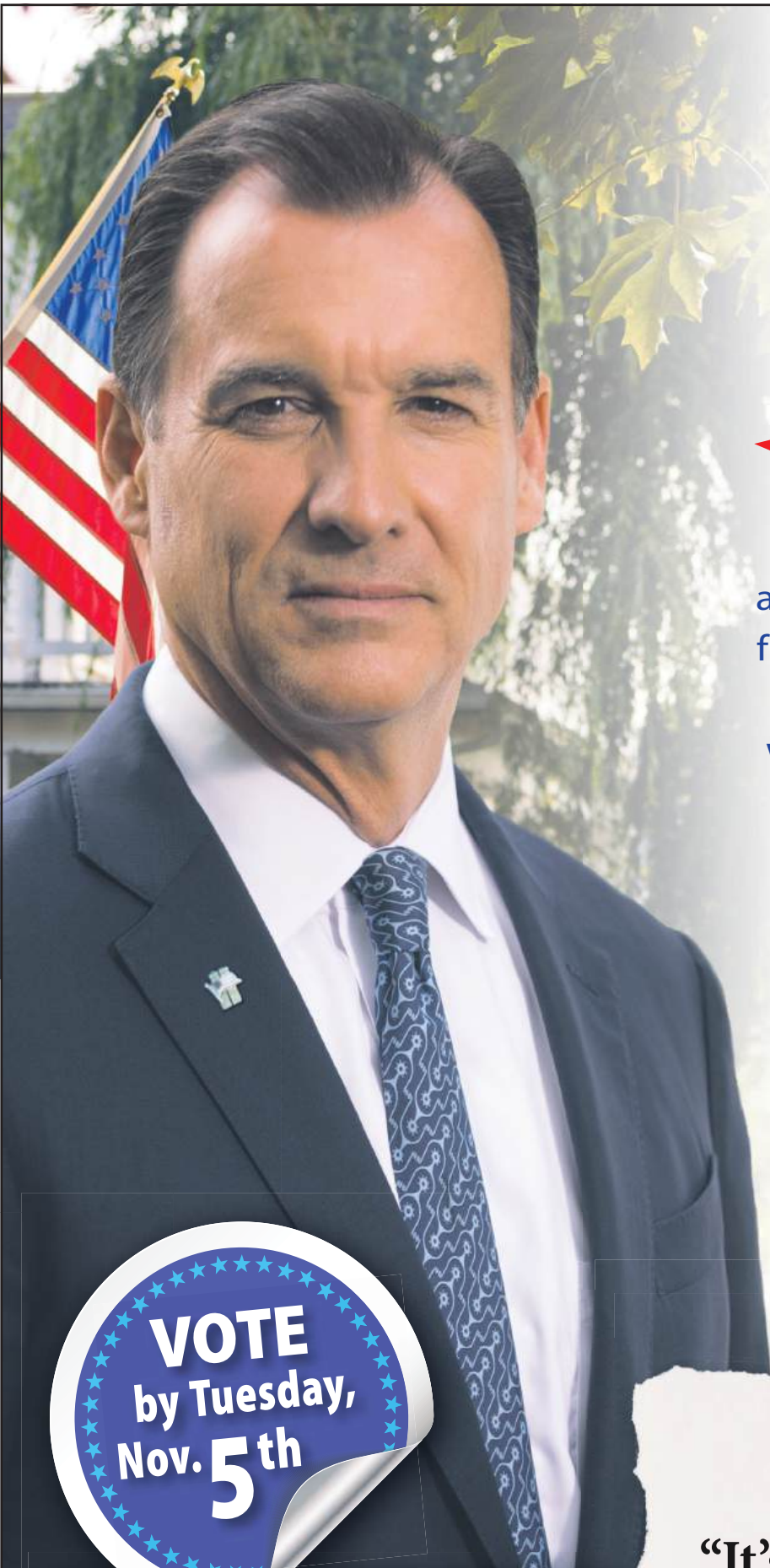
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6 Roberts wows the celebrities with her voice

October 17, 2024 - GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“But when she started singing, we realized this wasn’t just ordinary — there was real talent there.”

Despite Roberts’s undeniable gift, her family couldn’t afford formal vocal lessons. But that didn’t stop her from developing her skills. “I was mostly self-taught,” she said. “We didn’t have the money for lessons, but I just kept practicing, singing wherever I could.”

Her natural ability and determination soon caught the attention of Edward Norris, her choir director at Glen Cove High School. Norris met Roberts during the coronavirus pandemic, when the school had adopted a hybrid learning model. Even though their sessions were virtual, Norris could see that Roberts had something special.

“She was 14 years old, and I was voicing new students for choir,” Norris recalled. “As soon as I heard her, I knew there was an extraordinary instrument there.”

Roberts’s talent continued to grow under Norris’s guidance. She took on lead roles in school musicals, including “In the Heights” and “Miss Saigon,” where her performances left lasting impressions on audiences. Norris described how, as the grandmother in “In the Heights,” she “brought the house down” with her emotional delivery. “She stole the show, and she was just a freshman,” Norris said. “I could see she had a unique ability to connect with her audience, even at that young age.”

By her junior year, Roberts earned a scholarship for a year of free music lessons from vocal coach Jennifer Toohey, of the Long Island Studio of Music. Toohey became one of Roberts’s most ardent supporters.

“She’s a storyteller,” Toohey said. “Her voice is dynamic, but it’s her ability to connect with a song



Courtesy Ed Norris

Shye Roberts performed at the Long Island Studio of Music, where she received a scholarship to work with Jennifer Toohey.

that really sets her apart.”

As Roberts’s senior year approached, life took an unexpected turn. Her family moved to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where she finished high school at Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Arts. The transition was difficult for her, because she had left behind her friends and the supportive musical community she had in Glen Cove.

“Leaving Glen Cove gave me an extra drive towards music,” Roberts said. “I didn’t have my friends or my teacher with me, so I decided to take a chance and audition for ‘The Voice.’ I had nothing to lose.”

Encouraged by Toohey and Norris, Roberts auditioned for the show online, submitting videos of herself singing. After multiple rounds of video submissions, paperwork and background checks, she got the call she had been waiting for — an invitation to fly to Los Angeles to audition in person.

“I auditioned with Adele’s ‘When We Were Young,’” she said, “and when I got the invite to L.A., it felt surreal.”

Her live blind audition on “The Voice” was nothing short of impressive. As she sang “Superman,” Stefani and McEntire were so moved that they stood and applauded before Roberts finished the song. All four coaches turned their chairs, a rare feat on the show. McEntire called her voice “rich and creamy,” while Bubl  enthused about her “wonderful range.”

Reflecting on her sessions with Bubl , her coaching choice, Roberts said, “He said there wasn’t much to teach. He didn’t want to alter my voice, but rather help me emotionally connect with the song and really be myself.”

Though her adventure in Los Angeles forced her to miss her high school graduation, Roberts felt the experience was worth it. “I was sad to miss that moment,” she acknowledged, “but standing on that stage, singing my heart out, made it all worth it.”

Now, as she prepares for the next round of “The Voice,” known as “The Battles,” she remains grateful for the support of her family, teachers and friends. “This experience has made me courageous as a performer,” Roberts said. “It’s given me opportunities to express myself in ways I never thought possible.”

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PLANNED TOURNAMENTS FOR FALL '24 - SUMMER '25





Herald file photo

The new moratorium will extend for the next six months while the Town of Oyster Bay researches the potential impact of the Oyster Shore Energy Facility in Glenwood Landing.

Town extends battery storage moratorium

Town Board votes unanimously that more time and research is needed

By WILL SHEELINE

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The approval of Jupiter Power's proposed Oyster Shore Energy Storage in Glenwood Landing was delayed following the Town of Oyster Bay Town Board decision to extend the moratorium on battery energy storage systems for another six months.

The extension comes as town officials and numerous residents express ongoing concerns over safety standards and transparency, while awaiting finalized regulations from the state.

The moratorium, originally enacted on Feb. 27 and effective as of April 15, prevented the town from processing new applications or moving forward with any plans submitted for battery storage systems. The Oct. 15 extension aims to give the town additional time to assess the potential risks posed by these facilities, particularly fire hazards and environmental impacts, before making any long-term decisions.

In a statement, Hans Detweiler, senior director of development at Jupiter, emphasized that the company would take the time of the moratorium and the state updating the codes to increase their efforts to explain their vision of the project to the affected communities.

"The State of New York is currently updating its fire safety codes for projects like Oyster Shore Energy. Jupiter is committed to ensuring that the Oyster Shore Energy facility will comply with these regulations and is dedicated to the safety of the facility," Detweiler wrote. "We plan to wait for the state's code updates to be finalized and will engage

in additional community outreach before resubmitting revised plans that are fully compliant. The moratorium extension allows time for these efforts to be completed."

Deputy Town Attorney Elizabeth Faughnan, who presented the proposed extension to the board, emphasized the importance of protecting residents' safety and the environment while waiting for the state to finalize its standards for energy storage systems.

"The state has come up with proposed standards. They were put out to the public for comment, but no new standards have been enacted," Faughnan said. "This town is very concerned about the safety of our residents and the environment. As a result, it is our recommendation that the town board adopt this new local law to extend the moratorium for six months."

The proposed Oyster Shore Energy Project by Jupiter Power, a private equity-owned company, has raised concerns among residents, particularly in Glenwood Landing and Glen Head. Many fear the fire risks associated with lithium-ion battery storage systems and the town's volunteer fire departments' ability to manage potential emergencies.

Doug Augenthaler, a Glenwood Landing resident, expressed frustration over what he described as a lack of transparency surrounding the interconnected nature of the Jupiter Power project with other local energy infrastructure pro-

posals, such as high-voltage power lines proposed by Propel.

"These projects are deeply intertwined," Augenthaler said. "Battery storage is not necessary if you haven't gotten high-voltage lines to feed the power, and the lines are useless without battery storage. It's disingenuous to advertise them as separate projects."

Despite Augenthaler's claims, however, Propel and Jupiter Power are not collaborating on this project, officially or unofficially. Augenthaler also highlighted concerns about fire risks, noting that while the risk may be small, it is not zero.

"We have volunteer fire departments that are already straining with their memberships," he said. "How they would respond is

a serious concern."

Joan Matthews, a Roslyn Harbor resident, echoed those concerns, emphasizing the potential environmental dangers posed by such projects. She pointed to the risk of contaminating drinking water, local waterways, and sea life in the event of a fire or chemical release. Matthews also criticized the perceived rush to approve the project before more advanced, safer battery technologies become available.

"Why are we in such a hurry to do this now? If we wait 5, 6, 7, or 8 years, there's going to be better battery technology that doesn't have the same fire risks," Matthews urged. "We're already seeing the effects of rising waters and

flooding in the area. Adding a project like this, with all its risks, doesn't make sense right now."

One of the issues discussed during the hearing was why the moratorium could only be extended for six months at a time. Faughnan explained that longer moratoriums could be challenged in court by property owners who may argue their rights are being infringed upon.

"People have rights to their property," she said. "By enacting a moratorium, you're essentially saying that property owners can't use their property as they wish, and that's why the law allows for appeals and reassessments to see if the situation has changed."

If the moratorium were extended for longer than six months without reassessment, Faughnan warned, the town could lose a legal challenge in court. "We definitely would not win that challenge," she stated.

While the moratorium has been extended for now, the Town of Oyster Bay is waiting for input from the Nassau County Planning Commission, which is scheduled to meet on Oct. 22. The commission's recommendations are expected to play a crucial role in the town board's final decision regarding the moratorium and future energy storage projects.

In the meantime, the town has left the public record open for 12 days following the hearing to allow for written testimony from experts and additional public input. This period will also allow the town to incorporate feedback from the Planning Commission before finalizing its stance on the moratorium.

Adding a project like this, with all its risks, doesn't make sense right now.

JOAN MATTHEWS
resident

Sea Cliff Arts Council celebrates two years

By BRIAN NORMAN

bnorman@liherald.com

The Sea Cliff Arts Council will be celebrating its two-year anniversary on Oct. 18. The Arts Council has been a staple of the Sea Cliff community for the past two years, inviting all members of the community to come and engage in music lessons, workshops and concerts.

The Sea Cliff Arts Council, located on Roslyn Avenue, has been making its mark on the community since its opening. They provide a space for local artists, dancers and musicians to come and showcase their talents for the entire community. Mark Sobel, the producer-at-large for the Arts Council, said they hope that the venue continues to be a place for residents to gather together.

“First and foremost, we wanted to bring the community something that had a structure to it,” Sobel said. “So whether it be children or adults doing artistic endeavors, music, dance, or acting, there will be a place to show it.”

The Arts Council will be hosting an event to celebrate the anniversary on Oct. 18, which will start at 6 p.m. The event is open to the public and will include live music as well as food and drinks. During the event the Arts Council will also be announcing the winners of the Plein Air Arts Festival that took place last month. The winners will



Herald file photo

The celebration marks the two-year anniversary of the Arts Council's acquisition of a building on Roslyn Avenue.

receive cash prizes as well as having their paintings hung up on display.

“We had a great Plein Air festival a couple of weeks back that will be featured at the anniversary this week,” Sobel said. “We had a judge come in and look at all the paintings and we actually

have already hung the paintings to be presented on Friday for public view.”

The Arts Council has been a part of the Sea Cliff community for years, but their building has enhanced their reach to the community even further over these past two years. Branching away

from just artwork, the council also hosts various speakers, musicians, meditations events, and movie nights for families to come together.

“We used to use a library and windows in shops sometimes,” said Sobel. “But this would be the first place that we actually had a permanent exhibit display, where we wouldn’t have to worry about time frame,, we wouldn’t have to worry about anything but having our own space, and bringing people together in that space.”

While the Arts Council has been benefiting the artists of Sea Cliff for the past two years, it has also been benefiting local business and restaurants in the area as well. Sobel said that they have been trying to make it not only a part of the artists community but the business community as well.

“We wanted to make the Arts Council part of the business community,” Sobel said. “Whether they go to Still Partners for music, whether they go to Fosters to have dinner, whether they go to Ccampground to hang out, whatever it is, that was our main objective to the whole thing. And it seems to be working pretty well.”

The two-year anniversary for the Sea Cliff Arts Council will start at 6 p.m. and is free for the public to attend. The event is located at the Arts Council at 86 Roslyn Avenue in Sea Cliff.

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Oktoberfest: Food, fun, and friends

October 17, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

St. Patrick's Church on Glen Street in Glen Cove held its popular Oktoberfest celebration, which began as a small cookout 11 years ago. It has since evolved into a vibrant community event. This year's festival, held on Oct. 4 and 5, featured food, live music, a family-friendly pumpkin patch, and handcrafted beer brewed by Father Gabriel Rach. Oktoberfest has become a cherished tradition, offering churchgoers and local residents an opportunity to gather, enjoy homemade food and drinks, and celebrate together in a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

—Roksana Amid



Craig Castro Nova, Adam Weiss and Doug Butmski and Rick Nossa played rock 'n roll music for the crowd.

Roksana Amid/Herald photos



Oktoberfest was extra festive with handcrafted beer brewed by Father Gabriel Rach.



Monsignor Robert Murphy, Joan Thill, Father Josef Norys and Tony Tripp sat down to share a meal and a few drinks together.



Cili Sadando picked up a paint brush to draw a smiley face on her pumpkin.

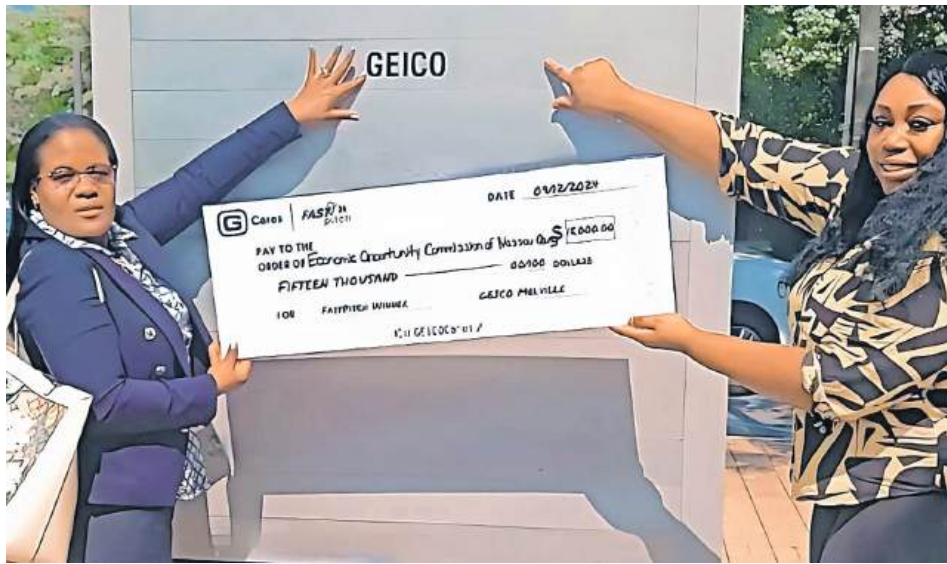


Yanira Paskoff, Zoe Mojica, Sophia Mojica and Mardina Sadando painted pumpkins to get into the fall spirit.



A large crowd gathered outside the church to celebrate Oktoberfest.

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Glen Cove EOC

The Glen Cove Economic Opportunity Council received a \$15,000 grant from the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation.

EOC receives \$15,000 from GEICO

The Glen Cove Economic Opportunity Council received a \$15,000 grant from the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation, a significant contribution that will enhance its mission to support low-income families in the local community. The grant was made possible through the advocacy of Glen Cove resident and GEICO employee, Cheron Jackson, who nominated the EOC as part of GEICO's FastPitch charity campaign. This initiative encourages employees to nominate and pitch their favorite non-profit organizations for potential funding, with winners chosen by a panel of judges.

Jackson, who has long been involved with the EOC, championed the organization's cause during the Melville office competition, ultimately securing the \$15,000 award for the local non-profit. The grant will go directly toward expanding essential programs and services that help vulnerable families in Glen Cove including educational resources, employment assistance, and access to health services. All of which aim to uplift and empower those facing financial hardships.

"We are incredibly proud of our board member Cheron Jackson for her dedication in securing this grant for our organization through GEICO's FastPitch program," said Irman Jeanty, Pro-

gram Director at Glen Cove EOC. "Her commitment to our mission and the community is truly admirable. We are deeply grateful to the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation for their generous support. This funding will enable us to broaden our programs and strengthen the positive impact we have on the families we serve. Partnerships like these are essential for advancing our mission and reaching more people in need."

The Glen Cove EOC is a cornerstone of support for low-income families in the area, providing critical services to help them overcome economic and social challenges. With this new funding, the organization will be able to extend its reach and serve even more families in need. This support comes at a crucial time, as many local families continue to face the financial fallout from the pandemic and rising living costs.

GEICO's FastPitch campaign is part of the company's broader philanthropic efforts to give back to the communities where its employees and customers live. This year, the foundation distributed a total of \$1 million to more than 100 non-profit organizations across the country.

-Roksana Amid

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HEALTH MEMO

Queens-Long Island Renal Institute Offers Home Hemodialysis; Certified Home Health Care available through Parker Jewish Institute

Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), located at The Parker Jewish Institute, now offers a state-of-the-art Home Hemodialysis Program. Those patients who also require Certified Home Health Care can access it conveniently through QLIRI's affiliate, Parker Jewish Institute.

QLIRI's Home Hemodialysis Program allows patients to transition from an in-center setting to receiving hemodialysis from the comfort of their home, using the Tablo Hemodialysis System. Enrolled patients are first trained by a registered nurse. The nurse provides step-by-step guidance four days a week over the course of four weeks, or longer if necessary. Through training, patients learn to use the system before transitioning to home hemodialysis.

If needed, patients of Parker's Certified Home Health Care Agency receive individualized nursing, medical, and

rehabilitation services, so they can maintain maximum independence in the comfort of their homes. Home-care services can include skilled-nursing care; physical, occupational and speech therapy; home-health aides; medical social services; medical supplies; and 24-hour telephone availability.

Call with questions! 718-289-2600. To learn more about QLIRI's Home Hemodialysis Program, visit qliri.org. For more on Parker's Certified Home Health Care, visit parkerinstitute.org.



Queens-Long Island Renal Institute is located at the Parker Jewish Institute

Queens Long Island Renal Institute • 271-11 76th Ave., New Hyde Park • (718) 289-2600

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The Parker Jewish Institute re-opens outdoor pickleball court

At the Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, adaptive pickleball is back in session. The Parker Jewish Institute has re-opened its 26-by-30-foot outdoor pickleball court, on its patio level, for patients and residents.

This popular activity is modified by Parker's recreational leaders to help participants have fun while achieving their physical- and occupational-therapy goals. An easy sport for beginners to learn, pickleball also promotes social interaction.

As the fastest-growing sport in America, pickleball offers older adults a host of benefits. This includes both functional and cognitive-related improvements, as well as a reduction in self-reported pain.

On Parker's pickleball court, participants must wear appropriate footwear, for safety. Parker's recreational leaders begin each session with simple movement and stretching, followed by an explanation of rules and goals. During the warm-up, participants get ample opportunity to practice with equipment, whether it's swinging a paddle or practicing serves. Parker's Director of Therapeutic Recreation works with patients and residents



who want to schedule court-time. In this adaptive version of the sport, participants are escorted to the court and seated, and for those in wheelchairs, the chair is locked as a safety measure. Recreational staff stand ready on either side of the nets, providing safety reminders and helping to keep the ball in play. Staff members offer hydration during play, and follow each participant's plan of care.

"We are thrilled to re-open Parker's



pickleball court and offer another season of healthy, outdoor fun for our residents and patients," said Michael N. Rosenblut, president and CEO of Parker Jewish Institute. "Our residents and patients enjoy spending time in the fresh air, together. And by playing adaptive pickleball, they are also building strength, endurance and range of motion. At Parker, people look forward to their sessions, while also improving their overall well-being."

About The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation

The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation is headquartered in New Hyde Park, New York. The facility is a leading provider of Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care. At the forefront of innovation in patient-centered health care and technology, the Institute is a leader in teaching and geriatric research. Parker Jewish Institute features its own medical team, and is nationally renowned as a skilled nursing facility, as well as a provider of community-based health care, encompassing Home Health Care, Medical House Calls, Palliative Care and Hospice. Parker Jewish Institute is also home to Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), led by an interdisciplinary team of experienced Nephrologists and Dialysis Registered Nurses, a Renal Social Worker, and a Registered Renal Dietitian.



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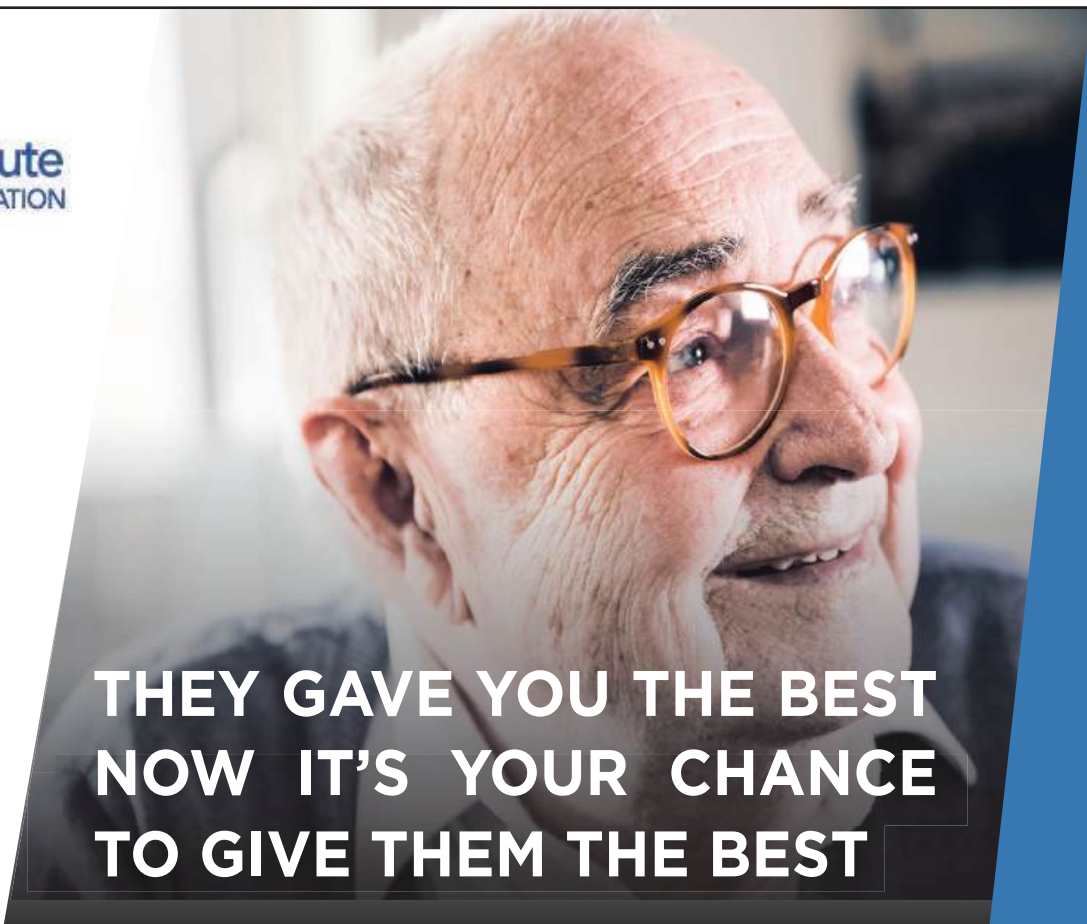


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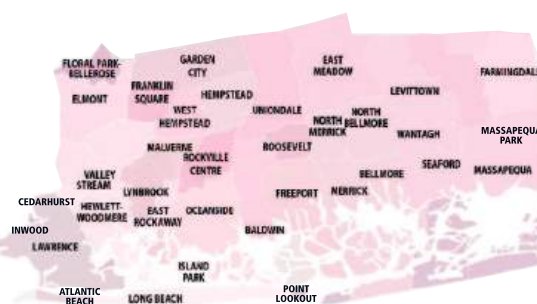
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New York's cancer disparity

American Cancer Society U.S. population study of Black women

With a goal of enrolling over 100,000 Black women, the groundbreaking VOICES of Black Women study will focus on lived experiences to improve health outcomes for the next generation. Now launched in New York state, American Cancer Society's VOICES is the largest behavioral and environmental focused population study of cancer risk and outcomes in Black women in the U.S.

Designed to better understand the multi-level drivers of cancer incidence, mortality and resilience within this demographic, the long-term study will gather valuable data from Black women between the ages of 25 and 55 from diverse backgrounds and income levels who have not been diagnosed with cancer. The organization aims to enroll over 100,000 Black women across 20 states, including New York and D.C. where, according to the U.S. Census, more than 90 percent of Black women in the U.S. reside.

Despite significant strides in cancer research, Black women continue to have the highest death rate and the shortest survival of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S. for most cancers. The most recent Cancer Facts and Figures for Black People show that 112,090 Black women are expected to be newly diagnosed and 37,250 Black women are expected to die of cancer.

Black women have a lower rate of cancer but are more likely to die from it. Black women



are diagnosed with a higher rate of Triple-Negative breast cancer; the death rate in the U.S. for Black men and women is higher for most chronic conditions.

Led by ACS researchers, Dr. Alpa Patel and Dr. Lauren McCullough, the study partners with communities of Black women and cross-disciplinary experts in Black women's health to

listen and better understand the unique, diverse lived experiences that may affect the risk of developing or dying from cancer. Results will be used to improve the overall health of Black women for generations to come.

"VOICES of Black Women represents a crucial step towards achieving health equity in a population that is long overdue," said Dr. Patel,

co-principal investigator of the study and ACS senior vice president of population science. "The data we've uncovered through previous population studies has been critical in reducing the unacceptably high burden of cancer, but that reduction has sadly not been equal. By centering Black women's voices and experiences, we can dig deeper in uncovering the unique challenges and barriers contributing to cancer disparities and develop tailored interventions to mitigate them."

Recruitment for the study began in October 2023 with a pilot launch in Atlanta, Ga. and Hampton Roads, Va. Eligible participants must identify as Black, be assigned female at birth or self-identify as women, not have a history of cancer (except basal or squamous skin cancer), and be between the ages of 25 and 55. Enrolled participants will provide informed consent and, over the span of 30 years, answer behavioral, environmental, and lived experience questions through periodic short surveys delivered via a secure online portal. No medication, clinical testing, treatment, or lifestyle changes are part of the study.

For more information, visit voices.cancer.org. The website provides all the criteria, and you can enroll online: <https://studyportal.cancer.org/enroll/voices>.

Above photo: ACS is recruiting 6,666 Black women from all over New York to participate in the study.

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Smita Sihag, MD, MPH, FACS
Thoracic Surgeon
MSK in Nassau

Morgan Park will undergo restorative work

October 17, 2024 - GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ure. The current project is intended to preserve its beauty while improving safety, addressing the seawall's structural issues and stabilizing the pavilions, which are showing significant signs of decay. Panzenbeck emphasized the importance of the repairs, noting that the seawall and pavilions are essential features of the park.

"The seawall is sagging and falling down in places," she said in a call with the Herald. "If you stand under them, you'll see major sections of the bricks missing."

While the project has the support of many residents, it has not been without controversy. At a council meeting last month, several members questioned whether the LandTek Group was qualified to do the masonry work. Councilman Kevin Maccarone was particularly vocal in his opposition, stating that LandTek, known for constructing sports fields and courts, may lack the expertise that the detailed masonry work demands. Maccarone voted against the contract for the pavilion repairs, saying, "I know that they build turf fields and sports courts, but I don't know that I've ever seen them bid or be involved in anything with general construction or building of seawalls."

Ann Fangmann, executive director of the city's development agency, defended the decision to hire LandTek, pointing



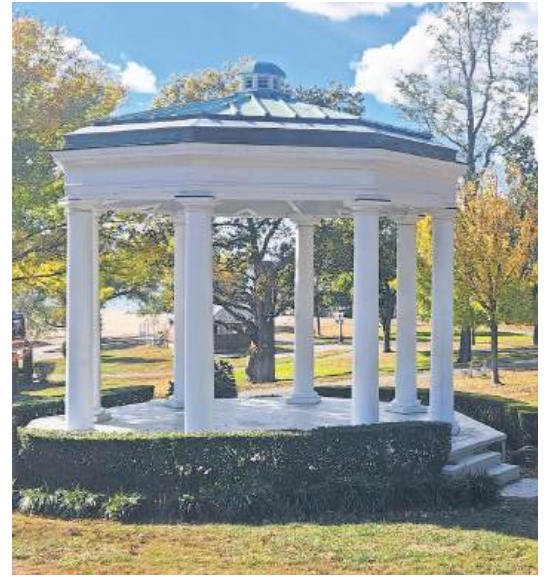
The seawall is deteriorating, and the project will reinforce it with rapid-setting concrete, and replace the failing brick in the pavilions with new masonry.

out that the company had already completed a portion of the seawall repairs in 2022, and that the city was satisfied with its work.

Fangmann also explained that the work planned for the pavilions is crucial to preventing their collapse, because the brick columns are currently unstable. In addition to the masonry work, the roofs of the pavilions will be replaced.

Vincent Martinez, a supervisor in the city's Public Works Department, added that LandTek had previously completed \$500,000 worth of masonry work at the firehouse, demonstrating its capability to handle this type of project.

Panzenbeck expressed optimism about Morgan Park's future, saying that in addition to the seawall and pavilions, the city plans to restore the Civil Ser-



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

The 40-acre Morgan Memorial Park, on the Long Island Sound, was built by financier J.P. Morgan Jr. in honor of his late wife.

vice Employees Association building, with work expected to begin sometime after Nov. 1.

"Morgan Park is a place of beauty," Panzenbeck said in a call to the Herald. "It's important that we keep it in good condition. We've worked hard to get it back to where it is today, and this project is a crucial part of that."

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Disappearing Act

Dear Great Book Guru,
Sea Cliff is so beautiful at this time of year - well it's beautiful every season of the year, but the old Victorians give an especially awesome, eerie feeling during the Fall. I'm looking for a really good book that evokes that sense of mystery and autumnal wonder. Thoughts?

Falling for Sea Cliff

Dear Falling for Sea Cliff,

I just finished the perfect book for you: "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore. Set in an Adirondacks camp owned by a very wealthy family, the novel recounts the disappearance of a young camper in August 1975.

The story is told from the perspectives of seven people: the parents, various campers, counselors, and the young detective assigned to the case. The family employs most of the townspeople so there is an uneasy alliance between the

two groups.

The novel goes back and forth from the fifties to 1975 - where the story opens. Barbara, daughter of the wealthy VanLaar Family, is missing from her bunk - fourteen years before her eight-year-old brother disappeared and was never found.

The remainder of the book traces the impact these events have on three worlds: the opulent summer community, the camp which exists in its shadow, and the working-class townspeople who serve both worlds.

This is much more than a simple thriller - it is a complex study of character, sociological impact, and history of the times. It appears on many Best Books of the Year lists, including Barak Obama's Summer Reading List. Highly recommended!

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



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

NEWS BRIEF

Drainage work on Glenwood Road in Ro

Nassau County has commenced drainage improvement work along Glenwood Road in Roslyn Harbor, just north of the intersection with Bryant Avenue. The project, which is expected to last two to three weeks, is part of a larger effort to address infrastructure needs across District 11. Weather permitting, the drainage work should be completed by the end of the month.

Motorists who rely on this intersection during their daily commute should anticipate periodic lane closures and detours while the project is underway. County officials are advising drivers to plan alternate routes to avoid delays.

This project is the latest in a series of road and drainage improvements throughout the district. Recent work has included drainage upgrades near North Shore High School in Glen Head, spanning intersections along Glen Cove Avenue, including Club Road, Plymouth Drive South, and Harbor Way. Additional infrastructure projects include milling and repaving Scudders Lane, stretching from Glenwood Road to Glen Cove Avenue in Glen Head and Roslyn

Harbor. Other notable work is taking place along West Shore Road in Port Washington, Glen Cove Avenue in downtown Glen Cove, and Duck Pond Road in Glen Cove.

In a related development, earlier this year, the Nassau County Legislature's Rules Committee approved nearly \$15 million in contracts to upgrade sewer systems throughout the district. The planned improvements include full rehabilitation of pump stations on Knott Drive in Glen Head, Morgan Park and Viola Drive in Glen Cove, and Roslyn. The Knott Drive ejector station will be converted into a submersible pump station, and construction management services are being arranged for the Harwood Ejector Station and Southridge Pump Station improvement projects in Glen Cove.

County officials stress that these infrastructure investments are critical to improving the overall functionality and safety of local roads and sewer systems.

-Roksana Amid

Let us Know

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication.

Send to ramid@liherald.com

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1271808

Congratulations Carolynn Eipel

On Sept. 18, 2024, at the Heritage Club at Bethpage, Carolynn Eipel, Founder of CareFirst Home Solutions, was a HERALD Excellence in Healthcare recipient. Pictured (right to left) are Judith Rivera, Katherine Dubicki, Carolynn Eipel, and Susan Blits.

To view more photos from the event visit www.RichnerLIVE.com.




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STEPPING OUT



Back to the basics: **Building with BLOCKS**

Young imaginations reach new heights at 'Block Party'

By Danielle Schwab

From a futuristic spaceship to a giant castle, there's no limit to what can be created with blocks and a little creativity.

Young "builders" are invited to show off their skills at "Block Party," a free-play exhibit for all ages to enjoy.

But be sure to visit soon — Long Island Children's Museum's seasonal exhibit is short-lived. It runs through Nov. 3.

"This new exhibit for the museum is so open-ended and encourages so many different modalities of learning and types of play within the space," says Ashley Niver, the museum's director of education.

While kids may play with smaller blocks at home, these big foam blocks come in larger-than-life proportions — so visitors can make their biggest creations yet.

"These are structures that they can build, that they can climb on, they can go through or under. They can use a lot of dramatic play with this since it's all just open-ended play, which is what we love," Niver says. "So there's a lot of processes happening during this kind of play, and it really invites a lot of collaboration between the adults and the kids as well as peer-to-peer, to work together."

From long, bendable cylinders to the stackable rectangles, the blocks can be used as the catalyst for an endless assortment of building projects. The results are limitless.

The blocks are all blue, intentionally so. The single block color creates a blank canvas for endless creative possibilities. By eliminating the distraction of multiple colors, children can immerse themselves fully in their designs, focusing on construction and creativity without worrying about matching hues. Thus children are able to immerse themselves fully in play, according to Niver.

"When you have a lot of visual distraction, it's actually harder for kids to unleash their imagination and learn and have that creative output be as successful," she explains. "So basically, having them all in one color allows a better opportunity for that to flourish."

Prompts throughout the exhibit space guide the builders, if some inspiration for their block masterpieces is needed. Build a shelter for a real (or imaginary) pet or perhaps a robot that actually works. The exhibit even challenges everyone to see how high you can build.

For smaller creations, a table of hand-held blocks is available to play with as well.

"The appeal of this exhibit lies in its immersive quality," Niver says. "While children are accustomed to playing with small blocks that fit in the palm of their hand, here they encounter a larger-than-life experience."

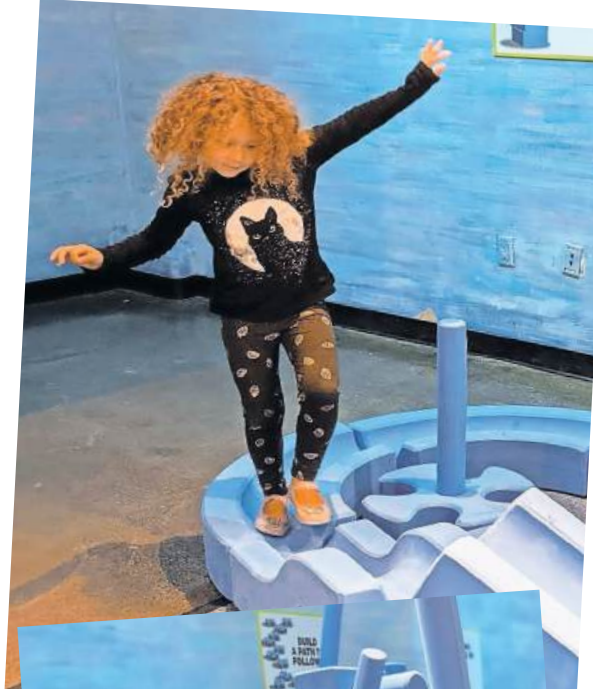
Once the build is done, it's time to put young imaginations to the test! Kids can put the spotlight on their creations and produce interesting shadows on the wall for interactive storytelling.

The exhibit was created in conjunction with "Worldwide Day of Play," an initiative of Nickelodeon with the Association of Children's Museums to get families engaged with their environment through screen-free play while fostering the benefits of skill-building activities.

"Block Party" encourages children to develop their motor skills, enhance their muscle strength



- Now until Nov. 3
- \$17 museum admission, \$16 seniors 65 and older
- View the LICM events calendar at licm.org for additional information or call (516) 224-5800
- Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City



and exercise through full body movement, all while having fun.

"We think it's really important for the kids to disconnect because they don't have as many opportunities to do that these days. I find that screens are becoming so much more prevalent, and they're so accessible in different areas," Niver says.

"To really set the scene and just bring it down to the basics of building blocks, it's so beneficial to them for their development, with a lot of social emotional learning happening."

This is the first exhibit to be installed after the museum's Fall Fix Up — the annual two-week closing period every September when the museum conducts maintenance and exhibit refresh, along with staff training.

"We go over different aspects of learning and play and try to educate our staff and empower them for when we reopen. We make sure that we reopen in a really impressive way for our visitors, to welcome them back," Niver adds.

At the Block Party, no dream is too big, so it's time to get building — one block at a time.

Photos courtesy LICM

Museum visitors are invited to an oversized "block" party where giant lightweight blocks turn playtime into extraordinary adventures. Stack them, crawl through them or team up to make dream designs come true. Construct castles, mazes, fantastical creatures or secret hideaways.



Steve Martin and Martin Short

Icons, collaborators and dos amigos Steve Martin and Martin Short have a relationship that's evolved in unexpected ways since their SNL days. Their comic prowess has surely reached new heights since their involvement in Hulu's smash hit "Only Murders in the Building." The pair takes another comic turn as special guests at Tilles Center's 2024 Gala. These two funnyman display their impeccable talents as "The Dukes of Funnytown!" — a show that redefines the form in unexpected and profound ways, from two of the most influential and acclaimed talents of the past century. Their humor is often subversive, but it is always a joyous self-deprecating romp from two comedy masters driven to make each other laugh as much as the audience.

Saturday, Oct. 19, 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$70. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville. Tickets available at tillescenter.org or (516) 299-3100.



Anthony Rodia

Anthony Rodia lets loose with his "Totally Reliable" tour. A first-generation Italian-American, Rodia came out of the womb making people laugh. In his 20s he tried a few open mics, but ultimately took a different career path as finance manager of a luxury car dealership. In 2019, Rodia returned to comedy and left his day job to become a full-time stand-up comic. He hit the ground running and performed 100 shows in just nine months, and within three years gained a massive fan base online and around the country. In a short time, Anthony gained over 900,000 social media followers and his YouTube videos have amassed over 22 million views. Rodia's comedy pulls from his real life and razor-sharp observations on marriage, parenthood and just about everything else.

Saturday Oct. 19, 7 and 9:30 p.m. \$89.50, \$79.50, \$69.50, \$59.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.

THE \$ SCENE

Oct. 25

Rock the Dock

Ambrosia, John Ford Coley and Peter Beckett (The Voice of Player),

will come together for a magical night performing all of their 1970s and '80s Billboard Top 40 Hits, on the Tilles Center stage, Friday, **Oct. 25**, at 8 p.m. Yacht Rock the Dock shines the spotlight on the original artists, with Elliot Lurie, as they reinvigorate their many beloved tunes. Enjoy Ambrosia's everlasting hits including "How Much I Feel," "You're the Only Woman" and "Biggest Part of Me." John Ford Coley, most known as half of the Grammy-nominated duo England Dan and John Ford Coley, performs many memorable hits, including "I'd Really Love to See You Tonight," "Love Is The Answer" and "Nights Are Forever Without You." Peter Beckett, Player's original lead singer and songwriter, was voted by Billboard Magazine as Best New Single Artist in 1978 for Player's hit "Baby Come Back.," while Elliot Lurie is best known as the vocalist for Looking Glass, and sang lead on the band's hit single "Brandy."

These songs are the soundtrack to a generation. Today's so-called smooth yacht rock music scene would not be yacht rock without the contributions of these Grammy winning artists. What emerged primarily from southern California during one of the greatest periods of music is a classic rock radio staple across the U.S. You cannot turn on the radio without hearing many of these songs every day. As younger generations of music fans fall in love and embrace these classic rock/soft rock hits, everyone realizes that these songs are becoming bigger now than at any time since their heyday, which by common consent stretched between 1976 and 1983. Get ready to Rock the Dock! Tickets start at \$35. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville. Tickets available at TillesCenter.org or (516) 299-3100.



'The Birthday Party'

Looking for something to do this Halloween season that isn't just for kids? Visit Sands Point Preserve for an exclusive, immersive theatrical production, "The Birthday Party," held in a secluded, opulent mansion, Friday and Saturday, **Oct. 18-19, Oct. 25, Oct. 31, and Nov. 1**. For those who attended Archie's last "Birthday Party," rest assured, there are new surprises in store.

Guests will be blindfolded and escorted to a secret location on the property, Villa Vanitas, to celebrate the enigmatic Lord Archibald Axel Von Finkelshorn Chatterton's 30th birthday. He is a witless charmer on the cusp of a life-changing revelation, and everyone's invited to witness his journey on a night that promises to be unforgettable and delightfully unpredictable. Cocktail attire preferred. \$175 per person. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.



Adelphi's Best of Broadway: Decades

Jump into the dazzling world of Broadway as Adelphi's talented students bring to life the magic of shows that opened 10, 20, 30 or more years ago, Sunday, **Oct. 20**, 4 p.m. Enjoy modern and classic Broadway hits from shows like "Suffs" (2024); "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" (2014); "Sunday in the Park with George" (1984) and "Anything Goes" (1934). Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or Adelphi.edu/pac.

Chamber concert

Immerse yourself in the rich harmonies and lyrical beauty of a piano trio and solo vocal works, with Old Westbury Gardens ensemble-in-residence Poetica Musica, Saturday, **Oct. 19**, 8 p.m., with pre-concert talk at 7:30 p.m. Cellist Eugene Moye, violinist Erik Wyrick, pianist Yasmin Alami, and mezzo-soprano Eleanor Valkenburg perform works by Debussy, Mendelssohn and Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel. \$30, \$25 members, seniors, students. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit oldwestburygardens.org or call (516) 333-0048.

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Spooky Fest is back

A Halloween experience not to be missed, Spooky Fest is an outdoor adventure perfect for families, whether you want to be scared — or prefer seasonal fun of the non-scary kind. Join in the fun at the Center for Science, Teaching and Learning, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout October. Along the way in the updated and beautifully lit up Enchanted Walk you will see dinosaurs, aliens and friendly witches, costumed characters and more, including the Mystical Garden. Get your fortune told, make a craft and dance with the Halloween DJ, along with face painting and the Amazing Glow tent.

For those who want a scare, venture into the Haunted Woods, where zombies and dinosaurs hang out. Admission starts at \$22. 1450 Tanglewood Road, Rockville Centre. Visit CSTL.org for call (516) 764-0045 for more information.



Plein Air/Two Year Anniversary

The Sea Cliff Arts Council celebrates its two-year anniversary, Friday, **Oct. 18**, 6-8 p.m. The event will also feature the announcement of the winners of the Plein Air Arts Festival. The event is open to everyone and features live music after the announcement of the winners. 86 Roslyn Ave., Sea Cliff.

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.



Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art. The drop-in program continues Saturday, **Nov. 2**, noon-3 p.m. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators at the Manes Center to explore and discover different materials to create your own original artwork.

Kids and their adult partners connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. \$20 adult, \$10 child. Registration required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. Visit NassauMuseum.org for more information and to register or call (516) 484-9337.

On exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art 's latest exhibition "Seeing Red: Renoir to Warhol," reveals the many meanings, connotations, and associations of this powerful color in art. Evoking strong emotion, red can represent the human condition. Its myriad variations have come to signify authority as well as love, energy and beauty. Red warns us of peril and commands us to stop, but it can also indicate purity and good fortune. Red boldly represents political movements and religious identities. From the advent of our appreciation for this color in antiquity to its continued prominence in artistic and popular culture, this exhibition will span various world cultures through a range of media.



It features more than 70 artists, both established and emerging, ranging from the classical to the contemporary. American portraitists such as Gilbert Stuart imbued red in their stately paintings of prominent individuals to conjure authority. Robert Motherwell, Ad Reinhardt, and other major abstract painters displayed a deep fascination with red in their commanding compositions that evoke a sense of chromatic power. And, of course, Andy Warhol is known for his bold and imposing silkscreened portrait of Vladimir Lenin saturated in bright red to his signature Campbell's Soup Cans. On view through Jan. 5. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

On stage



See Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull," presented by Nassau Community College Theater and Dance Department, opening Friday, **Oct. 25**, 7:30 p.m.; also Saturday, **Oct. 26**, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, **Oct. 27**, 2 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, **Oct. 29-30**, 7:30 p.m. Delve into the lives of Arkádina, a famous — but fading — actress, and that of her lover, Trigorín, a well-known author. They arrive at her brother Sórin's country estate for the summer, just as son Konstantín is staging an experimental new play he's written and directed, starring his girlfriend, Nína. Chekhov's first successful naturalist play follows the lives of young artists as they navigate life. Thematically, it's a study of the arts and the artist, the lack of real satisfaction to be found there, the pretense and mediocrity that pervade the practice, and yet the power and mystery that are possible. Nassau Community College's Little Theatre, Garden City. Tickets \$12; NCC students free with valid ID; \$10 veterans, alumni, seniors 60+, students and NCC employees. For tickets/information, visit nassau.booktix.com or NCC.edu or call (516) 572-7676.

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.

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Universal Pre-K fosters Lifelong Skills

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

The early years of a child's development are crucial for laying the foundation of future success, which is why New York State offers free universal pre-kindergarten to ensure 4-year-olds have access to essential early education. While securing a spot in this highly sought-after program can sometimes be competitive, families who do enroll their children benefit from a curriculum designed to promote early learning, foster independence, and encourage growth through play-based activities.

At the Oct. 9 Board of Education meeting, Alexa Doeschner, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology, presented a comprehensive overview of Glen Cove's Universal Pre-Kindergarten program. The program, funded through the New York State Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Statewide Universal Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten grants, provides free, standards-based education to qualifying students. Children who turn four on or before Dec. 1, are eligible to enroll in the current year's program, while those who meet the same age criteria by Dec. 1, 2025, can apply for next year's program.

To ensure fairness and transparency, the district uses a lottery system to determine enrollment. Families register their children in April, after which the district randomly selects names through a digital lottery system. For families with twins or multiple children, all siblings are enrolled together if one child is selected, ensuring convenience and consistency for families. For the 2024-2025 school year, Glen Cove operates five sections of pre-kindergarten: three housed at Deasy Middle School, one at Landing Elementary School, and one at the YMCA. The partnership with the YMCA is a state requirement for districts to collaborate with community-based organizations in offering universal pre-K education.

Doeschner emphasized the district's instructional vision, which centers on enhancing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, aiming to develop lifelong learners who can thrive in an increasingly complex world. This vision begins in pre-K, where students are introduced to a structured curriculum designed to strengthen their foundational skills. A key element of the pre-K curriculum is the Foundations program, which uses a multi-modal approach to teach reading, spelling, and handwriting. Students participate in interactive learning activities, including the use of the Foundations chart and characters such as Echo the Owl, to help them understand letter sounds and proper letter placement.

In addition to the Foundations program, the pre-K curriculum incorporates the Heggerty curriculum to build phonological and phonemic awareness. This supplemental program, which is also used in the district's K-2 grades, focuses on eight essential skills: rhym-



Photos courtesy Glen Cove School District

The early years of a child's development are crucial for laying the foundation of future success, which is why New York State offers free universal pre-kindergarten to ensure 4-year-olds have access to essential early education.

ing, onset fluency, phoneme isolation, blending, segmenting, adding, deleting, and substituting sounds. Through engaging activities that encourage sound manipulation, students develop a strong literacy foundation that supports future success in reading and writing.

For mathematics, the district employs the Building Blocks Pre-K Math curriculum, which integrates mathematical concepts into daily routines through play and exploration. Students engage with hands-on materials and manipulatives to help them understand numbers and quantities in a fun, interactive way. This approach nurtures young learners' cognitive abilities and helps them build a solid foundation in math before moving on to more advanced concepts.

Beyond academics, Glen Cove's pre-K program offers art and physical education as part of its special classes. Art classes encourage creativity and self-expression through various mediums, such as paint and crayons, while helping students develop fine motor skills. Physical education classes focus on improving gross motor skills, balance, and coordination, while promoting teamwork, respect, and positive social interactions. Both specials provide opportunities for differentiated learning, catering to students' diverse needs in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

Doeschner shared positive news about the program's growing enrollment, noting that the number of participants has increased from 73 in previous years to 98 students this year. She expressed optimism about the program's continued success, emphasizing its role in providing children with a strong educational foundation. This early start, she noted, will support future academic achievements, and foster a lifelong love of learning for Glen Cove's young students.



To ensure fairness and transparency, the district uses a lottery system to determine enrollment for its universal Pre-K program.

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OPINIONS

Nassau is no county for old men

The candidates for our state offices, incumbents and challengers, have been out campaigning, regaling voters with claims that they are the right people for the jobs that need filling in Albany. They will take up the fight in the Capitol, they insist, to do the best job for us, their constituents. They cite their talent, experience and vision, and their ability to solve even the thorniest of problems.



**PHILIP
COMO**

But the sad irony is that the thorniest problems often remain unsolved. Take, for instance, the conundrum of property assessment in Nassau County. After the school districts establish their

budgets, the state sees to additional school funding via foundation aid, the School Tax Relief program and the like. But it is the county that determines the value of real estate, and from that comes our school tax bills. In my case, and those of many other seniors trying to stay in their longtime homes, this process is daunting, confusing and sometimes heartbreaking.

Succeeding elections bring us Demo-

crats and Republicans. Each of these entities has demonstrated a philosophy of how to deal with assessments and taxes. One party hollers about fairness and equity, and claims that they will absolutely get it right — for the benefit of taxpayers, of course. In 2019, then County Executive Laura Curran gave us a Taxpayer Protection Plan, promising that elusive equity. My school taxes continued to climb.

Then the other guys came in, claiming *they* were the true champions of the citizenry when it came to property taxes. Their particular talent seemed to be granting homeowners lots of assessment “relief.” My school taxes continue to climb.

Neither party seems capable of actually solving this particularly thorny problem. And leavened into their mystifying blend of ideas is a category of businesses that, their advertisements promise, will help us grieve the injustices that the property tax formula creates. These companies tout their acumen and their results. How about the lady in Merrick who got a new kitchen with the money XYZ company saved her?

Is it just coincidence that these com-

panies are among the top contributors to our political office seekers? And their generosity is bipartisan, because it turns out that business is good no matter who is at the helm in Mineola.

While all of this is going on, seniors like me, frustrated and dejected, quietly hire real estate agents to deliver us from all of this “good” news as our ever-rising taxes leave us with no choice but to sell the homes we love. I’m 79, and the increases in school taxes have come like annual infestations of locusts — about \$10,000 in additional taxes for schools alone in the past several years. I call everybody —

state and county politicians, school district administrators, the property assessors — and they all say the same thing: “It’s not me.” None of them, it seems, is the problem.

The assessor tells me my house is valuable. I tell him I have made it so through 35 years of sweat, my own hard work. I remind him that it’s my *home*; it’s where I *live*. He is unmoved, seeming to say, without using the words, that if I can’t pay, they’ll get someone else in here who can.

At this point, 46 years after I began paying property taxes, I have come to

the conclusion that the assessment of property is no longer a viable method of funding our schools. If you’re a senior, you’re a target.

Several years ago, I tried to persuade my local state representative to use some of his vision in Albany to figure out an alternative way to fund the schools that doesn’t target senior property owners for residential extinction. He simply dismissed the idea, saying the current system was the best one.

The subject has come up time after time on area newspapers’ editorial pages, but gets no traction from the political class.

One day soon I will go see the assessor. I am not optimistic. In the meantime, our candidates, incumbents and challengers, will continue to tell us how they’re going to help us. And the grievance companies will continue to prosper. The impossible system of taxation by way of property assessment will continue.

And quietly, all over Nassau County, bewildered longtime residents will be forced from their homes, victims of all that political talent, experience and vision.

Philip Como, who is retired after a career in sales, is a former member of the Nassau County Planning Commission and is treasurer of the Fire Department in Sea Cliff, where he lives.

How to talk to young people about elections

Every four years, citizens of the United States have the privilege of voting in the presidential election. It is one of the most sacred and awesome responsibilities of being an American citizen.

Reflecting on the ideals set forth in the Constitution, it is crucial that we engage our students in conversations about the election process to help them understand and appreciate the significance of voting.



**MONIQUE
DARRISAW-AKIL**

Although discussing politics in public schools can be uncomfortable for some, particularly in today’s polarized environment, remaining silent on these issues is actually detrimental. Educators have a responsibility to help develop young people into informed, active participants in the democratic process and, hopefully, the next generation of civic leaders.

As a former high school social stud-

ies teacher, I believe the election season is the perfect opportunity to make learning more relevant by bringing textbooks to life. There are so many invaluable skills students can learn during local and national election cycles. First, they should be taught about the election process. Many of our students come from other countries, including those that do not have participatory democracies. Teachers can use the upcoming elections as a time to provide a refresher on the branches of government and how elections function in the U.S.

Additionally, we can teach students how to navigate the media landscape and identify bias in the media. With the widespread use of social media as primary news sources, it is often difficult for young people and adults alike to differentiate fact from fiction or evaluate the credibility of a news source.

The News Literacy Project, an organization devoted to ensuring that all students are skilled in news literacy,

developed guidelines for identifying news media bias, which includes differentiating news from opinion, understanding that bias is a spectrum and recognizing our own biases. These are all extremely valuable skills that students will benefit from even after the election cycle has passed.

Another critical skill students can develop when learning about elections is how to consider different perspectives. With the explosion of the internet and social media algorithms, it is very likely that young people who get their news from online media sources are never confronted with opinions or values that are different from their own. In order for students to successfully navigate life after high school and become leaders in the global workforce, however, they must be able to listen to the opinions of others, seek to understand a variety of perspectives and engage in civil discourse and debate. These skills are essential for navigating real-world challenges.

Finally, teaching about elections

offers an excellent opportunity to discuss with young people the importance of voting. As educators, we counter voter apathy by teaching students about the historical struggle for voting rights in this country, particularly for historically marginalized groups, such as women and African-Americans. These discussions may evoke strong emotions, but they are vital to helping students understand why voting matters and how our country has evolved.

We should remind students of the importance of taking part in local elections in addition to the national presidential elections. We should also explore ways for young people to practice exercising the right to vote in school, and provide opportunities for them to voice their opinions on local issues in the community.

This is a really exciting and pivotal time in our country, with history unfolding before our eyes. It is our duty to ensure that the next generation is not only witnessing these moments, but is engaged with and prepared to shape them.

Monique Darrisaw-Akil, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Uniondale Union Free School District.

No matter which party is in the majority, my school taxes continue to climb.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

The Mets are a case study in grit

Sports often provide the most visible examples of overcoming the odds. Take, for example, the New York Mets, who, in late May, suffered a crushing loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers, leaving them 11 games under .500. Many fans and baseball insiders had all but written them off, but the Mets didn't quit.

Instead the ball club made strategic lineup changes and, most important, held firm in their belief that they were still a great team. The result? A remarkable turnaround that put them 30 games over .500 and propelled them into this week's National League Championship series.

Pitcher Jim Abbott is another powerful example of overcoming adversity. Born without a right hand, Abbott faced enormous challenges from an early age, but refused to let his physical difference define or limit him. He eventually reached the major leagues, and not only pitched at the highest level, but tossed a no-hitter for the Yankees in 1993.

This lesson isn't just for athletes. Struggling students can reassess their study habits, ask for extra help, and find the support they need. A professional facing new challenges at work can seek out training, lean on colleagues for advice, and even turn frustration into motivation. Teachers, mentors and coaches thrive on helping others succeed, so seeking help isn't a weakness — it's a smart move.

Overcoming adversity isn't just about persistence, but is about a mindset of constant learning and growth. Whether you're falling behind in school, at work or on a sports team, the temptation to surrender can be overwhelming. But those who thrive amid adversity don't see challenges as walls; they see them as steppingstones to progress.

If you're a student struggling to grasp difficult concepts, feeling like you're always two steps behind, it's easy to lose hope. At work, new technologies and methodologies might feel like waves crashing over you, leaving you disoriented. And for an athlete, the weight of defeat can make the rest of the season feel like an uphill climb that's no longer worth making.

So how does a person, or a team, regroup and find success after falling behind?

While determination is key, succeeding isn't just about plowing through. It's about strategic adaptation. It's about identifying what's important, what's holding you back, and making meaningful changes — sometimes inspired by others, and sometimes by digging deep into yourself.

The first step often is simply asking for help. And that's nothing to be ashamed of. We've all been there!

Adversity isn't a dead end. It's a detour that offers new pathways to growth and success, but only if we're willing to stay the course, make adjustments, and push beyond the initial

impulse to give up. And real-life stories of overcoming adversity can be powerful sources of inspiration, because they demonstrate that success is often born from struggle, resilience and perseverance.

J.K. Rowling's journey to becoming the world-famous author of the Harry Potter series is a classic example. Before Harry Potter became a household name, Rowling was a struggling single mother living on welfare. She wrote the first Harry Potter book in coffee shops, often battling self-doubt and rejection. No fewer than 12 publishers rejected the manuscript before Bloomsbury finally took a chance on it.

Thomas Edison, one of history's greatest inventors, failed over a thousand times before making the first light bulb work. When asked about his repeated failures, Edison famously said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." His relentless drive and ability to see failure as a learning opportunity helped him change the world.

Real-life stories such as these are just a sample of what people can achieve, while illustrating that the journey to success is rarely smooth. At press time, the Mets had come back to tie the Dodgers at one game apiece in the NLCS. The team has shown its fans what it means to push through, learn, adapt, and remain focused on the next game all season long. Here's hoping that inspiring lesson will continue.

LETTERS

Climate change should be on voters' minds

To the Editor:

As the election draws closer, we cannot ignore the growing impact of climate change on our communities. Hurricane Helene and now Hurricane Milton, along with dozens of wildfires this past summer, are all clear warning signs of a very real climate crisis.

This issue deserves more attention than it has received so far this election cycle. During the presidential debate, only one brief question was asked about climate at the very end.

The fact is, the climate crisis impacts us all, no matter where we live or how much money we make. Americans are being told to flee their homes and risk losing everything. Meanwhile, Big Oil continues to put profits over people by prioritizing fossil fuels that continue to destroy our environment.

We cannot afford to lose any more time in the fight against the climate crisis. We need leaders — at the federal, state and local level — who believe in the science of climate change and are willing or



can be convinced to take bold action before it's too late. So I urge everyone: When you cast your ballot next month, think of our planet and the people that

call it home.

MARTIN MELKONIAN
Uniondale

OPINIONS

After reforms, NUMC is on the upswing

For decades, Nassau University Medical Center has towered above the landscape, representing our community's commitment to quality health care — for everyone. Public hospitals across the state face enormous challenges, and NUMC is no different. But as we close in on two years of executing substantial reforms, this irreplaceable institution is proving resilient and improving.



MEGAN C. RYAN

At Long Island's largest public safety-net hospital and Level 1 trauma center, each year the unwavering dedication of our staff provides \$1 billion in services to more than 270,000 patients. Many of those patients are from

our most at-risk populations, who can't afford to pay for care and otherwise wouldn't receive treatment.

Leveraging new financial standards and practices, more-efficient systems and a renewed commitment to the patient and visitor experience, we are proving that we can be a model for success. Our dedication to strengthening the foundations of the facility has recently been recognized by top health care organizations.

In August, after a rigorous evalua-

tion, NUMC earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Hospital Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with its high-performance standards. To achieve this accreditation, NUMC underwent an in-depth, multi-day, unannounced onsite review by a team that judged compliance standards in several key areas, including patient rights, infection control, surgical services and patient safety.

Just days later, NUMC's team was again recognized, receiving two prestigious awards from the American Heart Association. The hospital was honored with AHA's Get With The Guidelines and Mission: Lifeline achievement awards, reflecting our team's adherence to the latest evidence-based treatment guidelines for heart disease and stroke.

The AHA also noted that our efforts have led to improved patient outcomes, including more lives saved, shorter recovery times and reduced hospital readmissions. These awards come as we prepare for the construction and opening of a new Cath Lab in 2025 that will enable the hospital to perform more life-saving heart procedures on site.

Our Emergency Room staff also continues to demonstrate excellence and success under the stress of a growing patient population. In September, after an in-depth investigative report by

Newsday on the crisis of long emergency room wait times on Long Island, NUMC's was ranked second out of all hospitals for average patient wait time, despite the fact that we serve more than 65,000 emergency patients each year.

These recognitions required strategic planning, rigorous training and a culture of excellence that permeates every level of our organization. Our staff of more than 3,600 undergo continuous evaluations and specialized training to ensure that we meet the highest standards of care, which is particularly crucial because we serve a diverse community with unique health needs.

While previous leadership spent money on new executive offices, we're focusing on enriching the patient experience and expanding our services. We recently extended our onsite clinical office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until 9 p.m. for our pediatric, women's health, general medicine and physical therapy services. Starting this month, we will have Saturday clinic hours as well for the first time.

This expansion helps make prevention and treatment more convenient for working families, and reduces emergency room visits. Our first NUMC van was just delivered to help those with transportation needs. The opening of our

new Community Engagement Center, our first public open house, our recent Back-to-School program and other initiatives are also part of our effort to ensure that NUMC remains a hub for the broader community.

NUMC has long been a cornerstone of health care in Nassau County — more than just a hospital, we are a trusted partner and a critical lifeline for our neighbors. Our hospital is often the first place people turn in times of need. We take our unique responsibility very seriously.

These certifications, initiatives and facility upgrades are just a small sample of the exciting results from nearly two years of management and operational reforms.

While NUMC continues to face financial challenges due to drastic state funding cuts that have not been restored, we are committed to building on the success of our recent fiscal reforms to safeguard this vital community resource.

NUMC is a beacon of hope and a testament to the strength of our community. It represents our commitment to caring for one another. Our collective support for the hospital means that our area will avoid the health care crises that plague other communities across the nation. Residents will have the peace of mind knowing they have a public hospital ready to meet any challenge.

Megan C. Ryan is interim president and CEO of Nassau University Medical Center.

The hospital received two prestigious awards from the American Heart Association.

LETTERS

The MTA's capital plan doesn't have a chance

To the Editor:

Long Island Rail Road riders should be concerned that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's \$68 billion, five-year, 2025-2029 Capital Plan isn't worth the paper it's written on. Gov. Kathy Hochul claims she can find additional state and federal funding to make up for the missing \$15 billion in congestion pricing revenue from the current \$51 billion 2020-2024 capital plan. She promises the same for making up the \$33 billion shortfall in the proposed plan. This leaves the MTA with a record \$48 billion shortfall in funding!

The plan will be dead on arrival.

Allocation of funding for advancing toward a state of good repair in all capital asset categories should be a higher priority than any system expansion proj-

ects. Funding for the \$7.7 billion Second Avenue Subway Phase 2 and the \$5.5 billion Brooklyn/Queens Interboro Express Light Rail Connector would be better spent on repair projects. Metro North Railroad's \$3.1 billion Bronx East Penn Station Access project should be put on hold. Forget about the \$7.5 billion Second Avenue Subway Phase 3, the 125th Street Crosstown Extension, as well.

Don't be surprised in 2025 when both the governor and the Legislature reduce the proposed \$68 billion plan by billions. I predict it will end up somewhere in the \$50s billion range, to deal with more realistic future funding availability.

LARRY PENNER
Great Neck

Larry Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously served as a director of the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office of Operations and Program Management.

Election Letters to the Editor policy

In the interest of fairness and transparency during the election season, we will not publish letters in the Oct. 31-Nov. 6 issue, the final one before Election Day, that criticize a candidate or a specific issue. This is to ensure that no last-minute submissions are published without sufficient opportunity for rebuttal. Readers are encouraged to send letters to execeditor@liherald.com.

FRAMEWORK by Harriet Katz



On a trip to Ohio, visiting the Cleveland Botanical Garden.



Q1 - Q3, 2024 Real Estate Market Review

North Shore SD #1



100
Closed



\$1,382,105
Average
Sales Price



\$1,070,000
Median
Sales Price



34
Median Days
on Market



61
Rented



\$3,000
Median
Rent

Glen Cove SD #5



88
Closed



\$964,206
Average
Sales Price



\$746,500
Median
Sales Price



35
Median Days
on Market



125
Rented



\$3,200
Median
Rent

Locust Valley SD #3



90
Closed



\$2,044,663
Average
Sales Price



\$1,317,500
Median
Sales Price



47
Median Days
on Market



59
Rented



\$4,100
Median
Rent

Oyster Bay/East Norwich SD #6



77
Closed



\$1,784,818
Average
Sales Price



\$1,200,000
Median
Sales Price



47
Median Days
on Market



50
Rented



\$3,400
Median
Rent

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