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Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Veterans honored at Northwinds concert

Karen Murphy sang a rendition of 'All the Things You Are' during the Northwinds Symphonic Band concert on Nov. 17.

Council OKs surcharge for water system

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

At its meeting on Nov. 12, the Glen Cove City Council approved a controversial water surcharge to help fund extensive water infrastructure improvements. The measure passed narrowly, by a 4-3 vote.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, who supported the surcharge, along with council members Grady Farnan, Michael Ktistakis and Kevin Maccarone, defended the decision, emphasizing the urgent need for water infrastructure improvements. "Nobody likes to make surcharges," Panzenbeck said. "But I'm sitting here. I'm the mayor. It's my responsibility to make sure this is done."

The surcharge will add \$5 per month, or \$60 annually, to residential water accounts. Commercial accounts will be charged on a tiered scale based on water usage, ranging from \$10 to \$40 per month, while fire

line accounts will pay a flat \$10 monthly fee. The measure is expected to generate approximately \$544,000 annually, contributing to a \$40 million long-term infrastructure repair plan.

The funds will help address critical projects, including the installation of a permanent air stripper on Duck Pond Road to combat water contamination, upgrades to the McLoughlin and Leech Circle water tanks, and PFAS treatment at the Nancy Court Well Station to meet new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. These upgrades are part

of a broader effort to modernize Glen Cove's water infrastructure, which Panzenbeck described as "very, very old."

Despite the mayor's assurances, council members Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, Marsha Silverman and John Zozzaro voiced concerns. Silverman questioned the timing of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Hope for new Village Theatre is new energy in downtown G.C.

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Glen Cove's downtown is poised for a cultural renaissance with the opening of the North Shore Village Theatre, at 19 Glen St. The long-vacant former Charles Hardware store will soon be transformed into a 150-seat community theater under the direction of Christopher Moll, artistic director of NSVT and Jazz Hands Children's Theatre. Construction is slated to begin early next year, with the first production, "Steel Magnolias," set to premiere on April 4.

The theater is more than just a performance space; it is a vision realized for Moll, who founded Jazz Hands in 2015 with 12 children. Over the

years, the program has grown to include more than 160 participants.

"When I started Jazz Hands, I dreamed of it having a theater to call home," Moll said during a news conference on Tuesday. "With 10 years of unwavering support from our Jazz Hands families, the community, and the hard work of North Shore Village Theatre's board of directors, that dream is now a reality."

The new venue will host productions by both Jazz Hands and NSVT, as well as performances by other theater companies, educational workshops and cultural events.

"The 'community theater' is a very important phrase to me because it's not just going to be us,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Program could help cover cost of utilities

November 21, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By JORDAN VALLONE

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New York state officials announced that funding is available to help low- and middle-income households and older adults manage heating expenses during the winter months through the Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP. The program, which can provide up to \$996 to eligible households, is now accepting applications, according to a news release on the state's website.

"New Yorkers should not have to choose between heating their home or putting food on the table, and we're offering critical financial assistance to protect vulnerable New York households as the weather gets colder," Gov. Kathy Hochul said.

HEAP, a federally funded program, is available to households with vulnerable members, including children under 6, adults aged 60 and older, and those with disabilities. Eligibility is determined by factors such as income, household size, and heating needs. For example, a family of four with a gross monthly income of \$6,390, or an annual income of \$76,681, may qualify — marking a significant increase from last year's maximum of a monthly gross income of \$5,838, and an annual gross income of \$70,059.

Eligible households can receive one HEAP benefit per season and could also be eligible for up to two Emergency HEAP benefits, if they are in danger of running out of heating fuel or having their utility service shut off. Applications for HEAP benefits are now being accepted, while applications for Emergency HEAP benefits open Jan. 2, 2025.

New Yorkers can apply at NY.gov/Heat, at local social service offices, or through the mail. Older adults



Courtesy Office Gov. Kathy Hochul

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a funding program available to help low- and middle-income households and elders manage heating expenses during the winter.

needing assistance can contact a local aging office or call (800) 342-9871.

"HEAP provides essential financial assistance that will help hundreds of thousands of low and moderate-income households in New York pay their energy bills this winter," Barbara Guinn, commissioner of the state's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, said. "HEAP is a lifeline for low-income working families and older adults on a fixed income and also pro-

vides financial support to ensure those in emergency situations can keep the heat on and keep their homes warm during the cold winter months."

Last year, over 84,000 Long Islanders, and just under 990,000 New York City residents, benefited from the HEAP program.

HEAP also offers heating equipment repair or replacement benefits, allowing up to \$4,000 for repairs and \$8,000 for replacements. Homeowners may also apply for a heating equipment clean and tune benefit, covering maintenance services like chimney cleaning and carbon monoxide detector installation.

The energy assistance program for heating complements other state programs designed to help low- and middle-income New Yorkers, such as the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's EmPower+ program, which provides low energy efficiency services to HEAP-eligible homeowners and renters, such as comprehensive home energy assessments that help determine plans for lower home energy usage.

Laurie Wheelock, the executive director of the Public Utility Law Project of New York, a nonprofit organization that advocates for consumer protection, affordability and universal services for utility and energy related-sources, urged low- to middle-income New Yorkers to learn more about HEAP.

"No family should have to make the financially difficult decision between paying their heating bill or going without other necessities, like food and medicine," she said in a state release. "HEAP can help by offering immediate financial relief to help you pay your heating bill."

To learn more about the program, and for links to apply, visit Governor.NY.gov/news.

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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Representatives from AARP conducted a walking audit of Glen Cove's downtown with members of the Glen Cove Age-Friendly Center.

Walk audit highlights pedestrian safety

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Downtown Glen Cove's sidewalks, crosswalks, and intersections were in the spotlight during a walkability audit conducted on Tuesday. Organized by AARP New York in collaboration with the Glen Cove Age-Friendly Center, the audit aimed to identify areas in need of safety improvements to make the city more pedestrian-friendly for people of all ages, particularly seniors and those with disabilities.

The audit, part of a statewide effort to complete 100 walk audits by Nov. 22, was one of several taking place across Long Island. Volunteers assessed sidewalks, crosswalks, curb ramps, and traffic signals, with particular focus on intersections like Brewster, Bridge, and Pratt Streets. These locations have a history of pedestrian and bicycle accidents, raising concerns about safety. The effort comes at a critical time, as the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee reported 66 pedestrian fatalities and more than 1,150 injuries in Nassau and Suffolk counties in 2023.

"A walkable community is a livable community," said Bernard Macias, Senior Associate State Director for AARP on Long Island. "It doesn't matter if you're 8 or 80, everyone deserves to walk safely in their community. Many roadways on Long Island are designed for drivers, not pedestrians, and that needs to change."

City officials and community leaders joined AARP volunteers for the audit, highlighting both progress and areas for improvement. Anne Fangman, Executive Director of the Glen Cove Community Development Agency, pointed out significant upgrades already made at key intersections, improved crosswalks, and better sidewalks at Bridge Street.



AJ Kuhr, Director of the Nassau County Age-Friendly Center of Excellence at Glen Cove, documented a cracked sidewalk on Glen Street during the audit.

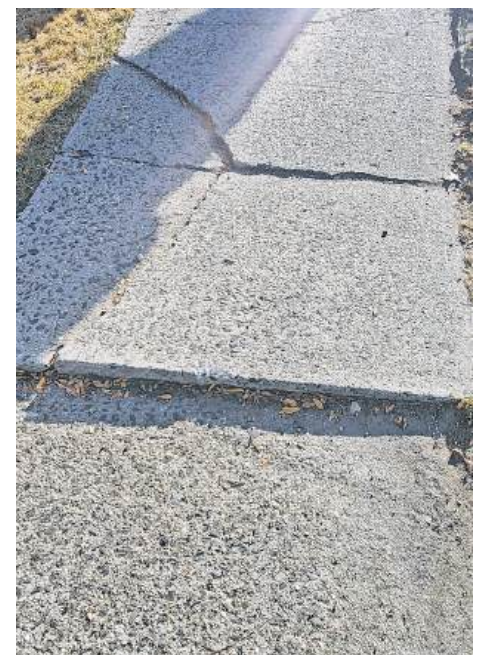
These projects, she explained, were funded through a mix of local, state, and federal grants, including a Department of Transportation grant.

"This whole corridor, from Village Square down to Town Path, has been studied for conceptual improvements," Fangman said. "We've made strides in the downtown area under the city's jurisdiction, but there's still work to do with state and county-managed streets. It's an ongoing process."

AJ Kuhr, Director of the Nassau County Age-Friendly Center of Excellence at Glen Cove, praised the city's

commitment to improving pedestrian conditions but acknowledged areas that require attention. "Glen Cove has done so much to enhance outdoor spaces like Garvies Point," Kuhr said. "But if you're trying to get from downtown to these areas, it can be a challenge. Sidewalks should be safe and accessible for everyone, whether you're walking, using a stroller, or pushing a wheelchair."

Kuhr added that small changes can have a big impact. "There are crosswalks that need repainting and cracked sidewalks that could easily be addressed



Another uneven sidewalk was spotted in downtown Glen Cove.

with low-cost fixes. It's great to see the city leadership so engaged in this process, showing their commitment to making Glen Cove more walkable."

The audit findings will help guide future improvements and funding efforts. Residents are encouraged to report safety concerns to the Glen Cove Age-Friendly Center, which will document and forward them to city officials and AARP.

"A cracked sidewalk or a poorly marked crosswalk may seem like minor issues," Macias said, "but they can make a world of difference for someone navigating their community. This is about ensuring everyone, at every age, can enjoy Glen Cove safely."

For more information or to participate in future walk audits, visit aarp.org/ny.

Will a water service surcharge help the city?

November 21, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

measure, noting that the city recently received a \$5 million state grant to fund PFAS treatment upgrades — an effort to reduce so-called “forever chemicals” — at Nancy Court.

“We got new information late last week. The governor’s office granted us \$5 million for our water infrastructure,” Silverman said, suggesting that the grant funds could alleviate some of the immediate financial pressure on taxpayers.

She also cited the recent approval of a 2 percent residential tax increase and the implementation of the opt-out sewer lateral program, which many residents did not opt out of as reasons to delay the surcharge.

“I’m just wondering if this is the right time to do this,” Silverman said. “After a tax increase and the sewer lateral program that went on taxpayers’ bills, I would hate to see another burden on our taxpayers.”

Fugazy Scagliola echoed these concerns, suggesting that the surcharge should be based on water usage rather than a flat rate for residential customers. “At a flat rate, every resident pays the same increase, which might be unfair to homes that use less water,” she said. “I want to see us do something, but I feel like maybe we should look at this a little bit more carefully.”

Panzenbeck pushed back against claims that the surcharge would overly burden residents, emphasizing its modest impact. “The surcharge will be \$5 monthly,” she said. “For you to insinuate that I’m adding burden to taxpayers — I’m really not.”

Maccarone also downplayed the financial impact, noting that his own quarterly water bill would only increase by \$15 under the plan. “It really isn’t going to affect most people,” he said, adding that the city had kept residential taxes stable for four years until the recent tax hike.



Roksana Amid/Herald

At its Nov. 12 meeting, the Glen Cove City Council approved a controversial surcharge to help fund extensive water infrastructure improvements.

The mayor also pointed out that the surcharge had been thoroughly discussed in previous meetings, and was necessary to ensure that Glen Cove’s water systems remain functional and safe. “We have been speak-

ing about issues with water more than any other issue that we have had,” Panzenbeck said. “Our infrastructure is ancient.”

The \$5 million state grant, secured through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, will be used to offset the cost of the work at Nancy Court. But Panzenbeck stressed that the funding only covers a fraction of the city’s total infrastructure needs. “The grant money will be used in segments,” she explained, adding that borrowing will still be required to finance most of the projects.

The surcharge will remain in place until all related debt is paid off, or the council determines that it is no longer necessary. Over the next five to 10 years, the city plans to address a range of infrastructure issues, including contamination and aging water storage systems.

The surcharge debate comes on the heels of the council’s approval of a \$65.4 million budget for 2025, which included a residential tax increase of nearly 2 percent — the first in three years. While council members agree on the importance of investing in the city’s water infrastructure, the divide over how and when to implement funding measures reflects broader concerns about balancing fiscal responsibility with residents’ financial well-being.

“We definitely need money for water, and that’s very important,” Fugazy Scagliola said. “But I feel like maybe we should look at this a little bit more carefully.”

Despite the opposition, Panzenbeck remained firm, emphasizing the necessity of the surcharge to protect Glen Cove’s most essential resource. “This isn’t something that we choose to do or that we like to do,” she said, “but water is our most important commodity, and we need to get this right.”

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Myths About Estate Planning

The first myth to explore about estate planning is that you can do it yourself over the internet. This supposes that a trust is a generic legal document where you plug in names, addresses and amounts you want to give and then off you go! However, experienced estate planning lawyers will tell you the job is ninety percent social work and only ten percent legal.

Most of the time we spend with clients involves going over the social aspects of the estate plan. First, who should be in charge of your legal and financial decision-making in the event of death or disability? One person or more than one? Should they be required to act together or may they be permitted to act separately? How are the other family members going to feel about these choices? Who gets along with whom? What are my options and what do other people do and why? You need to be in a position to evaluate pros and cons and there’s no counselling on the internet.

Getting an estate plan from out-of-state is fraught with other pitfalls. Take the New York form of power of attorney, for example. In our experience, even trained lawyers often make

major errors in drafting and executing the complex New York form of power of attorney. What chance does a lay person have to get it right?

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Woman's Club seeks new members

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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For nearly a century, the Woman's Club of Glen Cove has been a vital part of the community, fostering connections and promoting charitable activities. Founded in 1936 and reorganized in 1938, the club has grown to become a place where women come together to make a difference. With 72 active members today, the organization remains focused on its mission to enrich the lives of Glen Cove residents through philanthropy and social engagement.

"We're a club that's evolved over generations," says Stella Shank, the club's corresponding secretary. "Our youngest member is in her 40s, and our oldest is in her 90s. That diversity creates a unique environment where we can learn from each other and support causes that matter to everyone."

The club's efforts have benefited countless local organizations. Recently, they donated \$1,000 in Stop & Shop gift cards to Glen Cove senior citizens and \$250 in holiday gift cards to the Glen Cove Youth Bureau. Past initiatives have supported animal shelters, children with special needs, and veterans. According to Shank, "If someone presents a new idea for a charity, we're open-minded and willing to consider it. It's wonderful to see the impact we've

had across the community."

Patricia Sullivan, the club's co-treasurer, joined over a decade ago after moving to Glen Cove. "I wanted to meet women in the community, and from the very first meeting, I was impressed by the club's focus on fellowship and philanthropy," she recalls. "The pandemic changed a lot, but we've remained committed to helping our neighbors and supporting one another."

The pandemic changed a lot, but we've remained committed to helping our neighbors and supporting one another.

PATRICIA SULLIVAN
co-treasurer
Women's club

Monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at Jeanine's American Bistro, 242 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove. Members discuss initiatives, enjoy entertainment, and share a meal. "Our meetings are a mix of business and camaraderie," says Shank. "We celebrate milestones, plan events, and support members going through tough times. It's not just about the work—it's about being there for each other."

For Yvette Menezes, the club was a lifeline when she moved to the U.S. in 2005. "I didn't know anyone here," she says. "I stumbled upon a knitting group at the library, and the ladies there encouraged me to join. It was the best decision I ever made. The club welcomed me with open arms, and now, whenever I walk into a meeting, I know so many people. It's a great place to be."

The club also offers members opportunities to participate in cultural and



Roksana Amid/Herald

Members of the women's club meet on the third Tuesday of every month. The luncheon will happen at Jeanine's American Bistro in Glen Cove.

social outings, such as upcoming visits to the Nassau County Museum of Art and the John W. Engeman Theater in Northport. "These events bring us closer together," Menezes says. "They're not just fun; they help us form deeper connections while enjoying what the area has to offer."

Membership has declined since the pandemic, falling from 140 members to the current 72. According to Teresa Swenson, the club's membership chair, the decline was partly due to members becoming less active. "People got used to staying home," she explains. "Many of our members are in their 70s now and

feel content staying where they are. But we're optimistic about rebuilding and attracting younger members who want to give back while enjoying a vibrant social life."

The club's appeal lies in its balance of philanthropy, friendship, and fun. "If someone's looking to meet people, contribute to their community, and enjoy some great social activities, this is the club to join," Shank says. "We're always looking for new members who want to bring their ideas to the table."

For more information about the Woman's Club of Glen Cove, call (516) 676-7624 or email TSwenson@optonline.net.

NEWS BRIEF

Holiday book fair

The Glen Cove High School is bringing holiday cheer and literary joy to the community with its 2024 Book Fair, scheduled for Dec. 10, from 3 to 7 p.m. The event, held at the school at 150 Dosoris Lane, promises an exciting opportunity for all ages to dive into a wide selection of books, absolutely free of charge.

Organized with the support of the National English Honor Society, the book fair is designed to pro-

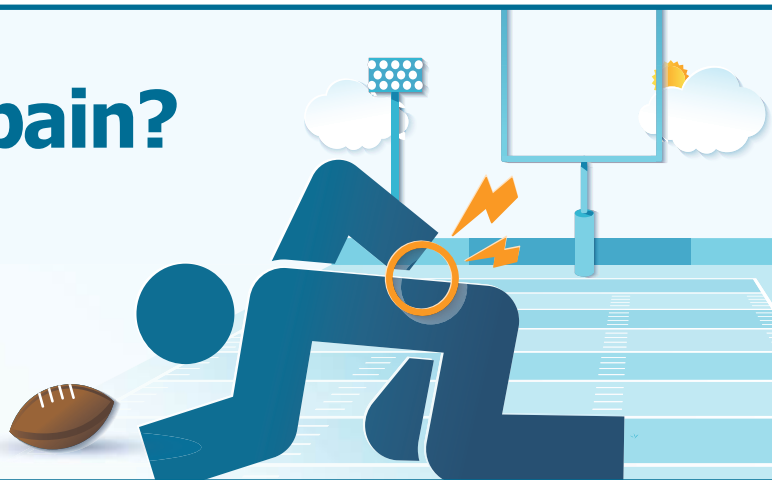
mote reading and literacy while spreading the holiday spirit. Visitors can select as many books as they'd like from an array of genres and interests, ensuring there's something for everyone.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, the event will offer free holiday gift wrapping, making it easy for attendees to pick out the perfect literary gifts for their loved ones. With the holiday season fast

approaching, this thoughtful touch is sure to be a hit among attendees looking to get a head start on their gift shopping.

This family-friendly event is open to the entire Glen Cove community, making it a must-visit for book lovers and holiday shoppers alike. Don't miss this opportunity to stock up on great reads and enjoy some holiday cheer.

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HERALD SPORTS

Glen Cove drops semifinal, finishes 8-2

By **TONY BELLISSIMO**

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Only Carey stands in the way of Mephram's first Nassau County football championship since the 1950s.

The third-seeded Pirates trailed No. 2 Glen Cove after the opening quarter of Friday night's Conference II semifinal before scoring on five consecutive possessions en route to a convincing 34-6 victory at Hofstra.

Senior quarterback Owen Heller threw three touchdown passes — two to senior Nicholas Gampero — and ran for a score as Mephram (9-1) advanced to the title game for the second time in three seasons. Senior Tyler Rannacher had two of the defense's four takeaways, junior James Quilty racked up 20 tackles and senior Matthew Biscardi 11 for the Pirates, who face top-seeded and unbeaten Carey next Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Hofstra.

"This was an awesome environment and a really big win against a good team," said Heller, who went 9-for-11 passing for 160 yards and added 52 yards on the ground. "We didn't start the way we wanted and need to come out stronger next

week," he added. "Everything started to click in the second quarter and we made big plays on both sides of the ball."

Glen Cove, making its first semifinal appearance since 2015, was coming off a 36-21 playoff victory over Baldwin and riding an eight-game winning streak dating back to a season-opening loss to Carey.

"We began the season as the sixth seed and finished as the two," Big Red head coach Steve Tripp said. "The kids felt after going 4-4 last season and making the playoffs, we could win a championship. Mephram is a good team and we stopped ourselves too many times tonight."

Glen Cove played the majority of the last three quarters without senior quarterback Jady Johnson, who suffered an ankle injury. Johnson had 22 of its 65 yards on a game-opening touchdown drive capped by senior running back Devon Gonzalez's 17-yard score.

Mephram trailed 6-0 in the second quarter and was on defense with the ball around midfield when senior Jake Classie forced a Glen Cove fumble and Rannacher recovered. Four plays later, Heller and Gampero connected for a 34-yard

touchdown to tie it.

Rannacher's interception set up the go-ahead score minutes later. Gampero did much of the work on a 42-yard touchdown through the air, accounting for the last 35 after a slick cutback move to split a pair of defensive backs.

"That's my guy," Heller said of Gampero. "When I get him the ball, good things are gonna happen. He made a sick move on that touchdown."

The Pirates capped a 20-point second quarter with 34 seconds remaining before halftime when junior Michael Grizzard made a nifty catch in the end zone on a 15-yard strike from Heller.

"He's the best quarterback nobody's heard of," Mephram head coach Tom Mazeika said of Heller. "Our defense has played lights-out all year, so not a lot of people notice our offense."

Heller (6 yards) and junior tailback Lenny Achan (4) added touchdown runs in the third quarter to pad the lead. Classie and senior Jayden Perez added interceptions and senior Tim Igneri had a pair of sacks. Gonzalez rushed for 146 yards and senior Taha Waly added 83 for the Big Red.



Jeff Wilson/Herald

Senior Devon Gonzalez ran for 146 yards and a touchdown in Glen Cove's Conference II semifinal playoff loss to Mephram.

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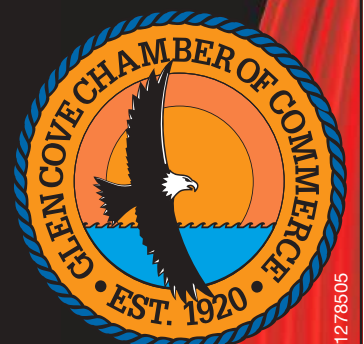
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Senior Expo makes its mark in Suffolk

By Alexa Anderwkavich

Herald Community Media and RichnerLIVE successfully wrapped up the final Senior Health & Beyond Expo of 2024, presented by Stony Brook Medicine, on Nov. 3, at the Suffolk Y JCC in Commack. This free community event attracted hundreds of attendees, including seniors, families and caregivers eager to explore the latest in wellness, lifestyle enhancements and valuable health resources.

The bustling expo featured a vibrant lineup of educational vendors and interactive activities that kept spirits high throughout the day. From yoga and fitness demonstration sessions to tarot readings, the event catered to diverse interests, and even offered guests an opportunity to get a head start on holiday shopping.

"It was an incredible turnout," Amy Amato, Executive Director of Corporate Relations and Events at RichnerLIVE, said. "We are happy to bring our community-loved event to the Suffolk area, and hope to continue to bring a wealth of knowledge and fun to our senior communities Island-wide."

One of the highlights of the day was a dynamic live performance by the Seasoned Steppers and Dazzling Divas of Ms. Senior New York America. Their energetic routines brought smiles to the crowd, adding an extra layer of excitement to the event. And a performance of a number from "The Nutcracker," by the New York Dance Company, brought a seasonal touch to the day.

Raffle drawings every half hour kept the anticipation alive, with lucky winners taking home a variety of prizes such as Floatopia gift cards, gift baskets, Natural Remedies goody bags and more, plus two grand prizes: a \$250 gift card and an overnight stay for two at the Inn at Fox Hollow, in Woodbury, which included dinner, champagne, roses, chocolates and a full breakfast. Friends and families engaged with experts during panel discussions and Q&A sessions on essential topics, including financial planning, alternative medicine and estate management, gaining valuable insights to improve their well-being.

"Yet another awesome event put on by RichnerLIVE," Host Mae Caimie, RN, CEO of VIP Health Connections and Founder of aMAEzing Midlife & Beyond, said. "From tons of vendors and interactive activities to the incredible showcase from Ms. Senior New York America's Seasoned Steppers and Dazzling Divas. I love that the audience got up and danced along with them. Truly put a smile on my face."

Attendees received complimentary swag bags brimming with goodies, and the first 175 guests were treated to a delicious to-go lunch provided by Bagel Boss. Seated fitness demos also kept audience members' blood pumping while the event's presenting sponsor, Stony Brook Medicine, provided health screenings, including blood pressure and cognitive screenings.

A special thank-you goes to Stony Brook Medicine and the other program sponsors — Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, Centerlight Healthcare PACE, Cona Elder Law, Clear Captions, NYSARC, Brightview Senior Living, Whisper Woods of Smithtown, the New York State Department of Public Service Long Island, Carillon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, The Stroke & Brain Aneurysm Center of Long Island, Branch Funeral Homes, Nassau University Medial Center, and Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk — for their crucial support. Ideal Home Care was the event's Refreshment Sponsor, while the Suffolk Y JCC provided a welcoming venue.

The 2024 Senior Health & Beyond Expo series concluded on a high note, leaving attendees with a wealth of knowledge, resources and unforgettable memories.



Participants listened to the guest speakers.



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Parker Jewish Public Relations Director Pablo Rendon.



Pierre Menard, of Centerlight Healthcare PACE, told guests about their services.



Members of AARP with their therapy dog, Bailey.



Opening keynote speaker Dr. Stephanie Jones, of Stony Brook Medicine Geriatrics.



Cona Elder Law attorney Melissa Negrin-Wiener.

North Merrick man indicted for terrorism

By **KELSIE RADZISKI**

kradziski@liherald.com

A North Merrick man was indicted for terrorism and a slew of other charges on Nov. 13 after allegedly plotting to attack the Nassau County Department of Social Services building in Uniondale, District Attorney Anne Donnelly announced.

James Luca, 46, allegedly attempted to detonate a homemade bomb he placed at the front doors of the building in a supposed “twisted revenge plot,” Donnelly said.

“It is the first time that this gravely serious offense has ever been charged in Nassau County,” Donnelly said at a news conference following the indictment.

In addition to terrorism, Luca was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, conspiracy and obstruction of governmental duties by means of a bomb destructive device, explosive or hazardous substance, the DA said. He faces up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted, according to the DA.

On Sept. 17 at 1:42 a.m., Luca and James Reyes, 25, allegedly left Luca’s home in North Merrick in separate cars, meeting up on Warren Street and allegedly driving to 60 Charles Lindbergh Blvd in Uniondale together. Donnelly

said Luca allegedly placed a 20-pound propane tank and a 1-pound propane tank at the doors of the building with a torch on top.

According to the news release, recovered surveillance video allegedly showed Luca attempting to throw lit flares at the homemade device, but it did not ignite.



JAMES LUCA

Luca and Reyes were arrested on Oct. 3. Reyes was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, conspiracy and obstruction of governmental duties by means of a bomb destructive device, explosive or hazardous substance.

According to the DA, Luca has been going through a lengthy divorce with his ex wife over the past several months. The pair have four

children between the ages of seven and 15.

In July of this year, Luca was arrested and charged with criminal mischief for an incident in February 2023.

“In a Halloween mask and camouflage, Luca allegedly crept up to his ex wife’s vehicle and placed something on a windshield,” Donnelly said at the news conference. “Moments later, that object exploded, significantly damaging her vehicle. He blew up his wife’s car with another homemade bomb.”

After his July arrest, the DA said,



Kelsie Radziski/Herald

Nassau County District Attorney Anne Donnelly held a news conference after Luca was indicted on a slew of charges, including the first charge of terrorism.

Luca’s supervised visitation rights with his children were revoked, and his behavior allegedly became more erratic. He posted “aggressive comments against Nassau County” on social media, Donnelly said, and he was reported to have written a number of emails expressing his displeasure with the way CPS has been handling his case, allegedly calling the organization “disgusting.”

“Ultimately we allege Luca, aggrieved and blaming CPS, for losing his kids, hatched this revenge plot to inflict exten-

sive damage on the agency that took his visitation rights away,” Donnelly said.

Donnelly said she has never seen a case like this — with planted bombs at government facilities — and the offense “rose to that level” of a domestic terrorism threat.

“Together with the Nassau County Police Department, we will protect the workers and residents of Nassau County from any threats,” she said in the news release, “whether they are foreign or born right here in our backyard.”

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Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Joseph Moores and Anthony Anzalone stood along side Vinnie Martinez as Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews presented him with a commemorative plaque for his years of community service. The plaque is a previous week's Herald cover story about Martinez community service. Conductors Helen P. Bauer and Brandon Bromsey led the Northwinds Band.

Northwinds Symphonic honors veterans

On Nov. 17, Glen Cove's Wunsch Arts Center came alive with the stirring sounds of the Northwinds Symphonic Band's annual "A Tribute to Our Veterans" concert, a heartfelt celebration honoring U.S. armed forces members. Sponsored by The Herald and the Tribute and Honor Foundation, the free event drew a large, appreciative audience from across Nassau County. Conductors Helen P. Bauer and Brandon Bromsey led the band through a dynamic program featuring patriotic classics like Thomas Knox's "American Pageant" and the "Armed Forces Medley", which saluted each military branch. Broadway vocalists Karen Murphy and John Preator added a nostalgic touch with Big Band-era hits, while trumpeter Justin Wheeler delivered a show-stopping tribute to Harry James. The 70-member band, made up of music educators and talented musicians, received enthusiastic applause for their performance, which balanced patriotic reverence with musical diversity.

—Roksana Amid



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

The clarinet section was led by Debra Peltz.



Justin Wheeler played the trumpet as a member of the Northwinds Symphonic Band.



Karen Murphy and John Preator wowed the crowd with their heartfelt renditions of "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off."



Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews sang a heartfelt rendition of "God Bless America."



Courtesy Glen Cove Senior Center

Gabrielle Whitehead, Marion Hahn and Barbara Savinetti always enjoy their time when they visit the Glen Cove Senior Center.

Thanksgiving at the Senior Center

The Glen Cove Senior Center will host its annual Thanksgiving celebration luncheon on Nov. 25, at noon. Members are invited to gather for a traditional turkey feast in the spirit of gratitude and community. This event offers an opportunity to connect with friends while enjoying a delicious meal prepared with care. Reservations are required and must be made at least 48 hours in advance by calling 516-676-6182. Space is limited, so early reservations are encouraged to ensure a spot at this festive occasion.

Coinciding with the luncheon is the launch of the SAGE Board's Annual Appeal, an important fundraising initiative that supports the diverse activities and programs offered at the Senior Center. The Annual Appeal invites community members to share in the spirit of giving by contributing to the continued success of the Center's efforts to enrich

the lives of seniors in Glen Cove. Share in the spirit of giving and gratitude by donating to the Sage Foundation Annual Appeal, 130 Glen Street, Glen Cove.

The Thanksgiving Celebration Luncheon and the Annual Appeal together embody the values of giving and gratitude, central to the holiday season. The Senior Center encourages members and the wider community to participate, whether by attending the luncheon, making a donation, or both. These contributions ensure that the Center can continue to provide meaningful programs, events, and services to its members throughout the year.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, while also giving back to support a vital resource in the community.

—Roksana Amid

Drama inspired by Anne Frank's diary

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County will present Songs from The Diary, a moving new musical inspired by the life and legacy of Anne Frank, on Sunday, December 1, 2024. This poignant performance, featuring a selection of songs from the acclaimed musical, brings Anne's timeless wisdom to life, offering a powerful reflection on the struggles of Anne and her family as they lived in hiding during World War II.

Songs from The Diary is based on Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl and captures the emotional depth of her writings through music. The show's music and book are by Jana, a former backup singer and keyboardist for the

Broadway hit Jersey Boys. The performance will highlight Anne's courageous spirit, the dedication of those who helped her family, and the universal message of hope and tolerance.

Two performances will be held on Sunday, December 1, at 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM at the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center, located at 100 Crescent Beach Road in Glen Cove. This special presentation promises to be an inspiring and moving tribute to one of history's most enduring voices.

For more information and tickets, visit hmtcli.org

—Roksana Amid

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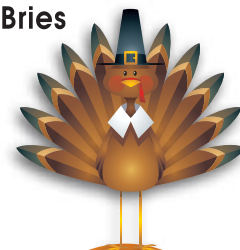
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New congestion pricing plan reduces tolls

By JUAN LASSO

jlasso@liherald.com

New York City's congestion pricing program is back, with a revised pricing plan, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced on Nov. 14. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority board gave a near-unanimous green light to the updated toll program this week. The decision effectively ends a roughly five-month pause the governor abruptly announced in June, just weeks ahead of congestion pricing's anticipated launch.

At the time, Hochul raised concerns about the financial burden the program would create on motorists.

"As I said from the start, a \$15 toll was just too high in this economic climate," she said last week. "By getting congestion pricing underway and fully supporting the MTA capital plan, we'll unclog our streets, reduce pollution, and deliver public transit for millions of New Yorkers."

How much will drivers pay?

Originally, regular passenger vehicles traveling south of 60th Street in Manhattan were to be charged \$15 on top of the tolls already paid. That toll has now been reduced to a \$9 charge, a 40 percent drop. The scale-back will save regular Manhattan commuters \$1,500 per year while, overall, the program will generate an estimated \$15 billion in revenue for the transit agency.



Herald file photo

Gov. Kathy Hochul's revised congestion pricing plan lowers tolls for drivers but increases the pressure on the MTA to meet its funding goals.

While the rollout is set for January, the plan's opponents, including the state of New Jersey and President-elect Donald Trump, are looking to block its implementation in the courts. Experts note that shelving the tolling program altogether would have left the MTA's financial future in doubt. Because of the

pause, the agency was already facing a gaping \$500 million funding hole.

But some observers are scratching their heads over what they describe as the governor's questionable calculus — promising to deliver all of the original estimated revenue despite charging only 60 percent of the original toll.

"How does the MTA end up with \$15 billion with a \$9 base toll?" transportation advocate Larry Penner said. "It previously required a \$15 base toll to do the same. Who did the math?"

Long Island grumbles over toll program

Time and time again, transit leaders and supporters have said the tolling program will steer transportation off city streets and onto public transit, making the streets more navigable for emergency vehicles, reduce emissions, and put the largest transit system in the country on firmer financial footing.

"New Yorkers deserve cleaner air, safer streets and ambulances that can get to them without gridlock, and the governor is stepping up for them and for riders who need trains and buses to get them where they have to go..." MTA chairman and CEO Janno Lieber said.

Nevertheless, the program remains deeply unpopular with many on Long Island. Local leaders fear that a plan designed to ease congestion in Manhattan streets could create more of it in Long Island Rail Road station parking lots. Critics also say that forking over an extra charge for doing business in the city will hurt the bottom line of Long Island trucking companies and trades workers. Large trucks and sightseeing buses are expected to pay an extra toll of roughly \$22. Small trucks and non-commuter buses will be charged \$14.40.

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SCAN ME

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The Nutcracker opens up the holiday season

By KEPHERD DANIEL

kdaniel@iherald.com

For 35 years, Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead has ushered in the holiday season with its production of *The Nutcracker*. This year is no exception, as the all-girls Catholic high school prepares to enchant audiences with a unique, student-led rendition of the classic ballet. With the school celebrating its 75th anniversary, the performance is a testament to tradition, talent, and teamwork.

Sacred Heart Academy's *Nutcracker* stands apart from other productions on Long Island. The students direct every aspect of the show, from choreography to stage management. Rockville Centre resident Annie Melia, a 2008 alumna and director of the production for the past two years, takes pride in this distinctive approach.

Melia's connection to *The Nutcracker* runs deep. She first performed in the production as an eight-year-old and returned to Sacred Heart as director when the school needed someone to take the reins. While she has many responsibilities including volunteering her time at the Long Beach Humane Society in Island Park, she loves being a part of the tradition.

"It's become such a staple in the community each year," Melia said. "We had one teacher who took it on because she didn't want to see it die and it's the same thing with me. I wear many hats and this isn't my full-time job. I had some time last year and it can't happen if we don't have someone here to run it and we can't let it die. Of course, I've gotten attached to the girls and so each year I come back to do it."

The show's rich history extends beyond the high schooler students performing this year. Younger



Courtesy Annie Melia

The 35th annual performance of Sacred Heart Academy's *The Nutcracker* will take center stage this weekend. This student-led production features intricate choreography, dazzling costumes, and holiday spirit.

dancers from Tap to Pointe Dance Center in Malverne, where Melia herself trained as a child, join the cast to play angels, which they have done for 30 years. One of the earliest productions of *The Nutcracker* on Long Island, Sacred Heart's version traditionally debuts the weekend before Thanksgiving.

"We have so many people who've come each year because they love for it to be the way that they kick off the holiday season, especially with their kids," Melia said. "We see alumni and parents returning year after year. The Sunday show is always sold out because everyone loves to bring their little ones."

Each year, four students are selected to lead the production: two co-presidents, who play the iconic Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen, and two vice presidents, who portray Clara and *The Nutcracker*.

Preparation for *The Nutcracker* begins in early September, as students juggle daily rehearsals with their academic responsibilities. The dedication is evident in every detail, from the costumes to the transitions between scenes. Parents even provide meals during long evening rehearsals.

"It's great to see how they build the production," Melia said of the students. "Although it's the same music every year, they put their spin on it. We change the costumes a little bit every year. They have different roles every year and it's exciting to see them reimagining everything each year."

The annual production of *The Nutcracker Ballet* takes place at Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead on Nov. 22 and 23 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at sacredheartacademyli.org.



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VIEWFINDER ▶ How To Make A Turkey

By Danielle Schwab & Tim Baker

James Brucia, age 5,
North Massapequa

You bake it in the oven. My mom and dad go to the store and look for one with meat and bones – bigger than me! Then they bake it for one second.



Madison Sinclair, age 5,
Oceanside

My mommy takes everything she needs to make a turkey like lettuce, mashed avocados, tomatoes, and carrots. You cut a hole at the top and stuff it in. We have to cut it and it will bleed like yuck!



Evangeline Lynch, age 6,
Malverne

You get the turkey from the store and the store gets it from the farm. You cut it up and throw it on the stove for one hour. My dad cuts the turkey into small pieces.



Peter Ferrante, age 6,
Valley Stream

The turkey comes from the wild. You put six butters in the turkey and then a lemon to make it juicy and onions. My mom and nana put the turkey on the stove. We eat it with potatoes and marshmallows.



Luna Cappadora, age 5,
Baldwin

I would go the store and I would make a list to know what ingredients I would need. But I don't know so I would ask my mom. Then we put it somewhere, but I don't know where. Then it gets cooked and it gets hard. My dad eats the most turkey!



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STEPPING OUT



Courtesy UBS Arena/Dennis DaSilva



Courtesy Great American Family

Screen a movie at the festival with the film's stars. "Home Sweet Christmas" kicks off the film schedule with Cameron Mathison and Candace Cameron Bure.

Unwrap some holiday cheer and immerse yourself in the wonders of the season at UBS Arena's festive extravaganza.

A very merry celebration at UBS Arena

Explore Christmas magic with festive films and seasonal wonders at the first Great American Family Christmas Festival

By Danielle Schwab

Tis the season: so let's get jolly! UBS Arena's Northwell Park is just the place to do so — with a visit to the inaugural Great American Family Christmas Festival, now through Jan. 5.

Great American Media is partnering with UBS Arena and the New York Islanders to bring Christmas joy to new heights at what is one of the largest experiential holiday festivals in the country, according to the creative team.

It involves holiday movie world premieres, traditional Christmas tree lightings nightly, TikTok-worthy holiday experiences throughout — an immersive experience for the entire family. Also meet the stars of Great American Christmas movies, weekends, along with film screenings, Q&As, panels, and scheduled photo ops.

"Over the past decade, my team and I have envisioned a Christmas festival that will attract people and offer fans a chance to meet the stars of our movies and immerse themselves in a one-of-a-kind festive experience," Great American Media President-CEO Bill Abbott says.

With almost 100 Christmas movies produced, Great American's Christmas franchise has warmed the hearts of audiences since its start in 2021.

"Our Christmas movies are all about an experience," Abbott notes.

The 'experience' has now evolved from the screen to a fully immersive event.

"You think about what you do as a family between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and there really isn't a lot to do. So we wanted to create that experience — when you walk in, you smell, see and feel Christmas," he explains. "It's a dream come true on so many levels."

Visitors will find an ideal winter wonderland filled with five whimsical villages to explore, each offering numerous activities for all ages.

Start your journey by walking through Candy Cane Lane's red and white arches, where you can snap some stylish "eflies" (Christmas selfies!) to add to the family Christmas album.

Next, you might want to head over to Santa's Craft Village, where you can create personalized decorations — wreaths, holly and ornaments — to 'deck the halls.' Or even craft a do-it-yourself gift for someone special.

If you're in the mood to skate, you don't have to be on the Islanders to enjoy the rink at Frosty's Frozen Skate. And when you need a break after gliding on the sparkling ice, cozy up at one of the fire pits nearby to chase away the chill.

The holidays always involve food, of course, and you'll find all sorts of treats at the Eat, Drink, and Be Merry Village. Indulge in such classics as hot chocolate, giant candy canes, and gooey s'mores with peppermint twists. The village also offers private rentals of VIP igloos and firepits, by the way, creating an inviting atmosphere for corporate entertaining and socializing.

Much like Rudolph's red nose, Rudolph's Main Stage is a bright beacon, where the festival "community" gathers. Sing along to Christmas carols at "Carol-oke" or cheer on participants in the Ugly Sweater Contest. To add even more merriment to your day, screenings of 18 new Christmas films will be featured along with in-person meet-and-greets with many of the stars.

Among the movies, don't miss "Home Sweet Christmas," premiering on Nov. 23. It follows childhood friends — Sam and Sophie — who are brought back together by the unexpected shared ownership of a charming tree farm.

"This is a beautiful, sweet story. It's about long-lost love that's reconnected. It's about second



- Now through Jan. 5
- Tickets start at \$15, with varied ticket packages available
- Go to greatamericanfamilychristmasfestival.com to purchase tickets and for more information
- Northwell Park at UBS Arena, 2400 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont

chances at life, and it's about the magic and mystery of Christmas," says Cameron Mathison, who stars as Sam.

His co-star, Candace Cameron Bure is no stranger to Christmas film magic either.

"It's such a beautiful genre that I have been lucky enough to be a part of since it really took off," Bure says. "People come to love these

Christmas movies, and they tune in year after year. There's something so comforting about them, and it's a time you can gather with your family and just be together."

Guests can join the festivities with Bure and Mathison during opening weekend. Other star appearances include husband-and-wife duo Mario and Courtney Lopez. Be sure to check the website for a complete list of all special guests and their scheduled appearance.

And, naturally, the holiday celebration wouldn't be complete without a bright and beautiful Christmas tree lighting ceremony, when Candace Cameron Bure will help usher in the festive season at the first lighting.

"For us, being involved in a project like this, and having the opportunity to put on something with partners who care so deeply is just fantastic," Abbott says enthusiastically.

"And in New York. There's no place like Christmas in New York."

Whether you are going to take in the movies, meet the stars, or enjoy some family activities, the festival invites everyone to live their own Christmas story.

"What I'm most excited about is the essence of it. You're almost in your own little version of a Great American Christmas movie," Mathison adds. "You're engulfed in Christmas."

And who knows? While there, perhaps you'll find your very own Christmas miracle.



Songbird

Experience the sensational voice of Karine Hannah as she brings "Songbird: The Singular Tribute to Barbra Streisand" to life. Her musical palette and vocal capabilities are wide and varied, but her passion for singing and performing Streisand's music has been her signature and staple since childhood. Accompanied by her band Water Colors she delivers Streisand's hits with emotional depth and authenticity. From her humorous and bawdy on-stage banter to her breathtaking renditions of timeless classics, Hannah's tribute is more than just a concert; it's a heartfelt celebration of Streisand's enduring legacy. As Karine reimagines Streisand's beloved songs, you'll be transported through decades of unforgettable music, filled with the passion and artistry that have made Streisand a living legend.

Saturday, Nov. 23, 8 p.m. \$54. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville. Tickets available at tillescenter.org or (516) 299-3100.



The Weight Band

The Weight Band — helmed by Jim Weider, a 15-year former member of The Band, who replaced Robbie Robertson — pays tribute to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame ensemble's timeless and enduring 1968 album "Music from Big Pink," on the Paramount stage. Named for the classic The Band song "The Weight," The Weight showcases the album in its entirety, along with outtakes and other favorites by The Band. The concert also include cuts from their latest album "Shines Like Gold," a dynamic set of classic Americana that draws upon roadhouse rock, funky swamp pop, blues, country soul, and folk music. Drummer Levon Helm urged Weider to launch The Weight Band in 2013, as a vehicle for carrying on The Band's musical legacy.

Sunday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m. \$45, \$35, \$30, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.

THE SCENE

Nov. 29

Dark Star Orchestra

The Grateful Dead have been resurrected in the form of Dark

Star Orchestra. The band brings its Fall tour to the Paramount stage, Friday and Saturday, **Nov. 29-30**, t 8 p.m. Formed in 1997, this tribute band came up with the novel idea of recreating complete sets from The Grateful Dead's gigantic list of concerts. They adapt their playing and sound depending on what era of Dead they're tackling on the night, and while they slavishly recreate the sound of the band down to the minutest detail, they also embark on epic improvisations that would make their heroes proud. Performing to critical acclaim for over 3,100 shows, DSO continues the Grateful Dead live concert experience. Their shows are built off the Dead's extensive catalog and the talent of these seven fine musicians.

On any given night, the band will perform a show based on a set list from the Dead's 30 years of extensive touring or use their catalog to program a unique set list for the show. This allows fans both young and old to share in the experience. By recreating set lists from the past, and by developing their own sets of Dead songs, DSO offers a continually evolving artistic outlet within this musical canon. Honoring both the band and the fans, Dark Star Orchestra's members seek out each era's unique style and sound while simultaneously offering their own informed improvisations. DSO offers much more than the sound of the Grateful Dead, they truly encapsulate the energy and the experience. It's about a sense of familiarity. It's about a feeling that grabs listeners and takes over. It's about that contagious energy — in short, it's about the complete experience and consistent quality that fans enjoy. \$99.50, \$69.50, \$39.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [paramountny.com](https://www.paramountny.com).



Let's Talk Turkey

Long Island Children's Museum is gearing up for Thanksgiving, Sunday, **Nov. 24**, 1-4 p.m. As Thanksgiving is approaching, get ready by creating a colorful turkey, at the drop-in program. Take your terrific turkey home to adorn your Thanksgiving table. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. Visit [LICM.org](https://www.LICM.org) or call (516) 224-5800 for more information.

Turkey Trot

The Glen Cove Education Foundation hosts its annual 5K Turkey Trot fundraiser on Thanksgiving, Thursday, **Nov. 28**, at Glen Cove High School. Get your exercise before your Thanksgiving feast. Race day registration is 8:30 a.m., 5K starts at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Register at events.elitefeats.com/24glen Cove. Check out theglen Cove education foundation.com/ to learn more about the Glen Cove Education Foundation. For questions, email gcef@outlook.com or call (516) 801-8140.



Holiday Tales At The Hearth

Visit Sands Point Preserve's Hempstead House and join in the holiday cheer, Sunday, **Dec. 8**, 1-4 p.m. The family-friendly event includes activities for all ages. Meet and take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy jazz and holiday music with Port Jazz Project, along with seasonal crafts, Dreidel Corner, "nutty" holiday scavenger hunt, reading nook with holiday and winter stories, and puppet shows with Wonderspark Puppets at 2 and 3 p.m. 127 Middle Neck Road. Admission is \$40/car, members; \$45/car nonmembers, includes parking. For information, visit SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.

HOW rocks Bayville

Rock the night away with the How band, at the free concert presented by Bayville Village Arts Council, Saturday, **Nov. 23**. Enjoy rock 'n roll tunes, along with special guests, at the Bayville Arts Center. 88 Bayville Ave. For more information, visit ppecorino.com/BVAC-Events.html or call (516) 628-1439.



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Let's Skate

Get ready to enjoy all the thrills of the snowy season, while staying warm and cozy as Long Island Children's Museum's popular "Snowflake Sock Skating rink returns, through **Jan. 7**. Slip on "sock skates" and take a spin on the indoor rink, made from a high-tech synthetic polymer surface that lets kids slide around without blades.

Kids can stretch, twirl and glide. As visitors step off the "ice" they can jump into winter dramatic play in Snowflake Village. Become a baker in the holiday sweet shop, step inside a giant snowman and serve up some hot cocoa, take a turn in the rink "ticket booth" and "warm up" around a rink side "fire pit." Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.



Tea time

The festive season is underway at Old Westbury Gardens. Enjoy a cream tea (featuring scones, Devonshire cream, assorted sweets, and tea), then a guided tour of decorated Westbury House, Tuesday, **Dec. 3**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3 p.m.; Wednesday, **Dec. 4**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Thursday, **Dec. 5**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. \$22.50 per person. Advance registration suggested. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information contact (516) 333-0048 or visit OldWestburyGardens.org.



Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art. The drop-in program continues Saturday, **Nov. 23**, 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.

In concert



Plaza Theatricals' welcomes everyone to a "Motown Holiday Dance Party," Sunday, **Dec. 8**, 4 p.m. Celebrate the holidays in true Motown style. Enjoy a sensational afternoon of soulful tunes, joyful dancing, and nostalgic vibes at the electrifying concert. Get ready to

groove, spread the festive cheer and make unforgettable memories. See the show at 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$40, \$35 seniors. Elmont. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit PlazaTheatrical.com.

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.

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.

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Inviting new space for arts is in the works

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Moll said. "Any artist in the community who wants to use this space will be welcome."

The project is a collaborative effort among Glen Cove city officials, business leaders and the property owner, Bruce Waller, of GW Development, who agreed to a 10-year lease after months of negotiations. City Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, a downtown business owner, played a key role in bringing it to fruition. "Making great things happen takes time, but it's worth it," Fugazy Scagliola said. "Chris and Bruce both share a vision for a better downtown Glen Cove, and they made some significant compromises to make this a reality. I'm really excited to see a theater in our downtown. It's a perfect business for our community."

Ultimately, the theater aims to foster a sense of pride and connection in the community. "My hope is that one day, my kids will say, 'I want to live here. I love it here,'" Fugazy Scagliola said in a phone call. "That's what I want the kids here to feel — this is a great place to live and raise a family. That's really my mission."

Jill Nossa, executive director of the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District, highlighted the economic and cultural impact the theater will have on the city. "Having a venue for live theater will transform downtown," Nossa wrote in a release. "This will be a draw for people to come downtown and patronize our restaurants and shops. You can't buy live theater on Amazon."

The 9,000-square-foot storefront, which housed Charles Hardware for more than 60 years, will be completely reimaged, and the renovations will be completed in phases. Plans include removing drop ceilings and wood paneling to make way for a stage, a lobby and a bar. The theater will offer ample parking, and easy access to Glen Cove's restaurants and shops, creating



Courtesy Glen Cove BID

The long-vacant former Charles Hardware store will soon be transformed into a 150-seat community theater, under the direction of Christopher Moll.

what Moll describes as a "regional destination."

"I want people to come in, have dinner, see a show, and then maybe grab a glass of wine or a beer at a local spot afterward," Moll said. "It's about making downtown Glen Cove more of a destination and creating an atmosphere that benefits both the theater and the businesses around it."

The theater will be unique for the area, because the closest performing arts center is in Port Washington. Many residents say they are thrilled about the theater's potential.

"What Christopher does really well is invite kids to participate where their interests are," Carolyne Dilgard-Clark, whose children have participated in Jazz Hands, said. "One of my children is more into the tech-

nical aspect of production, and Christopher always had opportunities for him to work on lighting, sound and stage management. Now, having a physical space in Glen Cove means we can celebrate our young people and give them more opportunities to explore their interests."

The theater will also cater to underserved community members, with plans to offer free tickets to families through partnerships with local organizations like the Boys and Girls Club and the Youth Bureau.

"We live in a community that has an underserved population," Moll said. "I want to offer free tickets to families who might not have the resources to see a show. Maybe a child will say, 'I want to do that,' and we can bring them into Jazz Hands with a scholarship."

The NSVT is already generating excitement with its plans to feature diverse programming. It will host everything from local productions to performances by outside groups, Moll said, including Ballet Nepantla, a contemporary Mexican folkloric dance company, and a children's theater group that incorporates educational workshops.

"We're even planning to bring in a show that just closed Off-Broadway and was nominated for Drama Desk Awards," Moll said. "This theater will be a hub for all kinds of live performances."

The enthusiasm notwithstanding, the project still faces financial hurdles. Moll has launched a fundraising campaign to raise \$500,000 for the first phase of renovations. "Even if we have just chairs, a stage and four lights, we'll make it happen," he said. "But we do need the help of our community."

Donations can be made at nsvillagetheatre.com, and community support is encouraged to ensure that the theater becomes a thriving centerpiece for arts and culture in the region.



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Glen Cove Salutes hosts banner cleanup

Generations of the nation's veterans have planted roots in Glen Cove, contributing to the city's growth and vitality, from building Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 after World War I to supporting local organizations. The Glen Cove Salutes program, which honors local veterans, active-duty service members, and reservists, concluded its 2024 banner display at Morgan Memorial Park, with over 90 banners sold this

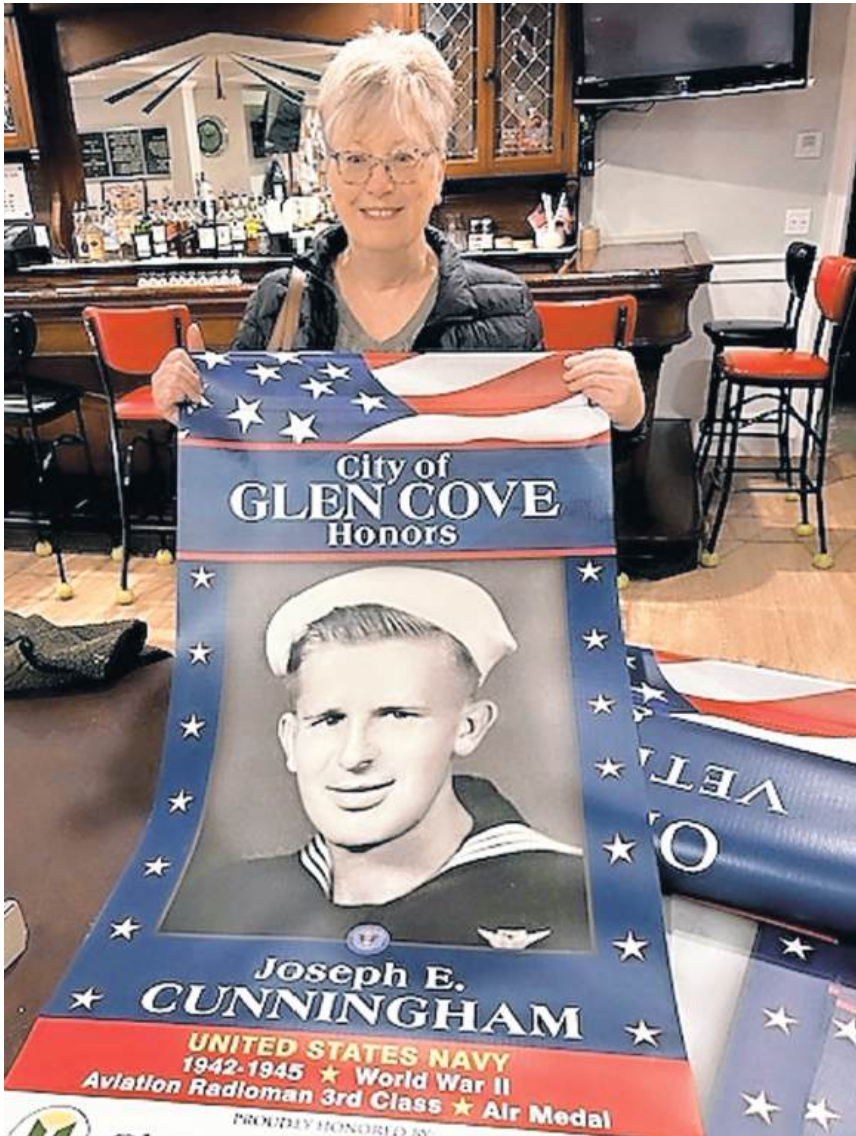
year. On Saturday, veterans, along with their friends and families, gathered at the VFW Post to clean and prepare the banners for pickup, using cleaning supplies generously donated by Sorenson Lumber. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for neighbors and friends to reconnect and express gratitude to those who have served their country.

—Roksana Amid



Courtesy GSM Communications

The Scarfo family, of Glen Cove, purchased banners in 2022 dedicated to their late brothers Joseph, John and Anthony Scarfo. The banners hung in Morgan Memorial Park.



Courtesy Lydia Wen

Debbie Cantor proudly displayed her veteran banner for Joseph Cunningham.



Karen Bartolotto carefully cleaned and rolled up the veteran banner dedicated to James E. Donahue.

Deputy Mayor Donna McNaughton carefully helped to roll up the banner for the Harlem Hellfighters, an African American regiment in World War I.



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

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OPINIONS

Trump makes the comeback of all comebacks

Donald Trump's overwhelming victory in the presidential contest marked the most astonishing comeback in American political history, and a dramatic realignment of political coalition forces.

Only one previous president, Grover Cleveland, in the 19th century, was re-elected after being defeated in a bid for a second consecutive term. And no president, of course, has been elected after being indicted in state and federal courts, found guilty of multiple felonies in one of those cases, and found liable in a



PETER KING

number of civil cases. Bottom line: There has never been a president like Donald Trump.

He has beaten the odds at every juncture since making his famous descent down the Trump Tower escalator in 2015. He was thought to have no chance to make it through the 2016 Republican presidential primaries, never mind win the nomination. And once he was the

nominee, the main topic of debate was how large his landslide defeat would be.

Then, after his entirely unexpected election in 2016, he had to overcome a baseless but debilitating Russia collusion investigation and two impeachment trials. His refusal to accept his 2020 defeat, and his irresponsible delay in denouncing the Jan. 6 criminal riot at the U.S. Capitol, were thought by friend and foe to have ended his political career.

Yet Trump re-emerged, a political Lazarus, and reclaimed by free and open balloting the highest office in the land and the most powerful position in the world. And it was a solid, overwhelming victory, considerably more impressive than his 2016 Electoral College win, in which he had razor-thin margins in key states, aided by votes siphoned from Hillary Clinton by third-party fringe candidates. In this year's election he had solid vote margins in all of the battleground states, and was the first Republican to win the popular vote since George W. Bush in 2004.

Here on Long Island, Trump won the popular vote in Nassau and Suffolk

counties. The last Republican presidential nominee to do that was George H.W. Bush in 1988.

While I have had differences with the president-elect, I strongly supported his candidacy this year, just as I supported so much of his agenda when I was in Congress during his first term. Despite the almost constant swirl of controversy around him for those four years, his significant accomplishments included making the United States energy-independent, crushing ISIS and its Islamist caliphate, keeping us out of foreign wars, preventing aggression by Russia and China, expand-

ing our economy, keeping inflation below 2 percent, making our southern border more secure than at any time in decades, and brokering the Abraham Accords with Israel and its Arab neighbors. The Biden-Harris record was the opposite in almost every regard, as reflected in its unfavorable ratings, mired in the high 50s.

Trump also tapped into the alienation felt by increasing numbers of Americans, who turned against progressive policies of open borders, cash-

less bail, anti-police bias, defunding the police, high inflation and increased gas and grocery prices. This caused traditional allies such as the Teamsters, hardhat construction unions and growing numbers of African-Americans and Hispanics to turn away from the Democratic leadership of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Donald Trump and I grew up in Queens at the same time. Though Sunnyside and Jamaica Estates were in very different social strata, Trump definitely has working-class attitudes, and speaks the language of neighborhood families and values. As he prepares for his second term as president, he is uniquely positioned to restructure American politics and society to focus on greater empowerment for people who work hard, strive to live in safe communities and have endless belief in America's exceptionalism. They believe that it isn't racist or biased to prevent illegal immigrants from crossing our borders or to stand with the police. They are and will be integral allies of the 47th president as he strives to make America even greater.

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

Beware of RFK Jr. in D.C.

President-elect Donald Trump issued a number of warnings during his successful campaign to return to the White House. He talked about exacting retribution against anyone who opposed him or had the temerity to alert the public about his positions. But the most



JERRY KREMER

significant statement that should have been given a warning label was Trump's pledge to give Robert F. Kennedy Jr. a significant role in the nation's health agencies. He is now Trump's nominee to head the Department of Health and Human Services.

As a general rule, winning candidates have every right to reward supporters with cabinet position, but the possibility of giving RFK Jr. the authority to tell Americans what vaccines you can give your children or the medications you can give your elderly parents was not on the ballot this year.

Respected scientists across the nation have been warning the public for years about the numerous conspira-

cy theories that RFK Jr. has spread that inflame public opinion. At the height of the coronavirus outbreak, then President Trump initiated Operation Warp Speed to make vaccines available for public use. At the same time, RFK Jr. was warning the public of the dangers of those vaccines.

An example of his anti-vaccine mistakes was the 2019 measles outbreak on the island of Samoa. In 2018, two children had died from a vaccine mixup, and RFK Jr. met with leading Samoan anti-vaxxers a few months before the outbreak, and they began to warn the public about the danger of taking any measles vaccinations. Following that meeting, the measles vaccination rate dropped from 60 percent to 31 percent.

Afraid to take the vaccine, island residents reported 83 deaths from measles, many of them young children. A year later, RFK Jr. labeled a leading Samoan anti-vaxxer a "medical freedom hero." In spite of that outbreak, which he denied being involved in, he has subsequently traveled around the United States insisting that vaccines are causing a "holocaust."

I have crossed paths with Kennedy

in the past. He was the chair of Riverkeeper, an environmental advocacy organization whose principal cause was its opposition to the Indian Point Energy Center, a nuclear-energy facility in Westchester County.

Although he is an environmental attorney, he is not a scientist. During the battle to shut the plant down, he made numerous unsupported scientific claims about the facility, which were challenged frequently by its owners.

Because Kennedy has spread so many conspiracy theories, it is hard to pick his most outlandish claims. In 2006, in a Rolling Stone interview, he said he was "convinced that fraud during the 2004 presidential election allowed President George W. Bush to steal victory from Democrat John Kerry." He asserted that Republicans had "mounted a massive, coordinated campaign to subvert the will of the people" and ensure Bush's re-election. He claimed that "350,000 voters in Ohio were prevented from casting their ballots," which turned out to be a glitch in the machines that was corrected.

Another of Kennedy's conspiracy theories was his past insistence on the

This promoter of conspiracies is the wrong choice for our health agencies.

innocence of his father's murderer. On Dec. 8, 2021, Kennedy published an op-ed in the San Francisco Chronicle that claimed that Sirhan Sirhan was innocent and should be released from prison. On subsequent occasions, Kennedy supported Sirhan's release from prison despite the unanimous opposition from the Kennedy family, including his mother, Ethel.

To give you an idea of what could occur if RFK Jr. is confirmed as secretary of HHS, it's important to understand the powers of that cabinet position. RFK Jr. would be in charge of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health.

It should be noted that Kennedy has never held any government position, and his main claim to fame is that he is a member of a family that has been nothing less than a political dynasty. Hopefully, Congress will recognize the dangers of giving him such a major role in Washington.

Jerry Kremer was an assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He now heads Empire Government Strategies, a business development and legislative strategy firm. Comments about this column? jkremer@liherald.com.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Shop local Nov. 30 – and every day

Small Business Saturday is Nov. 30. Created in 2010, this annual date is both a celebration and a promotion, dedicated to supporting mom-and-pop businesses and encouraging consumers to shop locally. There are few more significant dates on the calendar to show your support of local enterprises, because whether it's the central shopping area of one of Long Island's villages or the multitude of strip malls that dot the Nassau and Suffolk County landscapes, small businesses are the backbone of our communities.

They are more than just storefronts or online shops — they are deeply embedded in the fabric of our towns. They are owned and operated by neighbors, friends and families that have a vested interest in the well-being of their neighborhoods.

Yet despite the critical role they play in the local, regional and national economy, small businesses often struggle to compete against larger stores. As consumers, we must recognize their importance and actively support them to ensure not only their survival, but their success.

Small businesses are significant drivers of local economic activity, making up 99.9 percent of all U.S. businesses and accounting for nearly half of the country's workforce, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Approximately 50 percent of our country's gross domestic product is created by small businesses.

When you shop at a local boutique or dine at an independently owned restaurant, more of your money stays in the community. Studies show that roughly 67 cents of every dollar spent at a small business remains in the local economy, and every dollar spent at a small business creates an additional 50 cents of local economic activity. This "local multiplier effect" supports other businesses, schools, public services and infrastructure, creating a virtuous cycle of economic growth.

Small businesses also bring diversity and innovation to the marketplace. Unlike big-box stores, which often rely on standardized products and services, small businesses can adapt quickly to the unique needs and preferences of community members. They can experiment with new ideas, foster creativity and offer personalized customer service that large chains simply cannot replicate. This adaptability not only benefits consumers but also encourages healthy competition, pushing more businesses to strive for excellence.

Small businesses enrich our lives by providing a sense of identity and authenticity. Walk down the main street of any village and you'll find unique shops, eateries and services that reflect the culture, history and per-

sonality of the area. These businesses distinguish one community from another, creating vibrant destinations where people want to live, work and visit.

Shopping at a local store instead of a large retailer, ordering from a family-owned restaurant, and posting positive reviews online are small but meaningful ways to show support. Attending farmers markets, artisan fairs and community events also help small businesses. Voting for your favorite small business for a Herald Long Island Choice Award is another small gesture to acknowledge these shops; you can vote at LIChoiceAwards.com.

Local, state and federal government have and must continue to play a crucial role in fostering an environment in which small businesses can succeed. Small businesses need more tax incentives, affordable loan programs and streamlined regulations to alleviate the burdens their owners face, especially in light of high property taxes, inflation and competition from online retailers. We hope our elected officials embrace creative solutions to ensure that Long Island's local stores can thrive.

Supporting your favorite small business doesn't require a big effort — simple actions can have a profound impact. We urge you to shop at your local small businesses not only next Saturday, but every day of the year.

LETTERS

Despairing? Avoid the 'cacophony' of the internet.

To the Editor:

Re Herald columnists Scott M. Davis ("A call for tolerance amid the acrimony") and Will Sheeline ("What comes next? How about our neglected unity?") and letter writer Mireille Taub ("Not giving in to 'our season of despair'") in last week's issue:

For Mr. Davis, the first task is "tamping down the divisive rhetoric." Mr. Sheeline notes the need "to heal the nation's wounds," and Ms. Taub feels "abandoned," in need of a "torch" to illuminate the path to civility. Those of us who agree must realize that an opposition exists who promote divisive rhetoric for fun and profit, and who benefit from our open wounds and prefer treating them with salt rather than salve.

Among things to avoid are the cacophony of X, the empty "just askin'" stylists. Forgo the entertainments of online shouters and skills, for



OPINIONS

Will the MTA ever be held accountable for its spending?

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has done it again, unveiling a staggering \$68.4 billion Capital Plan for 2025-2029, the largest in the agency's financially turbulent history. But instead of promising a brighter future for our transit system, this plan is nothing more than another costly disaster waiting to happen, and it will hit New York taxpayers



**JAKE
BLUMENCRAZ**

the hardest. The MTA's financial mismanagement has gone unchecked for far too long, and we can no longer afford to blindly trust its promises while it hemorrhages public funds. Even state Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli — a Democrat — is sounding the alarm. He recently pointed out the glaring holes in the MTA's financial planning, calling attention to the fact that it is still missing a massive \$15 billion in funding for its 2020-2024 Capital Plan. And yet here we are, being asked to green-light another \$68.4 billion in spending, with over \$48 billion not even having an identified funding source.

Knowing this for far too long, I introduced Assembly Bill A.6906, which

would finally put a stop to this reckless cycle. My bill calls for the repeal of congestion pricing, a deeply flawed policy that will unfairly burden Long Islanders and other suburban commuters while offering no real solutions for traffic congestion or ways to improve mass transit. Perhaps more critically, my bill demands a comprehensive, independent forensic audit of MTA finances. You read that right. The agency is preparing to spend billions of dollars without a single independent audit to assure the public that its money is being managed properly. That's not just irresponsible — it's dangerous.

Let's be clear: the MTA is not a financially stable entity. Time and again it has proven to be a black hole for taxpayer dollars, with no meaningful oversight or accountability. DiNapoli's warning should be a wake-up call for all of us. The multi-billion-dollar gap in the 2020-2024 Capital Plan raises serious questions about which projects will be delayed or canceled. Now the agency plans to spend an additional \$68 billion. As recent reports reveal, expenses for basic infrastructure projects like subway elevator installations have ballooned to over \$100 million, underscoring the MTA's reckless spending. With these eye-pop-

ping budget figures, it's clearer than ever that its finances demand a transparent forensic audit. How much more taxpayer money are we willing to throw into the MTA's bottomless pit before we demand answers?

While New York City enjoys taxpayer-subsidized transit services, Long Islanders continue to suffer from underinvestment and neglect. The Long Island Rail Road's Oyster Bay line, which serves communities in my district, has been grossly underfunded for years, leaving commuters with limited and unreliable options. Although the MTA has announced small improvements, like

increasing the number of trains from Oyster Bay to Penn Station, they are nowhere near enough to address the broader issues of inadequate service and disrepair.

Meanwhile, congestion pricing — a policy designed to fund the MTA by taxing commuters — will disproportionately hurt suburban and working-class New Yorkers, especially Long Islanders. It is unfair for us to bear the brunt of funding a system that prioritizes New York City's needs while ignoring the needs of the suburban communities that help pay for it. Despite pausing the program in response to concerns about the cost for commuters, Gov. Kathy

Hochul now plans to reinstate it with a reduced toll of \$9. That would still unjustly burden Long Island and suburban commuters, who already pay some of the highest transit fees in the nation. A new toll — no matter the price — will only add to the cost-of-living crisis that so many New Yorkers, especially those outside the city's core, already face.

It is long past time for transparency at the MTA. My bill would bring that accountability by repealing congestion pricing and mandating an audit of the MTA. This isn't a radical idea — it's basic fiscal responsibility. Every dollar the MTA spends comes from hardworking taxpayers, and they deserve to know how their money is being spent. The MTA is asking for an unprecedented amount of funding with no guarantee of how that money will be spent or whether it will actually improve the system. Albany Democrats are happy to sign off on runaway spending plans, but I refuse to stand by while the MTA digs itself — and all of us — deeper into debt.

It's time to take a stand. I urge my colleagues in the Assembly and State Senate to join me in supporting my bill, and I call on the public to demand better. We cannot afford to keep paying for the MTA's mistakes. Let's repeal congestion pricing, audit the MTA, and finally restore accountability to this critical institution.

Jake Blumencranz represents the 15th Assembly District.

A bill I introduced would repeal congestion pricing and force an audit.

LETTERS

their game is rant, not repair. Realize there is now an economic sector of agitprop "influencers" whose income stream derives from clicks, experienced in the provocation of internet duels, ad hominem insult and scare-mongering. To respond is to feed the opposition.

One example of the opposition's subtle damage is the new version of "Snow White," with multi-racial dwarves. The ever-ready right-wing trolls howled over this blasphemy. One of them, Benny Johnson, declared that it signified "a nation in decline." Johnson gets clicks, and hopes that his "owning the libs" provokes many more.

Don't fall for it. Rather, discover and share more sober, solution-oriented sources of information, for that is the only "torch" available. Help carry it by supporting organizations that seek the path of unity, provide the bandages and shun divisive rhetoric. A place to start: Make sure that all Americans can continue to share the simple childhood fantasy of "Snow White" and its dwarves, without the trolls.

BRIAN KELLY
Rockville Centre

Voting is easy in New York, but elsewhere?

To the Editor:

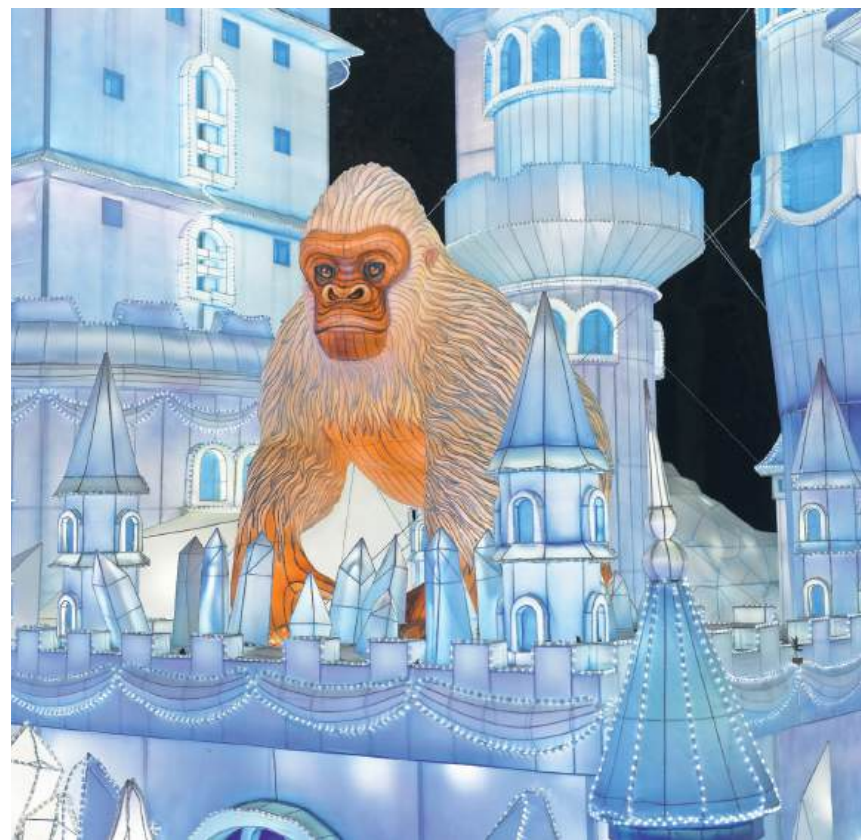
I thought I lived in a democracy, where every voice is heard. When voting in New York state, no ID is required when you show up at the polls. If for some reason you are asked for proof of residency — maybe you registered to vote and left out the number on your driver's license — all you need to do is come back with a gas or electric bill with your name and address.

Quite a few states, however, require a photo ID when you vote. The most common way to comply would be with your driver's license. Unfortunately, people with limited incomes may not have a car or be able to afford another form of photo ID. You also may need proof of your birth date with a birth certificate. If you've lost or misplaced yours, you need to pay for a legal copy.

All of these hurdles can be used to suppress voting in regions where the governing party would rather not have you vote. We should all be able to fulfill our democratic responsibility, and not have to jump through hoops to do it.

JAY BLACKMAN
East Meadow

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



LuminoCity's Holiday Lights Festival in Eisenhower Park — East Meadow



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