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What's next for Sands?
Page 2



Nosh delivers smiles
Page 3

VOL. 33 NO. 51 DECEMBER 12 - 18, 2024 \$1.00



Adrienne Daley/Herald photos

Spreading holiday cheer downtown

Trish Roberts and Trish Melek, above, wore festive holiday attire that added to the spirit of last weekend's holiday festival downtown. At right, 8-year-old Darwin Reyes decorated stockings to keep warm during the holiday season.



Planning for vital upgrades on Shore Road

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Residents of Glen Cove's Shore Road often say they feel their homes shake from passing cars and trucks, and that walking in their neighborhood is dangerous because there aren't as many sidewalks as they'd like. In recent years, flooding has taken a toll on their quality of life as well.

Now, a long-awaited plan to improve safety, functionality and aesthetics along Shore Road has been presented by Lora Cusumano, a resident of Shore Road and a liaison to the county. Unveiled at an online public meeting last week, the ambitious project, spearheaded by the Nassau County Department of Public Works, addresses a range of infrastructure challenges along the road's 3.3-mile corridor through Glen Cove, Sea Cliff and Glenwood Landing. The proposed upgrades

include drainage improvements, traffic-calming measures, bike lanes and streetscape enhancements. The project is estimated to cost \$14 million to \$18 million, and would begin in 2026.

It's a collaborative effort that balances the practical needs of infrastructure with the beauty and charm that make this community special.

LORA CUSUMANO
Resident

"This project is the result of years of advocacy and collaboration," Cusumano said during the presentation. "It's a reflection of the pride we feel in our community and our shared vision to make this area safer, more functional, and more beautiful for everyone."

The County Legislature's minority leader, Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, who has advocated for upgrades of the road, hailed the project as long overdue.

"For far too long, flooding along Shore Road has been a tremendous headache for all who live in, work in and visit this area, but with the steps that have been taken so far, I truly believe a fix is on the horizon," DeRiggi-Whitton said in a news

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

At hearing on Sands plan, a public divide

December 12, 2024 - GLEN COVE HERALD

By KELSIE RADZISKI

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The draft environmental impact statement for the proposed Las Vegas Sands resort and casino at the site of the Nassau Coliseum was met with both resounding support and critical opposition at a public hearing at the Nassau County Legislature on Monday.

It was a very comprehensive and a very complete draft EIS.

ADRIENNE ESPOSITO

Executive director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Las Vegas Sands officially submitted the DEIS to the Legislature last month, after a unanimous vote by legislators confirming the document's completion and availability for public review.

The DEIS outlines a range of investments — totaling more than \$150 million — aimed at modernizing Uniondale's infrastructure and revitalizing the hamlet and surrounding communities, according to a Sands news release. The projects include expanding the Meadowbrook Parkway to alleviate traffic congestion, enhancing the Uniondale water district to improve its sustainability and upgrading energy infrastructure to meet growing demand.

Beautification initiatives are also planned to improve the area's public spaces, as part of Las Vegas Sands' effort to enhance both aesthetics and quality of life for residents and visitors.

"We are grateful to the Nassau County Legislature for its thorough review of the completeness of our environmental impact statement," Michael Levoff, the



Kelsie Radziski/Herald

Supporters and opponents of the Las Vegas Sands casino project filled the county legislative chamber on Monday for the public hearing on the project's draft environmental impact statement.

company's senior vice president of strategy and public affairs, stated in the release. "This over 28,000-page document further demonstrates Sands' commitment to comprehensively and holistically mitigate the potential impacts of our transformative project at the site of the Nassau Coliseum."

At Monday's contentious hearing, both supporters

and detractors shared their opinions on the DEIS. Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said she had analyzed environmental impact statements for 40 years, and approved of how thorough Sands' is.

"It was a very comprehensive and a very complete

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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Nosh and students spread holiday cheer

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

Nosh Delivers!, a food pantry dedicated to supporting families in need across Long Island's North Shore, held its inaugural holiday charity party on Dec. 7, bringing together children, teens, and families for an event celebrating the spirit of giving and food dignity.

The event, a culmination of Nosh's five years of work, was held at the organization's newly enhanced pantry space, which founder and board member Courtney Callahan described as resembling a welcoming grocery store. The transformation aligns with Nosh's mission to foster "food dignity" rather than merely addressing food insecurity.

"We've always aimed to make families feel respected and supported during tough times," Callahan said. "When people need help, it's important to make it as functional and loving as possible."

The party was filled with activities for children ages 3 to 10, including gingerbread man decorating, ornament-making, and festive crafting stations. Portledge School contributed a hot chocolate bar, complete with an array of toppings, which delighted both kids and adults. Santa Claus tattoos, music, and a wide selection of sweets rounded out the festivities.

The event's success was powered by 45 teenage volunteers from schools across the region, including North Shore High School, Locust Valley High School, Glen Cove High School, Friends Academy, Portledge School and Chaminade. The teens took the lead in hosting, guiding activities, and ensuring every child had a memorable experience.

"Teens bring such life to Nosh. They're redefining what nonprofits can achieve," Callahan said. "It's just really inspiring to see kids from different schools becoming friends and working together to make a difference."

Nosh's event also spotlighted its "K Fit" program, which provides breakfast and lunch bags for children during school breaks. These bags, designed by children for children, are filled with shelf-stable, easy-to-prepare meals that empower young recipients to feel independent and valued.

Callahan reflected on the party's impact, emphasizing the importance of fostering a community rooted in empathy and respect.

"This event wasn't just about celebrating the holidays; it was about celebrating the dignity and resilience of the families that we serve," she said.

As Nosh continues to grow, Callahan hopes to make the holiday charity party an annual tradition, building on the success of this year's celebration.

"The smiles, laughter, and sense of togetherness we saw on the kids' faces was a testament to what we can achieve when we come together as a community," she said.



Photos courtesy Nosh Delivers!

Attendees at the first Nosh Delivers! Holiday party dressed up as popular characters like elves, Santa, the Grinch and more.



Children got the chance to make holiday treats like gingerbread men and cookies, helped by student volunteers from across the North Shore.



Dozens of student volunteers worked together to help their younger peers make delicious snacks and beautiful arts and crafts.

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Book Review:

“Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway”

by Susan Jeffers — Part One

Emerson said, “Fear defeats more people than any other one thing in the world.” Conquering fear then is essential to one’s personal and professional growth. To do this you need a tool and this classic book, first published in 1987 and updated in 2012, provides just such a tool — for living better, more fulfilling lives.

The list of fears is endless and author Jeffers touches on the most common ones providing a prescription for moving from pain, paralysis and depression (fear’s “sisters”) to power, energy and excitement.

It may seem overly simple but we learn that at the bottom of every fear is simply the fear that you can’t handle whatever life may bring you. If you knew you could handle anything that came your way you would have nothing to fear. The author shares techniques for diminishing your fears by developing more trust in your ability to handle whatever comes your way.

While it may sound like a revelation to some, you cannot wait until the fear goes away.

It only goes away by doing the thing you are afraid of. The “doing it” comes *before* the fear goes away.

Fear is natural and inevitable, especially fear of the unknown. People interpret fear as a signal to retreat. Author Jeffers teaches how to see fear as a green light to move ahead. “All you have to do to find a way out of your self-imposed prison is to retrain your thinking”.

Since everyone feels fear when approaching something new in life, and yet so many are “doing it” despite the fear, it proves that fear itself is not the problem. It is how we *hold* the fear. For some it is irrelevant — they hold the fear from a position of power (choice, energy and action). For others, the fear creates a state of paralysis, holding fear from a position of pain, helplessness and depression, knowing they “can’t handle it”. Jeffers stresses that pushing through fear is less frightening than living with the underlying fear that comes from a feeling of helplessness.

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OBITUARIES

Benny Adams

Benny Adams, 94, of Glen Cove, died on Dec. 7. Loving father of Dwight, the late Donna and Rochelle; dear brother of Bertha, Alvin, Shirley and Barbara. Cherished grandfather of nine and

great-grandfather of 10.

Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Service and Interment will be private.

Sally Famiglietti

Sally Famiglietti, 94, of Glen Cove, died on Dec. 5. Beloved wife of the late John J.; loving mother of Jane Norman (Michael) and Carol Hammond; proud grandmother of Christopher, Dana, Jeremy and Michael; cherished great-

grandmother of six. Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove on Dec. 12, from 2-4pm and 7-9pm. Mass at the Church Of St. Patrick on Friday, Dec. 13 at 10am. Interment to follow at Locust Valley Cemetery.

Angelo Jr. Martino

Angelo Jr. Martino, 58, of Glen Cove, died on Nov. 30. Father of Paul, Logan and Mason; beloved son of Corely and the late Angelo Sr.; dear brother of Michael (Ann), John (Maria) and David

(Judith); devoted Fiancée of Rachel Alford. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

Ann Bruno

Ann Bruno, 88, of Bayside, died on Nov. 29. Beloved wife of the late Joseph; loving mother of Susan (David Levine), Barbara (Vincent Schager) and Deborah; devoted and cherished grandmother of five biological grandchildren (Robert, Taylor, Arianna, Alessandra, and

Sophia), five step grandchildren (Tina, Michael, Joseph, Monica, and Eliot), and four step great-children (Derek, Logan, Mila, and Rose). Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

Victor Marchese

Victor Marchese, 71, of Glen Cove, died on Nov. 21. A psychologist in private practice for 30 years. Beloved husband of Joan; loving father of Jessica (Sigi) and Jeremy; cherished grandfather of Joshua and Alexander; dear

brother of William and the late Michael “Tommy”. Also survived by loving cousins, nieces and nephews. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

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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Meg Ryan appointed new CEO of NUMC

By JORDAN VALLONE

jvallone@liherald.com

The Board of Directors of the Nassau Health Care Corporation, which oversees the operations of the Nassau University Medical Center and the A. Holly Paterson Extended Care Facility in Uniondale, voted on Dec. 5 to appoint several new members to the leadership team of the largest public, safety-net hospital on Long Island.

Among the appointees was Megan Ryan, who was named president and chief executive of the hospital system — the first woman to lead the health care corporation.

Ryan had previously served for nearly a decade as general counsel of the corporation and had been acting as interim president and chief executive since January.

“The more than seven years that I’ve spent working with the staff and patients of NUMC as general counsel and interim president and chief executive have (been the) greatest honor of my career,” Ryan said in a Dec. 5 news release. “I thank the NHCC board of directors for its confidence in allowing me to continue the enormous progress we’ve made toward ensuring this critical institution thrives for many years to come.”

The East Meadow-based hospital serves all patients, regardless of their ability to pay for medical care.

“Nobody works harder than Meg, and nobody cares more about the success of the hospital than she does,” Matthew Bruderman, the health care corporation chairman, said. “As the first woman to lead this critical health care facility, she is an inspiration to so many, including the next generation of health care professionals being trained at NUMC.”

The hospital’s board said compensation packages approved for the new executives are all in line with industry and area standards, or are below those of their counterparts at other major safety-net hospitals in New York state.

At last week’s board meeting, the board also approved the appointment of in-house chairs for cardiology and pathology, a move aimed at fostering full-time development in these divisions and boosting hospital revenue.

NUMC has long been under fire for financial and operational mismanagement, but has made significant strides this year. The hospital’s board has attributed these reforms to Ryan and her leadership team.

Last month, the hospital system earned its first Leapfrog Safety Grade, a hospital safety rating, improvement in six years, and earlier this year, an audit conducted by Grant Thornton revealed

the hospital’s finances were heading in a positive direction.

In addition to operational improvements, the hospital has enhanced its services by opening new wings, an outpatient behavioral health suite and a dedicated wig room for cancer patients, along with other additions that have significantly elevated the quality of care at NUMC.

Ryan said the hospital system has made “tremendous progress,” by expanding patient care, inaugurating new facilities.

“It is a testament to the work of our leadership team and the commitment of our more than 3,600 employees,” she said, “including our talented doctors, nurses, and support staff.”

Nobody works harder than Meg and nobody cares more about the success of the hospital than she does.

MATTHEW BRUDERMAN

Chairman,
Nassau County Health
Care Corporation

The Nassau Health Care Corporation and NUMC are currently pursuing legal action against New York state and the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority, or NIFA, which oversees NUMC’s finances.

The hospital is alleging that the state orchestrated a scheme to withhold Medicaid reimbursement payments NUMC was entitled to, since at least 2001. On Nov. 20, a notice-of-claims was sent to the state, outlining NUMC’s plan to file a \$1.06 billion lawsuit. The suits against NIFA, which were announced on Dec. 2., claims the finance authority made arbitrary and capricious decisions, violated public trust, and acted to

advance its own or the state’s agenda at the expense of NUMC’s reputation and financial stability.

“We are continuing to work with Nassau County on an appropriate solution for the future of NUMC,” a spokesperson from the state told the Herald. “Our concerns are the fiscal health of the hospital and patient care. Everything else is just noise.”

NUMC provides \$1 billion in health care services annually to more than 270,000 patients, including those who are uninsured and undocumented.

“While (the state) and NIFA work overtime to prevent the progress we’re making here, scheme about power grabs, and cover up their malfeasance, Meg is working to ensure NUMC is saved,” Bruderman said. “Together with Dr. Ting, Chief Nurse Costello and the rest of this team, NUMC is in an outstanding position to serve everyone who needs care.”

John Desmond, an NHCC board member, congratulated Ryan and her “outstanding” leadership team.

“Meg Ryan’s forward-thinking approach and dedication to excellence have significantly enhanced NUMC’s role in the community,” Desmond said, “ensuring it remains a vital resource for those in need.”

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HERALD SPORTS

Hofstra seeks success in conference play

By ANDREW COEN

sports@iherald.com

Hofstra women's basketball is looking to provide the doubters wrong in the Coastal Athletic Association.

The Pride was picked to finish 12th in the 14-team league's preseason poll after a 3-15 CAA season last year in which five conference losses were in single digits. Hofstra returns five players from last year's 11-21 team that caught fire at the end of the 2023/24 season to win two games in the CAA Tournament and reach the quarterfinal round and is looking to build off of that postseason run this winter.

"We know we're better than that but just to say we know we're better than what we are perceived at or expected to be is not enough," said fifth-year head coach Danielle Santos Atkinson. "You've got to go and be better and go and show people that you're better and you've got to go and prove that you're capable of more and that's where we are as a team now."

After a hard-fought 63-58 season-opening loss to Sacred Heart, Hofstra responded with back-to-back wins against NJIT and Yale to provide some early-season confidence for the new campaign. The Pride improved to 3-5 on the young season with a 55-52 home win against Howard last Sunday.

Among the key returners determined to propel Hofstra toward its first winning season in nine years is junior guard Emma Von Essen, a Rockville Centre native who was the Pride's leading scorer last season and knocked down 85 threes. The Long Island Lutheran product is off to another explosive start this season averaging 12.8 points per game so far with 24 threes.

"She's just so consistent and that's one of the things that we really appreciate about Emma is she's going to be Emma every single day, and she's not trying to do someone else's job," Santos Atkinson said. "She works extremely hard and she knows what she does well, and she tries to do that every single time to the best of our ability."

Santos Atkinson also returned graduate student center Zyheima Swint, who was the team's fourth-leading scorer last year and led the team in rebounding. Zyheima Swint registered 14 points in a 75-61 victory against Yale on Nov. 12.

Hofstra also added a number of key newcomers aiding the Pride early this season.

Junior guard Chloe Sterling is the leading scorer through eight games after transferring from James Madison University. The Kennesaw, Ga. native earned CAA Player of the Week honors after tallying a career-high 21 points in a 74-69 win at NJIT on Nov. 8.



Chloe Sterling, a transfer from James Madison, provides a boost to the Pride's roster.

Freshman forward LaNae' Corbett is showing promise early in her collegiate career by averaging 10.5 points per game including 15 in the Sacred Heart game to go along with 13 rebounds. She led Hofstra with 17 points in the Howard victory.

"The sky's the limit for her," said Santos Atkinson of Corbet, a mechanical engineering major who shined at one of the nation's top-ranked high school girls basketball programs at Bishop McNamara in Maryland. "She's one of the most consistent freshmen that I've coached in terms of her work ethic and how she shows up."

Santos Atkinson pieced together some challenging non-conference games to prepare for CAA play that included a Dec. 2 trip to her alma mater the University of Florida where Hofstra trailed in single digits



Photos courtesy Hofstra Athletics Communications

L.I. Lutheran product and Rockville Centre native Emma Von Essen was Hofstra's leading scorer last season.

at halftime to the SEC school before falling 75-48. The Pride will also host Big East foe St. John's on Dec. 11.

The CAA schedule commences on Jan. 3 at Monmouth and Jan. 5 at Delaware before the Pride host its league home opener on Jan. 10 against College of Charleston for a 6 p.m. tipoff. Hofstra concludes the conference schedule at home on March 6 against Long Island rival Stony Brook at 6 p.m. and a Saturday matinee versus Northeastern on March 8 at 2 p.m.

"Two things that we talk about to be successful this year for us is we've got to be the most competitive team in the CAA and we've got to be the most selfless team in the CAA, and I think we are capable of doing both of those things," Santos Atkinson said. "And then we've got to compete through adversity through the good times and the bad."

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Legislators push 'Gio's Law' for EpiPens

December 12, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By JORDAN VALLONE

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Nassau County police officers could become front-line defenders against severe allergic reactions if legislation proposed by Legislator Seth Koslow becomes law. The bill would require patrol vehicles to be equipped with epinephrine auto-injectors, or EpiPens, and require officers to be trained to administer them in emergencies.

The bill was unveiled at a Dec. 5 news conference in Mineola, where Koslow, a Democrat from Merrick, was joined by local officials and advocates, including Georgina Cornago, whose son, Giovanni Cipriano, died in 2013 of a severe allergic reaction. Legislators Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, Debra Mulè and Scott Davis were also in attendance.

Following her son's death, Cornago led efforts in 2019 to pass Gio's Law in New York state. It authorizes certain New York emergency service providers to be trained to treat anaphylaxis and carry EpiPens in their vehicles. The law previously mandated EpiPen training and stocking for first responders in counties with populations of less than 1 million, but it was recently expanded to counties with populations of up to 2 million — which means it can now be implemented in Nassau County.

Suffolk County adopted Gio's Law in



Jordan Vallone/Herald

Nassau County Legislator Seth Koslow spoke at a Dec. 5 news conference about a bill that would require police department patrol vehicles to carry EpiPens, which are administered to those who have life-threatening allergic reactions.

2023.

"This bill will save lives," Koslow said at the news conference, "because it will give police officers the ability to provide life-saving treatment in an emergency situation. We trust them when it comes to Narcan. We trust them when it comes to CPR. This is a natural

progression, and a natural tool for them to have in their arsenal to provide the resources we expect them to provide on a day-to-day basis."

Cipriano, who lived in Lawrence, was 14 in 2013, when he went into anaphylactic shock after eating a food he was allergic to. He didn't have an EpiPen at

the time, so his mother drove him to the hospital, which took too long, leading to his death.

Police department ambulances in Nassau County are equipped with EpiPens, but patrol cars aren't — and by putting them there, the lifesaving care could be more accessible in emergencies.

"This legislation has been nearly 12 years in the making," Cornago said. "Its importance cannot be overstated. Just as AED machines have become standard in public spaces, it only makes sense to have epinephrine injectors readily available alongside them as another essential lifesaving device."

If it passes, the bill will direct the Nassau County Police Department to equip all patrol vehicles with EpiPens within 120 days, and ensure that all officers receive the necessary training to administer the medication.

"The training is about 30 minutes long," Koslow said. "As far as obtaining the EpiPens, it's just a function of putting the order in and getting them delivered. They're readily available."

Koslow explained that food allergies affect 32 million people in the U.S., and over 1,500 people die every year as a result of food allergy reactions.

The legislators are requesting a vote on the bill before the final legislative session of the year, next Monday.

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Sandra
Treated for lung cancer

Concerns raised over environmental factors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

draft EIS," Esposito said.

Referring to the proposed improvements, however, Esposito suggested that the document be "strengthened" with plans for how to handle water withdrawal and conservation, and solid waste. She also suggested the creation of a community advisory board "that looks at the metrics to see how they're doing on energy and water and solid waste management."

Many attendees expressed their support for the statement and for the casino project as a whole. Ryan Stanton, executive director of the Long Island Federation of Labor, shared his appreciation for the DEIS and how Sands is going about the project.

"Long Islanders care about traffic, taxes and economic opportunity," Stanton said. "When we make investments in infrastructure, it creates economic opportunity for the people behind it, reduces taxes for the people behind them, and when people have a reduced tax burden and money in their pockets, they can make good environmental and economic choices."

On the other side, the Say No to the Casino Civic Association has been vocal in its longstanding opposition to the project, repeatedly making the argument that it will harm the community and environment in a variety of ways. The group claims in a news release that the extensive infrastructure changes needed for the casino would permanently alter the landscape and exacerbate traffic congestion. Members also expressed concerns about the environmental impact, highlighting the expected water consumption and carbon emissions in a news release that followed the DEIS submission.

Concerns about the local impacts of the casino project on surrounding towns, including Uniondale, Hempstead, Garden City and East Meadow, led the Garden City village board to file a lawsuit against Sands, asking the Nassau County Supreme Court to void the 42-year lease agreement for the Coliseum between the county and Sands because, the suit claims, lawmakers did not closely examine the potential impact a casino could have on the environment.

Hofstra University also took legal action against the county for initially violating the Open Meetings Law and the State Environmental Quality Review

Copies of DEIS can be found at:

Physical copies of the draft environmental impact statement can be found at:

- Office of the clerk of the Nassau County Legislature
- Office of the Town of Hempstead clerk
- Uniondale Public Library
- East Meadow Public Library
- Hempstead Public Library
- Garden City Public Library

Act (SEQRA) during the initial approval process for the Nassau Coliseum lease in March 2023. The case is now back in the hands of the Nassau County Supreme Court.

Karen Riordan, a member of the Say No association, said she believed the environmental impact statement "failed to take into account the full regional impact the casino project will have on saltwater intrusion on shore communities." Riordan referenced a study released in August by the United States Geological Survey that indicates that Long Island's only freshwater aquifer is in danger of saltwater intrusion, and that the language used in the DEIS to describe this potential problem is "too vague."

Other association members also spoke at the hearing, including Steve Rolston, a member of the Sierra Club, who said that people's concerns go beyond the environment.

"There are environmental reasons, plus economic and social reasons, that a casino is considered nothing more than legal fraud," Rolston said.

The draft environmental impact statement is available for public review on the Legislature's website, and a public comment period will extend until Jan. 6 at 5 p.m. Submissions can be sent via email to sandscomments@nassau-countyny.gov, or by mail to the Nassau County Clerk of the Legislature, 1550 Franklin Ave., Mineola, NY 11501.



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Nassau County Executive



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Adrienne Daley/Herald photos

Horse and carriage rides went through School and Glen Streets during the holiday market.

Ring in the holiday season downtown

Glen Cove kicked off its holiday season with a magical Annual Holiday Festival on Dec. 7, transforming Village Square into a hub of festive cheer for families and visitors.

Hosted by the Glen Cove Business Improvement District, the event featured free activities like horse and carriage rides, choo-choo train rides, photos with Santa, and craft stations for ornament-making and stocking decorating. Live entertainment lit up the main stage, showcasing the talent of local groups such as the Glen Cove High School Jazz Band, Select Chorale, and the Finley Middle School Chorus. The day concluded with the City's Tree Lighting Ceremony, led by Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, with carols and a final appearance from Santa, leaving the community with warm hearts and holiday spirit.

—Roksana Amid



The Glen Cove High School Select Chorale sang many classical holiday songs.



Giselle Graziosi, Maya Miller and Victoria Scagliola visited the hot chocolate station for a sweet treat.



Inayat Singh, a 5-year-old, was looking for gifts at The Shoppe by Trubee Hill.



Families got to meet with Santas to tell them what is on their wish lists for Christmas this year.

Empowering students to shape the future

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

At the Nov. 6 Board of Education meeting, students and teachers in Glen Cove were cast as architects of a digital future, with technology taking center stage in the classroom. Anna Policastro, the District Coordinator of Instructional Technology, unveiled how the district is embracing New York State's Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards to equip students with the skills, creativity, and ethical mindset needed to navigate an increasingly tech-driven world.

Policastro emphasized the broad impact of these standards, noting that they prepare students for careers that may not even exist yet.

"The vision for these standards is to make sure that every student has the skills, knowledge, and mindset they need to thrive in a digital world," she explained. "We're not just teaching students how to use technology; we're preparing them to shape it. These standards ensure that our students won't just be scrolling through life but will be equipped to control the technology that shapes it."

The standards address a growing demand for technology-related skills

across industries. According to Policastro, 67 percent of new jobs in STEM fields are in computing, and 58 percent of all tech jobs are outside the traditional technology sector. Yet, only 6 percent of high school students currently enroll in computer science courses.

"From healthcare to finance, agriculture to the arts, nearly every industry now relies on technology," she said. "By equipping students with a foundation in computational thinking, coding, data analysis, and digital problem-solving, these standards ensure they enter the workforce with relevant skills."

The implementation of these standards began in 2020 and has progressed through four phases, culminating in full integration this year. Students across all grade levels are now learning to solve problems, understand systems, and use technology responsibly. Younger students practice identifying patterns and using block-based coding platforms like Code Monkey, while middle and high school students engage with more advanced tools such

as Python and 3D prototyping software like Tinkercad.

Policastro described the hands-on nature of the curriculum, sharing examples like elementary students programming robots to follow specific commands or designing solutions to real-world problems through prototyping.

"Our students are creating prototypes for 3D-printed objects, refining their designs as they go," she said. "It's all about using the engineering design process to solve everyday challenges."

The district's commitment to professional development for teachers has been key to the program's success. Teachers attend technology summits and

receive tailored training on integrating coding and robotics tools into their lessons. Policastro credited district administration for its unwavering support.

"This creates a culture that is empowering for our teachers and our students. It's about enriching, modifying, and redefining technology integra-

tion into their practice."

Maria Rianna, the superintendent of schools, reflected on how far technology in education has come.

"I thought about years ago when I was in another district as an assistant superintendent, and we were debating whether K and first-grade students could even work with a computer," Rianna said after the presentation. "Now, I've seen them coding and beginning their own adventures. It used to be a resource, something we could go to. Now, it really is what we use every day."

The district's efforts align with a broader vision of fostering not just digital literacy but also creativity and innovation. Policastro noted that while students are mastering technical skills, they're also learning to think critically about the ethical implications of technology. Middle and high school students discuss topics such as artificial intelligence and data privacy, preparing them to navigate complex digital landscapes responsibly.

"I look forward to seeing our students participate in coursework that allows for micro-credentials and continuing education through technology," Rianna said. "It's incredible to think that they might be explaining the latest technology to us one day."

It's incredible to think that they might be explaining the latest technology to us one day.

MARIA RIANNA
Superintendent

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Leaders bring communities together

By Renee DeLorenzo

At this year's annual Herald Top Chief Officers of Long Island Awards, hosted by RichnerLIVE on Nov. 20, Long Island's top officers proved that leadership is much more than just calling the shots. Being a leader comes with a lot of responsibility, and it means a little something different to everyone who serves in such a position. But one thing is certain: No one can do it alone.

Nearly 300 people gathered at the Heritage Club at Bethpage to celebrate excellence in leadership. Representing a wide range of industries including health care, education, utilities, nonprofits and finance, the group of business influencers came together for a night of honor and recognition.

Michael Dowling, CEO of Northwell Health and this year's recipient of the prestigious Trailblazer Award, stepped on stage to a wave of applause, and spoke about the health care industry and what it means to come together as a community. "I don't think there's any substitute for being in a room together as a collective, because you share and you learn," Dowling said.

For the other honorees at the ceremony, bringing communities together is vital to their success. Ross Turrini and Jim Flannery, of National Grid and National Grid Ventures, respectively, shared those sentiments. Being a leader, they said, means focusing on the people they serve.

For Turrini, chief operating officer of National Grid's New York gas operations, that means communicating honestly. "You've got to be able to have honest communication and conversations," he said. "Not only with your employees, but with policymakers, legislators, our customers, and folks in the community who you serve. You have to be able to build trust."

Flannery, COO of National Grid Ventures, U.S. Northeast, said the very reason he was there was because of the community he has built at the company. "The nomination is really a reflection of the people I work with," he said, adding that his role at the company is forming a workforce that feels like family. "A leader needs to be one who cares about people, listens to people, who can galvanize people around a cause," he said.

Diane Walsh and Gurjit Singh, of Prager Metis, said that the reason they were there was the amazing people they are privileged to work with daily.

Walsh, chief marketing officer of Prager Metis, said, "I think it's really important for the community, not only for personal recognition, but for recognition of the firm and everybody we work with every day. They all make us the top chiefs."

Singh, Prager Metis's chief information officer, agreed, saying the recognition goes beyond his accounting firm. The acknowledgment of everyone else in the room, Singh said, was just as important. "I think everyone's deserving — no one's really above or below," he said.

The connection between leadership and community was evident throughout the night. The idea that personal recognition is only possible because of the communities top officers serve is a tenet of the best leadership. "It's all about having good people around you," Dowling said. "It's not about an individual situation. It's about who you put around you. You prove that you're smarter when you hire people smarter than you."

He added that success is about the relationships with the people he works with, the people he serves, and the people he meets who share these values, such as those at the Heritage Club that night. "Everyone is going to leave here better than they did when they came in because of the relationships they're making," he said.

Stuart Richner, chief executive of Richner Communications and publisher of Herald Community



Guests network during the cocktail hour.

Tim Baker/Herald photos



Guests listen to keynote speaker, President of Northwell Health, Michael Dowling.



Keynote speaker and President of Northwell Health, Michael Dowling gives the keynote speech.



Amit Shah, Senior Vice President of Prine Health (left) poses with Stuart Richner Chief Executive Officer of Richner Communications (right).



Chief Executive Officer of Harmony Health Care Stacey C. Jackson-Harley, RN MA.

Media, noted the importance of bringing the leaders together and recognizing the value of what they do. "Leadership is about more than reaching goals," Richner said. "It's about creating a ripple effect of positive change in the organizations and communities we serve. The individuals we honor tonight exemplify

that spirit, making Long Island a better place for all."

A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit the Michael Magro Foundation, which supports children with cancer and other pediatric illnesses.

For a full list of sponsors and honorees, go to RichnerLive.com/2024TCOA.



Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman LLP Managing Partner, Howard Stein and Marketing Director Mojan Masuomi.



Chief Operating Officer, Guardian Bus Company, Michael Tornabe.



Joseph Verdirame, Chief Executive Officer, of Alliance Healthcare poses with his award.

Tim Baker/Herald photos



Randell M. Bynum, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Nassau County.



Ross Turrini, Chief Operating Officer of New York Gas National Grid.



Lisa Burch President and Chief Executive Officer of EPIC Long Island, Inc.



Chief Marketing Officer, Prager Metis, Diane Walsh.



Chief Information Officer, Prager Metis, Gurjit Singh.



Christina Armentano Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Paraco.



Nicole W. Joseph, MSc, Chief Operating Officer & Finance Director of CM Law PLLC.

Ambitious plan promises a safer Shore Road

December 12, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

release. “This is one of the larger Nassau County capital projects. This project will be a big improvement to one of Glen Cove’s major gateway entrances.”

Shore Road begins at Glen Cove Avenue in Glen Cove, runs along City Stadium Park and becomes The Boulevard at Sea Cliff Beach. Over the years, safety has become such a concern that in 2018, Cusumano founded the Shore Road Neighbors Group, a Facebook page comprising like-minded residents who came together to make the case for what they said were desperately needed changes.

Flooding has been a persistent issue, especially near Scudders Pond and The Boulevard, and the project outlines extensive drainage improvements. At Scudders Pond, where a failed timber weir, or barrier, has led to backflow from tidal waters, new boards would be installed and debris cleared from the outfall pipe. Similar improvements are proposed for other flood-prone areas, such as Carpenter Avenue and Hammond Road, where poorly graded flow lines and undersized pipes frequently cause water backup.

“These flooding issues have been a nuisance for years,” Cusumano said. “But they’re more than just a hassle — they’re a safety issue for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians alike. These improvements will make a real difference.”

Additionally, upgrades near 14 The Boulevard would address inadequate inlet

capacity by adding new drainage inlets and connecting them to a functional outfall system, mitigating the standing water and pooling that have disrupted daily life in the area.

A major focus of the project is improving traffic flow and safety on Shore Road. Five new bidirectional electronic speed-awareness devices would be installed to deter speeding, while several intersections would be reconstructed to enhance visibility and accessibility. A new traffic signal is planned for the entrance to Tappen Beach, on Prospect Avenue, and the busy intersections at Glenwood Road and Littleworth Lane would undergo much-needed upgrades. A proposed redesign of the intersection at Prospect Avenue and Glen Avenue/Locust Place is particularly significant, with conceptual plans aiming to eliminate blind spots, improve traffic flow and ensure safer navigation for vehicles and pedestrians.

“We’ve taken a close look at how these intersections function, and these changes will make a dramatic impact,” Cusumano said. Cyclists would also benefit from the improvements, with new bike lanes planned for several stretches of the road, including the scenic section between Sea Cliff Beach and Putnam Avenue. Renderings show a safer, more organized roadway with dedicated lanes for cyclists and pedestrians, to encourage alternative modes of transportation and reduce vehicular congestion.

“Encouraging walking and biking isn’t just about safety,” Cusumano said. “It’s about fostering a sense of connection to this beautiful waterfront area.”

The project also includes aesthetic improvements. New sidewalks, with curb ramps that comply with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, would ensure accessibility for residents of all abilities, while decorative features such as benches, planters and trees would create a more inviting atmosphere. Lighting upgrades would not only beautify the streetscape but also improve safety at night. Proposed streetscape designs for the stretch between Sea Cliff Beach and Putnam Avenue include widened sidewalks and a parking lane lined with decorative light fixtures and greenery.

“This area has so much potential,” Cusumano said. “The planned improvements will elevate the character of the neighborhood while preserving its charm.”

The project has been divided into five sections, each with tailored upgrades. From Scudders Lane to Glenwood Landing, the focus would be on milling and resurfacing existing roadways, improving drainage and updating traffic signs. Other sections, such as Glenwood Landing to Laurel Avenue, would add bike lanes, new sidewalks and street lighting along the waterfront. Each area’s unique needs and characteristics were considered in the planning process.



Courtesy Lora Cusumano

After excessive rainfall, residents of Shore Road frequently negotiate ankle-deep water.

“This project represents a comprehensive vision for Shore Road,” Cusumano said. “It’s a collaborative effort that balances the practical needs of infrastructure with the beauty and charm that make this community special.” The project is anticipated expected to begin in 2026. Residents of Shore Road and Glen Cove have until Dec. 27 to submit comments to Cusumano, who will forward them to the county. Cusumano can be reached at: Lora@LuxHouseHunters.com.

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STEPPING OUT



Courtesy MCA Photos LLC

The party scene is among the ballet's many dazzling moments that unfold in New York Dance Theatre's staging.

THE NUTCRACKER

sparkles on local stages

A festive tradition that always delights

By Karen Bloom

This is the season when Sugar Plum Fairies and various figments of a young girl's imagination come alive. The beloved holiday confection is forever in style.

New York Dance Theatre's 'The Nutcracker'

New York Dance Theatre offers its 42nd season of the holiday classic, presented in the style of the legendary George Balanchine, returning to the John Cranford Adams Playhouse stage at Hofstra University. This production wraps up the company's celebration of its 50th anniversary on Long Island.

NYDT closely follows the George Balanchine tradition — from storyline through choreography, sets and costumes. It's the largest production on Long Island, according to Artistic Director and NYDT alumna Nicole Loizides Albruzzese. Her version keeps to the tone set by the company's founder Frank Ohman, which remains true to the spirit of New York City Ballet's Lincoln Center production. As a former student and New York City Ballet soloist under George Balanchine, Ohman was one of a select few authorized to use his mentor's original pas de deux choreography, which continues to distinguish this production, along with costumes and props gifted by Balanchine.

Through the years Ohman supplemented Balanchine's iconic vision with original dances and scenes. Loizides Albruzzese — who was a student at Ohman School of Ballet (a division of NYDT) under Ohman and performed most of the children's roles in "The Nutcracker" during her time there (returning as a professional dancer in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy before her international dance career) — faithfully follows in her mentor's footsteps in keeping to the Balanchine standard.

"This year has been about celebrating our roots and expanding the reach of the company and the Ohman School of Ballet, also marking a milestone at 45 years," Loizides Albruzzese says.

She returns to the NYDT stage as Frau Silberhaus in the opening Party Scene, alongside Glen Cove's North Shore Village Theatre Founder-Artistic Director Christopher Moll as Herr Silberhaus.

New York City Ballet soloist Erica Pereira and principal dancer Daniel Ulbricht return as the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. Joseph J. Simeone, whose credits include City Center's "A Chorus Line" and Susan Stroman's Degas-inspired "Little Dancer" at the Kennedy Center, joins NYDT this year as the mysterious Herr Drosselmeier.

In all, a cast of 80 children, pre-professional and professional dancers bring this classic story ballet to life. The kids' roles are performed by Frank Ohman School of Ballet and the School of American Ballet (the home school of New York City Ballet) students.

As an added treat, audiences can enter into the 1820s German family's household where "The



Courtesy Eglevesky Ballet

The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier are an enchanting pair as seen in Eglevesky Ballet's production.

"Nutcracker" unfolds during the semi-immersive pre-show experience. Everyone is invited into the Silberhaus home before the curtain rises, with the sights, smells and sounds of the Christmas Eve party that is the setting for Clara's dream.

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 21-22, noon and 5 p.m. Tickets start at \$33. Hofstra University, John Cranford Adams Playhouse, Hempstead. For tickets, visit NYDTNutcrackerTickets.com or call (631) 462-0964.

Eglevesky Ballet's reimagined 'The Nutcracker'

Long Island's professional dance company, the Eglevesky Ballet, welcomes all to its inventive staging of Clara's delightful journey, at the Tilles Center. Boston Ballet principals Ji Young Chae and Jeffrey Cirio Miller reprise their roles as the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. Also of note, star of ballet, Broadway and screen Georgina Pazcoguin appears as the Dew Drop Fairy.

The beloved story — featuring additional choreography by Executive Artistic Director Maurice Brandon Curry — is danced with inventive staging enhanced by Tchaikovsky's magnificent score, stunning costumes and a cast of over 60 students and professional dancers. The longest, continuously running 'Nutcracker' on Long Island, Eglevesky Ballet has presented it as a holiday gift to audiences since 1961. This exciting production, accompanied by Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, is a vibrant representation of the trajectory in which Curry is leading the organization.

Among his innovations, Curry has reinterpreted the central first act pas de deux in the prelude to "Waltz of the Snowflakes," which is usually danced by the Snow Queen and Snow King. Instead Curry has the music (his personal favorite in the ballet) performed by Clara, danced by Eglevesky Ballet's Ayne Kim and Enzo Castillo as The Nutcracker Prince.

"Having this pas de deux danced by these two intensifies the connection between the two characters," Curry says. "We see the arc of their relationship and gives the opportunity for Clara's dream to have a more poignant and personal effect on our audiences."

Saturday, Dec. 21, 1 and 6 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m. \$59-\$89. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post, Rte. 25A, Brookville. For tickets, visit tillescenter.org or ticketmaster.com or call (516) 299-3100.



The Hot Sardines

The band brings their distinctive sound back to the Landmark stage, with a "Holiday Stomp," a raucous Christmas celebration that includes timeless classics and original tunes. The Hot Sardines reinvents jazz standards with their own brassy horn arrangements, rollicking piano melodies and vocals from a chanteuse who transports listeners to a different era with the mere lilt of her voice. Emerging over a decade ago from the underground parties of Brooklyn to touring worldwide and recording a string of albums landed them at the center of a whirlwind. Audiences revel in the steamy, swanky influence of their art form. With their contagious brand of joy, grit, glamour and passion, the 8-piece band invokes the sounds of nearly a century ago, yet stay right in step with the current age.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. \$65, \$55, \$45. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org or by calling (516) 767-6444.



Celtic Woman's White Christmas

The Grammy-nominated, multi-platinum Irish-singing sensation rings in the holidays with their inimitable style. This is a rare opportunity to hear Celtic Woman's harmonies with a full symphony orchestra. Hear their favorite Yuletide songs: "Silent Night," "Carol of the Bells," "Sleigh Ride," "Deck the Halls," and more, along with Celtic Woman favorites "Danny Boy," "Amazing Grace" and "You Raise Me Up." In the 20 years since their debut, Celtic Woman has introduced some of Ireland's most talented singers and musicians to the world stage. Their fresh fusion of traditional Irish music and contemporary songcraft celebrates Ireland's history while reflecting its modern vibrant spirit.

Thursday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. \$129.50, \$99.50, \$79.50, \$59.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.

THE \$ SCENE

Dec. 27

Yellow Brick Joel

Relive the classic songs that define generations when Yellow Brick Joel brings you the ultimate Elton John and Billy Joel experience, on



the Flagstar at Westbury Music Fair stage, Friday, **Dec. 27**, 8 p.m. David Clark performs as Billy Joel along with Bill Connors as Elton John in this thoroughly entertaining and faithful tribute to the Face To Face/Face 2 Face tours of the 1990s and 2000s. Experience a spirited concert celebrating the two greatest 'Piano Men' of our generation with hits like "I'm Still Standing," "Rocket Man," "Piano Man" and "You May Be Right" along with some deeper fan performances like "Honky Cat", "Funeral For A Friend", "Miami 2017", and "Captain Jack"! A tribute to two of the greatest piano players and performers of all time couldn't be set up any other way! On one side of the stage, you'll have Clark playing the role of Billy Joel for the night. Opposite him is Connors as Elton John with Elton's requisite flamboyant style. Enjoy an incredible night as two of the greatest musical icons come to life in this special concert!

Groove to the vibe at this one-of-a-kind performance where these two talents go head-to-head as Elton John and Billy Joel delivering unforgettable music and showmanship. Whether you're a fan of Billy's heartfelt ballads or Elton's electrifying anthems, this tribute concert is sure to leave you feeling like you've seen the real thing! Tickets start at \$28. Flagstar at Westbury Music Fair, 960 Brush Hollow Rd., Westbury. Tickets available at LiveNation.com.

Holiday at Westbury House

Old Westbury Gardens' Westbury



House offers a festive glimpse of early 20th century holiday merriment, before it closes for the winter, Saturday, and Sunday, **Dec. 14-15**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The "Christmas at Westbury House" celebration reflects what the festive season was like during those opulent decades of the early 1900s when the Phipps family lived there. The period rooms in which John S. Phipps (the eldest son of Henry Phipps, Andrew Carnegie's partner at Carnegie Steel) and his family resided are impeccably decorated with wreaths, mantelpiece drapes, plenty of greenery, and other horticultural arrangements.

Take a self-guided tour through Westbury House and view specially decorated rooms for the holidays, have cookies and cider on the West Porch and meet and take photos with Santa while listening to ambient holiday music. The gardens will also be open, along with other special holiday events, including holiday market, and more. \$15, \$13 ages 62+ and students, \$8 ages 7-17. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit OldWestburyGardens.org or call (516) 333-0048.

Dec. 13

All Too Well: Swiftie Birthday Bash and Crafting Party

Crafting Party

Celebrate Taylor Swift's birthday with a night of music, creativity and fun, Friday, **Dec. 13**, 5:30-8 p.m., at Hive Market and Gallery. Whether you're a Swiftie or just love crafting, this event is for everyone. Open to all ages, so bring the family. Drop in anytime during the event to craft, enjoy light bites, and celebrate together. Taylor Swift apparel encouraged! Materials provided. Registration required at hivemarketob.com or call (516) 588-9400. 100 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay.

3rd Annual Sea Cliff Wassail Day: Collectible Mug and Tasting

Wassail, drink hail! Celebrate all things winter and holiday on Sunday, **Dec. 15**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Stroll through Sea Cliff business district and stop into local participating businesses to taste their versions of Wassail, a hot spiced cider drink. Start your day at the Sea Cliff Arts Council, 86 Roslyn Ave. a map and a "Sips of Sea Cliff Wassail Card". The tickets for the event are \$20 and will end at the Sea Cliff Village Holiday Tree Lighting.



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1272545

'A Christmas Carol'

Enjoy a solo performance of Dickens' classic holiday tale, Saturday, **Dec. 14.**, 7-9 p.m., at North Shore Historical Museum. The one-man show is adapted and performed by Greg Oliver Bodine. Charles Dickens' 1867 American Reading Tour is off to a rough start. Due to an inexplicable loss of his luggage, he regretfully announces that he will be unable to read from his beloved classic, "A Christmas Carol."

All is not lost however; Dickens delivers what he promised by performing from memory the magical story of Ebenezer Scrooge's journey from miserliness to redemption with warmth and humor. This one-man play is based on the condensed version Dickens himself used. Visit northshorehistoricalmuseum.org for more. 140 Glen St., Glen Cove.

Holiday Stroll by the Bay

Oyster Bay Main Street Association hosts their Holiday Stroll by the Bay to ring in the holiday season, Saturday, **Dec. 14**, 1-5 p.m. Enjoy a day of skating, hay rides, holiday shopping, delicious food, tree and menorah lightings, plus a visit from Santa. Visit oysterbaymainstreet.org for full schedule. 63 A Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay.



Bird walk

See some birds with the South Shore Audubon Society. All are welcome to join members for the next in its series of bird walks, the west end of Jones Beach State Park, Sunday, **Dec. 16**, starting at 9 a.m. The group will meet at the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station Parking Area. The entrance for the Coast Guard Station and West End Boat Basin is on Bay Drive going west. Walk leaders, other birders and nature enthusiasts are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you.

Bring binoculars. To register, text your name and contact information to (516) 467-9498. Rain, snow or temperature below 25 degrees will cancel the bird walk. Text regarding questionable weather. For more information, visit SSAudubon.org.



Holiday concert

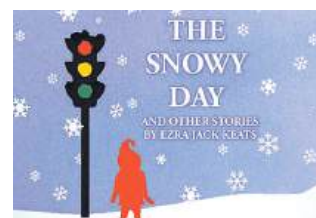
Celebrate the season with the Symphonic Pops of Long Island, Sunday, **Dec. 22**, 2 p.m. The intergenerational orchestra of 60 L.I.-based musicians performs with the Willow Interfaith Women's Choir as special guests. The program, at Brookside School in North Merrick, includes "Charlie Brown Christmas," "Let It Snow," "Christmas Sing-A-Long," "Greensleeves," "Chanukah Festival Overture," and much more. Suggested donation of \$10 is requested at the door (kids are free). 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York. Visit symphonicpopsli.org for more.

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.



Family theater

Long Island Children's Museum welcomes families to its stage, Friday, **Dec. 13**, 10:15 a.m. and noon; Sunday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; also Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 17-19, 10:-15 a.m. and noon. Ezra Jack Keats' "The Snowy Day & Other Stories" celebrates the joy in the small moments

of a child's world. Experience the wonder of a fresh snowfall, the delight of whistling for the first time, and the awe of finding a special treasure. In this childhood adventure, Keats' classic books come to life, featuring live actors and shadow puppets telling the stories of "The Snowy Day," "Goggles!," "Whistle for Willie," and "A Letter to Amy." \$11 with museum admission (\$9 members), \$15 theater only. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or licm.org.

Having an event?

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

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Be sure to include a photo or an example of their work—whether it's a community garden, an environmental campaign, or a creative solution to a sustainability challenge.



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**DEADLINE:
JANUARY 12TH**

LEGAL NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NASSAU WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CASCADE FUNDING MORTGAGE TRUST HB2, Plaintiff AGAINST FRED SOUZA AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARIO SOUZA-FERREIRA, WHO WAS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF ELSA SOUZA-FERREIRA, STEVE FERREIRA AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARIO SOUZA-FERREIRA, WHO WAS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF ELSA SOUZA-FERREIRA, EDWIN FERREIRA AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARIO SOUZA-FERREIRA, WHO WAS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF ELSA SOUZA-FERREIRA, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH THE IRS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, SYNCHRONY BANK, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF NASSAU COUNTY AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MARIO SOUZA-FERREIRA, WHO WAS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF ELSA SOUZA-FERREIRA, UNKNOWN HEIRS AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH SOUZA FERREIRA WHO WAS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF MARIO SOUZA-FERREIRA, WHO WAS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF ELSA SOUZA-FERREIRA IF LIVING, AND IF HE/SHE BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, CLAIMING, OR WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN, OR GENERAL OR SPECIFIC LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS ACTION; ET AL, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered September 30, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the North Side steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on January 7, 2025 at 2:30PM, premises known as 21 Hitching Post Lane, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau, and State of New York, Section 30, Block 76, Lot 48. Approximate amount of judgment \$889,636.69 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #614416/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the

NASSAU County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. If proper social distancing cannot be maintained or there are other health or safety concerns, then the court appointed referee will cancel the foreclosure auction. Foreclosure Auctions will be held "Rain or Shine". Tara Mayerhofer, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 19-004214 83152 150240

LEGAL NOTICE REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF NASSAU US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, INC., MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-4, Plaintiff - against - LARRY BLUMSTEIN, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 2, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the North Side steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court located at 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, N.Y. 11501 on the 7th day of January, 2025 at 2:00 PM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff, Town of Oyster Bay, County of Nassau and State of New York. Premises known as 1 Richardson Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. (Section: 21, Block: 222, Lot: 431) Approximate amount of lien \$624,040.05 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 018968/2009. Scott H. Siller, Esq., Referee. McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 Tel. 347/286-7409 For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832 Dated: October 30, 2024 During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also

required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale. 150209

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the following projects will be received by the Purchasing Agent of the City of Glen Cove, located at City Hall, rear entrance, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York no later than 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on Monday, December 30, 2024, at which time they will be opened and read aloud at 11:00 a.m.: Overhead & Roll Up Doors: Service, Preventative Maintenance, Parts and Repairs Bid No. 2024-010R On-Call Electric and Street Lighting Services Bid No. 2024-018 On-Call HVAC Services Bid No. 2024-019 On-Call Plumbing Services Bid No. 2024-020 On-Call Irrigation Services Bid No. 2024-021 Specifications are available for download at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/cityofglen Cove>. Registration is free and instructions are available on <https://glenconveny.gov/bid-rfps/> Each proposal must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid package, in a sealed envelope with the name of the bidder, the bid name, and number marked clearly on the outside of the envelope. Yelena Quiles Purchasing Agent City of Glen Cove December 10, 2024 150490

PUBLIC AND LEGAL NOTICES... Printed in this publication can be found online. To search by publication name, go to: www.newyorkpublicnotices.com

LEGAL NOTICE Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year Kindergarten Registration: Registration for Kindergarten will begin on January 6, 2025. The Glen Cove School District now offers online registration for the 2025-2026 school year. To register, please visit our website: <https://www.glenconveschools.org/district1/central-office/registration> Students must be district residents and turn five years old by December 1 of the upcoming school year. Ensure that all required documents are uploaded during the online registration process. Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten Registration:

Registration for Pre-Kindergarten will begin on February 3, 2025. Please note that entering the lottery does not guarantee placement in the Pre-K program. Transportation will not be provided for Pre-K students. Registration Requirements for Both Kindergarten and Pre-K: Upload the following documents with your online application: Child's proof of age Child's Immunization record and Physical Proof of Residency Parent/Guardian Photo ID Ensure all sections of the online registration are fully completed. For any questions, please call (516) 801-7008. Important Age Requirements: To enter Kindergarten, children must be five years old on or before December 1 of the school year. To enter Pre-Kindergarten, children must be four years old on or before December 1 of the school year. Additional Information: For more details, visit the Glen Cove School District website under Our District > Central Office > Registration. You may also visit the District Office (Thayer House) at 154 Dosoris Lane or contact individual school buildings. 150489

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF GLEN COVE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Glen Cove Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. The hearing will be on the application of Norman A. Kaplan, residing at 12 Maryland Ave., Glen Cove, NY, requesting Variances from Sections 280-58 B (4), (5), (10), and (12) of the Glen Cove Zoning Code to maintain an existing 47.58 sq ft rear addition and a 152.6 sq ft front yard covered porch addition to a one story home. The addition of 200.18 sq ft increases the lot coverage to 1,008.77 sq ft (26.8% where a maximum of 20% is permitted). The floor area ratio also increased to 1,333.1 sq ft (35.41% where 30% is permitted). The maintenance of the enclosed front porch also encroaches upon the required front yard (20 feet required, 12.9 feet existing). The maintenance of the rear yard addition increases the degree of non-conformance relative to the required rear yard setback (30 feet required, 26.58 feet existing).

Shye Roberts Shines on "The Voice"

Shye Roberts, an 18-year-old native of Glen Cove, secured second place on Season 26 of NBC's The Voice. Coached by Michael Bublé, Roberts captivated audiences throughout the competition, earning her place in the finale with a series of standout performances. In the two-part finale, Roberts performed Joan Osborne's "One of Us" and Harry Styles' "Falling," showcasing her emotional depth and vocal versatility. She returned to the stage for a duet with Bublé, singing "Somethin' Stupid" by Frank and Nancy Sinatra. Despite her impressive journey, her teammate Sofronio Vasquez, representing the Philip-

pires, ultimately won the season. Roberts began her musical journey in Glen Cove, performing in school choirs and musicals before advancing to elite vocal ensembles and local gigs. Her decision to audition for The Voice came after her family's relocation to Pennsylvania during her senior year, marking a turning point in her career. Known for her unique interpretations and emotional connection to songs, Roberts quickly became a fan favorite, earning widespread praise online.

-Roksana Amid

Arrested for driving car on LIRR tracks

A Brooklyn man was arrested after driving his car on the Long Island Rail Road main line train tracks at 4:52 p.m. on Dec. 8 near the Bellerose and Floral Park train stations.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority police said that Basilio Hidalgo, 40, drove his black Honda SUV half a mile on LIRR train tracks, travelling from the Elmont-UBS Arena train station and coming to a stop east of the Bellerose station.


The SUV was stopped after two of the vehicle's tires became severely damaged, causing front end damage to the SUV and the tires to ignite on fire, which was extinguished by Floral Park Fire Department, MTA police said. There was significant damage to the third rail and other track infrastructure.

Hidalgo was arrested at the scene. The LIRR had to suspend service on the Hempstead Branch and recorded significant delays on the Ronkonkoma, Port Jefferson, and Oyster Bay branches as police investigated. LIRR crewmembers eventually removed the car and the tracks were repaired.

The investigation into how the SUV entered onto the tracks is still ongoing, authorities said. The MTA police is leading the investigation along with the LIRR fire marshal, Nassau County Emergency Services, Floral Park Fire Department and the Floral Park Police Department.

Hidalgo is charged with reckless endangerment, criminal trespassing and driving while intoxicated.

-Renee DeLorenzo



Let us hear from you!

We want to know what you think. Send your letters to 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530 or email ramid@liherald.com

HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

The subject property is in the City's R-3A One Family Residence District and designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 31, Block E, Lot 40. The above application is on file at the city offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of the usual business days until the time of the hearing. Dated: December 3, 2024 BY ORDER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE THERESA MOSCHETTA,

CHAIRPERSON 150491

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

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NASSAU JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Barbara Lowell a/k/a Barbara C. Lowell; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 3, 2023 I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public

auction at the North Side Steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court at 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on January 13, 2025 at 2:00PM, premises known as 3 Westgate Court, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau, State of NY, Section 23 Block D Lot 31. Approximate amount of judgment \$243,046.89 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed

Judgment Index# 611517/2022. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the 10th Judicial District. Foreclosure Auctions will be held "Rain or Shine." Jane P. Shrenkel, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: November 14, 2024 150487

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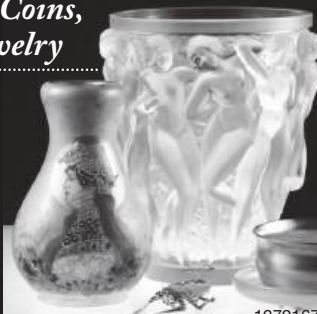
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OPINIONS

Some random post-election musings

Professor Drew Westen, of Emory University, wrote a fascinating book in 2008. In “The Political Brain: The Role of Emotion in Deciding the Fate of the Nation,” Westen, a clinical psychologist, notes that fear, passion and individual values drive the way people vote. Dispassionate intellectual and rational

analysis are very often outweighed by emotion.

This should come as no surprise, because it has always been part and parcel of democracy.

While the presidential election was unusual in that Vice President Kamala Harris had only a little more than 100

days to mount a campaign, she nonetheless managed to come within 2.5 million votes of winning a hotly contested election, with 74 people million voting for her. President Trump received 76.5 million votes.

In New York, Harris got 55 percent of the vote, and beat Trump by 1 million out of the 7.7 million votes cast. Interestingly enough, the New York Equal Rights Amendment, enshrining abor-

tion rights in our state Constitution, passed with the approval of more than 57 percent of voters. Similar constitutional provisions were added in Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri and Montana. While Nevada, too, voted for such a protection, its unique law requires public approval in two separate elections.

Arizona, Missouri, Montana and Nevada all went for Trump. How, then, do we account for abortion rights passing solidly in states in which voters elected the man who prides himself on appointing Supreme Court Justices who overruled *Roe v. Wade*?

Similarly, while Trump beat Harris in Nassau and Suffolk, voters in those counties passed the ERA in a landslide, Suffolk with 72 percent of the vote.

Statewide, Democrats won additional seats in the House of Representatives and flipped three Republican seats. On Long Island, there was no change in State Senate representation, and the Assembly added one Democratic seat. Republicans won one additional Senate seat statewide.

It is challenging to neatly account for this dissonance, and even though I have run for office many times, your guess is

certainly as good as mine. I do, however, believe there are some unifying threads.

On the presidential and state levels, Democrats are at a severe disadvantage when they don't run strong candidates in every state and in every legislative

district, isolating only a handful of states in which to battle for the presidency.

The same is true in state legislative races. This year on Long Island, Democrats ran some great candidates in districts that would have been very challenging to win. They assembled professional staffs, had strong community and grassroots support, and raised money. Many earned the endorsements of the reputable press. These promising candidates learned a great deal, and we will see them running again in the future.

Yet just as we see weak Democratic campaigns in too many of the red states, we also see Democratic State Senate and Assembly candidates who are candidates in name only. The lack of viable candidates in those districts adversely affects an overall interest in inspiring registered Democrats, and others, to vote.

I have no patience with some Democrats and pundits who claim that Harris should have run a ran a better cam-

paign. I, for one, believe she made a flawless effort given the narrow window of opportunity to counter a national Republican campaign that began on January 6, 2021.

I will continue to trust our nation's voters. With wars across the world and people still suffering from the anxieties of the pandemic and its remaining adverse economic challenges, it is understandable that many Americans wanted to buck the status quo, with many believing that Harris would have been more likely to continue it.

As a Democrat, I don't want President-elect Donald Trump to fail, and I don't want America to fail. We Democrats must now be the loyal minority on the national level.

Nonetheless, Democrats in New York and elsewhere will not disregard our responsibility to fight for an aspirational nation guarding individual rights. We must all appreciate that America has a strong and growing economy. We must acknowledge as well that our economic rights are a direct reflection of our personal rights. To be sure, if we lose our fundamental constitutional and human rights, our economic rights will not long survive.

Charles Lavine represents New York's 13th Assembly District, and serves as chair of the Assembly's Judiciary Committee.



CHARLES LAVINE

It's a challenge to account for the differences in national and state results.

Hochul must sign horseshoe crab act into law

Gov. Kathy Hochul has been presented with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save one of our planet's greatest unsung heroes, the horseshoe crab. Earlier this year, the State Senate and Assembly passed a bill that would prohibit taking horseshoe crabs from New

York waters for bait or for biomedical use. Hochul has until the end of the month to sign the bill into law, and time is running out for us to persuade her to do so.



CHRISTINE SUTER

Horseshoe crabs have existed relatively unchanged for roughly 450 million years — 200

million years longer than dinosaurs — and they have survived five mass extinctions. They are a keystone species, which means that if their populations were to dwindle to numbers that are unsustainable, the repercussions for other species would be devastating. Every year, numerous species of migratory shorebirds rely on horseshoe crab eggs for food on their long journey to

their breeding grounds in the Arctic.

For half a century, humans have depended on horseshoe crabs for our survival, because they have played a major role in modern medicine. Their unique copper-based blue blood contains a clotting agent that immediately forms a clot when it comes into contact with bacteria. Because of this, horseshoe crab blood has been used for decades by the biomedical industry to test for infection-causing bacteria in injectable drugs, intravenous solutions, vaccines and medical implants. Their blood was also used to develop the Covid-19 vaccines that have saved millions of lives. Luckily, a synthetic alternative to horseshoe crab blood has been developed and approved for biomedical use, but the changeover in the industry has been slow.

Although there are misconceptions that they are poisonous or that they use their tails as weapons, horseshoe crabs are completely harmless. The tail serves a very important purpose: to flip a crab over if it gets turned upside down. That's why you should never pick one up by its tail. They are completely pas-

sive animals, grazing across the seafloor like ancient vacuum cleaners, looking for the small aquatic insects, mollusks and detritus on which they feed.

There are four species of horseshoe crabs, and the Atlantic coast is the only place in the Western Hemisphere that is home to one of those species, the Atlantic horseshoe crab, or *Limulus polyphemus*.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's benchmark stock assessment of horseshoe crabs in 2019, and the recently updated stock assessment in 2024, both show the crabs' stock status in New York as poor. Of all the states on the Atlantic coast, New York is the only one where that is the case, and there is no evidence that the population is rebounding.

Horseshoe crabs cannot legally be harvested for biomedical use in New York state. Their dwindling population here is due mostly to their harvesting for use as bait in the eel and conch fisheries as well as the loss of their spawning grounds due to sea level rise and shoreline hardening. New Jersey and Connecticut have both banned the harvest of

the crabs, which puts even more pressure on the New York stock and puts them at a higher risk of poaching by out-of-state fishermen. Bait alternatives exist, but fishermen won't be compelled to use them unless a ban is enacted.

Entrusting the state Department of Environmental Conservation to regulate the harvesting of horseshoe crabs is a mistake. Regulation depends on enforcement, and with only 30 to 40 environmental conservation officers patrolling the entire Long Island coastline, there is ample opportunity for overharvesting and poaching to take place.

Friends of the Bay is asking you to urge Governor Hochul to sign the Horseshoe Crab Protection Act into law. Friends of the Bay is an environmental conservation and advocacy organization headquartered in Oyster Bay. Our mission is to preserve, protect and restore the ecological integrity and productivity of the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Estuary and the surrounding watershed.

Please visit friendsofthebay.org/horseshoe-crab-protection-act to learn how you can help, and to get a copy of a sample letter that you can sign and mail, or email, to the governor.

Christine Suter is executive director of Friends of the Bay.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

State must fund seat belts for school buses

Yellow school buses are an iconic image of education in America, transporting millions of children each day. But in New York state, the question of whether buses are equipped with seat belts is left to individual school districts.

The Briarcliff, Elmsford and Yonkers districts have embraced the added security of seat belts in a limited form, but others have opted out, leaving a patchwork system that prioritizes local discretion over consistent safety standards.

On the crowded roads of 2024, this approach is no longer acceptable. It is time for the state to mandate seat belts on all school buses in every district, ensuring the safety of every child who steps aboard.

School buses are generally recognized as one of the safest modes of transportation, thanks to their design and the principle of “compartmentalization.” High-backed, closely spaced seats create a buffer that helps absorb the force of a collision.

Simple compartmentalization is far from foolproof, however, particularly in side-impact crashes or rollovers. Seat belts add a crucial layer of protection in these scenarios. Without them, children can be thrown from their seats, increasing the likelihood of serious injury or even death.

A statewide mandate would align New York with the growing national consensus on school bus safety. Several

states, including New Jersey, Florida, and California, already require seat belts on buses. These mandates reflect the recommendations of safety organizations like the National Transportation Safety Board, which has advocated for the installation of lap-and-shoulder belts on all new large buses. By following suit, New York would reaffirm its commitment to children’s safety and set an example for still more states to follow.

One argument often made by opponents of mandatory seat belts is that they’re too costly to install. Retrofitting existing buses or buying new models equipped with seat belts is a significant investment, but when the expense is weighed against the potential cost of injuries or fatalities, the financial argument falls flat.

The state Department of Transportation could work with school districts to phase in the requirement over time, offsetting the cost with the help of state funding or federal grants. But again, the safety benefits of seat belts far outweigh the expense. Protecting children should never hinge on budgetary constraints.

Another concern is enforcement of seat belt requirements. Critics argue that younger children might not consistently buckle up. While this concern is valid, it is not insurmountable. Bus drivers can incorporate quick visual checks into their routine, and schools can implement safety education pro-

grams to teach students the importance of being protected while on the bus. These measures would foster a culture of compliance and ensure that seat belts serve their intended purpose.

Beyond the practical and financial considerations, the best argument for seat belts is a moral one. Parents trust that when their children board a bus, they are as safe as possible. By leaving the decision to individual districts, New York sends a troubling message: that children’s safety may vary depending on their Zip code. This undermines the model of equal protection and fairness that public education is supposed to embody.

In the end, the case for mandatory seat belts on school buses is clear. The technology exists, the safety benefits are well documented, and the moral imperative is undeniable. New York has long been a leader in progressive public policy. Requiring seat belts on school buses would not only safeguard the state’s most vulnerable residents, but also reaffirm its commitment to equity and safety.

It’s time for the state to take the wheel on this issue and drive meaningful change. Safety is not optional — it’s a necessity. With an annual budget of nearly a quarter-trillion dollars, New York has no excuse for not providing money to add seat belts to school buses. Children are our most precious passengers, and the time to act is now.

LETTERS

D’Esposito is a falsifier

To the Editor:

Re U.S. Rep. Anthony D’Esposito’s recent op-ed, “I look forward to representing you again”: D’Esposito said some things that were far from the truth. As president of the Long Island chapter of the New York Alliance for Retired Americans, I represent over 10,000 members Islandwide, which includes more than 3,000 members in his district.

I was assigned to secure a meeting with the congressman, as I had done with Peter King several years ago. King gave the alliance’s statewide president and me about 20 minutes, and that was two days after a major snowstorm. I would have been happy with 20 minutes with D’Esposito, but despite numerous calls, I was given the runaround by both his district and Washington offices. Maybe if he had met with us, more of those 3,000-plus members would have voted for him. After all, everyone agrees that senior citizens vote in higher percentages than the general population.

He was also inaccurate about his voting for an immigration bill, because he left out the part where he voted against the bipartisan bill



that would have solved many immigration problems. But his party leaders wanted him to help kill that bill so it could be used as an issue in the November election.

Representative D’Esposito speaks out

of both sides of his mouth, like many politicians do. All I can say about that is, you reap what you sow.

STANLEY B. BERGMAN
East Meadow

OPINIONS

We're working to keep NUMC open, despite its struggles

Among the top priorities of the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority is ensuring that Nassau University Medical Center remains open, returns to financial health and is available to serve the people who need it most. A



**RICHARD
KESSEL**

recent op-ed in the Herald by NUMC leadership ("After reforms, NUMC is on the upswing," Oct. 10-16) caught our eye, because it painted a rosy picture of the hospital's financial situation, even though the facts say the opposite.

Despite the platitudes offered in the op-ed, the fundamental issue remains that the Nassau Health Care Corporation, the state public authority that manages NUMC and related facilities, continues to operate at a tremendous deficit while making no meaningful changes to work toward financial stability. NHCC's oper-

ating losses (before certain actuarial adjustments) were approximately \$77 million in 2023 and roughly \$108 million in 2022. NIFA is projecting an operating loss for NHCC of around \$120 million in 2024.

Earlier this year, NHCC made a unilateral demand for substantial additional funding from the state. In response, the State Department of Health requested that NHCC provide certain required information and take particular actions to achieve balanced operations in order to be considered for extraordinary relief. Amazingly, NHCC has resisted complying adequately with the Health Department's reasonable conditions that it must impose to ensure that NHCC would manage the state's scarce resources appropriately.

At the core of its financial instability is the fact that NHCC owes the New York State Health Insurance Program, or NYSHIP, \$9 million per month in premiums. NHCC pays only \$2 million each month, creating a monthly deficit

of \$7 million. Over the past four and a half years, the total that NHCC owes NYSHIP has ballooned to roughly \$380 million.

The county's Interim Finance Authority has made the troubled hospital a priority.

That isn't just some enormous number sitting in a filing cabinet in Albany: It's a tremendous cost that is being passed on to other municipal organizations in Nassau County and throughout the state. This means that these costs are being subsidized by entities like local governments and school districts, and thus, taxpayers. The increased burden on Nassau County and other taxpayers will only get worse if the hospital's ineffective leadership is not changed for the better.

NHCC executives are potentially placing an even greater financial strain on the shoulders of their over 3,500 employees (along with retirees), all of whom are at risk of losing their health insurance should these arrears on NYSHIP payments continue. The New York State Civil Service Commission has sent NHCC numerous letters over

the past three years alerting leadership that the health care corporation is at risk of termination by NYSHIP due to these unpaid amounts. It is the negligence of NHCC's executives that has led it to this point.

The hospital's problems are the result of poor management and an ineffective board, whose members must be replaced in order for the situation to improve. NIFA knows for certain that, in order for NUMC to continue serving our community, its existing leadership must change, and soon. NHCC's current board leadership and management have shown that they are ill-equipped to oversee such a delicate operation. Their lack of ability shows, and it could ultimately result in the hospital shutting down entirely. Thousands of people would be out of jobs, and all of us would lose a crucial medical resource in our community.

The last thing we want is for NUMC is to close its doors. Along with Gov. Kathy Hochul and her top staff, NIFA is working hard with all stakeholders to keep them open.

Richard Kessel is chairman of the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority.

LETTERS

He sounds like he wants his seat back

To the Editor:

I found Anthony D'Esposito's piece confusing, because it sounded more like his first campaign speech to regain his lost seat rather than an opinion. In a county that voted favorably for the Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, Mr. D'Esposito was unable to ride Mr. Trump's coattails and defeat Laura Gillen in New York's 4th Congressional District. In the majority opinion, the best candidate won.

JOHN P. FITZSIMONS
Rockville Centre

School regionalization: something smells

To the Editor:

After reading in the Herald about the emergency regionalization plan proposed by the State Education Department, I see this as an attempt by the department to integrate all of the Nassau County school districts and their systems. That would eliminate local control of schools and centralize their supervision.

This new "emergency" approach would improve the education results in the Hempstead and Roosevelt districts, to name just a few, but by signing on to the plan, school districts will lose all local control. I advise districts to move

forward with caution. I smell a rat here.

RUTH HIRSCH
Hewlett

Why the MTA's 2025 fare hikes make sense

To the Editor:

Long Island Rail Road and New York City Transit riders should hold accountable any public official, Metropolitan Transportation Authority board member or transit advocate who opposes the planned 4 percent fare hikes in 2025 for missing why the increases are needed. They were part of the MTA's \$51 billion 2020-2024 Five Year Capital Plan.

Quality and frequency of service depends on secure revenue streams. We will all have to contribute — be it with fares or tax revenue redistributed to the MTA. Fare hikes are periodically required if the authority's operating agencies, including the LIRR, are to provide the services millions of New Yorkers count on daily. They are inevitable due to increasing costs of labor, power, fuel, supplies, materials, routine safety, state of good repair, replacement of worn-out rolling stock, and upgrades to stations, yards and shops necessary to run any transit system.

In 2023, the MTA lost \$700 million to fare evasion and spent \$1.3 billion on employee overtime. There is little reason to believe that the 2024 numbers will significantly change. So, in return for honest riders paying the new higher fares

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At the Chamber of Commerce tree lighting in Veterans Memorial Park — East Meadow

next year, the MTA must step up and reduce annual fare evasion by several hundred million dollars and employee overtime to well below \$1 billion. A fare increase requires MTA reforms.

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.



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