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YEAR IN REVIEW
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VOL. 33 NO. 53

HERALD PERSON OF THE YEAR VINNIE MARTINEZ

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to all our readers

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Vinnie Martinez's lifetime of service

By ROKSANA AMID

At age 90, Vinnie Martinez has become an enduring symbol of service, dedication and community spirit in Glen Cove. For decades, his tireless efforts to beautify the city, honor its veterans and uplift its residents have left an indelible mark on the city he holds dear. Martinez embodies what it means to give selflessly, to see a need and meet it without hesitation, and the Herald is proud to name him its 2024 Person of the Year.

Martinez's most visible legacy is "Vinnie's Island," a 100-foot-long traffic median at the intersection of School Street, North Lane and Brewster Street. Beginning 40 years ago, he transformed this once-overgrown strip into a vibrant garden, bursting with color.

"It's all about the color and the people," Martinez said with a warm smile. "I love when passersby stop to chat while waiting at the light. That's the real joy of it."

For years he has bought flowers for the island, out of his own pocket — summer poinsettias, delphinium, pink coneflowers, peonies, and rows of red and white begonias arranged like flag stripes. Even now, though he no longer drives, he visits his creation several times a week, often catching rides from neighbors or his son, Vincent Martinez Jr., who shares his father's passion for community service.

Vincent Jr., the supervisor of Glen Cove's Department of Public Works, credits his father for inspiring his own life of service. "He's always given back, always led by example," Vincent Jr. said. "The way he's cared for Vinnie's Island all these years, and his commitment to the Fire Department and veterans — it's just remarkable."

Like his father, Vincent Jr. served in the military, and is a member of the Glen Cove Fire Department. He marvels at his father's energy and devotion. "He's the last of the original volunteers, still stewarding his adopt-a-spot from 1984," he said. "That says it all."

At the heart of the elder Martinez's dedication to Glen Cove is a simple yet profoundly meaningful tradition: recognizing residents who fly the American flag. For decades, he has driven around the city, noting homes and businesses displaying the flag. Shortly after returning home from the Navy, he noticed an American flag painted upside down on a plastic cow displayed at a local Glen Cove store. Martinez confronted the shop owner, who didn't speak English, sparking a heated exchange that drew significant attention in the community. "All hell

It's just something I know I have to do.

VINNIE MARTINEZ
Volunteer



broke loose," Martinez recalls with a laugh. The incident even made local headlines, with Martinez saving newspaper clippings to this day. That experience, he says, planted the seed for his later tradition of honoring those who proudly display the flag in Glen Cove.

He has sent more than 360 certificates of appreciation on behalf of the American Legion to these patriotic people. "It's about encouraging pride in our nation," Martinez says.

"A small gesture like this can mean so much," Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, a former city councilman, and one such recipient, said, recalling the emotional impact of receiving a certificate. "The fact that it came from Vinnie, a veteran who's given so much to the community, made it incredibly special. It's a beautiful way to inspire patriotism and remind us to honor our country." Martinez continues to spot new flags on his rides to Vinnie's Island, ensuring that the tradition lives on.

Stevenson-Mathews described Martinez as the epitome of selflessness. "He's always stepping up to the plate, whether it's

Continued on page 2

Roksana Amid/ Herald

From Navy Veteran to community champion, Vinnie Martinez has a lifelong dedication to Glen Cove.

FOR BREAKING NEWS go to liherald.com

HERALD
Community Newspapers

Vinnie Martinez has built a legacy of patriotism

Continued from front

his garden, recognizing veterans, or supporting the community," he said. "What strikes me most is that Vinnie served our nation during the Korean War, and when he came home, he kept serving — as a firefighter, EMS leader, and in countless other ways. It's a testament to his character."

Martinez, who grew up in Glen Cove, enlisted in the Navy at 17, inspired by a neighbor who had served in World War II. Though his mother hoped his naval assignment would keep him out of harm's way, he soon found himself in the thick of the Korean War, patrolling the Pacific and the Korean Bay on During the Korean War, Vinnie Martinez served aboard the USS Zellars, a destroyer ship. Initially, he worked as a barber on the ship—a skill he picked up without formal training, humorously recalling how he claimed to know how to cut hair despite having no experience. Eventually, Martinez transitioned to a role as a gunner aboard the destroyer, where he participated in patrol missions in the Pacific and Korean Bay. His service included efforts to rescue downed pilots, a poignant memory of both triumph and heart-break.

He vividly recalls two missions to

rescue downed pilots. "One we got, one we lost," he says somberly. "That was heartbreaking."

After his discharge in 1957, Martinez returned to Glen Cove, married his wife, Sophie, and began building a life rooted in service.

Martinez's friend Joseph Moores, who worked alongside him at the post office jokingly calls him the city historian, for his meticulous preservation of Glen Cove's past. "He's always kept old pictures and clippings," Moores said. "He's just in awe of preserving the Glen Cove he grew up in." As a member of the Glen Cove Fire Department for 64 years, he has worn many hats: captain of the hook and ladder company, secretary, and first officer of the fire police unit. He also co-founded the department's rescue squad. Current Fire Chief Philip Grella Jr. described him as irreplaceable, and an inspiration. Martinez is still active, still comes to calls and drills. He's part of the fire police unit, securing scenes and directing traffic.

Martinez's humor and unwavering dedication have endeared him to many. Tony Anzalone, a retired colonel and adjutant of American Legion Post 76, recalled how Martinez brings levity to Legion meetings. "He loves to tell jokes. He writes them down and reads them

at our meetings, but he usually laughs before he can get to the punchline," Anzalone said with a chuckle. "He's old school, demanding, but he's a wonderful person who would give you the shirt off his back."

In recent years, Martinez has ramped up his efforts to honor veterans. He planted stakes on Vinnie's Island bearing the names of fallen Glen Cove soldiers.

"We have Veterans Day and Memorial Day, but there are so many veterans who deserve to be remembered," he says. "This is my way of honoring them."

A monument dedicated to him was unveiled at Vinnie's Island in November, with a plaque that reads: "Thank you for bringing life and color to the heart of Glen Cove with your selfless dedication." The tribute, sponsored by the Tribute and Honor Foundation and anonymous donors, is fitting recognition for a man who has poured his heart into his community.

From teaching CPR in schools to driving seniors to appointments at the Helen Keller Center, in Cold Spring Harbor in the 1980s, his contributions span decades and disciplines. Asked what keeps him going, Martinez shrugged. "It's just something I know I



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews
Vincent Martinez, above, right, at 'Vinnie's Island,' has been beautifying Glen Cove for over 40 years.

have to do," he said simply. "Take care of what needs taking care of."

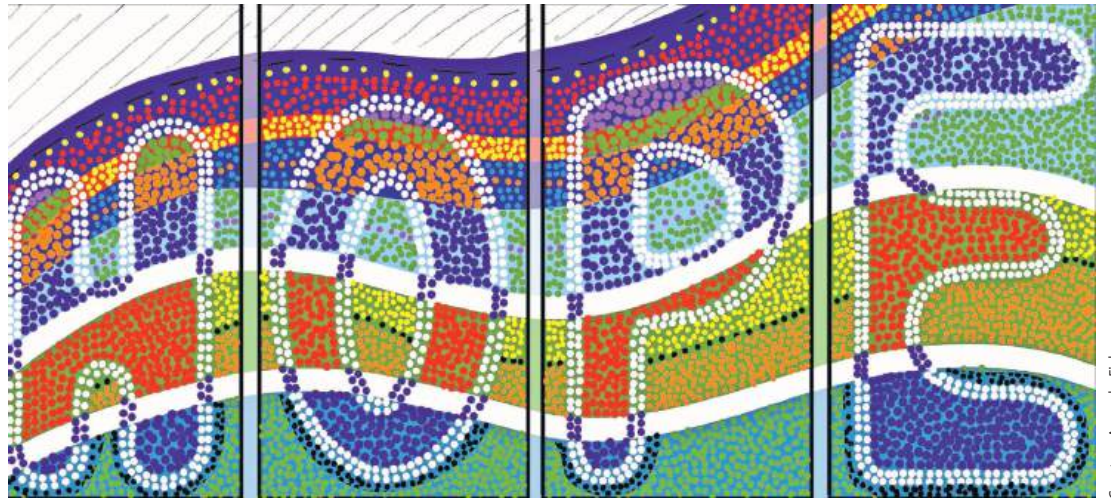
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YEAR IN REVIEW January 2024



Courtesy Amanda Fisk

Unity, creativity, environmental awareness. This image by Amanda Fisk captures a preliminary concept for the mosaic, dedicated to promoting unity, creativity and environmental awareness in Glen Cove.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Man, dog are reunited. It was a difficult Christmas for Carlos Vazquez and his family in 2023, after Vinny, a registered emotional support animal, went missing on Dec. 20. He was finally captured in a trap on Duck Pond Road at 4:44 a.m. on Dec. 27.



Tammy Lanham/Herald

Remembering King's legacy in Glen Cove. Despite the freezing temperatures, the Glen Cove community proudly marched in the city's 40th celebration honoring of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Courtesy Keith Hansen

Community rallies around toddler battling rare cancer. Erik Hansen has had four surgeries, multiple rounds of chemotherapy and radiation



Roksana Amid/Herald

Tribute and Honor Foundation to honor vets. The Glen Cove Fire Department showed their support for the VFW members by attending Tribute and Honor gala. Many first responders in the city are also veterans.

Reports of drones? Here's what Nassau County is doing

By **JORDAN VALLONE**

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Following reports that a large number of mysterious drones have been seen flying over parts of New Jersey and the East Coast, Nassau County officials showcased the county's drone detection technology, that allows law enforcement to track drones anywhere within the county.

County Executive Bruce Blakeman, at a news conference held at the David S. Mack Center for Training and Intelligence in Garden City on Dec. 19, told reporters that the county's drone detection capabilities are "ahead of the curve."

"I have been to other police departments throughout the United States to take a look at their intelligence and drone detection," Blakeman said. "I can tell you that Nassau County is state-of-the-art. We're on the cutting edge of drone detection."

Reports of drones

According to a report by NBC, more than 5,000 drone sightings have been reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, mostly in New Jersey, although drones have been seen in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio.

The Federal Aviation Administration banned drone flights in 22 areas of New Jersey, according to a report by AP News.

Patrick Ryder, commissioner of the



Jordan Vallone/Herald

Nassau County Bruce Blakeman spoke at a news conference on Dec. 19, detailing the county's drone technology, in response to reports of drones being seen in states along the East Coast.

Nassau County Police Department, said since Nov. 1, Nassau County has identified over 1,800 drone flights and 798 pilots.

What can Nassau County do?

Nassau County has the ability to track and identify drones that are in the county's airspace, but is not allowed to mitigate their flying — only the federal government has that authority, Blakeman said.

"There's detection and there's mitiga-

tion," he explained. "The mitigation is two types: One is the technology to jam it and have it return to its base, and the other one is to destroy it."

Blakeman said they'd like the federal government to allow the police department to do a few things.

"We'd like the technology so we don't have to shoot it down, because that creates a whole other set of problems," Blakeman said. "But the technology is there to jam it and send it back to its

home base, and we want that. We also want federal legislation that would allow us to issue a federal summons in the event that someone was violating the law."

Blakeman said the county understands that drone flying is a hobby, and there are proper places where one can fly a drone.

"We have no problem with that," he added. "But when it gets out of hand, like we've seen in New Jersey, or if it's potential form of some kind of organized crime gang or a foreign nation, we have a responsibility to be on top of that."

Nassau County's technology

In order to fly a drone in restricted airspace, Ryder said one needs to be a licensed drone pilot. Nassau County has 27 pilots, he said, that have gone to school and learned how to fly drones. The county also has 30 snipers that can subdue threats — like a drone — from long distances, he said.

Inside the David S. Mack Center, Ryder and Blakeman showed reporters the technology from behind-the-scenes — massive screens that can pinpoint where drones are flying, and where they're being flown from. If an unknown drone is detected, patrol cars can go to the location and ask for it to come down.

The county does not have the ability to take down a drone itself, but can make an arrest if someone is refusing to stop flying their drone.

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The Glen Cove Herald USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. **Subscriptions:** \$50 one-time payment within Nassau County or \$60 outside of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 **Copyright © 2024** Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

NUMC opens new employee relaxation station

By **JORDAN VALLONE**

jvallone@theherald.com

Nassau University Medical Center has officially opened a new, modern staff lounge, designed to support health care workers' mental health, resiliency and well-being. The new facility offers a space for the hospital's workforce — that treats more than 270,000 patients annually — to decompress and recharge, while working in one of the region's most demanding medical environments.

We are not only investing in our employees' well-being but also enhancing the quality of care we provide to our patients.

MEG RYAN

President and chief executive Nassau University Medical Center

Meg Ryan, the president and chief executive of the Nassau Health Care Corporation, which oversees the operations of NUMC, said employee well-being and engagements has

been a priority of hers. "This year, we had our first employee engagement officer," Ryan said at a Dec. 18 ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate



Jordan Vallone/Herald

Nassau University Medical Center leaders and staff cut the ribbon at a new relaxation station, designed to support health care workers' mental health, resiliency and well-being.

the new space. "We created that title, we implemented employee of the month, we created NUMC excellence awards. In line with all these 2024 initiatives, we created this new, beautiful recreational area for all of our employees to use 24-hours a day — it's available all of the time."

The new area boasts a pool table, a ping pong table, a kitchen, televisions,

massage chairs, and other seating areas where employees and kick back and relax.

"Our relaxation station is designed to offer a peaceful environment where everyone can just take a moment to take a break," Ryan said. "We have games, we have TVs — we value all of our employees. We hope that all of these initiatives foster a healthier and a more balanced

work environment for everyone."

The hospital, in a news release shared with the Herald, said according to a recent study published in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, nearly 40 percent of trauma professionals experience symptoms of burnout, depression or anxiety due to the intense emotional and physical demands of their work environment. NUMC boasts a 24-hour Level 1 Trauma Center, the largest on Long Island.

Ryan thanked NUMC's staff involved in facilities management who helped create the space, and joined her during the ribbon cutting last week.

"We want to take care of our employees as they take care of Nassau County's most vulnerable," Ryan said. "We have focused a lot on employee engagement, appreciation and making sure that all of our employees feel heard because they haven't been for so long."

"The new relaxation station reflects NUMC's ongoing commitment to employee engagement and a prioritization of our employee's mental health and overall wellness," she said. "By providing a space where our hardworking team can take a brief reprieve during a long and demanding shift, we can help reduce staff burnout — a major issue challenging health-care providers across the country. We are not only investing in our employees' well-being but also enhancing the quality of care we provide to our patients."

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YEAR IN REVIEW February 2024



Roksana Amid/Herald

Bringing health and wellness to city's youth. Cassie Sullivan demonstrated the correct way to use resistance bands when youth from the Equal Opportunity Coalition while visiting Level Up! In Glen Cove



Roksana Amid/Herald

Echoes of resilience across generations. Gilda Zirinsky recalled her four-hour escape during the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel from Hamas, a terrorist organization, in 2023 during a music festival.



Courtesy Doualy Xaykaothao

Gains valuable experience at the primary. Among his many interviews, Joseph Pergola, right, interviewed performer and activist Vermin Supreme about the New Hampshire primary for WRHU, a Hofstra University radio station.



Courtesy Leslie Hyder

Raccoon distemper is now at an all-time high. Canine distemper can spread easily between raccoons and dogs, and often leads to the euthanization of the infected animal.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

There's snowplace like home. Mauricio Moreno and Estephania Estrada visited Morgan Memorial Park during a snowstorm after their wedding. Although the couple is from Hempstead, they frequent Glen Cove for its stunning views.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Suozi returns to the House. Comeback kid of Nassau County' reclaims seat for Dems.

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YEAR IN REVIEW March 2024



Roni Chastain/Herald

Glen Cove schools celebrate reading week. After showing students a book on wildlife, Joan Bessette explained the dangers of pollution to students at Deasy Elementary. The presentation comes at the close of Pick a Rearing Partner week.



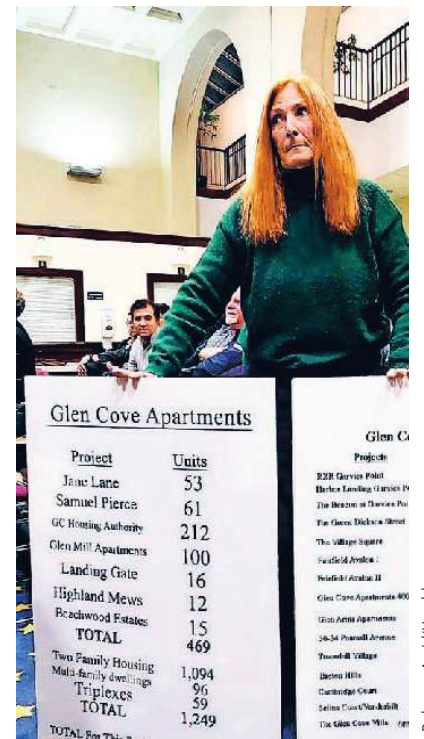
Adrienne Daley/Herald

Hopping into spring can be lots of fun. Tahmir Ashby, 9, center, won a Lego set. Irma Jeanty, left and Gail Waller helped to make the Easter egg hunt special.



Courtesy of Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Crescent Beach makes waves of progress. Workers from Galvin Bros built the culvert, which brings Crescent Beach closer to reopening for swimming after high bacteria levels kept the beach closed.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Many residents say 'Staples must stay'. Nancy Sobeck with posterboards listing the number of apartments in Glen Cove at a Planning Board meeting which discussed repurposing the North Shore Triangle as an apartment complex.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

St. Pat's Parade brings green wave of happiness. Morgan Messer, 3, far left, Aidan Messer, 1, Stevie and Meyer See, 3, and Grace and Maggie Fasciano, 3 and 4, didn't expect to walk away from the St. Patrick's Day parade with candy.



Roni Chastain/Herald

Fun-filled senior citizen prom at Friends. Musicians from Friends Academy were on hand to provide the entertainment during the Glen Cove Senior Center annual prom.

YEAR IN REVIEW April 2024



Tim Baker/Herald

Culinary Delights celebrate 26 years. Joseph Albert and Cathie Bianco, from Sunrise Senior Living, prepared savory watermelon for guests to enjoy while telling them about the assisted living center at Culinary Delights.



Tim Baker/Herald

Concert a tribute to Jimmy Brighton. Stackabones held a benefit concert at My Father's Place on behalf of founding member Jimmy Brighton who died in 2023.



Tim Baker/Herald

From orphan to queen, a story of resilience. Purim is considered to be the most joyous holiday for the Jewish community. Cantor Gustavo Gitlin and Benjamin Anderson, 3, celebrated the joyous holiday with crafts and balloon animals.



Courtesy Teresa Sullivan

A community icon who was always 'egoless. Bob Canavan was a commodore at the Hempstead Harbor Club, a softball coach and a well-known photographer in Glen Cove. He died on March 30 of a blood clot at age 61.



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Unforgettable lesson about the solar eclipse. Groups of friends like Bryan Bonilla, Anthony Fernandez, Valmoris Mendez, Alyssa Dumpson and Taliyah Williams will remember the partial eclipse for years to come.



Roksana Amid/Herald

VFW hall transformed after devastating fire. Peter Hayes, Christine Rice and Linda Eastman happily unpacking nonperishable goods at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 for the first time in nearly four years.

HEALTH MEMOS

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

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

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

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

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

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The Parker Jewish Institute wins 2024 eHealthcare Leadership Distinction

The Parker Jewish Institute is proud to announce that its "We're Full of Life" video won the Distinction Award in the "Best Long Video Content – Over 2 Minutes" category of the 2024 eHealthcare Leadership Awards. This recognition highlights Parker's commitment to uplift its patients and residents with activities that emphasize positivity and friendship, fostering well-being and overall health.

Parker recognizes that many older adults grapple with serious health conditions that are triggered or exacerbated by social isolation and loneliness. Parker averts social isolation with programs that promote engagement and community. Residents and patients look forward to Parker's drum circles, adaptive pickleball, physical therapy, music programs, multicultural celebrations, arts and crafts, support groups and more. At Parker, engaging the Institute's patients and residents is a health priority.

"Parker is very attuned to the importance of social connection and the significant role it plays in emotional well-being and overall health. By offering a



variety of activities to our patients and residents, we help them strengthen relationships that help them stay happier, and healthier," said Parker Jewish Institute President and CEO Michael N. Rosenblut.

Alan Ginsberg, President of LIXI Studios, and his team filmed and edited the award-winning video.

The eHealthcare Leadership Awards recognize outstanding health websites and digital initiatives, underscoring the role of digital communications in

achieving healthcare organizations' business objectives. The awards program, now in its 25th year, draws over 1,000 entries annually.

About The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation

The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation is headquartered in New Hyde Park, New York. The facility is a leading provider of Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care. At the

forefront of innovation in patient-centered health care and technology, the Institute is a leader in teaching and geriatric research. Parker Jewish Institute features its own medical team, and is nationally renowned as a skilled nursing facility, as well as a provider of community-based health care, encompassing Home Health Care, Medical House Calls, Palliative Care and Hospice. Parker Jewish Institute is also home to Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI) - providing patients with safe, comfortable Hemodialysis treatments in a relaxed setting — as well as PRINE Health — a Vascular Center offering advanced vascular services. The Center and QLIRI further Parker's ability to expand access to essential health-care services to adults in the greater New York metropolitan area. For more information, visit parkerinstitute.org or call (877) 727-5373.



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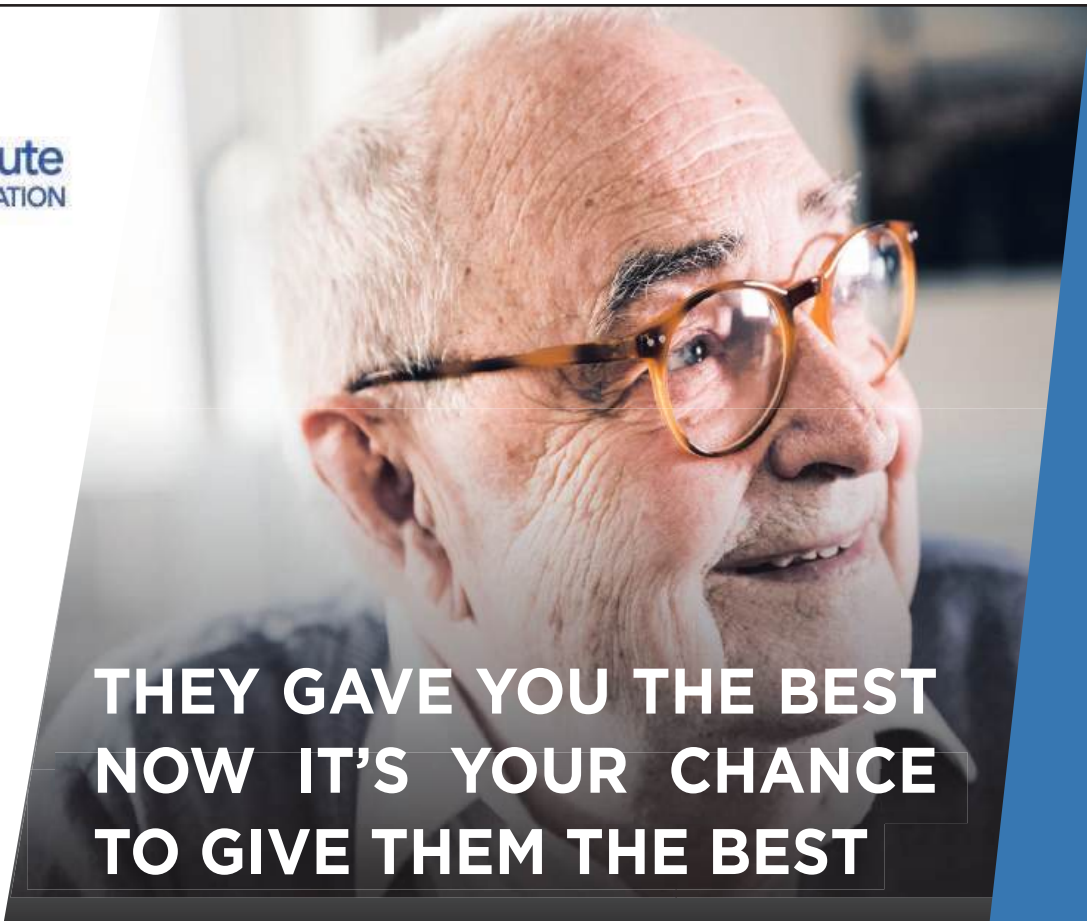
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Tasty, healthful choices

What's on the plate matters

When you have diabetes, eating well takes practice and planning. A good balance of the right foods, along with regular exercise and your prescribed medications, can help you feel better and stay healthier.

Create Your Plate

Often, when people are diagnosed with diabetes, they don't know where to begin. One way is to change the amount of food you are already eating. Focus on filling your plate with non-starchy vegetables and having smaller portions of starchy foods and meats.

Creating your plate is an easy way to get started with managing blood glucose levels. Try these six simple steps to get started:

1. Using your dinner plate, put a line down the middle of the plate. Then on one side, cut it again so you will have three sections on your plate.
2. Fill the largest section with non-starchy vegetables such as:
 - ✓ Spinach, carrots, lettuce, greens, cabbage, bok choy
 - ✓ Green beans, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes
 - ✓ Vegetable juice, salsa, onion, cucum-

- ber, beets, okra
 - ✓ Mushrooms, peppers, turnip
3. Now in one of the small sections, put starchy foods such as:
 - ✓ Whole grain breads, such as whole wheat or rye
 - ✓ Rice, pasta, dal, tortillas
 - ✓ Cooked beans and peas, such as pinto beans or black-eyed peas
 - ✓ Potatoes, green peas, corn, lima beans, sweet potatoes, winter squash
 - ✓ Low-fat crackers and snack chips, pretzels and fat-free popcorn
 4. And then on the other small section, put your protein such as:
 - ✓ Chicken or turkey without the skin
 - ✓ Fish — such as tuna, salmon, cod or catfish
 - ✓ Other seafood — such as shrimp, clams, oysters, crab or mussels
 - ✓ Lean cuts of beef and pork such as sirloin or pork loin
 - ✓ Tofu, eggs, low-fat cheese
 5. Add a piece of fruit or a 1/2 cup fruit salad and you have your meal planned. Examples are fresh, frozen, or canned in juice or frozen in light syrup or fresh fruit.

Courtesy American Diabetes Association

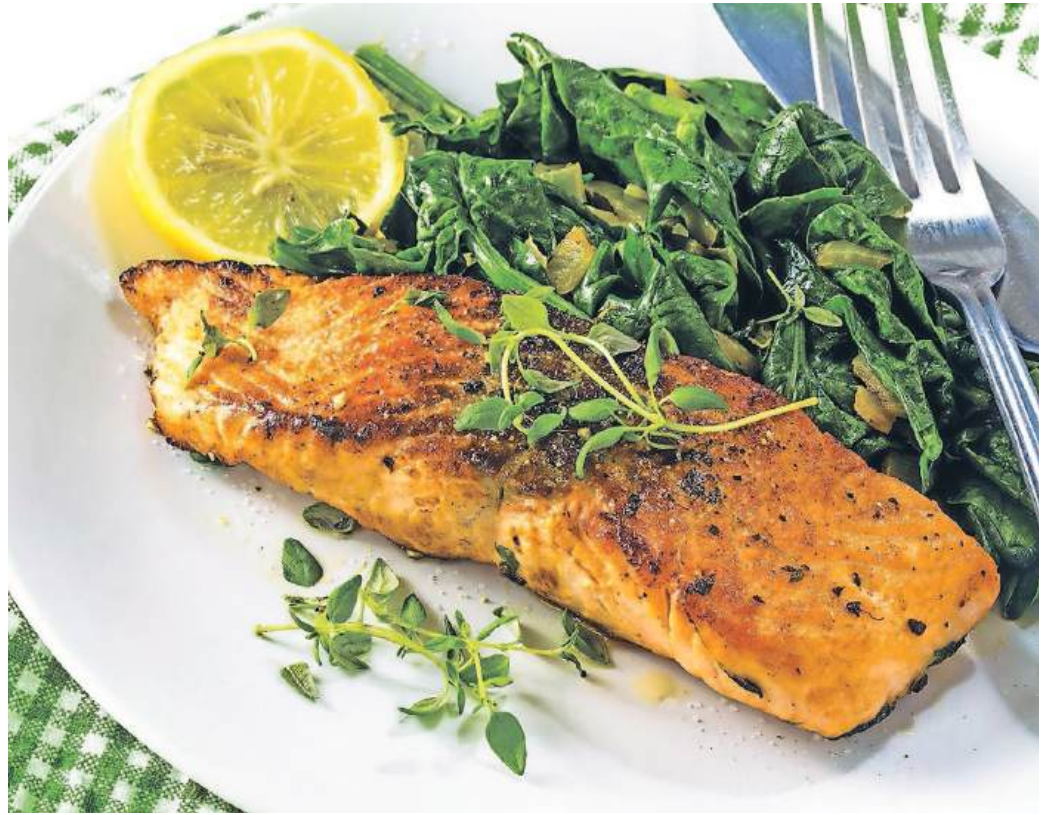


Photo: Since diabetes is a disorder in how the body processes foods, every choice you make to eat or drink is important. The benefits of eating well are powerful.

IT TAKES MSK.

A lung cancer treatment that can lead to a fast recovery.

When Sandra was first diagnosed with lung cancer, she was told she'd need major surgery. After getting a second opinion at MSK, she was relieved to hear she could have a minimally invasive procedure that would shorten her time in the hospital.

"I came home from MSK on a Wednesday, and by Monday, I was walking the neighborhood again," she says.

Go to [MSK.org/LungCancerCare](https://www.msk.org/LungCancerCare) or call 888-957-2024 to reach a cancer expert today.

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Sandra
Treated for lung cancer

YEAR IN REVIEW May 2024



Roksana Amid/Herald

Earth Day cleanup honors Bill Byrne's legacy. Myrrah Cukro, senior housing specialist for the city's Community Development Department, was one of the dozen volunteers to collect litter.



ROKSANA AMID/HERALD

Police have an additional tool to save lives. The Glen Cove Police Department was trained to use LifeVac. Sgt. Salvatore Bifone found out about LifeVac through an online advertisement.

Teens take learning outside the classroom. Andrea Mejia carefully laid out books to create her ideal photo composition when the school's photography class took a trip to the Glen Cove Public Library.



Courtesy Melissa Johnides



Roksana Amid/Herald

Seniors honored with downtown banners. Erit Eguizabal and Ralph Comitino install a banner of a Glen Cove High School senior in front of Village Square.



Courtesy Peter Budraits

Navigating the City of Glen Cove's code. Glen Cove is discussing issuing permits for moorings in Hempstead Harbor.

YEAR IN REVIEW June 2024



Elisa Dragotto/Herald

Saint Boniface Feast kicks off summer. Twins Michael, left, and Killian Flannigan, 3, pretended to race to a fire during the Saint Boniface Feast.



Will Sheeline/Herald

Cruising into the L.I.'s favorite car show. Hundreds of car fans from across Long Island made their way to Oyster Bay every Tuesday in the summer for Cruise Night.



courtesy Lisa Viscovich

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



Roksana Amid/Herald

Basile is Nassau Columbiette of the Year. Angie Basile, the Nassau Columbiette Chapter 2024 Columbiette of the Year, frequently volunteers her time to upkeeping democracy as a poll worker.



Roni Chastain/Herald

Juneteenth celebrates black heritage and unity. Hair is a powerful medium for expressing African-American culture. Anderjen Flores, left, and Anthony Hicks, take this form of self expression to heart.



courtesy Pippa Borsy

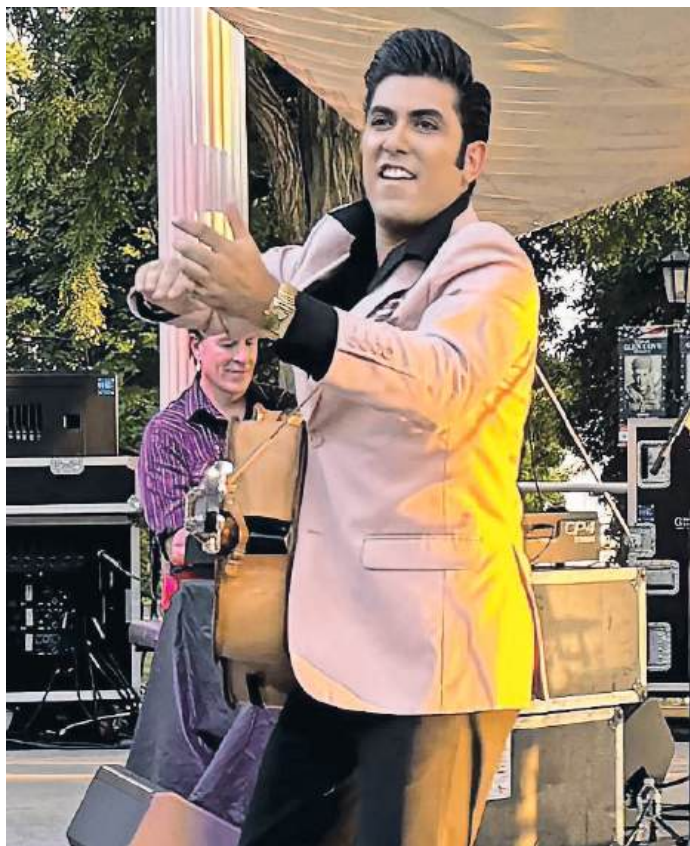
Town music festival makes a grand return. The musicians at the Oyster Bay Music Festival like Tassilo Probst, left, Maxim Lando and Marc Andre bring their talents to the community for free.

YEAR IN REVIEW July 2024



Roksana Amid/Herald

Howard Stillwagon takes command of VFW Post 347. Vietnam War veteran Howard Stillwagon, left, was sworn in as commander of James E. Donohue Veterans of Foreign War post 347 by former Commander Henryk nowicki.



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews

Morgan Park Music Festival, Suozzi family legacy, turns 65. 'Elvis' and his moves were featured in the Morgan park Summer Music Festival's 65th anniversary season opener as part of 'one night in Memphis.'



Samantha Samant/Herald

Celebrating July 4 with a parade, concert. Children riding decorated bicycles and scooters cruised from the Robert M. Finley Middle School horseshoe on Forest Avenue through downtown Glen Cove to the city's Village Square.



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews

Downtown Sounds hits all the right notes. The Downtown Sounds concert series kicked off with the music of the Dance Mechanics.



Office of the Governor/flickr

Hochul notes major L.I. crime reduction. The Glen Cove Police Department received \$1.1 million from the state to purchase advanced law enforcement technology and equipment. Lieutenant Brian Miller, Deputy Chief Christopher Ortiz, Detective Lieutenant John Nagle, Governor Kathy Hochul and Detective Theodore Karousos met in Glen Cove to celebrate the decreased crime rate in the state.

YEAR IN REVIEW August 2024



Samantha Samant/Herald

Celebrating Italian heritage at the feast. Brothers Lucas, 4, right, and Nate Grella, 6, created lasting memories together on the rides at the Feast of St. Rocco.



courtesy Bernie Furshpan

Honoring the 'righteous' with new exhibit. The fixture, inspired by a design from the Louvre Museum in Paris, was conceived and brought to life by Bernie Furshpan, the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County marketing director and his wife Joanne who also oversaw the installation.



Courtesy Warren Koedding

Glen Cove neighborhoods deal with chronic flooding. Neighbors Stephen and ethan Melbinger, Larry Hoffmann and alfredo Martinez redirected stormwater at the corner of Chestnut Street and Woolsey avenue.

Shelley Duvall's last film with local director.

Scott Goldberg, a filmmaker from Glen Cove, collaborated with Shelley Duvall on "The Forest Hills," an independent film he wrote and directed.



Courtesy Scott Goldberg



Courtesy Gill Associates Photography

Mayor honored by city police department. Glen Cove Mayor Pamela D. Panzenbeck was honored as the Person of the Year by the city's police department and the Police Benevolent Association during a special event held on Aug. 23, that coincided with her birthday.

YEAR IN REVIEW September 2024



Joanne Yee/Herald

Glen Cove gathers to remember Sept. 11. Michelle Puckett and Mayor Pamela Pazenbeck remember the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks with a wreath.



Roksana Amidi/Herald

Schools opened for the first day of class. Julian Guaradado and Karen Florez were prepared for the first day of school with a bag of supplies ready to go.

Hispanic Chamber kicks off a busy month. Dancing in a festive outfit, Geraldine Barrera energized the crowd at Village Square during Hispanic Heritage month.



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews

Sun and smiles at the Glen Cove Street Fair. 8-Year-old Alessio Giavamniello enjoyed playing Connect 4 during the street fair.



Roksana Amidi/Herald



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Glen Cove celebrates homecoming. Students from the elementary schools showed their team spirit at the homecoming parade.



Courtesy Marsha Silverman

Pedone 5K helps fight childhood cancer. Runners and supporters gathered for the annual Nicholas Pedone 5K run, starting outside of Glen Cove High School and ending beyond the school's track on Walnut Street.

YEAR IN REVIEW October 2024



Roksana Amid/Herald

City goes pink for breast cancer awareness. Catlsea Cruz and Alisa Edwards, part of the high school's DECA program, helped to plant tulips to raise awareness for breast cancer.



Courtesy Spiro Tsirkas

Youth Bureau boosts programs and parks. Every year, the youth bureau's summer youth employment paints murals in Glen Cove.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Celebrating the holiday of Sukkot together. Pam Loher helped decorate the inside of the Sukkah with traditional fruits including citron.



Noelle Hatalovsky/Herald

Fall festival brings fun despite rainy weather. Christopher Visone Jr. enjoyed connect 4 with his dad, Christopher Visone Sr. They heard about the Chamber's festival through a local Facebook group advertising it.



Roksana Amid/Herald

City's new 'environmentally based program'. Michael Bloom, of Pipelogix, showed how trees can damage sewage pipes.



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Schools embrace flexible seating to boost inclusivity. Connolly elementary students Kalinda Mejia and Avianna Washington love reading in class while sitting on more comfortable chairs.

Sands New York spreads holiday cheer

The holiday season is a little brighter for 125 children across Long Island, thanks to a donation from Sands New York to United Way of Long Island. The funds provided children from several local organizations, including EAC Network, Family & Children's Association, Housing Help and United Way's Youth-Build program, with the opportunity to shop for toys at Target in Westbury.

On Dec. 11, volunteers from Sands New York and United Way of Long Island accompanied the children, all under the age of 10, as they selected their gifts. The event aimed to bring some holiday magic to children facing hardships by providing them with a memorable shopping experience.

"We are so grateful to Sands New York for their incredible generosity," Theresa Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island, said in the news release. "This partnership exemplifies the spirit of giving and community, promising these children a holiday to remember. Their smiles are the true testament to the power of compassion."

Sands New York's support of programs like YouthBuild and collaboration with organizations like EAC Network, Family & Children's Association

and Housing Help demonstrates their commitment to improving lives across Long Island, according to the Sands news release.

"At Sands New York, we're honored to partner with United Way of Long Island to bring smiles to children's faces and share in the true spirit of giving," Tracey Edwards, Senior Vice President and Corporate Social Responsibility Officer for Sands New York, said in the news release. "Our team of volunteers was deeply moved by the resilience of the children and families we met, and this experience reminds us of the power of coming together as a community to make Long Island a place where everyone feels supported and valued."

The event not only brought joy to the children but also underscored the importance of the programs involved. These initiatives provide life-changing opportunities for Long Island youth, ensuring that all children, regardless of their circumstances, can experience the joy of the season.

For more information on United Way of Long Island and its programs, visit UnitedWayLI.org

-Kelsie Radziski

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YEAR IN REVIEW November 2024



Courtesy Darcy Belyea

Who will be in the Glen Cove Hall of Fame next? Anthony Bozzella was inducted into the Glen Cove Hall of Fame in 2016.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

On dramatic night, North Shore incumbents are returned to office. Tom Suozzi was re-elected to another term in Congress in 2024.



Courtesy Team Eva

Honoring veterans with monumental run. Eva Casale, Susan Warsaw, Kevin Arloff, Jamey Kohn and Kerri Bertolini spent their morning raising awareness for veterans and their cause.



Roksana Amd/Herald

Honoring Tom McMahon's legacy of courage and service. Thomas McMahon, a decorated member of a long-range reconnaissance patrol in the army's 1st infantry division, holds ashes of his late friend and fellow soldier, Robert Paul Elsner.



Roksana Amd/Herald

At Prybil Beach, the cold Sound, warm vibes and some 'Baby Seals'. Baby Seals 365 Swim Club members Maria Cruceta, Phoebe King, Cyntra Glouchkov, Lawrence Stone, Mark Sechter, Monica Bustos and Graciela Bustos have an invigorating start to their mornings.

Inspiring leadership and community spirit. Class representatives proudly showed off their citations after the pinning ceremony at Connolly Elementary.



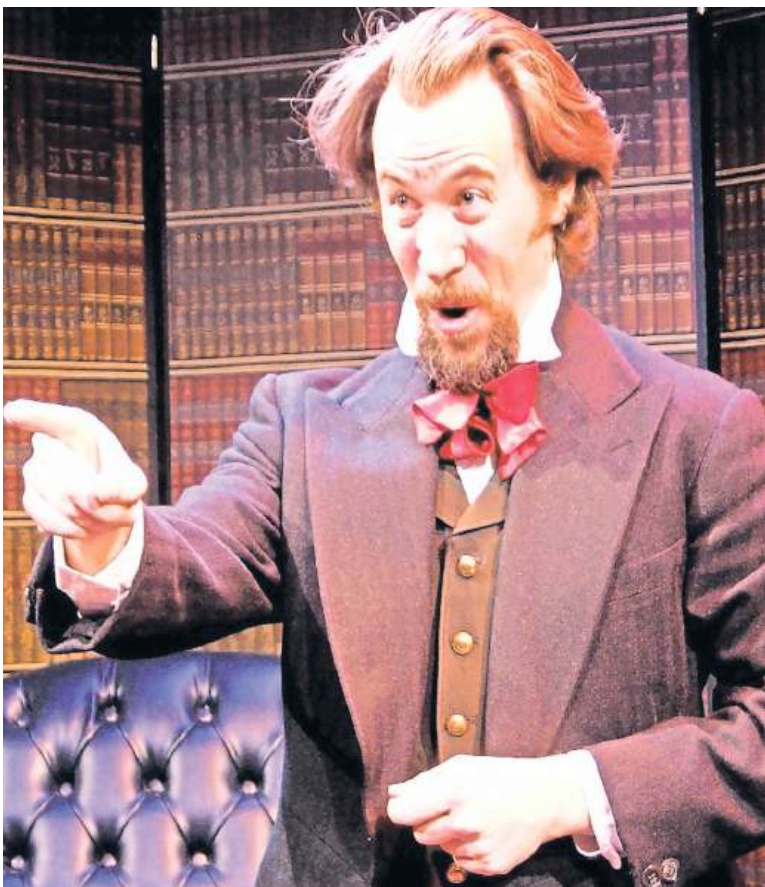
Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

YEAR IN REVIEW December 2024



Courtesy Nosh Delivers

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



Courtesy Charles Jeffreys

The holiday mood is set with 'A Christmas Carol'. Greg Oliver Bodine captivates audiences as Charles Dickens, recounting the transformative tale of 'A Christmas Carol' with passion and theatrical flair.



Courtesy Philip Grella III

GC firefighters tackle wildfires upstate. John Fretto doused flames during wildfire containment efforts in Greenwood Lake, NY, where over 5,300 acres were scorched amidst severe drought conditions.



Roksana Amid/ Herald

Demolition party is a smashing success. Oliver Schweiger spent most of the day taking measurements and tearing down walls.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Ring in the holiday season downtown. Giselle Graziosi, Maya Miller and Victoria Scagliola visited the hot chocolate station for a sweet treat.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Musical tribute to Anne Frank's legacy. Performers bring Anne Frank's story to life while singing songs from The Diary at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center.



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Submit a nomination of approximately 200 words or less describing the student’s leadership in promoting sustainability:

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- What impact have they had?

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.



Scan to Nominate!

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G.C.H.S. Select Chorale delivers holiday performance

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@iherald.com

On Monday, December 16, the Glen Cove High School Select Chorale performed an extraordinary holiday concert at the iconic St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The hour-long performance featured a beautiful blend of traditional holiday carols and selections from the Chorale's standard concert repertoire, filling the grand cathedral with harmonious melodies and festive cheer.

The concert was free and open to the public, inviting anyone to experience the musical talents of this accomplished group. As the evening progressed, the cathedral's pews filled with hundreds of attendees, drawn in by the Chorale's captivating sound. Under the soaring arches of the historic landmark, the singers brought warmth and joy to the cold December evening, their voices resonating through the space with precision and passion.



Courtesy Edward Norris

The Select Chorale wowed the audience at St. Patrick's Cathedral with their warm performance and selected pieces.

HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT NASSAU 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, 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

To Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232

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 at 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

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

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

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

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Top Ten 2024

Dear Great Book Guru, Do you have a list of favorite books for 2024 always fun to see if we share favorites!

Fan of Your Top Ten

Dear Fan of the Top Ten, I hope you agree with at least a few of my choices. They are in no particular order, but my top two picks would be "Long Island Compromise" and "What Happened to Nina."

■ Brooklyn Crime Novel



ANN DIPIETRO

- Prophet Song
- Help Wanted
- Colored Television
- The Hypocrite
- The Safekeep
- The Winner
- Long Island Compromise
- What Happened to Nina

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at

annmdipietro@gmail.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

DeRiggi-Whitton gives \$43,000 grant for NOSH Delivers' hunger-relief efforts

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@iherald.com

Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton awarded a \$43,000 grant to NOSH Delivers, a Glen Cove-based nonprofit fighting food insecurity. The funding, approved unanimously by the Legislature on November 20, 2024, comes from the American Rescue Plan Act to support local outreach programs.

Founded in March 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, NOSH Delivers has been a critical resource for families facing food insecurity. The organization distributes weekly NOSH Bags filled with nutritious groceries to more than 600 families spanning Glen Cove, Bayville, and surrounding areas.

NOSH recently reopened its permanent food pantry at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 on Hill Street after a

devastating fire in 2021 destroyed its original headquarters. Despite the challenges, the nonprofit operated from temporary locations to ensure uninterrupted service to those in need.

DeRiggi-Whitton commended NOSH for its unwavering commitment to helping the community, highlighting the importance of collaboration between government and local organizations.

"This grant will help NOSH continue its essential mission of providing food and hope to families in need," she said.

The funding will be used to support NOSH's operations and expand its hunger-relief programs. The organization's resilience and dedication have made it a cornerstone of the community's efforts to combat food insecurity, especially in the wake of the pandemic. NOSH's work demonstrates the power of community-driven solutions in addressing critical challenges.

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The masthead

The box at the far left side of the page is called the masthead. It contains the newspaper's flag, or nameplate. The masthead offers important information about the paper, including the names of the staff members who are responsible for producing it each week.

Publisher Stuart Richner guides the business and news operations of the 23 newspapers in the Herald Community Newspapers group. This includes the Nassau Herald, which serves the Five Towns, as well as Heralds for Baldwin, Bellmore, East Meadow, Franklin Square/Elmont, Freeport, Glen Cove, Long Beach, Lynbrook/East Rockaway, Malverne-West Hempstead, Merrick, Oceanside-Island Park, Oyster Bay, Rockville Centre, Sea Cliff-Glen Head, Seaford, Uniondale, Valley Stream and Wantagh.

Each paper's editor is responsible for the assignment, selection and placement of stories, most of which the editors and reporters write. Deputy Editor Jeffrey Bessen oversees news operations for all the papers in the group.

The production department is responsible for the papers' general design. The advertising and art departments produce the large, often-illustrated display advertisements that appear throughout the papers. The classified department produces the smaller advertisements at the back of the papers.

The masthead also lists each paper's age, the names of its founders, its address, email, and telephone and fax numbers, and provides notice that all contents of the paper are copyrighted.

For Advertising, call Rhonda Glickman, vice president of sales, at (516) 569-4000, ext. 250.
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For your information . . .

Editorial page

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HERALD EDITORIAL

'After-school' activities benefit those of all ages

As the new school year begins on Long Island, students are returning not only to classrooms, but also to a vibrant world of extracurricular activities. While we often associate clubs, sports teams and after-school programs with youth development, it's crucial to recognize that the benefits of such involvement extend far beyond childhood and adolescence. In fact, adults in Nassau County and beyond have just as much to gain by getting involved in activities outside their daily routines.

For students, the advantages of participation in extracurriculars are well documented. A study published in the Journal of Youth Development found that students involved in such activities were 15 percent more likely to attend college, and had a graduation rate 12 percent higher than their uninvolved peers. Moreover, students reported higher levels of self-esteem and lower rates of depression and anxiety.

Local success stories abound. Look no further than all of the Regeneron Science Talent Search finalists whose journeys begin in our local schools' robotics and science research clubs. Or the many All-American student-athletes who lead

our high school teams to victory.

But the benefits of extracurricular involvement aren't limited to the young. Adults who take part in community organizations, hobby groups or sports leagues often report improved mental health, expanded social networks, and a greater sense of purpose. According to study in the Journal of Happiness Studies, adults who regularly engaged in group activities reported a 25 percent increase in life satisfaction compared with those who did not.

Nassau County offers a wealth of opportunities for adult involvement. Whether it's signing up for a book club at the local library, joining a pickleball league in your neighborhood Nassau County park, or volunteering at the North Shore Animal League, there's an avocation for everyone.

For those who are serious about physical activity, organizations like the Long Island Road Runners Club promote fitness and camaraderie among members of all ages and skill levels. Meanwhile, volunteering with groups such as Island Harvest offers a chance to give back to the community while forging meaningful connections.

The value of these activities extends

beyond personal fulfillment. A report by the Corporation for National and Community Service, also known as Americorps, found that volunteers have a 27 percent higher likelihood of finding employment after being out of work compared with non-volunteers. This statistic underscores the networking and skill-building aspects of extracurricular involvement.

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to become consumed by work and daily responsibilities. However, engaging in extracurricular activities provides a crucial balance, offering opportunities for personal growth, stress relief, and community connection. As we watch our children discover new passions and develop important life skills through their after-school pursuits, let's take inspiration from their enthusiasm and curiosity.

This fall, as Long Island's students dive into a new year of learning both in and out of the classroom, let's make it a community-wide initiative to explore the rich tapestry of extracurricular activities available to those of all ages. By doing so, we not only enrich our own lives, but also contribute to the vibrancy and interconnectedness of our communities.

Editorial comment

Editorials offer the opinions of the Herald. Editors write them, but they do not necessarily reflect the views of those writers. Rather, they are the institutional voice of the news organization.

That is why they are unsigned.

Herald editorial department heads meet regularly to plan the editorials. Independent reporting by our staff often helps inform our editorials. We might also speak with experts and advocates to gain their perspective before sitting down to write an editorial.

We are proud to say that we have won many state awards for our editorial writing over the years. But, in the end, it's sharing opinions that best reflect the views of you — our reader — that is most important to us.

Editorial cartoon

Editorial cartoons are almost as old as newspapers themselves. They date back to 18th century England, and are a staple of the modern American opinion section. Yet, opinions here do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Herald or its staff.

Dale Neseman, a syndicated cartoonist from the Buffalo area, creates a majority of the editorial cartoons seen in these pages.

LETTERS

Fossil fuels, offshore wind and the need for climate action

To the Editor:

Re "To beat the heat on Long Island, we must fight fossil fuels," by Lauren Krueger, and "Offshore wind is the answer for Long Island," by Melissa Parrott: These two opinion pieces accurately pinpoint the negative role played by fossil fuel companies in combating climate change, and stress the need to rapidly move toward 100 percent renewable energy.

As Krueger shows, the fossil fuel industry has lied to the public for years about the dangers of climate change, and spread misinformation about the benefits of their own products. Renewable energy projects, such as offshore wind, an inexhaustible, renewable energy resource available off our South Shore, will go a long way toward meeting our energy needs, safely and in an environmentally friendly manner. Offshore wind is key to our energy future, and to saving our planet.

Unfortunately, there is currently insufficient action to halt the climate chaos we are now experiencing. We are running out of time. The bottom line is this: As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated, to halt the rapid global heating we are now experiencing will require deep changes in the basic social, economic and political institutions we currently have.

One obvious and necessary change is to limit the



overriding power of the very industry that is now directly causing the climate crisis. We have the technology to transition away from fossil fuels, but our struggle will not be easy.

JIM BROWN
Conservation co-chair;
South Shore Audubon Society
Island Park

Let's take a long look at Kamala Harris

To the Editor:

Re "Momalas for Kamala, a thread to unite us," by Randi Kreiss (Aug. 8-14): As of this writing, Vice President Kamala Harris still has not met with the

What are the editorial pages all about? Who writes editorials? How do letters and guest columns get published? This week's pages offer some answers to our readers. We thank The Riverdale Press and The Seattle Times for the idea.

Opinion pages

OPINIONS

Behind the mask: the flaws in Nassau's new law

Imagine a law introduced to fight hate and bigotry — yet it is so flawed that it inadvertently shields those very perpetrators from justice.

That's precisely what happened on Aug. 5, when the Nassau County Legislature's Republican majority pushed through its so-called Mask Transparency Act — a law that, despite its intentions, opens the door to unintended consequences.



SETH I. KOSLOW

At first glance, the measure appears to be a strong stance against antisemitism, aimed at unmasking those who would hide behind disguises to commit hateful acts. As a Jewish parent, I understand the appeal of such a measure. But as a former prosecutor, I can't ignore the fact that this law is not only unconstitutional, but also dangerously impractical.

In this instance, the devil is in the details — or rather, in the lack of them. The legislation is rife with ambiguities that could turn ordinary citizens into targets of unjust prosecution, while allowing actual criminals to walk free.

The members of the Democratic minority recognized these flaws early on, and proposed a more narrowly tailored bill focused specifically on punishing those who use masks to evade responsibility for criminal acts. The Democratic bill was not only clearer, but would have provided a more effective deterrent against those who commit crimes under the guise of anonymity. My colleagues and I also sought to work with the Republicans on a bipartisan solution that could have been both effective and constitutionally sound. Unfortunately, Republicans rebuffed these efforts, pushing through their version of the law without considering the potential consequences.

Let me paint you a picture of how this could play out in real life. Imagine a man named Joe Schmoe who harbors deep-seated antisemitic views. He attends an anti-Israel protest outside Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, where he adds his voice to hateful and aggressive chants. The police maintain order throughout the event, but as it winds down, officers notice Schmoe throwing an empty beer bottle into the street. No one is injured, and no property is damaged, but Schmoe is wearing a

How do we prevent a guy with true hate in his heart from being acquitted?

mask. The officers, following the new law, ask Schmoe to remove his mask. He refuses. Asked why he's wearing it, he remains silent. Left with little choice, the police arrest him — not for throwing the bottle, but for violating the Mask Transparency Act.

Here's where things get tricky. Schmoe is processed and eventually ends up in court, where he is provided a public defender, because he can't afford his own attorney. His case lingers in the justice system for nearly two years due to backlogs. When the case finally goes to trial, the prosecution — funded by taxpayers — is tasked with proving that Schmoe wore the mask with criminal intent.

But his defense is simple: He claims he wore the mask because he wasn't feeling well, and feared contracting Covid-19. How can the prosecution definitively disprove this claim? The jury, bound to follow the law as written, might very well have no choice but to acquit him. And just like that, the Mask Transparency Act becomes the perfect tool for committing what I call the "perfect crime."

This is more than a hypothetical scenario; it's a real possibility under this poorly crafted law. The resources spent on prosecuting someone like Schmoe, who walks away unscathed in the end, could have been better used to target those who seek to harm others.

The sad irony here is that the Mask Transparency Act was meant to protect communities from hate and violence, but instead it creates legal loopholes that make it harder to hold the guilty accountable. The law's vague language and broad scope mean that it can be easily manipulated, turning a well-meaning but seriously flawed piece of legislation into a shield for those it was meant to expose.

Nassau County needs to pass laws that are both constitutionally sound and effective in practice, and the Mask Transparency Act fails on both counts. Instead of deterring hate, it risks emboldening those who seek to evade justice by exploiting the very law designed to stop them. We deserve better — and we deserve laws that are enforceable and, above all, just.

The fight against hate is too important to be left to legislation that does more harm than good. It's our leaders to go back to the drawing board and craft solutions that protect and uplift our communities.

Seth I. Koslow represents Nassau County's 5th Legislative District.

Opinion columns

We publish three columns in each edition of the Herald every week. Columns represent the views of the writers themselves, not of the Herald. Each writer works independently and chooses his or her own subjects.

Among our regular contributors are former U.S. Rep. Peter King, former State Assemblyman Jerry Kremer and the Nassau Herald's former executive editor, Randi Kreiss.

We also feature columns by a wide variety of elected leaders, local, county, state and federal, on a rotating basis. And we regularly invite guest columnists who are not involved in politics — including members of our editorial staff — to offer their views.

Special features

The op-ed, or opposite the editorial, page features a weekly Framework photo, which is chosen by our photo editor, Tim Baker. The Framework offers a creative, at times humorous outlet for our photography staff. In this spot, we also publish photos sent to us by readers featuring them on vacation, reading the Herald at various international landmarks. We call it Herald Around the World.

At times, a correction might appear on the op-ed page. We strive each week for the highest standards of accuracy and accountability. When we make mistakes in our reporting, we believe we must own up to them and correct the record.

LETTERS

press. The Democratic National Convention last week continued the good feeling tour — and the evasion. The sanitizing of her positions on the issues, in contrast to her previous stances, and the avoidance of her failure as the "border czar" will have additional shelf life.

Her reputation as an abuser of her staff and the high turnover rate among them, as well as her unwillingness to do the work required as V.P., isn't the bread the mainstream media is willing to look at. I can only hope the upcoming debate will focus on the issues and her record. It isn't courage that Donald Trump needs to debate her, but rather the self-discipline to stay away from personal attacks that can only undermine him and cause an unnecessary distraction.

TONY GIAMETTA
Oceanside

Thanks, Peter King, for reflections on Pete Rose

To the Editor:

I read with deep interest Peter King's column "Rethinking the embarrassing saga of Pete Rose (Aug. 15-21). I took particular interest in King's shar-

ing of his views and questions with his son and grandson.

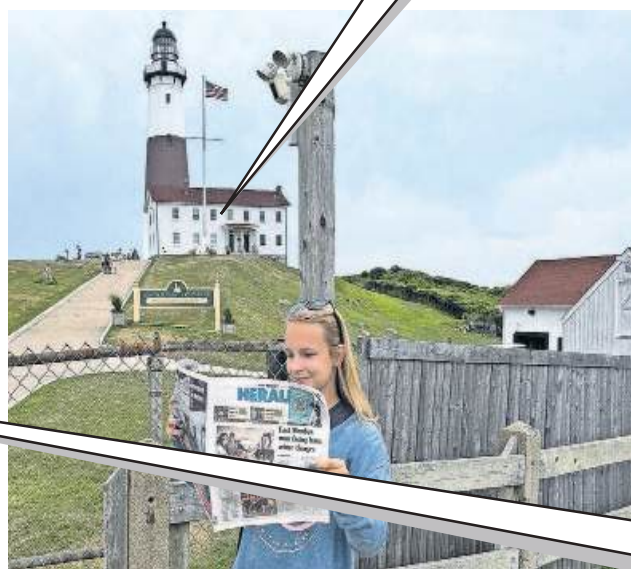
It seems to me that the complete truth of Rose's behavior requires both an investigative exercise and collaborative testimony from others to support his claims. Essentially, nothing he says should be believed unless the facts beyond his statements can be gleaned, and others can offer evidence in support of his behavior. Because his own previous testimony is both incomplete and untruthful, any decisions on whether to include him in the Hall of Fame must serve the public first and his request last.

Over the years, and now decades, of Rose's lying about gambling on baseball — and on the Reds in particular — bring up the need to ask other Hall of Fame members their thoughts on his potential induction, too. In particular, Johnny Bench, a colleague of Rose's on the Reds, says no. Why? Because as Bench states, what rules or pledges of honesty about gambling should our children learn from Rose?

So far, his decades-long behavior suggests there are no pledges from him that we should believe are examples of his character or integrity. When it comes to teaching children, as Bench states, the entire acceptance test is based on character and truthfulness.

Not accepting Rose into the Hall of

FRAMEWORK by Nicholas...



What more fitting place to end the summer than at The End? — Montauk Lighthouse

Fame teaches our children that dishonesty can never be rewarded. Our society must stand for something, and recognize integrity and character.

Pete Rose is an undesirable candidate

JOE ABATE
Island Park

Letters to the editor

We welcome your letters to the editor, and publish most that we receive. We believe these letters are critically important, because they reflect the shared voices of the communities that we cover.

Letters should be 250 to 300 words in length. Each letter must include an address and phone number. Our editors call all letter writers to confirm the authenticity of letters before publication.

We edit letters for length, grammar, spelling and foul language. We do not censor viewpoints.

If we believe a letter requires major revisions, we will send it back to the writer and ask that he or she change it so that meaning and intent are not lost.

Readers can send letters to the editors of their hometown newspapers, or to editor@liherald.com. They can be sent by email (preferred), fax or mail. All contact information is listed on the masthead and on our website, LIHerald.com.



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