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**Showcasing the Stevensons' art**  
Page 3



**Broadway songs in the park**  
Page 10

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Courtesy Nicole Loizides Albruzzese

Gold Coast Dance Festival participants Brooks Landegger and Elisabeth Beyer will perform at Morgan Memorial Park on Aug. 3.

## Gold Coast Dance Festival returns to Morgan Park

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Glen Cove's Morgan Memorial Park will serve as the picturesque backdrop for the fourth annual Gold Coast Dance Festival on Aug. 3. As the sun sets over the stage, residents and visitors alike will gather, spread blankets, sit in camping chairs and lean against trees to enjoy an evening of dance that promises to be both diverse and deeply moving.

One of the performers this year is 21-year-old Lola Haven, a senior dance major at LIU Post. Haven, who is both a choreogra-

pher and performer, will present an interpretive dance she created titled "Found." It explores the complexities of human relationships and the concept of self-worth within love and friendships.

"I think that's something that you really take a dive into in college," Haven said. "You try to figure out what kind of people you want to have in your life, and especially in terms of relationships, you start to figure out who you want to love. It's an exploration piece, very much interpretive, and I'm leaving it up to the audience to find what it means to them. For me it's about the journey

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

## Is there a future for the city's ferry service?

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The long-delayed plan to launch a commuter ferry service from Glen Cove's multimillion-dollar terminal has hit another roadblock, with city officials fearing a potential federal grant clawback that could severely impact local taxpayers.

Built in 2015 using \$16.6 million in federal grants, the terminal has sat idle on the city's waterfront for nearly a decade. According to the grant agreement, the city must operate a commuter ferry service to Manhattan for at least two years or face the possibility of repaying the entire grant. Despite various efforts, the service has yet to launch, raising the specter of a financial burden that could fall on Glen Cove residents.

In a City Council meeting on June 25, Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck removed a resolution to negotiate with New York Water

Taxi for a two-month pilot program this fall. The decision came after RXR Realty, the developer of the adjacent \$1 billion Garvies Point project, did not commit to help subsidize the ferry service.

Joseph Graziose Sr., RXR's executive vice president of residential development, explained that the city could never guarantee that the ferry would be operational without significant subsidies. In 2016, RXR agreed to subsidize its operation with up to \$1 million, and in 2019 the developer provided \$120,000 for consultant studies.

The city recently requested \$250,000 from their subsidy agreement with RXR to run a pilot ferry service in September and October, using a 149-passenger vessel that would need to be filled to capacity each day for the service to break even, which RXR deemed unlikely. Graziose believes the plan is unsustainable, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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## OBITUARY

# Island Harvest mourns loss of its founder

Seeing perfectly good food wasted while women in a nearby shelter struggled to find enough to eat deeply moved Linda Breitstone. This personal connection to the issue spurred her into action. Armed with determination, a station wagon, and a few coolers, the Rockville Centre resident began her mission. She discovered many food establishments were discarding excess food at the end of the day and found many people in need of it. This led to the establishment of Island Harvest Food Bank in 1992.

Breitstone, a longtime resident of the Princeville area in Kauai, Hawaii, passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends, on July 16, 2024, died at 73, after a brief battle with cancer. Her son, JB Breitstone of Barnstable, Massachusetts, said, "My mother was very proud of the work of Island Harvest and loved watching it grow from an idea — creating a grassroots effort — to what it has become today." Tapping into a lifelong hobby of collecting crystals, Linda was the proprietor of Crystal Woman, an enterprise trading in crystals for meditation or creativity spaces in homes, art, or music studios.

Randi Shubin Dresner, president and CEO of Island Harvest, noted that the organization, under Breitstone's guidance, has grown to become the region's leading hunger relief and social service organization. While food rescue is a legacy program, representing a small part of what Island Harvest does today, it is expected to distribute nearly 20 million pounds of food this year, providing supplemental food support and related services to an estimated 221,190 people on Long Island identified as food insecure, including 44,780 children.

"Linda Breitstone was a woman with a true sense of making things right," said Shubin Dresner, who has led the food bank since 2001. "She cared deeply about Island Harvest, and even after she moved to Hawaii, she kept an eye on our progress. I am deeply honored to have worked with her and to continue her legacy."

Known for her tenacity, upon receiving a grant for the organization's first refrigerated truck through Ed Travaglianti, the former head of the now-defunct European American Bank, Linda Breitstone had the "chutzpah" to ask for office space, which EAB ultimately provided in an unused space on the second floor at one of its banks on Second Street in Mineola. "If chutzpah is what it took to get help for people who were hungry, then Linda did not mind the pejorative," said one original board member.

"Linda's passing leaves a void that can never be filled," said Steve Juchem, board chair of Island Harvest. "Her legacy, however, will continue to inspire and guide us. Her impact on the lives of countless Long Islanders who have relied



Courtesy Island Harvest Food Bank

Linda Breitstone also turned her hobby of collecting crystals into a business trading crystals for use in meditation or creative spaces in homes, art, or music studios.

on Island Harvest over the past 32 years is immeasurable. We will always remember her with deep gratitude and respect."

Longtime Island Harvest board member and current vice chair Jill Bernstein said, "Linda brought us all together, and she was a bright star. This organization was her heart and soul, and she made it happen because she believed in the good in everyone, no matter where they came from or their background. She understood that people needed to be fed and nourished. She was the best of all of us, and I, along with so many others, will miss her terribly."

"I never had the privilege of meeting Linda. However, our entire community owes her a true debt of gratitude," said Island Harvest board member Douglas M. Nadjari. "Her memory will live on and endure through our organization."

Island Harvest created the "Linda Breitstone Spirit Award," presented at its annual Taste of the Harvest Celebration fundraising event. In addition to honoring the founder, the award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the organization in furthering its mission to end hunger and reduce food waste on Long Island.

Loretta Sehlmeier, a longtime volunteer with Island Harvest Food Bank and a member of its advisory board, said of Linda Breitstone, "I have always loved telling her story, and I am especially proud to have received the Linda Breitstone Spirit Award in 2005 and to be recognized as someone who continues to reflect her passion to support and be a part of Island Harvest Food Bank's mission."

# Showcasing the art of the Stevensons

## Sea Cliff Village Museum looking for former Stevenson Academy students

By WILL SHEELINE

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The Sea Cliff Village Museum is reaching out to former students of Harold Ransom Stevenson and his wife Alma Gallanos Stevenson, renowned artists and founders of the Stevenson Academy of Traditional Painting. The museum is preparing for a September exhibit titled “Harold Ransom Stevenson: An American Realist in Sea Cliff” and is keen to include stories, artwork, and memorabilia from those who studied under the Stevensons.

The exhibit will primarily showcase the museum’s extensive collection of

**T**hey were both wonderful people, very supportive and nurturing.

**PAUL BACHEM**  
former pupil

Stevenson’s works, including magazine covers, paintings, and accompanying sketches and drawings. Courtney Chambers, the museum’s director, said that this collection was generously donated by his nieces in 2022.

“We received

a very large donation encompassing about 13 paintings, as well as magazine covers, photographs, and scrapbooks,” Chambers explained. “We’ve been planning this exhibition since then, and now, with enough time passed since our last major art exhibit, we felt it was the right time.”

Stevenson, an artist, illustrator, and teacher originally from Brooklyn, was a protégé of Norman Rockwell, whom he got the chance to study under following his service in World War II. His style reflects Rockwell’s influence, characterized by a nostalgic Americana aesthetic.

“You can see that kind of Americana style that Rockwell is known for in a lot of his work,” Chambers said. “He was also influenced by Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, which is evident in some of his paintings like ‘Cradle Song.’”

His wife Alma was a respected artist in her own right, having studied under, and later taught alongside, Stevenson. She also served as the art director for Colgate University.

The upcoming exhibit will be more than just a display of Stevenson’s art, however. It aims to tell the broader story of his life, his influences, and the art school he and his wife ran in Sea Cliff.

“We’re trying to track down some correspondence he had with Norman Rockwell to include in the exhibit,” Chambers added. “We hope to get digital copies from the Rockwell Museum in the Berkshires.”

The Stevenson Academy of Traditional Painting, located at 361 Glen Ave., was a cornerstone of Sea Cliff’s artistic community. Paul Bachem, a Glen Cove resident, illustrator and former student



Herald file photo

The Sea Cliff Village Museum is encouraging anyone with stories, artifacts, or artwork related to Harold and Alma Stevenson to contact them.



This portrait of Harold Ransom Stevenson, by his former pupil Paul Bachem, will be on display at the upcoming Village Museum exhibit, ‘Harold Ransom Stevenson: An American Realist in Sea Cliff.’

of the Stevensons, fondly recalled his time at the academy.

“I started there in September 1975, right after graduating high school, and studied with them until November 1977,” Bachem said. “It was an incredible experience that deeply influenced my career as an illustrator and painter.”

Bachem recounted how the academy offered rigorous academic training in



Photos courtesy Paul Bachem

The Sea Cliff Village Museum is looking for former students of Harold Ransom Stevenson and Alma Gallanos Stevenson for the upcoming exhibit on the couple and the Stevenson Academy of Traditional Painting.

traditional art techniques. He described how the Stevensons required students to rigorously master the basics before they would be allowed to move on to more complex and challenging pieces.

“We started with drawing spheres, cubes, and cones, then moved on to drawing from plaster casts, and finally to painting from live models,” he said.

“It was a very disciplined and structured approach, but it laid a strong foundation for my entire career.”

According to Bachem, Stevenson was known for his realistic and meticulous style, while Alma brought a more impressionistic touch. He added that both were great teachers, who balanced high expectations with strong support for their students.

“Mrs. Stevenson was very gentle and encouraged us to round off the hard edges,” Bachem said. “They were both wonderful people, very supportive and nurturing. They were like second parents to me.”

In addition to showcasing Stevenson’s works, Chambers added that the museum is eager to include pieces created by his former students. The museum also aims to restart its Oral History Program and is inviting former students to share their memories and experiences.

“We’d love to talk to people who studied under Stevenson,” Chambers said. “It would be fun to include their stories in the exhibit, and possibly even their artworks.”

The Sea Cliff Village Museum is encouraging anyone with stories, artifacts, or artwork related to Harold and Alma Stevenson to contact them. The museum will be open on Saturdays in July and plans to close in August to prepare for the new exhibit, which will open on Sept. 14.

For those interested in contributing, the museum can be reached by phone or email at (516) 801-3401 or [museum@sea-cliff-ny.gov](mailto:museum@sea-cliff-ny.gov). For more information on the museum itself and its exhibits, visit the website at [SeaCliffMuseum.org](http://SeaCliffMuseum.org).

# Carr celebrates 25 years of faith, service

July 25, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Reverend Elias Carr, Canonry of Saint Leopold, a community of Canons Regular of St. Augustine, celebrated his silver jubilee this year, marking 25 years of dedicated service to the Catholic Church. He is a former pastor of St. Rocco Parish in Glen Cove and former Headmaster of All Saints Regional Catholic School. He also was the grand marshal of the city's St. Patrick's day parade in 2015.

The Syosset native attended public school and St. Edward's in Syosset. His family experienced the typical dynamics of an Irish-Italian Catholic family of the 1970s. His mother stopped practicing the faith during their childhood, but his father remained committed, taking them to Mass every week.

"Going to Mass with my dad every week was probably the most important thing that happened," Carr shared. This routine often meant visiting different churches around Plainview and Brookville, this experience laid the foundation for his spiritual journey.

After graduating high school, Carr attended SUNY Binghamton, where he studied 19th-century European history and Russian and Soviet history. His interest in global affairs extended to Japanese studies, a popular field at the time due to Japan's perceived economic



Courtesy Gill Associates Photography

Reverend Elias Carr, Canonry of Saint Leopold, a community of Canons Regular of St. Augustine, celebrated his silver jubilee this year, marking 25 years of dedicated service to the Catholic Church.

rise.

He then completed his philosophy degree at St. Charles Borromeo, Wyncott, PA and his theology degree at

the Pontifical Gregorian University. Carr was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, VA in 1999 and served for three years at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale.

In 2002, Carr was among the first Americans to enter the novitiate of Stift Klosterneuburg, Austria. Having served in parishes in Donauefeld, Austria and Bergen, Norway where he earned an MPhil in Religious Education, he professed solemn vows in 2006.

Carr became the eleventh pastor of the Church of Saint Rocco of Glen Cove in 2011, when the Canons Regular of St. Augustine established their first American foundation at the Canonry of Saint Leopold on the campus of Saint Patrick Catholic Church.

It was at Catholic University that Carr's faith deepened. Surrounded by fellow Catholics with a strong sense of faith, he began to explore his vocation. "My mother, who had returned to practicing the faith, suggested I apply to a

Catholic university for a different experience. It turned out to be a pivotal moment in my life," he said.

His brother followed a similar path, becoming a priest two years after him and currently serving in Virginia. This period marked the beginning of Carr's journey toward priesthood.

"I had thought about being a priest earlier, but I didn't know anyone who had done this," he said. "My family didn't have any priests."

His time at Catholic University introduced him to Father Daniel at the Church of St. Rocco in Glen Cove, now the pastor at St. Rocco and St. Hyacinth, a friendship that would shape his future.

In 1995, Carr was sent to Rome to study theology at the seminary, preparing him for ordination in 1999. His experiences in Rome and his growing friendship with Daniel solidified his commitment to the priesthood.

"We met almost on Labor Day weekend in 1990," Carr recalled. "And that was the beginning of a friendship that has lasted over 33 years."

In 2011, Carr, Daniel, and another priest from Austria established the Canonry of Saint Leopold in Glen Cove. This community, named after St. Leopold, the founder of their monastery in Austria, has been instrumental in serving the local parishes.

"We established the Canonry to create a place for priests to live and serve the community," he explained. The Canonry has been a vital part of Glen Cove's spiritual life, caring for multiple parishes and their diverse congregations.

The Canonry's priests serve St. Patrick's, St. Rocco's, and other local parishes, providing spiritual guidance to English, Spanish, Italian, and Latin-speaking communities.

Despite being reassigned to the Abbey in Austria earlier this year, Carr returned to Glen Cove in June to celebrate his silver jubilee. "I spent just over 50 percent of my priesthood in Glen Cove, and it holds a special place in my heart," he shared.

Carr's journey from Syosset to Glen Cove and now back to Austria reflects a life dedicated to faith, education, and community service.

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## Positive Aspects of Aging

Aging provides its own rewards, which only those who experience it really know, as the following quotes show.

"Getting old is like climbing a mountain; you get a little out of breath, but the view is much better!"

— Ingrid Bergman

"Nothing is inherently and invincibly young except spirit. And spirit can enter a human being perhaps better in the quiet of old age and dwell there more undisturbed than in turmoil of adventure."

— George Santayana

"The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a snowball - the further I am rolled the more I gain."

— Susan B. Anthony

"Why not just embrace it, go along with it and welcome it?"

—Helen Mirren

"I believe the second half of one's life is meant to be better than the first half. The first half is finding out how you do it. And the second half is enjoying it."

— Frances Lear

"Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art."

— Eleanor Roosevelt

"The complete life, the perfect pattern, includes old age as well as youth and maturity. The beauty of the morning and the radiance of noon are good, but it would be a very silly person who drew the curtains and turned on the light in order to shut out the tranquility of the evening. Old age has its pleasures, which, though different, are not less than the pleasures of youth."

— W. Somerset Maugham

"There is a fountain of youth; it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age."

— Sophia Loren

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# Clawback could severely affect taxpayers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

anticipates monthly losses of \$125,000. The developer is willing to provide funding once losses are incurred, but does not support the upfront funding model the city has proposed.

An email from Panzenbeck's office stated that since the ferryboat basin and terminal at Garvies Point Waterfront were completed, the city has maintained communication with federal, state and private partners, including RXR. In 2020, plans involving the ferry operator Hornblower were disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, so the Federal Highway Administration and state Department of Transportation granted the city extensions for the start of the commuter ferry service. Panzenbeck said she has since reached out to potential ferry operators, and analyzed a variety of operations, routes and destinations in consultation with federal and state partners.

"RXR is required to subsidize ferry operations up to one million dollars, but has held firm that the City needs to incur an operating loss before a subsidy is provided," Panzenbeck's email reads. "The City disagrees with that interpretation of the development agreement and has required that RXR commit a subsidy amount upfront to fund the pilot service. As Mayor, I have a fiduciary responsibility to the City's taxpayers and will not burden our residents with a



Herald file photo

**A commuter ferry service operated in 2017, when Penn Station was undergoing repairs, but the boats ran at less than one-third capacity.**

ferry service without RXR's subsidy already in place. For this reason, the ferry pilot for 2024 has been tabled by City Council."

A ferry operated briefly in 2017, when

Penn Station was undergoing repairs, but the boats ran at less than one-third capacity. In early 2020, the city signed a letter of intent with Hornblower Corp., a company that provided ferry service

in New York City, and developed ferry schedules and prices for service that was expected to begin that May, but it was put on indefinite hold when the pandemic began.

Glen Cove residents like Patty Tracy have expressed their frustration with the failure to get the ferry service up and running, noting that many voiced concerns about the project from its inception.

"The city ignored the information given to them and believed the developers' promises," Tracy said. "Someone should ensure this clawback does not increase taxes, because taxpayers did not want this."

The stalled ferry effort has also raised questions about Glen Cove's future relationship with federal grant agencies. According to former Federal Transportation Administration official Larry Penner, failing to fulfill the grant terms could jeopardize the city's credibility and future funding opportunities. "Federal investments have a use-for-life clause, and not meeting these terms is unheard of," Penner said. "Glen Cove risks losing credibility for future grants if they don't resolve this issue. It's unheard of, in my professional experience, that 21 years later, the federal agency didn't get what they paid for. There's no way the city of Glen Cove is going to be left off the hook."

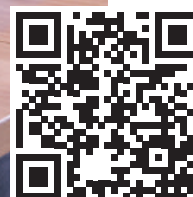


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Photos courtesy Metro Creative

Residents across Long Island complain that low-flying airplanes have increased in number since the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

# A constant annoyance, a public health issue

By Will Sheeline, Mohammad Rafiq & Brandon Cruz

*Continuing a series exploring the impact pollution from air, noise and light has on our communities and way of life. Thoughts? Questions? Ideas? Email us at [execeditor@liherald.com](mailto:execeditor@liherald.com).*

The roar of jet engines overhead has become a constant aural backdrop for many residents of Long Island, particularly those living in lower-income neighborhoods. In recent years, a shift in flight paths from nearby airports such as Kennedy and LaGuardia, which together handle roughly 1,400 flights a day, has exacerbated the issue. Residents now endure relentless noise from aircraft flying directly over their homes, disrupting daily life and sparking widespread frustration.

"I've lived in Uniondale for 30 years, and I don't ever remember the noise from the planes being so loud and annoying," Pearl Jacobs, president of the Nostrand Gardens Civic Association, said. "Now it's to the point where these planes are going all day and night long, flying across our skyways, and some of these planes are very low."

Jacobs and other residents believe that the flight path changes disproportionately affect minority communities. The enforcement of noise ordinances dates back to the rise of American urbanization and industrialization, with New York becoming the first major city in the country to implement noise ordinances in 1905 — which often defined the music of Black and Hispanic communities as noise disturbances.

"I strongly believe this is a racial issue," Jacobs said. "I'm not saying that white communities aren't having this issue as well, but in Uniondale and other nearby communities, it is all day, all night, and they are constantly going."

Efforts to address the noise have met with limited success. The Town of Hempstead created the Town-Village Aircraft Safety and Noise Abatement Committee in 1966 to tackle the problem, but local governments have little influence over the Federal Aviation Administration, which controls flight paths. Jacobs's attempts to draw more attention to the issue have included writing to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, but she has yet to receive a response.

James Vilardi, executive director of the Noise Abatement Committee, emphasized the challenge of getting the FAA to acknowledge and address the problem. The

committee's primary goal is to obtain accurate decibel readings from FAA monitors, because data is averaged across neighborhoods and does not reflect specific impacts.

"If we get the raw data and find that the decibels violate municipal or federal code, we can appeal to the FAA to make changes," Vilardi explained. The FAA, however, has been largely unresponsive, leaving residents in limbo.

Brookville Mayor Daniel Serota voiced similar frustrations.

"Years ago, when Congressman (Steve) Israel was our congressman, he initiated meetings with regional FAA folks and other mayors to discuss the planes and their heights," Serota said. "Every Saturday and Sunday, they fly over our villages, and they're supposed to have a certain height limit, but the pilots never adhere to that."

Serota detailed the complexities of addressing the issue, including the discretionary power of pilots to determine flight paths based on safety considerations. Despite some agreements to maintain certain altitudes, those measures, he said, often fall by the wayside.

"It's up to the pilot, and if he feels he needs to go lower or the weather is a certain way, that's his purview," Serota said.

"We had Covid, which silenced the planes for a while, but now they're back, flying as low as can be."

Serota added that despite years of reaching out to airline and public officials, nothing has been done to solve the issue. He said it is one of the most frequent complaints he gets from Brookville residents.

"On weekends it can be very loud," he noted. "These big planes, like the double-decker ones with four engines, fly over at sometimes 1,500 feet. You can see the words on the Emirates Airlines planes and hear the noise as if they're right above your backyard."

The impact of aircraft noise extends beyond mere annoyance. According to the Civil Aviation Authority and the National Library of Medicine, prolonged exposure to aviation noise can have serious health consequences. Common adverse effects include not only annoyance, but cognitive impairment, sleep disturbance, and cardiovascular disease. Noise pollution has been linked to higher rates of heart disease and stroke, as well as hypertension and disrupted sleep patterns. Studies have also suggested potential effects on birth outcomes and psychological health, although more



Low-flying airplanes can cause serious health issues, increasing stress levels, preventing sleep and in some cases even leading to cardiovascular issues.

research is needed to fully understand those impacts.

Annoyance, the most often documented response to noise, can interfere with thoughts, feelings and activities, and lead to resentment and discomfort. Cognitive impairment, particularly in schoolchildren, is another concern, with research from the National Library indicating that high levels of aircraft noise can affect reading comprehension, memory, attention and mood. Sleep disturbance, characterized by awakenings and changes in sleep patterns, can result in next-day fatigue and long-term health issues.

Cardiovascular disease is a significant risk, with high levels of aircraft noise acting as a stressor on the body. Research by the Civil Aviation Authority has found associations between aircraft noise and an increased risk of developing heart disease and stroke. Hypertension, another cardiovascular risk factor, has also been linked to chronic aircraft noise exposure.

Despite the evident health risks, local officials face an uphill battle in addressing the problem.

"We understand that everybody has to share the burden, but it's a nuisance and a problem," Serota said. "It's not for lack of trying; all the elected mayors I know on the North Shore have been very vocal. But the FAA is a big bureaucracy, and when you're dealing with a bureaucrat, they don't care."

The struggle for quieter skies continues, but without greater cooperation from the FAA and a commitment to addressing the issue, Long Island residents will likely remain under the constant hum of aircraft, their health and well-being hanging in the balance.



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# Republicans gather at national convention

July 25, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

Milwaukee was the place to be last week for Republicans as the Wisconsin city hosted the 2024 GOP national convention, where former president Donald Trump accepted the party's official nomination as its presidential candidate and Ohio Senator J.D. Vance became the Republican nominee for vice president.

During the four-day convention, Republicans from across the country hobnobbed and networked, including Woodmere resident Cindy Grosz, Matt Capp, who serves as Rep. Anthony D'Esposito's communication director, as well as D'Esposito and Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, who were both delegates representing New York. Delegates are responsible supporting a presidential candidate at the convention.

There were also speeches by celebrities such as former professional wrestler Hulk Hogan, model Amber Rose, Ultimate Fighting Championship CEO Dana White, along with Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Tim Scott and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum.

Post-convention news included the July 21 announcement by President Biden that he was stepping aside. The presumptive front-runner for the Democratic nomination is Vice President Kamala Harris. The Democrats hold their convention Aug. 19-24 in Chicago.

—Jeffrey Bessen



Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman with Woodmere resident Cindy Grosz at the Nassau GOP gathering during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.



Photos courtesy Cindy Grosz

U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, right, who represents the 21st Congressional District in upstate New York and chairs the House Republican Conference, with Grosz at the NYGOP event at the convention.



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Samantha Samant/Herald photos

The Morgan Park Summer Music Festival is an annual favorite. Celebrating its 65th anniversary this summer, the festival is one of the city's biggest attractions, drawing crowds from across Long Island and beyond to its diverse range of musical performances.

# Broadway classics captivates park crowd

Music lovers settled into chairs and blankets at Morgan Memorial Park on July 21 for the 65th anniversary of the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival.

The crowd heard "100 Years of Broadway," produced by prize-winning composer and pianist Neil Berg, "100 Years of Broadway."

The event featured Richard Todd Adams, known for his roles in "Cats," "Phantom of the Opera," and "Les Misérables;" Danny Zolli, who starred as Jesus in "Jesus Christ Superstar" and as Joseph in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat;"

Carter Calvert, who appeared in "Smokey Joe's Café," "Forbidden Broadway;" and Rita Harvey, who played Hodel in the Broadway production of "Fiddler on the Roof" and was also in the Broadway and national touring companies of "Phantom of the Opera."

The series runs until Aug. 25.



Jaida Ciampi, center, received her scholarship award from Sally Zweiback, MPSMF Young Performers Committee Chair, left, and Tom Suozzi, MPSMF Chairman, right. Ciampi is one of two winners, Sara Rengifo, not pictured, is the scholarship's second winner.



Richard Todd Adams and Rita Harvey dazzled the crowd with their heartfelt performances.



With Neil Berg on piano and Rita Harvey and Carter Calvert singing, 100 Years of Broadway recreates the greatest moments from the finest shows of the century.

# STEPPING OUT



Spicy Mustard Chicken Kebabs



Cabbage Steaks with Bacon & Blue Cheese



Mediterranean Vegetables

Capture the flavors of summertime cuisine

## Grill up a tasty bash

By Karen Bloom

Whether firing up the grill for a pool party, barbecue or even just a weeknight meal, one thing's for sure: summertime means grilling season. Grilling takes many forms: your crowd may prefer the standard fare of burgers and hot dogs to flame-kissed vegetables and the artistry of a perfectly done steak. However, the possibilities don't end there.

By mixing and matching traditional grilled classics with options that have a variety of textures and flavors, you can shake up your at-home menu and add new favorites to your routine this grilling season.

It's easy to go from casual to elegant in a snap. The traditional faves always have their place, but if you're looking for a different type of barbecue, add some finesse to your menu with other ideas, by re-imagining your grilling style.

### Spicy Mustard Chicken Kebabs

With their easy preparation and quick cooking time, kabobs are a simple way to enjoy many of your favorite fresh flavors.

- 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon spicy brown mustard
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 1 pound raw boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/4 teaspoon each of salt and black pepper
- 1 medium red onion, cut into 1-inch chunks

To make sauce, place 3 tablespoons mustard in medium bowl. Add oil and garlic powder, and whisk until uniform. Cover and refrigerate.

To make marinade, in small bowl, combine vinegar with remaining 2 tablespoons mustard. Stir until uniform.

Season chicken with salt and pepper. Place chicken and marinade in large sealable plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal. Gently knead marinade into chicken through bag. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

Meanwhile, if using wooden skewers, soak 4 in water for 20 minutes to prevent burning. Alternately thread marinated chicken and onion chunks onto 4 skewers. Bring grill to medium-high heat.

Brush both sides of kebabs with sauce. Grill kebabs for 5 minutes with grill cover down.

Flip kebabs and grill for 6 to 8 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through. Enjoy.

### Cabbage Steaks With Bacon & Blue Cheese

These cabbage steaks blend sweet and slightly sour notes with savory crumbles of cheese for a dish that pleases every one of your taste buds.

- 6 slices bacon
- 1 package McCormick Grill Mates Smoky Applewood Marinade
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 head green cabbage, cut into 3/4-inch thick slices (about 6 steaks)
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onions

Cook bacon in large skillet on medium heat until crisp. Reserve 1 tablespoon of the drippings.

Crumble bacon; set aside.

Mix marinade mix, oil, vinegar, maple syrup and reserved bacon drippings in small bowl until well blended. Place cabbage steaks in large resealable plastic bag or glass dish. Add marinade; turn to coat well.

Refrigerate 30 minutes or longer for extra flavor. Remove cabbage steaks from marinade. Reserve any leftover marinade.

Grill cabbage steaks over medium heat 5 to 6 minutes per side or until tender-crisp, brushing with leftover marinade. Serve cabbage steaks topped with blue cheese, crumbled bacon and green onions.

### Mediterranean Vegetables

Fresh veggies tossed with rice vinegar and garlic make a tasty, nutritious side.

- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar (seasoned)
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus extra, to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper, plus extra, to taste
- 1 tablespoon, plus 1 1/2 teaspoons, fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 1/2 teaspoons fresh garlic, minced
- 1 cup fresh zucchini, sliced into 1 3/4-inch long, 1/4-inch thick planks
- 1 cup fresh green pepper strips
- 1 cup fresh red pepper strips
- 8 fresh stalks asparagus, slicing off 1/4 inch from bottom of stalk
- 1 fresh portobello mushroom, sliced into 1/2-inch squares
- 1 cup fresh eggplant, diced into 1/2-inch squares

Heat grill to 375 F.

In large bowl, mix together rice vinegar, olive oil, salt, pepper, parsley and garlic to create marinade.

Clean vegetables then place them in marinade in small batches. Toss to coat then place in foil pouch. Pour remaining marinade over vegetables and seal pouch.

Bake in oven or over indirect heat on grill 25 minutes. Add salt and pepper, to taste, after removing pouch from heat.

Chef's tip: Open pouch after 20 minutes of cooking and allow vegetables to crisp slightly under direct heat for remaining 5 minutes.



### 'Cold Beer on a Friday Night'

Jimmy Kenny and the Pirate Beach Band bring their beachy vibe back to the Paramount stage. With summer in full swing, enjoy their "Ultimate Beach Party Tribute" to Kenny Chesney, Jimmy Buffett and Zac Brown Band. Parrotheads, No Shoes Nation and the Zamily: it's 5 o'clock somewhere so raise 'em up and sing along. The Long Island based band — guided by Paul C. Cuthbert (aka Jimmy Kenny) on lead vocals/ acoustic guitar, with Linn DeMilta (aka Lovely Linn), lead and backing vocals, Luis Rio, lead guitar/backing vocals, Frank Stainkamp, keyboard/backing vocals, Dan Prine, bass, and drummer Mike Vecchione, have been celebrating the beach/country sounds for over a decade to the delight of their audiences.

Friday, July 26, 8 p.m. \$35, \$25, \$20, \$15. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or [ParamountNY.com](http://ParamountNY.com).



### The Hilarious Hitmen

Sal Governale, Richard Christy and Billy Mira, radio personalities known for their prank calls and comedy, keep the laughs coming as "The Hilarious Hitmen." The dynamic trio brings a modern twist to humor, drawing inspiration from the classic styles of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. Christy's extraordinary drumming skills set the heartbeat for their performance, while Governale's charisma and comedic genius keep audiences in stitches. Not to be outdone, Mira's impressions and vocal range captivate everyone. Get in on the laughs when they bring their to Harry Chapin Theatre at Eisenhower Park, for a lively evening that blends big band comedy with audience participation and delightful surprises. Audiences can't get enough of their refreshing and new take on music and comedy, making their performances an unforgettable experience that leaves you craving for more.

Saturday, July 27, 7 p.m. Free admission. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For information, visit [NassauCountyNY.gov](http://NassauCountyNY.gov).

# THE SCENE

Aug. 4

## Dance Theatre of Harlem

The acclaimed dance company visits Long Island on its 2024 tour, appearing on the Tilles Center stage Sunday, **Aug. 4**, 7 p.m. With a storied history, the first Black classical ballet company, co-founded by dance icon and international superstar Arthur Mitchell, has toured the world, engaged communities and introduced young minds and bodies to the power of dance. With all its renown, this boundary-breaking, dynamic organization has maintained Mitchell's core belief that ballet belongs to everyone. Now a singular presence in the ballet world, DTH presents a powerful vision for ballet in the 21st century. The 18-member, multi-ethnic company performs a forward-thinking repertoire that includes treasured classics, neoclassical works by George Balanchine and resident choreographer Robert Garland, as well as innovative contemporary works that use the language of ballet to celebrate Black culture.



Through performances, community engagement and arts education, the Company carries forward Dance Theatre of Harlem's message of empowerment through the arts for all. The dynamic program includes "Higher Ground," with choreography by Robert Garland, featuring Stevie Wonder tunes; "New Bach," also choreographed by Robert Garland, with music by J.S. Bach; "Take Me with You," choreographed by Robert Bondara, featuring Radiohead; also Robert Garland's "Return," with James Brown and Aretha Franklin tunes. Tickets are start at \$64; available at TillesCenter.org or (516) 299-3100. LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville.



## Movie Night

Enjoy a family film outdoors on Eisenhower Park's big screen, Wednesday **July 31**, dusk, at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre. See the recent 3D animated musical fantasy "Trolls 3: Trolls Band Together." The film serves as the threequel to Trolls, the sequel to Trolls World Tour, and the continuation of DreamWorks Trolls franchise. Eisenhower Park, Lakeside Theatre, East Meadow. For information, visit NassauCountyNY.gov.

## Author talk/book signing

Meet former Food Network Executive Producer Karen Katz, Thursday **Aug. 15**, 7 p.m., at Theodore's Books. She discusses and signs her new book, "Getting Sauced: How I Learned Everything I Know About Food From Working in TV." This event is free, but registration required. 17 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay. Register at TheodoresBooks.com.

## Game Time

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

## Dancing in the Street

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

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

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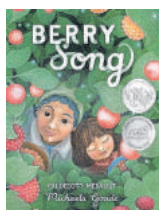
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### National Night Out

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

### Slavery awareness seminar

Online grooming happens on any platform that allows individuals to communicate with each other, such as social media and gaming sites. It can be difficult to recognize online grooming as it would look different for every child, teen and adult, but there are key signs to pay attention to. Join Long Island Against Trafficking/Slavery Exists Here for an informational seminar, Saturday, **July 27**, 10 a.m., at Glen Cove Christian Church, 74 Walnut Road, Glen Cove. Email TammyL@GCCChurch.net for more information.



### Storybook Stroll

Bring the kids to Old Westbury Gardens for a storybook adventure, Saturday, **Aug. 3**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stroll the gardens and listen to Michaela Goade's "Berry Song." Later create a unique take home craft. For ages 3-5. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit OldWestburyGardens.org or contact (516) 333-0048.

### Downtown Sounds

The Glen Cove Business Improvement District presents its annual Downtown sounds concert series through Aug. 30, at Village Square in downtown Glen Cove. The shows begin at 7:30 p.m.; classic rock band Arena Rock Tribute performs on Friday, **July 26**. For more information visit: GlencoveDowntown.org.

### Summer tunes at Morgan Park

Morgan Park audience favorite Tom Cavanagh returns to the park with his band, Sunday, **July 28**, 7 p.m., to cover George Harrison's music. Having been met with acclaim by audiences for his portrayal of Johnny Cash, Cavanagh now honors the late superstar's prolific career. Hear "Here Comes the Sun," "My Sweet Lord," "Something," and treasured, but not often heard works, such as "Think For Yourself" and "You Like Me Too Much."

Cavanagh, realizing his long-held dream of portraying George Harrison, lends authenticity with instruments associated with the artist, including the sitar, the ROCKY Fender Stratocaster and the Gretsch County Gentleman. Morgan Park Summer Music Festival is celebrating its 65th anniversary year of bringing free concerts to the community. All concerts are held at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove, overlooking Hempstead Harbor at Germaine Street between Landing Road and McLoughlin St.

### 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.



### 'Walkin' After Midnight'

Plaza Theatrical presents a showstopping tribute to the legendary Patsy Cline, Sunday, **Aug. 11**, 2:30 p.m. Through a colorful tapestry of iconic songs and witty personal storytelling, Carter Calvert uses her award-winning vocal talents to create this captivating musical tribute. Calvert, a Broadway star and title character in Always...Patsy Cline (opposite Emmy Award winner Sally Struthers), has gained rave reviews and triumphant accolades for her heartfelt portrayal of this legendary country recording artist.

She vocally captures Cline's musical stylings pitch-perfectly in mega hits including "Crazy," "I Fall To Pieces," "She's Got You" and "Walkin' After Midnight." Both captivating and endearing, this fast-paced entertainment delights audiences of all ages. It's performed at Plaza's stage at the Elmont Library Theatre, 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$40, \$35 seniors. Elmont. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit PlazaTheatrical.com.

### Having an event?

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

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# Obamacare remains vulnerable, Solages warns

July 25, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By JUAN LASSO

jlasso@liherald.com

Despite repeated partisan legal challenges aimed at its demise, the Affordable Care Act, widely known as Obamacare, has not only survived, but become an indispensable part of the American health care system. This year, a record number of Americans — an estimated 21 million — are insured through its marketplaces, which have redefined baseline expectations for consumer coverage in the health care system. Yet despite its 14 years of proven durability, Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages, a Democrat, remains warily concerned about ACA's future.

Solages was blunt in her assessment of what, or rather *who* represents the biggest political risk to undoing the health care law — former President Donald Trump.

At a news conference in Valley Stream last week, Solages, and leaders of the 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East labor union and Protect Our Care, a nonprofit health care advocacy group, forcefully articulated their concerns, underscoring how the law has served as a crucial safety net for New Yorkers, and warned that its termination could be disastrous.

“As we interface with the affordability crisis, it’s important to acknowledge there are reforms at work, from the



Courtesy Office of Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages

**Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages and health care advocates warned against dismantling the Affordable Care Act, emphasizing its crucial role in providing coverage for 21 million Americans and protecting vulnerable populations, amid ongoing political threats to its future.**

Affordable Care Act to the Inflation Reduction Act, to ensure that people have access to health care,” Solages said. “Now we are seeing constant attacks on these reforms, whether it’s federal representatives trying to take away provisions that ensure people with pre-existing conditions have access to health care or cull prescription pricing relief.”

Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, sought to roll back or repeal significant elements of the law when he was president, but did not succeed. On

the campaign trail this year, certainly aware of the law’s popularity and lasting power, he has made vague promises to replace it with a superior alternative if he returns to the White House.

Solages also cited proposals by Republicans to cap and cut federal Medicaid spending and introduce a block grant system in which states would have to bid for federal funding to secure benefits.

“Instead of direct funding to the states, they want states to enroll in a

Hunger Games-like competition for coverage,” said Solages. “We can’t compete for coverage when it comes to health care,” which will inevitably shrink the Medicaid program and leave many uninsured.

For more than a decade, there has been grumbling about the cost and sustainability of health care coverage under ACA by conservative critics.

Many maintain, as they have for years, that coverage plans under ACA can still be too expensive for some middle-class Americans because of high insurance premiums, burdensome cost-sharing requirements, and narrow health insurance networks that limit people’s choice of doctor and hospital.

And with the sting of inflation and rising health care costs, the insured may still struggle to afford higher-than-expected co-payments or deductibles.

While Solages acknowledged that New Yorkers are grappling with growing medical debt and prohibitively expensive prescription prices, reducing investments in existing reforms will only exacerbate these problems, not solve them.

“From womb to tomb, all New Yorkers interact with the health care system, and when you erode health care, you impact the most vulnerable New Yorkers,” she said. “We need to raise our voices against unfair cuts to health care.”

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# Finding the light in the darkness

Mother of an Oct. 7 hostage tells her story at the Chabad of Sea Cliff-Glen Cove

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

In an emotional gathering at the Chabad of Sea Cliff-Glen Cove, Einav Danino, an Israeli mother whose son, Ori, was kidnapped by Hamas following the Nova Music Festival on Oct. 7, shared her harrowing experience and message of hope and resilience. The event, titled "A Mother's Plea," drew dozens of people, united in support and solidarity.

**E**very day, I wait for news. Every day I pray.

**EINAV DANINO**  
mother of hostage

Rabbi Sholom Heber explained that when the Chabad heard Danino's story, he felt that it was important to get the chance to share and amplify her experience.

"We heard of her story and felt our community would gain a lot from her experience," Heber said. "While the rest of us are able to move on with our lives, in the meantime, her son is still hostage. For her, nothing has changed from then to now."

Heber opened the evening with a heartfelt introduction, emphasizing the unity and mutual responsibility that binds the Jewish people. He pointed out that the history of the Jewish people was often one of suffering, but through mutual support and care for one another any obstacle could be overcome.

"We have a famous saying that says 'Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bazeh,' which means all the Jewish people are guarantors for each other," Heber said. "When one of us faces a challenge, we all do."

The event coincided with the 17th of Tammuz, a significant date in the Jewish calendar marking the breach of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple by the Roman Empire. Heber drew parallels between historical tragedies and current events, highlighting the continuous struggle and resilience of the Jewish people.

Danino's story was delivered through translator Sigal Shmuely as Danino spoke in Hebrew. She recounted the events of Oct. 7, when her son Ori, along with thousands of others, attended the Nova Music Festival in southern Israel. What began as a day of music and joy turned into a nightmare when rockets and gunfire erupted around them.

Danino described how Ori, 25, initially managed to escape the chaos but chose to return to the danger zone to help three friends who were left behind. This selfless act resulted in his capture by Hamas.

"He told his friends, 'Don't worry about me. Worry about them,'" Danino shared. "That's who Ori is."

For months, Danino has lived with the anguish of not knowing her son's fate, clinging to hope and her faith. Her



Will Sheeline/Herald photos

Rabbi Sholom Heber, left, welcomed Einav Danino, right, to the Chabad of Sea Cliff-Glen Cove, where she told the story of her son's capture by Hamas through the help of Sigal Shmuely, her translator.



Einav Danino, the mother of Ori, a hostage of Hamas, fought back tears as she told the story of how her son was captured.

story resonated deeply with the audience, many of whom wiped away tears as they listened.

"Every day, I wait for news," she said, her voice breaking. "Every day, I pray."

The event featured a moving video montage that illustrated the Jewish people's historical struggles, from the destruction of the Temple to the Holo-

caust, and more recently, the Oct. 7 attacks. The video concluded with images of the Nova Music Festival, drawing a poignant connection between past and present.

"We wanted to show that despite the challenges, we remain strong and united," Rabbi Heber explained.

Danino's message to the Chabad com-

munity was one of gratitude and a call to maintain the spirit of unity and caring. She described how when Ori was heading to his bar mitzvah, he nearly died in a car accident, and that since that day she had not questioned God's choices.

"It's not easy to thank God for the difficulties," she said. "Faith is not just to receive good things from God and say thank you."

Audience members were invited to share their thoughts and prayers, and many offered heartfelt sympathy, hugging, and even crying with Danino. Heber and his wife Miriam presented Danino with a mezuzah, a device affixed to the door outside Jewish homes meant to hold pieces of parchment inscribed with Torah verses, made from the shrapnel of Hamas rockets stopped by the Iron Dome.

"Ori's name means light, and when you hear his story, you realize that he's full of light," Heber explained. "So, we took the missiles, which were used for a negative thing, for darkness, and we turned it into light."

The event concluded with a prayer for the hostages and a call for their swift and safe return. The community stood together, hands clasped, voices united in prayer.

"May God bring them from distress to comfort, from darkness to light," Heber prayed.

For more information on the Chabad, Ori's story, and ways to help, visit the website [ChabadOfSeaCliff.com](http://ChabadOfSeaCliff.com) or call (516) 669-3367.



# Gold Coast festival celebrates diversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the friends I've made and the relationships I've formed."

Judith Rivera, a board member of New York Dance Theatre and a retired professional dancer, spoke about the universal appeal of dance and its power to bring people together — including in Glen Cove.

"Dance is a universal language that can touch people's hearts and inspire them to see beyond their own barriers and boundaries," Rivera said. "This festival brings so much diversity and exposes our community to a high level of professionalism. Our kids need to see that you don't have to be a certain color, height or weight to be a ballerina or a modern dancer."

The festival was conceived by Glen Cove resident Nicole Loizides Albruzzese, who is now its executive producer. During the 2020 pandemic lockdown, Albruzzese invited a small group of dancers to the Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, where they shook off the stress of the pandemic in an unstructured, free-spirited setting. Inspired by the experience, Albruzzese decided in 2021 to reinvigorate the community's artistic atmosphere through dance. She successfully raised money and generated publicity for the first Gold Coast Dance Festival.

"This festival is a wonderful opportunity to bring dance right to the center of our communities," Albruzzese said. "Making dance accessible — which is an extremely expensive art form — directly into the heart of families, regardless of socioeconomic boundaries or what have you."

Albruzzese, a professional dancer and teacher, has been immersed in dance since she was 5 years old. Her career includes contributions to performances such as "Le Reve" at the Wynn Casino in Las Vegas, and coaching performers for Cirque Du Soleil's "Love." She has

performed on "Live with Regis and Kelly," with Ballet Hispanico, and with the Momix dance company for 25 years. Additionally, Albruzzese choreographed part of the opening ceremony for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, and worked on performances for Abu Dhabi's 44th National Day.

The New York Dance Theatre, which is overseeing the festival, is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and features artists from Broadway and the big screen, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Ballet Nepantla, FJK Dance and more, including a selection of Dance Magazine's Top 25 to Watch. The NYDT will also provide scholarships, offering two \$2,000 awards to help alleviate financial burdens for the dancers' families, covering expenses such as travel and dance attire.

In addition to classical and contemporary ballet, the festival features a dance showcasing movement inspired by Japanese sword fighting. Huntington Station dancer Wendi Weng often blends belly dancing with traditional Chinese dance in her performances. Choreographer Fadi Khoury will introduce a contemporary ballet infused with Latin ballroom and Middle Eastern elements. Other highlights include Skyla Schreter's duet featuring Kyle Halford and Piper Makenzie Dye, from Twyla Tharp Keerati Jinakunwiphat's "Interstate," set to Led Zeppelin's music; and the festival's centerpiece, Albruzzese's own creation, "Dance for Peace."

Albruzzese has crafted a multicultural, family-friendly event that is free to the public, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to experience dance at a high level. Albruzzese and her husband, Technical Director Lou Albruzzese, aim to expand the festival to two Long Island stages next year, making dance even more accessible to North and South shore communities. The rain date for the event is Aug. 10.



Courtesy Nicole Loizides Albruzzese

Wendi Weng's performances often incorporate belly dancing with traditional Chinese dance.

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# CRIME WATCH

## ARRESTS

- A 61-year-undomiciled man was arrested on July 19, for possession of an open alcoholic beverage container on Glen Street.
- A 48-year-old Glen Head man and a 34-year-old homeless man were arrested on July 19, for one count each of trespassing and possession of an open alcoholic beverage on Town Path.
- A 21-year-old homeless man was arrested on July 19 for disorderly conduct and possession of an open alcoholic beverage at the Glen Street Long Island Rail Road station.
- A 19-year-old Bayshore woman was arrested on July 18 for driving while intoxicated, moving from lanes unsafely and other vehicle and traffic law violations on Pratt Boulevard.
- A 26-year-old Bayville man was arrested on July 15 for criminal mischief, assault, criminal obstruction of breathing, criminal possession of a controlled substance, criminal possession of a weapon, menacing and unauthorized use of a vehicle on Carpenter Street.
- A 40-year-old homeless was arrested on July 14, for assault, criminal possession of a weapon and an open warrant on Glen Street.
- A 21-year-old homeless man was arrested on July 14 for obstructing governmental administration on Glen Street.
- A 22-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 14 for assault on McLoughlin Street.
- An 18-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 14 for assault on Circle Drive.
- A 42-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 14 for forcible touching and acting in a manner to injure a child less than 17-years-old on Grove Street.

People named in Crime Watch items as having been arrested and charged with violations or crimes are only suspected of committing those acts of which they are accused. They are all presumed to be innocent of those charges until and unless found guilty in a court of law.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Slavery awareness seminar on online

Join Long Island Against Trafficking/Slavery Exists Here for an important seminar focusing on online grooming and trafficking awareness.

The event will be held on Saturday, July 27, at 10 a.m. at the Glen Cove Christian Church, located at 74 Walnut Road, Glen Cove.

Online grooming is a pervasive issue affecting individuals of all ages on various platforms that allow communication, such as social media and gaming sites.

Recognizing online grooming can be challenging, as it presents differently for each child, teen, and adult.

This seminar aims to educate attendees on the key signs to watch for and

offer strategies to prevent online grooming and trafficking.

The seminar is a crucial resource for parents, educators, and community members who wish to protect their loved ones and raise awareness about this pressing issue.

Attendees will gain valuable insights into the tactics used by traffickers and groomers and learn how to safeguard vulnerable individuals in their communities.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact TammyL@GCCChurch.net. Don't miss this opportunity to become informed and take a stand against online grooming and trafficking.

## Meet the police on National Night Out

The City of Glen Cove is gearing up for its annual National Night Out event, scheduled for Aug. 6. Organized by the Glen Cove Police Department, this community-building event will take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Bridge Street in downtown Glen Cove. National Night Out aims to foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and the community, promoting public safety and unity.

Residents can look forward to an evening filled with educational activities and entertainment. The event will feature tours of the police building providing an inside look at the daily operations and facilities. Attendees can also witness a taser demonstration and participate in lessons on firearms safety, ensur-

ing a well-rounded educational experience. Additionally, child identification kits will be available to help parents keep their children safe.

The event promises fun for the whole family, with refreshments and music adding to the festive atmosphere. First responders and community leaders will speak with residents and reinforce the importance of community partnerships in crime prevention.

National Night Out is an excellent opportunity for Glen Cove residents to connect with their local police officers and neighbors, fostering a safer and more cohesive community. For more information, contact the Glen Cove Police Department at (516) 676-2004.



# PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the Glen Cove City Council adopted the following Ordinance at the City Council Meeting of July 23, 2024:

BE IT ORDAINED, that the City Council hereby amends §265-43. Parking Prohibited at All Times, of the Code of Ordinance, as it relates to Highland Road, as follows:

Add:  
Name of Street Side Location  
Highland Road North From the northwest corner of Franklin Avenue and Highland Road west for a distance of 275 feet

This Ordinance shall take effect 3 days after publication.

Tina Pemberton  
City Clerk  
148163

### LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the Glen Cove City Council adopted the following Ordinance at the City Council Meeting of July 23, 2024:

BE IT ORDAINED, that the City Council hereby amends §265-46. Schedule XIV: Parking Prohibited Certain Hours, of the Code of Ordinance, as it relates to Town Path Extension, as follows:

Add:  
Name of Street Side Hours/Days Location  
Town Path Extension North Midnight - 6:00 a.m./All Entire Triangle

This Ordinance shall take effect 3 days after publication.

Tina Pemberton  
City Clerk  
148164

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT. NASSAU COUNTY. L&L ASSOCIATES HOLDING CORP., Pltf. vs. ROSALIE SANDILLO-LOTITO, et al, Defts. Index #608412/2021. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered June 4, 2024, I will sell at public auction on the North Side Steps of the Nassau Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY on August 6, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. premises k/a Section 21, Block 256, Lot 8. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale and the right of the United States of America to redeem within 120 days from the date of sale as provided by law. RONALD J. FERRARO, Referee. LEVY & LEVY, Attys. for Pltf., 12 Tulip Drive, Great Neck, NY. #101539 147842

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NASSAU, THE MICHAEL E. HERMAN, REVOCABLE TRUST C/O MICHAEL E. HERMAN, TRUSTEE, Plaintiff, vs. STUART J. BENTON A/K/A STUART BENTON, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on May 6, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the front steps on the north side of the Nassau County Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on August 6, 2024 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 6 Soundview Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and

improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau and State of New York, Section 31, Block 67 and Lot 33. Approximate amount of judgment is \$541,827.24 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #614023/2021. This foreclosure sale will be held on the north side steps of the Courthouse, rain or shine. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed at the foreclosure sale. If proper social distancing cannot be maintained or there are other health or safety concerns, the Court Appointed Referee will cancel the sale. Mark Ricciardi, Esq., Referee Valley Law PLLC, 6851 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 165, Syosset, New York 11791, Attorneys for Plaintiff 147811

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF COMPLETION

THE CITY OF GLEN COVE'S FINAL 2024 ASSESSMENT ROLL (Pursuant to Section 516 of the New York Real Property Tax Law) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2024 Final Assessment Roll for the City of Glen Cove, in the County of Nassau, State of New York, has been completed and verified by the undersigned assessor. A certified copy is available on the public access computer at City Hall on the 1st day of August 2024. A copy will also be published on the City of Glen Cove's, Department of Assessment website; <https://glencoveny.gov/assessment-department/> ("2024 Final Assessment Roll" is located at the bottom of the webpage)

Dated: July 25, 2024  
Thomas Donato, IAO,  
CSA-G  
City Assessor  
148165

### 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 Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at which time they will be opened and read aloud at 11:00 a.m.:

- Generator Maintenance Bid No. 2024-014 Prybil Beach Pier Rehabilitation Bid No.2024-015 Bulkhead Replacement at 100 Morris Avenue (DPW Yard) Bid No. 2024-016
- Specifications are available for download at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/cityofglencove>. Registration is free and instructions are available on <https://glencoveny.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 July 24, 2024 148166

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on July 23, 2024, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such

ordinance may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City of Glen Cove, in the County of Nassau, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution. Tina Pemberton City Clerk

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE, NEW YORK, ADOPTED NOVEMBER 9, 2021, AND AMENDED JULY 23, 2024, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,347,028 TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF A PACKED TOWER AERATION SYSTEM (PTAS) TO REMOVE FREON-22 AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS FROM THE DUCK POND ROAD STATION WELLS 30, 31, AND 32, STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$13,800,000 AND APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, INCLUDING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$6,452,972 IN GRANT FUNDS EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED TO PAY THE BALANCE OF SAID COST

The bonds are authorized to finance construct a Packed Tower Aeration System (PTAS) to remove Freon-22 and other contaminants from the Duck Pond Road Station Wells 30, 31, and 32 at the estimated maximum cost of \$13,800,000. The maximum amount of obligations authorized to be issued is not to exceed \$7,347,028. Grant funds in the aggregate amount of \$6,452,972 are expected to be received to pay the balance of the cost of the project. The period of probable usefulness is forty (40) years.

A complete copy of the Bond Ordinance summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the City Clerk, City of Glen Cove, City Hall, Glen Cove, New York, 148162

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## OPINIONS

# If you like horror stories, read Project 2025

I don't watch horror movies, and even if my friends recommend them to me, I take a pass. I try to avoid anything else that is gory, including news photos and some Facebook posts. But one horror story that has captured my attention is a political document known as Project 2025.



**JERRY  
KREMER**

Project 2025 is a 922-page manifesto created by the Heritage Foundation. It has been described as a road map for any new Trump administration. It outlines, agency by agency, the federal programs and projects that should be eliminated, and what the policies of a second Trump administration would be.

Over the past few weeks, officials in former President Donald Trump's campaign have attempted to disavow any connection between themselves and this recipe for a government revolution, but those denials do not have any substance. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who was willing to say anything or do anything to be Trump's running mate, called Project 2025 "a bunch of recommendations by

scholars and has no substance."

The facts belie all of the protestations by the Trump team. The Heritage Foundation is a conservative think tank that had enormous influence on the first Trump administration. It recommended all three of the justices whom Trump appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Foundation Chair Kevin Roberts has bragged that 64 percent of the organization's 2016 recommendations were adopted by the administration. Roberts has attracted national attention with his recent statement that "we are in the process of a second American Revolution, which will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be."

Project 2025 is the work of a team composed almost exclusively of former Trump appointees, including the former chief of staff of the Office of Personnel Management, Paul Dans. Many of its planks are identical to speeches made by Trump on the campaign trail. They include instituting tariffs on all imported goods; setting up deportation camps for non-citizens and so-called Dreamers, even those married to American citizens; and deploying the military for local law enforcement.

There is much more to the Project 2025 blueprint. It recommends that upward of 50,000 federal civil service workers be reclassified so that they can become political appointees. It recommends that Medicare and Medicaid funding be reduced, and that the president take total control of the FBI, the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Commerce and the Federal Communications Commission.

**N**o federal agency is spared from the Heritage Foundation's governing plan.

No agency would be spared the wrath of Project 2025. It suggests that the Department of Education be abolished and reconstituted as a way of "enhancing parental rights in education and reclaiming the funds from students whose college loans were forgiven." While it does not suggest that abortions be banned, it recommends that the abortion pill mifepristone be removed from the market. It urges that 100 current government workers have their names publicly posted so that citizens can comment on whether they will be loyal to the new administration. Parts of the document sound like they were written during World War II.

To make sure that no function of gov-

ernment is overlooked, Project 2025 advises that all climate-change regulations favor fossil fuel production, and that Medicare be banned from negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to lower drug costs. To make Medicare less costly, it calls for a new health insurance tax, and concludes by recommending that "Christian Nationalist policies be incorporated into the administration's mission."

When questioned about Project 2025, Trump, who followed many of the Heritage Foundation's previous government and court reform strategies, stated, "I have no idea who is behind it. I disagree with some of the things they are saying." That's not much of a denial.

Trump campaign operatives can deny any connection to Project 2025, but the facts say otherwise. One of its loudest supporters has been Steve Bannon, a Trump confidant, who is currently in federal prison. "This is not empty rhetoric," Bannon recently stated. "This will be the manifesto of the new administration. Take it seriously."

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

## We are not a nation of one religion

My earliest memories of church are of getting dressed up and heading to St. Dominic's, in Oyster Bay, with my family. We'd dab our fingers with holy water, make the sign of the cross and walk into the pews, where I would immediately grab a hymnal and start looking through it, hoping we'd



**WILL  
SHEELINE**

get to sing some of my favorites, like "The Lord of the Dance" or "We Three Kings."

As I grew up, I continued to enjoy many aspects of religion, from getting into (very amateur) theological debates with my friends to the sense of community and belonging it can provide, even as my belief in God slipped away.

While I don't go to church too often anymore, I still have a special place in my heart for the magic, the importance and the splendor of religion, especially Christianity. The history of religion is one of the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, and led to some of the most phenomenal art, literature and philosophy that humanity has ever produced.

But I've been deeply disheartened by some political stunts that have taken place around the country in the name of religion. None more so than the recent efforts by Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry to require all public classrooms in the state to display the Ten Commandments. This comes at a time when there are calls for America to "return" to being a Christian nation, and for Christianity to play a more prominent role in our government, with many echoing the sentiments of Colorado Rep. Lauren Boebert that "I'm tired of this separation of church and state junk."

That "junk" Boebert so eloquently refers to is one of the defining pillars of the Founding Fathers' vision for our country. Because despite what Christian nationalists argue, the United States has never been a Christian nation, and was expressly founded on the idea that any people, with any religious beliefs, could find a home here, even if reality has not always reflected those ideals.

Some argue that the founders were themselves Christian, and that religion played a huge role in the creation of the nation. What this conveniently ignores is the fact that many of them

were in fact deists, with no personal connection to any one church. George Washington attended a different denomination's service every week, while many suspected Benjamin Franklin of being a secret atheist.

**A**nd you need look no further than the Constitution to be reminded of that.

Thomas Jefferson even went so far as to reply to a letter by the Danbury Baptist Association by declaring, "When (the Church has) opened a gap in the hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world, God hath ever broke down the wall itself, removed the Candlestick, etc., and made His Garden a wilderness as it is this day. And that therefore if He will ever please to restore His garden and paradise again, it must of necessity be walled in peculiarly unto Himself from the world ..."

Even earlier, Roger Williams, a Puritan minister and the founder of Rhode Island, was banished from Massachusetts for his "erroneous" and "dangerous opinions," for preaching against the king and for the separation of church and state. Williams feared that the co-mingling of religion and government would not only lead to oppression, but would damage the integrity of the church.

Favoring one religion over others goes directly against the Constitution itself. The Establishment Clause, a key component of the First Amendment, states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." While the exact meaning of "establishment" has been debated by legal scholars for centuries, the broad understanding has traditionally been that the government cannot, and should not, promote one religion over any other.

Religion is a wonderful thing. It brings people together, and encourages us to consider our place in the universe. I'll be the first to stand up when people of any religious denomination in this country are being oppressed for their beliefs.

At the same time, we cannot allow any religious ideology to influence the functioning of our government, because once we start telling people how to live, love and think based on our religious beliefs, we are no longer upholding religion, but tyranny. As a wise carpenter from Nazareth said in Matthew 22:20, "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

*Will Sheeline is a senior reporter covering Glen Cove, Glen Head, Oyster Bay and Sea Cliff. Comments? [WSheeline@liherald.com](mailto:WSheeline@liherald.com).*

## GLEN COVE HERALD

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Face mask bill must strike a delicate balance

**A**mid ongoing debates about public safety and individual rights, the Nassau County Legislature is poised to make a significant decision that could have an impact on both.

Republican Legislator Mazi Pilip has proposed a bill that would make the county one of the first in the metropolitan area to ban face masks that conceal a wearer's identity.

The proposal, backed by all 12 Republican county legislators, aims to unmask those responsible for violent acts during protests, imposing fines of up to \$1,000 and potential jail time for violators.

A similar measure was proposed by State Sen. Steve Rhoads last month, after six young men wearing masks attacked another man at the Academy Charter School graduation at Hofstra University.

The Pilip bill is a reaction to violence involving people wearing masks in recent months during protests at universities including Columbia, George Washington and Yale. Pilip said that when they cover their faces, people can act as brazenly as they wish, which is unacceptable, and the idea behind the proposal is to curb violence and hold perpetrators accountable.

A laudable goal — but this well-meaning legislation may compromise public health and civil liberties, particularly when face masks are used as intended. They became an essential public health

tool during the coronavirus pandemic, and are not just a means of personal protection, but also a potential collective shield that helps reduce the transmission of airborne viruses.

Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of masks in curbing the spread of infectious diseases, thereby saving lives. To undermine this practice, even with the pandemic seemingly behind us, could have dire consequences for public health, especially as we ponder future outbreaks of other diseases.

The proposed bill includes exemptions for those wearing masks for health or religious reasons, but the enforcement of those exemptions would raise significant concerns. While the Republican presiding officer of the County Legislature, Howard Kopel, said he doubted anyone would intervene when an older person wears a mask for health reasons, there appear to be broader worries. The New York Civil Liberties Union has voiced concerns that the legislation paints a target on the backs of people of color, and protesters who disagree with government policies.

Those sentiments are echoed by Democratic Legislator Debra Mulé, who highlights what she sees as the ambiguity surrounding the bill's implementation and enforcement.

Historical and current events have shown that laws with vague enforcement guidelines often disproportionately impact marginalized communities. Even the appearance that some were

being unfairly targeted by a face mask law would not only undermine trust in public institutions, but also exacerbate existing social and racial tensions.

Gov. Kathy Hochul's consideration of a mask ban on New York City transit, and similar proposals from other state legislators, indicate a broader trend toward restricting mask use that, if taken up by individual counties as well and not carefully managed, could become the focus of endless litigation and, yes, masked protests. Legislators' focus should instead be on fostering a safe environment without infringing on individual rights or compromising public health. Rather than outright bans, there should be a nuanced approach that balances safety with the right to wear masks for legitimate reasons.

Enhancing security measures at protests, improving surveillance to identify perpetrators of violence without compromising the anonymity of peaceful demonstrators, and fostering better communication between law enforcement and the public could be more effective strategies.

Legislation that restricts the use of masks must be carefully crafted to avoid unintended consequences that affect citizens' freedoms or can be seen as discriminatory. As the County Legislature considers Pilip's bill before a scheduled Aug. 5 vote, it should seek input from a wide range of stakeholders before finalizing it, in an effort to protect both public safety and individual rights.

## LETTERS

### Jerry Kremer should rethink congestion pricing

To the Editor:

Re Jerry Kremer's recent column, "It's time to give the governor a break": I strongly disagree with Kremer's opinion about Gov. Kathy Hochul's cancellation of congestion pricing. This money would have been of great benefit to those of us who ride the Long Island Rail Road and the New York City transit system. It would also have helped to reduce air pollution in New York City, a big problem.

As we've seen in the weeks since the governor canceled this program, there is no Plan B for funding the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's capital program, despite her absurd statements to the contrary. There is a real risk of losing significant federal funding for the Second Avenue subway. Also, much-needed new electric train cars for the LIRR will likely now be indefinitely delayed.

I'm guessing that Kremer doesn't ride the railroad and experience some of the very old M-3 passenger cars, which break down frequently. The now canceled capital program would also have improved accessibility at LIRR stations, not to mention helping

### THE NEW SISYPHUS



## OPINIONS

# NUMC is on the road to financial recovery

**T**he treatment is working. For the past year, the leadership of Long Island's largest safety-net hospital has buckled down to demonstrate that this beacon of hope for so many residents can survive, and thrive.

That may not be the message of some politicians, Albany bureaucrats and media often content to push misinformation, but the facts tell a story of resilience.



**MATTHEW BRUDERMAN**

The Nassau Health Care Corporation and Nassau University Medical Center are demonstrating the power of strategic reform and unwavering dedication in the face of intense financial strain.

The comprehensive reforms implemented over

the past year have been nothing short of transformative. We overhauled NUMC's ancient billing and collections processes, updated financial standards and practices, strengthened quality controls, and upgraded our information technology systems. All were longstanding areas of deficiency in hospital management that needed reform.

Today NUMC boasts on-time budgets, comprehensive audits, greater transpar-

ency and daily financial reporting that have enabled us to identify more than \$100 million in savings in the past year.

The recent audit by Grant Thornton confirms that our reforms are working. NHCC is on a path to long-term fiscal

sustainability. The numbers speak for themselves. Despite what has been reported by Newsday, our cash on hand increased from \$23 million to \$67 million in just the first six months of 2024.

Net patient service revenue saw a significant boost, rising by \$76 million to \$536 million in 2023. We also managed to reduce our operating losses by \$30 million, and reduced overtime costs by \$4 million. These aren't just dollar figures; they represent our commitment to responsible stewardship and our dedication to providing quality health care.

For 2023, NUMC was projected to have a \$179 million budget gap. We've closed that projected deficit by more than half.

This remarkable progress underscores the efficacy of our Financial Sustainability Reform Plan, initiated last year, and highlights the potential for more success if health care is prioritized over political gamesmanship.

This dramatic reform program has

been a team effort led on a daily basis by our interim president and CEO, Megan Ryan. Her leadership, combined with the tireless efforts of our new chief financial officer and the entire NHCC management team, has been pivotal in

demonstrating that despite chronic challenges, the hospital can thrive, giving peace of mind to future generations.

It is important, however, to acknowledge that our journey is far from over. While the audit results are encouraging and key metrics are positive, there is an underlying and inescapable truth that seems inconvenient for some Albany leaders. As a safety-net hospital, NUMC cannot continue to serve its more than 275,000 patients per year without state aid and higher Medicaid reimbursement rates. We serve a diverse community, including Nassau's most at-risk patients, many of whom cannot afford to pay for care.

Even though the Legislature just increased the state budget by \$8 billion, there continues to be reticence to commit to ensuring that our hospital survives. Our progress shows clearly that our stated goal for NUMC of relying on less aid over time is achievable. But we still need help to provide care for those

who cannot afford to pay.

Claims that the state doesn't have the money are nonsense. Claims that management isn't making reforms are patently false. Cutting our staff by 90 percent, which was recommended by the Nassau Interim Finance Authority in 2020, would be an insult to the people who rely on us for care. Caring for our most vulnerable should be government's top priority, not political jockeying for control over vital institutions.

Nassau needs NUMC. No other hospital can serve our patients. There simply isn't enough capacity. Other local hospitals are disincentivized from treating Medicare and Medicaid patients and won't treat the uninsured. While we wait for Albany to recognize that, our team will continue to protect this vital institution. We are determined to address the challenges we face head-on, with the same commitment and resilience that have brought us this far.

Despite what you've heard, the future of NHCC is indeed promising. The hospital is treating what has ailed it for decades. This success should be a rallying cry for bipartisan support now for a healthier tomorrow for all we serve.

*Matthew J. Bruderman is chairman of the board of directors of Nassau Health Care Corporation, which operates Nassau University Medical Center and the A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility.*

## LETTERS

to buy new diesel train cars and locomotives, which are approaching the end of their useful lives.

Kremer noted the economic cost of congestion pricing, and perhaps some adjustments could be made. But not funding our transit system is a terrible idea, and it will absolutely result in higher costs to taxpayers in the end.

I once thought of Mr. Kremer as a fairly progressive and effective legislator, but I guess that's all in the past now that he's a lobbyist.

In contrast, Kevin Kelley's column, "Our future should include transit-oriented development," makes a lot of sense. We urgently need housing and transportation here on Long Island. Kremer's negative comments about transit funding accomplish nothing, except to play to the short-term interests of uncaring politicians.

I suggest he think about this, and re-evaluate his position.

MICHAEL CRAVEN  
*Point Lookout*

## Road violence vs. gun violence: no comparison

To the Editor:

Anyone who travels by car, rides a bike or walks across an intersection in

Nassau County knows that life-threatening recklessness behind the wheel has become terrifyingly common. In fact, 20 times more people are killed in the county by drivers than by shooters.

Yet elected officials, led by County Executive Bruce Blakeman, are doing little or nothing to reduce traffic violence. Instead, in a stunning example of skewed priorities, Blakeman and his political allies stir public fears of the comparatively tiny threat of gun-related crime.

In 2022 — the most recent year for which statistics are available — traffic violence claimed 81 lives in Nassau County. That same year, a total of four people in the county were killed by armed assailants.

And the roads are becoming ever more deadly.

"Traffic fatalities in New York have grown at an alarming rate since the pandemic," state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli said in a report last month.

Speeding and drunk or distracted driving are among the leading causes of this upsurge. But the Nassau County Police Department issued 66 percent fewer speeding tickets in 2022 than in 2019, the year prior to the pandemic. DWI arrests have also sharply decreased.

"In Nassau County," Blakeman declared in March, "we back the blue, and we fund our police." He boasted that more than 200 officers have been added

## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At last Saturday's next-to-last Food Truck Festival — Wantagh

to the county's police force since he took office in 2022.

That rhetoric, and those statistics, mean little to the families of children and adults killed in preventable crashes. And almost all motor vehicle fatalities can indeed be prevented with safer road

designs and tighter enforcement of traffic laws. Nassau County public officials must stop ignoring this worsening threat to the lives of their constituents.

KEVIN J. KELLEY  
*Atlantic Beach*



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