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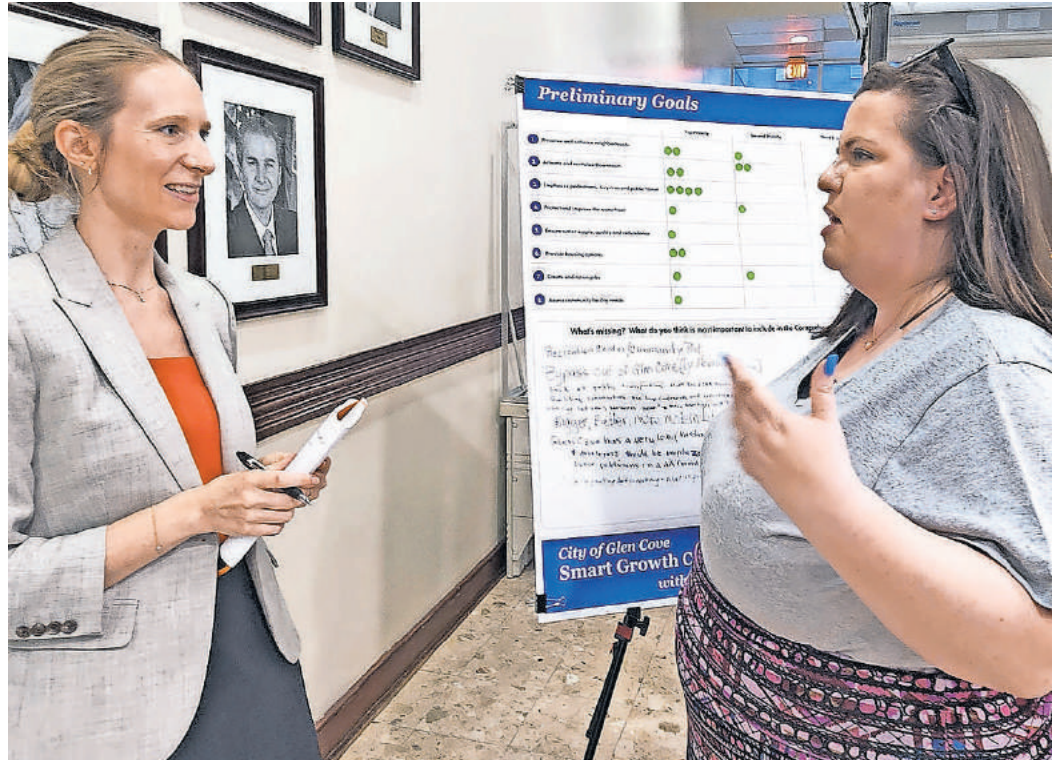
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Roksana Amid/Herald

Emily Junker, left, and Gracie Donaldson Cipriano discussed the city's comprehensive plan. Donaldson Cipriano asked insightful questions about the planning process and shared her ideas on how to make the city better.

City's comprehensive plan is a guide for next 15 years

By **ROKSANA AMID**
ramid@iherald.com

After a decade-long hiatus since its last update in 2009, the Glen Cove City Council voted unanimously to adopt its comprehensive plan, which is intended to guide the city's development, infrastructure and services for the next 10 to 15 years. The plan was developed over 16 months by the council; Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck; BFJ Planning, a Manhattan-based consulting firm; public input; a Comprehensive Planning Committee of 52 community members; and a Core Working Group of 12 Glen Cove residents.

"We were very happy that it passed unanimously," Panzenbeck said. "It really means that everybody feels that they're comfortable with it, that they all had input. I believe

everybody was very comfortable with the master plan, so that speaks for itself."

Community members offered their input through an online survey and several public workshops. Despite extensive efforts to engage residents, the response was relatively modest, with only 600 people completing the survey. Nonetheless, the feedback provided valuable insights into the city's strengths and weaknesses.

Respondents identified Glen Cove's parks and beaches, overall quality of life, and first responders as its primary strengths. The downtown area, tax rate and the cost of living were highlighted as significant weaknesses. The feedback has been instrumental in shaping the plan's recommendations.

The document notes the changes that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Examining the harsh reality of trafficking

By **ROKSANA AMID**
ramid@iherald.com

Human trafficking often relies on deception, manipulation, and force to keep those who are being exploited under the influence of the traffickers. People who become victims of human trafficking are often vulnerable — usually those without the necessary government or social supports needed to survive.

To help shed light on the issue, Susan Lingenfelter, secretary treasurer of Long Island Against Trafficking, delivered a powerful hour-long presentation on recognizing and combating sex trafficking on Long Island last Sunday at the Glen Cove Christian Church.

"I was always aware of sex trafficking, but after hearing this woman today, I am more scared," one attendee, Jeff Forgone, said after Lingenfelter's presentation. "This is everywhere. I've got a little granddaughter. Seeing this up close

scares you more."

Human trafficking is defined as the coercive control over individuals for exploitation, and it is the second-largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world, Lingenfelter explained. Victims are forced

This can happen next door, and you don't even know.

SUSAN LINGENFELTER
Secretary treasurer, Long Island Against Trafficking

into labor or sex in exchange for money, and can be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals — men, women or children. Trafficking occurs in a variety of settings, including the commercial sex industry, which encompasses street prostitution, strip clubs, massage parlors, escort services and online forums. It can also take place in factories, farms, private homes, and service-industry locations such as nail salons and restaurants.

Hotels are frequent sites of human trafficking, Lingenfelter noted, and front desk workers are often bribed to overlook it. One out of every seven men in the United States, she added, have paid a prostitute for sex at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Dems say release first responder funds

By **ROKSANA AMID & HERNESTO GALDAMEZ**
Of the Glen Cove Herald

Nassau County Democrats, including Legislators Debra Mulé, and Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, accused Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman of not disbursing funds to certain legislative districts and plan to block him from borrowing any more money until he does.

Legislators from those districts say millions of dollars were promised early this year to pay for resources in their communities but remain “locked” by the Blakeman administration in favor of districts led by Republican legislators.

DeRiggi-Whitton expressed frustration over Blakeman’s control over the approval process for placing items on the legislative calendar. She emphasized that only the executive branch can approve these items, which then move from the administration to the clerk before reaching legislators. DeRiggi-Whitton highlighted delays in the allocation of CRP money, ARPA funds, and a Hotel Motel grant of \$7,500, which has halted projects like Downtown Sounds in Glen Cove due to what she alleges is Blakeman’s refusal to sign agreements. She also cited the urgent need for funding to address Hempstead’s drinking water crisis. Despite Blakeman approving funds for other areas like Farmingdale and Great Neck, DeRiggi Whitton says Democratic areas remain neglected,



Courtesy Daniel Schrafel

A group of Democratic Nassau County legislators call on County Executive Bruce Blakeman to release funding for certain legislative districts. From left, Delia DeRiggi-Whitton of Glen Cove, Seth Koslow of Merrick, Debra Mulé of Baldwin, Siela Bynoe of Westbury and Scott Davis of Rockville Centre.

affecting all constituents, including those who voted for him.

“I have \$7,500 sitting there, and he just refuses to sign the agreement, so it has to stop. Now they want us to bond, and they need us for that, with no guarantee that our projects will move forward,” DeRiggi Whitton told the Herald. “We just can’t trust after this whole debacle. It’s blatant politics where it shouldn’t be.”

Baldwin, another area withheld from legislator’s first responder funds, also includes East Meadow, Glen Cove, Glenwood, Muttontown, Port Washington, Sands Point and Sea Cliff.

“I’ve never seen things like this happen since my time as a legislator,” Mulé said at a press conference on July 24 alongside other party members. “There is no such thing as a Republican fire or a Democrat fire, there are just fires.”

Until Blakeman honors the funding requests, which have already been agreed upon with the administration, Democrats will block borrowing until the county executive honors the requests, they say.

Republicans hold a 12-7 majority in the legislature. Blakeman needs a supermajority of 13 votes to approve finance requests for larger countywide projects.

A request in Mulé’s district of Baldwin was made for the Baldwin Fire Department for a new bucket truck last December for \$169,241.

“Here we are, seven or eight months later, and we still haven’t heard anything about this project,” Mulé said.

“During my administration, minority members of the legislature received over 2 million dollars for community projects in their districts,” Blakeman wrote in a statement to the Herald. “Previously, the Democrat members of the legislature tried to hijack the capital budget, withholding funds for a variety of infrastructure projects and public safety projects including police body armor.

“If the Democrats are serious about moving projects forward they must immediately pass the capital projects budget and complete their due diligence and paperwork on project requests that to date have been incomplete and lacking important details. I stand ready to work with either side of the aisle,” he added.

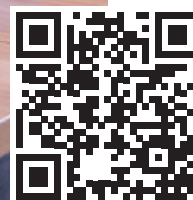


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Keith Rossein/Herald photos

The North Shore Jazz Quartet was one of the bands that got the chance to perform at the Tilles Jazz Fest.

The jazziest new festival on Long Island

By **WILL SHEELINE**

wsheeline@liherald.com

Jazz enthusiasts gathered at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on July 20 to enjoy a day filled with vibrant performances and community festivities at the inaugural Tilles Jazz Fest. The first event of its kind to be held at the Tilles Center, the Jazz Fest drew hundreds of people from all over Long Island to swing, sing and enjoy the music.

This is a great time to see some of my favorite artists live.

TYLER SIMPSON
intern,
Lincoln Center

The Tilles Jazz Fest, presented in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center, featured a diverse lineup of musicians across four stages on the picturesque LIU Post campus. From Matt Wilson's Good Trouble to the Branford Marsalis Quartet, whose evening performance sold out quickly, the festival celebrated jazz in its many forms.

The attendees were a mix of hardcore jazz fans, casual listeners, and even some people who didn't like jazz at all. Peter Martin, one attendee, explained that he had enjoyed listening to jazz his whole life, and had been excited to hear that there would be a jazz concert on Long Island.

"I'm truly enjoying it," Martin said. "I'm glad that they brought it up from the Lincoln Center to here, so that we can enjoy the chance to partake in some classic jazz music, especially in the summer."

Tyler Simpson, an intern at the Lincoln Center and a big jazz fan himself, said that the Jazz Fest really presented a rare opportunity to celebrate numerous musicians from around the country. The California native added that he was glad to see how many attendees seemed to be enjoying themselves.

"This is a great time to see some of my favorite artists live," Simpson said. "The acts are great, and all the sets have been amazing."

Among the lineup of talented musicians was Brandee Younger, a celebrated jazz harpist and native of Long Island. Younger, 41, delighted the audience with a mesmerizing duet alongside bassist Rashaan Carter,



Jazz fans set up chairs and blankets or just sat down on the grass to enjoy a wide range of jazz music.

showcasing her unique musical prowess on the harp.

"I've got a really cool connection to the Tilles Center," Younger shared. "It's like home for me."

Indeed, Younger's musical journey began in Uniondale, where she first engaged with the harp through the Tilles Center's summer chamber music program during her formative years at Walnut Street Elementary and Uniondale High School.

For Sheila Chectman, attending her first jazz harp performance was a revelation.

"I've never heard a harpist before," she remarked. "I didn't know what to expect, but her music was enchanting."

Attendees lounged on picnic blankets, sampled offerings from local food trucks, and explored artisanal wares at vendor booths. A highlight for families was the instrument petting zoo, where children could try their hand at various musical instruments.



Brandee Younger played the harp and Rashaan Carter played bass at their duet performance at the Tilles Jazz Fest.

The warning signs of modern-day slavery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
least once.

Lingenfelter recounted an instance of trafficking in Suffolk County in 2016 in which Andrew Gayot padlocked a 15-year-old runaway and a 21-year-old woman in his home and forced them into prostitution. The older woman was held for over a year, and the teen was held for about four months.

“This can happen next door, and you don’t even know,” Lingenfelter said. “Most victims know their traffickers. Thirty-six percent of traffickers are immediate family members. They look like us; they don’t walk around in a trench coat and a hat.

“If you suspect something, don’t try to be a hero,” she added. “Traffickers are scary people. Call the police.”

In 2017, the Global Slavery Index reported that 40.3 million people were enslaved worldwide, with some form of slavery existing in 167 countries. In the United States, 2.1 million people were trafficked, with an alarming 100,000 to 300,000 American children at risk annually. Ninety-four percent of victims in the U.S. were female, 75 percent were U.S. citizens and 41 percent were minors.

Victims, Lingenfelter explained, often exhibit signs of physical violence, multiple sexually transmitted diseases, tattoos or brands from an iron, or bruises. They are often homeless, or have an



Tammy Lanham/Herald

Susan Lingenfelter, secretary treasurer of Long Island Against Trafficking, offered attendees reading materials about sex trafficking after her presentation last Sunday at Glen Cove Christian Church.

older, dominating male companion. Traffickers, on the other hand, display controlling and violent behavior, are easily jealous, make promises to their victims that seem too good to be true, are often vague about their jobs, and encourage their victims to send them sexually explicit photos of themselves.

Staying safe from the threat of sex trafficking requires a combination of awareness, vigilance and practicality. Lingenfelter advised always being cautious about sharing personal information online; using different screen names in chat rooms, and avoiding posting details that reveal your identity or

location. Traffickers are likely to lure their victims on social media by asking them to chat outside groups or chat rooms, offer vague solutions to financial problems with the promise of fast money, or blackmail victims with their nude or suggestive photos unless they follow demands.

Lingenfelter noted that children are trafficked by immediate family members in 36 percent of cases; by a parent’s boyfriend in 20 percent of cases; by family friends (14 percent); employers (14 percent) or strangers (9 percent).

“I thought this was very informative,” Tommy Lanham, the Glen Cove Christian Church pastor, said after the presentation. “Some of the statistics shocked me, especially the one about who would traffic a child. That is the statistic that shocks and hurts me. We’ve always heard and taught our kids to be on the lookout for strangers. This is telling me to be on the lookout for your immediate family — the ones who are supposed to be looking out for you. That’s a heavy statistic.”

Victims of human trafficking, and those who suspect instances of it, are encouraged to contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, at (888) 373-7888. They can also text HELP or INFO to BeFree at 233733, or e-mail NHTRC@PolarisProject.org.

Additional reporting by Tammy Lanham.

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OBITUARY

Marguerite "Pegi" Germain



Marguerite "Pegi" Germain, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother passed peacefully on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at the age of 85, following a lengthy illness. Pegi, as she was called by family and friends, was an avid church congregant and volunteer with both the United Methodist Church in Glen Cove and later with the United Methodist Church in Ronkonkoma. She was also a long-time volunteer with both the Cub Scouts and Girls Scouts in Glen Cove. Pegi taught as a private pre-school teacher and teacher's aide in the Glen Cove School District. She raised three children with her husband in Glen Cove and later relocated to Lake Grove where she and her husband eagerly assisted in

childcare for her daughter's children. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Arthur, her children and their spouses, Arthur (Patty), David (Stacy) and Michelle (Rob Fehrenbach), seven grandchildren, Kaitlin, David, Sydney (Chase Harper), Mackenzie, Steven, Robby and Samantha, and great-granddaughter, Carmen.

Viewing is at Moloney's Lake Funeral Home, 132 Ronkonkoma Avenue, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 on Saturday, July 27 from 2 – 4 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m. A service will be held at the Mother Theresa Tribute Center located behind Moloney's on Monday, July 29 at 10:30a.m., followed by burial at the Washington Memorial Park Cemetery in Mt. Sinai.



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HERALD SPORTS

Nassau HOF class of 2024 announced

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellissimo@liherald.com

The Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame will hold its 2024 induction ceremony Sept. 25 at the Crest Hollow County Club. For more information and tickets, go to www.sectionviii.org. Here's a list of local honorees.

Tom Catapano

He's been nothing short of a wizard since becoming Baldwin's girls' basketball coach in 2010. He's guided it to 12 Nassau Class Conference AA championships, 10 Nassau Class AA titles, 5 Long Island Class AA crowns, a pair of New York state public school championships, and a State Federation title.

Canute Curtis

One of the greatest in a long line of great football players from Farmingdale, Curtis was a standout two-way star at running back and linebacker while leading head coach Don Snyder's Dalers to an undefeated 10-0 record and the Rutgers Cup in 1991. His dominating performances as a senior were good enough to earn Curtis All-Nassau, All-Long Island and All-State honors.

Crystal Dunn

A genuine soccer phenom at South Side. So talented at a young age that she missed her junior season because she was playing for the United States Under-17 team in New Zealand. The Cyclones won three state championships (2006, 2007 and 2009) with Dunn, who scored 46 goals and assisted on 35 others. She was a two-time All-American at North Carolina and played defense for the U.S. Women's National Team and is a two-time Olympian.

Jim Graziano

The best big man developed at Farmingdale and one of the best to play basketball on Long Island. The 6-foot-10, Graziano was a four-year starter, outstanding as a freshman and improved every season until his senior year when he averaged 26 points and 15 rebounds. A three-time All-Long Island selection, he was the New York State Player of the Year in 1976. He starred at South Carolina and was drafted by the NBA's Denver Nuggets.

Jay Iaquina

One of the most decorated football coaches in Nassau County over the past three decades, Iaquina has amassed 211 victories with stints at Lynbrook, Hewlett and Manhasset. Named the county's Coach of the Year in 1986 and 2021.

Charlene Lipsey

She played basketball, volleyball, and softball at Hempstead before focusing on



Photos courtesy Nassau County Athletics

Long Beach's Victor Randazzo was the New York State champion in the Still Rings competition and the Rope Climb in the early 1970's.

track. In just three years she became a five-time state champ and the Gatorade New York State Runner of the Year. Lipsey went on to a decorated career at LSU and was an eight-time All-American and three-time SEC champion.

Matt McLees

Head coach of Carey's football team for 16 years and the winningest coach in school history with 76 victories. He was named Nassau Coach of the Year three times, served as President of Nassau Football Coaches Association and is currently the Athletic Director for the Sewanhaka Central School District and Nassau's football coordinator.

Gary Mims

He grew up in Freeport but became a son of Massapequa. He played three sports for the Chiefs (football, wrestling

and lacrosse) and returned home to coach the wrestling team for 29 years, beginning in 1977. He was named Nassau Coach of the Year three times and produced 31 county champions while winning 291 dual meets.

Rich Ohrnberger

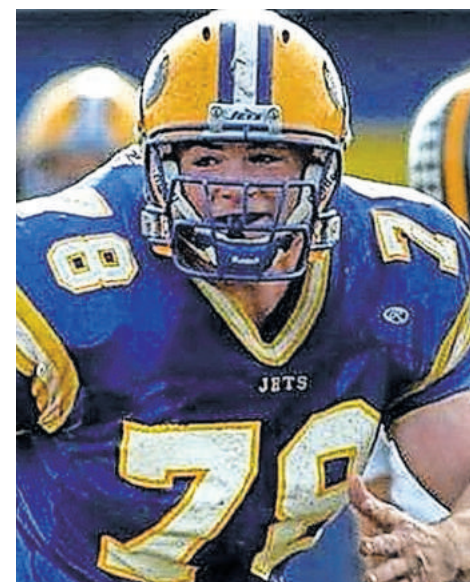
A star two-way lineman for three years at East Meadow, in 2003 he not only won the Martone Award for being Nassau's top lineman but also the Thorp Award as the county's best player. After a stellar career as an offensive lineman at Penn State, he was drafted by the Patriots and later played for the Cardinals and Chargers.

Victor Randazzo

It has been 52 years since Randazzo graduated from Long Beach, and his senior year was special. He was the New



Rockville Centre's Crystal Dunn was a three-time state champion at South Side, a two-time All-American at North Carolina and a member of the U.S. Women's National Team.



East Meadow's Rich Ohrnberger won the Thorp Award as Nassau's best football player and went on to play in the NFL for three teams.

York State champion in the Still Rings competition and the Rope Climb. He won the Still Rings at the Empire State Games five times and went on to become the NCAA Still Rings champ for Southern Connecticut State, helping it to the 1976 collegiate team title.

Max Seibald

A special athlete, Seibald was an All-County selection in four sports (football, soccer, track and lacrosse) at Hewlett and a superstar in the latter. He led the Bulldogs to a county championship, beating Garden City in the finals, and was a four-time All-American at Cornell. In 2009 he won the Tewaarton Award as the nation's top collegiate player. He was a five-time Major League Lacrosse All-Star.

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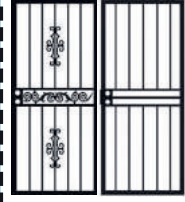
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Spotted lanternflies spotted all over L.I.

By JENNA STANCO

Intern

There is a new resident species on Long Island, and it might be making itself at home in backyards across the region. Since 2020, New York State has identified spotted lanternflies throughout the island, all boroughs, and areas upstate, despite various efforts to control the population.

Spotted lanternflies are a species of planthoppers, insects known for jumping from one plant to another, feeding on plant juices. They are native to eastern Asia and are believed to have come to the US on a stone shipment to Pennsylvania, according to a statement from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Since their presumed arrival in 2012, the bugs have established survival and perseverance throughout the Northeast. They were first identified in New York on Staten Island, but now can be found all throughout Nassau County by the tens of thousands.

“There are concerns that the spotted lanternflies feed on agricultural species, and also both non-native and native plants,” said Jane Jackson from the North Shore Land Alliance. She explained that the future of the local ecosystem “remains to be determined” if the species is not controlled.

The insects can be recognized in distinct phases throughout their year-long

life cycle but are most notably apparent by their white spots and jumping movements. Smaller, newly hatched lanternflies, called nymphs, begin to appear in May. As the insect grows and the summer unfolds, they become larger, eventually taking on their distinctive red coloration. Around late July to mid-August, you can begin to recognize the lanternfly in its adult form - gray wings and black spots. The bugs typically live until December and lay their eggs in the fall.

The State Agriculture Department has considered the species to be invasive and “has taken an aggressive approach to managing SLF in New York State, including conducting surveys of high-risk areas across the State, implementing an external quarantine that restricts the movement of goods brought into New York from quarantined areas, inspecting nursery stock, stone shipments, and commercial transports from those quarantine areas, and launching a comprehensive education and outreach campaign to enlist the public’s help in reporting SLF,” according to Hanna Birkhead, the associate director of public information.

The Department works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture, the New York State Department of Environment Conservation, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation in responding to the presence of the bugs.

The insects can be found outside feed-

ing on plants, particularly the tree of heaven, an invasive deciduous tree species also native to Asia. They tend to congregate and are known to suck the sap out of their plant of choice, though they only really do damage to plant species that are also considered invasive, according to John Di Leonardo, president of Humane Long Island, the leading animal advocacy organization on Long Island.

“I think that spotted lanternflies are here to stay,” Di Leonardo explains. “They’re just trying to survive, and honestly, they’re consuming a lot of non-native plants. If we’re saying non-native is bad, invasive is bad, then we can be happy that these guys are helping clear out the tree of heavens while they’re here.”

Despite the insect’s potentially helpful nature, the state agriculture department continues to implement control measures to help combat the perseverance of the species. Emily Ordonez of the department’s public information office explains that if you are to spot any of the spotted lanternflies in Nassau County, the appropriate response is to squash or step on them.

Di Leonardo said various attempts to spray chemicals and set traps to damage the insects do more harm to the environment than the bugs themselves do. “There was a lot of misinformation going out there that these animals are somehow harmful to humans, to many native plants, to pets, but all of that, pret-



Courtesy Humane Long Island

Spotted lanternflies have been spreading across the Northeast, potentially disrupting native flora and fauna species.

ty much, has been debunked,” said Di Leonardo.

“They were originally saying that we were in danger of losing mature hardwood and forest to these animals. Now, you know, while they may feed on some of these, they pose almost no danger to them. The plants nearly always recover, with the exception of the tree of heaven and other invasive species.”

NUMC opens new mental health care suite

By JORDAN VALLONE

jvallone@liherald.com

The Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow has opened a newly remodeled mental health clinic — a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide comprehensive mental health services to some of Long Island’s most vulnerable populations.

NUMC, which is overseen by the Nassau Health Care Corporation, previously housed its mental health facilities in the J Building, which is one of the many buildings on its campus.

The medical center and NuHealth, the health care network that the hospital is part of, has provided adult outpatient psychiatric services to Nassau County residents for 42 years, including comprehensive psychiatric care and psychotherapy, delivered by both psychologists and psychiatrists.

The mental health clinic has played an important role in the county’s health care services for decades, Meg Ryan, the medical center’s interim president and chief executive, said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 23.

“We receive referrals from all over Nassau County — the courts, the correctional center, division of social services,” Ryan said. “It has the largest training program in Nassau County for both psy-



Jordan Vallone/Herald photos

Dr. Constantine Ioannou, chair of psychiatry at the Nassau University Medical Center, cut the ribbon at the newly remodeled mental health clinic on July 23.

chiatric residents and psychology interns and externs.”

After touring the mental health clinic in the J Building, Ryan said she felt the hospital could “do better.”

“It was immediately clear to me that we could do better for our patients, and we certainly could do better for our staff,” she explained.

The building lacked an elevator, central air conditioning and was in poor

physical condition, and the estimated cost to repair the J Building was \$2 million, hospital officials said.

Hospital administrators said they then decided to convert the space in its main building that previously housed its Covid-19 vaccine clinic during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. The suite was large and useful at the time, but was no longer being utilized, Ryan said. In addition, the cost to make the space work

for its mental health services was only \$62,000.

The enhanced space features upgraded security, air conditioning and modern amenities, providing a more comfortable environment for patients and staff.

The cost of the renovation was offset by donations of \$25,000 from the law firm of Abrams Fensterman, and \$1,000 from the Kiwanis Club of East Meadow.

Matthew Bruderman, chairman of the board of directors for the Nassau Health Care Corporation, reminded those attending last week’s ribbon-cutting ceremony that NUMC is one of three “safety net” hospitals in New York, serving all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

The hospital has made great strides in fixing its financial state, Bruderman said, and its work is reflected in new spaces, such as the mental health clinic.

“It’s about patient care, it’s about employee care,” he said. “It’s about caring about the community. This team, this hospital — I think it’s just an amazing organization.”

Bruderman called mental health “fundamentally important.”

“The opening of this clinic marks a new chapter in NUMC’s long history of serving the needs of our community,” he said. “

City master plan is 'dynamic and flexible'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have occurred in recent years, including large-scale redevelopment downtown and on the waterfront, as well as changes in the commercial real estate market resulting from the pandemic. It also addresses the city's population growth from 2010 to 2020 — 5.2 percent, to just under 30,000.

City officials say they have the flexibility to implement the plan's recommendations in any order, or even choose not to implement some of them. Ann Fangmann, executive director of the Glen Cove Community Development Agency said that if the city wants to update building codes to make them more resilient, it can refer to the plan for guidance. The document also provides a framework for prioritizing drinking water projects and applying for related grants.

"The comprehensive plan is designed to be a dynamic and flexible framework, guiding the city's development over the next decade and beyond," Fangmann said in a call to the Herald. "It includes recommendations for code changes, infrastructure improvements and other initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for Glen Cove's residents. While immediate implementation of all recommendations is not feasible, the plan provides a strategic roadmap for prioritizing and addressing the city's most pressing needs."



Herald file photo

After a decade-long hiatus since its last update in 2009, the Glen Cove City Council voted unanimously to adopt its comprehensive plan, aimed at guiding the city's development, infrastructure and services for the next 10 to 15 years.

The plan's journey to approval was rigorous and inclusive. After the grant funding was secured, the city worked closely with BFJ Planning and formed the committees.

"This was an extremely collaborative process," Fangmann said. "It was not about any one person or any one agency — this truly was a comprehensive

undertaking, and I think we feel good about that."

Once a draft plan was developed, it underwent a thorough environmental review. The City Council held two public hearings to gather feedback, and public involvement was substantial, with City Hall filled for the hearings.

Glen Cove resident Gracie Donaldson

Cipriano, who responded to the survey and attended the public workshops, said she was happy that the plan addressed some infrastructure challenges, but wished it had been simplified to be more reader-friendly.

"The plan document was very long, and filled with a lot of jargon and terminology that the average Glen Cover will not take the time to read and understand," Donaldson Cipriano said. "I understand that a long document is necessary for the government, but for residents, we should have bullet points readily available for us. Long, jargon-filled documents turn people off to being involved in what has the potential to be positive change."

Dr. Maxine Mayreis, president of the Chamber of Commerce, played an active role in both the Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Core Working Group. She said that a primary focus was on revitalizing the downtown area by filling vacant storefronts and creating a vibrant, 16-hour/seven-day economy.

"It was an exciting experience to be part of the Comprehensive Planning Committees," Mayreis said. "All the effort led to a very good comprehensive plan, and next time Money Magazine rates best places in the U.S. to live, I hope to see Glen Cove move up from number 37 to number 1."

The plan can be found at GlenCove-Comprehensiveplan.com.

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The Elder Law Power of Attorney

A power of attorney allows someone you choose as "agent" to handle your legal and financial affairs, most often if you become disabled. However, not all powers of attorney are created equal. The standard form, used by many attorneys, is what we term "over the counter medicine". Instead, we choose to use what we call the "prescription strength" elder law power of attorney.

It works just like medicine. What happens when you only have over the counter medicine but you need prescription strength? You know what happens — it doesn't work, it's not strong enough.

For example, the standard form allows the agent to make gifts up to \$5,000 dollars per year. The elder law power of attorney has no such limitation, allowing the agent to gift any amount. Let's say a client is going into a nursing home or needs care at home. We often save the family hundreds of thousands of dollars using the elder law power of attorney to gift out to the children those amounts that will help qualify the client for Medicaid benefits. Generally, even on

the nursing home doorstep, we can save about half of a parent's assets by gifting.

Now, if the client only has the standard power of attorney, they can only gift five thousand dollars a year. When it comes to Medicaid, it's move it or lose it! Almost all of the client's money will have to be used for their care.

Let's say the client has \$500,000 in assets and needs nursing facility care. We use the elder law power of attorney to gift \$250,000 to the children (tax-free). So long as we use the remaining \$250,000 to pay for our client's care, the family gets to keep the \$250,000 gift.

Other valuable powers added to the elder law power of attorney are (1) powers to create or modify trusts (2) powers to change beneficiaries on IRA's, annuities and insurance policies, and (3) powers to refuse any inheritances left to the disabled person.

For clients age sixty and older, choosing an elder law attorney often makes the difference between keeping your home and life savings or losing everything to pay for long-term care.

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HERALD NEIGHBORS

Celebrating Italian heritage at the feast

The Feast of St. Rocco in Glen Cove, is an annual celebration deeply rooted in the community's Italian-American heritage. This year it took place July 25 to 28 and featured a vibrant mix of cultural and religious activities.

There was traditional Italian cuisine, live music, games, and rides.

The highlight of the feast is the procession of St. Rocco's statue through the streets, accompanied by prayers and hymns, honoring the patron saint known for his devotion to the sick and suffering.

This cherished tradition not only serves as a joyous occasion for family and friends but also strengthens community bonds and preserves cultural heritage in Glen Cove.



Courtesy Reggie Spinello

Worshippers at the Church of St. Rocco adorn the statue of their patron saint with money and trinkets.



Getting on some of the rides at the feast is not for the faint of heart.



Samantha Samant/Herald photos

Robert Marino, a former chief of the Glen Cove Fire Department, and firefighters Berry Filippone, John Krutki, and Mike Capobianco, are on stand-by at the festival. The men also take the time to get to know the community and answer questions about the fire department.



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



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Cotton candy and the ferris wheel are popular go-to snack and attraction at the feast.



Rowing workouts

Add an effective cardiovascular exercise to your routine

By Sharon Naylor

Cardiovascular exercise is so important for heart health — not to mention overall health — and rowing is one of the most effective cardiovascular exercises. In addition to the aerobic workout, a rowing session builds muscle in low-impact form, making the rowing machine one of the most popular stations at the gym, as well as a popular purchase for a home gym.

You might think that rowing is an exercise meant to tone just the upper body, including shoulders and arms, but proper form in rowing actually works the quadriceps, hamstrings, back and abdominal muscles, as well. While some gym machines work just the upper or lower body, the rowing machine works both at the same time, creating a more complete workout in less time. According to the Mayo Clinic, while exercising within your target heart rate, you can expect to burn 511 calories during an hour of rowing if you weigh 160 pounds. An hour of rowing burns about 637 calories if you weigh 200 pounds and 763 calories if you weigh 240 pounds.

Rowing machines allow you to use and adjust levels of resistance, increasing the aerobic and muscular benefits depending on your fitness level.

Get into the rhythm

Before you hop onto a rowing machine at the gym, always seek the guidance of a gym's personal trainer, who can assess your fitness level, advise you on your target heart rate and help you choose the best type of machine for you. Some are manual with hydraulic resistance, and some are electronic — much like elliptical machines — with programmable or programmed workouts, timers and other indicators.

Your fitness professional will also help you adjust the machine to your height and reach, and show you how to adjust the resistance. You'll then learn how to position your back and engage your abs as you pull back smoothly and complete the range of motion.

"Using the rower safely is an excellent workout, but using improper form can stress the lower back," says trainer Elizabeth Quinn.

Avoid common mistakes

Novice rowers often make mistakes when using a rowing machine without instruction and guid-

ance.

- √ Leaning too far forward at the start position.
- √ Leaning too far back at the finish position.
- √ Jerking the handle back with the arms.
- √ Pulling using the back instead of the legs.
- √ Starting without warming up.
- √ Rowing for too long.

Quinn advises starting out by rowing no more than 10 minutes on your first day, and aiming for a mastery of proper form instead of breaking a big sweat. "Keep the movement fluid and controlled, rather than jerking through each motion. Push with your legs, and avoid hunching forward to protect your back. Keep a slight bend in the elbows and knees, rather than locking the joints at full extension.

"Technique matters more than strength," says Quinn, "especially at the beginning of a rowing training regimen."

As you practice more and build endurance, you might put together a schedule of rowing four times a week for up to 30 minutes.

At home

Once you master rowing form at the gym, you could decide to invest in a rowing machine for your home. Some fitness enthusiasts buy new machines; some buy used ones from friends who don't use the ones in their basements. Without a fitness expert at home to observe you, it's essential to maintain proper form as you exercise. If you can position your rowing machine in front of a full-length mirror, that can help you see your own body position and remind yourself to maintain proper back and neck angles.

Keep track of your workout sessions using a fitness journal or chart, advises Ed McNeely, author of five books, including "Training for Rowing" and "Skillful Rowing," and consultant to professional Canadian sports teams. "Training without monitoring your progress is like driving with your eyes closed. You'll get somewhere, but you can't be sure where or what shape you'll be in when you arrive. Through daily monitoring, you will be able to make the fine adjustments to your (training) that allow you to continue to progress and recover at the fastest rate possible."

Photo: Rowing is low-impact cardiovascular workout that can help you exercise your way to heart health.



Exercise: The best prescription for a lifetime of wellness

Get off the couch and stay off

You might think that getting fit means spending hours upon hours at the gym, sweating and getting on machines that look more like torture devices than anything that's going to help you. Well, that's not true. In fact, reaping the benefits of exercise doesn't have to take a huge time commitment — nor does it have to be torturous. It can actually be quite fun!

Start with activities you love

If you've had problems making exercise a regular part of your life, then you probably only think of exercise as something you have to do in the gym. But that's just not true! Things like walking, dancing in your living room, bowling and even cleaning the house can count as exercise as long as you're getting a little out of breath when you're doing them.

So sit down and make a list of all of the active things you do and find a way to make at least one of them a part of your day, every day. Then, after a few months of making those activities habits, try new ones or more traditional workouts like a group exercise class. As you get in the habit of being active and start to get more fit, you might just be amazed and what activities you like.

Embrace the power of 10

Think you can't get heart-health benefits from just 10-minute bouts of activity? Think again. Ten minutes of walking three times a day has been shown to lower blood pressure more effectively than a longer 30-minute bout of walking. Something as simple as walking before work, over lunch and after dinner is a fabulous way to squeeze in exercise — no gym required!

It's not just about cardio

When people think of heart-healthy exercise, they generally think of aerobic or cardio activities like jogging. But did you know that strength training (think lifting weights or doing bodyweight exercises like push-ups and lunges) can improve the health of your ticker, too?

When you lift weights at a moderate intensity, you get your heart rate up. This means that you're working both your muscular system and your cardiovascular system. And when you make your muscles stronger, you make your body stronger, which helps everything. So definitely do some resistance training a few times a week.

Use exercise to de-stress

Stress plays a critical role in heart health, and exercise is great at kicking stress to the curb. Learn to see exercise not as something that you have to do, but instead as something you want to do because it makes you feel good. While most workouts will pump up your feel-good endorphins, workouts like yoga, Pilates and Tai Chi are especially good for de-stressing and improving the mind-body connection. Try 'em!

Support your efforts with a healthy diet

Of course, working out — as awesome as it is — is only part of the heart-health equation. Eating a nutritious diet that's rich in fruits, veggies, whole grains, lean proteins and healthy fats is key to overall health, along with helping to give you the energy you need to power through those workouts and your everyday life.

Courtesy American Heart Association

Photo: You want long-term health — for body and mind? Start moving. The American College of Sports Medicine recommends 30 minutes of moderate-intensity cardiorespiratory exercise five days a week or 20 minutes of high-intensity exercise three days per week.

HEALTH MEMOS

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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Drum and tambourine circle sparks joy at the Parker Jewish Institute

Residents and patients alike found joy — and rhythm — at the recent drum and tambourine circle at the Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation.

Research shows that drumming alters brain rhythms that can boost physical and mental well-being. Drumming can also enhance cardiovascular health and bring benefit to those with neurological and other diseases and even alleviate depression and reduce anxiety.

"Parker's drum and tambourine circle provides a social activity that our patients and residents really enjoy. It offers great physical exercise, enhances mental health and requires no previous experience or even musical training. That's the beauty of a drum circle, it's an engaging group activity and everyone can participate," said Michael N. Rosenblut, President and CEO of Parker Jewish Institute.

About The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation

The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation is headquartered in New Hyde Park, New York. The facility is a leading provider of Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care. At the forefront of innovation in patient-centered health care and technology, the Institute is a leader in teaching and geriatric research. Parker Jewish Institute features its own medical team, and is nationally renowned as a skilled nursing facility, as well



as a provider of community-based health care, encompassing Home Health Care, Medical House Calls, Palliative Care and Hospice. Parker Jewish Institute is also home to Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), providing patients with safe, comfortable Hemodialysis treatments in a relaxed setting, as well as PRINE Health, a Vascular Center offering advanced vascular services. The Center and QLIRI further Parker's ability to expand access to essential health-care services to adults in the greater

New York metropolitan area. For more information, visit parkerinstitute.org or call (877) 727-5373.



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Go for it

Improve your overall endurance

Pushing oneself physically can be exhausting and demanding. But whether you're a seasoned athlete, a part-time fitness enthusiast or even someone who lives a largely sedentary lifestyle, you can find ways to dig down and improve your overall endurance.

Many athletes find pushing their bodies past certain boundaries to be empowering. Letting complacency set in is easy, but finding the motivation to press on and push ahead takes mental determination. Make this your time to step it up and find ways "just do it."

Join a marathon. The statistics reporting site StatisticsBrain.com states that only 0.5 percent of the U.S. population have ever run a marathon. Running on the treadmill at the gym or a couple of miles around the track is excellent exercise. Runners can take their passion a bit further by enrolling in any of the hundreds of marathons and half-marathons held annually. Crossing the finish line after running 26.2 miles is a rewarding feeling, and few activities do more to improve endurance than running a marathon.

Try a new gym class. Pushing yourself physically may mean getting out of your comfort zone. Gyms typically offer an array of classes to appeal to as many members as possible. Take advantage of these group classes or personalized training sessions. Explore barre workouts, TRX® and ViPR®, which involve loaded movement and strength training paired with cardiovascular workouts.

Increase workouts gradually. It can be daunting to think about greatly improving your endurance levels. But taking a gradual, incremental approach to improving endur-



ance is both safe and effective. Also, when engaged, mentally divide the workout into smaller chunks of time. This way you have several smaller goals to accomplish, rather than one large goal. This can make it easier to digest a tough workout.

Use friends to keep you motivated. Having friends workout alongside you can keep you motivated. Workout buddies may offer the encouragement necessary to keep pushing through. Another motivating factor is bragging rights afterward.

Have a good emotional connection. A desire to have a great body may not be enough to motivate you to workout

and push harder. If not, think of a better reason to exercise, and it may be the mind over matter you need. Many people find inspiration from family health history risk factors or through the goal of reversing negative health reports from doctors' offices. These motivating factors will help you press on and push harder.

Photo: It's one thing to get fit or maintain your workout routine. It's another to continue to push physical boundaries time and again. Continuing to surpass fitness goals is something to strive for every day.

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STEPPING OUT

Buggin' out with acrobatic finesse

A spectacular ecosystem comes to life in Cirque du Soleil's 'OVO'

By Danielle Schwab

Sometimes, the tiniest things — in this case insects — have the biggest story.

Welcome to the world of "OVO." Cirque du Soleil brings the relaunched show to Elmont's UBS Arena this month with new acts and characters. "OVO" is a colorful intrusion into a new day in the life of insects. Through Cirque's signature mix of acrobatics, lively visuals and humor, unique personalities and abilities of selected insect species emerge.

"OVO" explores the beauty of biodiversity in all its contrasts and vibrancy. It's where the every day becomes extraordinary. As told by the creative team: OVO is a headlong rush into a colorful ecosystem teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy and movement. The insects' home is a world of beauty filled with noisy action and moments of quiet emotion.

"Imagine you lift up a rock and find a whole habitat underneath it," says Artistic Director Lydia Harper, who's been with Cirque du Soleil since 2015.

The spectacle begins as a colony of insects embraces a mysterious egg brought by the Blue Fly. Then the egg disappears.

"It's such an exciting way to start a show, because then you go, 'anything can happen,'" says Harper.

When that egg appears in their midst, the insects are awestruck and intensely curious about this iconic object that represents the enigma and cycles of their lives. It's love at first sight when a quirky insect arrives in this bustling community and a fabulous ladybug catches his eye — and the feeling is mutual.

The name "OVO" means egg in Portuguese. This timeless symbol of the life cycle and birth of numerous insects represents the show's underlying thread, according to Deborah Colker, the production's writer, director and choreographer. An homage to her Brazilian heritage, it reflects her background in dance and interest in movement on a large scale.

"It's a story about falling in love, making friends, meeting strangers, and what adventures they can take you on," Harper says.

The "colony" of quirky insects each have distinct personalities, fully portrayed by each cast member. The social Ladybug is always clowning around. The cheeky cricket is full of jumping energy. The mysterious spider climbs through her web. With 52 performers, these are only some of the dazzling bugs you'll meet.

And in true Cirque du Soleil style, the cast's jaw-dropping acrobatics enhance each insect's personality.

"There's an aerial cradle number where we see 12 artists high above the stage. You've got humans throwing humans and doing double somersaults. It's one of those moments where you stop and just go, 'How are these people capable of this?'" Harper says.

Featured as Scarabs in that segment are two gymnasts who competed in the Olympics — Olga

Shcherbatykh (in 2004) and Nansy Damianov (in 2008).

The Chinese Pole act, one of the production's newer showstopping additions, is performed by a formidable "army" of synchronized ants.

"There's a lot of teamwork, you have them climbing up a pole, all in sync. It's really beautiful," Harper adds.

Embodying the characters personalities involves much more than gymnastic aerobatics; it requires careful attention to the show's theme, along with an understanding of movement and cadence of the insects.

"You take an inspirational source and you go, 'How can I, as a human, create that so the audience understands who I'm trying to be without just crawling around on all fours pretending to be an ant? You've got to find the quality of movement and apply it to choreography or a stylized way of moving,'" Harper explains.

Add to that vibrant costumes, tech-driven set design and dynamic music — and the world of bugs transforms into the surreal.

"We have this huge wall that covers the whole back of the stage, and that's brought to life by video projections. So, we have the ability to make it a very small, intimate moment or bring the whole space to life with projections and lighting," Harper says.

Naturally, the show wouldn't be complete without accompaniment of a seven-piece band of musician "bugs." The score, punctuated with Brazilian-style percussion, was composed by Musical Director Berna Ceppas, who has worked extensively in the film industry.

"We have a singer who sings in a various languages. She's got a bit of Portuguese in there, sometimes Spanish, with the lyrics influenced by the story," Harper says.

The spectacle takes a magnifying glass to small moments — on big scale in true Cirque fashion — that represent a heightened world booming with life and beauty.

"I've always been so inspired and motivated by the ability to create a world that takes you so far away from reality. It's escapism in its purest form, while blowing your mind at how humans can do these things," Harper says. "You get to be transported out of this world, it's kind of making the impossible possible right in front of your eyes."

Photos courtesy Cirque du Soleil

A vibrant insect ecosystem is filled with noisy action and moments of quiet emotion.



The Midtown Men

Former stars of the Tony, Grammy and Olivier Award-winning jukebox musical "Jersey Boys," reunited as The Midtown Men, bring their '60s vibe to Eisenhower Park. During their time in the mega-hit musical, these talented artists — Tony Award winner Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and Tony nominee J. Robert Spencer — shared the stage for over 1,000 performances. The high-octane musical tour de force that took the "Jersey Boys" phenomenon to Broadway and beyond, is now rocking the stage as a concert. These Broadway veterans, with their band, realized the dream they brought to life as the iconic Four Seasons. The dynamic foursome now celebrates the music that defined the 1960s. The Midtown Men is the next chapter for these accomplished entertainers, making them the first vocal group ever formed by the principal cast of a high-profile Broadway show.

Sunday, Aug. 4, 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For information, visit NassauCountyNY.gov.



Dance Theatre of Harlem

The acclaimed dance company appears on the Tilles Center stage as it continues its 2024 tour. With a storied history, the first Black classical ballet company, co-founded by dance icon and superstar Arthur Mitchell, has toured the world and introduced young minds and bodies to the power of dance. With all its renown, this boundary-breaking organization has maintained Mitchell's core belief that ballet belongs to everyone. 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 pieces. The dynamic program includes "Higher Ground," with choreography by Robert Garland, featuring Stevie Wonder tunes; "New Bach," and also choreographed by Garland, with music by J.S. Bach.

Sunday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m. Tickets are start at \$64; available at TillesCenter.org or (516) 299-3100. LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville.

THE SCENE

Aug. 9

Gladys Knight

Hop aboard that "Midnight Train to Georgia" when the legendary soul chanteuse brings her Farewell Tour to Flagstar at Westbury Music Fair, Friday, **Aug. 9**, 8 p.m. Gladys Knight is without a doubt one of the most influential, beloved, and important living singers on the planet. And while the Empress of Soul may have been in the business for more than 60 years now, that hasn't stopped her from continuing to rock that beat as only she can do. She's bringing her classic Motown-style R&B to audiences one last time before she bids us farewell. The great ones endure, and Gladys Knight has long been one of the greatest. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee's fierce vocal power, elegant precision, and heartfelt performances have cemented her as one of music's unquestionable icons. Among her many accolades she is rated by Rolling Stone as one of the top vocalists of all time.

For sure, very few singers over the last 60 years have matched her unassailable artistry. If you're a fan of her classic Motown-style R&B, then you'll surely want to see her perform — on more time. "That's What Friends Are For," "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," "Midnight Train to Georgia" — you know the hits, now hear her bring them to life once again in her inimitable style. You know the hits — from "Midnight Train to Georgia" and "License to Kill" to "That's What Friends Are For" and "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" — now see her do them live in a once-in-a-lifetime concert. The Farewell Tour is a celebration of Gladys Knight's extensive, illustrious, and ground-breaking career, packed to the brim with iconic music that captivated the world back then and will continue to for a long time to come. She oozes the Southern aura through her soulful vocals and grace, allowing an audience to get totally swept away in unforgettable moments of romance, mystery, and charisma. Tickets start at \$63. Flagstar at Westbury Music Fair, 960 Brush Hollow Rd., Westbury. Tickets available at LiveNation.com.



Movie Night

Enjoy a family film outdoors on Eisenhower Park's big screen, Wednesday, **Aug. 14**, dusk, at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre.

See Disney's recent animated musical comedy "Wish." Audiences are welcomed to the magical kingdom of Rosas, where Asha, a sharp-witted idealist, makes a wish so powerful that it is answered by a cosmic force, a little ball of boundless energy called Star.

Together, Asha and Star confront a most formidable foe, the ruler of Rosas, King Magnifico, to save her community and prove that when the will of one courageous human connects with the magic of the stars, wondrous things can happen. 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 Sourced: How I Learned Everything I Know About Food From Working in TV." This is 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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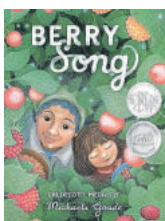
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National Night Out

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.

In the garden

Enjoy the glorious grounds of Old Westbury Gardens and listen to some stirring sounds, with Gardens favorite the husband-and-wife folk duo Hungrytown, Sunday, **Aug. 4**, 3-4 p.m. Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson, joined by cellist Suzanne Mueller, present their original music blending traditional and modern influences, at the Barn.. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit OldWestburyGardens.org or contact (516) 333-0048.



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.; power pop band Panic performs on Friday, **Aug. 2**. For more information visit: GlencoveDowntown.org.

Summer tunes at Morgan Park

Local favorite The Allmost Brothers Band returns to the Morgan Park stage, Sunday, **Aug. 4**, 7 p.m., followed by a "stay late and see the stars" astronomy experience with Dr. Donald Lubovitch of Hofstra University's Astronomy Outreach program.

The popular Allmost Brothers Band spreads its musical wings with Summer Jam, bringing back hits of the '60s and '70s from bands like Sly & the Family Stone, The Doors, Led Zeppelin, The Grateful Dead, Eric Clapton, Santana, Joe Cocker, Bob Dylan, and, of course, The Allman Brothers!

After the concert, Dr. Lubovich helps observers view the nighttime sky and the stars over Morgan Park using a telescope. 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.



Circus antics

Get in on the action with I.FLY Trapeze, Long Island's only flying trapeze and circus arts school. Families will enjoy "Wild West Circus," Saturday, **Aug. 17**, at 8 p.m., at Eisenhower Park. I.FLY Trapeze puts spectators up close to the aerialists who perform amazing feats of athleticism and agility 25 feet in the air. Performances include Chains, Silk and Lyra, with comedy and on the grounds acts with Balancing and Baton, also a Flying Trapeze Finale. Next to the Nassau County Aquatic Center off Merrick Ave., East Meadow. Free parking available in lot 1A adjacent to the trapeze. For more information, please visit: IFlyTrapeze.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.

Deep Roots Farmers Market

Visit Deep Roots Farmers Market, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through **Nov. 19**, at Garvies Point Park. Choose among all sorts of delectable goodies. The market offers locally grown vegetables, farm fresh eggs, meats and dairy, fresh baked breads and pastries, artisan cheeses, fresh seafood, local honey, prepared foods, pastas, jams, coffees, and more.

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Some familiar faces at the GOP convention

August 1, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

A number of Republican elected officials from Long Island attended the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee July 15 to 18.

Included in the mix were the GOP congressional contingent from Long Island: Anthony D’Esposito, who represents a majority of the South Shore of Nassau County; Andrew Garbarino, whose district spans from Seaford to Calverton in Suffolk County; and Nick LaLota, whose district stretches east from Huntington Station to the twin forks and Montauk.

Not long after the convention, at which former President Donald Trump and his vice presidential pick, Sen. J.D. Vance, accepted their party’s official nominations, the political landscape changed dramatically, as President Biden decided not to run for re-election and Vice President Kamala Harris became the presumptive Democratic nominee.

The Democrats will hold their national convention in Chicago Aug. 19 to 22.

—Jeffrey Bessen



Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, left and U.S. Rep. Anthony D’Esposito outside the Fiserv Arena in Milwaukee, where the Republican National Convention took place.



Photos courtesy Matthew Capp

The Long Island Republican congressional contingent – Nick LaLota, far left, Anthony D’Esposito and Andrew Garbarino – on the convention floor.

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NEWS BRIEF

School meal program policy amended

The Glen Cove City School District announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2024-2025 school year, which would allow for all children at all schools to be served meals at no charge. Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals or free milk outline specific income limits based on household size.

For free meals, a household of one has an annual income limit of \$19,578, a monthly limit of \$1,632, a twice per month limit of \$816, an every two weeks limit of \$753, and a weekly limit of \$377. For a household of two, the limits are \$26,572 annually, \$2,215 monthly, \$1,108 twice per month, \$1,022 every two weeks, and \$511 weekly.

A household of three has limits of \$33,566 annually, \$2,798 monthly, \$1,399 twice per month, \$1,291 every two weeks, and \$646 weekly. A household of four has limits of \$40,560 annually, \$3,380 monthly, \$1,690 twice per month, \$1,560 every two weeks, and \$780 weekly. For a household of five, the limits are \$47,554 annually, \$3,963 monthly, \$1,982 twice per month, \$1,829 every two weeks, and \$915 weekly.

A household of six has limits of \$54,548 annually, \$4,546 monthly, \$2,273 twice per month, \$2,098 every two weeks, and \$1,049 weekly. For a household of seven, the limits are \$61,542 annually, \$5,129 monthly, \$2,565 twice per month, \$2,367 every two weeks, and \$1,184 weekly. A household of eight has limits of \$68,536 annually, \$5,712 monthly, \$2,856 twice per month, \$2,636 every two weeks, and \$1,318 weekly. For each additional person, add \$6,994 annually, \$583 monthly, \$292 twice per month, \$269

every two weeks, and \$135 weekly.

For reduced price meals, a household of one has an annual income limit of \$27,861, a monthly limit of \$2,322, a twice per month limit of \$1,161, an every two weeks limit of \$1,072, and a weekly limit of \$536.

For a household of two, the limits are \$37,814 annually, \$3,152 monthly, \$1,576 twice per month, \$1,455 every two weeks, and \$728 weekly. A household of three has limits of \$47,767 annually, \$3,981 monthly, \$1,991 twice per month, \$1,838 every two weeks, and \$919 weekly. A household of four has limits of \$57,720 annually, \$4,810 monthly, \$2,405 twice per month, \$2,220 every two weeks, and \$1,110 weekly. For a household of five, the limits are \$67,673 annually, \$5,640 monthly, \$2,820 twice per month, \$2,603 every two weeks, and \$1,302 weekly.

A household of six has limits of \$77,626 annually, \$6,469 monthly, \$3,235 twice per month, \$2,986 every two weeks, and \$1,493 weekly. For a household of seven, the limits are \$87,579 annually, \$7,299 monthly, \$3,650 twice per month, \$3,369 every two weeks, and \$1,685 weekly. A household of eight has limits of \$97,532 annually, \$8,128 monthly, \$4,064 twice per month, \$3,752 every two weeks, and \$1,876 weekly. For each additional person, add \$9,953 annually, \$830 monthly, \$415 twice per month, \$383 every two weeks, and \$192 weekly.

These guidelines are essential for determining eligibility for various school meal programs, ensuring that families with lower incomes can access nutritious meals for their children.

For more information contact Victoria Galante, at: vgalante@glencove-schools.org



Photos courtesy NUMC

Adam Schwam, with NUMC team members. Schwam was involved in a motorcycle accident in 1987, which nearly claimed his life.

Adam Schwam, with Nassau University Medical Center interim president and chief executive Meg Ryan on July 27, at a special lighting ceremony that recognized his life-saving journey.



NUMC lights up purple for Adam Schwam

The Nassau University Medical Center illuminated its iconic tower in purple on July 27, to honor and celebrate the life-saving journey of Adam Schwam.

A local businessman and entrepreneur, Schwam was involved in a horrific motorcycle accident 37 years ago on July 27, 1987, which nearly claimed his life. After being airlifted to Nassau University Medical Center, doctors and surgeons at the hospital restored Schwam's heart rhythm and, following several surgeries, put him on a path to living a normal life. This special lighting event symbolized hope, resilience, and the exceptional care provided by the NUMC health care professionals who saved

Schwam's life.

Schwam's story as a testament to the dedication and expertise of the NUMC team, highlighting the hospital's commitment to providing outstanding medical care and making a difference in the lives of patients and their families. The color purple also holds special significance as it is the signature color of Sandwire Technology Group, which Schwam founded in 1998 and continues to lead as president.

Today, Schwam resides in Lynbrook with his wife, Marisa, and daughters, Allie and Ava.

-Jordan Vallone

Let us Know

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

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

Send to wsheeline@liherald.com

HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, Glen Cove Housing Choice Voucher Program
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Interim Rule 24 CFR Part 903, a public hearing to review the City of Glen Cove Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) (NY121) 5-Year Plan (FY 2025-2030), with revised Administrative Plan to comply with Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA) regulations, will be held during the Glen Cove City Council Meeting on Tuesday, 8/27/24 at 7:30PM in the Main Chambers of City Hall. The public can view the meeting on the City of Glen Cove website as follows: <http://www.https://glencove.ny.gov/city-council-meeting->

livestream
Questions or comments concerning NY121 (FY2025-2030) 5-Year Plan will be accepted in writing through 9/24/2024 by mail to: Angelina Curcio, Program Administrator, Glen Cove Housing Choice Voucher Program, 9 Glen St., Glen Cove, NY 11542 or by email to: acurcio@glencovecda.org. The plan will be available for viewing online at: www.glencovecda.org/programs-2/ 148281
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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NASSAU JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Barbara Lowell a/k/a Barbara C. Lowell; et al., Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 3, 2023 I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the North Side Steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court at 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on September 4, 2024 at 2:00PM, premises known as 3 Westgate Court, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau, State of NY, Section 23 Block D

Lot 31. Approximate amount of judgment \$243,046.89 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 611517/2022. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the 10th Judicial District. Foreclosure Auctions will be held "Rain or Shine." Jane P. Shrenkel, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: July 22, 2024 For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832 148205
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OPINIONS

There's just no predicting what will happen next

Barely two months ago, I wrote a column saying that the 2024 presidential race was already a campaign like no other. Little did I, or probably anyone, know what the subsequent weeks would bring.

The cascade of events that would shake the political firmament began on the evening of June 27, in Atlanta, when President Biden and former President Donald Trump squared off in a nationally televised debate on CNN — a debate called for by Biden and conducted pursuant to the rules of engagement that he set. A presidential debate this early was unprecedented. Not only was it more than two months earlier than any previous debate, but neither candidate was yet the official nominee of his party.

It was Biden who called for the debate, and challenged Trump to go mano a mano with him. I never understood why Biden or his handlers issued this challenge, unless they thought

Trump wouldn't accept. If so, their thinking couldn't have been more wrong. Not only did Trump immediately accept the challenge, but the debate was a devastating defeat for Biden, causing even fervent supporters to call on him to consider bowing out.

As events unfolded, I would wonder whether people in the Biden campaign had set him up for failure and coordinated the calls for his withdrawal. Those calls increased steadily over the following weeks. Some carried the implication that Biden was too mentally enfeebled to get the job done, or in some cases made that charge directly. Some calls, including one from mega Hollywood star and Democratic fundraiser George Clooney, were loud and overt. Others, from Democratic icons Barack Obama and Nancy Pelosi and power brokers Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries, were more subtle, but just as damaging.

Biden attempted high-level damage control, but only furthered the image of his being impaired. Every day, more Democrats were calling on him to withdraw.

Then there was the horrific assassi-

nation attempt in Pennsylvania, in which Trump escaped death by inches, one Pennsylvanian was killed and two were seriously wounded. The lasting image of that day would be a bloodied but defiant Trump holding his fist high, defying death and demonstrating grace and courage under fire. That was followed just days later by an exceptionally successful Republican convention, and a triumphant Trump path to victory seemed very real — especially with the drumbeat of anti-Biden stories emerging from Democratic sources.

Big-money donors stopped contributing. More stories of Biden's memory lapses showed up in the media. When it seemingly couldn't get worse for the president, he came down with Covid-19 and had to self-isolate at his Delaware home — a particularly cruel but apt metaphor. Also damaging were media accounts now appearing of conversations days earlier that Schumer and Pelosi had with Biden urging him to withdraw for the good of the party. (I've known Nancy Pelosi for more than 30 years, and we had a good relationship. She is mentally sharp and as tough as

ever, doing what she has to do to get things done.)

There were no sounds or sightings of Biden. Then, on a quiet Sunday afternoon, a letter on his personal stationery signed with an auto-pen appeared on social media, announcing that he would not run for re-election. Just like that, Biden's 50-year career had ended, and not with a bang. Almost as if it had been planned this way all along — which it most likely had — support for Vice President Kamala Harris came from throughout the Democratic universe. (And, belatedly, from Biden himself.)

Eighty-one million dollars from Democratic donors appeared literally overnight. Democrats hailed Harris as the country's savior. Much of the mainstream media followed suit. Many of those who did so much to push Biden out now hailed his patriotism and courage. Taking his cue, presidential historian Jon Meacham compared Biden to George Washington!

There are now fewer than 100 days to Election Day in this most tumultuous year. What could be next? Hang on. God only knows!

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



PETER KING

When Joe was born, they threw away the mold

I must admit that from time to time, I get a little emotional. It takes something significant to trigger that reaction, but I'm proud of the fact that I care enough to react to such moments. I couldn't help but feel strong emotion when I heard that President Biden had decided to end his distinguished political career.

My personal history with the president dates back to the mid-1980s. I was asked to co-sponsor a series of fundraising events for Joe when he was seeking re-election to the U.S. Senate. At the time, I didn't know him very well, but those informal parlor meetings gave me a chance to see him in action.

At the outset, I was very impressed with his encyclopedic knowledge of numerous facets of the federal government. He could recite statistics with no notes, and showed a keen understanding of foreign affairs. He had one obvious flaw: He talked too much. His campaign

team used every signal possible to get him to quit talking, but he loved to regale his audience with Washington stories.

I was pleased to see that every one of the guests came away impressed with Biden's feel for how the government worked. And during his many fundraising opportunities, he couldn't help but talk about his personal tragedy. It was at the beginning of his first campaign that his first wife and two of his children were killed in a car crash. In the aftermath of that horrible event, Biden was prepared to quit the race and go back to being a private citizen. But his close friends insisted that he continue campaigning, and he was subsequently elected to the Senate.

Biden continued his legislative career, and eventually became the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. An appearance before that extremely significant committee is the first stop for any candidate for the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1997, I had the good fortune to visit with then Senator Biden on the day that

Bill Clinton was sworn in as president. My wife, Suzan, and I spent some quality time with him, and marveled at how gracious he was and how much he had grown over those many years.

By that point, I had learned one thing about Joe Biden. He remembered people who had helped him, and never turned his back on any friend, at any time. That Inauguration Day he was busy holding a hearing on some federal court appointments, and he invited us to sit in the committee hearing room to see how the confirmation process worked. He was a strong chairman who warmly welcomed all of the judicial candidates and treated them fairly as he questioned them at length.

As the years rolled by, I lost contact with Biden, but followed his many moves as he eventually advanced to the vice presidency. Then, by chance, I was invited to attend a speech that he gave in a Manhattan hotel to promote one of his many good causes. I was standing a few rows back at the event, not expecting him to see me or know I was there. But just before he left the stage, he spotted

me and yelled out, "Give a shout-out to a guy who helped me in so many ways."

And so I fast-forward to now, when Biden has decided that he will no longer pursue his political dreams. His decision to give up his candidacy for the White House was a gut-wrenching one for him and his millions of admirers. No one on the Washington scene can match his talent for getting things done on a bipartisan basis. In fact, when he leaves the White House, there will be no one left with that unique talent.

Say what you will about today's Joe Biden, but his critics can't erase the many things he has accomplished. When all the naysayers, including Donald Trump, are gone from the planet, the historians will tell the great story about a humble man from Scranton, Pennsylvania, who was responsible for history-making achievements, and who joined George Washington and Lyndon Johnson in giving up his dream job for the good of the country.

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.



JERRY KREMER

Yes, he talked too much, but he also gave unexpected shout-outs.

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HERALD EDITORIAL**Olympic spirit shines on Long Island**

With the eyes of the world focused on Paris for the Summer Olympics, Long Islanders have special reasons to feel connected to the global spectacle unfolding across the Atlantic. Our very own Crystal Dunn, from Rockville Centre, is once again representing the United States in women's soccer, while Wantagh's Andrew Capobianco is competing in diving. These hometown heroes remind us that Olympic dreams can indeed be born and nurtured in our local communities.

Dunn's journey from Nassau County fields to international stardom, and Capobianco's path from Long Island pools to the Olympic springboards embody the Olympic spirit of perseverance, excellence and community support. Their success stories aren't just about individual achievement; they're a testament to the robust youth sports programs, dedicated coaches and supportive families that form the backbone of Long Island's athletic culture.

As we cheer for Dunn, Capobianco and Team USA, we're reminded of the countless young athletes in our own backyards who harbor similar aspirations. From the soccer pitches of Eisenhower Park to the diving boards of the Nassau County Aquatic Center, Olympic potential is being cultivated daily across the Island.

But the Olympics offer us more than just athletic inspiration. They provide a moment for global unity, a rare opportunity when the world sets aside its differences to celebrate human achievement. In these divisive times, such moments of collective joy and shared purpose are more valuable than ever.

On Long Island, we can take a cue from this Olympic spirit. Our communities, diverse in culture, ethnicity and economic background, can find common ground in supporting local sports and celebrating shared achievements. Whether it's a high school championship game or a community swim meet, these events have the power to bring us together, fostering a sense of local pride and unity.

Moreover, the Olympics remind us of the importance of investing in our youth and their dreams. Long Island has a proud tradition of producing world-class athletes in a variety of sports. From Jim Brown in football to Sue Bird in basketball, our local heroes have shown that with proper support and resources, the path from local fields and pools to international arenas is possible.

This Olympic season, let's recommit to supporting our local sports programs and recreational facilities. Let's ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to quality coaching, safe playing fields, well-maintained pools, and the opportunity to pursue their athletic passion. This isn't just about creating future Olympians; it's about building healthier, more connected communities.

The Olympic motto — "Faster, Higher, Stronger — Together" — can serve as an inspiration beyond sports. In our local governance, business practices and community initiatives, we can strive to be more efficient, aim for higher goals, build stronger bonds, and do it all collaboratively.

As we watch the Olympics unfold, let's use this opportunity to reflect on

our own community. How can we embody the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect in our daily lives? How can we support the Crystal Dunns and Andrew Capobiancos of tomorrow who are practicing in our local parks and pools today?

Let's also remember that not every young athlete will make it to the Olympics, and that's OK. The real value of sports lies not in the medals won, but in the life lessons learned: teamwork, discipline, resilience and the pursuit of personal bests. These are qualities that serve us well in all aspects of life, from the classroom to the boardroom.

In the spirit of the games, let's challenge ourselves to go beyond being spectators. Volunteer at a local youth sports league, mentor a young athlete or simply show up to cheer at a high school game or swim meet. These small actions can have a profound impact on young people's life and contribute to the vitality of our communities.

As Crystal Dunn takes the field and Andrew Capobianco climbs to the springboard in Paris, they carry with them not just the hopes of a nation, but also the pride of Long Island. Their journeys from local fields and pools to the world stage are reminders of the potential that exists in every corner of our community.

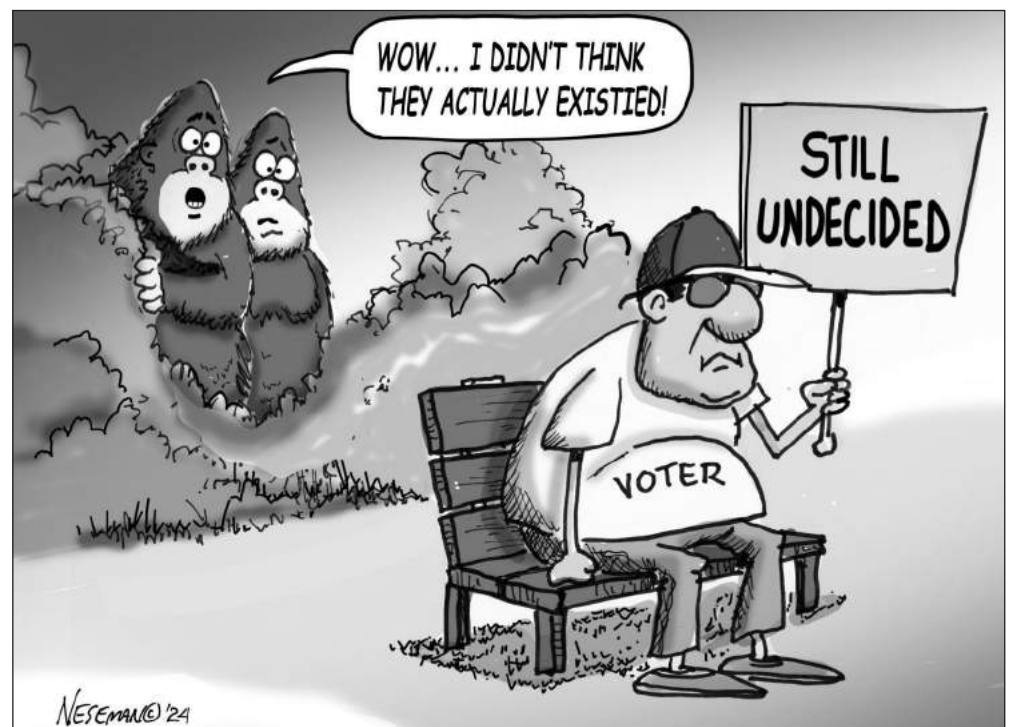
Let the Olympic flame ignite a renewed sense of community spirit here on the Island. Together we can create an environment where every child feels supported in pursuing their dreams, athletic or otherwise. In doing so, we'll be building a stronger, more united community — one that truly embodies the Olympic ideal.

LETTERS**No, we're not a nation of one religion**

To the Editor:

Re Will Sheeline's column last week, "We are not a nation of one religion": We're not even a nation of one Christianity, and that's part of the problem. Those demanding a national "return" to some mythical origin are selling a bogus product, relying on American's ignorance of history and religion.

The bait and switch begins by invoking the Puritans. They opposed England's established church, and were allowed to leave, partly as exile, in order to set up a "plantation" along the lines of Ulster and Jamestown. They were Christians, but subject to the King. Some 170 years later, the United States was founded, and one of the things the American Revolution rejected was the ancient combination of church-state.



OPINIONS

Blakeman withholds funds from Downtown Sounds

For 27 years, Downtown Sounds has been more than just a concert series in Glen Cove; it has been the heartbeat of our community every summer. This cherished event, which brings music, laughter and family fun to the city, has faced an existential threat this year thanks to Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman's inexplicable decision to withhold its annual funding.



**DELIA
DERIGGI-WHITTON**

I was a member of the City Council when then Mayor Ralph Suozzi transformed Jazz in the Square, created in 1997, into

Downtown Sounds. The event draws thousands of people to our downtown business district, fostering community spirit and supporting local businesses. It has been a pleasure and a priority for my office to provide funding for it,

including one year in which we were able to secure \$25,000 to help the city meet the budget obligation.

In April 2023, my office again started the process to allocate money for Downtown Sounds. The paperwork was filed and the funding was secured. The last step was for the county executive to approve the grant and place it on the legislative calendar for a vote. Well, that never happened.

As an elected official for the past 16 years, I have worked with both Republicans and Democrats, and have a good working relationship with members of both parties. Blakeman's refusal to let this item be voted on, and his refusal to respond to my emails and requests for meetings, goes beyond politics and, in my opinion, constitutes bad government. I also have many grants for first responders that his office refuses to send to the Legislature to be voted on.

Downtown Sounds is more than just

a series of concerts. It is a platform for local talent, a magnet for visitors and a boon to our local economy. Every performance fills Village Square with music lovers, families and friends, creating an atmosphere of joy and togetherness.

Local businesses, from restaurants to shops, thrive during these events, benefiting from the increased foot traffic and patronage. The concert series is a lifeline for our downtown area, fostering a sense of community and supporting economic growth.

By withholding funds, Blakeman is undermining not just an event, but the very fabric of our community. His actions threaten to silence the music, dampen the spirit of Glen Cove, and hurt the local businesses that rely on the influx of visitors. It was a short-sighted and detrimental move that disregarded the needs and desires of the people he is supposed to serve.

At this point, I ask all those who

enjoy this event to email Blakeman and ask him to allocate the \$7,500 for Downtown Sounds, as was planned. I regret having to go to such lengths, but I feel this may be the only way to finally get the funding.

Politics is politics, and yes, the county executive and I have disagreed on several issues, but that is no reason to hold up funding needed to bring music and a sense of community to our downtown. We cannot allow this to continue. As a community, we must stand together and hold our elected officials accountable for their actions.

The withholding of funds from Downtown Sounds is a stark reminder of the importance of vigilant civic engagement and the need to ensure that our leaders prioritize the well-being of all communities, not just a select few. Glen Cove deserves better, and together we can ensure that our traditions are preserved and our town continues to thrive.

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton represents Nassau County's 11th Legislative District and is the Legislature's minority leader.

LETTERS

Thomas Jefferson, a biblical scholar, composed his own Christ-centric bible, yet when later asked why the Constitution didn't mention God, he replied, "We forgot." The founders, and American society, were "Christian," but of a wide variety that included Anglicans, Baptists, Quakers and even the (then) widely hated Catholics, and the often suspect Jews.

The founding era of the 1780s was dominated by the Enlightenment of liberal ideas, of science, and of democracy as a natural extension of the Christian precept of equality. Abandoning "established" religion was affirmed as a form of progress. It reinforced the common goals of unity, democracy, of free expression and liberty of association.

American culture was dominated by what was later called mainline Protestantism. This Christianity, retaining much of Catholic theology, held truth and God as aligned; reason, logic and science were God-given tools to comprehend the universe and means to improve the human condition. That Christianity supported the democratic republic

being constructed.

Seventy-five years later, this was what Lincoln meant by "our ancient faith": the tradition of church-free, ethical democracy. The U.S. did not then have a Pledge of Allegiance, no "under god" until 1953. About 100 years after Lincoln, this remained the core of Martin Luther King's philosophy: a Christian-infused population would bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice. It has.

Under the label "Christian," House Speaker Mike Johnson types seek to sell a "biblical worldview" model, the Jeff Landry sorts spout his Commandments as a preamble to the Constitution, and the Lauren Boebert fools are "tired" of America's history of opposition to their dominion. They promote, under the costume of Christian morality, an Old Testament time of "divine right" governance, rigid social hierarchy, slave economies and tribal warfare. America is far too Christian a country to accept such foolishness.

BRIAN KELLY
Rockville Centre

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Save me a spot on the 2044 Olympic squad— Rockville Centre

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- 355 Stillwell Lane, Laurel Hollow, NY. LP: \$1,995,000.
- 30 Pearsall Avenue #4N, Glen Cove, NY. LP: \$319,000.
- 66-25 Powells Cove Blvd #18F, Beechhurst, NY. LP: \$759,000.
- 90 Redwood Drive, East Hills, NY. LP: \$2,499,000.
- 560 Emerson Avenue, North Baldwin, NY. LP: \$589,000.
- 20 Canterbury Lane, East Hills, NY. LP: \$1,799,000.
- 4 Pleasant Lane, Oyster Bay Cove, NY. LP: \$3,700,000.
- 9 James Avenue, East Norwich, NY. LP: \$599,000.
- 162-21 Powells Cove Blvd #4D, Whitestone, NY. LP: \$595,000.
- 1281 Wolver Hollow Road, Upper Brookville, NY. LP: \$2,475,000.



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