GLEN COVE



Heartfelt songs for Valentines

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Celebrating N.S. businesses

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FEBRUARY 13 - 19, 2025 \$1.00





Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck and BID Executive Director Jill Nossa, second from left, swore in new board members Christopher Strother, Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, Angelo DiMaggio, Donna McNaughton, Fred Guarino, Lou-Ann Thompson, Alvin Batista, Ann Fangmann and Anthony Perfetti.

BID reflects on year of growth

Showcasing achievements and future plans for city businesses

By ROKSANA AMID

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From dazzling summer concerts to vibrant murals and bustling new businesses, downtown Glen Cove has been buzzing with energy — and much of that success can be traced to the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District.

On Feb. 6, BID members, business owners and city officials gathered at Otherside Wine Bar, on Glen Street, for the organization's annual meeting, at which they celebrated a year of achievements and outlined ambitious plans for 2025.

The evening's presentation highlighted BID-led events that brought thousands of people downtown, showcased beautification efforts that transformed public spaces, and underscored the downtown's growing economic momentum.

"The BID serves as the liaison between its share-CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

From Glen Cove to Albany: Martinez is a trailblazer

By ROKSANA AMID

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Stevens Martinez has come a long way from his days as a high school student in Glen Cove, navigating personal challenges and charting an unexpected course to public service. Today he serves as deputy director for intergovernmental affairs on Long Island for Gov. Kathy Hochul, acting as the administration's liaison to the

Martinez, 27, describes himself as the governor's "ambassador" to Long Island, overseeing three regional representatives — one in Nassau County

and two in Suffolk — who identify community concerns and help craft solutions at the state level. Before his promotion in 2023, he was Nassau County's regional representative, responsible for maintaining relationships with elected officials and stakeholders, and for promoting Hochul's agenda while relaying local feedback to Albany.

The best way I describe my job to people is to think of it like the U.S. embassy system," Martinez said. "Embassies represent our interests abroad, and also provide real-time insight to policymakers in Washington. That's what I do here on Long Island. We serve as the eyes and ears for the governor."

His deep-rooted connection to the region is crucial to his work. Born in Glen Cove Hospital, Martinez has lived in the city his entire life. His parents, originally from El Salvador, fled the country's brutal civil war in the late 1980s and built a life in Glen Cove, which has long been a hub of immigrant communities.

"Glen Cove has always had this draw for immigrants, whether it was the Italian and Irish communities of the past or the Hispanic community today," Martinez said. "My parents came here with nothing, worked hard and raised us

here."

At Glen Cove High School, Martinez was an active and ambitious leader. He served as class treasurer and president of the school's DECA business club, and was the first male cheerleader. He was named Homecoming king as a senior.

But his journey through high school was not without its challenges. "I was that kid who spoke up in class but didn't do his homework," he recalled. "I struggled a lot, academically and personally. But everything changed when I came out as gay during my sophomore year."

Coming to terms with his identity gave Martinez a newfound sense of purpose and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



Legislators sue over county's 'illegal militia'

By JOSEPH D'ALESSANDRO

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Nassau County Democratic legislators and civil rights attorneys filed a lawsuit against the county last week, branding County Executive Bruce Blakeman's creation of special sheriff's deputies an "illegal militia."

'Bruce Blakeman's militia is not about public safety — it's political theater at the expense of Nassau County residents," Legislator Seth Koslow, ranking member of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, said. "There is no justification for creating an unaccountable and illegal force that answers only to the county executive."

Legislator Scott Davis criticized the measure as unnecessary, citing Nassau's ranking as one of the safest counties in the country, and called for an increase in properly trained law enforcement officers as an alternative to the volunteer deputy program. The county currently employs over 2,500 officers who have undergone rigorous training.

In the event that the county's existing law enforcement and crisis volunteers are insufficient, the county has the ability to call for assistance from law enforcement agencies in neighboring counties.

The lawsuit alleges that the county's application process for the program requires minimal qualifications, including ownership of a pistol license and no



Joseph D'Alessandro/Herald

Democratic Nassau County legislators filed a lawsuit in State Supreme Court last week against the county and County Executive Bruce Blakeman's creation of a special sheriff's deputy program. Legislators Carrié Solages, far left, Scott Davis, Seth Koslow, Debra Mulé, Arnold Drucker and Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton gathered to announce the suit on Feb. 5.

"misdemeanor convictions within the previous five years." For each day of activation during an emergency, a volunteer would receive a stipend of \$150, which exceeds the hourly rate of pay limit that deputies may receive without legislative approval.

The lawsuit cites a Newsday investigation that found that 25 people had enlisted in the program as of last September, six of whom were not able to be found through background checks. The plaintiffs allege that the county's program appears to require significantly less training than its regular police training.

Carey Dunne, an attorney from the Free and Fair Litigation Group, argued that this poses a risk to the general public. "County Executive Blakeman's mili-

tia endangers public safety in Nassau County and the health of our democracy nationwide," Dunne said. "Our lawsuit alleges an authoritarian power grab in the heart of suburban America. We cannot let the abuse of executive power go

Legislator Debra Mulé alleged that special sheriff's deputies are an illegal group that should not be funded with taxpayer money, and that the county executive should be compelled to comply with public record laws.

"We filed formal Freedom of Information Law requests to get answers, and Blakeman ignored them," Mulé said. "Even the county budget hides how much money is being funneled into this program. If this militia is such a great idea, why is he hiding it from the public?"

Blakeman is the first defendant in the case, alongside Nassau County Sheriff Anthony LaRocco. Blakeman was adamant in his opposition to the lawsuit and his support of the volunteer unit.

"Debra Mulé and Scott Davis are a disgrace for bringing this frivolous action and defaming the volunteers, many of whom are retired military and law enforcement, who have agreed to pitch in in the event of an emergency," Blakeman said in a statement. "The antisemitic statements, denigrating these good citizens by labeling them as Nazi brownshirts, disqualify them for public service.'





GLEN COVE HERALD — February 13, 2025

NSVT's Valentine's show charms G.C.

By ROKSANA AMID

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Love took center stage once again as North Shore Village Theatre hosted its second annual Valentine's Variety Show on Friday, Feb. 7, at Jeanine's American Bistro.

It was an evening filled with music, talent, and community spirit while also serving as a fundraiser for NSVT's new theatre space which is anticipated to open in June. The Valentine's show debuted last year at Glenwood Life Center, following the success of NSVT's Holiday Variety Show. Producer Gracie Donaldson Cipriano recalled how the idea came to life after Artistic Director Christopher Moll, who also leads Jazz Hands Children's Theatre, approached her in late 2023.

"Chris reached out right after the Holiday Show to see if I'd be interested in putting together a Valentine's event," Cipriano said. "I thought it was a great idea, and it went really well last year."

However, with Glenwood Life Center unavailable this year and NSVT's own theatre space still under construction, Cipriano had to find a new venue. She turned to Jeanine DiMenna, owner of Jeanine's American Bistro, who graciously offered to host the event.

"We're so grateful to Jeanine for opening her doors to us," Cipriano said. "It was also a great opportunity to raise money for the construction of our new theatre space."

Much like NSVT's Holiday Variety Show, the Valentine's Variety Show featured both youth and adult performers, creating an inclusive space where artists of all ages could showcase their talents. Moll emphasized the importance of providing these opportunities to local performers.

"We've met a lot of new performers just this year," Moll said. "Our goal is always to include as many people from the community as possible. These shows allow performers to come back and take the stage again."

This year's performance included 17 musical numbers, with participants selecting their own songs based on the theme of love.

"We don't assign songs. We just tell them the theme, and they decide what they want to sing," Moll said.

The event highlighted a variety of musical styles, ranging from classic love ballads to more contemporary hits. The diversity of the setlist reflected NSVT's mission of providing a welcoming stage for performers with different backgrounds and experiences.

Beyond entertainment, the show also served a larger purpose. In addition to covering some of the costs of NSVT's new theatre space, ticket sales contributed to a scholarship raffle for Jazz Hands Children's Theatre. The scholarship aims to support aspiring young performers and ensure that the arts remain accessible to everyone in the community.

"Theatre is about bringing people together," Cipriano said.



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Dory Agazarian captivated the audience with her soft melodies.



Dory Agazarian captivated the audience with her soft melodies.

With a warm, inviting venue, a talented cast of performers, and a mission to strengthen the local arts scene, NSVT's Valentine's Variety Show proved to be a cherished annual tradition in Glen Cove.

For more information about NSVT and future events, visit www.nsvillage-theatre.com.



Maggie Odell, Naiya McMurty, and Dylan Tornberg preformed memorable songs by Fleetwood Mack.



Jen Chapman, of Hicksville, is a longtime member of the NSVT.



Christopher Moll, artistic director of North Shore Village Theatre, delivered a heartfelt performance

Honoring the county's Black History

By REINE BETHANY

Special to the Herald

Nassau County kicked off its 2025 Black History Month on Feb. 5 by honoring four people whose decades of dedicated social work have benefited thousands of adults and children, across the county and beyond

Two of the honorees base their work in Hempstead: Pastor Lynnwood Earl Deans of Bethlehem of Judea Church and Hempstead Chamber of Commerce President Lashawn Lukes.

The other two honorees were Ladonna Taylor, executive director of Nassau County Youth Services, from Freeport, and Stanfort Perry, executive director of AHRC Nassau and its affiliated organizations, who lives in Glen Cove.

"Black Americans are a resilient people," said Deputy County Executive Anissa Moore, who emceed the evening. "We're holding on to the promise in America, for America is the only country that we know as home.'

Each honoree received two citations, one from the county executive's office. and the other from the county comptrol-

Moore alternated with Runnie Myles of the Human Rights Commission and Lionel Chitty, executive director of the Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs, in reading out each honoree's resume before presenting each citation.



Lashawn Lukes, Hempstead Chamber of Commerce president and co-founder of Cultivating Lives, Inc., was one of four honorees at the Feb. 5 kickoff ceremony for the Nassau County commemoration of Black History Month.

The resumes not only their extensive contributions to social services in Nassau County, but also their awards, citations and doctoral degrees.

All four shared the identical shining qualities: their sustained concern for people in need and determination to enact effective solutions



Photos courtesy Reine Bethany

Rev. Lynnwood Deans, center, was one of four honorees at the Feb. 5 kickoff ceremony for the Nassau County commemoration of Black History Month. Presenting the citation were Legislator Scott Strauss, left; Lionel Chitty,

Deans, who holds two theological degrees and two honorary doctorates. chose to move to Hempstead in 1993, after founding a church in Bayside. He has done constant outreach through radio broadcasts, prison visitations, and membership in the Hempstead NAACP, the Long Island Conference of Clergy, and the Hempstead cluster of the Help End Violence Now coalition, Bethlehem of Judea Church also hosts Reginald Benjamin's ABBA Leadership Program for formerly incarcerated persons.

"I am so honored and grateful to be here this evening," Deans said. "It is the hand of God." He credited his wife of 48 years, Diane Swindell Deans, for her own contributions to his 50-plus years as a pastor.

Hardly a mile from Bethlehem of Judea Church is 1776 Denton Green, home of the Hempstead Chamber of Commerce. The organization is led by Lashawn Lukes, whose business experience includes not only many years in media and promotions, but also multiple certifications for her outreach to

prison populations, families in underserved areas, and students in grades kindergarten through 12. Her nonprofit firm, Cultivating Lives, provides career counseling, financial literacy, mentoring, and empowerment workshops.

I have worked helping in underserved communities because sometimes I was that child that you read about," Lukes said. "Every morning when I awake, I think, what can I accomplish today? How can I help someone else?"

Stanfort Perry, from Glen Cove, is executive director of the EOC AHRC Nassau Brookville, Citizens Options Unlimited, Inc., and Brookville Center for Children's Services, directly working with over three thousand Long Islanders who have developmental disabilities, and their families. It is one of the largest disability service networks in the United States.

'I am honored tonight to accept this award on behalf of all the people that we support," Perry said, "people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who [want to] be included for the same opportunities that you and I enjoy on a day-to-day basis."

The hope and compassion in Perry's words found echoes in those of Ladonna Taylor, executive director of the county Office of Youth Services since May 2022. Taylor has served at increasingly complex levels of county social work for over 30 years. She creates and fosters many programs for youth, such as gang and gun prevention workshops, the Youth Job Fair, the Girls' Summit and the Four C's Boys' Conference.

"Our children are struggling with mental health, marijuana usage, and gang activity," Taylor said. "I do this because I love to do it, and I love the

The program also included stirring songs by the Black Voices of Nassau County, comments from County Executive Bruce Blakeman, County Comptroller Elaine Phillips, and Legislators Scott Strauss and Arnold Drucker, and the lighting of the dome of the Theodore Roosevelt Legislative and Executive building with red, black, and green to commemorate the heroes of Black history. The colors will grace the dome throughout Black History Month.



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The Medicaid Asset Protection Trust (MAPT)

For those who don't qualify for long-term care insurance or can't afford it, the Medicaid Asset Protection Trust ("MAPT") can protect your assets from the high cost of long-term care in your home or in a facility.

The MAPT sets up two roadblocks that Medicaid cannot break through. First, you cannot be your own trustee. Usually, one or more of the adult children act as trustee.

Secondly, you, as the creator of the MAPT, are entitled to the income only, not the principal. If you don't have access to the principal (your home or other assets in the trust), then Medicaid doesn't have access to the principal. The MAPT makes good sense for assets you're not going to spend like your home and investments you're not using. As we often say, if you don't need it to live on, then why not protect it for your family instead of losing it to pay for long-term care.

When you apply for Medicaid for nursing home care, if you've transferred any assets in the past five years, you are ineligible. The full protection of the trust only takes place five years

after you establish the trust. This is why you want to plan ahead. Proposed new rules, often delayed but constantly looming, would also require you to have the MAPT in place two and half years in advance to be eligible for care in your own home.

The MAPT does not affect your lifestyle. You still receive your pension, social security checks, minimum distributions on your retirement plans, interest and dividends. You have the exclusive right to use and enjoy your home. You keep all your property tax exemptions. You can sell your house, buy a new one, or invest the proceeds, which remain in the trust, still protected.

The MAPT is also flexible. You can change trustees and you can change who you leave it

Although the MAPT is an irrevocable trust, not only does it have the flexibility mentioned above, but in New York there is a mechanism to revoke an irrevocable trust. All that is required is for all parties, you and your children, to sign. We even have a workaround just in case one of the children refuses to sign.

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'The kind of person we need in politics'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

confidence, pushing him to improve his studies and engage more in school activities. His teachers played a pivotal role in his transformation.

"Some of my teachers later told me they always knew, and when I came out, they were just like, 'OK, great. Now let's get back to focusing on your studies," Martinez recounted. "I didn't appreciate it at the time, but looking back, I love that they treated me that way — like

nothing changed, because it really didn't."

Glen Cove High English teacher Jason Bieder remembers Martinez as a student who found his footing over time.



"Freshman year, it was Stevens against the

world," Bieder said. "By senior year, he was a leader among students, involved in everything. Once he locked into something, there was no stopping him."

After graduating in 2015, Martinez attended Hofstra University, initially majoring in finance, but he found himself uninspired by business school. The 2016 presidential election marked a turning point. Alarmed by then-candidate Donald Trump's rhetoric about immigration, Martinez became deeply engaged in politics.

"That election woke me up," he said. "When Trump spoke about Mexicans, I knew he wasn't just talking about one nationality. He was using it to describe all Latinos. It hit close to home."

Seeking ways to get involved, Martinez volunteered for Tom Suozzi's congressional campaign in 2016. The experience ignited a passion for public service, leading him to change his major to public policy. He credits Hofstra political science professor Craig Burnett with being a mentor who helped steer him toward a career in government.

"He was one of the first students in our public policy program," Burnett said of Martinez. "He was a trailblazer, and he set the standard for what students in the program could achieve."

With Burnett's guidance, Martinez spent a semester in Albany as a legislative intern, which solidified his desire



Photos courtesy Stevens Martinez

Martinez was a trailblazer as the first male cheerleader at Glen Cove City High School.

to work in government. His first job was in the Nassau County comptroller's office, where he helped manage county finances during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Fresh out of college, I was thrown into crisis management," Martinez said. "It was trial by fire, but I learned so much."

When the Democratic losses in Nassau County in 2021 left him unemployed, he pivoted to a role at NBC Universal in government affairs. Less than a year later, the governor's office called.

"They were looking for someone to be the Nassau County regional representative, and apparently my name kept coming up," Martinez said. "It was an honor, and I took the job two months before Governor Hochul's first election."

Now, as a deputy director, Martinez remains deeply connected to his hometown, engaging with the community and even leading Hochul on a tour of his former high school during a visit last July.

Burnett believes Martinez's rise is due in no small part to his character. "He's warm, patient, thoughtful — exactly the kind of person we need in politics," Burnett said. "He genuinely cares about the work he does."



Martinez frequently walks the halls of the State Capitol with Gov. Kathy Hochul, discussing constituent concerns.



HERALD SCHOOLS

Ski club raises funds with mattress sale

The Glen Cove High School Ski Club tried an unconventional approach to fundraising this year, selling mattresses, pillows, and blankets inside the high school gym on Feb. 2 to support their upcoming ski trip.

The club partnered with Custom Fundraising Solutions, a company that has helped schools raise money through mattress sales since 2005. The company purchases mattresses from major brands like Purple and Simmons, just like a typical retailer, but instead of operating a permanent storefront, it hosts pop-up sales in school gyms. Because there are no overhead costs, mattresses are sold at a lower price than in traditional stores, and a portion of each sale goes directly to the school.

Ski Club Advisor Chris Barry was initially skeptical of the idea but was persuaded after hearing that the cross-country team raised nearly \$5,000 with the same fundraiser last year.

The sale raised about \$1,000, "We were hoping for more but we are pretty happy with \$1000 our first time doing this," Barry said.

The funds will help cover costs for the club's annual trip to Jiminy Peak in Massachusetts from Feb. 28 to March 2. 52 students and four chaperones will attend the weekend-long excursion.

Barry, who has advised the club for 26 years, noted that rising costs since the pandemic have made skiing more expensive. "Before COVID, I could pull off a trip for \$320 per kid," he said. "Now, it starts at \$450."

Despite the challenges, Barry remains committed. "I still run into former students who tell me those trips were the most fun they had in high school," he said. "That makes it all worth it."

-Roksana Amid



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Carmelina, Travis, Alexandra and Lorenzo Basile browsed through the many mattress brands available during the fundraiser.



Claire O'Brien, Daniella Benchenni and Juliet Bifone spent there Sunday morning helping out with the fundraiser as members of the ski club.

Laura Perfetti bought sheets and a bean bag chair during the fundraiser.





Hundreds Attend The R.E.A.L. Awards

Event celebrates professionals driving growth and community development

By Angelina Zingariello

RichnerLIVE hosted its fourth annual R.E.A.L. Awards on Jan. 29, honoring the outstanding entrepreneurs, professionals and visionaries shaping Long Island's real estate industry.

This event, at the Heritage Club at Bethpage, recognized individuals who have excelled in their fields and dedicated themselves to community advocacy and development.

"We strive to spotlight these developments and the people and organizations behind them week in and week out," Stuart Richner, president and publisher of Richner Communications Inc., said. "Your work is vital for our shared growth and prosperity."

The ceremony emphasized the deep connection between real estate and local communities, highlighting how industry leaders contribute to the region's growth and well-being. The event celebrated the accomplishments of professionals whose efforts go beyond building structures; they lay the foundation for thriving neighborhoods and economic prosperity.

The evening began with a lively cocktail hour, where attendees mingled and connected with friends and colleagues. The networking session set the tone for the night, allowing industry leaders to celebrate their shared achievements and contributions to the local real estate landscape.

"It's always an honor to be honored," said Sheldon Shrenkel, CEO and executive director of the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency, said. "We appreciate the recognition, and to be together with all these other wonderful people in similar professions."

After dinner, the awards ceremony was hosted by five-time Emmy Award-winning investigative reporter Kristin Thorne. The honorees were recognized for their achievements, and came to the stage to accept their awards.

"It is always an honor to be celebrated multiple times by fellow architects and industry organizations," Willy Zambrano, founder and design principal at Zambrano Architecutal Design, said. "However, recognition from another professional field is truly invaluable, particularly when it comes from a local news outlet. I'm elated to receive the Architectural Design Excellence award from this event."

Keynote speaker Mike Florio, CEO of the Long Island Builders Institute, addressed the growing challenges in Long Island's real estate market, emphasizing how rising construction costs, insurance premiums and restrictive zoning regulations are making homeownership increasingly difficult. Despite these obstacles, Florio highlighted the region's desirability, and the need for collaborative efforts among developers, policymakers and local businesses to create sustainable, mixed-use communities that accommodate evolving demographic needs while ensuring



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Honoree Nicholas Ceccarini with friends and family of Weatherstone Mortgage Corp



Keynote Speaker Mike Florio, Long Island Builders Institute



Hundreds cheer on our 2025 honorees

economic stability.

"To achieve these goals, we must take this conversation beyond a solution," Florio said. "Everyone inside understands the challenges we face, but we need to reach a broader audience. Too often, the highest voices in the room are the small but local minority that is resistant to change."

The annual Herald R.E.A.L. Awards served as a reminder of the vital role real estate professionals play in shaping Long Island's future, not only through development but also through advocacy and community engagement. The evening brought together industry leaders to celebrate their achievements, foster connections and discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead.

A portion of the proceeds from the

evening benefited General Needs Ltd., a nonprofit organization that is committed to supporting homeless veterans. Founded in May 2015, General Needs provides essential services to veterans in emergency shelters in Brooklyn and Queens and across Long Island. The organization operates entirely through community support, ensuring that all donations directly assist those in need.

For a full list of honorees and photos, visit richnerlive.com/realestate.

Robert Esposito, founder of Relocators Service Inc. and author, "Nobody Move!" with Stuart Richner





Cocktail hour filled with 2025 honorees and their guests ahead of the ceremony



Tim Baker/Herald photos Honoree Willy L. Zambrano, Zambrano Architectural Design, LLC



Honoree Kevin D. Boone, Keller Williams Realty of



Honoree Brendan D'Loren of Terwilliger & Bartone and Stuart Richner



Father/son honorees Kenneth and Stanley Schuckman, Schuckman Realty



Greater Nassau

Honorees Vito Giannola, Provident Bank and Dee Dee Brix, Compass



Honoree Sheldon L. Shrenkel, Nassau County IDA



Honoree Christina Volz and Nancy Cuite, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices



Honoree Joseph Farkas, Metropolitan Realty Associates, LLC



Honoree Tiffany Balanoff, Douglass Elliman



Ever Padilla, Denky Begonja, Roberto Hernandez, Jr., Nadia Vee, David Thompson, Connie Pinilla, Carlos Santana.

iammy Lannam/Heraid photo

Hispanic Chamber gala honors businesses

The North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosted its highly anticipated Winter Gala on Feb. 6, bringing together community leaders, business professionals, and supporters to celebrate the achievements of six distinguished honorees. Gloria Agront, Leticia Blanco, Edward Casuriaga, Jeanine V. Dimenna, Lidi K. Flores, and David Thompson were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the local Hispanic community, business growth, and civic engagement. The evening highlighted the chamber's continued growth and influence since its inception in 2020. Ever Padilla, the visionary founder and 2nd Vice President, laid the foundation for the organization, which has flourished under the dedicated leadership of President Connie Pinilla. Her passion and strategic vision have propelled the NSHCC into a dynamic and forward-thinking force for Hispanic businesses and professionals across Long Island's North Shore. As attendees celebrated with music, fine dining, and networking, the gala reinforced the chamber's mission—honoring the past, celebrating the present, and building a stronger future for all.

-Roksana Amid



Town Supervisor Jennifer DeSena joined the awards ceremony to recognize businesses who made a difference in their communities. Pictured left to right are Ever Padilla, Connie Pinilla, DeSena and Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews.



Deputy Mayor Donna McNaughton, Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, Roberto Hernandez, Jr., Michael Ktistakis were some of the elected officials who attended the awards ceremony.



Denky Begonja and Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews danced the night away to celebrate the evening's honorees.

Show yourself some love

Indulgent ways to help protect your heart

Taking care of your heart is not just about exercise and losing weight. While additional studies are needed, new and emerging research suggests that each of the following may be pleasurable ways to help boost heart health. (Moderation is key, though, with every one!) Protect your ticker with these heart-right moves.

Drink coffee

Coffee has long been linked to a reduced risk for diabetes, a disease marked by high levels of blood sugar that threaten the heart. And now experts understand more about coffee's potential protective effects. A recent study published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition showed that women who regularly drank decaf or regular coffee at lunchtime had a reduced risk of type-2 diabetes compared to those who didn't drink java. What does coffee have to do with diabetes? The study's researchers believe that the beverage's nutrients may help slow digestion and help support healthy blood sugar levels.

Other new and emerging research suggests that coffee consumption helps support the cardiovascular system by fending off chronic inflammation and promoting the production of HDL "good" cholesterol. You can drink to that!



Sleep more

Recent research from Wake Forest University linked sleep deprivation to belly fat, which plays a big role in inflammation. So go ahead and ditch the guilt: Hit the snooze button and aim to clock at least six to eight hours each night.

Nibble on dark chocolate

We're all aware of this, but its worth repeating since chocolate doesn't fit into

everyone's idea of a "healthy" diet. Several studies have shown that chocolate may benefit more than just your taste buds. Most recently, a German study that tracked subjects for 10 years found that chocolate eaters had healthier hearts. More specifically, compared to those who ate less chocolate, people who ate about 1 ounce of chocolate per day had lower blood pressure and a lower risk of having a heart attack or stroke. Flavanoids, the nutrients found in cocoa, support healthy blood vessels and overall

heart health. To get the most benefit with the fewest calories enjoy about an ounce of dark chocolate per day.

Seek stress relief

Taking a time out for self-care such as a getting a pedicure, doing some journaling or taking a walk in nature can help you stay clear-headed, supports healthy blood pressure levels and reduces your reaction to stress, all of which helps your heart.

at popcorn

A study from the University of Scranton found that many whole-grain foods like popcorn are as rich as fruits and vegetables in polyphenols, a type of heart-healthy antioxidant. Opt for air-popped popcorn sprinkled with a little olive oil or try a low-fat microwave pop.

Spend time with friends

Carve out a couple of hours to get together with friends regularly and your body and mind will thank you. People with many social ties tend to have lower blood pressure and they're more likely to be physically active.

Photo: Live with gusto. Incorporate self-care into your hearthealthy lifestyle.



HEALTH MEMOS

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

ueens-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 with guestions!. To learn more about QLIRI's Home Hemodialysis Program, visit gliri.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.

Queens Long Island Renal Institute • 271-11 76th Ave., New Hyde Park • (718) 289-2600 Health memos are supplied by advertisers and are not written by the Herald editorial staff.

The Parker Jewish Institute wins 2024 eHealthcare Leadership Distinction

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

About The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation

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

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



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Luke Feeney/Herald

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S.C. seniors enjoy dance showcase at St. Luke's

By LUKE FEENEY

Ifeeney@liherald.com

Older Sea Cliff adults enjoyed three dance performances put on by instructors and students from Ballroom Legacy at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church during the afternoon of Feb. 11

"It's a great way for people to see what we do; there is no limit to the age; I think everybody can dance," Ballroom Legacy owner Veronika Simeonova said. "If you can walk, you can dance,"

Ballroom Legacy has been a staple in the Sea Cliff community since 2005, offering a variety of individual and group dance classes to clients across Long Island.

The studio, located at 185 Glen Cove Ave., has gained a reputation for being welcoming to people of all ages and abilities, with a focus on fun, fitness, and connection through dance.

Simeonova and David Ting kicked off the performances with a tango. Ting, an 83 year old from western Connecticut, has been taking classes with Simeonova for over 20 years.

Following Ting and Simeonova was a rumba dance done by Alexander Kostic and Angela Howard. Howard, an 80-year-old Glen Cove woman, has been a student at Ballroom Legacy for over ten years. Kostic, a coach at the studio, has been teaching there for over 15 vears.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to support the Sea Cliff community," Kostic said after the performance. "We've been a part of it for over 20 years having a business in this community. It's nice to contribute something that people can enjoy"

Ballroom dancing is one of the activities that some doctors have argued can help to prevent Alzheimer's disease and dementia, according to Kostic.

"It's so cognitive and physical, very few activities can match that," Kostic said. "It's really a wonderful opportunity for anyone to do."

The final performance was done by Simeonova and Kyle Erickosn, a 34 year old from Glen Head. The duo finished the showcase with a ballroom dance with an umbrella.

"It was an awesome dance," Erickosn said after finishing his performance. Erickosn described his dance as "Singing in the Rain" without the rain.

Before the event, the older adults attending were treated to a lunch followed by desserts. After the performances, a raffle was held.

The performance is part of a larger effort by Tracy Arnold Warzer, Sea Cliff senior citizen program development specialist, to offer a wide range of programs and activities for seniors.



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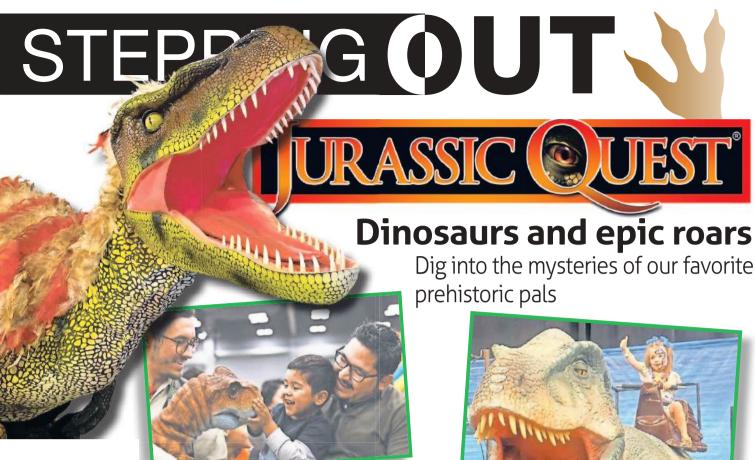
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et ready to embark on Jurassic Quest, one of the largest immersive dinosaur experiences in North America. The traveling prehistoric adventure, which combining archaeology with the latest tech, returns to Nassau Coliseum with its herd this weekend, Feb. 15-17.

Journey back 165 million years — to a time when mighty dinos ruled the Earth. The arena transforms into the TriassicJurassic and Cretaceous periods with life-like dinosaurs to observe and interact with during, that's sure to spark the imagination.

By Danielle Schwab

"We bring dinosaurs to people in a way that's fun, interactive and educational that you can't find anywhere else," says Jurassic Quest dinosaur expert Sarah Menard, better known as "Safari Sarah," one of the expert "dino trainers."

"You can go to a museum to see dinosaurs, but you're only going to see fossils. You're going to see educational things, but it's not going to be as interactive or fun as maybe bouncing on a giant dinosaur inflatable would be," she says.

There are plenty of opportunities to dig into the excitement. Hop on rideable dinosaurs, engage in hands-on science and art activities, enjoy thrilling dinosaur shows, observe real-life artifacts — and that's only the start.

All of this — enhanced by carefully chosen vegetation, immersive sound effects, dynamic lighting, and interactive electronics — will make you feel like you've truly stepped into

"One of my favorite things to see is whenever kids walk in their jaws drop, and then their parents walk in right after them and they do the same exact thing," Safari Sarah adds.

Expect to see all your favorite dinos and meet new ones, including the formidable Triceratops, towering longnecks, fierce raptors, and of course, the infamous Tyrannosaurus Rex — standing proud at 20 feet tall as the ultimate apex predator.

Every dinosaur is created in collaboration with top paleontologists to create accurate depictions. As more is learned about these prehistoric creatures, their features are updated to reflect the most authentic depiction of dinosaurs in their prime.

This year, you may see some different feather placement and colors added to the pack.

"We actually know that feathers were a lot more prominent than we originally thought. There are even some paleontologists that think that the T-Rex had feathers," Safari Sarah explains.

While we may think of dinosaurs in their larger-than-life forms, they, of course started out young — and "small." Meet the baby dinos, Cammie the Camarasaurus, Tyson the T-Rex, and Trixie the Triceratops, three lovable hatchlings ready to play with new friends!

"They all have their own personalities. They're all kinds of tricksters and will steal your hat or your phone from you. They're cute little buddies," Safari Sarah says.

"The famous question we get is 'Is this really real?"'
There's much to explore at each activity station,
including an opportunity to become a Utahraptor trainer
for the largest raptor in the world. The team instruct
families on different commands and tricks to use that
they can try out for themselves.

Kids will also want to check out the fossil dig,





- 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Tickets start at \$22 (Use code QUEST15 for 15 percent
- QUEST15 for 15 percent off admission); available at jurassicquest.com or on-site
- Nassau Coliseum,
 1255 Hempstead Turnpike Uniondale

where they can channel their inner paleontologist, and study replicated and real fossils like T-Rex teeth, a triceratops horn and life-size dino skull.

"They can learn not only how fossils are made, but they can make fossils themselves, and at the end of the day, they get to walk away with a dinosaurshaped fossil," Safari Sarah says.

On display, you'll find real artifacts like Megalodon and dinosaur teeth, horseshoe crabs,

and maybe even a dinosaur skull.

For those looking for some self-guided fun, there's a scavenger hunt-style activity that the whole family can explore. Go on "The Quest," a scavenger hunt-style activity where budding paleontologists can become Jr. Park Rangers, and learn all about the dinosaurs and time periods with the help of a fun and fact-filled video tour.

And the youngest adventurers have a spot all their own. Little dino-lovers can roam the 'Triceratots' soft play area, taking a well-deserved break from the excitement.

While dinosaurs connect us to the past, they also connect all ages to a sense of wonder.

| "If a parent can step outside of their 'common sense' and get into 'wow, this is a real science,' it really opens it up for their children as well, " Safari Sarah says.

From a child's toy to life-like moving creatures, dinosaurs unearth new — but actually very old — ossibilities.

"Studying dinosaurs is a gateway science," Safari Sarah explains. "It opens it up to all these different sciences that talk about our Earth or the atmosphere or the stars. Things that have always been around since the beginning of time."

Photos courtesy Jurassic Quest

Trainer Safari Sarah (at left) knows her way around a dinosaur herd. These prehistoric creatures — of all shapes and sizes — roar to life at Jurassic Ouest.



Friends of the Brothers

Friends of the Brothers returns to the Landmark stage with their dynamic tribute to the Allman Brothers. Their powerful celebration featuring musicians closely associated with the original band, continues the brotherhood with passion, committed to the ideals of every night being special and unique. Guitarist/singer Junior Mack has fronted Jaimoe's Jasssz Band for 12 years and starred in the acclaimed Broadway show "Lackawanna Blues." Guitarist Andy Aledort played with Dickey Betts for 12 years while singer/guitarist Alan Paul is the author of "One Way Out," the definitive, best-selling Allman Brothers biography based on 25 years of reporting on and interviewing the band. Their firsthand experience with the Allman Brothers and their deep knowledge of the repertoire, its roots and heritage allows them to play with an unrivaled depth, backed by a band of inspirational, veteran players. Rock on!

Saturday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. \$38, \$33. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org or call (516) 767-6444.



His 'Bronx Tale'

Chazz Palminteri is back on the Paramount stage, with his solo version of "A Bronx Tale." The powerful one-man stage play depicts his bruising childhood, which included witnessing a gangland killing in the Bronx when he was nine years old. Palminteri plays 18 characters and brings them all to life in his autobiographical play. His friends, enemies and family all come alive on stage. It became a hit after he wrote it in 1989 and the most sought after property since "Rocky." This is the original show he wrote and performed that made him an in-demand character actor and served as the basis of the acclaimed movie and Broadway musical. Bronx-born and raised, Palminteri was a natural choice to continue the long line of prominent Italian actors in the film industry.

Sunday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., \$99.50, \$89.50, \$79.50, \$59.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Visit ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com for tickets. February 13, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

16 YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

THE SCENE



Kevin James

You know him, you love him, and now you can catch Kevin James when his "Owls Don't Walk" tour arrives at the Paramount, Sunday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. The standup comic and beloved sitcom star brings his latest material out on the road in 2025. In this this unfiltered special James' delivers his hot takes on everything from parenting to marriage



and getting older. As only Kevin can, he covers a range of topics from motivating children to put down their video games, to why he doesn't trust technology, and how many tater tots he can fit in his mouth. James sure has come a long way since his early standup days on the Long Island comedy scene. After being discovered at the 1996 Montreal Comedy Festival, he signed a network development deal to create his own sitcom. "The King of Queens" premiered in 1998 and ran for nine seasons, earning him an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series. From there, his acting career blew up — in film and television. He also starred in, and executive produced The Crew, a sitcom set in the world of NASCAR and is currently developing a single camera comedy (both for Netflix)

Of course, he's always eager to return to his standup roots. He had concluded his previous tour, "Irregardless," at The Paramount in November2023, in a benefit event for The Alonso Foundation, a nonprofit group founded by Mets first baseman Pete Alonso and his wife, Haley, to help combat bullying, cyberbullying, animal abuse and other societal ills. So if you love the King of Queens' hilarious, spot-on takes on jobs, relationships, and the petty annoyances of everyday life, then don't miss your chance to hear his newest jokes live \$99.50, \$79.50, \$69.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com



In concert

Jupiter String Quartet returns to Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, Friday, **Feb. 28**, 8 p.m. The intimate group of violinists Nelson Lee and Meg Freivogel, violist Liz Freivogel (Meg's older sister), and cellist Daniel McDonough (Meg's husband, Liz's brother-in-law) are brought together by ties both familial and musical.

The ensemble brings its wellhoned musical chemistry to three works shaped by bold musicality and deeply meaningful thematic inspirations, including Warmth from Other Suns by Carlos Simon; String Quartet No. 3, Glitter, Doom, Shards, Memory by Shulamit; and String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major, Op. 130 with the Grosse Fuge by Ludwig van Beethoven, 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or Adelphi. edu/pac.

Bilingual chess

Youngsters can become a king or queen at chess at the bilingual chess program offered at Glen Cove Library, Monday, **Feb. 10**, 7-8 p.m. Chess is a fantastic opportunity for students in first through 12th grade to develop critical thinking, Taught by experienced competitive chess player Jeremy Ratner, it caters to all skill levels with instruction in both English and Spanish. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Visit glencovelibrary. org for more information.

Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Hooley

Join the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for a festive Hooley, Saturday, Feb. 15, 6-11 p.m. Celebrate the presentation of the Sash to Joseph McDonald, the Grand Marshal of the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade. Come together for entertainment, food, and fun, at St. Rocco's Hall. 18 3rd St., Glen Cove For more information and to RSVP, contact Donna Marino at DONNA111@optonline.net.

Virtual Book Discussion: 'The Kommandant's Girl'

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County hosts a compelling virtual book discussion of "The Kommandant's Girl" by Pam Jenoff, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1-2 p.m. This gripping historical novel explores themes of love, identity, and survival during World War II. The discussion will be led by Dr. Linda Burghardt, Scholar-in-Residence. Visit hmtcli.org to register. For more information, contact Dr. Linda Burghardt at lindaburghardt@hmtcli.org or call (516) 571-





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Family theater

Long Island Children's Museum welcomes families to its stage, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m.; Monday through Saturday, Feb. 17-22, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. It is 3017 in this futuristic, musical retelling of "Cinderella." She's now a space engineer looking to revolutionize space travel. When the Prince holds a space parade, Cinderella saves it by helping fix the Prince's spaceship. Cinderella knows it's the perfect opportunity to show the Prince her new hyper warp speed engine.

But first, she'll have to keep her evil stepmother from throwing a wrench in her plans! \$11 with museum admission (\$9 members), \$15 theater only. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or licm.org.

AARP Tax Assistance

The AARP Tax-Aide program offers free tax preparation assistance for seniors and qualifying individuals, at the Glen Cove Senior Center, Tuesday, Feb 18. Appointments are required. Contact (516) 759-9610 for more information or to schedule an appointment. 130 Glen St., Unit A, Glen Cove.

Valentine's Day Vow renewal

Celebrate love this Valentine's Day by renewing your vows in a romantic ceremony officiated by Mayor Panzenbeck, Friday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m., at Glen Cove City Hall Main Chambers. Each couple will receive a keepsake certificate to commemorate the occasion. Enjoy complimentary cookies, tea, and coffee during this special event. Participants must RSVP by Feb. 11. Call Sue or Roni at the Mayor's office at (516) 320-7861 or (516) 320-7865. 9 Glen St., Glen Cove.

Knitting/Crochet Club

Meet up with other knitters or crocheters, at Glen Cove Public Library, Fridays, 10 a.m.noon. Whether you're new to knitting or you've been doing it for years, it's always more fun with friends! Start a new project or bring a current one. Participants should bring their own needles and yarn. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. For more information call (516) 676-2130.

Having an event?

at Family Saturday, Feb. 15, noon-3 p.m., at Nassau County

Converse, collaborate and create

Art explorations

Museum of Art's Manes Education Center. The drop-in program continues, Saturday,s, noon-3 p.m. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators to explore and discover different materials to create original artwork.

Kids and their adult partners connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. While there, enjoy reading and play in the Reading Room, and contribute to The Lobby Project, a collaborative art installation. \$20 adult, \$10 child. Registration required. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. Visit NassauMuseum. org for more information and to register or call (516) 484-9337.

Library Walking Club

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, every Thursday, at 9:15 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at glencovelibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

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.

On Exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, the original "Deco at 100' coincides with the 100th anniversary of the 1925 Paris International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts (Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes) which publicly launched the movement. The direct followup to the well-received 2023 exhibit, "Our Gilded Age," it comparably links the period's signature innovation in the decorative arts,



Art Deco, to the fine arts. The exhibit encompasses significant cultural advancements during Long Island's Roaring Twenties/ Jazz Age movement, including votes, jobs, and the automobile for women, the beginnings of suburbia with commutation for work, and planned residential communities, which all defined the era, while the following decade brought economic reversals and the WPA program. Works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, Fernand Léger, Guy Pène du Bois, Gaston Lachaise, Elie Nadelman, and Reginald Marsh, among others, along with art deco stylists of poster art and graphics, and photography will convey the Art Deco spirit along with its furniture, decorative arts, and fashion.

Like "Our Gilded Age," the social scene of Long Island's Gold Coast, and its personalities — both upstairs and downstairs will be portrayed, along with the ongoing relationship with the immediate urban context of New York with its skyscrapers and deco-styled architecture. On view through June 15. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

Feb. 16

Hempstead House tour

Sands Point Preserve is the backdrop to explore the elegant Gold Coast home that's the centerpiece of the estate, Sunday, Feb. 16, noon-1 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. Visit the grand rooms inside the massive 50,000-square-foot Tudor-style mansion, the former

summer residence of Gilded Age financier Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim. Tours are limited in size and tend to sell out. Arrive early to purchase tickets. \$10. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit SandsPointPreserve-Conservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.



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Kids Camp and School Kids Camp and School is an in-depth guide on

summer camps, after-school programs, and educational institutions, ensuring families have all the information they need to make informed decisions.



Our Story Finance

The Our Story Finance special supplement is a dedicated exploration of how community busine dedicated exploration of how community businesses drive local economies, foster financial resilience, and create lasting social impact. This edition highlights the power of collective entrepreneurship, showcasing how locally owned enterprises shape thriving neighborhoods through shared resources, ethical finance, and community investment.



Our Story Real Estate Movers and Shakers

This edition spotlights the individuals driving positive change, from revitalizing neighborhoods to pioneering sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. This edition features in-depth profiles, and takes a look behind-the-scenes at how community-focused real estate and business leaders are reshaping local communities.



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BID celebrates success and plans for 2025

holders and City Hall, and as an advocate for downtown businesses." Executive Director Jill Nossa said. "We maintain information, resources and referrals helpful to our members and potential new businesses."

The BID plays a significant role in maintaining the downtown's visual appeal, investing in various capital improvement projects. Over the past year, the organization spent money on landscaping, seasonal decorations and infrastructure enhancements.

"Every year we purchase flower baskets that hang from the downtown lampposts from Memorial Day through Veterans Day," Nossa said. Additionally, the BID has a contract with a local landscaping company to maintain downtown greenery, and installs mums and cabbages each fall.

The BID also collaborates with local organizations to enhance public spaces. In 2024, the Glen Cove Education Foundation hung banners featuring graduating seniors on BID lampposts, a project set to continue this year. The Glen Cove Library partnered with the BID to create a bottle cap mural to honor veterans, now on display outside Staples.

Infrastructure improvements have been a key focus. Last year, pedestrian ramps at the Brewster Street garage were upgraded to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The BID also worked with city officials on a corridor study of Glen Street, resulting in recommendations for pedestrian-level lighting, actuated traffic lights, and sidewalk upgrades.

In an era when a digital presence is essential for business growth, the BID has worked to expand its reach across social media platforms. "The best way to reach people is through social media," Nossa said. Under the guidance of marketing specialist Leah Dwyer, the BID has increased its visibility with consistent and engaging content.

In the past year, its Instagram following grew by 310, reaching over 15,000 accounts. Its Facebook presence expanded with 178 new followers, achieving a reach of more than 81,000 accounts.

The BID uses social media to promote downtown events, highlight local businesses and engage the community with themed posts. "We request photos from BID mothers so we can highlight them on Mother's Day, fathers on Father's Day, and we add any promotions that stores have as well," Nossa explained.

Beyond social media, the organization ensures that downtown businesses. receive media attention. "For every event hosted by the BID, we write a press release before and after to maximize coverage," Nossa said. New business openings and major downtown developments are pitched to the media, leading to coverage from outlets like News 12 and the Herald.

The BID organizes numerous events throughout the year to bring the com-



Courtesy Gill Associates Photography

Executive Director Jill Nossa presented the BID's year in review for 2024.

munity together while supporting local

"Our biggest event of the year is Downtown Sounds, an event that has grown every year since it started nearly 28 years ago," Nossa said. In 2024, despite inclement weather, thousands attended the summer concert series, which featured a variety of musical

Other BID-led events included the Halloween Parade and Festival, which featured trick-or-treating at downtown businesses, bounce houses, a DJ, games, costume contests and a pie-eating contest. A trackless train ride was added to the Holiday Festival in December, and the New Year's Eve Music Crawl brought live performances to a number of downtown establishments.

Recognizing the need for creative engagement, the BID introduced new initiatives, such as a teen talent showcase in place of the traditional Teen Idol contest. Glen Cove High School's Select Chorale, the Finley Middle School chorus and Jazz Hands Children's Theater took to the stage before Downtown Sounds concerts, drawing younger audiences downtown.

The BID has already begun planning for 2025, starting with a Valentine's Daythemed scavenger hunt featuring QR codes hidden around downtown busi-

Based on the success of the New Year's Eve Music Crawl, the BID is planning an art crawl in March, showcasing local artists' work in participating businesses. "We want everyone within the district to know that we're here to help market and promote your business, Nossa said.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck commended the BID's work, emphasizing the city's dedication to supporting local businesses. "I've been involved with the BID for a very long time," Panzenbeck said. She added that the city is a "great" place for people of all ages to live in.

McEvoy elected chairman of LIWC

Lifelong Oyster Bay resident has over two decades of experience in water industry

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

ou can't

put out

have enough

ROBERT McEVOY

Water Conference

water.

Chairman,

Long Island

fires if you don't

Robert McEvoy, a lifelong resident of Oyster Bay and a longtime public servant, has been elected chairman of the Long Island Water Conference, an organization dedicated to ensuring the safety and reliability of Long Island's water supply.

With over two decades of experience in the water industry, McEvoy's leadership marks a pivotal moment for the LIWC, as it continues to address pressing challenges like water quality, conservation and sustainability.

McEvoy, 67, began his career in public service shortly after graduating from college, working in government finance for the Nassau County comptroller's office and later the

Town of Oyster Bay. In 2000 he was elected commissioner of the Oyster Bay Water District, where he has served since, balancing his knowledge of finance with a passion for community

"I've been involved in government and the water industry for years, and it's been kind of like a progression," McEvoy said. "Being a water commissioner allows you to make decisions on a local level, protecting a resource as vital as water. It's about making sure our residents have safe, reliable and affordable drinking water.'

In addition to his work with the Oyster Bay Water District. McEyov has been a volunteer firefighter with Atlantic Steamer Fire Company No. 1 since 1975. His experience in firefighting, he noted, ties closely to water manage-

"You can't put out fires if you don't have enough water," he said. "My work in both fields has really been interconnected, emphasizing the importance of water distribution systems."

As chairman of the LIWC, McEvoy will oversee an organization that represents water suppliers, engineering firms and other stakeholders. While he said he was excited about his new role,

he did see some challenges ahead, including compliance with stringent state regulations on emerging contaminants and the rising costs of water treatment.

"These new state regulations and treatments that have to be done are very expensive," he said. "The local water districts and water providers didn't put

these chemicals in the ground 50 years ago, but they're responsible for their extraction. So any assistance from New York state or the federal government to allay these costs is benefi-

McEvoy also emphasized the importance of water conservation. "We really don't have any control over how to produce more water in the aquifer, so the focus has to be on taking out less," he said. "So for sustainability, a major part of

that is conservation and education of the consumers."

Michael Rich, a member of the Ovster Bay Water District board of directors, praised McEvoy's leadership and

"Chairman McEvoy is a pleasure to work with," Rich said. "His knowledge of government finance and the water industry is an asset not only to the Oyster Bay Water District, but also to the Long Island Water Conference.'

Dennis Kelleher, a consulting engineer for the district, echoed those sentiments.

"I've known Bob for about 20 years, and his financial background has been invaluable," Kelleher said. "He understands the unique needs of water suppliers, and works tirelessly to ensure their success. His leadership style is collaborative and forward-thinking.

McEvoy highlighted the importance of cooperation among LIWC members. "Our conference brings together water providers, engineers, pipe manufacturers and even billing companies," he said. "We share resources, exchange ideas and support one another. If there's a problem in one district, we're just a phone call away from finding a solution

One of the conference's primary roles is advocating for water infrastructure improvements. McEvoy noted that many water providers are currently focused on building treatment facilities to comply with regulations on emerging contaminants.

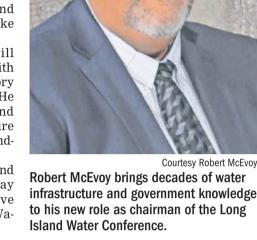
He also emphasized the importance of educating residents about the value of their local water districts.

Your water districts are run by your neighbors, not someone in Albany," he said. "We're here to provide safe and reliable drinking water, and we take that responsibility very seriously."

McEvoy's term as chairman will span one year, but his involvement with the LIWC will continue in an advisory capacity for two additional years. He plans to focus on sustainability and environmental stewardship, to ensure that future generations of Long Islanders have access to clean water.

To learn more about the Long Island Water Conference and the Oyster Bay Water District, visit their respective websites, LIWC.org and OysterBayWaterDistrict.org.





UBLIC NOTICES

The subject property is located 42 Pembroke Drive, Glen Cove, N.Y., designated on the Nassau

County Land & Tax Map as Section 31, Block 51,

Lot 580. The property is located in the City's R-1 One-Acre Residential

District.

NOTICE OF SALE COURT SUPREME COUNTY OF NASSAU HSBC Bank USA, N.A., as trustee for the registered holders of the Renaissance Home Equity Loan Certificates, Asset-Backed 2004-4, Plaintiff AGAINST John Kerry Webber, Jr.; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 31, 2024 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 February 25, 2025 at 2:00PM, premises known as 99 A Forest Avenue, 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 30 Block Approximate amount of judgment \$668,600.09 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold

be held "Rain or Shine

Solomon.

LEGAL NOTICE

14624 (877) 430-4792 2024 151196 Search for notices online at: www.newyorkpublicnotices.com LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF GLEN COVE 70NING OF NOTICE TAKE PLEASE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Glen Cove Zoning Appeals Thursday, 2025, at Appeals on February 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views. The hearing will be on the application of EYZ 42 LLC residing at 42 Pembroke Drive, which Glen Cove N.Y. seeks Variances from Sections 280-55 (B)(5), (B)(9), and (B)(12) subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 004249/2015. The of the Glen Cove Zoning Code for a new 214 sf second floor addition, major interior alterations auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 and converting an un-finished attic space into Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the 10th Judicial District. habitable living area (718 sf). The property is an existing non-conforming lot (21,852 sf) in the R-1 Foreclosure Auctions will

(40,000

LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) Plaintiff Crossing Boulevard Rochester.

District.

The above application is on file at the City offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of the usual business days until the time of the Dated: PUBLIC February 5, 2025 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD NOTICE OF ZONING APPEALS
OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE MOSCHETTA, TERI CHAIRPERSON 151603

> LEGAL NOTICE SUPREME COURT OF THE . OF NASS, WELLS FARGO HOLDINGS, SUCCESS COUNTY OF NASSAU SUCCESSOR BY MERGER WFIIS FINANCIAL SERVICES NEW

-against-CARLOS SERNA, ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Nassau on January 3, 2025, wherein WELLS FARGO USA HOLDINGS, INC. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WELLS INC. SU MERGER

CREDIT SERVICES NEW YORK, INC. is the Plaintiff and CARLOS SERNA, ET AL. are the Defendant(s).

I, the undersigned
Referee, will sell at public auction RAIN OR SHINE at the NASSAU COUNTY at the NASSAU COUNTY SUPREME COURT, NORTH SIDE STEPS, 100 SUPREME COURT DRIVE, MINEOLA, NY 11501, on March 18, 2025 at 2:00PM, premises known as 161 SAINT ANDREWS LN, GLEN CLOVE, NY 11542; and the following tax map identification:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT. PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF GLEN COVE, NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 601974/2018. Sharpe, Esq. Crane Schneid. Partners, Merchants Concourse. Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not ministrict distancing and ministrict and the distance of t distancing wearing. *LOCALL SUBJECT CHANGE DAY OF ACCORDANCE W DIRECTIVES.

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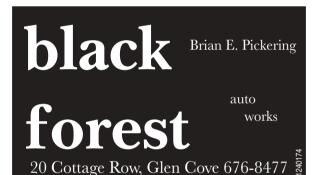
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NYU Langone Health is recruiting participants for an exciting new study exploring why and how some people with dementia experience a return of mental clarity as they approach the end of life.

These episodes are known as paradoxical lucidity. If you have a loved one suffering from advanced dementia, they may eligible for this study.

If interested, please contact the Parnia Lab research team at 917-227-0932 or pl@nyulangone.org.





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OPINIONS

The RAPID Act is rapidly propelling L.I. backward

es, our energy

infrastructure

but they must

be affordable.

needs upgrades,

lbany's latest scheme to ram through its radical green-energy agenda is moving full speed ahead — and Long Islanders will be the ones left to foot the bill and deal with the consequences.

Our backyard has been chosen by unelected bureaucrats to host the Jupiter Power Company's proposed lithium bat-



JAKE BLUMENCRANZ

tery facility, in Glenwood Landing, and the Propel NY Energy Project, to meet the socalled "Long Island Offshore Wind Export Public Policy Transmission Need." If that sounds like bureaucratic jargon, that's because it is.

We've been left with more ques-

tions than answers throughout this process. With serious concerns about fire hazards, environmental risks and a lack of transparency, we must refuse to let Albany and outside developers rush these projects through without answering our questions. Let's be clear: These projects are not about energy independence. They're about forcing Gov. Kathy Hochul's reckless Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act down our throats while making taxpayers pick up the tab.

Propel NY, for example, spearheaded by the New York Power Authority and New York Transco, will include three massive high-voltage underground transmission lines, cutting across residential neighborhoods and business districts in Glenwood

Landing, Glen Head and beyond. It will install power lines near gas mains and water supplies, potentially creating safety hazards that local officials have no say in because — thanks to the RAPID Act, or Renewable Action through Project Interconnection and Deployment — Albany has preempted local oversight.

The price is equally alarming: An estimated \$3.26 billion, which is just

the beginning. The same government bureaucrats who promised that offshore wind would be "affordable" are now backing a project that will add billions in infrastructure costs — which will be passed directly to ratepayers. The New York Independent System Operator claims that the economic benefits will "comparable with, if not greater than" the cost over 20 years. Translation? Long Islanders, will see higher energy bills long before they see any socalled benefits.

As a member of the Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions I will continue to hold the New York State Energy Research and

Development Authority, and others, accountable, and demand answers about the safety and economy of large-scale battery storage in residential areas. We have heard loud and clear from countless residents that they do not want their commu-

> nities turned into testing grounds for Albany's energy experiments

The RAPID Act, passed under the guise of "streamlining" infrastructure projects, is an assault on home rule. It allows politically connected developers to bulldoze through local opposition, cut corners and ignore safety concerns. Town governments, county officials and local residents have been sidelined.

While Albany fails us, our local governments, such as the towns of Oyster Bay and North Hempstead, are standing up for their residents, putting safety and transparency first. Under the leadership of Supervisors Joseph Saladino and Jennifer DeSena, both town boards have hit the brakes on these battery energy storage projects, extending moratoriums to make sure the right protections are in place before any green lights are given. Their commitment to public safety and responsible planning is exactly the kind of leadership Long Island needs.

The Town of Oyster Bay and Nassau County have stringent safety regulations for locating high-voltage transmission lines near gas lines, water supplies and homes. These rules exist to prevent catastrophic failures — yet these projects expect waivers to bypass these safeguards. If local officials can't say no to unsafe, overpriced projects like these, what's stopping Albany from greenlighting even worse ideas in the future?

Yes, our energy infrastructure needs upgrades, but they must be affordable, safe and locally approved. Instead of dumping billions into a project with questionable economic benefits, we should invest in grid modernization, nuclear energy expansion and innovative solutions that lower costs rather than inflate them.

Hochul, and Albany's green-energy cronies, are betting that Long Islanders will quietly accept skyrocketing energy bills, regulatory overreach and safety risks. They're wrong. I will continue to fight against the RAPID Act's blatant power grab, expose the true cost of these reckless projects, and stand up for the people who actually have to live with the consequences of Albany's failed policies.

The question is simple: Do we want a smart, affordable and locally controlled energy future, or to be rapidly propelled into economic disaster by Hochul's greenenergy fantasies? We deserve real safeguards, not rushed approvals. It's time to take our power back.

Jake Blumencranz represents the 15th Assembly District.

High anxiety is gripping many Americans

And its

Anti-anxiety

endless.

messaging is

treatment

is big business.

ot that anxiety is funny, but sometimes it helps to laugh at ourselves. In 1977, Mel Brooks did just

that, with his movie "High Anxiety," starring Brooks as a wildly neurotic shrink and Cloris Leachman as his mustachioed, militaristic nurse at the Psycho-Neurotic



RANDI KREISS

Institute for the Very, Very Nervous.

Now, either you think that's funny or you're already writing me a letter. But I speak from experience. I'm an anxious person, and according to the American Psychiatric Association, 40 percent of Americans said last year that they

were more anxious than the year before.

I was an anxious kid, and teen, and adult. I come by my anxiety honestly, from my nervous parents and grandparents. Most days, I do breathing exercises before I open my eyes in the morning.

How do you know if you have anxiety? Do you have a pulse and a moral conscience? You're in.

Officially, according to psychotherapist

Linda Hubbard in an article on the Mayo Clinic website, you might have trouble concentrating, you may feel tense or restless, or experience muscle tension or headaches or lightheaded or sleeplessness.

Anxiety treatment has become big business. As I write this — case in point — I just got a pop-up ad from an online health letter selling "proven stress-busting techniques." The barrage of anti-anxiety messaging is endless. We have to be careful consumers.

I offer these words to commiserate and say you are not alone. These are

troubling times, and nearly everyone I know is feeling some stress or anxiety. It is permissible now to discuss these feelings openly, and there is relief in sharing.

There is no real history tracking anxiety. Maybe Shakespeare was anxious; he did create Hamlet, one of the most deeply anxious characters in literature. Maybe cowboys who rode the range felt stress about the roundups. Perhaps our storied astronauts suffered these symptoms.

It's worse to suffer in silence, but that was always the expectation, especially for men. Soldiers who suffered debilitating anxiety in World War I were considered

"shell-shocked," and ostracized. Now antianxiety tactics and treatments are freely marketed and talked about and posted.

Today's society and culture have pro-

duced more anxiety, and more discussions of anxiety online, on TV and in social media. Anxiety has become monetized, from advertisements for medications to promotions for apps that control anxiety and foods and self-help books that promise to ease our emotional pain.

Since the pandemic, we have had good reason to feel anxious. Our peace of mind is under attack, by every-

thing from rising waters and emerging viruses to political dysfunction and the assault on our democratic values

I am a foot soldier in the struggle with anxiety. What works for me? I walk outdoors as often and as far as I can, weather permitting. The steps, one by one, for a mile or two, seem to ease tension.

I bought one of the apps that promise to reduce anxiety. It offers really boring stories read by monotonic narrators, which help you unwind and even fall asleep. The app also features yoga exercises and various sounds like rain on a roof and light piano music and ocean waves. In my own experience, all of these work, sometimes and to some degree.

For those of us whose anxiety is triggered by the confederacy of dunces who have taken the political stage in Washington, eventually we can vote, but day to day, we can turn off the cacophony of news and social media that surely make us feel worse. I read a few newspapers to keep informed, but I no longer watch much TV, unless it makes me laugh (in a good way).

Throw everything at the problem and see what works. But don't try to tough it out. Be selective in using the internet. Let social media be your tool and not the other

Each of us can find reasonable and healthy ways to reduce anxiety. Many of them are free, like turning away from devices and toward people. When we need professional help, we can find it. Medications work for millions of people.

It doesn't hurt to laugh each day. Comedians like Sarah Silverman and the late Robin Williams carved careers out of their struggles with anxiety. The Apple TV series "Shrinking" has some laugh-outloud moments. Maybe start by streaming a copy of "High Anxiety" and checking into the Psycho-Neurotic Institute for the Very, Very Nervous for a few hours.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

The concern about a county civilian militia

he recent controversy surrounding Nassau County Executive
Bruce Blakeman's creation of an armed civilian unit has sparked intense debate.

Blakeman unveiled a plan last March to deputize gun-owning residents for what he termed "the protection of human life and property during an emergency."

Democratic lawmakers in Nassau County have now taken legal action, filing a lawsuit in State Supreme Court against what they describe as an "illegal, taxpayer-funded civilian militia." The concerns focus on not only the legality of the initiative, but also on Blakeman's refusal to provide clear and essential details about the program.

While opinions on the concept of a civilian militia may vary, what should trouble every resident, regardless of political affiliation, is the disturbing lack of transparency surrounding this initiative. It is not merely the existence of the militia that is at issue, but the secrecy and lack of accountability with which it has been formed and implemented

As representatives of the people, these lawmakers have a duty to ensure that government actions are conducted openly and lawfully. Their inability to obtain basic information about this unit — who is being recruited, what their training entails, the weapons they will carry, and the total cost to taxpayers — should alarm everyone, regardless of where they stand on the issue of deputizing civilians.

State law in New York is explicit in

defining who can wield police powers: only professional, sworn law enforcement officers. By contrast, the county's unit consists of volunteers who are required only to be licensed gun owners and complete 12 hours of classroom and firearms training.

This falls far short of the rigorous training required of sworn officers, raising critical concerns about competency and public safety. If these volunteers are granted the authority to use deadly force and make arrests, then their selection, training and oversight should be subject to the highest levels of scrutiny.

Blakeman has attempted to dismiss the lawsuit as "frivolous" and an attack on the volunteers, many of whom are retired military and law enforcement personnel. But his response sidesteps the central issue. No one is questioning the dedication or service history of these individuals. What is being questioned is the manner in which the program has been conceived and implemented — behind closed doors, without legislative approval, and without adequate public oversight.

The county has stated that these deputies will only be deployed in emergencies to protect critical infrastructure, not to patrol streets or manage protests. But without a transparent, codified framework governing their deployment, there are no guarantees that those boundaries will be respected. History has shown that when emergency powers are granted without sufficient oversight, they can be misused or expanded beyond their original intent.

Nassau County is not lacking for law enforcement resources. With roughly 2,600 sworn officers, the Nassau County Police Department is the 12th-largest local police force in the country. There is also an existing structure for civilian involvement — the Nassau County Auxiliary Police and the County Community Emergency Response Team, both of which operate unarmed and under professional supervision. Given these resources, what specific gap is the militia intended to fill?

County residents deserve answers. How were these individuals selected? What specific criteria were used? What safeguards exist to ensure their proper conduct? What is the financial burden on taxpayers? Until these questions are answered, the program lacks legitimacy.

The lack of transparency is not a partisan issue — it is a fundamental issue of governance. When taxpayer money is being used to fund an initiative that involves armed civilians exercising government-sanctioned power, full disclosure should — must — be the bare minimum. If the program is truly necessary, it should withstand public scrutiny and meet the highest standards of accountability.

Blakeman and his administration must provide the information being sought by community members and lawmakers alike. Without this transparency, concerns about the legality and safety of the program will only continue to grow. The people of Nassau County deserve to know exactly what is being done in their name and with their money. Anything less is unacceptable.

LETTERS

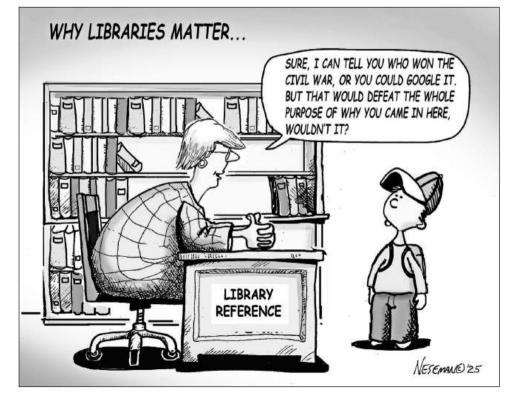
Has Peter King forgotten Jan. 6?

To the Editor:

I just read Peter King's column in last week's Herald, "An inauguration that was decidedly different," and it made me sick. But King is correct in stating that this inauguration was different. Unlike President Trump four years ago, President Biden was there to facilitate a peaceful transfer of power. There was no denial of who won the election. Biden upheld our country's grand tradition.

On Jan. 6, 2021, police officers were killed and injured by people doing Mr. Trump's bidding. The lives of Vice President Mike Pence, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and all of the members of Congress were at risk. The brave Capitol Police did their duty to protect them, and the thanks they get is a president pardoning their attackers and the people they protected turning their backs on them.

I'd warn Mr. King: Trump's presidency is a moment in time, but eventually it will pass, and history will not be kind to those like you. Your grand-



OPINIONS

University leaders should not remain neutral

he much-

discussed

infringes on the

Project 25

purposes of

education.

fter the congressional hearings that challenged university presidents on campus activism amid allegations of antisemitism, many institutions adopted policies of "institutional neutrality." Boards of trustees resolved that they would not comment on political issues such as international conflicts, investments in certain countries, and policies proposed



ROBERT A. SCOTT

by elected officials. Many of the resolutions cited principles enunciated by the University of Chicago.

According to the Chicago principles, university leaders should not engage in speech that would appear to infringe on others' speech. The

university should be a protected, neutral place for the expression of all ideas, a safe space for "strong disagreement, independent judgment, and the questioning of stubborn assumptions." ("Report on the University's Role in Political and Social Action," University of Chicago, 1967.)

There are good reasons for this. When a board or president issues a statement, it can stifle contrary views; it can suppress debate. This would violate the university's responsibility to foster critical thinking. Making statements about some issues, but not others, could indicate that some deserve comment but others do not.

But the Kalven Report, which affirmed the University of Chicago's

mission of free inquiry and independence, did not prohibit leaders from commenting on public policies that would affect institutional autonomy and the freedom of scholars to pursue truth no matter where that pursuit may lead. So, "no" to taking partisan positions, but "yes" to evaluating proposals such as those in the much-discussed Project 2025, prepared by the Heritage

Foundation, that infringe on the purposes of education.

I agree with these principles. Neutrality does not mean silence. A campus president should not remain silent in the face of proposals that would undermine free speech. A university president has an obligation to question proposals that would undercut quality controls. It is the responsibility of a president and the board to protect the university as the home of critics even as it is not itself a voice of criticism.

A university has three fundamental roles. It is the creator of new knowledge as well as of new professionals. It is the curator of knowledge in all its forms.

And it is the home for critical thinking and critics who ask "why?" and "why not?" In these ways, a university is as much about the advancement of ethical character and engaged citizenship as it is about preparation for careers and

commerce.

Across the country, governors and state legislators promote policies that proscribe what subjects can be taught and what books can be read. Project 2025 is a "blueprint" for multiple changes in federal policy related to knowledge and expertise. It alleges, without evidence, a radical leftwing bias in university teaching. At the same time, it would require a selective

teaching of American history by omitting mention of race and slavery. It also would substitute religious belief for scientific evidence, including weather forecasting and study of the environment. It would substitute political tests for professional expertise, stifling critical thinking and free speech.

The Project calls for the abolition of the U.S. Department of Education, and reclassifying federal scientists as political appointees. It would turn over consumer protections from predatory proprietary schools to the states and retract the "borrower-defense" provisions of the federal loan system put in place to protect students from for-profit schools

and lenders.

Project 2025 also calls for eliminating Head Start; overhauling the educational accreditation system, reducing its political neutrality; and rolling back Title IX protections for sexual assault survivors and LGBTQ students. It calls for prosecuting all government agencies, colleges, corporations and other private employers that maintain diversity policies.

Public education was established to ensure an informed citizenry, essential to a functioning democracy. Project 2025 would deny freedoms in favor of authoritarian dictates. Instead of supporting public education, it would allow for the banning of books and restrictions on independent inquiry.

Project 2025 should be studied and debated. We should affirm the purpose and benefits of education to society and the individual. Project 2025 limits rights, opposes inconvenient history and science, and would impose biased views. We can be passionate in the defense of academic values without becoming politically partisan. Only by advocating for freedom of inquiry and free speech will we preserve them, and our democracy. On this, university leaders should not be neutral.

Dr. Robert A. Scott is president emeritus of Adelphi University and co-author of "Letters to Students: What it Means to be a College Graduate," Rowman & Littlefield, 2024.

LETTERS

kids will have to explain why their grandfather sided with a man who tried to take down democracy instead of standing up to him.

Rest assured, many of us will *never* forget what happened on Jan. 6. We will continue to fight the good fight. At the same time, career politicians like Mr. King will sacrifice their integrity (if they ever had any) to support a man who wants to be king.

VINCENT MASTROTA Sea Cliff

Whose golden age?

To the Editor:

After reading Congressman Emeritus King's op-ed, I have reservations about his lauding President Trump. I wrote Trump before he took office, saying that it would be groundbreaking if he became the president of *all* the people. His legacy would be the destruction of the partisanship that is slowly strangling the USA. I received a very hopeful reply signed by the president-elect.

As of today, I realize this was a dream. I and many like me, ordinary hardworking Americans, have been scammed.

King defends most of Trump's and his minions' draconian attacks on the very roots of what's left of our republic. Revenge, and creating turmoil and anxiety, are the order of the day. Religion is being weaponized, and censorship, which Trump says we will now be free of, is being spread through the agencies of government, right down to teachers in our schools.

Being poor, with skin of a different tone, dispossessed or a peaceful immigrant, is no longer acceptable. The norm will soon become the knock on the door, the presentation of "your papers" and a disappearance in the night. History proves that while we're not there yet, we are heading down this slippery slope.

King writes of Trump's new "golden age." On that term we agree, but we define it differently. The only gold I see is his greedy cadre of rich men grabbing all the power they can lay their hands on. They know that power breeds money. They are pigs at the trough.

King writes that the functions he attended in Washington were filled with "extraordinary excitement, enthusiasm and hope." Yet the president is but three weeks in office, and many who supported him are reacting

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At the annual month-long celebration of Black history — Freeport

adversely to the confusion, disappointment and the "shock and awe" of his policies and his erratic statements. Many are feeling buyer's remorse.

King is an intelligent man who did much for his constituents when he served the public. It is difficult to comprehend how he cannot sense that this president is quickly on his way to becoming a clear and present danger to the republic King served.

King and I probably both pray, in our own ways, for the same things, a better country and a peaceful world. It's good to dream!

MARK C. NUCCIO Bellmore



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