

Women helping women

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Beautifying the city

Page 10

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Making the case against tariffs

Area business owners Alan Geller, left, and Roger Friedman joined U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi in opposing the tariffs imposed by President Trump. Story, Page 4.

Hochul intent on keeping phones out of schools from bell to bell

By ROKSANA AMID

New York is poised to become the largest state in the nation to ban student cellphone use for the entire school day, following an agreement by Gov. Kathy Hochul and the State Legislature to include the measure in the 2026 state budget. The restriction, slated to take effect this fall, will apply to all public schools, charter schools, and BOCES programs statewide, marking a major shift in how technology is managed in classrooms and school environments.

The proposal has stirred strong reactions among Glen Cove residents, including Jeanne Sharkey Zaino, who responded to a Herald Facebook poll. "The children were allowed cell

phones during 9/11 and Columbine," said Zaino, whose children were in school at the time. "If I had kids in schools I would be opposed to Hochul's plan. I can see not using (phones) during class, etc."

Hochul officially announced the policy on Tuesday as part of the broader \$254 billion state budget deal, describing the initiative as a landmark effort to support youth mental health and curb the distractions caused by smartphones and other internet-enabled personal devices. The ban will cover classroom periods, study halls and lunch in what the administration calls a "bell-tobell" policy. Smartwatches and tablets with internet capability will be included in the restriction.

"New York was the first state to target addic-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6







DAVID HUGGINS



BRETT MILLER

Board of Education election is May 20

By ROKSANA AMID

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Glen Cove voters will head to the polls on May 20 to decide the fate of a proposed \$118.1 million school budget and to elect two trustees to the Board of Education. The race has three candidates: incumbent Lia Leone, former Trustee David Huggins and first-time candidate Brett Miller. Trustee Audre Lynn Hustron is not seeking re-election, leaving one seat open

The district's proposed 2025-26 budget of \$118.1 Million is an increase of \$4.7 million over the current spending plan. The tax levy would rise to approximately \$79.6 million, an increase of 2.981 percent, which falls below the district's tax cap. According to enrollment data compiled by the state in October, Glen Cove has 3,154 students, which means the district would spend roughly \$37,451 per student if enrollment remains stable.

Voting will take place from 6

a.m. to 9 p.m. at Glen Cove High School and Connolly School.

Here are the school board candidates

Lia Leone

Leone, 48, is running for a third term. A Glen Cove High School alumna, she was elected to the board in 2019, and has served as its president and vice president. She is a member of the district's Policy Committee, and was active on the Bond Committee before she joined the board

Leone holds an associate's degree from Nassau Community College, and a bachelor's in elementary education and a master's in reading from LIU Post. She is a reading specialist in the Hicksville school dis-

"I think my experience as a board member will really give me a little heads-up on the other candidates," Leone said. "This particular board that we've been working with for the past three years has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Funds raised for veteran mental health

By ROKSANA AMID

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The Tribute and Honor Foundation presented a \$1,000 donation to CEC Health Care on Tuesday, May 6, during a check presentation ceremony at Glen Cove City Hall, supporting mental health services for veterans living with post-traumatic stress dis-

The funds were raised through the efforts of Glen Cove Police Officers and U.S. Navy veterans Derek and Owen Valance, who completed the 22-mile PTSD Awareness Kayak Challenge across Long Island Sound. Their demanding journey aimed to raise awareness about the mental health struggles many veterans face and to help fund critical PTSD-related

CEC Health Care, formerly known as the Charles Evans Center, provides behavioral health support to underserved populations, including military veterans. The donation will help strengthen treatment programs for those coping with PTSD and related

The event was held in collaboration with the Glen Cove Police

Department, the City of Glen Cove, the Glen Cove Police Benevolent Association, and CEC Health Care. It drew local officials, veterans, mental health professionals, and advocates for veteran care.

Officers Derek and Owen Valance, joined by representatives from the Tribute and Honor Foundation, formally presented the check during the 3 p.m. ceremony. Community leaders delivered remarks, emphasizing the importance of supporting veterans and expanding access to mental health care.

The ceremony also served as a public show of gratitude for the Valance brothers' dedication to raising PTSD awareness and aiding fellow service members. The event reinforced Glen Cove's commitment to veteran advocacy and to addressing the mental health needs of those who have served.

The Tribute and Honor Foundation presented a \$1,000 donation to CEC Health Care on Tuesday, May 6, during a check presentation ceremony at Glen Cove City Hall.



Roksana Amid/Herald



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Kelsie Radziski/Herald photos

The 100 Hispanic Women Long Island Program, led by president Alicia McGrath, second from left, Kisha Chandler, third from left, and vice president Sofia Pertuz, fourth from left, held a networking event at Molloy University on April 30 to bring the Latina community together.

Latina leaders light up Long Island

By KELSIE RADZISKI & ROKSANA AMID

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Dozens of women gathered at Molloy University's Public Square for an evening of connection and empowerment, hosted by 100 Hispanic Women. The event aimed to foster relationships and strengthen support for Latinas across Long Island.

The evening, on April 30, featured a mix of presentations, guided conversations and networking opportunities designed to encourage attendees to share their personal stories and form meaningful bonds. Prompted by thoughtful questions like "What is your favorite tradition?" and "What brought you to this meeting?" participants quickly grew comfortable with one another, opening the door to authentic connections.

Judith Rivera, a board member of the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce and Director of Community Relations at Care First Home Solutions was one of the evening's attendees. She is also the first in her family to attend college. A Puerto Rican native, Rivera has a bachelor's degree in journalism from New York University.

"I feel the event was important, especially since it was held at Molloy University, because 100 Hispanic Women is an organization dedicated to supporting Latinas on their path to a college education and towards excellence in leadership," Rivera said in a call to the Herald. "I was fortunate to be the first in my family to be able to attend New York University with the help of scholarships and grants. Because of the great education I received there, I want to give back to other young Latino women who may not have the chance to do so without the help of this wonderful organization and



Women gathered together to meet new people and create meaningful connections at the event.

it's partnership with Molloy University. I am deeply impressed by Molloy University and that it has a program and a place for everyone."

Attendees also learned more about the mission and goals of 100 Hispanic Women, which has been working to support Latinas since its founding in 1996 by Shirley Rodriguez-Remeneski, then the Executive Director of Hispanic Affairs for Governor Mario Cuomo. President Alicia McGrath leads the organization's Long Island Program, launched just over three years ago.

"We have different programs because it was very difficult for people who wanted to get involved and participate in activities coming from different areas," McGrath said. "And Long Island has so many wonderful professional Latinas, we had to have a program here."

The local chapter brings together members from both Nassau and Suffolk

Counties to advance the organization's mission: "to eliminate obstacles and encourage Latinas to be innovative, maximize our potential, create strategic partnerships, promote inclusion in government and corporate America, and improve Hispanics' status," according to its website.

One of the evening's attendees was Vanessa Lockel, Executive Director of the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Suffolk County, which focuses on agriculture, aquaculture, youth camps, and community education around health and family wellness.

"Our goal is to help," she said, "and no matter what room you're ever in, one of us will always stand and be there in support of you at any time."

100 Hispanic Women also supports education through scholarships at institutions like Molloy University and Hofstra University. Partners such as Ocean



Courtesy Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce

Judith Rivera was the first member of her family to attend college. She has a bachelors in journalism from NYU.

Financial Bank contribute \$5,000 annually to these efforts. Among the scholar-ship recipients is Julisa Vargas, a Hofstra student preparing to graduate and pursue a career in law.

"Being able to come to every event and having that welcome and that support system has been just so, so incredibly empowering," she said.

Beyond scholarships, the organization hosts a range of seminars and events designed to help women embrace their identities, nurture their well-being and connect with one another in supportive spaces.

"I think it's important now more than ever to recognize the excellence in the Latina community and also support the Latina community so that we can support our communities overall," McGrath said.

To learn more or get involved, visit 100HispanicWomen.org.

Tariffs threaten L.I. businesses

Bv Roksana amid

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Halloween may look very different this year for Fun World, a Carle Placebased costume company that has been in business since 1966. Burdened by skyrocketing production costs brought on by a 145 percent tariff imposed on Chinese imports by President Trump last month, the company may be forced to close.

Fun World CEO Alan Geller, a Sea Cliff resident, said that his business, which designs its costumes in the United States but manufactures them in China, has always been profitable, but that will change in 2025. "This will be the first year that we will not make a profit," Geller said at a news conference last Friday in the company's warehouse. "If the sudden and extreme tariff does not reverse, we may close our doors permanently."

Geller joined other business owners and U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi to speak out against the tariffs, which were imposed by the Trump administration on April 9 as part of a broader effort to penalize China and "reshore" American manufacturing. Suozzi said he supports holding countries like China accountable for unfair trade practices, but criticized the implementation.

"You have to have a plan and give businesses time to adjust," he said, sur-



Roksana Amid/Herald

Fun World CEO resident Alan Geller, of Sea Cliff, said the business may close by the end of the year.

rounded by racks of colorful costumes.

The tariffs hit many companies without warning. Geller said that Fun World had placed orders for merchandise months before the tariffs were announced, and had no choice but to bring in goods that were already on the water. The Chinese tariff added an unexpected burden — he cited one shipment that previously cost \$100,000, whose price spiked to \$245,000.

"This was money for which we had not budgeted," Geller said. "Borrowing money at 8 percent interest to pay the tariffs would further reduce profits."

Fun World, which employs about 200 people, including 85 in Carle Place, has already taken drastic steps to stay afloat. Salaries have been cut by 20 percent, and the company will forgo profit-sharing for the first time in its history. Equipment purchases have been delayed, and Geller said that shutting down the business remains a real possibility.

The tariffs, originally set at 10 percent on Chinese imports, doubled to 20 percent last month and were soon followed by the 145 percent increase. Canada and Mexico are also facing new tariffs on goods entering the U.S., including a 25 percent tax on general imports and 10 percent on Canadian energy products. All three nations have promised retaliatory measures. Canada has proposed tariffs on billions of dollars worth of American products, and China has

imposed tariffs of up to 15 percent on U.S. farm exports and expanded restrictions on American companies.

Geller said that although Fun World would prefer to manufacture domestically, the infrastructure simply doesn't exist. "There is insufficient labor to handle the large volume that's desired by the consumers," he explained. "The investment to build the factories and buy the equipment would take years and would be very expensive, and the machines ... that we need are not made here. Guess what? They're made in China."

Another Sea Cliff business owner, Roger Friedman, of Bernstein Display, said his company is facing similar financial peril. Bernstein, which produces mannequins and store fixtures for major retailers, had already locked in purchase agreements with Chinese suppliers and pre-negotiated sales with U.S. clients when the tariff was announced. It added \$6 million in costs to \$8 million worth of orders — costs that Friedman said his customers aren't willing to absorb.

"This is a 145 percent tax on our business — it's not being paid by China," he said. "Our clients don't want to bear this cost because that increases their costs, which in turn they'll have to pass on to their customers."

Bernstein Display employs 70 people. Friedman said the company is struggling to cover payroll, rent and production costs while navigating the tariff's financial shock. "As a small business, we don't have the resources to weather this kind of shock," he said. "Small and medium-sized businesses like ours — we're the job creators in this country. And we're being crushed."

Friedman said he is still hopeful the situation will be resolved, but questioned how long businesses like his can survive. "I don't think this is going to bring more jobs to America," he said. "In fact, I think it threatens those jobs."

Suozzi echoed those concerns. "Tariffs are appropriate in certain circumstances," he said, "but you have to do it in a way that's not reckless, that is not throwing these businesses for a complete loop and putting them in serious financial harm."



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State plans to ban smartphones in schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tive social media feeds — and now we're the largest state to restrict smartphones in schools throughout the entire school day," Hochul said in a news release on Tuesday. "I know our young people succeed when they're learning and growing, not clicking — and that's why New York continues to lead the nation on protecting our kids in the digital age."

To help districts implement the policy, the budget includes \$13.5 million in funding for schools to acquire storage solutions, like magnetic pouches, for student devices. While the policy establishes a statewide standard, it allows each school to develop its own plan for managing and storing phones. According to the governor's release, schools must involve teachers, students and parents in shaping their local policies — and they will be required to ensure that parents and guardians have a way to contact their children during the day.

Although the final bill language had not been released as of Tuesday afternoon, the Legislature was expected to begin voting on the measure this week.

Exceptions to the rule will be allowed for students who require phones for medical reasons, translation or other needs outlined in individualized education programs. Students may also use devices with no internet capability, and internet-enabled laptops or tablets will be allowed when used for classroom instruction.

Supporters of the initiative say it is a necessary step toward reclaiming educational focus and improving students' mental health. The policy follows a growing national movement to limit screen time and restrict smartphone use among youth. In June 2024, Hochul signed the Safe for Kids Act, a first-in-the-nation law to restrict addictive social media feeds for users under 18. She also signed the New York Child Data Protection Act, which bars websites and connected devices from



Courtesy Metro Creative

The ban will cover the entire school day, including classroom periods, study halls and lunch, in what Gov. Kathy Hochul's administration calls a "bell-to-bell" policy.

collecting or sharing minors' personal data without informed consent.

The cellphone ban builds on those legislative efforts, and according to Hochul's office, stems from findings gathered during a statewide listening tour involving educators, students and parents. The resulting report, "More Learning, Less Scrolling: Creating Distraction-Free Schools," concluded that phones negatively impact learning, student creativity and mental health. It also found that phone-free environments do not compromise student safety, provided that schools maintain clear

communication protocols for emergencies.

Some Glen Cove residents say the change is long overdue. Jon Lauter, a former New York City high school teacher, said that the impact of smartphones on student focus has been undeniable. "The barrage of instantaneous dopamine hits and the ability to find information immediately has caused students to have zero attention span and zero intellectual curiosity,' Lauter said. "The last thing you want in an active-shooter situation is a bunch of kids making noise on their

New York State United Teachers President Melinda Person also voiced her support. "This isn't about being anti-phone or anti-technology — it's about being prochildhood," Person said. "We're giving students seven hours a day free from distractions so they can focus on learning, access their creativity and make real human connections."

Julie Scelfo, founder and executive director of Mothers Against Media Addiction, called the policy a model for other states. "Smartphones are designed to be addictive in a way that makes it harder for kids to focus and learn," Scelfo said. "As parents, we are grateful to Governor Hochul and the lawmakers who led this effort to support engaged, distraction-free learning in our schools.'

For some, the issue remains complex. Glen Cove resident Janice LaRocca, who also responded to the Herald's poll, said she was torn, but does see the advantages of restricting the use of phones in schools.

"Phones are an overall senseless distraction and society has suffered greatly because of social media, especially for kids," she said. "Looking at the degrading outcome over the last 20 years, I'd say something drastic is needed if we have any hope of improving academically, socially, etc."

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⁸ Amtrak's \$1.6B tunnel revamp set to begin

By JUAN LASSO

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For passengers on every Long Island Rail Road train bound for Penn Station, the final six minutes are a pitch-black journey below ground through one of four submerged tubes known as the East River Tunnels. Beginning Friday, Amtrak is scheduled to launch a \$1.6 billion, three-year overhaul of two of the four tunnels most battered by Superstorm Sandy.

Swamped by corrosive floodwater during the 2012 storm, the aging tubes are now structurally compromised. Amtrak plans to take them offline one at a time.

But stakeholders — from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to Gov. Kathy Hochul — warn that fewer transit lines could mean logistical havoc for the 461 LIRR trains that flow in and out of Manhattan each business day. The long-delayed project will slash tunnel capacity by 25 percent.

Long Island Rail Road President Robert Free warned that Amtrak's plan poses "significant risks," cautioning that even a minor glitch in one of the three remaining tunnels could trigger major service disruptions systemwide.

"This is about, above all else, protecting service for hundreds of thousands of Long Island Rail Road riders whose transportation is being put at risk by Amtrak's failure to plan for their tunnel



Courtesy Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Amtrak's \$1.6 billion overhaul of two of the East River Tunnels, scheduled to begin this month, is expected to disrupt Long Island Rail Road service by reducing tunnel capacity and shifting train flow to the remaining tubes.

megaproject," Free said in a statement.

The MTA has urged Amtrak to limit tunnel closures to nights and weekends to protect weekday rush-hour traffic — dubbed "repair in place" — but Amtrak has refused. Instead, one tunnel at a time will remain out of commission at all hours for the duration of the project.

Amtrak defended its decision, saying that after reviewing a number of

options with the MTA and NJ Transit — including the MTA's favored "repair in place" method — it settled on a plan it says is the "safest, most efficient, and reliable" for fully restoring two of the tunnels.

The rail operator also swiped back against MTA's accusation of ineptitude, noting that the transit agency approved the project months ago, and accused it of delaying the start by more than seven months due to its own unfinished Eastbound Re-Route work.

Amtrak's statement also politely shrugged off Hochul's urging to "take a hard look at its construction plans and ensure access to reliable train travel throughout this key corridor."

"We have been actively working with the MTA to mitigate the impact of this delay on the East River Tunnel project, including finding ways to shorten the overall outage," Amtrak President Roger Harris said.

Although the current tube slated for repair is mainly used by Amtrak, shifting all traffic to the remaining three shared tubes could heighten the risk of packed trains, cascading delays and rush-hour logiams for LIRR commuters.

The LIRR has released updated timetables for service this month.

Questions still loom as to how Amtrak plans to bolster the remaining tunnel infrastructure during the outage — or what safeguards and oversight mechanisms are in place to manage the disruptions in real time.

Amtrak noted that while emergency repairs have kept trains running, the infrastructural backbone of the transit system has steadily weakened. The repairs that will soon get underway are more vital than ever, even if they come with the potential for serious disruption headaches.



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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

The Department of Public Works, Beautification, high school students and elected officials came together to help beautify Glen Cove.

Digging deep to keep Glen Cove beautiful

Glen Cove came together on May 3 to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. The day began at 9 a.m. at Danis Park, located at the corner of Town Path and Glen Street. The annual event is also held in memory of Bill Byrne, a longtime Glen Cove resident known for his dedication to community beautification and volunteerism who died in 2021. Organized by the Beautification Commission, the event promoted civic pride and environmental stewardship. High school students earned community service hours, and participants of all ages helped keep Glen Cove beautiful.

-Roksana Amid



Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck and Beautification member Deanna Perez removed weeds after they helped plant trees in the park.



Tyrone Boyd, a laborer with DPW, worked hard to ensure the trees were healthy and firmly planted.



Giorgina Dondero, a freshman at the Glen Cove High School, and Angel Barrera worked as a team to beautify the park.



William Nicholas, a tree laborer with DPW, helped dig the holes where the trees were planted.

Three vying for two seats on school board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

really productive and wonderful and collegial to work with. I'm looking forward to completing these big projects that we've started."

Leone has two children in the district: Joseph, a sixth-grader at Finley middle school, and Julia, a sophomore at Glen Cove High.

Brett Miller

Miller, 48, is running for office for the first time, though he is no stranger to the school district or the board. His late wife, Monica Alexandris-Miller, who died in 2013 from breast cancer, was elected to the board twice before stepping down because of her illness.

"Ever since then, in our family, we were big on giving back to the community and volunteerism," Miller said. "Now I'm in a place where I can hopefully be a positive, communicative and supportive member of the board."

An electrician and the father of three daughters in Glen Cove schools — twins Anna and Casey, juniors at the high school, and Maya, an eighth-grader at the middle school— Miller said he feels ready to step into public service after years of community involvement through coaching and PTA events.

"I've been exposed to the board and the time commitment," he said. "I know some of these people, and I feel it's a pretty good board right now ... I think I can work positively and collaboratively with them."

Miller is a member of both IBEW Local 25 and IUOE Local 30. He believes his professional background would bring a unique perspective to the board.

"I think it can help bring some perspective that doesn't exist, or some understanding or just some insight," he said. He also expressed an interest in expanding students' awareness of BOCES programs



Herald file photo

The district budget vote and school board election will take place on May 20, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

and reducing the stigma associated with trade education. "There's a need for electricians and plumbers and carpenters and HVAC people," Miller said, "but there's a lot of other things BOCES offers as well."

David Huggins

Huggins, 65, is seeking to return to the board after two previous stints, from 2009 to 2012 and from 2016 to 2019. He said he was motivated to run again because he believes the district needs to strengthen its academic programs — particularly literacy offerings like the Wilson reading program — and better serve its increasingly diverse student population.

"I have not seen a lot of progress since I left the board in other areas," Huggins said. "I think that they need my institutional knowledge of the district to come back and help."

Huggins, a restaurant owner, has four sons — two who graduated from Glen Cove High in 2005 and 2009, and two currently enrolled in the district. Ryan is in seventh grade, and Declan is in fourth. Huggins has long been active in city athletics and civic life. He is a founder of Glen Cove Junior Lacrosse, and has served on the boards of various local youth sports organizations for more than 30 years. In 2024, he received the city's Lifetime Achievement Award for recreation and sports.

"I've always thought I was the best candidate for the job," Huggins said. "We need to go in different directions. We have children who don't speak any English coming into school ... and we need to have better programs."





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Special Needs Children and Grandchildren

Parents or grandparents of a disabled child should leave assets to a Special Needs Trust, to avoid the child being disqualified from government benefits, such as SSI and Medicaid. These trusts, however, offer traps for the unwary. Since payments to the child will generally reduce their SSI payments dollar for dollar, trustees of such trusts should be advised to make payments directly to the providers of goods and services. Preserving SSI benefits is crucial, since eligibility for SSI determines eligibility for Medicaid.

In other words, if SSI is lost the recipient also loses their Medicaid benefits. In addition, any benefits previously paid by Medicaid may be recovered. As such, one also has to be mindful of bequests from well-meaning grandparents. Similarly, if a sibling dies without a will, a share of their estate may go to the special needs brother or sister by law. The Special Needs Trust must be carefully drafted so that it only allows payments for any benefits over and above what the government provides.

There are two kinds of Special Needs Trusts – first party and third party. The first party trust is set up by a parent, grandparent, legal guardian or court using the child's own money, either through earnings, an inheritance that was left directly to them or, perhaps, a personal injury award. Recent changes in the law allow the special needs child to establish their own first party Special Needs Trust if they are legally competent to engage in contractual matters. These first party trusts require a "payback" provision, meaning that on the death of the child beneficiary, the trust must pay back the state for any government benefits received.

A third party trust is usually set up by a parent or grandparent, using their own money. Here, no "payback" provision is required because it was not the child's own money that funded the trust and the parent or grandparent had no obligation to leave any assets to the child. On the death of the child beneficiary, the balance of the trust is paid out to named beneficiaries.

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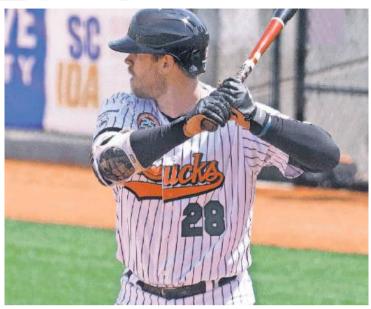






STEPPING OUT





Long Island Ducks unveil new look for 25th anniversary season

Team unveils new turf, new roster and fresh energy

By Brian Norman

A retooled roster, a brand-new playing surface and a new catering partner are all part of the Long Island Ducks' fresh identity as they kick off their 25th anniversary season.

Founded in 2000 by Frank Boulton and former New York Met Bud Harrelson — who died on Jan. 11, 2024 — the team has undergone major changes heading into this year. One of the biggest updates fans will notice when they enter Fairfield Properties Ballpark this season is installing an allartificial turf field.

The organization partnered with Suffolk County and County Executive Ed Romaine to remake the entire field turf, including both the mound and home plate.

Michael Pfaff, Ducks president and chief business officer is excited to embark on this new chapter for the team.

"We are very appreciative of County Executive Ed Romaine and his staff and everybody that has helped us get to where we are with the new field," Pfaff says. It's fun, you know, to be able not to have to worry about the field as much as we used to "

In addition to the new field, fans will choose from a diffrent food menu. The team will be working with The Pizzeria, in Central Islip, as its new catering partner for the press box this season.

The Ducks' roster will also feature several new faces — many of whom fans may already recognize.

After being plagued by midseason departures last season, the Ducks closed out their 2024 campaign with a 64-62 record, finishing third in the Atlantic League's North Division.

This year, the organization has looked to fill some holes, welcoming 14 first-year players to the team.

Among the new arrivals are former major leaguers John Gant, Zach Plesac and Seth Beer.

Gant, a six-year major league veteran, was named the Ducks' Opening Day starter. He gave up two runs in the team's 9–1 loss to the Lancaster Storm on April 25.

Plesac, one of the more notable names on the Ducks roster, spent six seasons in the major leagues — five with the Cleveland Guardians — and made his debut against the New York Yankees, allowing just two runs over seven innings.

Beer spent two seasons in the major leagues and battled with injuries, only playing in 43 games for the Arizona Diamondbacks

At just 28-years-old, first baseman Beer says he's focused on making it back to the majors and has been struck by the professionalism the Ducks have shown during his short time



- Fairfield Properties Ballpark
- 3 Courthouse Dr., Central Islip
- For more information and schedule, go to liducks.com

on Long Island

"I've been very impressed. They run this group like an affiliate or big-league group," he says. "There's a lot of guys here with quite a bit of service time that would vouch for the same thing."

Second-year Manager Lew Ford relates how the game has changed to emphasize speed and defense to win.

He highlights the addition of catcher Justin O'Conner, who threw out 49 percent of base stealers last season and

caught-stealing rate of 44 percent.

Ford added that's what he looked for in his new additions during the offseason, with the aim of continuing to steal bases and limit opponent base runners.

"The game now is moving a lot towards speed. Last year, I think our team stole 190 bases, and we're looking to build off that this year. We really look for players that can run, play defense, but also, have some power in the middle of the lineup," he says.

Ford spent a franchise-best 13 years on the team as a player, leading in hits, and being a key contributor to three championships with the team.

He reports that his new acquisitions seem excited to be on the roster, and. pf course, he'd like everyone can stay healthy and be on the field.

"Last year, we lost a lot of guys, a lot of turnovers, but the goal this year is to keep everybody on the field, keep everybody healthy, I'm very excited about it, we've got great team right now," Ford says.

"A lot of guys are very excited to be here, ready to get going. And you know, those are a lot of the new guys. So it's a great atmosphere right now in the clubhouse."



Courtesy Long Island Ducks

- Top left: Pitcher John Gant is a first-year member of the Ducks who has 24 career MLB wins on his resume.
- Top right: First baseman Seth Beer split last season between Double-A and Triple-A for the Pittsburgh Pirates' organization.



'Fearless'

Relive the magic of Taylor Swift's biggest hits at "Fearless – The Taylor Swift Experience." Recognized as one of the most prestigious Taylor Swift tribute act in the U.S., this award-winning show delivers an unparalleled recreation of a live Taylor Swift concert. With dynamic band and meticulous attention to detail, the concert captures the essence of Taylor's legendary tours. Starring Jennifer Westrip — a dedicated Swiftie who prides herself on knowing every song on every album — this concert is a dream come true for Swifties everywhere. Not only does Jenn embody Taylor's iconic look, mannerisms, and energy, she gets the audience involved every step of the way in her energetic concert — in true Taylor style. Of course, you'll hear all features all of Taylor's beloved hits. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to Taylor's music, this energetic performance will have you singing along and "shaking it off" all night long. This is more than a concert
— it's a celebration of the music and magic that's made Taylor Swift a global sensation

Friday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. \$46 and \$36. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org or (516) 767-6444



Brian Regan

Critics, fans and fellow comedians agree: Brian Regan is one of the most respected comedians around. Vanity Fair has cited him as "The funniest stand-up alive," and Entertainment Weekly hails him, "Your favorite comedian's favorite comedian." Having built his 30-plus year career on the strength of his material alone, Brian's non-stop tour continuously fills venues across North America. His comedic talent extends beyond the stage, with two acclaimed Netflix specials, "Brian Regan: Nunchucks And Flamethrowers" and "Brian Regan: On The Rocks, showcasing his knack for finding humor in everyday situations. He also starred in a Netflix series, "Stand Up And Away! With Brian Regan," and even made history with "Brian Regan: Live From Radio City Music Hall," among his many endeavours.

Sunday, May 11, 7 p.m. \$99.50, \$79.50, \$69.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FALENDAR

MAY 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) that publicly launched the movement. The direct followup to the well-received 2023 exhibit, "Our Gilded Age," it comparably links the period's

On Exhibit

fine arts. On view through June 15. • Where: 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor.

decorative arts, Art Deco, to the

- Time: Ongoing Contact: (516) 484-9337 or nassaumuseum.org

signature innovation in the

'Elephant & Piggie's We Are in a Play!'

The beloved musical adventure, ripped from the pages of Mo Willems' beloved award-winning, best-selling children's books, is back on stage at Long Island Children's Museum. Willems' classic characters Elephant and Piggie storm the stage in a rollicking musical romp filled with plenty of pachydermal peril and swiney suspense perfect for young audiences.

- Where: Museum Row,
- Garden City
 Time: Also May 9 and 11, and May 14-15, times vary
- Contact: licm.org or call (516) 224-5800

MAY

Little Learners' Busy Bees

Planting Fields Little Learners series continues with a buzzing adventure for

the little ones. Families discover how these tiny but mighty creatures help our environment flourish. Through fun activities, explore how bees spread pollen and help plants grow, making them essential to nature's magic. Each child also gets to craft their very own beehive thumbprint masterpiece and enjoy a lively, buzzing game that brings the wonders of pollination to life. For ages 2-5. Registration required. \$15 per child.

- Where: 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- Time: 1-2 p.m.
- Contact: plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

Mother's Day luncheon

Celebrate Mother's Day with a special luncheon at Glen Cove Senior Center. Enjoy good food, good company, and a festive atmosphere.



MAY

'Murr' goes solo

Get ready to laugh — and laugh you will. Prepare for an unforgettable night filled with comedy, chaos, and wild antics as James "Murr" Murray from Impractical Jokers hits the stage on The Errors Tour! Known for his outrageous pranks, laugh-out-loud moments, and unpredictable humor, Murr brings the party to you with a show packed full of hilarious stories, ridiculous mishaps, and plenty of jaw-dropping moments. With his signature style of comedy and a few unexpected surprises, Murr will have you in stitches from start to finish. It's a non-stop ride of comedy, antics, and pure fun you won't want to miss! For more

than a decade, Murr and his lifelong friends — Sal, Joe and Q — have been making audiences laugh across the country, and now he's bringing the laughs to you! Murr • Where: The Paramount, Live is hysterical — of course, interactive — stand-up comedy, in true "Impractical Jokers" style, like you've never seen! Hangout with Murr as he tells funny stories, shows off his own personal never-before-seen videos from "Impractical Jokers" and • Time: 7 p.m. plays Jokers "live" on stage with the audience. \$65, \$55, \$45, \$35.

- 370 New York Ave., Huntington
- Contact: ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com

• Where: 130 Glen St., Glen Cove

• Time: Noon-1 p.m. • Contact: (516) 759-9610

MAY

Bug Safari

Families are sure to enjoy a walk on the wild side at Old Westbury Gardens. Hunt elusive grasshoppers,

butterflies, predatory insects and other creepy, crawly creatures alongside entomologist Jeffry Petracca, of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory's DNA Learning Center. Learn about the local insects that call Long Island home! Bring a butterfly net and a collecting jar if you have one. Included in your tour is a bug themed craft, and scavenger hunt. Meet at the Beech Tree. For all ages. Registration required. \$23 child and adult, \$20 child and senior adult (62+).

- Where: 71 Old Westbury Road. Old Westbury
- Time: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Contact: oldwestburygardens.org

YMCA at Glen Cove 5K Run/Walk

Participate in the YMCA of Glen Cove's 8th annual 5K Run/Walk in memory of Nicole Karousos. This event is part of the YMCA of Long Island's "Run for a Cause" 5K Series. Proceeds provide local

individuals and families in need with access to the Y's healthy living, youth programs, and support services.

- Where: 125 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove
- Time: 8:45 a.m.
- Contact: (516) 671-8270

Art Explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Nassau County Museum of Art. Kids and their adult partners can talk about and make art together. Enjoy reading and play in the Reading Room, and contribute to The Lobby Project, a collaborative art installation. Registration required.

- Where: 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor.
- Time: noon-3 p.m.
- Contact: (516) 484-9337 or nassaumuseum.org

Shed the meds

Safely dispose of unused, expired, or unwanted prescription medications and medical supplies during the "Shed the Meds" special recycling event, a collaboration between the Substance Abuse Free Environment, City of Glen Cove, the Glen Cove Police Department. and EMS. Proper disposal helps prevent drug misuse and protects the environment.

- Where: Behind the Glen Cove Police Department, 1 Bridge St.
- Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Contact: (516) 676-1000

Spring fun with Time for Kids

Bring your kids ages 18 months to 5 to Time for Kids at Glen Cove Public Library. The engaging, active preschool program features interactive activities tailored to young learners.

- Where: 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove
- Time: 11 a.m.-noon
- Contact: glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

MAY

Medicaid **Enrollment** Assistance

Facilitated enrollers from the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital

Council, trained by the New York State Department of Health, will be available in person at Glen Cove Public Library. They will assist adults and children who are blind or disabled, as well as individuals over the age of 65, enroll in appropriate Medicaid programs.

• Where: 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove

- Time: Noon-4 p.m.
- Contact: For call Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council at (631) 435-3000. For library inquiries, glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

MAY

IDA/LEAC Board Meeting

Glen Cove Industrial Development $\stackrel{\cdot}{\text{Agency}} \text{ and Local}$ **Economic Assistance**

Corporation) meet. Session will be livestreamed in real time and a recording will be posted afterward, in accordance with Section 857 of the New York General Municipal Law, as amended.

- Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Contact: glencoveida.org or (516) 676-2000

City Council Meeting

The Glen Cove City Council convenes for its regular meeting. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate.

- Where: Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St.
- Time: 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Contact: (516) 676-2000

Book Club

MAY Join with the **Holocaust Memorial** & Tolerance Center of Nassau County for a Zoom book club discussion of "The Warsaw

Orphan" by Kelly Rimmer. The novel follows Elzbieta Rabinek, a young Polish gentile living just outside the Warsaw ghetto, who risks everything to help imprisoned Jewish families. Her journey into the heart of the resistance reveals a powerful story of courage, deception, and heroism. The discussion is led by Dr. Linda Burghardt, HMTC's Scholar-in-Residence. Registration required.

- Time: 1-2 p.m.
- Contact: hmtcli.org or (516) 571-8040

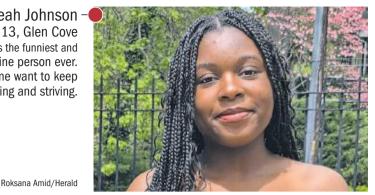
Having an event?

Items on the Calendar 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 kbloom@ liherald com

VEWFINDER What makes your mom so special?

By The Herald Staff

Leah Johnson age 13, Glen Cove My mom is the funniest and most genuine person ever. That makes me want to keep trying and striving.



Ava Capobianco age 12, Glen Cove She's strong in many ways. She has helped me through the good and the bad.



Roksana Amid/Herald



Sofia Stanton age 8, Sea Cliff

My mom is special because she loves cheering for me and my brother on the sidelines when we are playing sports. She is always happy and good at everything she does.

Photo courtesy Jordan Loftus



Zara Matubbar age 11, Glen Head

My mom is special because every day she does so much for me. She is the nicest person I know and just has the biggest heart in the whole world. My brother and I love her so much!

Photo courtesy Jordan Loftus



Elijah Finler and Evan Finler age 11, right, age 12, Oyster Bay Elijah: She takes care of me. Evan: She's bilingual and she cooks for me.

Will Sheeline/Herald



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Discover what's HERALD coming in the



Your Health

This Your Health edition highlights mental health—an essential yet often overlooked part of wellness—offering expert advice, local resources, and real stories to support emotional well-being and manage stress, anxiety, and depression.



Great Homes

Great Homes showcases current listings, local realtors, and real estate businesses in a large, full-color broadsheet—75% bigger than tabloids—mailed with Herald papers for targeted, community-focused advertising success.



Long Beach Guide

Discover Long Beach—a vibrant seaside city with iconic beaches, thriving businesses, rich history, and diverse neighborhoods—celebrated in this guide for residents, visitors, and anyone who loves this unique community.



Freeport Guide

Discover Freeport—a dynamic waterfront community known for its scenic canals, bustling Nautical Mile, vibrant businesses, rich history, and diverse neighborhoods—celebrated in this guide for residents, visitors, and all who love this unique village.





PUBLIC NOTICES

Please note that the Planning Board meetings take place on the first and third Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise specified. Please see below tentative dates for 2025. Meetings of the Planning Board are conducted in the Main Chambers, City Hall 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY.

Hall 5 Gleff 3	licel, diei			
PLANNING	BOARD	2025	PUBLIC	HEARIN
CALENDAR	25			7 205: -
January 7, 20				7:30PM
January 21, 2				7:30PM
February 4, 20				7:30PM
February 18, 2				7:30PM
March 4, 202				7:30PM
March 18, 20	25			7:30PM
April 1, 2025				7:30PM
April 15, 2025	5			7:30PM
May 6, 2025				7:30PM
May 20, 2025	;			7:30PM
June 3, 2025				7:30PM
June 17, 2025	5			7:30PM
July 1, 2025				7:30PM
July 15, 2025				7:30PM
August 5, 202	25			7:30PM
August 19, 20				7:30PM
September 2,	2025			7:30PM
September 16	5, 2025			7:30PM
October 7, 20	25			7:30PM
October 21, 2	.025			7:30PM
November 4,	2025			7:30PM
November 18	, 2025			7:30PM
December 2,	2025			7:30PM
December 16	, 2025			7:30PM
153458				

LEGAL NOTICE

Please note that the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings occur on the third Thursday of each month, unless otherwise specified. Please see below tentative dates for 2025. Meetings of the Glen Cove Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) are conducted in the Main Chambers, City Hall 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS 2025 PUBLIC

LOMING DOMINE OF	2023	I ODLIV
HEARING CALENDAR		
January 16, 2025	7	7:30PM
February 20, 2025	7	:30PM
March 20, 2025	7	7:30PM
April 17, 2025		7:30PM
May 15, 2025	7	':30PM
June 19, 2025	7	7:30PM
July 17, 2025	7	':30PM
August 21, 2025	7	7:30PM
September 18, 2025	7	':30PM
October 16, 2025		7:30PM
November 20, 2025	7	7:30PM
December 18, 2025	7	:30PM
153459		

LEGAL NOTICE North Shore School District 112 Franklin Ave. Sea Cliff, New York **NOTICE TO BIDDERS** behalf cooperative of school Nassau districts in County, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District, Sea Cliff, New in accordance Section 103 of General Municipal Law, invites the hereby submission of sealed from reputable qualified for the and contractors provision of labor and materials for following contract: Bid for Cooperative General Ventilation Refrigeration Repairs & Services Bid receipt day and time: May 20th, 2025 at 11:00am This is a Cooperative

Participating

school districts are as

follows: Baldwin UFSD,

Bellmore UFSD, Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, Bethpage UFSD, Carle Place UFSD, East Meadow UFSD, East Rockaway UFSD, East Williston UFSD, Elmont UFSD, Floral Park-Bellerose UFSD, Freeport UFSD, Garden City UFSD, Great Neck UFSD. Hempstead UFSD. Herricks UFSD, Hicksville UFSD, Island Trees UFSD, Jericho UFSD. Levittown UFSD. Locust Vallev CSD. Beach CSD, Long Lynbrook UFSD, Manhasset UFSD. UFSD. Massapequa UFSD, Merrick New Hyde Park-GCP, North Bellmore UFSD, Merrick UFSD, North North Shore CSD, Oceanside UFSD, Plainedge UFSD, Plainview/Old CSD, Port Bethpage Washington UFSD, Rockville Center UFSD, Roosevelt UFSD, Seaford UFSD, Syosset CSD, Uniondale UFSD, Stream Valley Stream **UFSD**

Valley Stream #30, Wantagh UFSD UFSD, West Hempstead

Bids for the term of July 1. 2025 through June 2026 until above-stated hour of prevailing time and date at the Business Office of North Shore Central School District located at 112 Franklin Sea Cliff, NY Promptly 11:00am prevailing time on May 20, 2025, bids will be opened read aloud be opened and in this manner will read the District from Offices, located at 112

Franklin Avenue, Sea Cliff NY 11579. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained via email on May 8th 2025, Monday through between the Friday. hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm, excluding holidays. Requests for bid documents must be via Mathew Cheravallil cheravallilm@northsho reschools.org questions this cooperative bid shall be submitted in writing and faxed to the attention of John A. Hall at 516-277-7833.

Bids must be presented standard the proposal form in the manner designated and as required by the specifications. All bids must be enclosed in sealed envelopes which are clearly marked on outside: "North Shore Central School District -Cooperative Bid for General A/C, Ventilation Refrigeration Repairs & Service" Bids shall remain firm for a period of forty-five (45) days following the date of the bid opening. Fach board education reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all bids, or to accept that bid

which, in the Boards of Education's judgment, is in the best interest of the School District. The Boards of Education further reserve the right to consider experience, service and reputation in the above referenced fields. In addition, the Boards of Education reserve the right to consider the financial responsibility specific qualifications, set forth in the bid specifications, of the prospective bidder in evaluation of the bids

and award of contracts

BOARD OF EDUCATION

North shore Central

By: Elizabeth Ciampi, District Clerk

To Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232 LEGAL NOTICE Central North Shore School District 112 Franklin Ave. Sea Cliff, New York TΩ NOTICE IFGΔI BIDDERS

behalf of cooperative of school districts in Nassau County, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District, Sea Cliff, New York, in accordance Section 103 of General Municipal Law, herby invites submission of sealed from reputable qualified and contractors for provision of labor and . materials for following contract: for Cooperative Rid Universal Recycling

Waste Wednesday May 21st,2025 at 11:00am This is a Cooperative Participating school districts are as follows: Baldwin UFSD, Bellmore UFSD. Bellmore-Merrick UFSD, Bethpage UFSD, Carle Place UFSD, East Meadow UFSD, East

Rockaway UFSD, East Williston UFSD, Elmont UFSD, Floral Park-Bellerose LIFSD Freeport UFSD, Garden City UFSD, Great Neck UFSD, Hempstead Hempstead UFSD, Herricks UFSD, Hicksville UFSD, Island Trees UFSD, Jericho UFSD, Levittown UFSD, Valley Locust CSD, Long Beach Lynbrook UFSD Manhasset HESD Massapequa UFSD, Merrick UFSD, NHP-GCP UFSD, North Bellmore UFSD, North Merrick UFSD, North Shore CSD, Oceanside UFSD, Plainedge UFSD,

Plainview-Old Bethpage UFSD, Port Washington Rockville Center UFSD, Roosevelt HESD Seaford UFSD, Syosset CSD, Uniondale UFSD, Stream Valley Stream #24 #30, Vallev Stream Wantagh UFSD, West Hempstead UFSD.

Bids for the term of July 1, 2025 through June 2026 through received until above-stated hour of prevailing time and date at the Business excluding for Requests Office of the North Shore Central School documents sent via District located at 112 Mathew Franklin Ave, Sea Cliff, New York 11579, at which time and place all bids will be publicly reschools.org.

Hall at 516-277-7805.

the . standard proposal form in the manner designated and as required by the specifications. All bids must be enclosed in sealed envelopes which are clearly marked on outside: "North Shore Central School District -cooperative for "Universal Waste Recycling" Bids period of forty-five (45) days following the date of the bid opening. Fach board education reserves the

shall remain firm for a

right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all bids, or to accept that bid which, in the Boards of Education's judgment, is in the best interest of the School District. The Boards of Education further reserve the right to consider experience. service, and reputation the right to and of the Central Ciampi,

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Role reversals

Books

ANN

DIPIETRO

ear Great Book Guru, I am looking forward to Celebrate Sea Cliff Day this coming Saturday. I'm

particularly excited about Great Gatsby Trivia on the Village Green. But I really need a short but compelling read to recommend to my book club. Any suggestions?

Sea Cliff Day Celebrant

Dear Sea Cliff Day Celebrant,

I just finished a fascinating novel – "Audition" by Katie Kitamura. The story opens with a middle-aged actress standing outside a New York City restaurant deciding if she should go in to meet Xavier, a young student.

She almost turns away, but no... she joins him and a strange but beautiful story unfolds. Is he her son (impossible she explains) and is that Toma her husband who she sees across the room and why is he here? There is a definite sense of mystery and foreboding.

With the next chapter a whole new story begins. In this version she and

Toma are home with Xavier who is now their son. While we quickly realize she is an unreliable narrator, we are now forced to deal with two totally different narratives. Is she acting in two distinct plays and who is her audience?

The roles that parents and children play in different stages are described in exquisite detail, but when Hana, a fourth character. joins the family, roles shift once again. Throughout, we

are confronted with the reality that "all the world's a stage, and we are merely players." A novel that will perplex and delight – highly recommended.

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at annmdipietro@gmail.com.

NEWS BRIEF

Road closures near YMCA on May 10

Several roads in Glen Cove will be temporarily closed on Saturday, May 10, for the "5K in Memory of Nicole Karousos," city officials announced. The closures will take place from approximately 8:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. to ensure the safety of participants during the event.

The impacted roads include Walnut Road near Glen Cove High School, Old Tappan Road, Lattingtown Road, and Dosoris Lane from Lattingtown to the YMCA. Motorists are advised to plan accordingly and use alternate routes during the closure period.

The 5K run honors the memory of Nicole Karousos and is expected to draw local participants and supporters. The City of Glen Cove expressed appreciation for residents' cooperation and apologized for any inconvenience caused by the temporary closures. Normal traffic patterns will resume after the event concludes



opened and read aloud. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the same office beginning Thursday May 8th 2025, Monday between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. holidays. must be email to Cheravallil Cheravallilm@northsho Αll questions regarding this cooperative bid

shall be submitted in writing and faxed to the attention of John A. Bids must be presented

fields. In addition, the Boards of Education reserve consider the financial responsibility specific qualifications, set forth in the bid specifications, of prospective bidder evaluation of the bids and award of contracts. BOARD OF EDUCATION North shore School District By: Elizabeth District Clerk

in the above referenced

HERALD MCIKET PICE TO PLACE AN AD CALL 516-569-4000 PRESS 5





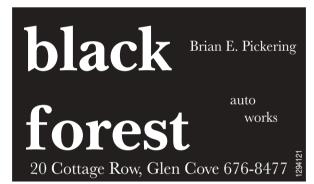
















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OPINIONS

Why our partnership with ICE matters

know the

value of

working with

federal partners

on high-profile

investigations.

s someone who has dedicated his life to public service — as a New York City Police Department detective, a volunteer firefighter, and now as a county legislator — I've seen firsthand what it takes to keep our communities safe. I've walked into danger when others were running out.



SCOTT STRAUSS

I've responded to the worst calls imaginable. And I've worked closely with law enforcement at every level to protect innocent lives.

That's why Nassau County's partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is needed. This is not about politics

— it's about public safety. It's about giving our officers the resources they need to take violent criminals off our streets and out of our neighborhoods.

During my time with the NYPD, I supported our federal partners on high-profile investigations. I know the value of those relationships. Today our Nassau County police are doing the same, embedding 10 detectives with ICE to target gang members, sex traffickers, drug

smugglers and organized theft crews. We're also designating space in our correctional facilities so these individuals can be held securely until ICE can take custody of them. These aren't minor

offenders — we're talking about serious criminals who pose a real threat to our residents.

Just look at what happened last month in Westbury. A dangerous MS-13 kingpin, Joel Vargas-Escobar, known as Momia, was captured thanks to the collaboration between Nassau law enforcement and ICE. He is accused of orchestrating the murders of nearly a dozen people. Without this partnership, he might still be walking our streets. That's not acceptable - not on our watch.

And this isn't an isolated case. Just a few months ago, six members of a South American theft ring were arrested after using high-tech radio jammers to rob a iewelry store. Because of failed bailreform policies, they were released almost immediately. They cut off their ankle monitors and vanished. Under this new program, that would trigger an ICE alert — and our specially trained task force would make sure they're held

This initiative isn't about targeting law-abiding immigrants who are contributing positively to our communities. It's about zeroing in on people who are here illegally and committing serious crimes.

When local and federal authorities work together, our streets are safer. That's the bottom line

But the ICE partnership is just one important tool in a much broader effort to protect Nassau families. As a county legislator, I've been proud to work with County Executive Bruce Blakeman and District Attorney Anne Donnelly to support record investments in public safety — because

keeping our neighborhoods safe requires action at every level of government.

We have put more police officers on the street than ever before, built a stateof-the-art Police Training Village and expanded our patrol presence by 20 percent, leading to reduced crime and quicker response times. We've implemented intelligence-led policing models to ensure that our resources are deployed where they're needed most, and we've brought new technology directly to our officers, including in-car computers, GPS tracking and enhanced communications tools. We've also invested in gunshotdetection systems like ShotSpotter, license plate readers and next-generation radios to help our officers respond faster and more effectively.

We've strengthened the district attornev's office to meet the challenges posed by Albany's reckless criminal justice reforms. That includes increasing staffing, adding prosecutors and support teams, and boosting the D.A.'s budget all without raising taxes. Donnelly is doing exceptional work under difficult circumstances, and we're making sure she has the tools she needs to keep criminals off the streets.

And we're supporting community-oriented policing through expanded Problem-Oriented Policing units — officers who work hand in hand with community members to solve local crime problems and improve quality of life. These units are embedded across Nassau County and making a real difference every day.

All these initiatives - local, state and federal — are working in coordination to deliver results. Nassau remains one of the safest counties in America because we never take public safety for granted.

I've worn the badge. I've run toward danger. I've made the tough calls. And I'll always stand with the men and women who risk their lives to keep us safe.

Scott Strauss represents Nassau County's 9th Legislative District.

Cooperating with ICE will not make us safer

n the early months of President Trump's second term. Long Island has become a battleground in the national debate over whether to welcome or vilify immigrants. Local and national elected officials have sought ways to scapegoat our immigrant neigh-

bors, ostensibly in the name of public safety. But their actions will not make us safer in fact, they will do the opposite.

Cracking down on immigrants makes communities less safe by eroding trust in law enforcement, diverting resources from violent crime and increasing racial profiling, leaving innocent New Yorkers vulnerable to aggressive policing.

Take House Resolution 32, proposed by U.S. Rep. Nick Lalota, whose district comprises most of Suffolk County. H.R. 32 would strip federal funding from cities and states that do not help the federal government carry out mass deportations. This would strip critical public funding — from disaster relief to school meals — all to advance a mass deportation agenda, which would have devastating consequences for our economy and New Yorkers.

Beyond the threat to critical funding, the most alarming impact of H.R. 32 is that it would make our communities less

safe. Policies that limit local law enforcement's involvement in federal immigration activities build trust between communities and law enforcement. When immigrants don't have to fear the cops, they are more likely to feel safe to report crimes and cooperate with police, keep-

ing neighborhoods safer. H.R. 32 also violates the 10th Amendment's protection against federal overreach, and would likely be struck down in court.

But H.R. 32 isn't the only measure being proposed by Long Island elected officials to attack immigrant communities. Earlier this year, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced that the county Police Department had signed an agreement to collude with Immigration

Customs and Enforcement. This gives county police broad authority to question residents about their citizenship and make warrantless arrests. This isn't a simple collaboration — it's a "task force," the most expansive type of collaborative agreement with federal immigration authorities

MURAD

AWAWDEH

This "task force" won't improve safety - in fact, it will distract law enforcement from solving real crimes. When county police are forced to focus on arresting immigrants to score cheap political

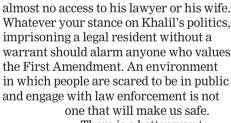
points, violent local crimes like murders, rapes and assaults will be deprioritized. How will this make Nassau County safer?

Making matters worse, this aggressive approach to policing is sure to increase racial profiling and discrimination. When local police are tasked with enforc-

ing federal immigration laws, they are more likely to rely on racial and ethnic stereotypes to determine whom they stop and question. The result is an environment where entire communities — especially Latino, Black and immigrant New Yorkers — live under constant fear. Unlike H.R. 32, Nassau's ICE collaboration is already underway - with chilling consequences.

Long Island is home to over a half-million immigrants — nearly one in five Long Islanders. They account for 22 percent of the region's economic output Many are longstanding members of our community. Is this how we want to treat our neighbors?

To see how cruel and counterproductive these policies are, consider the recent detainment of Mahmoud Khalil, a legal resident and green card-holder abducted by ICE for his role in the protests at Columbia University last year. He was seized without a warrant and sent to a detention center in Louisiana with



There is a better way to address immigration status and keep our communities safe: The New York for All Act. This act, currently before the State Legislature, would prohibit state and local government agencies, including police and sheriffs, from colluding with ICE, disclosing sensitive information, and diverting personnel or other resources to federal immigration enforcement. By passing this act, we'll be one step clos-

er to cultivating safe and vibrant communities for all New Yorkers.

New York for All would let immigrants live without fear, keep state funds from fueling a cruel immigration crackdown, and ensure that local resources serve our communities. It's not just the right thing to do — it will make Long Island safer.

Murad Awawdeh is president and CEO of the New York Immigration Coalition. Melanie Creps is executive director of the Central American Refugee Center.



MELANIE CREPS

OPINIONS

Film tax credit will star in Nassau's economic future

t will give

every reason to

choose our area

over Los Angeles.

filmmakers

studios and

n a state budget littered with radical spending proposals that too often sideline suburban communities like ours, the proposed expansion of the New York State Film Tax Credit is a welcome breath of fresh air—one that will help Nassau County step into the spotlight rather than fade into

ther than lade into the background.



JAKE BLUMENCRANZ

As an assemblyman, I've seen firsthand how film and television production can breathe life into our local economy. From bustling main streets to tuckedaway Gold Coast mansions, our region offers a cinematic backdrop that rivals

anything seen on screen. And thanks to the Empire State Film Production Tax Credit's recently proposed expansion to \$800 million, we're on track to giving studios and independent filmmakers every reason to choose Nassau County and Long Island over Los Angeles.

This isn't about Hollywood glitz. It's about real blue-collar jobs. It's about electricians and carpenters building sets at Grumman Studios. It's about caterers feeding crews filming on our beaches.

It's about hotels hosting producers and local shops outfitting wardrobe departments. When a production sets up in our backyard, dollars start flowing — not just to actors and directors, but to everyday Long Islanders.

That's the true power of the film tax credit: It incentivizes private investment, drives local spending and sends economic ripples across industries. According to state data, film and television production supports more than 57,000 jobs in New York. On Long Island, that number is growing fast — and Nassau County is at the center of the momentum.

The 15th Assembly District is home to two of the most advanced, state-approved sound stages in New York, Gold Coast Studios and Grumman Studios, with a combined 260,000 square feet of production space. Nassau County has attracted HBO's acclaimed "The Gilded Age" to film in our backyard, in Old Bethpage. Our region enjoys both proximity to Manhattan and the logistical ease of suburban filming. Add in our rich tapestry of locations — historic estates, beaches, bustling towns — and you'll see why we're not just a good option for filmmakers; we're the best one.

The benefits go beyond jobs and eco-

nomic activity. These productions often make direct contributions to our public safety infrastructure. Local police departments frequently receive essential funding from production companies for

security support, traffic coordination and overtime pay. That means more resources going directly to our law enforcement agencies, supporting the men and women who keep our communities safe.

Support for this credit isn't confined to one party or region. Promoting economic development through the arts isn't a partisan issue. We all benefit when jobs are created,

small businesses thrive and our communities get the recognition — and investment — they deserve.

Critics will argue that this credit is just another tax break. But let's be honest: Would we rather spend taxpayer dollars on flashy political pet projects with no return, or on a proven program that builds infrastructure, employs our neighbors and showcases the best of what New York has to offer? This tax credit doesn't just pay for itself; it multiplies our investment by drawing talent, tourism and long-term opportunity.

Nassau County already hosts some of the region's most celebrated film festi-

vals, from the Gold Coast Film Festival to the Long Island International Film Expo. These events put our communities on the map, spark local pride and help cultivate the next generation of film-makers. With the expanded tax credit proposed to be in place through 2036, we have a chance to go even further — to establish Long Island as a national production hub, rivaling the likes of Atlanta, Toronto or even L.A.

And let's not forget: Every production that chooses Nassau County over another state or country brings an implicit vote of confidence in our workforce, our quality of life and our future. By supporting this credit, we're sending a message that Nassau County and Long Island are open for business, and ready to lead.

So the next time you catch a movie that features a familiar mansion or a beach you've walked, remember, that's not just a film location. It's an engine of economic growth. It's a stage for local jobs. It's a vision of our future — one in which we're not just watching stories unfold, but helping to write them.

The film tax credit isn't perfect. But in another year when so many budget items are set to leave suburban Long Islanders scratching their heads, this one gets it right.

Jake Blumencranz represents the 15th Assembly District.

We're hooked on the daily grind

nd guess whose

tariffs will make

our small daily

pleasure even

more of a luxury.

wake up thinking about my breakfast coffee.

The coffee pot was never much of a consideration, because analysts always said that the cheapest electric coffee maker performed comparably to more expensive models. Hello, Mr. Coffee. We were together for years.

RANDI KREISS

Now,however,a Nespresso machine commands the countertop, with all the bells and whistles.

Slowly but inevitably, we bought into the whole coffee craze that demands exotic beans and unique flavors. We love our coffee machine, which produces rich

espresso with milky foam. Finding the best cup of coffee has become a national obsession, with its own lingo and prestige products. Coffee drinking has become like everything else these days—bonkers. And obsessive. And expensive.

With social media fanning the fires of coffee rituals and preferences, you can't just grab a cup of joe anymore. And heaven forbid you like almond milk with your coffee and the café only serves oat milk, or (kill me now) non-dairy creamer? If you want a skinny latte and you only find half-and-half in the fridge, it kind of stops the peaceful rollout of the day.

The New York Times reported last week that a physicist at the University of Pennsylvania is using fluid dynamics to study the most efficient way to pour water over coffee grinds in a funnel. Apparently slow and high is the way to go.

Bonkers.

I'll tell you about my most unusual cup of coffee. We discovered it in Indonesia, on a tour of a coffee

plantation. Our guide led us to the coffee shack where the local specialty was being produced. What I saw were cages of coatimundis, large rat-like animals indigenous to the region. They are fed coffee beans, which they eventually excrete. Then workers extract the beans from their poop, wash them, roast them and make coffee.

I did drink the coffee, and I did get sick, but it's unclear whether the germs came from the unusual journey of the beans or the bad local water.

My jazzy new coffee machine uses alu-

minum "pods," which cost \$1 a pop. And not just any coffee. I must have Café Bustelo, a super robust Cuban variety. I don't believe rodents have anything to do with its process from plant to pod. Café Buste-

lo started out in a Brooklyn grocery, developed by a coffee maker who emigrated from Cuba with the recipe.

I confess to feeling cranky if I don't get my coffee just the way I like it. If we're on the road and a motel serves dishwater, it's a bummer start to the day. I realize it all sounds entitled and spoiled. Because it is. Consider the disturbing world spinning ever further out of control. How does a

cup of coffee signify? I think it does, because it's a tiny way to control some small daily event in our lives. We can make a good cup of coffee every day, exactly the way we enjoy it, with sugar and 1 percent milk, but we can't move the world on environmental issues, or gun control, or corruption in government or rising authoritarianism.

Many people are frustrated with the state of the union and searching for ways to become empowered, to do something, anything, to make things better. So we become obsessed with our coffee. And we

obsess about the machine we use at home to brew. Nespresso? Press? Drip? And we obsess about the mugs that hold our coffee. Porcelain? Ceramic? Double-walled glass? We can sweat the details because it's relatively easy, and satisfying. We can treat ourselves to a luxury experience even though the markets are tanking.

The bad news is that the administration's new tariffs are going to make our small daily pleasure even more of a luxury. According to CBS News, "Coffee prices were already sky-high before President Trump's tariffs, with unfavorable growing conditions in Brazil, Vietnam and other key markets crimping supplies. The retail price of ground coffee hit an all-time high in March of \$7.38 a pound, up 84 percent from \$4.30 in January 2020, government data shows. Currently, a 10 percent base global tariff is in place on all U.S. coffee imports. Countries including India, Indonesia, Vietnam and other coffee-producing nations are subject to even higher levies, which the Trump administration has paused

People are frazzled. They may not abide going without coffee. Suddenly this is reminding me of the other beverageinspired pushback, the Boston Tea Party.

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HERALD

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Celebrating the women who hold us together

very year when Mother's Day rolls around, we pause to recognize the women who have shaped our lives. We buy flowers, send cards, treat them to brunch, post sentimental photos.

But beyond the familiar gestures lies an enduring truth: Mothers aren't simply caregivers or beloved relatives. They are the architects of family life, the silent engineers who bind generations together with sacrifice, patience and unwavering love.

Mother's Day is about celebrating a unique connection — a bond that does not falter in hard times or diminish over distance. Mothers are often the first to teach us what unconditional love means. They heal skinned knees and broken hearts. They offer wisdom when we are lost, encouragement when we are uncertain, and comfort when the world is weighing on us. Their influence is stitched into every chapter of our lives.

These days, the definition of family is broader and more complex than ever. Many people are raised not just by their mothers. Grandmothers, especially, often play an irreplaceable role. They are the keepers of family stories, bridging the past with the present. A grandmother's house is often the place where traditions are preserved, where hand-

written recipes are passed down and history is revisited around a crowded dinner table. They remind us that we are part of something larger than ourselves—that our roots are deep and our family stories long.

And let's not forget aunts — the often unsung heroines of extended-family life. Whether they are offering guidance, lending an ear or standing in when a parent cannot, aunts provide critical support and perspective. They expand the circle of care, offering children multiple models of what love, strength and compassion can look like.

All of these women do more than nurture. They build. They remember birthdays, organize family reunions, manage logistics that seem invisible until they stop being done. They are there at graduations, weddings and funerals, celebrations and crises. They are emotional anchors — steady, reliable and vital. They invest in the lives of others, giving generously of themselves so that others can thrive.

Perhaps the best Mother's Day celebrations, then, are not limited to traditional definitions of motherhood. They offer a chance to honor all women who do the quiet, essential work of binding families together. Sunday is a day to recognize that the foundations of our lives

were built not by grand gestures, but by everyday acts of love and loyalty.

Too often, this labor is taken for granted. The emotional work of keeping a family strong does not come with tangible awards, other than those flowers and cards. It often comes without any acknowledgment. Yet without it, the relationships that hold families together would weaken and fray.

On Mother's Day, we have the opportunity to do more than say thank you. We can take more time to truly venerate the women who have seen us through our highest highs and lowest lows, recognizing their sacrifices, celebrating their achievements and affirming their indispensable roles in our lives.

We can also use the day to reflect on how we might carry their example forward — to build communities based on care, resilience and unconditional love. After all, the lessons taught by mothers, grandmothers and aunts extend far beyond our homes. They shape the way we move through the world.

On Sunday, let's celebrate all the women who make families possible — not just with the usual gifts, but also with our full hearts. Let's reflect on the myriad invisible, irreplaceable labors of love that bind us together, generation after generation.

LETTERS

Which law enforcement does Peter King support?

To the Editor:

Re Peter King's op-ed, "There should be nothing but support for law enforcement," last week: I greatly enjoy Mr. King's essays, and his long service to our country in Congress is warmly appreciated. But, respectfully, I do not understand how his support for President Trump is not in direct contradiction with his stance that there should be nothing but support for law enforcement. How can King possibly explain away that Trump pardoned over 1,000 criminals who beat police mercilessly on Jan. 6, 2021?

Reports say there was no vetting of each case, despite Attorney General Pam Bondi stating there would be. They were simply granted a blanket pardon. It's unconscionable. Several police officers, as King is no doubt aware, died as a result of that dark day. And it was Trump, who lied to our fellow Americans that he had actually won the 2020 election, who caused it.

I have empathy for those who believed the election was stolen. But violence, particularly against law enforcement, is never the answer. What an abhorrent message those pardons send.

I am also very distressed at reports that the administration has instructed its ICE agents to enter homes without lawful warrants. There are



more guns than people in our country. This cannot be justified. It seems calculated to put ICE agents at grave risk of having to engage in firefights with those who believe they are being attacked by criminals. Purposefully putting law enforce-

ment at risk in this manner is unfathomable, unless the government wants a tragedy it can use for its own nefarious purposes.

I agree that Trump's pro-cop sentiment was helpful to his re-election campaign.

OPINIONS

A courageous, humble pope who sought common ground

congress would

Francis's 2015

benefit from

revisiting

challenge.

just returned from Pope Francis's funeral. It was a great honor to be a member of the small official U.S. delegation. As his simple wooden coffin, marked by a plain cross, emerged into the Rome sunlight, a ripple of



TOM SUOZZI

applause rose from the crowd a spontaneous act of gratitude for a man who lived a life of service, humility and love.

As I stood there in the earlymorning quiet, I found myself reflecting not just on the life of this extraordinary man, but on the lessons he and my

faith teach — to love one another, to forgive one another, and not to judge one another. I recommitted myself to try and live by those values even as I know I will do so imperfectly. As I stood there, I prayed not only for those I love, but also for those with whom I struggle. That's

what Francis would have asked of me.

I also reflected on his example in demonstrating that humility matters, that dialogue is important, and that real

leadership begins not by judging others, but by listening to and trying to understand them. Those are great lessons for today's politics and government as well.

My wife, Helene, and I were fortunate to meet the pope in September 2023. He spoke with us, placed a zucchetto on his head, and then handed it to me. I clutched that small, circular cap tightly — a symbol of humility, of faith, and of an encounter that I will carry forever.

Francis was a rare moral voice in a world too often drowning in noise, division and hatred. He lived simply. He carried his own bags. He drove his own car. He slipped out at night to serve the poor, he visited prisoners, and called us to look for God in the face of the poor, the homeless and immigrants. He chose

simplicity over pomp. His leadership wasn't about power — it was about service.

When he addressed Congress in 2015,

he challenged its members to seek a "renewal of the spirit of cooperation," to recognize that dialogue and respect for differences are the foundations of a healthy society.

Today that spirit feels endangered. Too often, our politics rewards division over dialogue, and grandstanding over governing. Francis showed us another way — a path rooted in humility, service and cour-

age.

As a member of Congress and a cochair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, I believe we must see this moment for what it is: an emergency. Not just of policies, but of principles. And Francis, more than any recent world figure, showed us what principled leadership could look like.

He believed in the hard work of

human encounter. "In dialogue," he once said, "everybody wins, and no one loses." That idea has almost disappeared from today's political vocabulary, replaced by bitter partisanship and permanent campaign warfare.

Democracy, at its core, is a discipline of compromise. It is not about party victory. It is about shared responsibility. And the Constitution we all swore to defend was built on exactly that ethic.

Francis famously asked, "Who am I to judge?" Those five words weren't just a pastoral moment: they were a reminder that none of us holds all the answers, that understanding must supplant judgment. We need not agree with our political opponents, but we need to stop holding them in contempt.

Francis will no longer be here on Earth to nudge us forward anymore. But his example remains — a quiet but insistent call to do better, to be better.

And sometimes, that hard work simply begins with a small act: walking across the aisle.

Tom Suozzi represents the 3rd Congressional District.

LETTERS

But it seems it was all an act. No president who sides with cops would release the Jan. 6 criminals for only God knows what purpose. One survivor of the violence that day, Officer Daniel Hodges, testified last week before the Senate Judiciary Committee that he was beaten, crushed, kicked, punched, surrounded, and someone tried to gouge his eyes out. Hodges said he lives in fear to this day of retaliation for speaking out against the violence committed against him and his fellow officers.

May God help us all.

NOELLE SCHULTZ Babylon

PSEG Long Island launches safety campaign

To the Editor:

May is National Electrical Safety Month, a time to raise awareness about how to work safely around the energy that powers our everyday lives.

Safety is PSEG Long Island's top priority, and we want everyone who works in close proximity to high-voltage electric lines to remember these simple instructions: Stay Aware, Stay Alive: Always Look Up.

Over the past decade, PSEG Long Island has become the No. 1 overhead electric provider for both reliability and customer satisfaction in New York state. While this is a great accomplishment, the safety of our personnel and the general public is even more important.

"The Stay Aware, Stay Alive: Always

Look Up" campaign is our effort to educate contractors, laborers, homeowners and the general public about properly assessing the work area before beginning a project near overhead electric lines. The most important part of this is to follow the "10/10 rule": If there are power lines within 10 feet of the proposed work area, PSEG Long Island should be contacted at least 10 business days before the proposed project begins.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, contact with overhead electric lines accounts for the largest percentage of workplace electrical fatalities. Identifying the locations of overhead high-voltage electric lines, and keeping a safe distance from them, can prevent serious injury or worse. It can also prevent power outages.

In addition, in accordance with New York state's high-voltage proximity act, not contacting PSEG Long Island before working in close proximity to lines could bring civil penalties and fines.

At our campaign launch on May 1, some of our training professionals safely demonstrated the sparks, flames and potential injuries that could happen if a raised truck bed, elevated scaffolding, extended ladder, pool skimmer or other items come in contact with high-voltage overhead power lines. It was a powerful reminder of how important safety training is for our personnel.

If you're doing work outdoors near power lines, please don't put yourself in this position. Before starting a project where there are power lines within 10 feet of the workspace, contact our Build-

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At the Chocolate Expo at the David S. Mack Complex — Hofstra University

ing and Renovation Services Department at (844) 341-6378, or brsli@pseg. com, at least 10 business days before the start of the project.

For more information on the Stay Aware, Stay Alive: Always Look Up safety campaign and to learn how to stay safe, go to PSEGLINy.com.

> **DAVID LYONS** Interim president and COO, PSEG Long Island

Dress for Success Clothing Drive

May 1 - 31

Drop off new and gently used professional clothing for women and men at any Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty office.

Items needed:

Suits, Blazers, Slacks | Dresses & Skirts

Button-down Shirts | Professional Shoes & Accessories

It's time to clean out those closets for a cause! Let's give back—and help others dress for success.







