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2025
Graduates



Remembering
Juneteenth
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Joanne Yee/Herald

Sunshine and smiles at the parade

The battalion block party and parade at the city firehouse on Saturday featured a friendly competition for best-appearing band and junior firefighters, aimed at strengthening camaraderie among North Shore first responders. Jessica, Linda and Nicole Ninesling, center left above, won the contest.

Morgan Park music festival set to open next Sunday with local star

By ROKSANA AMID

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Glen Cove's shoreline will echo with the sounds of Billy Joel's greatest hits on July 6, the first day of the summer concert series, as the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival kicks off its 66th season with a performance by Richie Cannata and the Lords of 52nd Street. The concert will begin at 7 p.m., marking Cannata's first appearance battling cancer last year.

"I'm so happy to be alive. I'm a walking miracle," Cannata said. "I was given a 1 percent chance to live and to survive. Here I am driving, doing gigs and having a great life."

The legendary saxophonist, best known for

his work with Billy Joel, will be joined by fellow members of Joel's original band, including Liberty DeVitto, Russell Javors, Anthony Bambino, Malcolm Gold, Doug Kistner and Dan Orlando. Together they'll deliver a one-hour set of classic Joel hits. Due to the shared bill, Cannata said the band won't be performing its usual 90-minute show.

"I've been asked to only do a short set because we're sharing it with an opening act," he told the Herald. "So I won't be able to do my normal one-and-a-half-hour show. I'll only be able to do maybe one hour. Because of that, we will be doing the hits, of course, people want to hear."

Cannata, who has performed at the Suffolk

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Salutatorian at G.C. High is on to UConn

By ROKSANA AMID
& KEILYN ZAVALA

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Natalia Piasta, 17, is the salutatorian of Glen Cove High School's class of 2025, ranking second out of 297 graduating seniors with a weighted grade point average of 105.89. An AP Capstone diploma recipient and an AP Scholar with Distinction, Piasta completed 12 Advanced Placement courses, and is already charting a path to a career in chemical engineering. This fall she will attend the University of Connecticut.

"I was always a technical person," she said. "I thought I'd be a computer science major, but when I took chemistry, I realized how much I loved it."

Piasta was drawn to UConn not just for academics, but also for the breadth of opportunities. "It's a big experience, a big school," she said. "They have lots of clubs and organizations, and I know I can make strong

connections there."

She describes chemical engineering as a versatile and interdisciplinary field. "There are so many jobs I could do — climate change, machinery, food industries," Piasta said. "I'm not sure exactly what I want to do yet, but I know I have options."

That openness to explore has been central to her academic journey. In a science research class, she created an independent project on moss and lichen, collecting and analyzing samples. She also worked as a draftsman for her father's company, LICO Contracting, adjusting cabinetry designs and learning the technical precision required in engineering-based roles.

"It was tedious, difficult work," Piasta said. "But it gave me a real sense of what adults do, compared to my earlier summer jobs like working at a snack bar."

Her achievements extend well beyond the classroom. She

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

HERALD
Community Newspapers

Capturing the spirit of Harriet Tubman

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

In celebration of Juneteenth, the Glen Cove Library welcomed Christine Dixon on June 19 for a performance of her acclaimed one-woman show, Harriet Tubman Herself. The award-winning production, which Dixon has performed for more than a decade across the globe, brings to life the story of the legendary abolitionist through a powerful blend of drama, music, and audience interaction. But for Dixon, portraying Tubman has become far more than a role—it’s a calling that began in the most unexpected way.

The famed abolitionist and humanitarian, who rescued countless slaves through missions along the Underground Railroad, is an iconic figure in American history—one so monumental that portraying her even once might feel impossibly intimidating. But Christine Dixon has done it more than 100 times.

Dixon, 28, is the driving force behind Harriet Tubman Herself, an award-winning one-woman show she has directed, produced, booked, and performed for the past 11 years. A member of SAG-AFTRA, Arts Ignite, African American Women in Cinema, and the New York Women in Film & Television, Dixon first brought the show to life with a grant from Staten Island Arts.

The path to embodying Tubman began in an unlikely way. Dixon was cast as a reindeer in a children’s musical written by Hollywood playwright Morna Murphy Martell, who came to America from England in the 1960s. Martell had long dreamed of telling Tubman’s story, inspired by reading about her as the first African American woman she learned of upon arriving in the U.S.

During that children’s show, Dixon had to improvise when 25 kids fled the stage in fear. With no classi-



Roksana Amid/Herald

For Juneteenth, the Glen Cove Library welcomed Christine Dixon on June 19 for a performance of her acclaimed one-woman show, Harriet Tubman Herself.

cal training and no acting experience, Dixon instinctively walked into the audience and convinced a young boy named Tommy to return, ultimately leading the rest of the children back. Years later, Martell told Dixon that moment revealed her as the perfect Harriet.

When Martell offered her the one-woman role, Dixon balked. “I said, ‘Mona, no, I don’t know how to act,’” she recalled. “She said, ‘Don’t worry about being classically trained. You naturally have that instinct that people go to training for.’” Though initially reluctant, Dixon agreed to perform four shows. After the

fourth, requests kept pouring in—from the College of Staten Island, a church event hosted by the Harriet Tubman Purple Hat Society, and even Notre Dame.

Since then, Dixon has taken the show across the globe to places including Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Honduras, France, Ireland, Morocco, and Turkey. She eventually met Tubman’s descendants, including her great-great-grandnieces and Pauline Johnson, Tubman’s 97-year-old great-grandniece, who told Dixon, “You are my absolute favorite.”

Over the years, Dixon expanded the original 50-minute script Martell wrote, incorporating dance, Etta James songs, and humorous moments. While the original play was serious, audiences began laughing—and Dixon leaned into the unexpected comedic balance. “Harriet’s family said, ‘We love that you incorporated her humor,’” Dixon said. “That was not intentional. It just happened.”

She also customized the show to her diverse audiences, learning greetings in 18 languages and using volunteers from the crowd to portray figures from Tubman’s life. The only interactive part Martell wrote was for Dixon to bring up two children. “Now I try to use everyone in the audience,” she said.

Dixon works full-time with the New York Police Department and once received an award for rescuing trafficked children in 2024. Despite her initial reluctance, she says the impact of the show has kept her going. “Every time I try to quit, I get this burning in my stomach, like Harriet’s saying, ‘Don’t you dare. I chose you for this,’” Dixon said. “People tell me I bring them so much joy. They say it’s motivational. It’s uplifting.”

After 11 years, countless cities, and standing ovations, Dixon said she can’t imagine her life without Harriet Tubman.

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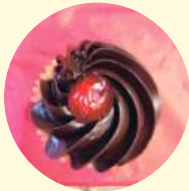
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Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

The Glen Cove High School Select Chorale took the international stage in May with a standout concert tour in London,

Voices of Glen Cove echo through London

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The Glen Cove High School Select Chorale took the international stage in May with a standout concert tour in London, earning acclaim during a prestigious choral festival and delivering performances alongside some of the world's most celebrated composers.

From Cadogan Hall to the historic Musicians Church, the ensemble represented Glen Cove on a global platform through a series of high-level performances, cultural exchanges, and unforgettable musical collaborations.

"For me, going to London with Select Chorale is one of the most moving experiences in my life and now one of my favorite memories," said junior Sophia Zapata Diaz, who serves as the Chorale's secretary. "It's truly incredible how our choir isn't only a means of business but a family — a way of learning about who you are and forming connections you will never forget."

Zapata Diaz said the trip brought new friendships and emotional moments as the students experienced London together for the first time.

"Discovering a place so new to most of us together felt so different from any other experience I've had," she said. "I would wake up every day in excitement and awe that we were even there. It felt like the introduction of a new chapter in life."

The Select Chorale traveled to London as Choir-In-Residence for a festival hosted by Vox Anima London. The centerpiece of the tour was the European premiere of *Requiem for Colour*, an ambitious work by composer and conductor Jeffrey Ames. The powerful choral piece, performed with full orchestra, traces the experience of enslaved Africans through to the present-day African American story. Glen Cove students Willow Landaverde, Anna Miller, Dakota Rios, and



During their trip, students explored the streets of London.

Paloma Supica were featured soloists.

The Chorale opened the festival's program at Cadogan Hall with a spotlight performance of works by Ola Gjeilo, who accompanied the students live on piano. Their collaboration included a never-before-heard rendition of *Northern Lights*, performed in front of an international audience.

"These students always make the impossible possible," said Edward Norris, director of the Glen Cove High School Select Chorale. "But this year has just been simply astounding."

Norris noted that the students had been preparing for the tour since the first day of rehearsals in September 2024. In the months leading up to the trip, the group performed at several local and regional venues, including St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and Hofstra University for the NYSSMA Major Ensemble Festival. There, the Chorale earned a Level VI Gold Medal

with Distinction, the highest rating at the highest level of competition.

"One judge said, 'This is really tough literature and you are performing at the level of professionals,'" Norris said. "That speaks volumes about the kind of talent and commitment these students bring to every performance."

The group also delivered a full-length concert at the Holy Sepulchre Church in London, known as the Musicians Church, presenting a 90-minute program of music ranging from the Renaissance to modern-day compositions. Despite jet lag and being awake for more than 34 hours, the students earned a standing ovation that lasted several minutes.

"They were amazing in every way," Norris said. "To perform with Dr. Ames and Mr. Gjeilo was simply mind-blowing. We were in awe of every moment of music-making."

In between rehearsals and performances, the students explored London's



Vox Anima Founder and Artistic Director Jamie Meaders with Director of Select Chorale Edward Norris.

historic landmarks, including the Tower of London, the London Eye, Greenwich, Parliament, and Big Ben. They also attended *The Phantom of the Opera* in the West End and took part in a workshop led by cast member Francesca Ellis, who taught the students the music and choreography from "Masquerade."

"My favorite part of the tour, though, was just spending time with some of the finest humans I have ever worked with," Norris said. "Whether laughing on the Tube or singing in the streets, it was pure joy. These students are the best — in every way."

Norris credited the success of the trip to months of dedication, as well as the support of parents, community members, and chaperones who helped make the journey possible.

Ames called the ensemble "dynamic," and Gjeilo expressed excitement about the rare opportunity to collaborate with such a committed and talented group of students.

ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

Takeout for humidity haters

I hate humid days. I know they're coming. When it's humid outside, I stay at home and dread the moment I'll have to leave because my refrigerator is empty. To prepare for these annoying days, this month I found three new eateries and one café reopening for the season. Each eatery is casual, small and has just a few tables. So, while most customers are grabbing their meals to go, I love getting out of my house and enjoying food in these cool, peaceful places.

Schmackary's (1044 Willis Ave., Albertson)

This new "more than a cookie shop" features 100 different types of large, soft, chewy cookies ranging from Fluffer Nutter to Yogi Bare to Horny Unicorn made with "unicorn dust." Favorite flavors are available every day, while at least ten others rotate and change daily. But that's not the best part...

Any cookie you choose can be infused in a soft ice cream machine. It comes out as soft ice cream with swirls of chewy bits of your flavor. So, my s'mores cookie became s'mores soft ice cream with pieces of the cookie in it as well. You can also have a "new fashioned" milkshake or place ice cream in between two cookies and make your personal version of an ice cream sandwich.

Green Eats (17 Bridge St., Glen Cove)

The nourishing ingredients in the salads and warm bowls in this new mini café always look as if they're having a fabulous time. I say this because instead of jumbling all the vegetables and grains together as if a tornado rolled through, the servers place each type of food in its own section on the platter. So, in my Mediterranean Zing Bowl, warm basmati rice, lentils, romaine, tomatoes, cucumbers whipped feta and hummus sat together and looked as if they were

seated in an outdoor theatre. Breakfast is also offered. But that's not the best part.

I've always been too lazy to mix avocado and tuna at home. In this café, I tried the avocado spread and tuna with lite mayo combined in a panini. Their smooth, creamy textures worked together as a wonderful team.

Matsuya Quality Japanese Eats (1358 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn)

This café with super fresh and creative sushi dishes plus more was in Great Neck for decades. It recently reopened in Roslyn. Gorgeous sushi platters have names such as Funky Mantis, Torched Salmon and Mad Hatter. There are also entrees and soups such as Wild Shiitake Bisque. I loved the Kobe Slider plate lined with mini burgers topped with brie. But that's

not the best part...

Sometimes I crave sushi but don't want rice. Any sushi dish you order can be prepared without rice. It will be wrapped in seaweed or cucumber instead.

Sea Cliff Shave Ice (247 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff)

Sea Cliff's much loved shave ice shop is back for the season. The Hawaiian Shave Ice has a unique, creamy texture and is enhanced with all natural syrups, ice creams and toppings. All favorite flavor combos have returned including Tropical Sunset, Caramel Macchiato, Color Changing Magic Butterfly and Watermelon Sugar. But that's not the best part...

The Shave Ice texture is so smooth, on a humid day I imagine I'm eating snow.

See you next month.



CATHI TUROW

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Book Synopsis: "The Book of Joy" — Part 1 of 4

Lasting Happiness in a Changing World

by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

In April of 2015, these two Nobel Peace Prize laureates celebrated His Holiness's 80th birthday by meeting for a week at the Tibetan leader's exiled home in Dharamshala, India. Their purpose? To answer the question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?

"From the moment of birth, every human being wants to discover happiness and avoid suffering. Sadly, many of the things that undermine our joy and happiness we create ourselves. Often it comes from the negative tendencies of the mind, emotional reactivity, or from our inability to appreciate and utilize the resources that exist within us. We create most of our suffering. So it should be logical that we also have the ability to create more joy. It simply depends on the attitudes, the perspectives, and the reactions we bring to situations and to relationships with other people. When it comes to personal happiness there is a lot that we as

individuals can do", says the Dalai Lama

"The problem is that our world and our education focuses on external, materialistic values. We are not concerned enough with inner values. I believe everyone has the responsibility to develop a happier world. We need, ultimately, to have a greater concern for others' well-being. In other words, kindness or compassion, which is lacking now. We must pay more attention to our inner values. We must look inside," he further states.

Lasting joy – joy as a way of being – arises from the serenity of deep well-being and benevolence, say the authors.

A strong sense of concern for the well-being of others will make you happy in the morning, says the Dalai Lama, even before coffee. Even ten minutes of meditating on compassion, on kindness to others, and you will see its effects all day. That's the way to maintain a calm and joyous mind.

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Courtesy Natalia Piasta

Natalia Piasta with her sister, Gabby, whom she describes as her "built-in best friend."

Piasta has plans to focus on engineering at UConn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was a varsity cheerleader for four years, and a member of the Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, Rho Kappa, the National Honor Society and the Science Honor Society. She also took part in DECA and her favorite club, the Ski Club.

Piasta has remained closely connected to her Polish heritage. Fluent in Polish, she spent weekends as an assistant teacher at the Paderewski Polish School in Glen Head, working with children ages 3 to 5 on basic language skills and cultural lessons.

"I wasn't doing much formal teaching, just helping with the alphabet, playing with them and making sure they were comfortable," she said. "It was such a fun experience."

Piasta was born in the United States, but her parents, Anna and Wojciech Piasta, are from Poland. At home, Polish was her first language.

"My parents only spoke Polish when I was little," she said. "I didn't start speaking English until around 3 or 4, but once I got to kindergarten, I picked it up right away."

She attended the Paderewski school through eighth grade, and earned a scholarship from the Polish National Home for her academic performance and volunteer work. She is planning to

travel to Poland for the first time this summer to visit members of her extended family.

"I haven't used Polish as much in the last few years," she said. "But I'm hoping being there will bring it back."

Another major influence in Piasta's life is her younger sister, Gabby, 8, who attends Gribbin Elementary School. Natalia lights up when talking about their relationship.

"She's my built-in best friend," Piasta said. "I help her with her homework, I babysit her in the summer, and now she's even doing cheerleading and dance like me."

At the senior awards ceremony in May, Piasta received the RXR Garvies Point Scholarship, a \$5,000 award recognizing her academic

excellence and leadership. She said she may pursue a master's degree in chemical engineering in the future, but remains open to exploring other areas of science and technology.

Glen Cove High School Guidance counselor Kristen Schnall praised Piasta's intellect and integrity. "Natalia's academic prowess is equally as impressive as her maturity and humility," Schnall said. "Her relentless dedication and commitment to her studies is unmatched. I'm excited to see the impact that she will leave on the world of chemical engineering."

I was always
a technical
person.

NATALIA PIASTA
G.C. High salutatorian

The Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove is partnering with the Empire Safety Council to host a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, July 12.



Courtesy Metro creative

Defensive driving course at the library

The Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove is partnering with the Empire Safety Council to host a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, July 12, at the Glen Cove Public Library, located at 4 Glen Cove Ave. The class begins promptly at 9 a.m.

This in-person course is open to the public and offers participants the opportunity to improve their driving skills, reduce points on their license, and qualify for an auto insurance discount. Space is limited, and those interested in attending are encouraged to register early by calling (516) 676-2846.

The cost of the course is \$45 per person, and both cash and checks will be

accepted at the door.

By completing the class, attendees may be eligible to receive up to a 10 percent discount on their car insurance for three years and reduce up to four points from their driving record, depending on individual eligibility. The course is approved by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

The event underscores Kiwanis' ongoing commitment to promoting safety and community engagement through educational opportunities. Proceeds from the course will support the Kiwanis Club's service initiatives in Glen Cove.

Call (516) 676-2846 for information.

Lights of hope at Morgan Memorial Park

Morgan Park will be aglow with hundreds of tribute bags on Saturday, July 12, as the Lights of Hope North Shore event takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Hosted by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the event invites community members to honor those affected by cancer and remember loved ones lost to the disease.

Lights of Hope is ACS CAN's signature fundraising and awareness initiative. During the event, participants will line the park with decorated lumina bags, each representing a person impacted by cancer. The symbolic display offers a space for reflection, healing, and solidarity.

"Lights of Hope is a way to honor those fighting cancer and to remember those lost," Peter O'Connor, a volunteer with The American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network, said.

Proceeds from the event help support ACS CAN's nationwide advocacy for policies that promote cancer prevention, research, and patient access to care. Funds also contribute to public education and grassroots lobbying efforts aimed at improving outcomes for patients and their families.

In addition to raising awareness, the event serves as a community gathering to inspire action and foster hope. Vol-

unteers and attendees from across the North Shore are encouraged to take part by making a donation, decorating a bag, or supporting the event's operations.

Cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide with an estimated 20 million new cases and 9.7 million deaths reported in 2022. In the United States, over 2 million diagnoses and more than 618,000 deaths are projected for 2025. Cancer death rates have declined by 34 percent since 1991, but cases among young adults and women are rising. Up to 30 percent of cancer deaths are considered preventable by lifestyle changes.

While contributions to ACS CAN are appreciated and go toward vital advocacy work, they are not tax-deductible. The organization focuses on advancing laws and regulations that help prevent cancer and expand treatment options and early detection.

The event is open to the public, and no registration is required to attend. Morgan Park, located on Germaine Street in Glen Cove, provides a scenic backdrop for the evening ceremony.

For more information or to participate, contact O'Connor at pocon10@yahoo.com.

—Roksana Amid

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Christie Leigh Babirad

Traffic building on a typical day on the westbound Southern State Parkway.

Driving the future: Southern State upgrades and the role of responsible driving

By **MADISON GUSLER & CHRISTIE LEIGH BABIRAD**

of the Herald's

Final part in a series on the Southern State Parkway.

The Southern State Parkway is one of the busiest highways in New York state. It opened in 1927, and its original design has not been able to meet the demands of Long Island's increased population and consistent roadway congestion, which has resulted in many deadly crashes.

Nearly 100 years later, work on the 25.3-mile parkway has ramped up, in an effort to ensure the roadway's safety, and longevity.

Stephen Canzoneri, a public information officer for the state Department of Transportation Region 10, noted that New York has one of the most aggressive road and bridge renewal programs in the United States, and that it is investing more in the modernization of its transportation infrastructure now than at any point in the state's history.

Upgrading Infrastructure to improve safety

Canzoneri explained that a \$34.1 billion, five-year capital plan adopted in 2022 to invest in major infrastructure projects is the largest of its kind in state history. This plan, which is entering its fourth year, includes substantial investments in modernizing roads and bridges on Long Island, including the Southern

State.

In April, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a \$7 million plan to reconfigure ramps at Exit 15 of the parkway. The state will eliminate the southbound exit ramp, and all traffic will exit via a redesigned northbound ramp. Exit 15N will consolidate both north- and southbound traffic entering the intersection at Corona Avenue. The changes aim to improve traffic flow for the more than 8,000 vehicles that use those ramps each day.

At the end of the ramp, a new traffic signal will be installed, as well as crosswalks, a pedestrian refuge island, and Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant sidewalk ramps. The westbound connection to the parkway from Corona Avenue will be enlarged for easier left turns, accompanied by improved signage to better direct drivers.

There will also be a reconfiguring of Exit 13, with a new single exit ramp providing access to both Central Avenue and Linden Boulevard. The entrance ramp from Central Avenue to the eastbound Southern State will be rebuilt, the traffic signal will be updated with pedestrian countdown timers, and the sidewalks along Central Avenue, between Stuart Avenue and Linden Boulevard, will be improved. This project is currently in the design phase, with construction expected to begin construction in 2027.

Enhancements at Exit 41A, from the eastbound Southern State to the northbound Sagtikos State Parkway, include increased safety measures. In 2024, new



Office of Congresswoman Laura Gillen

U.S. Rep. Laura Gillen speaking on driver safety.

reflective signs were installed and pavement markings were added. This year the ramp will undergo concrete pavement work, and a new concrete barrier will be installed.

Between 2021 and 2024, a significant portion of the parkway and several ramps were resurfaced with new asphalt, and highly reflective pavement markings were installed in an effort to increase driver safety. In an email to the Herald, Assemblyman Michael Durso, whose District 9 encompasses towns in both Nassau and Suffolk counties, wrote that in 2023, Wrong Way and Do Not Enter signs were refreshed or installed at all parkway ramps.

"Safety is always the top priority of the New York State Department of Transportation," Canzoneri said. "We

continuously review safety measures in place on all our highways on Long Island and across the state, implementing enhancements wherever it is necessary."

Safety improvements rely on responsible driving

Canzoneri noted that safety is everyone's responsibility.

"Working with our partners in law enforcement, local government and the community, we will continue to do our part to ensure the safety of our roadways. But motorists must do their part," he said. "We urge everyone to obey the rules of the road, drive responsibly and remain alert, especially in work zones."

Durso echoed Canzoneri's sentiment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Planners hope to create a safer Southern State

9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

that safety is a shared responsibility, writing that “all of the wrong way crashes that occur along the Southern State Parkway have involved impaired drivers.”

However, Durso noted an ongoing effort to address roads that have become unsafe. “As Assemblyman, I continue to work with the New York State Department of Transportation to pass along concerns from constituents and identify areas that can be improved,” he said. “Safety is my top priority.”

U.S. Rep. Laura Gillen, who represents the 4th Congressional District, which includes Exits 13 to 28 on the parkway, serves on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as the Science, Space and Technology

Committee. Gillen recently sent an open letter to Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy about a spike in traffic fatalities.

“Traffic crashes are the single leading cause of accidental death among young people on Long Island, and the second-leading cause for all residents under the age of eighty,” she wrote.

“Every seven minutes on average, a serious traffic accident happens on Long Island.

The failure to secure our roads has led to thousands of lives being cut short, families being ripped apart, and a terrible void left in too many communities.”

Gillen urged Duffy and the DOT to open an investigation into these accidents, and advocated for larger investments to improve roadways and increase driver safety. She is also pushing for the state to lower the legal blood alcohol limit.

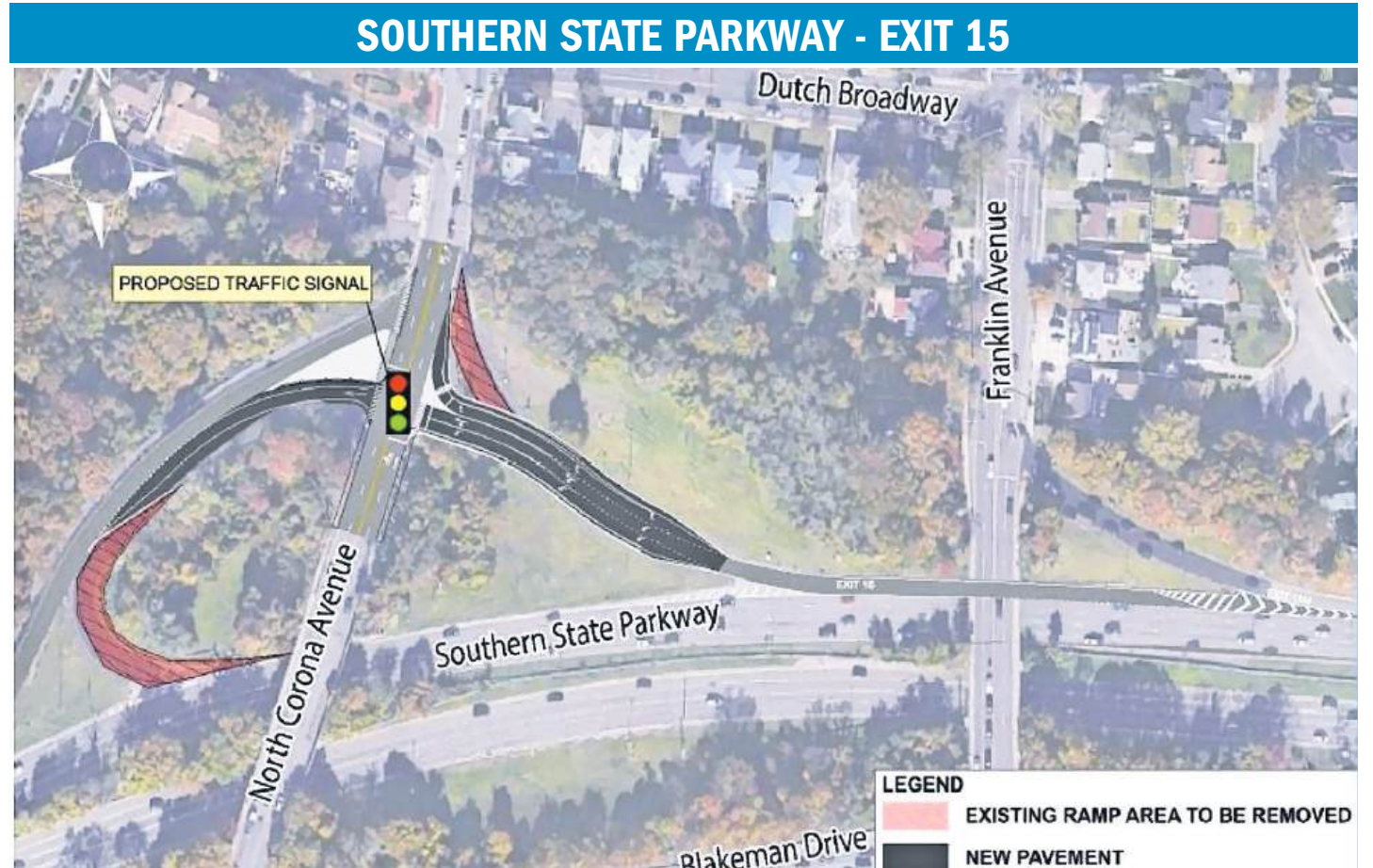
“Many road safety groups have endorsed lowering our drunk-driving limit to a blood alcohol content of .05,” Gillen wrote in an email to the Herald, noting evidence that lowering the limit reduces the number of accidents and saves lives. She noted that the state of Utah, which lowered its drunk-driving threshold to .05 in 2018, saw a nearly 20 percent drop in fatal car crashes over the next calendar year.

“There is already a push to bring this limit to New York at the state level, and I’m exploring federal options to make this the law of the land across America,” she wrote.

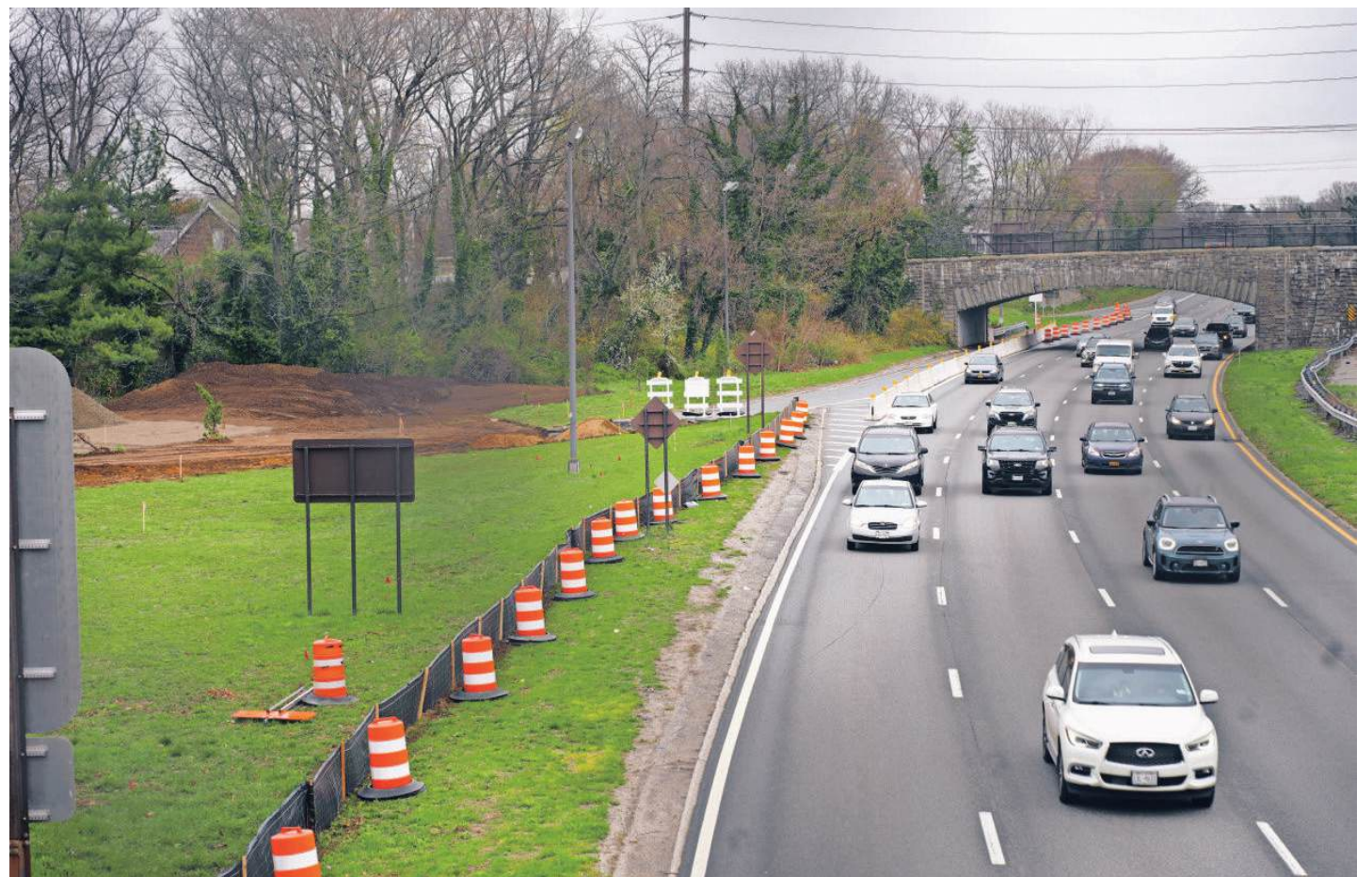
Gillen also mentioned distracted

Working with our partners in law enforcement, government and the community, we will continue to do our part to ensure the safety of our roadways, but motorists must do their part.

STEPHEN CANZONERI
State Dept. of Transportation



A draft of plans for the Southern State Parkway's Exit 15, where two exits are being replaced by one.



Tim Baker/Herald

The parkway near Exit 13. “We need to increase high-visibility traffic enforcement,” U.S. Rep. Laura Gillen says.

driving and speeding motorists. “My plan to make our roads safer includes stepping up enforcement on reckless and dangerous driving,” she wrote. “That means giving our law enforcement agencies the tools and resources to police unsafe driving.”

Gillen stated that it’s crucial that

drivers reduce their speeds. “No matter what day or time you drive on the Southern State Parkway, there are people recklessly speeding and street racing,” she wrote. “We need to increase high-visibility traffic enforcement, and I’ll continue to push for New York State to increase the number of troopers on the

Southern State Parkway and other Long Island roads to keep people safe.”

“It’s important to remember that safety is everyone’s responsibility,” Durso wrote. “We remind residents to abide by the posted speed limit, put down your cellphone, and never drink and drive.”



Joanne Yee/Herald photos

Members of Glen Cove Fire Ladder 5211 stand proudly in uniform beside their gleaming fire truck, representing their city with honor before the 5th Battalion Parade.

Celebrating North Shore fire departments

Eleven fire departments from across Nassau County's North Shore marched through downtown Glen Cove on Saturday, June 21, as part of the annual 5th Battalion Parade, a decades-old tradition celebrating volunteer firefighters. Trucks, marching bands, and junior members from departments including Bayville, East Norwich, Glen Cove, Glenwood Hook & Ladder, Locust Valley, Oyster Bay No. 1, Atlantic Steamer, Roslyn Highlands, Roslyn Rescue, Sea Cliff and Syosset traveled down Brewster and School streets, waving to cheering spectators. Hosted by the Glen Cove Fire Department, the parade culminated in a block party at the city firehouse and featured a friendly competition for best appearing band and juniors, aimed at strengthening camaraderie among the region's first responders.

—Roksana Amid



Grand Marshals Vincent Martinez, Fred Lamere and Neil McNaughton rode together in style during the parade.



Members of the Glen Cove Fire Department lead the 5th Battalion Parade through downtown Glen Cove.



Nick Padrone of Pizza Company 7, pulled a fresh pie from the oven inside his fire truck-themed food truck, serving up slices with a side of firefighter flair.



The Sea Cliff Fire Dept was among 11 departments represented in the parade.



With kilts swaying and pipes blaring, a brigade of bagpipers fills School Street with stirring tradition and sound during the 5th Battalion Parade



Courtesy Morgan Park Summer Music Festival

The Morgan Park Summer Music Festival will kick off its 66th season with a performance by Richie Cannata, far left above, and the Lords of 52nd Street.

Summer series will begin with star-powered night

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Theater and Richfield Playhouse in recent weeks, said he has being selective about the shows he takes on as he has returned to the stage this year.

"Glen Cove is a big one for me, because it's my home and a lot of my friends and family will be there," he said. "It's very important that we have a lot of people there that night. I think we will. It's always been a very big turnout."

For Cannata, the July performance will be more than a concert — it will be a celebration of life and resilience. "I think it's most important that people come and see that I'm healthy and that I'm out there playing," he said. "I would like to shake a lot of hands and see a lot of my friends that have supported me over the years."

Glen Cove native Shye Roberts, who rose to national prominence as a finalist on Season 26 of NBC's "The Voice" in 2024, will open the show. Though she now lives in Pennsylvania, Roberts said that returning to her hometown for this performance holds deep meaning.

"For me it's about the community, which is so cliché to say, but it is," she said. "I feel like it's just about going back to where I came from and giving back to the people that I love so much."

Roberts said she hasn't made much money yet in her music career, but performing in Glen Cove is about more than that.

"Even though I haven't really profited off of this kind of situation yet that much, I really feel like people think so highly of me," she said. "I think highly of my community of Glen Cove, and really, I just don't want to let them down."

Roberts will also be selling shirts and bracelets at the show, and hosting a raffle organized by her sister. "I never supported this idea," she acknowledged, "but she said that it was a good idea to do a raffle where everybody enters in and the winner gets whatever song they

want me to sing sung to them on a live phone call."

The Glen Cove High School Select Chorale, an award-winning student ensemble, is among other performances throughout the summer series.

The festival chairman, U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, said that this year's opening night is a celebration of exceptional talent from Glen Cove and beyond.

"We are thrilled to celebrate Richie Cannata's return to the stage," Suozzi said. "Extraordinary performers showcasing the depth of talent from Long Island, and Glen Cove, are the order of the night."

Suozzi, whose parents founded the festival in 1959, has continued their legacy of bringing free professional performances to the community. His late father, former Mayor Joseph Suozzi, and community member Laura Pratt launched the first concert with the goal of making culture and entertainment accessible to all.

"They used to do one concert a year," Tom Suozzi said. "The idea was to try and bring culture and entertainment to people that can't necessarily afford to go into the city for a Broadway show. It's gotten bigger and bigger and bigger every year."

The all-volunteer, nonprofit festival has remained free to the public thanks to donations from individuals and local businesses, including a major contribution last year from Rallye Lexus. The Terian family and Rallye Motor Company are as the title sponsor for the 2025 season.

"It's no cost to the taxpayers. It's all volunteers. It's all donations from our friends and neighbors," Suozzi said. "We're going to keep this going forever. It's never going to stop."

Concerts continue every Sunday through August at 7 p.m. in Morgan Memorial Park, the scenic 40-acre waterfront property donated to the city in 1926 by financier J.P. Morgan.

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NUMC’s leadership fires Megan Ryan

By JORDAN VALLONE
jvallone@liherald.com

The new leadership team at Nassau University Medical Center have fired Megan Ryan, the hospital system’s former president, chief executive and legal officer.

Ryan, who began her position in December 2024 after serving as interim president, was placed on administrative leave on June 10. The move followed a revamp of the board overseeing NUMC, as part of a state budget package that included legislative changes directly impacting the hospital system based in East Meadow and the A. Holly Paterson Extended Care Facility in Uniondale.

In late-May, Ryan sent a letter to Dr. Irina Gelman, the Nassau County health care commissioner and former chair of the board at NUMC, stating her intent to resign from her role on July 20. Her administrative leave was set to last through the same day, or “an earlier date to be determined pending further review,” according to minutes from the hospital’s June 10 board meeting.

The move to terminate Ryan comes at the end of a turbulent month for NUMC.

On May 31, Gov. Kathy Hochul appointed Stuart Rabinowitz, a former Hofstra University president and expert in law, education, and public policy, as chair; Amy Flores, a vice president at JPMorgan Chase; Dean Mihaltes, a

health care executive and licensed pharmacist; and Lisa Warren, a business leader and longtime nonprofit advocate on Long Island.

Two additional board members, Dr. Lisa Zakiya Newland, a professor and chair of the Department of Social Work at Molloy University, and Rory Lancman, vice chair of the Nassau Interim Finance Authority and director of corporate initiatives and senior counsel at the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, were recommended by the State Legislature and appointed by Hochul on June 3.

County Executive Bruce Blakeman strongly opposed the changes, calling the moves “illegal” in early June. Under the state’s new provisions for the hospital, Blakeman has the authority to appoint two members to the hospital’s board, but refused to do so at a news conference in which he slammed the state’s decisions and stated the county’s intent to file a lawsuit.

Gelman, who sided with Blakeman, said “employee morale was at an all-time low,” at NUMC, and criticized the lack of a transition plan in place by the state as the hospital undergoes further changes.

County Democrats, including Legislator Seth Koslow, who is running against Blakeman for the county executive seat this November, called Blakeman’s move “a refusal to do his job.”

As a member of the county’s minority caucus, Koslow joined fellow legislators to demand transparency in regard to events that transpired with the NUMC board prior to the state’s takeover — including both an FBI probe and an alleged robbery at the home of Matthew Bruderman, the former hospital chair.

Ryan’s termination was with “cause,” according to a letter issued by Dr. Richard Becker, the new interim chief executive of the hospital. The letter showed that Ryan authorized payments of \$3.5 million to herself and others around May 30, after the state legislature began its revamp of the board. It further stated that \$1 million was in excess of amounts that were due to Ryan and other employees.

The payments allegedly served no valid purpose.

Newsday reported that Ryan’s defense attorney Alex Hartzbland said Ryan and former employees were entitled to the payments, which were authorized based on time lawfully accrued. Hartzbland told Newsday reporters that it is another “politically motivated hit” against Ryan as the new hospital leadership attempts to “distract from the state’s own corruption in the handling of NUMC’s finances.”

In an emailed statement from earlier this month, Gordon Tepper, the Long Island press secretary for Hochul, said the changes at the hospital are “the best



Tim Baker/Herald

Megan Ryan, the president, chief executive and legal officer at NUMC, was terminated from her position by the hospital system’s new leadership.

possible news for anyone who relied on NUMC.”

“Due to years of gross mismanagement under his watch, the hospital is in financial peril,” he said. “This is a desperately needed intervention. The state’s priorities for NUMC have always been ensuring quality patient care and achieving financial stability.”

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THINGS TO KNOW PROPEL COMMUNITY MEETING

Residents share concerns about energy transmission project

Organizers from Glen Head and Glenwood Landing encouraged around 60 residents from across the North Shore to participate in voicing their opposition to a project focusing on modernizing Long Island’s aging electric transmission system at a community meeting organized by the Glen Head–Glenwood Civics Council Tuesday. Here’s what happened.

–Luke Feeney

1

■ What residents can do now

The Propel Project is awaiting the State Public Service Commission’s Article Seven process, which includes full environmental, engineering, and constructability reviews. In addition to other permits, flyers with QR codes were distributed to audience members throughout the meeting, allowing residents to submit public comments on the state’s Department of Public Service website. In addition, two petitions were circulated at the meeting: one to ban the development of lithium batteries in the Town of Oyster Bay and another opposing the Propel Project. Organizers argued that the transmission cables would “marry” the community to battery energy storage systems, although the two projects are separate in scope and nature. Audience members were also encouraged to discuss the upcoming project with local businesses.

2

■ Highlighting past efforts

For over a year, residents on the North Shore have voiced opposition to the Propel NY project, which proposes introducing three new underground electrical transmission connections across Long Island. The \$3.2 billion project proposes 89.7 miles of underground transmission lines spanning multiple New York counties. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2026 and is expected to continue for up to four years, with project completion anticipated by mid-2030. Crews are expected to progress between 50 and 150 feet per day.

Christien Panzeca, a Glen Head resident and outspoken critic of the project, underscored the importance of local engagement for these projects. “This is something that needs to be done by your community,” she said. “It’s through community outreach that we are going to be able to protect the health and safety of our community.”

3

■ Looking to the future

The next steps, according to the meeting’s organizers, are calls to legislators. Audience members were given another flyer with the office phone numbers of U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, State Sen. Jack Martins, and Assemblyman Charles Lavine. “State your opposition due to high fire risks, major road disruptions affecting local businesses, children traveling to schools, exiting the area to go to work, affecting emergency calls,” the flyer read. Susan Craig, the director of media relations at the New York Power Authority, pushed back on some of the concerns raised by residents. “Any sidewalks or streets that are disrupted will be restored and improved,” she said. “We’re going to be notifying people, and we’re going to have an app where you can log in and receive updates.”



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Business summit awards entrepreneurs

By KEPHERD DANIEL

kdaniel@liherald.com

Long Island's small-business community gathered on June 18 for the second annual Small Business Summit at Optimum's Bethpage headquarters. Co-hosted by Optimum Business and the Long Island Association Foundation, the event celebrated 40 recipients of the L.O.C.A.L. Small Business Grants—each awarded \$5,000—and offered entrepreneurs access to funding, mentorship, and networking opportunities designed to fuel long-term growth.

"So much crazy stuff is going on in the world today that people forget what makes everyday life work is small businesses," said Congressman Tom Suozzi. "Most of the jobs in America are created by small businesses."

This year's grant program distributed \$5,000 awards to businesses across Nassau and Suffolk Counties, bringing Optimum's total investment to nearly \$500,000 over two years. Recipients represent diverse sectors, including child-care, massage therapy, and promotional services.

"With the environment being a little difficult and people afraid, these grants give small businesses a tangible edge," said Luis Vazquez, president of the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, who opened the floor by highlighting the grant's impact amid an



Courtesy Optimum

L.O.C.A.L. Small Business Grant recipients from across Nassau County gathered at the Second Annual Small Business Summit, hosted by Optimum Business and the Long Island Association Foundation in Bethpage on June 18.

uncertain immigration climate. "Now they can pay bills or expand operations without dipping into their savings. By equalizing opportunities through exposure and capital, we're helping Latinos feel more comfortable and engaged in our economy."

Grant recipients included Glen Cove Massage in Glen Cove.

The summit also offered networking, mentorship, and access to business tools

provided by Optimum and the LIA Foundation. The LIA Foundation is the charitable arm of the Long Island Association, a leading business organization dedicated to supporting and growing the regional economy.

"We had hundreds of applicants for this program; we hope to stay in contact with them and support them," said Stacey Sikes, vice president of government affairs and communications at the LIA.

"There are many different types of opportunities for business owners on Long Island. This money enables them to do a project they may not have been able to do, whether it's a new sign outside their store, beautifying their indoor or outdoor space. It has had a significant impact on the businesses to grow, and in doing so, it helps our local community because they drive our economy."

All applicants—whether they received funding or not—were granted a complimentary six-month membership to the LIA, providing them with year-round support, access to business development events, and connections with industry leaders.

"Minority businesses on Long Island had the opportunity to apply, and minority businesses are part of the Long Island economic engine," said Phil Andrews, president of the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce. "It increased the ecosystem of giving black businesses resources and it's really making a difference. Small businesses are the engines for business development and growth all across Long Island."

Businesses with fewer than 10 employees comprise 80 percent of Long Island's business landscape. With a growing roster of success stories and expanding partnerships, Long Island's small-business ecosystem is set for a season of renewed growth.

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STEPPING OUT



From fire to water

Embracing Indigenous tradition at Long Island Children's Museum

By Danielle Schwab

The proud culture and legacy of Shinnecock Nation will be full display soon, representing the region's cherished heritage. Everyone is invited to celebrate the arrival of a newly crafted dugout canoe at the museum, on June 30.

The Arrival Ceremony — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. — is an opportunity for connection with our Indigenous community. Traditional songs, music and remarks from community leaders and culture bearers provide gratitude, context and a spiritual welcome as the canoe is greeted at its new home. Families can also participate in hands-on activities and sample traditional Native foods.

The 10-foot 500-pound white pine mishoon, commissioned by Long Island Children's Museum, was created through the collaboration of Shinnecock Cultural Steward Cheneae Bullock, her mentor Darius Coombs of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe and apprentice Shane Weeks of the Shinnecock Nation.

Named "Pewea Koowa," or "Little Pine," the vessel reflects the enduring relationship between Long Island's waterways and the Indigenous communities who have lived in balance with the region's waterways for generations.

"One of the most important things is for us to understand that the indigenous population is still here, as an active, living part of our community. We're often taught 'that's the old times' or 'that was hundreds of years ago,' when actually, no, they're here. They're part of us," Museum President Erika Floreska says.

Carving the mishoon involves deep care — rooted in ancestral knowledge. It was crafted by hollowing out a 1,700-pound white pine tree using fire, controlled burning and hand tools — a method passed down through the generations.

"The best way to learn is to be an apprentice, because you have to know how to identify the right tree for the vessel," says Bullock, who guided the project (her seventh mishoon) as lead artisan.

"You strip the bark off. You get the log right where you want it to be. Then, you roll it over and begin to start the fire on top of the log," Bullock explains. "Once you light that fire, your eyes do not leave that mishoon at all. You are on that mishoon until it is complete.

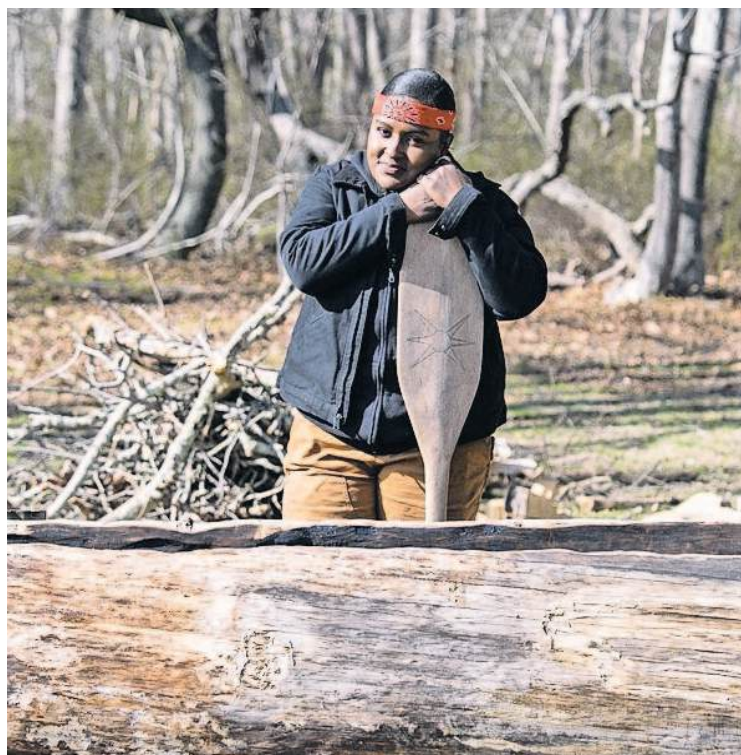
"Paddling a mishoon in Shinnecock waters was a profoundly special experience for me. Throughout my life, I have crafted numerous mishoons, participated in a handful of maiden voyages, and paddled in many of them. However, this particular journey was unparalleled, as it took place in my home waters. Water holds memory, and I believe that in this moment, we unlocked memories for our community, as well as for the land and water that we cherish."

Symbols carved into the vessel offer further cultural meaning. Bullock added a whale tail to honor the importance of whales in Indigenous life here.

"It begins to teach the kids what these mishoons were used for. It's kind of hard for people to think about how our ancestors took these mishoons and actually hunted whales. Whales are a big part of our culture," Bullock adds.



- June 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- View the LICM events calendar at licm.org for additional information or call (516) 224-5800
- Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City



The mishoon will be placed in the museum's upcoming permanent exhibit, "Saltwater Stories: We Need the Sea and the Sea Needs Me", opening in October.

"It's important to celebrate what makes Long Island unique and this connection to the ocean, but also our responsibility for taking care of it. The mishoon is a really good representation of the history, the ecology and the climate," Floreska says.

In the spirit of reciprocity, resources for a second mishoon will be gifted to the Shinnecock community in September.

"The tradition of gifting and showing reciprocity in relationships is very important to represent the balance between each other. The idea of them gifting [the mishoon] to us, us gifting to them, is very symbolic," she adds.

Everyone can also contribute to the making of a wampum belt from quahog clam shells, led by artist and educator Tecumseh Caesar during the event.

This ongoing collaboration between Indigenous communities and the museum offers meaningful ways for families to explore deep connections — not only to the land and water, but to histories that continue to shape the present.

"There's a whole culture that we've inherited and that we have a responsibility to include and think about as we all work together to shape the future," Floreska reminds us all.

The finished canoe will be on display in the museum's lobby until the new maritime exhibit "Saltwater Stories" opens in fall.

Courtesy LICM



Get The Led Out

Led Zeppelin fans, rejoice! Get The Led Out returns with "A Celebration of the Mighty Zep," for two electrifying nights of classic rock. The six veteran musicians who make up the Philadelphia-based group delivers Led Zeppelin live with the all passion and fury these blues-soaked, groove-driven rock anthems deserve. Hailed for their powerful tribute to what many consider the greatest rock band of all time, the band delivers a faithful and high-octane recreation of Zeppelin's iconic sound. From thunderous anthems to mystical acoustic ballads, GTLO captures the full range of Led Zeppelin's brilliance — complete with the layered instrumentation and soaring dynamics that the band rarely performed live. . With no wigs or phony accents, just pure musical passion, GTLO focuses on the legendary band's early years and dives deep into beloved hits and rare cuts alike. Their approach is reverent and precise, more like a classical concert than a cover band — a true celebration of timeless rock.

Friday and Saturday, June 27-28, 8 p.m. \$75, \$45, \$35. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.



Paula Poundstone

Get ready for an evening of razor-sharp humor and brilliantly unpredictable comedy with the one and only Paula Poundstone. When she's not dishing out laughs as a beloved panelist on NPR, she's hosting her wildly popular podcast, Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone. It's a quirky "comedy field guide to life," filled with offbeat segments like taste tests, "cat of the week" tributes, and interviews. Her stand-up résumé is as robust as it is hilarious, with HBO specials like "Cats, Cops and Stuff, Goes to Harvard" and "Look What the Cat Dragged In." In 2017, she added "bestselling author" to her list of accomplishments with "The Totally Unscientific Study Of The Search For Human Happiness" — a laugh-out-loud account of her quirky quest for joy. Oh, and if her voice sounds familiar to your kids? That's because she played Forgetter Paula in "Disney/Pixar's Inside Out."

Friday, June 27, 8 p.m. \$65, \$55, \$45. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org or (516) 767-6444.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

JUNE 27 Oyster Bay Music Festival

The Oyster Bay Music Festival opens its 2025 season with Musical Sails at Oakcliff Sailing Center. The waterfront concert honors Betsy Lawrence for her support of the festival's mission. Enjoy an evening of live classical music featuring works by Reineke, Devienne, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and more.

- **Where:** 4 South St., Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Contact:** oysterbaymusicfestival.org

JUNE 28 Deep Roots Farmers Market

Join local growers and artisans for a morning of fresh produce, baked goods, handmade items, and community connection at the Deep Roots Farmers Market. Founded by Amy Peters and now operated by the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, the market continues to honor her legacy of sustainability and local pride. The market runs rain or shine.

- **Where:** Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-6666

On Exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's unveils its new exhibition, "At Play," a survey of artists' perennial fascination with entertainment in all forms. Framing this topic between the nineteenth century Belle Époque and today, the exhibit includes works by Pablo Picasso, Reginald Marsh, Everett Shinn, and Max Beckmann among many others. Works are gathered to represent a wide range of expressions, from entertainment-related activities to the fascinating personalities involved. It encompasses dance, music, theater, movies, circus, boating, and beach scenes, along with horseracing and various sports, both active and passive. Also featured are archival items from The Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic, including costumes by Marc Chagall for Die Zauberflöte, vintage fashion items by such designers as Alfred Shaheen, and iconic costumes from the Folies-Bergère in Paris. On view June 28 to Nov. 9.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** Ongoing
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337



JULY 10 He said, she said

Share in some lively repartee when four stand-up comedians — two men, two women, two are married, two are single — sling comedy barbs at one another in The Ivy League of Comedy's "Skirmish of the Sexes." The troupe — known for their elite brand of clever comedy as seen on late-night TV and Comedy Central appearances — is armed and ready with high-brow, clean fun. Laugh the night away wty tales of love and not-love, bad dinners and good dates, broken cars and unbroken dreams. Check out this lively comic take on the age-old dichotomy of who's right and who's wrong — done with panache and good humor. The lineup features Tony Deyo, known for his sharp, quick material and near-perfect comedic timing almost certainly gained from his years as a professional symphony musician; Calise Hawkins, a single mom who stands out with her hair, but also her smile and her onstage likability. Also Shaun Eli, rightfully called one of America's smartest comics. Whether it's a story about dining with a vegetarian or successfully fighting a parking ticket in criminal court, master storyteller Shaun Eli shows you that there's hilarity in the ordinary. And Ophira Eisenberg (pictured), host of the comedy podcast Parenting Is A Joke with iHeart and Pretty Good Friends, who delivers a unique blend of smart irreverent standup and storytelling. \$40, \$30.

- **Where:** Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 767-6444 or landmarkonmainstreet.org

Monthly meditation

Join H.E Gegye Yongyal Tulk Rinpoche, a 3rd seat reincarnate Buddhist Master and scholar in Buddhism, for one-hour session mindful meditation session at Planting Fields. The program harnesses the profound natural qualities of Planting Fields park, which serves as a place of peace for many. The sessions take place in a different location on the site and teach participants how to lead more mindful lives through meditation. Whether you're experienced or someone new to mindfulness, these sessions offer a gentle yet profound way to quiet your thoughts, release stress and experience the deep stillness that comes from aligning with the natural world. No prior experience is necessary. Registration required.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** Ongoing monthly, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

JUNE 29 Kiwanis Bicycle Challenge

Ride in support of others. The Nassau Bicycle Challenge

(formerly Nassau to Suffolk Bicycle Challenge) supports the work of the Kiwanis Club of North Shore Foundation. It supports charities such as Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center, Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation, Kamp Kiwanis, NOSH, Boys and Girls Club and charities aligned with those of Kiwanis International "Serving the Children of the World", including Kiwanis' signature programs of Klothos 4 Kids, Koats 4 Kids and Kicks 4 Kids. The beautiful ride through the Gold Coast features picturesque vistas and water views. Choose from a 25 mile loop with 1,060 feet of vertical climb or the more challenging ride with an additional 10 mile loop, totalling 35 miles, with 1,600 feet of vertical climb. Routes are clearly marked and ride is equipped with a rest stop. Snacks and water provided. Sponsorships also available. Online registration ends June 24, but walk-ins are welcome. Online registration is \$50, day of is \$60.

- **Where:** Starting at Harry Tappen Beach, Sea Cliff
- **Time:** Staggered starts, rain or shine
- **Contact:** n2nbc.org

Art of Poetry: Readings by Nassau County Poet Laureates

Visit Nassau County Museum of Art for this inaugural poetry event. Join current Nassau County Poet Laureate, writer-musician-educator Alan Semerdjian who hosts readings by former Laureates Paula Curci, Evelyn Kandel, Linda Opyr, and Gayl Teller. Readings will respond to the artwork on view in NCMA's new exhibition. Pre-registration recommended. \$15, \$10 seniors, \$5 children, members free.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** 4-6 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

Walking with the Olmsteads

Step into a world where history and horticulture intertwine on this guided walking tour of Planting Fields. Explore the stunning landscapes shaped by the renowned Olmsted Brothers firm and discover how W.R. Coe's vision transformed this estate into a living masterpiece. As you wander through lush gardens, winding pathways, and historic structures, you'll uncover stories of the Coe family's lasting influence and the artistic brilliance of the Olmsteads'

naturalistic designs. From vibrant seasonal blooms and majestic trees to elegant architectural details, each stop reveals a new chapter in this extraordinary estate's history. Also take the time to visit the Main House.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 10:30-11:30 a.m.; also July 6
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

Princess Day at Sands Point Preserve

Princesses take over majestic Hempstead House. Guests begin their royal journey by entering through its grand doors, where they are welcomed and informed that they will soon become true Princesses (or Princes!). Their quest begins as they meet all seven princesses around the house and work towards earning their Royal Badge. Encounter each princess character and discover what it truly means to be part of royalty. Along the way, collect stickers to fill their personal badge. Once badges are complete, return them to the Fairy Godmother, who rewards guests with a tiara (or crown!) to decorate, signifying the completion of their royal adventure. Finally, each guest participates in a special coronation ceremony. Registration required.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** Times vary; limited availability
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

JULY 2 Blood pressure screening

St. Francis Hospital staff visits Glen Cove Public Library with free in-person blood pressure screenings, on the first Wednesday monthly. No appointment is necessary; screenings are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove
- **Time:** Ongoing monthly, 1-3 p.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

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.

Examining Japan's influence on American art 17

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

The North Shore Historical Museum will host a special presentation on the influence of Japanese art on American artists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries on July 9. The talk, titled “F. Edwin Church: Japonisme & its Enduring Legacy in American Art,” will be delivered by Justinne Lake-Jedzinak, director of education and public programs at Raynham Hall Museum.

I wanted to connect this idea of alienation and fascination with Japanese art to sort of our broader relationship with Japan.

JUSTINNE LAKE-JEDZINAK
presenter

The presentation accompanies the museum's ongoing exhibit on F. Edwin Church, an early to mid-20th-century artist who lived in Locust Valley and whose work blends American portraiture with Japanese aesthetics.

“This is a really wonderful opportunity for the community to discover, or rediscover, this fascinating artist and his connection to our local history



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews

Museum Director Christopher Judge, right, had previously invited Justinne Lake-Jedzinak to speak at the opening of the North Shore Historical Museum's F. Edwin Church exhibit.

through his Locust Valley home,” said Museum Director Christopher Judge. “We definitely wanted a speaker related

to the current exhibit about the artist F. Edwin Church, and having Justinne come in and talk is fantastic.”

Church, known for his portraits, landscapes, and lesser-known “thumb box” paintings, studied in Paris and later traveled to Haiti, where his work was influenced by his experiences alongside naturalist William Beebe. A collector of Japanese woodblock prints, Church's work reflects a synthesis of global styles.

“He was just really, really a talented artist,” Judge said. “He studied in Paris and you'll see the juxtaposition of his more traditional works, like landscapes and portraits, with clear Japanese influences.”

Lake-Jedzinak said her presentation will go beyond formal art history, weaving together cultural and historical threads.

“I think what I wanted to do was give a little bit of a history and context to this fascination with Japan,” Lake-Jedzinak said, “and particularly Japonisme, in terms of the way that Japanese art filtered through this Western psychological lens that goes on to influence Western artists.”

The term “Japonisme” refers to the West's aesthetic fascination with Japanese art following Japan's forced opening to world trade in the mid-19th century. Lake-Jedzinak, who holds an art history PhD from Bryn Mawr College explained that while the phenomenon's influence on European artists like Vincent van Gogh is well documented,

American artists' engagement with Japanese aesthetics has received less scholarly attention.

“Considering the American economic role in the opening of Japan, you really see a lot of Japanese objects at these World's Fairs,” she said, referring to the voyage by American naval officer Commodore Matthew Perry to force Japan to engage in political and economic relations with the world following centuries of isolationism. “And that doesn't get talked about as much, as opposed to European art.”

Lake-Jedzinak's presentation will explore not only artistic inspiration but also deeper cultural themes, including alienation, Orientalism, and how the perception of Japanese art evolved alongside American attitudes toward Japan and Asian Americans in the 20th century.

“I wanted to connect this idea of alienation and fascination with Japanese art to sort of our broader relationship with Japan,” she said. “So it's very much history, but also our history.”

Tickets for the event are available at NSHMGC.org. Admission is \$10 for museum members and \$15 for nonmembers. The Church exhibit will remain on display through Aug. 17.

“It's a very affordable ticket price to come see such an elevated presentation,” Judge said. “We really want to keep the exhibit dynamic and keep people coming back to the museum for different reasons.”



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Let us Know

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication. Send to ramid@liherald.com

‘Burn, baby, burn’: An evening of disco

Jazz, soul and R&B icons took the stage at Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre in Eisenhower Park for a Juneteenth celebration on June 19.

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S. It first became a holiday in 1865, three years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the emancipation proclamation, when enslaved people in Texas were declared free.

The performance featured The Tramps, which includes Earl Young, a drummer who is considered one of the leading figures in Philadelphia’s soul scene during the 1970s. The group’s hits include “Disco Inferno,” famously featured in the 1977 movie, “Saturday Night Fever,” starring John Travolta.

Other hits include “Hold Back the Night,” “The Dark Side of the Moon” and “Disco Party,” among others.

After the Tramps, a group paying tribute to Earth, Wind and Fire, a classic six-time Grammy-award winning musical group that has spanned a vast range of genres throughout their career, was set to perform.

Earth, Wind and Fire has sold over 90 million records worldwide, producing countless hits, such as “September,” “Boogie Wonderland” and “Reasons.”

Although the event was cut short due to rain, each musician played with enthusiasm, making the celebration all the more memorable for those who attended.

—Jack Schwed



Tim Baker/Herald photos

The performance took place on Juneteenth, a holiday celebrated to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S. An Earth, Wind and Fire tribute band was set to perform, but the performances were cut short due to rain.



A crowd filtered into the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre on June 19 for a performance featuring jazz, soul and R&B icons.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: Suozznation Studios LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 03/06/2025. NY Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as an agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to: 2 Glen Cove Avenue UNIT 123, Glen Cove, NY 11542 Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity. 153730

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NASSAU KeyBank, N.A., successor by merger to First Niagara Bank, N.A., successor by merger to New Alliance Bank f/k/a The New Haven Savings Bank, Plaintiff AGAINST Mushtaq Qureshi, a/k/a Mushtaq A. Qureshi a/k/a Mushtaq Ahmed Qureshi; Donna Johnston, a/k/a Donna L. Johnston; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered April 16, 2025, 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 July 28, 2025, at 2:00PM, premises known as 22 Madison Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Oyster Bay, County of Nassau, State of New York, Section: 0031 Block: 0000F-00 Lot: 00174. Approximate amount of judgment \$624,937.29 plus

interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 606352/2023. Foreclosure auction will be held "Rain or Shine". Joseph Trotti, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: June 5, 2025 154252

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Rain clouds rolled in over Eisenhower Park during the concert.

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OPINIONS

Saying goodbye to Bernie Kerik

Former New York City Police Commissioner Bernie Kerik died recently. In many ways, Bernie's death marked the beginning of the passing of an era. He was the commissioner when New York was attacked by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001, and he became a symbol of New York's resistance and courage with his leadership in the days, weeks and



PETER KING

months afterward. Before becoming commissioner, he was a heroic police officer and detective, receiving numerous departmental awards, including the Medal of Valor.

Rosemary and I were proud to call Bernie our friend, in good times and

bad. And there were some bad times, primarily when he was imprisoned for ethical crimes for which he was later pardoned. A number of us believed that he had been targeted for prosecution, and that his sentence was excessive. But Kerik would be the first to admit he was no saint. He did his time and went on with his life. Besides occasionally getting together with him for dinner, I looked forward to the massive barbecues he hosted for police officers and veterans

at his home in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey.

I believe in judging people on the entirety of their lives. For those who knew him or even just observed him, Kerik passed that test. The respect and admiration for him were amply demonstrated by the crowd of mourners at his funeral Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, who shared memories of Bernie — especially his loyalty to friends, his patriotism and his unwavering leadership after 9/11.

In addition to Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the attendees included law enforcement officials, government leaders and well-known New Yorkers.

The day of the funeral, Rosemary and I arrived early. Among the first people we met outside the cathedral was famed journalist and media personality Geraldo Rivera, a longtime friend of Kerik's. Rivera and I spoke about the times we spent with Bernie during his tough days, and how tough he was during those days.

Also outside the cathedral was FBI Director Kash Patel. The last time I had seen Kerik was with Patel last October at Il Milano Restaurant in Manhattan, where County Executive Bruce Blake-

Cairo and I went after President Trump's Madison Square Garden rally. On the day of the funeral, Kash described Kerik as a "titan among men" and "our warrior in the Colosseum . . . when the world needed saving."

Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and FDNY Commissioner Tom Von Essen, the city officials who were closest to Kerik in leading New York back after 9/11, appeared heartbroken and devastated. Current Mayor Eric Adams also attended, and I commended him for authorizing this ceremonial tribute to Kerik.

I also spoke with the NYPD's longest-serving commissioner, Ray Kelly, and current Commissioner Jessica Tisch. Kelly succeeded Kerik, and served for 12 years as commissioner. I met Tisch when she served as Kelly's deputy commissioner for information and technology.

The NYPD Pipes & Drums performed, and many hundreds of NYPD officers lined up to pay their respects. Before the Mass began, Rosemary and I had the chance to meet in the cathedral with Dolan, a true man of God and a man for all seasons who always supports the efforts of the men and women in blue.

The hearse carrying Kerik's remains arrived outside the cathedral as the bag-

pipes blared. Then the flag-draped coffin was carried up the steps of the cathedral to be blessed by Dolan, who led the funeral procession of family members and friends up the center aisle to the altar. Rosemary and I sat with Joe Lhota, formerly Giuliani's deputy mayor, who is now chief of staff at NYU Langone Medical Center.

The funeral was definitely a celebration of Kerik's life, best summarized by an opening sentence of NYPD Chaplain Msgr. David Cassato's eulogy, which elicited laughter and knowing smiles as he patted the coffin: "Each of us has a Bernie Kerik story." Kerik's brother and his son Joe, a hero Newark SWAT team cop, also delivered moving eulogies.

At the conclusion of the funeral, Kerik's coffin was carried from the cathedral. Taps was played. The American flag was taken from the coffin and presented to Bernie's widow, Halla, by Patel and Giuliani. Accompanied by the pipe band playing "America the Beautiful," the hearse headed slowly south on Fifth Avenue. A man who had done so much to lead New York through its darkest hour was leaving the arena. But the memories would remain. Bernie Kerik, R.I.P.

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

We need to stop the attacks on America's elected leaders

A lot of people are upset about the recent reports of the murder of the former speaker of the Minnesota legislature. If there is a list of concerned citizens, please put me at the top. Having served in elected office for 23 years, I have good reason to be worried about the fate of thousands of



JERRY KREMER

public officials who dedicate their lives to serving us. We are living in very sick times, and it's time for the American people to become a part of the solution and not the problem.

Less than two weeks ago, a deranged man took it upon himself to launch a carefully orchestrated campaign to kill elected officials in Minnesota. He created an enemies list and armed himself with AK-47s and other deadly weapons. You will note that I do not describe his victims and intended targets as Democratic lawmakers because party affiliation does not give potential murderers a free pass to kill only certain people.

The Minnesota horror show coincid-

ed with the eighth anniversary of the mass shooting during a practice session for the Congressional Baseball Game in Alexandria, Virginia. U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, a Republican, suffered serious injuries that have left him with permanent disabilities. His attacker also shot three other people. It is coincidental that Scalise's attacker was angry with Republicans, and the Minnesota killer had grievances with Democrats.

These events are part of a long history of people acting out of hatred for elected officials. In January 2011, U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords was shot during a constituent meeting in Casas Adobes, Arizona. Six innocent people were killed that day. The assassin was Jared Lee Loughner, who had a longstanding grievance with Giffords. He is currently serving a life sentence in prison.

Since that time there have been countless cases of violence against public officials. President Trump has been the target of two assassination attempts, and just two months ago, another deranged person attempted to kill Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro by setting fire to the governor's mansion. Sadly,

today, whether you're a Democratic or Republican official, there's a target on your back and there are an abundance of people out there who want to harm you.

Democrat or Republican, there are lots of people out there who want to harm you.

Some people think the solution to this madness is providing more security guards for certain officials. That easy fix would cost taxpayers billions of dollars, and is not the solution. Instead, the first step is to voice loud criticism of anyone who supports violence against any elected official. Shortly after the Minnesota slaughter of two innocents, Utah Republican Sen. Mike Lee baselessly suggested that their assassination was connected to the political left.

"This is what happens when Marxists don't get their way," Lee wrote on his personal X account with an image of suspected murderer Vance Boelter. In a follow-up tweet, he wrote "Nightmare on Waltz Street" in a misspelled reference to Minnesota Democratic Gov. Tim Waltz. Lee's comments were met with a firestorm of complaints, but to date he has not retreated from his inflammatory remarks. If they go uncensored by the Senate leadership, America is the loser.

The second solution to this constant wave of horror is very much in the hands of the political establishment, starting with President Trump, who has escaped two attempts on his life. It is incumbent on him to set a new tone against violence by either side. While the nation might be split politically, a president who speaks out on this issue is doing all Americans a favor.

Aside from my worry for the people who currently serve the people, I am deeply concerned about the impact these attacks will have on potential candidates for public office. I think if I were interested in running for the first time, my family would be begging me to reconsider. If qualified people decide that being an elected official is too dangerous, the country, and our system of government, will be the losers.

It is my fervent hope and prayer that this cycle of violence will end, but it won't be without all Americans being a part of a new crusade.

Jerry Kremer was a state assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. Comments about this column? jkremer@liherald.com.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Summer is too deadly for teen drivers

Summer should be a time of freedom, fun and new experiences for young people. But for teenage and young-adult drivers, the warmest months of the year come with a chilling nickname: *the 100 Deadliest Days*.

During this span, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, fatal crashes involving teen drivers spike significantly. The reasons are numerous and well documented — but the solutions are equally clear and achievable, if families and communities act with urgency.

Between 2019 and 2023, 13,135 people nationwide were killed in crashes involving teen drivers. One more person per day died in those crashes during the summer than at any other time of the year, according to an American Automobile Association analysis of accident data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Why is this time of year so deadly for young drivers?

The first and most obvious reason is increased time on the road. School is out, teens have more freedom, and that translates to more hours behind the wheel — many of them without adult supervision. This newfound autonomy can lead to increased exposure to risky situations, especially for drivers still learning the nuances of safe vehicle operation, who often create those situations.

Then there are the social factors. Summer is filled with gatherings, beach trips and late nights with friends. Often, teen drivers are not alone in the car, so

each fatal crash involving a teen has the increased chance of claiming a number of lives. The distractions of conversation, music, phones and peer pressure can divert a driver's attention at exactly the wrong moment. Reading and sending text messages, as well as watching and recording TikTok and Instagram videos, while driving are accidents waiting to happen, too.

Inexperience compounds the problem. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has noted, teen drivers are still developing the judgment and skills they need to respond to rapidly changing road conditions. They may fail to recognize hazards, misjudge distances or respond too late to hazardous situations. Add common behaviors such as speeding and driving under the influence, and it becomes clear why summer teen crash statistics rise so predictably.

Other risks are more situational, but just as serious: unfamiliar routes, fatigue from erratic summer sleep schedules, heat-related vehicle problems and heavy seasonal traffic. Each of those factors can test a teen's ability to maintain control behind the wheel.

What can, and should, parents do without unnecessarily limiting their children's freedom? First, set clear rules about when, where and with whom they can drive. That includes enforcing curfews and limiting the number of passengers that can accompany them. Research has consistently shown that the presence of more than one teenager in a car increases the risk of a

crash.

Second, lead by example. Teens model the behavior they see. Parents should avoid using phones while driving, follow traffic laws and show that safe driving is a lifelong habit — not just the subject of a lecture.

Open, honest communication is also vital. Conversations about the dangers of drinking, drugs and distracted driving should be ongoing, not one-time talks. When teens understand the real-life consequences of risky driving, they're more likely to make responsible choices.

Technology can help, too. Apps that provide driving feedback and location tracking — like those recommended by Family1st GPS — offer an added layer of safety and accountability. These tools aren't about spying; they're about creating a support system.

Emphasize safety basics: always wearing a seatbelt, obeying speed limits, and keeping eyes on the road and off the phone.

The 100 Deadliest Days will continue to claim many more lives than they should until families, schools and communities step up. Public service campaigns, driver education refreshers and localized policies — like New York state's Zero Tolerance law, which dramatically reduced the allowable blood alcohol content for drivers under age 21 — can make an impact.

This summer, let's treat teen driving safety like the urgent public health issue it is — and make sure that the road to adulthood isn't cut short by tragedy.

LETTERS

Suoizzi gets it

To the Editor:

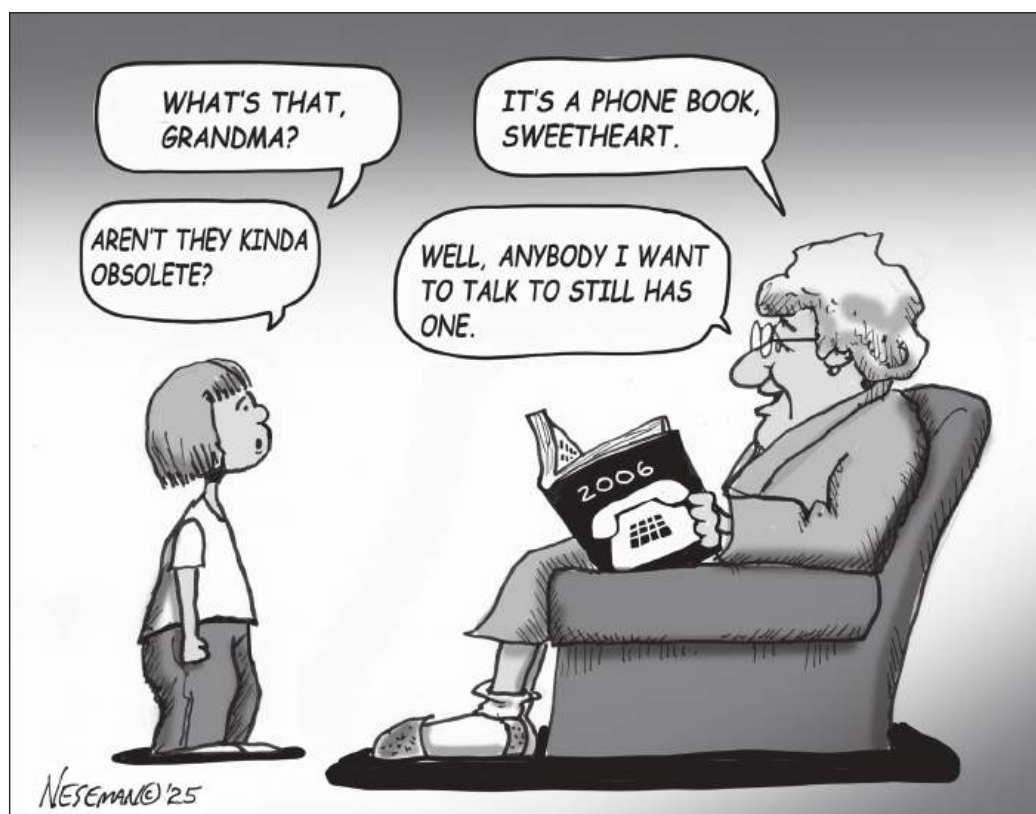
It was refreshing to see a Democrat, U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, offering ideas about the concerns of everyday people in his op-ed last week, "Centrist Democrats need to listen, learn and lead."

Suozzi wrote a column not once bashing President Trump.

He went one step further. He sent a letter to the president about working together to address border security, immigration reform and a path to legalization, and the release of a bagel manager from Port Washington who was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Working with the president may not make Suozzi popular with his fellow Democrats, but the majority of the people approve of both parties cooperating.

It's what the people want, not about the power of the parties.

Recent developments involving Iran are more reasons why we should heal our divi-



OPINIONS

Standing up for Nassau's families, and getting results

As the leader of the Democratic caucus in the Nassau County Legislature, I've always believed that public service is about one thing: delivering results for the people who elected us. That means putting partisanship aside and focusing on what matters — keeping our communities safe, ensuring fair access to resources and doing the hard work of good government.



**DELIA
DERIGGI-
WHITTON**

Unfortunately, we've had to fight tooth and nail for basic fairness from the administration of County Executive Bruce Blakeman. Until recently, over \$1.3 million in grant funding for first responders in Democratic districts was being blocked. That's not just wrong; it's dangerous. Meanwhile, the county executive approved 34 Republican-backed projects worth \$2.5 million, many of them nearly identical to the proposals submitted by

Democrats. Thirty-four to zero. That's not a coincidence. That's a political blockade.

Our Democratic team wasn't going to let that slide. We made the decision to leverage our power on the capital plan, something that can't pass without a 13-vote supermajority. We drew a line in the sand and demanded that these long-overdue grants be awarded. The result? A month later, we secured the funding our districts deserved, and we passed a capital plan that invests in roads, buildings, parks and other critical infrastructure across the county.

That's what happens when you stand up instead of standing by. We got the job done.

But make no mistake, our work is far from over. We're still holding this administration accountable, especially when it comes to public safety.

My colleagues on the Legislature's Public Safety Committee are continuing their legal efforts to dismantle Blakeman's reckless, unauthorized "armed militia." Taxpayer-funded paramilitary

cosplay isn't what Nassau families asked for, and we deserve full transparency about how such a dangerous and misguided idea was ever allowed to take root.

We're also facing a crisis that cuts across every ZIP code, every income level, every community: the opioid epidemic.

Nassau County has received nearly \$100 million in opioid settlement funds from drug manufacturers, money meant to save lives. Yet barely \$5 million of it has actually been spent. That's inexcusable. People are dying while bureaucracy and mismanagement keep help out of their reach.

That's why we took action. To break through the delays and dysfunction, the Legislature approved the hiring of an outside firm to manage a public grant portal that will finally move this process forward. This change will help expedite funding to the nonprofits and agencies that provide prevention, treatment and recovery services. We're making sure

the money gets where it belongs, which is with people and organizations fighting to save lives.

Through all of this, I remain inspired by the everyday heroes in our communities: first responders, educators, nurses, outreach workers and so many others who make Nassau County a better place. It's their example that keeps me going, and it's why I will never stop fighting for a government that serves everyone, not just the politically connected few.

So whether it's pushing for fairness in funding, protecting our communities from dangerous policies or getting life-saving resources into the right hands, know this: The Democratic caucus is united, we are focused, and we are just getting started. We'll keep showing up. We'll keep holding this administration accountable. And we'll keep fighting for you.

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

We got the job done by demanding that long-overdue grants be awarded.

LETTERS

sions. There are many external actors who would like to see our country torn apart. We shouldn't make it so easy for them.

TONY GIAMETTA
Oceanside

Enough of subminimum wages

To the Editor:

Organizations in New York can pay a person with a disability as little as 5 cents an hour, and it is legal. This must end.

It's time for the state to eliminate the subminimum wage and treat people with disabilities with the fairness they deserve. The State Senate has passed Bill S.28 to do just that, and now it's time for the Assembly to act before their session ends.

As the father of a young man with Down syndrome, I've seen firsthand what people with differing abilities can accomplish when given the chance. My son, John Cronin, co-founded a business with me, John's Crazy Socks, and we have learned that hiring people with differing abilities isn't charity; it's good business. More than half of our employees have a disability. They work hard, produce extraordinary results, and earn the same wage as their colleagues.

The subminimum wage law, a relic of 1938, allows people with disabilities to be paid as little as 5 cents an hour. That's not just outdated, it's wrong. It tells people that their labor, and their lives, are worth less.

New York should lead the nation by ending this discriminatory practice. No more second-class workers. No exceptions. I urge the Assembly to pass S.28 and help build a more inclusive and just future for all.

MARK X. CRONIN
*Cofounder and president, John's Crazy Socks
Farmingdale*

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Dancing at Juneteenth Freedom Day — Uniondale High School



Congratulations Class of 2025

A heartfelt congratulations to the North Shore High School graduating class of 2025! You’ve accomplished so much, and we’re excited to see what the future holds for you.

Whether you’re heading off to college, starting a career, or venturing into new adventures, we know this is a time of exciting possibilities.

Special shout-out to Diana Roper!



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