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**Summer music
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Roksana Amid/Herald

Sunshine, patriotism and a bike parade

A sea of red, white and blue swept through downtown Glen Cove during the city's annual July Fourth festivities. Story, Page 3.

A professor turned president: Blitz takes helm at Tiferith Israel

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

When Michael Blitz was 12, he pulled out the Yellow Pages, searched for "Jewish-sounding names" and began cold-calling strangers. He was determined to find someone who would teach him Hebrew.

"I actually chose to get bar mitzvahed on my own," Blitz, who's now 67, recalled. "Some of my friends had been bar mitzvahed. I was impressed by the service part of it, the religious part of it."

He found Frieda Katz, a tutor in Brooklyn, and showed up in her kitchen with \$35 in savings from his job picking berries at a farm stand.

"I said, 'How many lessons will this buy me?'" he recounted. "She looked at the money and she looked at me, and she said, 'All of them.'"

Though he didn't grow up in a religious household, Blitz's Jewish identity has been a continuous thread in his life, strengthened by personal study and reflection. His mother had little knowledge of Judaism, and his father was an avowed atheist. Still, Blitz took it upon himself to explore Jewish texts, language and history, first as a boy, then later as an adult.

That self-directed learning, he explained, became a form of healing. "For some reason, getting prepared for bar mitzvah felt like it was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Cove Animal Rescue needs financial help

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Cove Animal Rescue, in Glen Cove, is sounding the alarm over its financial future as it contends with soaring veterinary costs, an increase in surrenders and a decade-old city stipend that hasn't budged despite mounting expenses.

The no-kill shelter, which currently houses more than 60 cats and seven dogs, is widely recognized for its compassionate care and strong community ties. But according to its manager, Diane Connolly, Cove is being squeezed from all sides.

"So one of our biggest challenges has come to fruition, slowly but surely, and now really has hit home," Connolly said. "Most of the vets in the area have been kind to us. Now just about all of them are joining the conglomerates like the VCAs" — Veterinary Centers of America. "They're having a corporate takeover."

Connolly explained that

once veterinary practices are acquired by corporations, they can no longer control their pricing, resulting in skyrocketing bills for nonprofit shelters like Cove. "Even our last hold-out, who were the best to us, is Station Plaza Vets in Glen Head," she said.

Even the vet care to fix one spay now is up to almost \$80.

JANINE FAKIRIS
Board president,
Cove Animal Rescue

"They were always so kind to us, but as time has gone by, more and more are going under these auspices of these corporations."

The result? "Our moneys outlaid for medicine are gigantic," Connolly said. "And because of the kind of shelter we are, we have elderly animals, and so it's costing us a lot of money, which is really hitting us badly."

Making matters worse, Cove's funding from the City of Glen Cove has remained unchanged for nearly a decade — even though state-mandated building upgrades and animal care costs have risen steadily. The shelter receives a monthly stipend of \$7,741 from the city, which is now less than half of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

HERALD
Community Newspapers

‘The best feast in the east’ at St. Rocco

By ROKSANA AMID
 ramid@liherald.com

The Church of St. Rocco in Glen Cove will celebrate a major milestone this summer with the 50th annual Feast of St. Rocco, honoring five decades of faith, family, food, and fun. Known across Long Island as the “Best Feast in the East,” the event will run from Thursday, July 24 through Sunday, July 27, transforming the church grounds at 18 Third Street into a lively hub of cultural celebration. What began in 1974 as a modest gathering of Italian-American parishioners looking to preserve their heritage has blossomed into one of the North Shore’s most beloved traditions. Thousands of visitors now attend each year to enjoy live music, games, raffles, carnival rides, and, most famously, a wide variety of homemade Italian food prepared by parishioners—including zeppole, cannoli, sausage and peppers, baked clams, and more.

A central feature of the event is the Sunday morning Mass at 10:15 a.m., followed by a traditional procession through the streets of Glen Cove with the statue of St. Rocco. Feast hours for 2025 are Thursday and Friday from 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday from 3 to 11 p.m.; and Sunday beginning at 3 p.m., with closing expected around 9 p.m. Credit



Courtesy Reggie Spinello
 Worshipers at the Church of St. Rocco adorn the statue of their patron saint with money and trinkets.

cards will be accepted in the dining room and at various booths to make purchasing easier for guests. Admission is free, and all are welcome to join in the celebration.

Organizers encourage attendees to follow the Church of St. Rocco, Glen Cove NY Facebook page for updates or changes. For more information, visit strocoglen Cove.com or call 516-676-2482.

Donate to family of G.H. crash victim

By ROKSANA AMID
 ramid@liherald.com

Community members are rallying to support the family of Trevor Mitchell, a 36-year-old former Sea Cliff resident who died in a motorcycle crash on June 27 in Glen Head.

The fatal accident occurred on Scuders Lane, leaving Mitchell’s loved ones stunned by the sudden loss. Known for his kindness, loyalty and fun-loving personality, Mitchell was a devoted partner and a proud father to his 2-year-old son, Darin.

His death has left his fiancée, Dayna Dunlop, and their young son not only heartbroken but also facing significant financial hardship. Mitchell did not have life insurance, and Dunlop now bears the full responsibility of housing costs, childcare, and other basic living expenses.

A GoFundMe campaign, organized by Sara McGowan on behalf of Dunlop, has raised \$27,961 as of press time. The fundraising goal is \$35,000.

“Trevor was a kind, fun, loyal and generous soul. He loved his family fiercely, and we want to honor his memory by showing up for them now in the way he would have wanted,” McGowan wrote on the GoFundMe page. “We’d like to continue the campaign in hopes of helping secure Darin and Dayna’s



Courtesy GoFundMe
 Trevor Mitchell leaves behind his fiancée, Dayna Dunlop, and their 2-year-old son, Darin. Mitchell, 36, was killed in a motorcycle crash on June 27.

future.”

The fundraiser has seen an outpouring of support from friends, neighbors and community members who knew Mitchell or were moved by his story. Many have shared the page online, hoping to spread the word and help ease the financial burden on the grieving family.

Donations can be made at: gofundme.com, on the page titled “In Memory of Trevor-Supporting His Family”

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HERALD PRESENTS



ULTIMATE TICKETS SWEEPSTAKES

One lucky member of the **HERALD** audience will **WIN 4 TICKETS** to watch *Long Island Ducks vs Hagerstown Flying Boxcars* at *Fairfield Properties Ballpark*.

Sunday, August 17 | Contest ends August 10th midnight with the winner chosen on August 11th
 at 5:05 p.m.

Directions for ticket acquisition will be explained when winner is contacted.



Scan this QR code
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City bike parade rolls into its biggest year

3

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

Glen Cove's annual Fourth of July Bike Parade brought out its largest crowd yet this year, with families gathering to decorate bikes and scooters in red, white and blue and ride through the heart of the city.

"It was a great weekend," said Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck. "We just love to have events and this is one specifically for kids."

The parade kicked off at 10 a.m. at Robert M. Finley Middle School and continued through downtown to Village Square, where participants sang patriotic songs and received prizes for best-decorated bicycles.

"I asked the children what does the Fourth of July mean and a couple of them knew the answers," Panzenbeck said. "It brings about an opportunity for us to get all the kids together and have a celebration."

The tradition, organized by the city's Youth Bureau, has grown significantly in recent years. "This year's was the biggest crowd yet," Panzenbeck noted.

Youth Bureau Executive Director Spiro Tsirkas reminded participants about the importance of bike safety, especially in light of concerns he said have come up in recent months throughout Glen Cove.

"A bicycle is a moving vehicle. You're on the street with cars, you're on the street with other pedestrians, you know anything you do you got to be very careful," Tsirkas said. "You got to pay attention, see what's going on. Don't expect the car to stop. You have to be prepared to stop so that means you have to be paying attention."

"We see kids on cell phones riding bikes, we see kids doing tricks on bikes, popping wheelies," he said. "Unfortunately we see kids now with the new form of the e-bikes going through our parks and destroying grass and falling. We had somebody fall down the hill."

The tradition began in 1992, when Glen Cove resident Cheryl Carmody launched the first neighborhood bike parade while on maternity leave.

"I started the parade back when my first daughter was two and my second daughter was about six months old," Carmody said. "That was back in fall of 1992."

At the time, Glen Cove Mayor Donald DeRiggi heard about the event through a neighbor and showed up unexpectedly.

"The mayor showed up and I was like, how did you even know about this?" Carmody recalled. "Apparently someone on Cleveland told the mayor."

The early parades were held around the President's Streets, starting at the corner of Grant and McKinley and ending at Carmody's front yard with cookies and lemonade. Over the years, the event grew into a citywide celebration, with fire trucks, DJ-led music, and flyers distributed through every elementary school.

Carmody and her family organized



Joanne Yee/Herald photos

Youth lined up their bikes at Village Square to show off their creative and patriotic spirits.



Ariolla, 3, and Lina Giovanniello were excited to march and ride through downtown Glen Cove.

the parade for over two decades before handing it over to the city's Recreation Department in 2014.

"It's wonderful now to go back to the parade with my grandchildren," she said. "It was just such a sweet moment to have my daughter, we started it for when she was two and a half, holding her two and a half year old at the same parade."



Families and friends lined up in front of Robert M. Finley Middle school.



A wave of red, white and blue swept through Downtown Glen Cove during the fourth of July bike parade.

HERALD PRESENTS



METS

ULTIMATE TICKETS SWEEPSTAKES

One lucky member of the **HERALD** audience will **WIN 2 TICKETS** to watch *New York Mets vs San Francisco Giants* at Citi Field.

Sunday, August 3 | Contest ends July 27 at midnight with the winner chosen on July 28
at 1:40 p.m.

Directions for ticket acquisition will be explained when winner is contacted.

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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 32-year-old Brooklyn man was arrested on June 25 for aggravated unlicensed, unlicensed operation, and equipment violations on Sea Cliff Ave.
- A 57-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested for driving while intoxicated on June 26.
- A 44-year-old Greenvale man was arrested on June 28 for driving while intoxicated and unsafely changing lanes on Cedar Swamp Road.
- A 50-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on June 29 for trespassing on Glen Cove Ave.
- A 47-year-old Selden man was arrested on June 30 for driving while intoxicated, aggravated unlicensed operation, circumventing an interlock device, and unsafely changing lanes on Glen Street.
- A 30-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 2 for aggravated family offense and criminal contempt on Smith Street.
- A 31-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 20 for assault and strangulation on Glen Street.

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

NEWS BRIEF

Events committee hosts Island Vibes

The Glen Cove Special Events Committee will host the “Island Vibes” celebration on July 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Glen Cove Ferry Terminal, 73 Garvies Point Road. This free, family-friendly event brings a tropical atmosphere to the waterfront, encouraging attendees to dress in their best island attire. The evening will feature live music by the Bobby Bahama Band, creating a vibrant island-inspired soundtrack for the night. Local food trucks and dessert vendors will offer a variety of tasty options for all to enjoy. For guests 21 and older, beer and wine will be available for purchase, provided by Meritage Wine Bar.

To add to the fun, games and raffles will be held throughout the evening, including a limbo contest and cornhole tournament, fostering friendly competition among attendees. The event offers a perfect opportunity for the community to gather, relax, and celebrate summer in a festive setting. Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses interested in supporting the celebration. For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Roni Jenkins at Roni.Jenkins@glencoveny.gov.

—Roksana Amid

Let us Know

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

GLEN COVE

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July 13 | **Kenny & Luke’s Country Beach Party**

The Music of Kenny Chesney & Luke Bryan

July 20 | **Netty & Friends and The Men of Soul**

An Evening of Soul, Motown and R&B

July 27 | **Beginnings**

A Celebration of the Music of Chicago

August 3 | **Harvest**

An Evening of Neil Young

August 10 | **Gershwin and Bernstein on Broadway**

Massapequa Philharmonic - David Bernard, Conductor

August 17 | **The Midtown Men**

Jersey Boys cast members perform songs from the 60s

August 24 | **Are You Ready for It? - A Taylor Experience**

The Music of Taylor Swift

August 31 | **Miami Sound Revue**

The Music of Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine

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HERALD SPORTS

Islanders display influx of young talent

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellissimo@liherald.com

Fresh off making three first-round selections in the NHL draft for only the second time in franchise history, including blue-chip defenseman Matthew Schaefer, taken No. 1 overall, the New York Islanders hosted their rookie development camp June 30-July 3 at Northwell Health Ice Center in East Meadow.

Highlighting the four-day camp was the return of the Blue & White Scrimmage, played for the first time since 2018 before a packed house July 2. Schaefer and fellow 2025 first-rounders winger Victor Eklund (16th) and defenseman Kashawn Aitcheson (17th), second-round winger Daniil Prokhorov (42nd), as well as 2024 first-round pick winger Cole Eiserman (20th), second-round picks defenseman Jesse Pulkkinen (54th) and center Kamil Bednarik (61st), 2023 second-round pick center Danny Nelson (49th), and Colorado's 2023 first-round pick center Calum Ritchie (27th) all had their talents on display and the fans buzzing.

"It's been an unbelievable camp and the facilities here are incredible," Aitcheson said after the Blue & White Scrimmage. "I just wanted to come here and make an impression on the coaches and be a sponge. It's been really cool to meet all the guys and see how much the fans support this team."

The Islanders finished 35-35-12 last season and missed the playoffs. They



Calum Ritchie is part of an infusion of young talent in the Islanders' organization.

entered the NHL Draft Lottery May 5 with the 10th pick and a minuscule 3.5 percent chance of jumping to the top before they hit the jackpot.

Enter the 17-year-old Schaefer, widely regarded as the best player available with elite skating and playmaking skills. Ranked at the top on the NHL Central Scouting Bureau's North American skaters list, he recorded 39 points (10 goals, 29 assists) in 73 games across two seasons with the Erie Otters of the Ontario Hockey League and on the international stage won a gold medal with Team Canada at the 2024 IIHF World Under-18 Championships, recording five points in seven games. He becomes the Islanders' fifth first-overall pick after center John Tavares (2009), goaltender Rick DiPietro (2000), defenseman Denis Potvin (1973) and winger Billy Harris (1972.)

"You dream of this your whole life and it's a dream come true," Schaefer said. "Now you've got to put your work boots on. Getting drafted is amazing and first overall is amazing and it's an honor. But I've got to put my head down, have fun and work as hard as I can. I want to be on that opening-night roster."

Hours before selecting Schaefer June 27, new General Manager Mathieu Darche traded a former first-round pick, Noah Dobson, after an impasse in contract negotiations with the restricted free agent defenseman to Montreal for the two additional first rounders used on Eklund and Aitcheson.

The only other year the Isles made at



Tony Bellissimo/Herald photos

The Islanders selected defenseman Matthew Schaefer with the first-overall pick of the 2025 NHL Draft.

least three first-round picks was in 1999 when they had four.

Eklund's older brother, William, plays for San Jose. Victor, 18, recorded 31 points (19 goals, 12 assists) in 42 games with Djurgårdens of HockeyAllsvenskan in Sweden last season and was ranked second on the Central Scouting Bureau's International skaters list.

Aitcheson, 18, is a bruising defender with an impressive offensive skill set that led him to a 59-point regular season (26 goals, 33 assists) with the Barrie Colts of the OHL in 2024-25. He was Schaefer's gold-medal winning teammate at the 2024 IIHF World Under-18 Championships and played against him in the OHL.

"I've gotten to know Matthew pretty well and I'm excited to see what the future holds for him," Aitcheson said.

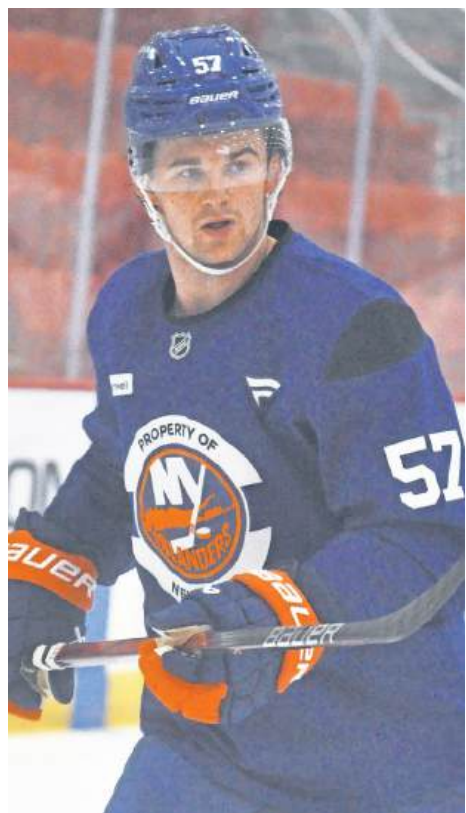
It was also the first Islanders camp

for Eiserman, 18, who enjoyed a huge season at Boston University and led all NCAA freshmen in goals with 20 while helping lead the Terriers to the national title game.

"The fans are super passionate here and I'm excited to wear this logo," Eiserman said. "It's my first time on Long Island and I'm soaking it up and loving it. Obviously the organization does its homework on brining in not only talented players but guys with tremendous character."

Preseason schedule released

The Islanders will play six preseason games, including three at UBS Arena: Sept. 21 versus Philadelphia, Sept. 26 against New Jersey and Sept. 29 against the Rangers. The NHL plans to announce the 2025-26 regular-season schedule July 16.



Islanders 2024 first-round pick Cole Eiserman led all NCAA freshmen in goals last season with 20.

'Big Beautiful Bill,' and its impact on L.I.

By LUKE FEENEY & WILL SHEELINE

Of The Herald

As Americans across the country fired up their grills and celebrated Independence Day, a different celebration took place on the South Lawn at the White House.

President Donald Trump signed into law a massive tax and spending package on July 4. The legislation, nicknamed by Trump as the "One Big Beautiful Bill," narrowly passed the House of Representatives in a 218-214 vote, mostly along party lines.

The budget bill extends Trump's 2017 tax cuts, eliminates taxes on tips and overtime, and allocates approximately \$170 billion to support the administration's border and immigration objectives. In addition, the federal debt ceiling will be raised by \$5 trillion by the legislation, with the Congressional Budget Office estimating that a potential \$3.4 trillion increase to the deficit over the next 10 years.

Over 1,200 pages long, the bill is certainly big. What is currently unclear is what direct impact it will have on residents of Long Island's North Shore. Republican elected officials Legislator Samantha Goetz, State Senator Jack Martins, and Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman did not respond to an inquiry by time of press.

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi wrote that he

supported the bill's increased funding for border security and the \$10,000 to \$40,000 increase for the state and local tax deduction, known as SALT, for households earning \$500,000 or less over the next five years, starting in 2025. He described it as "a partial victory," but vowed to push for the full restoration of the increase, which is set to expire in 2030.

The Long Island Democrat raised several issues with the legislation, including environmental concerns and a continued deficit increase to "pay for unnecessary tax breaks for some of the wealthiest Americans while cutting health insurance and food benefits."

In addition, despite his support for increased border security funding, Suozzi called for a more permanent solution to the country's immigration issues. "We also need a bipartisan fix to the broken asylum system," Suozzi wrote. "To legalize millions of agricultural, hospitality, healthcare and other essential workers who have been here a decade or more with no criminal record."

In a written statement, Nassau County Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whit-

ton, a Democrat, expressed her worry for the economic outlook for the next generation of Long Islanders as a result of the projected increase in spending. "I'm very concerned about the amount we will be adding to the debt for future generations to have to contend with. Raising the debt ceiling and adding trillions to our debt is not something that I consider financially prudent at all."

In contrast, Republican Assemblyman Jake Blumencranz asserted that the bill creates positive changes to the tax code to help small businesses and seniors. He emphasized the benefits of the increasing SALT cap for homeowners on Long Island.

Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joe Salandino expressed similar praise for the increase, writing that he applauded "Congress for restoring the SALT tax deductions that are so important to Long Island homeowners, providing

much-needed property tax relief," also writing his support for the "commitment to funding stronger public safety measures to protect communities."

Blumencranz added that the removal of taxes on tips and overtime "helps real

Americans" and is a "genuine tax cut for hard-working, working-class people on Long Island." While he added that he had problems with the bill in its entirety, Blumencranz admitted that he supported the economic portions of the legislation.

Assemblyman Charles Lavine said that he supported the elimination of taxes on tips and overtime, as well as the SALT deduction increase; however, he had far more criticism than praise for the bill.

To offset the cost, the bill slashes nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid and reduces food assistance and clean energy incentives. In addition, it imposes 80-hour-per-month work requirements on many adults receiving Medicaid and applies existing SNAP work rules to additional beneficiaries.

"The soup might look good, but there's a dead rat in it," said Lavine. "There's always something relatively good in every disgusting piece of legislation. It's not worth parsing it out just like it's not worth eating the soup that had the dead rat in it."

Nearly 1.5 million New Yorkers are expected to lose their healthcare coverage as a result of the cuts to the program, according to the New York Healthcare Association. Roughly 308,000 Nassau County residents rely on Medicaid, according to the state Department of Health.

GLEN COVE HERALD — July 10, 2025

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8 Blitz on CTI: 'We loved it from day one'

July 10, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

part of a repair process," he said. "The same thing happened when we found CTI" — Congregation Tifereth Israel, in Glen Cove. "It was this kind of powerful reparation in some way."

Blitz's early initiative — fueled by curiosity and a deep desire to understand his heritage — set the tone for a life of learning, self-reinvention and a persistent sense of purpose. This year, Blitz was elected president of CTI, Long Island's oldest continuously active synagogue.

He and his wife, Mozelle Dayan, joined CTI two years ago after spending nearly three decades at a synagogue in Hicksville. The decision to make the move was sparked by friends who encouraged the couple to attend a Friday night Shabbat service at CTI.

"We came, and we loved it from day one," Blitz said. They were immediately impressed by the warmth of the community, including Rabbi Irwin Huberman and the synagogue's cantor, Gustavo Gitlin, who personally welcomed them after services.

Before long, Blitz and Dayan sold their home in Hicksville and moved to Glen Cove to be within walking distance of CTI. "Let's have an adventure at this point in our lives," he recalled saying.

Blitz soon became an active participant in synagogue life, attending every service, volunteering for fundraising

efforts and joining committees. When he was asked to consider taking on a leadership role, however, his answer was no.

"I felt like I was fairly new," he explained. "I didn't want anything to interfere with my enjoyment of what the synagogue is to me."

But in recent months, when a nominee for president had to step aside, Blitz reconsidered. "If I'm really committed to this place, and this is what they need, I'll consider it," he said. He was nominated, and elected unanimously by the congregation.

Huberman praised Blitz as a rare leader who "possesses all of the different components: leadership, role modeling, love of Israel and a love of learning."

A veteran educator and a prolific author, Blitz spent more than three decades at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where he chaired the Interdisciplinary Studies program for a decade. He designed and taught boundary-pushing courses that combined literature, criminal justice, philosophy and cosmology, among other subjects.

Blitz has a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies. He was also chosen by Nobel laureate Toni Morrison to be the lead researcher for her book "Beloved."

"We would have these long marathon sessions in her office," he said. "She said, 'You need to surprise me every time you step in my office.'"

His ability to blend creativity with

rigor didn't go unnoticed. Morrison later referred him to Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Kennedy, and Blitz spent part of his doctoral studies doing research for both literary giants. At John Jay he found his intellectual home teaching experimental interdisciplinary courses, and also served as poet-in-residence.

While his résumé reads like a whirlwind, Blitz insists that the variety of his career has never felt overwhelming. "When I write a resume, it does look like I'm insanely busy," he said. "But it doesn't feel that way."

That mindset, paired with his academic ambition, led him to repeatedly take bold leaps. "I've actually also always taken the chutzpah step," he said.

And his passions extend beyond the classroom. He is a high-ranking instructor of Krav Maga, the hybrid martial art used by the Israel Defense Forces, and has trained law enforcement and security forces worldwide. He co-founded Blitz Krav Maga, taught self-defense to security guards at Madison Square Garden and Radio City Music Hall, and led instructor training for elite IDF veterans. His martial arts journey began in earnest in the early 1990s, and he has since earned an extremely rare third-degree black belt in Krav Maga.

Despite his accomplishments, Blitz is quick to point out that the through line



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Two years after Michael Blitz and his wife, Mozelle Dayan, joined Congregation Tifereth Israel, in Glen Cove, he became the synagogue's president.

of his life has always been a hunger for knowledge.

Now living just a short walk from the synagogue, he is rooted in both faith and community. "We have this really close community of friends that we never dreamed of," he said of Glen Cove. "It's been incredible."

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Commission reaffirms NCC's accreditation

By **HERNESTO GALDAMEZ**
hgaldamez@liherald.com

Nassau Community College has secured reaffirmation of its accreditation for another eight years from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, following a multi-year effort to address concerns around leadership and campus climate.

The reaccreditation, announced jointly by the Commission and the college, comes despite a recent review that flagged the institution's lack of a permanent president and issues related to the internal atmosphere on campus.

Still, college officials said the decision validates years of focused institutional work.

"We weren't surprised by the outcome because we've been working really hard for the last three years," Jerry Kornbluth, vice president of community and governmental relations at NCC said. "We met all seven standards, and we were really happy with the outcome."

Middle States accreditation affirms that an institution meets rigorous standards of academic quality, governance, assessment, and financial stewardship. Nassau Community College, part of the State University of New York system, has been accredited by Middle States since 1967.

"The faculty, administration and staff at NCC have worked very hard to have the institution's accreditation reaffirmed by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as part of our ongoing efforts to provide students with a comprehensive education and outstanding supportive atmosphere," Maria Conzatti, the college's chief administrative officer stated in a news release. "We look forward to continuing our tradition of excellence in higher education and trans-



Nassau Community College secured reaffirmation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Herald file photo

forming lives."

Kornbluth pointed to several financial and institutional improvements made in recent years, including eliminating a \$14 million deficit, growing a fund balance, and increasing student enrollment by an average of 2.5 to 3 percent per semester.

He said the college has also prioritized capital upgrades on its decades-old campus, formerly part of the Mitchell Air Force Base.

"The reaffirmation moves us to the next level," Kornbluth said. "It enables us to create more resources,

and people will have more confidence in the college."

However, the faculty union sees the outcome differently.

"Nassau Community College has retained its accreditation from Middle States, but only under serious conditions — a clear warning that the college remains in crisis," David Stern, president of the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers, wrote to the Herald. "The Commission found continued failures in ethics, governance, campus climate, and financial accountability, issues first raised nearly a decade ago and now cited in two consecutive reviews."

"By early 2026, NCC must demonstrate concrete reform — under close supervision by Middle States — or risk losing its accreditation entirely," he added.

One of the Commission's noted recommendations was that the college must appoint a permanent president. Conzatti has served as the college's top leader since 2021, first as interim, then as acting president. In 2023, she was granted a five-year contract by the Board of Trustees with the title of "Chief Administrative Officer."

Kornbluth said SUNY has not formally recognized her as permanent president, but that Conzatti is for all intents and purposes the college's leader.

"She's the first female president in the college's history, a graduate of NCC, and has been here for over 30 years," he said. "She's the right person at the right time to lead the college."

Looking ahead, Kornbluth said the college aims to expand vocational training in trades like HVAC, welding and electrical work to meet growing regional workforce demand.

"This was a team effort between faculty, staff, trustees, and administration," he said. "We're proud of where we are, and we're moving the college forward."

GLEN COVE HERALD — July 10, 2025

Discover what's coming in the **HERALD**

JULY 10

Your Health

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

JULY 10

Summer Dining

Explore the best of seasonal flavors with our Summer Dining special section—featuring local hotspots, refreshing recipes, outdoor eats, and tips for savoring summer bites.

AUG. 14

Back to School

Get ready for a successful school year with our Back to School special section—featuring tips, supplies, schedules, local resources, and everything students need to thrive.

AUG. 21

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Joanne Yee/Herald photos

Each year, MPSMF gives out scholarships to outstanding young performers through its talent competition. This year, the Glen Cove High School winners are Jeffrey Ramirez, Grace Guillen, and Isabel Basil, pictured here with Chairman Tom Suozzi.

Summer music festival returns for 66th year

Last Sunday kicked off this year's Morgan Park Summer Music Festival with a rousing evening featuring Richie Cannata and the Lords of 52nd Street performing classic Billy Joel tunes, joined by the Glen Cove High School Select Chorale and singer Shyezee (Shye Roberts), known from The Voice. Held on the scenic Morgan Memorial Park lawn overlooking Long Island Sound, the free family-friendly event attracted music lovers of all ages, who gathered with picnic blankets, chairs, and coolers. As the festival launches its 66th season, the performance embodied the community spirit and joyful vibe the all-volunteer team has cultivated for over six decades.

—Roksana Amid



Before the concert, Chairman Tom Suozzi congratulated the Glen Cove High School Softball Team for their County Championship.



Shyezee Roberts, a standout from NBC's The Voice, captivates the crowd with a soulful performance during the opening night of the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival.



A committee of advisors and board members help to organize the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival every year.



Richie Cannata and the Lords of 52nd Street bring the sounds of Billy Joel to life as they rock the stage at the opening concert.



HERALD

Community Newspapers

JULY 10, 2025

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HEALTH MEMO

Parker Jewish Institute showcases healing power of music with Sur Sagar ensemble

A musical ensemble at the Parker Jewish Institute brings harmony and wellness to residents and patients alike.

The ensemble is known as Sur Sagar, which means “Ocean of Melody” in Hindi. It features five women from the Institute’s long-term care residence at Parker’s Indian Cultural Unit. The Indian Cultural Unit is the first of its kind in the region, accommodating the rehabilitation, health-care and cultural needs of older adults in New York’s growing Indian population.

At Parker, members of Sur Sagar come together in song to create something special. Beyond their enchanting melodies, Sur Sagar represents the therapeutic power of music in elder care. Music therapy can help reduce anxiety, improve cognitive function and provide a powerful outlet for emotional expression for older adults. While Parker’s residents and patients diligently participate in physical, occupational and speech therapies that nurture their bodies, these musical gatherings nourish their spirits, helping



them to feel at ease so that they can heal.

The enthusiasm and unity of Sur Sagar members illuminate the profound impact of culturally meaningful activities. As part of Parker’s Indian Cultural Unit, these sessions incorporate familiar melodies and rhythms that resonate deeply with residents, awakening cherished memories and creating moments of pure joy.

Sur Sagar embodies the essence of Parker’s Indian Cultural Unit. The unit fosters the understanding that healing and

care must address the physical being while also honoring cultural identity and nurturing the soul through art and expression.

About The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation<

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

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



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Take precautions so that the sun is friend not foe

Don't let sunburn derail your fun

Many people find it impossible to think about summer without conjuring visions of spending endless hours outdoors from morning until evening, whether beachside, on the open water or even floating in a backyard pool. Although a certain measure of sun exposure is required for some natural body functions, it's well documented that too much time in the sun can be hazardous.

The sun's warmth and brightness can relax us and boost our spirits. The benefits are wonderful, but overexposure can lead to some dangerous health issues.

Each year more than three and a half million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the United States. So whether you're planning a trip to the beach, hitting the golf course, or enjoying a backyard cookout, remember to protect yourself.

Have your fun but be sun smart

Taking sunburn for granted can be a big mistake. Many people wouldn't risk burns from a hot stove or open fire, but they won't think twice about being unprotected under the very hot rays of the sun.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says more than one-third of adults and nearly 70 percent of children admit to suffering from sunburn within the

past year. Depending on the intensity of the sun and the amount of time spent outside, sunburn can be a first- or second-degree burn. In first-degree burns, damage affects the topmost layer of skin. However, sunburn can even affect deeper layers and cause blistering in addition to redness and pain.

Sunburn also can cause some irreparable damage that goes unseen. Healthcare professionals stress that ultraviolet light from the sun can alter DNA, prematurely aging skin or even contributing to skin cancers. It can take years before symptoms become noticeable. Therefore, exercise caution when spending time in the sun — at every age.

Avoid the burn

Sunburn is one of the most easily prevented summertime ailments. It's also important to note that sunburns are not just limited to the hot weather or when it is sunny outside. Ultraviolet damage can occur at any time of the year, and also from artificial UV sources, such as tanning beds (stay away!).

Seek the shade. The sun's rays are usually strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you are outside, find shade from a structure, a leafy tree, or a sun umbrella for protection. Also, try to arrange your schedule so that you can take advantage of the early morning and

late afternoon for your outdoor activities. Otherwise, limit exposure to the sun and take frequent breaks in the shade.

Cover up. Wear protective clothing that covers the arms and legs. Some outdoor gear is designed to offer sun protection. Tightly woven fabrics tend to help the most.

Your clothes can be an effective form of protection from the sun's harmful rays. Some outdoor clothing now carries an Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) rating. The UPF rating lets you know how well the fabric shields your skin from ultraviolet (UV) rays. All fabrics block UV rays to some degree, but the most effective have a UPF rating from 15 (good) to more than 50 (excellent). Don't forget a hat and sunglasses to protect your head and eyes and put sunscreen on exposed skin.

Apply — and reapply — sunscreen. The Sun Protection Factor (SPF) measures how long unprotected skin can be theoretically exposed to the sun's harmful UV rays before causing damage. UVA rays can prematurely age your skin, causing wrinkles and age spots. UVB rays can burn your skin. Too much exposure to either can cause skin cancer, as we're all aware by now.

The American Academy of Dermatology actually recommends an SPF of 30 or greater. Make sure the product is broad-spectrum,



meaning it protects against UVA and UVB rays. Apply sunscreen thoroughly, paying attention to the tops of feet, hands and other places that tend to go untreated. Reapply every two hours or more frequently, if necessary.

Photo: As great as the sun feels, it poses serious threats to your health and appearance. Have your time in the sun while sparing your skin from damage and harm to your health.

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HEALTH MEMO

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

Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), a 2025 Bests of Long Island winner and located at The Parker Jewish Institute, now offers a state-of-the-art Home Hemodialysis Program for people battling kidney disease. Those patients who also require Certified Home Health Care can access it conveniently through QLIRI's affiliate, Parker Jewish Institute.

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

If needed, patients of Parker's Certified Home Health Care Agency receive individualized nursing, medical, and rehabilitation services, so they can maintain maximum independence in the comfort of their homes. Home-care services can include skilled-nursing care; physical, occupational and speech therapy; home-health aides; medical social services; medical supplies; and 24-hour telephone availability.

Call (718) 289-2600 with questions. To learn more about QLIRI's Home Hemodialysis Program, visit qliri.org.

For more on Parker's Certified Home Health Care, visit parkerjewishinstitute.org.



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

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STEPPING OUT



Step right up

A bustling scene at the Empire State Fair

By Karen Bloom

It's that time again — the sweet smell of cotton candy, the sizzle of zeppole and the midway beckons. The fair is back in town, now lighting up the Nassau Coliseum grounds, through July 13.

This summertime staple brings together all the classic fun of a traditional fair, with modern-day excitement everyone will enjoy. From thrilling rides and circus performances to an old-school "oddy" sideshow and friendly farm animals, there's no shortage of ways to spend a summer evening. It all combine for an extravaganza that entices all ages.

Keep your eyes on the Big Top: Circus Murcia carries forth with time-honored circus traditions refreshed for the 21st century. Featuring major thrill acts such as the High Wire and Globe of Death, along with assorted aerialists, jugglers and clowns and much more, fair-goers are sure to enjoy a new take on circus arts.

Also you won't want to miss the World of Wonders sideshow, always a popular spot. Visit the colorful spot and be drawn into the scene involving 30 bizarre exhibits in the fascinating Museum of Marvels, under the watchful eye of Tommy Breen — aka The Great Gozleone. As a sword swallower extraordinaire, his antics are boundless, including fire-eating and stunts with a guillotine that are not for the feint of heart.

"When I was 14 I decided I wanted to run away with the sideshow," Breen says. "I started teaching myself sword swallowing and some other stunts out of the back of a book I found. I didn't think there still were sideshows around, I figured I could perform in bars with bands or something, but then when I graduated college I saw Ward Hall was hiring for his World of Wonders show. I was shocked it was still on the road and that I had the chance to work for the 'King of the Sideshow,' so I quit my job and got rid of my apartment and joined the carnival. It was what I had always daydreamed about, and once I got here I just never left."

Breen proudly carries on the sideshow tradition, with his fellow sideshow folk.

A strongwoman astounds visitors with feats of strength, bending metal, ripping phone books, and breaking metal chains with her bare hands, along with other "talents" that never cease to amaze.



- Now through July 13
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- Visit empirestatefair.com for online savings on wristbands and tickets
- Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale

From the bizarre to high-tech, there's something for everyone. Check out another "wonder" — the Big Bee transforming robot car.

"It's built to be like a life-size Camaro, but inside, instead of having seats, it has a system of hydraulics and different motors that make it lift and open up," says Alex Murcia, whose family enterprise came up with the concept.

"The car goes up and down and transforms from what looks like a regular Camaro to a giant robot."

And, of course, the rides are always a big draw. The midway features plenty, along with attractions that all ages enjoy. The Dream Wheel (one of the largest Ferris wheels on the fair circuit), commands attention, towering over the fairgrounds at 110-feet tall. With 24 spacious gondola cars, each with a six-person capacity to accommodate your entire group, it's not to be missed. Other favorites include Alien Invasion, Super Cyclone rollercoaster, Wacky Worm family rollercoaster, The Zipper, Storybook Fun House, super slide, and bumper cars. And, yes, for those who never tire of the tea cups, you'll find them here.

Whether you crave thrills or the funnel cake, this fair has it all.



Photos courtesy Empire State Fair

Spectacle and classic fun await at the Empire State Fair, where fire-eaters, circus performers, rides, and exciting new attractions come together for summer fun.



Fireworks spectacle

Still craving more fireworks?

Rockville Centre's annual anniversary celebration is just the ticket! Head to Barasch Field for a festive evening of music and family fun — capped off by a dazzling fireworks show. The South Shore Symphony Orchestra sets the tone with a rousing outdoor concert. That always delights, now in their 32nd year participating in the longstanding summertime tradition that brings together neighbors from near and far. Artistic Director Adam Glaser passes the baton to guest conductor Eileen Murphy, who leads a crowd-pleasing program of patriotic anthems, Broadway hits and familiar favorites. Highlights include the 1812 Overture, selections from "Gypsy" and Videogames Live, plus classic Sousa marches. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs, and, of course, some picnic foods — and settle in! After dark, the fireworks begin around 9:15 p.m., choreographed to the orchestra's performance, for a truly unforgettable finish. Admission is free and is open to everyone. Rain date is July 13.

Saturday, July 12, 7 p.m. Pette and Barasch Fields, 244 S. Park Ave, Rockville Centre. For more information, visit rvcnj.us.



The Gin Blossoms

Take a trip down memory lane with The Gin Blossoms when their highly anticipated 2025 tour visits Long Island. With their timeless hits, infectious melodies and nostalgic vibes, this concert experience transports fans back to the heyday of '90s alternative rock. Gin Blossoms rose to fame in the '90s with hits like "Hey Jealousy," "Found Out About You," and "Til I Hear It from You," which still resonate today. Their jangly guitars, catchy hooks and heartfelt lyrics captured the spirit of the decade and earned them a dedicated following that continues to grow. The tour is a nostalgic journey through the band's greatest hits, as well as new songs that are sure to captivate. And, of course, one of the highlights of any Gin Blossoms concert is the connection they share with their fans. Through their heartfelt lyrics and engaging stage banter, the band creates a sense of camaraderie that makes every concert feel like a reunion with old friends.

Tuesday, July 15, 7:30 p.m. \$82, \$71.75, \$60.25, \$49.25, \$37.25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountry.com.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

JULY 10 **On Exhibit**
Nassau County Museum of Art' new exhibition, "At Play," surveys 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. The 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 until Nov. 9.

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

JULY 11 **Little Learners' Green Thumbs**
Planting Fields Little Learners series continues with adventure for the little ones in this hands-on program. Kick things off by reading an exciting gardening book, learning all about the wonders of growing food. Then, get hands dirty helping to refresh the Education Center's veggie garden, giving the plants some much-needed love. Next get creative and make a gardening-inspired craft to take home. And to top it all off, you'll also get to bring home your very own plant to care for and watch grow. For ages 2-5. Registration required. \$15 per child.

- **Where:** Education Center, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 10-11 a.m.
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

JULY 12 **Lights of Hope North Shore**
The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network hosts a tribute and fundraising event to honor those affected by cancer.

- **Time:** 6-8 p.m.
- **Location:** Morgan Memorial Park, Germaine Street & Landing Road



JULY 23 **Daryl Hall**
Rock Hall of Fame inductee Daryl Hall brings his current tour to Long Island, featuring opening act Glenn Tilbrook of Squeeze. Tilbrook has previously performed with Hall on his award-winning web series, Live from Daryl's House. The concert promises to reconnect fans with his celebrated musical legacy. This tour is of particular significance as it marks a reunion for Hall and Tilbrook, who have shared the stage in previous performances, most notably in Hall's acclaimed web series "Live from Daryl's House." "I've toured with Glenn in the past, and I'm a fan of his songs, and it will be great to work with him again," Daryl says, whose previous tours included acts Howard Jones, Elvis Costello and Todd Rundgren, all of whom also appeared on the acclaimed show. The format is the same, with Tilbrook performing a solo set to open, then joining Hall on stage to close the show. Beyond the music, the tour holds sentimental value, as it coincides with significant milestones in Hall's career. In 2024, Hall celebrated the 10th anniversary of his venue, Daryl's House, in Pawling, N.Y., where he offered a free concert to acknowledge the support of his fans. Past tours have seen Hall share the stage with icons such as Elvis Costello and Howard Jones, emphasizing his prowess in collaborating effectively and delighting audiences with diverse musical experiences. The upcoming tour, following his latest album, solidifies Hall's commitment to keeping his music fresh and engaging for his loyal fanbase. \$226.75, \$186.75, \$118.75 (GA), \$108.75.

- **Where:** The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com

Twilight tunes on the terrace
Enjoy a summer evening at Old Westbury Gardens with some smooth jazz, swing rhythms and popular favorites performed by the Paul Effman Band in the open air. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, grab a spot and soak in the sounds and scenery. Rain date is July 13. \$25 \$22.50, seniors (62+), members receive 20% off.

- **Where:** 71 Old Westbury Road, Old Westbury
- **Time:** 6:30-8 p.m.
- **Contact:** oldwestburygardens.org or call (516) 333-0048

JULY 13 **Bring on some country**
The Morgan Park Summer Music Festival continues with a high-energy evening of country hits. Enjoy Kenny & Luke's Country Beach Party, a tribute to the music of Kenny Chesney and Luke Bryan. Set against the backdrop of Glen Cove's scenic waterfront, this free, family-friendly concert invites guests to bring lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and snacks for a relaxing night under the stars. Take in the beachy, upbeat atmosphere perfect for fans of modern country music.

- **Where:** Morgan Memorial Park, Germaine St.
- **Time:** 7 p.m.

In concert
Sands Point Preserve's reserve's historic mansions and waterfront grounds are the backdrop for the latest edition of its unique chamber music series at Hempstead House, themed "South of the Border." Head south of the border for some sun and spicy music. Explore the greatest composers from Central and South America like Ginastera, Piazzolla and Villa Lobos, and other Spanish speaking composers and dance like no one's watching! duoJalal ensemble-in-residence featuring Kathryn Lockwood, viola and Yousif Sheronick, percussion, with violinists Karla Deborah Buck and Min-Young Kim, an cellist Caroline Stinson perform. With wine reception following. \$56, \$45 members.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 3 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

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 Olmsted's 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 20
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

JULY 15 **City Council Pre-Council Meeting**
The Glen Cove City Council holds a Pre-Council meeting. It is open to the public and typically precedes the regularly scheduled council meeting.

- **Where:** City Hall, 9 Glen St.
- **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-2000

Mocktail and Mingle
Glen Cove Senior Center hosts an energizing afternoon of mocktails and mingling! Connect with friends old and new while sipping on a variety of refreshing, non-alcoholic beverages. This relaxing social event offers the perfect mid-July pick-me-up for anyone looking to unwind in good company.

- **Where:** 130 Glen St.
- **Time:** 1:15 p.m.

JULY 16 **HMTC Book Club**
Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County's virtual book club welcomes all to chat about "The Things We Cannot Say" by Kelly Rimmer. Dr. Linda Burghardt, scholar-in-residence, leads the Zoom discussion of this historical novel exploring love, sacrifice, and generational secrets during and after World War II.

- **Where:** Online via Zoom
- **Time:** 1 p.m.
- **Contact:** hmtcli.org or call (516) 571-8040

Locust Valley Garden Club
All gardening lovers are welcome to attend the monthly meeting of the Locust Valley Garden Club at Locust Valley Library. Featured speaker Kathy Guzzardo participates with "Roses 101," a primer on all kinds of roses. A "themed" lunch of members' home dishes follows each meeting. Join the session and consider membership in the future. Meetings are monthly, generally the third Wednesday.

- **Where:** 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Contact:** Lorraine.Tassis@att.net

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.

The no-kill shelter, which currently houses more than 60 cats and seven dogs, is widely recognized for its compassionate care and strong community ties.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Cove Animal Rescue struggles amid rising costs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cove's monthly operational needs.

Jeanine Fakiris, Cove's board president, said that the city contract was last renewed in March, but for only a year instead of the usual five. "We went to the city three times this year, and we did tell them that without an increase, we won't be able to do it anymore," Fakiris said.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said the shelter did not request an increase during contract negotiations. "When we sat down and met with them, they didn't ask for an increase this year," she said. "They'd wait one more year. So I think that they're having a great response to the letter that they put out. We shared it."

That letter, posted by Cove last week on their Facebook page and reposted on the city's Facebook page, made a public appeal for donations, citing inflation, lower contributions and the burden of new mandates as urgent challenges.

The shelter recently had to resurface 750 square feet of kennel floors, at a cost of thousands of dollars, in order to meet state inspection requirements. And more repairs are on the way, including a \$20,000 fire and carbon monoxide alarm system required by New York state.

"Our payroll is \$15,000," Fakiris added. "... So we have to raise, each month, at least \$8,000 to be able to pay our staff."

Cove also faces a steep funding shortfall, even after being promised two end-of-year private grants—that aren't guaranteed. "We're always at pretty much almost a \$50,000 or \$60,000 shortfall," Fakiris said.

Meanwhile, the shelter is seeing an increase in surrendered pets. "We've had so many evictions and surrenders due to people financially not being able to take care of their animals," she said.

The shelter also shoulders the cost of

dealing with backyard breeding and unsprayed dogs abandoned on the streets. "We had a mother, a father and four puppies just a couple of months ago from the same situation," Fakiris said. Spaying a female dog now costs between \$600 and \$900.

One program that continues despite limited funding is Cove's Trap-Neuter-Return initiative, which gets just \$1,200 from the city. "Even the vet care to fix one spay now is up to almost \$80," Fakiris said. "That used to be, a long time ago, \$35."

The state requires municipalities to maintain dog shelters, which is why Cove receives its stipend. "Each municipality must have a dog shelter because dogs are overseen by the state," Connolly explained. "So having said that, we have six or seven dogs and we have 60-plus — well plus, especially now that it's kitten season — cats. So there's no stipend for them, per se."

Volunteers help fill the gaps, with about 25 regular adult volunteers and several teenage helpers — most of them, as it happens, from out of town.

Despite the hardships, Connolly remains proud of the shelter's reputation, and its continuing impact on the community. "We are a gem of a shelter," Connolly said. "Other shelters aren't like us."

Panzenbeck acknowledged the shelter's role, and said the city supports it through regular allotments and promotional efforts. "They rely on private donations as well," she said, "and I think their letter is a way of reminding people — just to remind them that they are always in need of funds."

Still, Fakiris warned that the facility's future depends on real financial action. "If we don't get more, then we'll have no choice but to shut the door," she said. "It does take a village. We all have to come together to stop this."

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NOTICE OF SALE
COURT
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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LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF GLEN COVE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Glen Cove Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views.

The hearing will be on the application of CJ Molitor-Tecce and Nicholas Tecce residing at 22 Phillips Road, Glen Cove N.Y. which seeks a Variance from Section 280-58 R-3A Six-Thousand-Five-Hundred-Square-Foot One - Family Residence District, subsection (B)(12) of the Glen Cove Zoning Code. The application proposes converting an existing unfinished basement into a conditioned habitable space with a two-piece toilet room. This conversion would result in an increase in the total habitable floor area, thereby exceeding the allowable Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for the R-3A zoning district. The maximum permitted FAR is 30% of the lot area. For the subject property, which measures 7,251.3 sf, the allowable habitable floor area is 2,175.39 sf. The proposed conversion would increase the total building area to 2,675.3 sf, representing 36.8% of the lot area. The subject property is located at 22 Phillips Road, Glen Cove, N.Y., designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 31, Block F Lot 181. The property is located in the City's R-3A Six-Thousand-Five-Hundred-Square-Foot One - Family Residential District. The above application is on file at the City offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of the usual business days until the time of the hearing.
Dated: July 2, 2025
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE
TERI MOSCHETTA, CHAIRPERSON
154593

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LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF GLEN COVE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
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New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views.
The hearing will be held on the application of Sam Shrem/SLJ 12 Madison LLC, owner of the property located at 12 Madison Avenue, Glen Cove, NY. The applicant is seeking variances from Sections 280-59 R-4 (Seven-Thousand-Five-Hundred-Square-Foot One- and Two-Family Residential District), subsections (B)(2), (B)(4), (B)(12), and (B)(14) of the Glen Cove Zoning Code. The purpose of the application is to allow for the construction of a new two-story, two-family residence on an existing non-conforming lot. The lot measures approximately 50 feet by 126 feet, with a total area of 6,328 square feet, where a minimum of 7,500 square feet is required for a two-family dwelling. The subject property is located 12 Madison Avenue, Glen Cove, N.Y., designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 31, Block F Lot 181. The property is located in the City's R-4 6,500 - 7,500 sq. ft. One and Two Family Residential District. The above application is on file at the City offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of the usual business days until the time of the hearing.
Dated: July 3, 2025
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE
TERI MOSCHETTA, CHAIRPERSON
154594

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LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF GLEN COVE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Glen Cove Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views.

The hearing will be on the application of Kamiran Ghazvini owner of 9A Putnam Avenue, Glen Cove N.Y. which seeks Variances from Section 280-30 Regulations governing nonconforming buildings, lots and uses, subsection (A), and 280-58 R-3A Six-Thousand-Five-Hundred-Square-Foot One-Family Residential District, subsection (B)(12) of the Glen Cove Zoning Code. The application proposes the conversion of an existing basement storage/mechanical space into habitable space, including two bedrooms, a recreational area, a three-fixture bathroom, a bar area, and laundry facilities. The property is located on a non-conforming lot with an area of 2,849.5 square feet, where 6,500 square feet is the minimum required. The existing lot coverage is 872 square feet, exceeding the maximum permitted coverage of 569.9 square feet (calculated as 20% of the lot area). The permitted Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is 854.8 square feet (30% of the lot area), while the existing FAR is 875.87 square feet, or 30.7%. With the proposed finished basement, the total FAR would increase to 1,634.67 square feet, representing 57.37% of the lot area. The subject property is located at 9A Putnam Avenue, Glen Cove, N.Y., designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 21, Block 256, Lot 8. The property is located in the City's R-3A Six-Thousand-Five-Hundred-Square-Foot One - Family Residential District. The above application is on file at the City offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of the usual business days until the time of the hearing.
Dated: July 3, 2025
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE
TERI MOSCHETTA, CHAIRPERSON
154592

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES
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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF NASSAU
U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Terwin Mortgage Trust 2004-9HE, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-9HE, Plaintiff
AGAINST
Joseph Grella; Leslie Grella; et al., Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered June 7, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee,

THE GREAT BOOK GURU
Belfast Blues

Dear Great Book Guru,
After a week of celebrating our country's 249th birthday, my thoughts turned to our neighbors across the sea, and I would love to read some historical fiction set perhaps in Ireland. Any recommendations?

Fan of Historical Fiction

Dear Fan of Historical Fiction,

I recently read "These Days" by Lucy Caldwell – a novel set in Belfast, Northern Ireland. When we think of World War II and bombings, one does not think of Belfast but in April and May of 1941, the city was almost destroyed in three separate air raids known as the Belfast Blitz.

The story describes four days spread over these two months and the impact these raids had on the lives of one family - the Bells. Phillip Bell is a local doctor who tends to the victims and is confronted daily with searing images of pain and destruction. Florence Bell - his

wife - deals anew with memories of her first love who was killed in World War I. Their daughter Audrey is involved with wedding plans but questions the fragility of her relationship amidst this background of despair and destruction.

Emma - the other daughter - works as a volunteer at a First Aid Post, believing that she can make a difference while Paul – the youngest child - deals with the forces that shape his life at home and school.

Told from the perspectives of the family members and other Belfast denizens, the novel is brutal in its depictions of the terror and panic that the German air raids bring on a city already beset with poverty, unemployment, and food shortages – all of which continued long after the war had ended. A harrowing read but highly recommended.

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



ANN
DIPIETRO

NEWS BRIEF

Ice cream at the Glen Cove Library

The Glen Cove Library, located at 4 Glen Cove Avenue Glen Cove, is offering a deliciously fun hands-on experience with "Ice Cream Making with Cornell Cooperative Extension," an in-person workshop designed for kids in grades K-5. The event will be held on Wednesday, July 16, from 11 a.m. to noon in the library's Community Room.

Youth will explore the nutritional value and history of ice cream, then make it the old-fashioned way. Afterward, they'll enjoy the ice cream they've

crafted themselves.

Led by educators from Cornell Cooperative Extension, the workshop is both educational and interactive, making it an ideal summertime activity for curious young minds.

those who register for two programs but do not attend or cancel will be placed on a waitlist for future events.

Parents are encouraged to register early, as this popular event is expected to fill quickly.

–Roksana Amid



PUBLIC Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF NASSAU
U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Terwin Mortgage Trust 2004-9HE, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-9HE, Plaintiff
AGAINST
Joseph Grella; Leslie Grella; et al., Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered June 7, 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 August 12, 2025, at 2:00PM, premises known as 55 East Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being partly in the City of Glen Cove, Nassau County, New York and

partly near Glen Cove, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, State of New York, Section 23 Block 031 Lot 26A and Lot 26B. Approximate amount of judgment \$324,384.61 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 609913/2022. Foreclosure auction will be held "Rain or Shine".
Theresa A Driscoll, Esq., Referee
LOGS Legal Group LLP

Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff
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OPINIONS

The prospective emperor Mamdani has no clothes

Do you recall the children's tale about the emperor's new clothes? Two impostors pose as tailors and convince a vain king that they've crafted him a set of stylish, invisible clothes, but they actually send him into the streets wearing nothing at all.

The king is so caught up in their false promises that he believes the fraudsters and, amazingly, no one — not his officials nor his servants — has the courage to speak up and tell him the truth. In fact, they pretend to admire his outfit. Finally a child blurts out the obvious, that the emperor has no clothes.



JACK M. MARTINS

The tale speaks volumes about the human condition. Throughout history we've witnessed many a bad idea gain traction, not because it was worthy of praise, but because people lacked the resolve to contradict popular opinion.

That's what's happening right now in New York City with mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani and the Democratic Party.

For years, New York's Democratic

leaders have been reading from a familiar script: They champion so-called progressive values, all the while insisting that they are still the party of the middle ground. With Mamdani's recent victory in the Democratic mayoral primary and his unapologetically extreme platform, it's clear that this claim to the middle is now a thing of the past.

Let's face it: Mamdani's rise isn't happening in a vacuum. It's part of a troubling movement that's been growing in the Democratic Party for some time. His vision for the city is not progressive, but rather a significant leap from the party's traditional center-left stance to outright socialism — and the fact that the party has leapt with him should concern everyone.

Mamdani would massively expand government and force burdensome costs onto taxpayers, slamming job growth and driving businesses out of our state. He's called for rent freezes, free buses, city-owned grocery stores and tax hikes on wealthy "white" New Yorkers, using rhetoric that divides people by race and income. And his answer to the city's crime? Repeated calls to defund the police while embracing sanctuary policies.

But the danger isn't just his extrem-

ist economic and social policies. He also pushes hateful, antisemitic rhetoric that has no place in our country. Long before he was an elected official, Mamdani cofounded his college's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine — a radical far-left group known for being

aggressively anti-Israel.

And worse, he has publicly defended the phrase "Globalize the intifada" — a slogan associated with violent uprisings and attacks on Jews. Decent people, regardless of politics, condemn this language for what it is: a hateful call to violence against a religious group.

Yet instead of opposing this recklessness, Democratic leaders have

embraced Mamdani, while others have downplayed or tried to sidestep responsibility for these policies the party now owns. Their fear of alienating its extremist base has them hiding in a corner, forfeiting their right to call themselves moderate. A handful have spoken out — and I commend them for it. But their voices are isolated, drowned out by silence where there should be a chorus of outrage. Make no mistake: Mamdani won the primary, which means he's no longer on the fringe, but rather the standard-bearer for his party. That is the sad truth we

face today.

Let's pause and contextualize what this means. Next year marks the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks — a solemn time to honor the lives lost and reflect on the tragedy that reshaped our city and nation. Electing Mamdani as mayor would mean putting New York City in the hands of someone who actively defends the hatred that fueled those horrific attacks. That would dishonor the memories of every victim. Why aren't people shouting their indignation from the rooftops?

While it seems that Republicans are routinely asked to denounce members of their party for every controversial remark, Democrats face no such demands when it comes to a divisive figure like Mamdani. Despite his well-documented history of hateful rhetoric and radical proposals that have failed wherever they were tried, there has been virtually no pressure from the mainstream media for Democratic leaders to publicly denounce him.

It might be pointless, anyway. As hard as it is to accept, perhaps this is where New York Democrats have finally decided to stake their ground.

I hope not. Because I'm waiting for someone brave enough to tell their emperor he has no clothes and expose him for the fool that he really is.

Jack Martins represents the 7th State Senate District.

Hochul needs to show some love to dying New Yorkers

I am so grateful to the State Legislature — particularly Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie — for green-lighting medical aid in dying in New York. I have been an advocate for many years of giving dying



GERI BARISH

New Yorkers this compassionate end-of-life option. Now it's up to Gov. Kathy Hochul to sign the Medical Aid in Dying Act into law.

Very simply, medical aid in dying allows adults, who are capable of making their own health care decisions, with confirmed prognoses of six months or less to live with an incurable and irreversible disease or illness, to request a prescription that they can take themselves — if they choose — to end their pain and suffering and die peacefully.

Those who know me, or the work I've

done for decades, know that I am committed to helping people do everything they can to stay alive. But through that work, I've also learned that there comes a point when death is inevitable, and imminent.

I'm sure there are many readers who, like me, have watched someone suffer as they are dying. Anyone who has experienced it will agree that it is traumatic. I've had that unfortunate experience with both my son and my mother. I tried to do everything in my power to provide love and comfort to ease their pain and suffering.

Let me be very clear. Medical aid in dying is not giving up on life. This option simply gives those who are dying — with no chance of surviving a terminal illness — the ability to make their own decisions about the end of their lives.

The pain of sitting with a loved one as he or she waits to die in agony never goes away. To this day, I can still hear my son gasping for breath. In the end, there was no hope for survival, and very

little we could do to help him avoid suffering.

While my son was dying, my mother was dealing with her own terminal

breast cancer. She prayed to die so that her pain would stop, but there was nothing anyone could do. It is still difficult for me to talk about that dark time, when I traveled between bedsides and faced the unimaginable.

After losing the two people who were closest to me, and my own diagnosis of breast cancer, I have dedicated my life to eradicating cancer and helping cancer

patients on Long Island. We've seen so many advances in cancer-fighting treatments and therapies, and I know we will continue to see further advances, providing more and more opportunities for people with cancer to live long, productive, enjoyable lives.

I am a founding member of 1 in 9: The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition, and the founder of Hewlett House, a community resource center providing services to Long Island and

New York City for all cancer concerns. This safe haven for cancer patients, now in its 30th year, has been witness to a lot of joy, and a lot of pain.

I am a five-time cancer survivor myself, and I continue to fight every day against this disease. But I know there will be a day — hopefully a long time away — when my time will come and I cannot fight anymore. I want the option of medical aid in dying. While I may not decide to take the medication to end my life, I want that option. I've earned that option. We've all earned that option — whether or not we choose to take it.

The Legislature has finally done its job. It took 10 long years and many New Yorkers dying while suffering. But the Medical Aid in Dying Act has now passed both houses, and has the overwhelming support of New Yorkers in poll after poll.

Governor Hochul, I implore you to sign the act into law and show dying New Yorkers some love as they face their final days.

Geri Barish, of Baldwin, is executive director of Hewlett House and a pioneer of the breast cancer activism community on Long Island.

OPINIONS

Presidents' foreign policy always draws enemy fire

Though it could be weeks and months before there can be an accurate determination of the full extent of the impact of the United States' bombing attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, I strongly support President Trump's decision to order those attacks.

While I certainly understand and appreciate that good Americans have honest differences with the president's decision, I have no patience with the almost instantaneous knee-jerk opposition to the attacks from Democrats and many in the media, followed by the attempts to diminish the impact of the strikes based on preliminary findings of a leaked government report that had a low level of confidence. It was almost as if these political and media elements were rooting against the United States in our struggle against Iranian state terrorism.

There has to be a return to more bipartisan support for foreign policy that would at least give the commander in chief an early benefit of the doubt when decisions are made. I say this as an American rather than as a Republi-

can.

During the years I was in Congress, I saw both major political parties rush to partisan judgments against presidential foreign policy actions. In the early 1990s, for instance, war raged in the Balkans following the dismemberment of Yugoslavia resulting from the collapse of the Iron Curtain, with Serbia being the aggressor in Bosnia and also against neighboring Kosovo. While this had no direct impact on the United States, it was the first war in Europe since the end of World War II, and it threatened to spread, and unravel the fragile stability of other former Soviet bloc nations. I remember, as a member of the International Relations Committee, hearing one European diplomat after another tell us that military action against Serbia would only lead to a massive land war that could last for years.

Finally, President Bill Clinton decided he'd had enough, and ordered air strikes against the Serbian forces. Republicans in Congress railed against him. I was one of only a handful of Republicans who stood with the president. The war that was supposed to last for years ended in just over a week, leading to an agreement that has lasted all these years since. This scenario

repeated itself in Kosovo less than four years later, when American air power defeated Serb aggression in less than a month and secured a still-lasting independence for Kosovo, despite strong Republican opposition.

These victories over aggression brought stability not only to the lives of people in Bosnia and Kosovo, but also to the continent of Europe in the post-Soviet world. This has become particularly important in the face of resurgent Russian aggression and expansion.

Congressional Democrats demonstrated their own stubborn partisanship and hypocrisy when President Barack Obama

ordered air strikes against Libya and its leader, Muammar el-Qaddafi, which led to regime change, and then authorized deadly drone missile attacks in Yemen that killed many al Qaeda terrorists, including American citizen Anwar al-Awlaki. Democrats now railing against Trump for allegedly violating the Constitution and not seeking prior congressional approval were uniformly silent in the face of these similar actions by Obama, which I supported.

My main point is not that all presidential foreign policy decisions are correct, but that they shouldn't be met with blind partisanship. Today's world

often requires quick decisions to forestall terrorist attacks or, in the case of Iran, not give the mullahs the advance notice of our intention to attack, which would necessarily result from a public debate. Even behind-the-scenes consultation with Democrats could well have led to damaging leaks and disclosure.

Iran is the world's leading supporter of state terrorism, and was within reach of creating nuclear weapons. While there could be debate as to how close that date was, it was reasonable for Trump to resolve the doubts in favor of potentially striking too soon rather than too late. Whether or not the attacks resulted in the destruction of all of Iran's nuclear facilities, there can be no doubt that its nuclear program has been at least significantly delayed and weakened.

This strong action was good for the region and the world. It also sent a strong message of deterrence to China against attacking Taiwan, and undid much of the damage caused by our disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

These are dangerous times that call for intelligent thought and debate, not partisan buzzwords more suited to campaign fundraising. Let that debate begin.

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



PETER KING

I have no patience with the almost instantaneous knee-jerk opposition.

Ranked-choice voting threw New York City for a loop

New York City has been the site of countless events that have shaken its residents, now numbering 8 million. It endured the Mad Bomber of the 1940s and '50s, the Son of Sam murders in the '70s, the tragedy of Sept. 11, the coronavirus

health scare, and as many other happenings as you can think of. On Primary Day, June 24, a majority of voters chose Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist, as their potential mayor, and once again the city has been shaken to its roots.

Never in my lifetime have I been asked so many questions about a political result, because this one has created a stir of a magnitude that I've never experienced. How could voters elect a Muslim socialist to the highest office in the Big Apple? Many said they didn't understand the ranked-choice voting process, which

they thought was crazy. Whether you agree or not with the process and/or the result, come November, the likely result will be that a political novice will be put in charge of running one of the most important cities in the world.

The head-splitting ranked-choice voting system came into being in New York City in 2019, when a proposition was placed on the ballot. In 2021, the system was officially in effect, and it helped Mayor Eric Adams get elected to his first term. It allows voters to choose multiple candidates and to pair them with other candidates. This year, there is no doubt that Mamdani was the beneficiary of this confusing system. With Adams having declared that he would run as an independent and therefore would not take part in the primary, the contest was wide open.

As we approached the primary, it appeared that only two candidates, former Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mamdani, had any momentum. Cuomo and Mamdani are complete opposites in any way

you can imagine. Cuomo ran a so-called "Rose Garden" campaign, resting on his laurels as a former governor with universal name recognition. Mamdani, in

contrast, ran a picture-perfect populist campaign, with thousands of volunteers ringing doorbells across the city and sophisticated phone banks making calls night after night. Cuomo was overwhelmed.

The results spoke for themselves, with Mamdani declared the winner by a wide margin. At this point, Adams is still in the race, and there are rumors that he is also trying to secure

the Republican nomination if he can persuade Curtis Sliwa to drop out. Cuomo may or may not run on his own independent line. And there is no doubt that the voters who couldn't vote in the primary are itching to go to the polls in November to stop Mamdani from becoming the next mayor.

The political dilemma that voters face all goes back to the city's opting for to the ranked-choice system. It is used in elections in such diverse places as Min-

nesota and Alaska, and efforts are being made by so-called "good government groups" to get other cities and states to embrace the concept. There is no doubt that the ranked-choice process gave Mamdani the advantage in the primary.

Assuming he wins in November, the big question is whether he can govern a city that has such burdensome issues. He has served in the State Assembly for four years, but he has no other governmental experience. He is very articulate, but you can't run the biggest city in the country with well-chosen words alone. If I were one of his advisers, I'd suggest he buy a ticket to London and meet the Muslim mayor, Sadiq Khan. Mamdani might get some good advice.

For anyone who is contemplating running for public office, the city primary results offer lots of clues about how to win — and lose — an election. And the best advice I can give is don't run in an election that uses the ranked-choice voting system.

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.



JERRY KREMER

I've never been asked so many questions about the results of an election.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

L.I.'s state parks are great summer escapes

Looking for a way to have fun and go easy on the wallet? You don't have to get on a plane or even leave Long Island, because the Island is home to some of the most beautiful and diverse parks in New York state, several of them right in Herald readers' backyard.

Whether you prefer soaking up the sun on a sandy shoreline, hiking scenic trails or simply enjoying the quiet majesty of nature, Long Island's state parks offer something for everyone. And with gas prices fluctuating and many vacation budgets tighter than ever, there's never been a better time to take advantage of these low-cost, high-reward outdoor escapes.

One of the Island's crown jewels is Jones Beach State Park. Renowned for its miles of beaches, it's a summer favorite for swimming, sunbathing, volleyball and concerts. Its iconic boardwalk, historic bathhouses and new adventure course offer fun for visitors of all ages. And if you're a cyclist or runner, the paved paths stretching from Wantagh to Captree State Park are a beautiful setting for a workout.

Just to the east is Robert Moses State Park, a more laid-back but equally scenic destination. With smaller crowds and a calmer vibe, it's a go-to for families, surfers and birdwatchers. Take a stroll to the Fire Island Lighthouse or

visit Field 5 for easy access to Fire Island's quaint communities and preserved shorelines.

Closer to Nassau County's South Shore communities are Hempstead Lake State Park, in West Hempstead, and Valley Stream State Park. Hempstead Lake features an observation deck overlooking the lake, 18 tennis courts, six pickleball courts, basketball courts, a softball field, biking and hiking trails, a children's playground and a shaded picnic area.

Valley Stream's picnic groves and wooded trails offer a slice of wilderness along with children's play areas; horse-shoe, volleyball and basketball courts; ball fields and nature trails. Kids can explore a variety of habitats on the Squirrel Nut and Hickory Nut trails.

And don't overlook Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve, in Lloyd Harbor on the North Shore. This former estate now has miles of trails for hiking, horse-back riding, cycling and nature study, all set against a backdrop of rolling meadows and Long Island Sound bluffs. It's a quiet, reflective place, ideal for slowing down and reconnecting with nature.

Not far over the Suffolk County line, Belmont Lake State Park, in North Babylon, offers boat rentals, fishing spots, shaded picnic areas and wide-open spaces. It's ideal for a day trip with the kids or a peaceful walk with the dog. Fitness enthusiasts can run or bike around the

lake's perimeter, while others can simply enjoy the serenity of the water.

Another hidden gem is Heckscher State Park, in East Islip, which boasts fields, trails and a bayfront perfect for kayaking or boardsailing. Known for its deer population and lush woodlands, Heckscher feels a world away — though it, too, is just a short drive.

Sunken Meadow State Park, in Kings Park, offers inspiring views of the Long Island Sound and a broad boardwalk with fitness stations along the way. Its trail network weaves through wooded hills and salt marshes, and it features a popular golf course as well. It's a rare spot where land and water adventures blend seamlessly.

Day passes to most state parks are just \$8 to \$10 per vehicle, and the Empire Pass offers unlimited entry to all state parks for just \$80 a year. It's a small price for such a big return of memorable experiences.

So instead of scrolling through vacation deals or lamenting how expensive everything seems this summer, grab your sunscreen, sneakers or camera and explore the natural wonders that Long Island has to offer. Adventure doesn't have to mean something far from home. Let's revel in the beauty around us, so much of which is just a few exits away.

For more about the parks, go to Parks.ny.gov.

LETTERS

This summer's already a scorcher — prepare for more extreme heat

To the Editor:

As we welcome summer, we also prepare for the challenges that come with it — especially the extreme heat expected in the weeks ahead. Temperatures have already soared beyond 90 degrees, and some areas have seen temperatures over 100.

PSEG Long Island is ready. We work all year round, upgrading infrastructure and preparing our teams to deliver reliable, safe electric service throughout the hottest months. While we plan in advance to have the electrical capacity to meet peak demand on the hottest days, we want to make sure you know what to do, too.

When temperatures climb, it's important to take steps to stay cool and avoid heat-related illnesses. Make use of air-conditioned spaces when needed, stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, and wear light-colored clothing. Check in on the most vulnerable people in your community, such as elderly relatives, friends, neighbors. Avoid strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest parts of the day, and never leave children or pets in vehicles.

For more tips on safety during extreme weather, including information about local heating and cooling centers, go to psegliny.com/SafetyAndReliability/stormsafety/ExtremeWeather.



High demand during heat waves can occasionally result in scattered outages. We encourage customers to download the PSEG Long Island mobile app, follow our social media pages and bookmark psegliny.com. You can report outages through all of those channels. Outages can also be reported by texting OUT to PSEGLI (773454) or

calling (800) 490-0075.

Extreme heat can also mean higher electricity usage. Smart energy practices can make a real difference. Set your thermostat higher when away, use programmable or smart thermostats to optimize cooling during peak hours, and run major appliances early in the day or late at night. Replace dirty air

OPINIONS

Building a more affordable New York

Let's face it, the cost of living isn't cheap. Whether you're buying groceries, paying rent or juggling child care, it can feel like your paycheck is stretched to the limit every week. But Gov. Kathy Hochul is committed to improving the quality of life for the more than 20 million residents of New York state. She fought for and delivered a state budget



WALTER T. MOSLEY

that puts you first and makes New York a more affordable and livable state.

We call it the Affordability Agenda, and here's what it means for you — more money in your pocket, less stress on your wallet and real investments in your future. We

know that too many families across the state are struggling to make ends meet. As the federal government continues to play with reckless and unauthorized tariffs that have burdened businesses with skyrocketing costs that have been passed along to consumers, the governor's Affordability Agenda is centered on making life easier for New Yorkers.

As secretary of state, I travel all over New York. I talk to local leaders and residents from the North Country to Long

Island, from Syracuse to Buffalo, from Mid-Hudson to New York City and many communities in between, and they all tell me the same thing: "We need help." Prices are up, inflation continues, and Washington's economic policies are making things worse. But we're not waiting around. We're taking action. That's our job.

The Affordability Agenda, recently passed through the state budget, delivers victories on issues that working families care about most. Hochul fought for real relief, especially for middle- and low-income New Yorkers who try every day to make ends meet for their families.

But what does all this mean for you?

Here's just some of the relief coming your way:

Inflation refund checks of up to \$400, putting money in the pockets of over 8 million New York households.

Lower middle-class taxes, with \$1 billion annually in tax relief for 8.3 million families.

An expanded child tax credit that provides up to \$1,000 per child to 1.6 million families, which since 2023 has included children under 4.

Free school meals for more than 2.7 million students.

Safer and more affordable child care through big investments that help both parents and providers.

High-speed internet access for low-income households for \$15 per month, helping close the digital divide.

n STAR rebates totaling \$2.5 billion, to provide relief to homeowners.

n The most consequential statewide housing plan in decades, so families have access to affordable housing. It protects homeowners and renters throughout our state.

n Added jobs, and tuition assistance, education funding and public transit investments boosted to the highest levels in history so families have the best opportunities for success.

And we're not stopping there, because New York needs to be the most business-friendly and worker-friendly state in the nation.

The governor's economic development and workforce plans include new access to low-interest capital for small businesses, free community college for adults pursuing degrees in high-demand fields, enhancement of the performance-based Excelsior Jobs Tax Credit with a new tier for semiconductor supply chain companies, and pro-

tecting workers from wage theft.

Right now there are over 400,000 jobs available in the state. At the same time, over 4 million adults ages 25 to 55 don't have a college degree or credential, which is often the key to finding better-paying jobs.

So here's what we're going to do. The state is going to pay for community college for those ages 25 to 55 who are studying in-demand fields like health care, education and technology. Because we know the cost is often the barrier. If you're working for minimum wage, trying to pay for child care *and* cover the cost of community college to lift yourself up, it doesn't add up. With this plan, you won't have to choose.

And we're investing big in our small businesses and downtowns. The Affordability Agenda works hand in hand with the successful economic development programs we already have in New York, like the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and the NY Forward program, to boost local businesses, improve housing and create places where people want to live, work and play.

We are rewriting the New York story so working families don't just survive, they thrive. We are fighting for the working people and families in our state, and to make life more affordable for everyone.

Walter T. Mosley is New York's secretary of state.

LETTERS

filters regularly, seal leaks around doors and windows, and consider switching to Energy Star appliances when upgrading.

Simple actions — like using ceiling fans, drawing window shades during the day, or charging electric vehicles overnight — can reduce strain on the grid and help you save money.

Thank you for being part of our community. We're here for you every day, and especially when it matters most.

LARRY TORRES

*Senior director of emergency preparedness,
PSEG Long Island*

We're helping small businesses on Long Island

To the Editor:

June kept our successful meeting streak intact. Long Island Advancement of Small Business's three speakers — Joseph Horowitz, David Faverio and Robert Tockarschewsky — filled attendees in on cybersecurity and safety in your IT operations. We continue to hold successful meetings with good attendance, at which members and non-members are developing relationships.

The education provided is useful the minute you return to your office. To our members and

other attendees, I would recommend that you continue to attend for more valuable information, and if you haven't attended, come check us out.

On Wednesday, we were scheduled to discuss automating your business. After taking August off, we will continue our breakfast meetings on Sept. 10, focusing on the "Big Beautiful Bill" and sales tax tips for small businesses. The speakers have not yet been confirmed.

Unlike other business groups, we offer more than shaking hands and exchanging business cards. We teach you how to do better business, in a very profitable and sustaining way. So far we have covered legal issues, financing, AI, personal development and cybersecurity. Learn while making lasting relationships with our board, members and attendees.

If you're asking, "Am I a small business?" the answer is most likely yes. We don't define your business by statistics or numbers; it's merely your impression of your business. Join us and learn more about running and protecting it.

We are also looking for sponsors and speakers for our organization, for breakfasts and special events. Please check out the opportunities available on our website, liasb.com. I hope to see you on Sept. 10.

MARC P. PALKER
President,

Long Island Advancement of Small Business

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



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