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Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

When he was principal of Connolly Elementary School, Bryce Klatsky spoke with students Joseph Dimaggio, Alan Castanos and Lindsay Ruiz.

Bryce Klatsky takes on new leadership role in city schools

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The Glen Cove City School District has appointed Bryce Klatsky as its new assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and technology, a role that will put him at the center of shaping learning across the city's schools.

"The Glen Cove City School District is excited to welcome Mr. Klatsky to his new role," Superintendent Alexa Doeschner said in a news release. "We look forward to the continued growth and innovation his leadership will bring."

Klatsky, 34, who most recently served as principal of Connolly Elementary School, brings more than a decade of instructional leadership to the position. He is known for his collaborative, equity-driven approach and his ability to translate ambitious educa-

tional goals into concrete results.

"It is a tremendous honor to continue serving the Glen Cove community," Klatsky said. "I'm committed to supporting our educators and building on our momentum to ensure all students have access to high-quality, engaging and equitable learning experiences."

Klatsky will oversee curriculum, instruction, special education, home schooling, testing and the state and federal grants that sustain many of the district's programs. This summer, he has already been busy shaping the year ahead. He helped lead a retreat for administrators that examined district wide data and identified five focus areas: advancing literacy across all content areas, creating culturally affirming environments, addressing chronic absenteeism, using assessment data to guide instruction and increasing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

LIRR looks to raise fares, but at what cost?

By **ROKSANA AMID**
& **BRIAN KACHARABA**

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The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is facing fierce opposition from Long Island commuters as it considers a new round of fare hikes and ticketing changes that could take effect in January. At a series of packed public hearings at MTA headquarters in Brooklyn on Aug. 19 and 20, residents voiced frustration over the plan, which would raise Long Island Rail Road fares by an average of 4.4 percent and overhaul the way tickets are purchased and used.

The proposal, unveiled on July 30, would mark the first increase since August 2023, when fares rose by 4.5 percent. If it is approved, peak trips between Glen Cove and Penn Station would climb to \$7.25, off-peak tickets to \$5.25, and monthly tickets would be capped at \$500. The MTA also aims to end its longstanding policy of issuing

tickets that remain valid for weeks or months, instead limiting one-way purchases to four hours of use and replacing round-trip tickets with a new "Day Pass," valid until 4 a.m. the next morning.

"We strive to make fare and toll increases small and predictable," Jessie Lazarus, the MTA's chief of commercial ventures said during the first night of testimony last week. She pointed to a policy adopted 15 years ago in order to avoid the double-digit hikes of the 1980s. "The MTA is what keeps New York affordable," Lazarus added. "And fares and tolls are what keeps the MTA running and running frequent service."

But for many on the Oyster Bay Line — long plagued by infrequent service and crowding — the proposed increases feel like paying more for less. Glen Cove City Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, who has been pressing

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ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

Takeout for Every Occasion

My husband wants to buy a larger refrigerator. I don't understand. He lives on pizza and I pick up takeout all the time. What is he thinking? In fact, this month I came up with five different ways to make takeout concoctions an integral part of your life. The concoctions are based on dishes from a new restaurant plus new choices on four local menus.

SoBol (214 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove; 14 E Main St., Oyster Bay)

If you're rushing out of your house in the morning and don't have time to make breakfast, stop in this healthy food shop and grab the new cinnamon Belgian waffle. It's crisp on the outside, soft and chewy on the inside, the cinnamon flavor sings and there's a thin layer of sugar on the bottom. Order it in a small bag and munch on it as you drive away.



CATHI TUROW

Fuji Sushi (334 Lexington Ave., Oyster Bay)

Last week, I was invited to a lunch party and was asked to bring a vegetable side dish. Since I never cook, I like to walk in with something unusual. The menu in this new Japanese mini-café includes rolls filled with vegetables that are puffy, fluffy and super fresh. There's an asparagus roll, a sweet potato roll with a splash of light sauce, an avocado roll with peanuts, and a cucumber roll. I ordered a few of each, placed them together on a pretty platter and created a unique vegetable side dish.

Of course, the menu features more than vegetable rolls. Menu highlights include soups such as mushroom soup, salads such as salmon skin salad, plus a variety of teriyakis, six types of fried rice, and sashimi and sushi rolls galore.

Youngs Farm (9 Hegemans Lane, Glen Head)

In this farmer's market-style gourmet shop, I created a one-stop cold picnic lunch. If you'd like to try it, begin with a container of the chilled corn soup which is back for the season. The corn is so sweet and silky, you can close your eyes and imagine you're in a cornfield. The beet gazpacho is also back for the season. It melts in your mouth with a tasty tang.

Pair the soups with rotating gourmet sandwiches. Chicken salad is the newbie in August. I spread it on a slice of artisanal bread from the shop and had myself a little soup and sandwich party.

Dortoni Bakery East Norwich (6247 Northern Blvd., East Norwich)

The new Chocolate Dubai Cake, with chocolate cake and pistachio crunch filling on the inside and a chocolate ganache exterior,

makes a great dessert after breakfast, lunch or dinner. Even if you're simply celebrating a special event or eating your way through misery, this sweet sensation does the trick. When it comes to desserts, this cake takes the cake.

Beaches & Cream (8 Bayville Ave., Bayville)

In this ice cream, light lunch and pizza parlor, if you order the Beach Bucket Sundae, you'll fill a bucket with five ice cream scoops of your choice. Swirl them together, and you'll automatically create a one-of-a-kind ice cream flavor. For example, you might end up with black cherry-vanilla peanut butter-chocolate chip-cookie-dough-cotton-candy-pistachio-flavored ice cream. Next, clear your palate with new Tropical Rainbow Italian ices. So refreshing.

See you next month!

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Luau helps furry friends find new homes

3

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

Cove Animal Rescue brought tropical flair to Glen Cove on Aug. 24, transforming its grounds into a lively luau in an effort to connect adoptable pets with new families while raising awareness about the shelter's mounting financial struggles.

The "BowWow Meow Luau" featured raffles, vendors, and plenty of island vibes. Community members flocked to the shelter for the event, which resulted in three approved adoptions — including a pair of black kittens adopted together as brothers — and gave attendees a chance to learn more about the challenges the shelter is facing.

Councilwoman Marsha Silverman and Councilman Michael Ktistakis, longtime supporters of the shelter, joined volunteers, families, and animal lovers in showing their support. Their presence underscored how deeply the shelter has become part of Glen Cove's fabric, even as it navigates a financial crisis that threatens its future.

For shelter manager Diane Connolly, the luau was about more than just adoptions. "My main focus is to get the shelter more exposure — to get who we are out there," she said. "We are different than most shelters, and we are a gem in the crown of Glen Cove."

Connolly said the luau also helped build connections with new vendors. Local businesses joined in the festivities, including first-time participant Joe Fradella of Levittown, who runs The Lemon Life, a business that donates a percentage of its profits to charity. "It is business, but a lot of the things we do is to give back to the community," he said. Vendors were not charged to participate, as the shelter wanted them to feel welcomed and encouraged to return.

For many attendees, the luau was a chance to celebrate animals as well as community. Glen Cove resident and volunteer Mary Jean Caggiano, who regularly helps at the shelter, described it as a special place. "I love animals and this is a wonderful shelter," she said. "The animals are well taken care of, and I do whatever I can to help out. If you can't adopt, please donate."

Connolly noted that adoptions are always unpredictable. During kitten season, the shelter might adopt out as many as 15 kittens in a month, while other times they go weeks without a single adoption. Dogs, especially older ones, tend to find homes more slowly, though puppies and small breeds move quickly. The luau's three adoptions were considered a success, with attendees traveling from as far as Brooklyn to meet the animals.

The event comes at a critical time for Cove Animal Rescue. The shelter receives \$7,741 monthly from the city, less than half of what it costs to operate, and faces rising veterinary bills, state-mandated facility upgrades, and a \$50,000 to \$60,000 annual deficit despite grant support. Payroll alone costs \$15,000 per month. Connolly said fund-



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Joe Fradella, of Levittown, owns The Lemon Life, a vendor at the event. He donated a portion of the day's proceeds to the shelter.



Rebecca Omaggio, of Glen Cove, adopted two black kittens because black cats are the least likely to be adopted.



Dayna, a board member and Diane Connolly, the rescue's manager, worked hard to make sure the shelter runs smoothly and that all animals are taken care of.



Robin Jean Baptiste, 7, of Roslyn, spent time playing with Cove Animal Rescue's black kittens.

raising events like the luau and the upcoming Casino Night in September are essential to keeping the shelter open.

Despite the challenges, Connolly remains optimistic. "We had so many people, and it worked out beautifully," she said of the luau. "It was a small thing, but it brought people in, it got the word out, and it gave some of our animals a chance at new lives."

To continue its fundraising push, Cove Animal Rescue will host its annual Casino Night on Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at The Crescent Beach Club, 333 Bayville Ave., Bayville. Tickets cost \$150, which includes \$200 in play money, a cocktail hour, dinner, music, an open bar, and silent auctions. Guests must be 18 or older to play at the casino tables. For tickets or sponsorship information, visit coveanimalrescue.org/events.



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Dear Great Book Guru,
Summer has been so wonderful here in Sea Cliff- Sunset Serenades at Clifton Park, Friday Night Music at the Beach, James Joyce Jaunt, Alfresco Dining up and down Sea Cliff Avenue, the Great Gatsby Gala, art shows at the Arts Council, Storytime at Sea Cliff Beach.....so many wonderful times! To end the season, I'd like to have breakfast down at Sea Cliff Beach with a good book in hand. Any suggestions?

Fan of Sea Cliff Summers



ANN DIPIETRO

In “Horseman”, a young professor realizes much of her career has been as fraudulent as her young students’ plagiarized papers. Will she be able to redeem herself - where will her trajectory take her?

In “Voice”, a retired academic tours Venice with his brother and finds how estranged they have always been; will he be able to forgive himself for past missteps?

A real estate broker helps a hoarding client find piece in “Intervention” and in the last - “Milton and Marcus” - an aging writer tries to change the course of his life.

Will it be possible or is it too late? An illuminating collection and highly recommended for that last beach read.

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

CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 29-year-old Massapequa man was arrested on On Aug. 10 for aggravated drinking while intoxicated, drinking while intoxicated and unlicensed operation Glen Cove Ave.
- A 41-year-old Greenvale woman was arrested on Aug. 11 and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation, unlicensed operation, dirty/unreadable license plate, suspended registration, and no insurance on Glen Street.
- A 26-year-old Flushing woman was arrested on Aug. 13 and charged with prostitution and unauthorized practice of a profession on Dosoris Way.
- A 37-year-old Flushing woman was arrested on Aug. 13 and charged with prostitution and unauthorized practice of a profession on Dosoris Way.
- A 38-year-old Flushing woman was arrested on Aug. 13 and charged with prostitution and unauthorized practice of a profession on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 39-year-old Flushing woman was arrested on Aug. 13 and charged with prostitution and unauthorized practice of a profession on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 42-year-old Flushing woman was arrested on Aug. 13 and charged with unauthorized practice of a profession on Cedar Swamp Road.

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.

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BETTER COMMUTES ARE HERE TO STAY

HERALD SPORTS

Hofstra seeks to regain CAA supremacy

By ANDREW COEN

sports@liherald.com

Hofstra women's soccer kicked off the 2025 season on Aug. 14 with a flair for the dramatic that served as springboard for the program's best start in four years.

In muggy conditions that caused multiple players to go down with cramps, the Pride appeared headed for an opening night draw before sophomore forward Hailey Moschitta headed in a feed from Maggie Peterson with 5.6 seconds remaining for a 2-1 victory against St. Joseph's (Pa.). It marked the latest game-winning goal in the program's 32-year history.

"We were just knocking on the door all day," said 20th-year Hofstra women's soccer head coach Simon Riddiough of the Monmouth match in which the Pride outshot the Hawks 22-2. "We've got enough individual talent on this team that we can make a big play at any time."

Momentum from the St. Joseph's victory carried over into a commanding 3-0 victory against Quinnipac back home at Captains Field on Aug. 17. Hofstra (3-1) then knocked off Columbia 2-1 last Friday for the program's first 3-0 start since 2021 with its unbeaten streak ended in a 4-0 setback at Yale on Sunday.

The Pride are looking to reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2022 with a veteran squad of 19 returning players fueled for a deep postseason run after falling to Monmouth in the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) semifinals for a second straight season. Hofstra captured five CAA titles in six seasons from 2017 to 2022.

The many returners include last year's leading scorer Millie Davies, who tallied seven goals and five assists. The senior midfielder from Manchester, England was an All-CAA selection the last two seasons and Riddiough said she has a solid chance to play professionally after college.

The offense also returned graduate forward Mathilde Braithwaite, a Third Team All-CAA selection who had five goals as a senior. Senior midfielders Thorhildur Thorhallsdottir and Aimee Hodgson are also back on the pitch after tallying points last fall.

Hofstra got a big scoring boost with the addition of Manon Lebargy, a Middle Tennessee State transfer who was C-USA Midfielder of the Year last season after scoring 13 goals with four assists.

"She is a fantastic addition," said Riddiough of Lebargy, who scored two goals in the Quinnipac

victory. "She brings a tremendous amount of energy that resonates with the whole team."

Peterson and Moschitta, who connected on the winning goal in the opening match, are also expected to play an integral part of the offense this season. Alexia Des Croisselles, a Quebec native and Jacksonville State transfer, has also been involved with the offense early on registering a key goal in the Columbia victory.

The defense has veteran leadership from graduate students Gabriella Marte and Olivia Pearse, a former standout at Seaford High School. Sasha McTiffin and Emma Johnson also bring plenty of experience in the backline.

Pearse, who missed most of last season with an injury, has also displayed offensive ability this season on set pieces with two goals including the tying tally against St. Joe's.

"She's a tremendous athlete," Riddiough said. "She brings a lot of physicality and is a huge threat on set piece situations."

The depth of Hofstra's defense was stung in the opening match when senior defender Ava Lanfredi went down with a high ankle sprain injury. The first-year starter from East Greenwich, R.I. is expected to miss a few weeks and Riddiough hopes she can return for when the heart of the CAA schedule commences.

Sophomore goalie Lily Bailey has started in net this season after transferring from Morehead State where she recorded five shutouts as a freshman. Graduate student Carly Travers, a former URI and Eastport South Manor High School keeper, is a capable backup in net.

Hofstra will look to continue its solid start to the 2025 campaign with home matches this Thursday against Fairleigh Dickinson at 7 p.m. and Sept. 6 versus Loyola (Md.) at 1 p.m. The Pride conclude the non-league schedule on Sept. 14 at home against Dartmouth before hosting Elon in the CAA opener on Sept. 18.

The Pride was picked by CAA coaches to finish third in the conference's north division behind defending champion Stony Brook and runner-up Monmouth. The top three finishers in the division, which also comprises Drexel, Northeastern and Towson, will qualify for the six-team CAA Tournament and a chance to earn an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

"If we stay healthy I think we can make a really good push for it," said Riddiough, who has guided Hofstra to nine NCAA tournaments and seven CAA titles in his two decades leading the sideline.



Courtesy Hofstra Athletics Communications

Grad student Gabriella Marte is a vital part of Hofstra's defense and also plays an important leadership role.

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VIEWFINDER ▶ How are you getting ready to go back to school?

Compiled by Herald Staff

Ed Norris
Glen Cove

Getting ready for school is one of my favorite times of year. The excitement, the anticipation of all things new is so much fun. I spent a lot of time in August working on new music for the choirs, first picking each concert program and then working on preparing the score for rehearsal and ultimately performance. I feel it is the prep work outside of the classroom that makes the work inside of the classroom go so smoothly.

Photo by Ed Norris



McKenzie Loftus
15, Sea Cliff

I am getting ready to go back to school by sorting out my backpack. I haven't opened it since the last day of school.

Photo by Jordan Loftus



Elene Qian
15, Glen Head

I am preparing for school by studying harder for AP Chemistry with my friends.

Photo by Jordan Loftus



Dean Godoy
9, Oyster Bay

I'm ready to see my friends again at school.

Will Sheeline/Herald



Stella Lane, 8, and David Chavez-Cedella,
7, Oyster Bay

Stella: I'm getting ready to see my favorite gym teacher, she's the best.

David: I'm getting ready to show off my new Lego backpack.

Will Sheeline/Herald

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1312439

Prices, stalled growth fuel housing crisis

State pushes pro-development programs as Long Island towns weigh costs and community impacts

By AINSLEY MARTINEZ, CHARLES SHAW
& ALYSSA R. GRIFFIN

of Herald Community Newspapers

Third in a series about housing on Long Island.

Long Island's housing crisis is more than bricks and mortar — it's a battleground where zoning, politics and community identity collide. At its root, the issue is a chronic lack of supply, Richard Murdocco, a land use columnist and lecturer at Stony Brook University, says.

"Our housing supply has always been inadequate," Murdocco said. "The pandemic only amplified the problem."

Murdocco said that zoning laws, while often criticized, generally serve a purpose by preventing overbuilding and protecting the environment, including Long Island's sole-source aquifer. Still, he noted that some restrictions could be updated to allow for more diverse housing types, adding, "Planning is about the balance of economic and social development."

Many Long Island communities rely heavily on single-family zoning, which limits options for renters and first-time homebuyers. Murdocco pointed to examples like allowing accessory dwelling units and legalizing safe basement apartments as steps that could help ease the affordability problem without contributing to overdevelopment.

Vision Long Island, a Northport-based nonprofit, promotes Smart Growth planning by working with residents and local leaders to revitalize downtowns, encourage mixed-use development and build transit-oriented housing. Its director, Erik Alexander, said these efforts have produced more than 18,000 units near public transit in 45 communities over two decades, with over 60 downtowns completing visioning or master plans.

"The balance comes from the planning — not from us imposing our will," Alexander noted. "When regional authorities do that, it backfires."

He pointed to Matinecock Court in East Northport — a 146-unit affordable housing project proposed in the 1970s but delayed for decades by lawsuits, opposition and zoning hurdles — as emblematic of Long Island's housing struggles. Construction finally began in 2021, and as it nears completion, advocates see it both as a symbol of resistance to affordable housing and a hard-won step forward.

Alexander said the barriers extend beyond zoning or community opposition to include economics and funding. "Affordability is largely a function of subsidy," he said, "and Long Island doesn't get its fair share."

Alexander noted that although Long Island accounts for 15 percent of New

York's population and contributes over 2 percent in taxes, it receives only about 3 percent of the state's affordable housing funds.

"People want walkable downtowns, community, affordability, safety," he said. "We can have all of that, but it has to come from within."

Vision Long Island also collaborates with the Long Island Housing Partnership, the region's oldest affordable housing organization. Since 1988, President Peter Elkowitz has led its mission to preserve affordability while respecting Long Island's suburban character.

Their efforts focus on accessory dwelling units, targeted zoning reforms, and large-scale redevelopment designed to fit into existing communities. Long Island's complex governance — two counties, 13 townships and 95 villages — adds hurdles, with overlapping approvals from school districts, health departments, and sewer authorities slowing progress, Elkowitz said.

"We are inundated with different levels of government that also have overlapping responsibilities," he said.

Programs like down payment assistance, offered through county and town governments, remain key to making homeownership more accessible. Accessory dwelling units, also known as ADUs — small units within or beside single-family homes — are also growing in popularity,

helping homeowners offset taxes and support multigenerational living, the Long Island Housing Partnership's executive vice president, James Britz, said.

"You're renovating a single-family home, you're not creating density in those cases," Britz said.

ADUs have been implemented in several Suffolk towns, including Huntington, Southold, Brookhaven, and soon Riverhead and Islip, while new developments are incorporating them from the start. A Bellport project will add 32 single-family homes with ADUs, and in Bay Shore, a multi-phase revitalization replaced blighted blocks with 118 new homes, sparking further investment and transforming the neighborhood.

Advocates stress that there's no one-size-fits-all solution, but sharing successes, prioritizing quality design and engaging communities early can build support, Elkowitz said.

"If you do it right and you include the community, and you include something aesthetically pleasing and creative, the community usually gets behind you," he said.

State efforts to provide affordable housing have faced backlash on L.I.

To address the state's housing shortage, Gov. Kathy Hochul proposed the New York Housing Compact, which aimed to build 800,000 homes over the



Herald file/Courtesy Town of Hempstead

Then Hempstead Supervisor Don Clavin, center right, joined by other Long Island officials in 2023, opposed Gov. Kathy Hochul's Housing Compact.

next decade. The plan, proposed for the 2024 fiscal year Executive Budget, included statewide zoning mandates requiring suburban towns to allow higher-density development near transit.

The initiative was intended to address New York's housing shortage: 1.2 million jobs had been added over the previous decade, but only 400,000 homes had been built. In that time, rents had risen 60 percent, and home prices 50 to 80 percent. According to the governor's office, restrictive zoning, red tape and lengthy approvals had made building new housing more difficult.

"The New York Housing Compact is a comprehensive plan to spur the changes needed to create more housing, meet rising demand, and make our state a more equitable, stable, and affordable place to live," Hochul stated in a news release.

The initiative faced strong opposition throughout the state, with over 200 elected officials in both parties voicing their opposition, according to Alexander.

"It was completely out of touch — designed to help New York City developers build more cheaply out here," he said.

Long Island elected officials argued that the compact would strip local control over zoning. In March 2023, a month before the 2024 state budget deadline, local leaders — including former Town of Hempstead Supervisor Don Clavin — gathered at the Capitol in Albany, promoting a petition signed by more than 20,000 residents against the initiative.

"Removing the ability for local municipalities to oversee their housing development is wrong," Clavin said, "and that's why we brought a collective voice from all over New York state to Albany."

State Sen. Steve Rhoads called the housing plan "reckless and irresponsibly," saying residents should have a say in their communities.

able," saying residents should have a say in their communities.

"Allow those of us who actually know Long Island, the streets of Syracuse or Buffalo, to determine what we are going to do with respect to our own jurisdictions and housing," Rhoads said.

According to reports, Hochul's housing compact was pulled from the 2024 state budget after receiving little legislative support, but the state has made progress in expanding affordable housing.

In February, the State Senate advanced a package of affordable housing bills aimed at helping homeowners and renters, including a home savings program for first-time buyers, free counseling and legal services through the Homeownership Protection Program, and a two-year look-back for senior and disability rent increase exemptions. The bills are currently awaiting action in the Assembly.

Pro-Housing Community Program sees strong support in Suffolk, but not Nassau

After the Housing Compact plan collapsed, Hochul signed Executive Order 30 in July 2023, creating the Pro-Housing Communities program, which provides up to \$650 million annually to communities that commit to modestly increasing housing supply. To date, over 340 communities have been certified.

"There's only one solution to New York's housing affordability crisis: we've got to build more housing," Hochul said in a statement. "The Pro-Housing Communities initiative is delivering the incentives communities are looking for, and this latest round of grant funding will make a real difference in every region of New York."

Downstate municipalities can earn

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State incentives feed local development fears

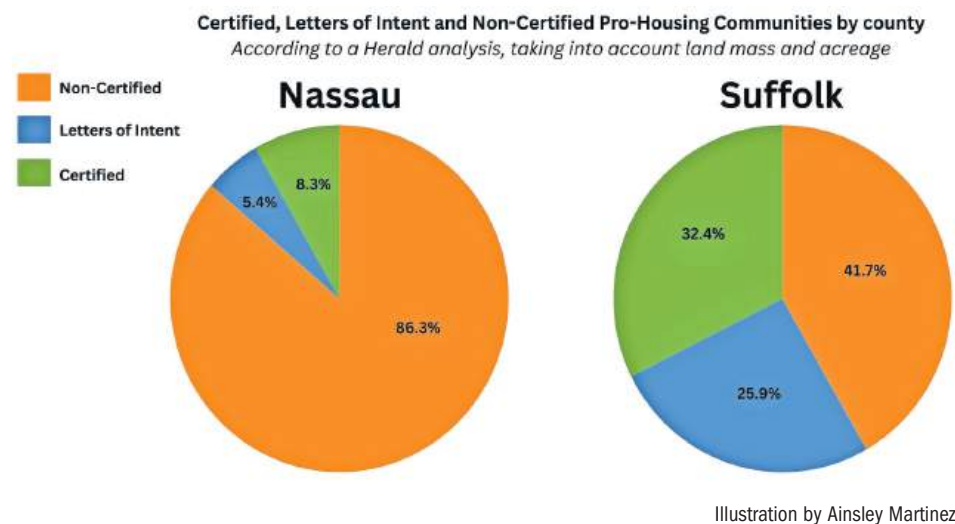
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Pro-Housing Community certification by showing 1 percent housing growth in the past year or 3 percent over the past three years, or by committing to future development through a Pro-Housing Resolution. Localities must earn Pro-Housing Communities certification to access key discretionary funding programs, which includes the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, the NY Forward program, the Long Island Investment Fund, and the Public Transportation Modernization Enhancement Program.

Suffolk leads Nassau in Pro-Housing certifications and letters of intent, reflecting a regional shift toward broader policy acceptance. A Herald analysis, which accounts for land mass and acreage, shows that about 58 percent of Suffolk communities are certified or have submitted a letter of intent, compared to roughly 13 percent in Nassau.

Although several municipalities in the Town of Hempstead — such as Valley Stream and Freeport — are certified as Pro-Housing Communities, the town itself is not and has no plans to seek certification. The Village of Hempstead, however, recently earned certification, as development began on two buildings by Conifer-LeChase Construction with 258 affordable units, plus a 96-unit apartment complex on Bedell Street, half reserved for veterans, making it eligible for a \$10 million Downtown Revitaliza-



Suffolk leads Nassau in Pro-Housing certifications, with about 58 percent of communities participating versus 13 percent, signaling broader regional acceptance in Suffolk.

tion Initiative grant.

In 2019, the state selected the township to receive a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative award for Baldwin. Its assets — including the Long Island Rail Road, strategic downtown investments, and infrastructure improvements — positioned it as an ideal candidate with a head start on the process.

“Currently, two housing projects contained within the DRI are underway in Baldwin, with another two projects in the planning phase, and another transit-

oriented development is approaching completion in West Hempstead,” Brian Devine, the Town of Hempstead’s director of communications, said.

The town’s efforts to address affordable housing didn’t start with Baldwin. The Archstone Westbury project, which opened in 2006 at Meadowbrook Crossing, provided 396 units. According to Devine, it was the first Long Island project with an affordable housing component, with 20 percent of units designated as affordable and 10 percent specifically for residents ages 62 and older.

Except for the Village of Farmingdale, the Town of Oyster Bay is also not part of the Pro-Housing Community program. Public Information Officer Brian Nevin said that such programs come with strings attached, pressuring municipalities to meet “unrealistic growth quotas” that could strain infrastructure, schools and public safety while raising taxes for current homeowners.

“The Town of Oyster Bay has consistently opposed Albany’s one-size-fits-all housing mandates,” Nevin said in an emailed statement, “which fail to recognize the unique character and already-developed nature of our suburban communities like ours.”

Nevin added that the town is committed to development that balances growth with preserving suburban quality of life. Nearly 500 residential units are underway in Hicksville, including mixed-use and transit-oriented projects. The town, he said, is encouraging the state to remove “unrealistic mandates” and return to the original Downtown Revitalization Initiative, which has proven successful in Hicksville, Westbury and other nearby communities.

“Our priority is to promote affordable and attainable housing options in a way that protects taxpayers and maintains the character of our neighborhoods,” Nevin said, “without ceding local control to Albany bureaucrats.”

GLEN COVE HERALD — August 28, 2025

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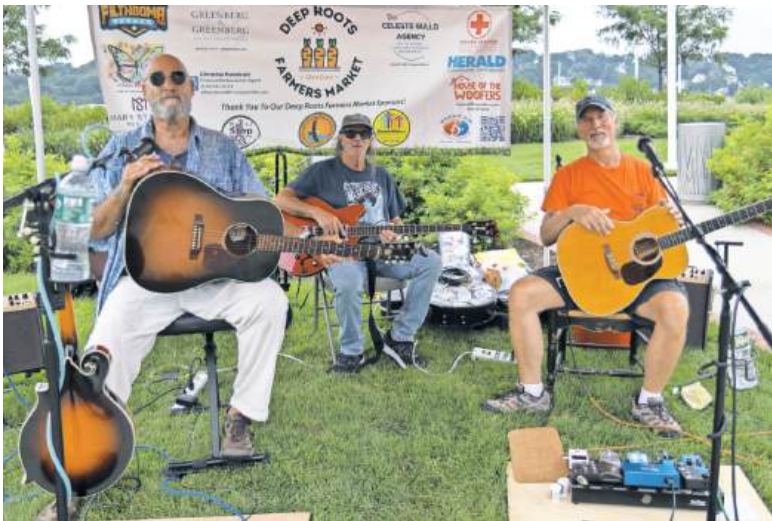
Joanne Yee/Herald photos

Luciana Machado and Juliana Montesano bought home made pasta sauce from Susan Battaglia and Jaclyn Battaglia.

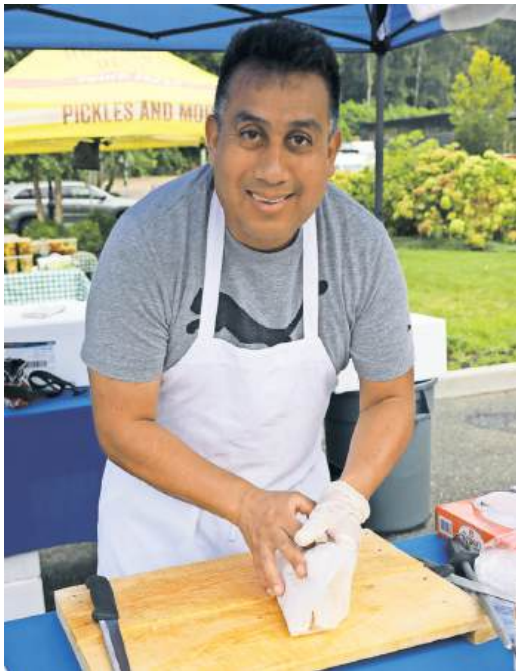
Deep Roots market brings the city together

The Deep Roots Farmers Market, now run by the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce after the death of founder Amy Peters, is a lively Saturday tradition for the community. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the market at Garvies Point showcases sounds, and flavors of local life, from farm-fresh produce and home-made jams to artisan breads and handcrafted goods. More than just a place to shop, it's where neighbors catch up, kids enjoy live music and activities, and every visit feels like a mini festival. With the Chamber at the helm, the market continues to honor Peters' legacy by keeping her vision of connection and community alive.

—Roksana Amid



Every week the market invites local bands like Skunk's Misery to perform. David Herter, Jeff Goldstein and Brad Davidson form the band.



Jose Ilbarez of Marines Fisheries prepared delicious fish for the market.



Danny Grabowski and James Greenberg spent the afternoon shopping for flowers.



Noah and Kate Tagliafeeri brought their dog Cooper out to the market to enjoy the warm weather.



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Over 40 arrested in county gang crackdown

By JOSEPH D'ALESSANDRO

jdalessandro@liherald.com

One of the largest gang takedowns in Nassau County history unfolded from Aug. 13 to Aug. 18, apprehending alleged members of the MS-13, 18th Street and Trinitarios street gangs.

County Executive Bruce Blakeman, District Attorney Anne Donnelly and Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder highlighted the more than 40 arrests at a news conference at Nassau County Police Department headquarters on Aug. 19.

"We had a very important sweeping pickup of people that were dangerous to our community and the whole region, not just Nassau County," Blakeman said. "We want to send a clear message that gang activity in Nassau County will not be tolerated."

"We in Nassau County are grateful for the federal partnership that we have with ICE, FBI, DEA and other agencies," he added. "As a result, we are a safer community."

Undercover NCPD officers worked with federal agencies, including Immigration Customs and Enforcement and the FBI, in an intensive multi-day search to arrest the alleged gang members and charge them with a variety of crimes.

"In total, we had 42 arrests over the four days," Ryder said. "This is like



Joseph D'Alessandro/Herald

County Executive Bruce Blakeman with a weapon obtained during a gang-related arrest, at a news conference on Aug. 19.

playing Whac-a-Mole. You poke your head up, we're going to knock it back down.

"We promised in the beginning that we were going to go after the worst of the worst," he added. "You're looking at it on the screen, that is the worst of the worst — and we're not done yet."

The team was formed quickly after a home invasion and shooting on Aug. 9, according to Ryder, which was followed

by a stabbing that night and another shooting on Aug. 12, involving members of MS-13 and the 18th Street gang.

Among the incidents was an attack and attempted robbery in Hempstead's Kennedy Park, where a young pedestrian was injured with a machete and chased for two miles by four men involved with MS-13, Ryder said. The victim ran from Kennedy Park to Roosevelt, where he evaded the men.

Suspects are now being held in various jails and ICE detention facilities. Half of them are alleged gang members, authorities said.

"I am pleased to say that 33 of these offenders are in ICE custody without bond pending removal," ICE Field Office Director Bryan Flanagan said. "ICE is working diligently to implement the administration's goals, to clear the backlog of illegal aliens that pose a threat to the security of our communities."

During the arrests, law enforcement recovered hatchets, knives, machetes and a loaded firearm, which were displayed at the news conference, as well as cameras and hand radios. The charges against those taken into custody included home invasion, attempted murder, sex trafficking and other felonies, Blakeman said.

"These arrests are a testament to how committed we are in Nassau County to dismantling gangs and their toxic influence in our communities," Donnelly said. "My office will continue to work closely with Commissioner Ryder and the Police Department to investigate, prosecute and take down criminal organizations that put families at risk."

Thanks to the cooperation between agencies, the D.A.'s office was able to bring charges against 13 alleged MS-13 gang members connected with "brutal attacks" at the end of 2024, Donnelly added.



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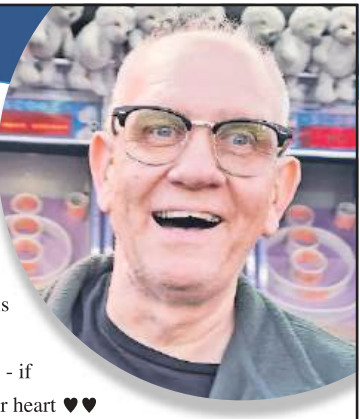


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1313234

Klatsky is committed to serving the district

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

opportunities for student discourse.

"Literacy is really the cornerstone of student success," Klatsky said. "We want students to be reading, writing and having conversations not just in English, but in math, science and social studies as well. At the same time, we know absenteeism has become a national challenge since Covid, and we need to continue building learning environments that embrace the diversity of our students."

Klatsky also welcomed 28 new teachers to the district, leading orientation sessions that included a bus tour of Glen Cove's schools and landmarks, from St. Rocco's Bakery to Morgan Park. The goal, he said, was to show teachers that they were joining not just a district, but a community.

"Their excitement and positivity have been really inspiring," he said. "It's important that they feel connected to Glen Cove beyond the classroom walls."

Ironically, Klatsky once thought he would never go into teaching. His mother was a longtime high school English teacher, and as a child he insisted he would choose a different path. In college at Skidmore, he majored in history, minored in English and immersed himself in classical voice training, even considering a career in opera.

But a Fulbright scholarship to teach

English in a small Austrian village changed his trajectory. Standing in front of students overseas, Klatsky realized he couldn't resist the pull of the classroom.

"What I discovered was that working with students brought me an incredible sense of purpose," he said. "That experience convinced me this was the work I was meant to do."

When he returned to New York, he joined the New York City Teaching Fellows program and began teaching English at the Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction in Manhattan, a small high school where students focus on architecture and engineering. Teaching English in that environment, he said, pushed him to think creatively about instruction.

"It was a wonderful challenge," he recalled. "We were reading novels while building projects. That experience taught me the importance of hands-on, student-centered learning."

In Manhattan, Klatsky quickly rose into leadership roles, mentoring teachers, designing professional development and leading data-driven initiatives that improved student performance. By the time he left for Glen Cove in 2020, he was the coordinator of professional development and assessment.

At Connolly Elementary, where he became principal in 2021, Klatsky introduced structured intervention blocks,

strengthened family engagement through "family universities," and co-chaired the district's Portrait of a Graduate initiative. He was recognized by the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2023 for fostering family-school partnerships.

Klatsky said his philosophy centers on keeping students at the core of every decision. He often references the idea of teachers as "guides on the side" rather than "sages on the stage," and aims to create classrooms in which students drive their own learning while teachers coach and support.

"Ultimately, the goal is to make sure our students are engaged, empowered and supported," he said. "That requires humility, transparency and a deep commitment to our community."

Though he now oversees the district, Klatsky said that leaving his role as principal and giving up his daily interactions with students was not easy.

"I will miss the chance to play basketball with students at recess or dress up for silly events," he said. "But this new position gives me the opportunity to support teachers and students across all six schools in Glen Cove."

Klatsky lives in Huntington with his wife, who is also an educator, and their two daughters, Cordelia, 6, and Gwendolyn, 1. The family is active in the Glen Cove community, attending events like the Feast of St. Rocco, cleaning up Wel-



Anna Georgoulis/Herald

The Glen Cove City School District has appointed Bryce Klatsky as its new assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and technology.

wyn Preserve and taking part in youth theater programs.

"Education asks a lot from us emotionally," he said. "I've been very fortunate that the Glen Cove community has embraced not just me, but my family. I think that sense of connection is what makes this work so meaningful."

GLEN COVE HERALD — August 28, 2025



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14 LIRR riders getting 'short end of the stick'

August 28, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the MTA, alongside Assemblyman Charles Lavine, for better timetables since 2023, said the hikes could unfairly burden North Shore riders.

"Would I be willing to pay more for better service?" Fugazy Scagliola said. "I would. But for Oyster Bay riders to not get better service and to pay more, it's really getting the short end of the stick."

Commuters echoed those concerns. Leyana Stevenson, of Glen Cove, a social worker who commutes daily into Manhattan from the Glen Street station, said her monthly ticket already strains her budget.

"The very first time that I started to take the train, that was a sticker shock. That was 300-and-something dollars," Stevenson said. "I'm the only parent that lives in my house. To have to commute to the city for a month ... \$300 is a lot out of a budget."

Although her monthly fare is now \$287 after a post-pandemic adjustment, Stevenson said that crowding and inconsistent service remain a daily challenge. She relies on the 6:14 a.m. train, the only nonstop from Glen Cove to Penn Station, to reach her Midtown office by 7:30. In the evenings, her 4:25 p.m. return train is frequently overcrowded.

"The issue with that one is that it's always crowded a lot," Stevenson said, describing times when trains have had



Roksana Amid/Herald

Long Island Rail Road commuters on the Oyster Bay Line may see an increase in the price of tickets.

only three cars instead of four. "If we're going to make Glen Cove the town where people want to come visit, you want to make it easier and accessible to get there and to also get back home."

She also pointed to problems with customer service and cleanliness. "If something happened with the kiosk, you're out of \$300 until you get something done, and that was just a headache," Stevenson said. "I don't know how often they clean the restrooms. I've never really seen a clean, clean restroom, unless it's a brand new train."

Other commuters compare Long

Island's costs unfavorably with those in nearby states. "There's a reason that the beautiful community I grew up in is hemorrhaging residents," Christiane Mahterian, who grew up in Sea Cliff but now lives in New Jersey, said. "For less than half the price of the LIRR, I have a commute to Manhattan of about the same length. These price hikes will eventually have a significant negative impact on Long Island's sustainability as a commuter location. I'd always hoped to move home someday, but that becomes more and more unrealistic by the day."

Lavine, who represents the area in the Assembly, said he has urged MTA leaders to reduce the scale of the increase. "I sent a letter to the executive director of the Metropolitan Transportation Council last week, urging that any LIRR ticket increase be less than the 4.4 percent that's being projected," he told the Herald on Tuesday. While acknowledging the agency's financial pressures, he argued that the public's input could influence the final plan.

"Our office has always had a very good system of communication with the Long Island Rail Road and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority," Lavine said. "Because of the constructive nature of our ability to communicate, my request with respect to pricing of the tickets is going to get due consideration."

He encouraged residents to continue submitting feedback before the MTA board votes this fall, to nymtc-public-info@dot.ny.gov. "People should weigh in," Lavine said. "It is critical that we maintain the MTA, especially at a time when ridership is now at and above pre-pandemic levels."

For Oyster Bay Line riders like Stevenson, however, the equation is simple: higher fares should come with better service. "Nobody wants to pay more for anything," Fugazy Scagliola said. "And I don't blame anybody for that."

Additional reporting by Will Sheeline.

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STEPPING OUT

Forever in tune with Al Jolson

The longtime festival returns with another lively tribute to the 'World's Greatest Entertainer'

By Iris Wiener

Because Al Jolson is forever embraced by many as "The World's Greatest Entertainer," celebrating him every year has become an unmissable tradition. The Al Jolson Society is ready with the 26th edition of its annual festival, on Sept. 6, when guests will enjoy an exciting day of music, memorabilia and laughs.

Jolson once said: "A responsive audience is the best encouragement an actor can have."

It was immediately clear to audiences that there was an incredible amount to which they would want to respond. The star of the first talking picture, 1927's "The Jazz Singer," Jolson was an eponymous performer famous for his work in vaudeville and musical theater. In fact, there's a street named after him on Broadway outside of the Winter Garden Theatre, where he sold out nine vaudeville musical revues. This is why Jan Hernstat, the International Al Jolson Society president and founder, feels it's important to remember his stamp on entertainment as we now know it.

"I always tell people that he was the first superstar before that phrase was coined," says Hernstat. "He was an international star at a time when there was no real media to promote what he did. There wasn't radio and TV. For somebody to be as big as he was worldwide. At a time when there was

nothing to promote yourself, it really talks about your talent. You think of him and the guys who followed him, and there are so few people in the same category. Frank Sinatra. The Beatles. Bing Crosby. Elvis Presley.

"This is why I'm celebrating his talent, his singing and his voice. He was an incredible star. I think it's important for us to remember who he was and what he did."

The word "celebration" is an understatement when considering the many experiences planned for festival guests. One of the highlights is the auction of Jolson items.

"We have a lot of good stuff up for auction that we haven't had in the past," Hernstat says. "People donated collections that go back 60 or 70 years. If someone comes as a collector, they would really enjoy it!"

The schedule includes a number of unique performances and a luncheon buffet. Eddie Cantor's grandson, Brian Gari, will be on hand to share stories and greet lucky attendees. Ed Greenbaum will once again be sharing his audio rarities.

This year's festival is serving up unique comedy with new acts from some old favorites. Noah Diamond demonstrates the iconic humor of Groucho Marx with

a re-creation of a radio program the comedian did with Jolson. The unforgettable Bob Greenberg and Jonathan Smith (who have previously graced the stage as Laurel & Hardy) change gears this year and take on Abbott & Costello (expect to hear a rendition of "Who's On First?"). Jeff Greenberg is returning with his delightful comedy. Plus, for the first time, guests will enjoy Jack West's comedic stylings as he takes on the great Jack Benny.

No Al Jolson Festival is complete without the main event, the musical stylings of Tony Babino. Known as "The Heart of Al Jolson," Babino performs an entire concert tribute to Jolson, including hits "My Mammy" and "Swanee."

"He gets better every year," says Hernstat of Babino. "One of the main reasons that we can continue to do things like this is because we have a guy like Tony who is so talented and sounds so much like Jolson. It's a joy. Nobody else does what he does like he does it."

A part of what makes the full-day festival so special is that enthusiasts from all over come together to reflect on their shared passion. Hernstat says guests will be traveling from Philadelphia, New Jersey and even Kansas City to be in a room of likeminded individuals who appreciate Jolson's magic.

"Where can you go nowadays to see the old-time entertainers recreated?" asks Hernstat, as he considers the unique programming planned for the day. "[For us Long Islanders] it's right in our backyard."

Hernstat hopes that through the work of the Al Jolson Society, members will be able to continue to reach out to Jolson fans who will help keep his legacy alive.

"It's harder and harder to find those people out there who are true Jolson fans. We're not looking to convert anyone to become a Jolson fan; we just want to find the ones out there who are and let them know that they have this outlet for their enjoyment."



The festival "gang" includes, from left, Jeff Greenberg, Richard Halpern, Al Jolson Society President Jan Hernstat, vocalist Tony Babino, and Bob Greenberg.



Tony B gives a rousing rendition of the Jolson standards, an annual festival performance not to be missed.



Al Jolson in a scene from his film "The Singing Kid" in 1936. It was his final lead role in a musical film.



'Well my heart went boom...'

Experience Beatlemania again when 1964 The Tribute brings the early 1960s Fab Four back to life. Hailed by Rolling Stone as "the best Beatles tribute on earth," the band channels the pre-Sgt. Pepper era with uncanny authenticity — from period instruments and vintage suits to spot-on vocals and playful onstage banter. This meticulous re-creation captures the energy and joy of The Beatles' early live performances, offering a rare chance to feel what it was like when Beatlemania swept the globe. "1964" captures the quintessential moment in history, when The Beatles actually played before a live audience. For those that never saw The Beatles live and always wanted to know what it must have been like, this may be as close as anyone could possibly get — to feel the magic.

Friday, Aug. 28, 8 p.m. \$82, \$66.25, \$54.75, \$44.25, \$31.25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.



Brave Strangers

Get ready to rock when Brave Strangers hits the stage with the music of Bob Seger. Founded by the passionate and talented Tony Paulino, this powerhouse 14-piece group delivers an authentic concert experience that captures the fire, soul, and storytelling that made Seger a rock legend. From "Night Moves" to "Turn the Page" to "Old Time Rock & Roll," Brave Strangers takes audiences on a high-energy ride through the songs that defined a generation — and continue to win new fans today. With a three-piece female chorus line known as the Segerettes, the Runaway Train horn section, and a blistering eight-piece core band, their sound is as big and bold as the Motor City itself. If you've seen Seger live, you know the thrill. If you haven't, this is the next best thing.

Friday, Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org.

YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD

CALENDAR

AUG
28

On Exhibit
Nassau County Museum of Art's latest 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

AUG
29

Downtown Sounds Concert Series
Glen Cove Business Improvement District and the City of Glen Cove present a free concert at Village Square. Bring a chair and enjoy the tunes.

- **Where:** 1 School St., (corner of School, Glen and Bridge streets)
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 759-6970

AUG
30

Deep Roots Farmers Market
Shop fresh and local at the Deep Roots Farmers Market! Enjoy a vibrant selection of Long Island-grown produce, artisanal goods, fresh baked items, handmade crafts, and more. The market also features live music, family-friendly activities, and community vendors. Come support local farmers and makers, rain or shine!

- **Where:** 100 Garvies Point Road
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-6666

Vivaldi Celebration
Acclaimed violinist Bela Horvath performs Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons." Set against the lush and historic backdrop of Planting Fields, this outdoor concert brings



SEP
10

Maren Morris
Maren Morris brings "The Dreamsicle Tour" to the Paramount stage with special guest Jade LeMac. Morris has broken boundaries, smashed records and affirmed herself as a dynamic vocalist, prolific songwriter and showstopping performer on her own terms. Among numerous accolades, she has garnered a Grammy, five ACM Awards, five CMA Awards, and three Billboard Music Awards. She has earned dozens of multi platinum and gold certifications worldwide and tallied billions of streams. Her catalog encompasses a trio of acclaimed albums, namely Hero (2016), Girl (2019), and Humble Quest (2022). Speaking to her versatility, she's the rare force of nature equally suited to collaborating with Zedd on the 6x-platinum "The Middle" or duetting with everyone from Taylor Swift, Stevie Nicks and Sheryl Crow to Teddy Swims, Hozier, and Jessie Murph. Morris has sold out tours on multiple continents. Along the way, she also co-founded The Highwomen with Brandi Carlile, Natalie Hemby, and Amanda Shires. In September 2023, Maren shared The Bridge, an EP featuring "The Tree" and "Get the Hell Out of Here," and followed with a cover of Billy Idol's classic track "Dancing With Myself" in February 2024. She entered a bold new era with the release of her Intermission EP in August, which features "Cut!" and the MUNA-produced and playful single "Push Me Over." Maren promises to be unapologetically herself — and it shows in this music and in what is next to come. \$114.25, \$92, \$71.75, \$65.25.

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

nature and music into perfect harmony. Horvath brings a fresh and virtuosic interpretation to this beloved masterpiece. Vivaldi's timeless composition rich with the sounds of birdsong, summer storms, crisp autumn breezes, and frozen winter landscapes has inspired generations of composers and music lovers alike. Bring a blanket, lawn chair, and picnic basket for a relaxing afternoon. Food truck are also on-site. \$10, children free.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 1-2:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

AUG
31

Beauty's Back(pack) to School Bash
Families are invited to Castle Gould at Sands Point to join Princess Beauty, Rapunzel, and the Mermaid Princess for a magical celebration to kick off the new school year in royal style. The event includes live Princess performances, interactive story time, dancing, games, and more. Each child receives a backpack to decorate and take home — perfect for starting school with a sparkle! Plus, enjoy sweet treats, a royal meet-and-greet, and photo opportunities.

The princesses share empowering messages about bravery, kindness and embracing new adventures — ideal for easing any first-day nerves or simply celebrating the excitement of going back to school. Registration required. Limited tickets available. \$55 child, \$17 adult.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-2 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

Morgan Park Summer Music Festival
Enjoy a concert at Morgan Park with beautiful views of the harbor and Long Island Sound. Bring chairs or a blanket and soak in the tunes.

- **Where:** Morgan Memorial Park, Germaine Street between Landing Road and McLoughlin Street, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Contact:** info@morganparkmusic.org

SEP
02

Planning Board Meeting
The IDA/LEAC Finance Committee holds a budget review meeting at Glen

Cove City Hall.

- **Where:** 9 Glen St.
- **Time:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-2000

SEP
03

Historical Walking Tour
Walk through history at Sands Point Preserve. An expert docent leads visitors across the preserve to discover the history of the buildings and grounds, from the Goulds to the Guggenheims and beyond. The tour begins outside Castle Gould, followed by a walk to the freshwater pond, and ending in the grand rooms of Hempstead House. Please note this program is strictly for adults and children 12+. This is an energetic walking tour involving uneven terrain, hills, and stairs.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

SEP
04

Introduction to Mah Jongg
Learn the basics of Mah Jongg in this four-part series at Glen Cove Public Library,

led by Donna Miller-Small. Bring the National Mah Jongg League 2025 card, purchased only from nationalmahjonggleague.org. Registration is required, and class size is limited. Cost for the series is \$20, payable at the Reference Desk upon registration.

- **Where:** Community Room, 4 Glen Cove Ave.
- **Time:** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

SEP
06

Mayor's Snapper Derby
City-sponsored event for Glen Cove resident children ages 6-16 features a fun and friendly fishing competition. Organized in partnership with local angling clubs, the Derby includes divisions for ages 6-10 and 11-16, with awards for top catches and the "Best Angler." Participants should bring their own rod and reel. While supplies last, registrants receive a derby t-shirt, hot dog and soda, and a raffle ticket for prize drawings at the end of the event.

- **Where:** Pryibil Beach Fishing Pier, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 8:30 a.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-2000

SEP
17

Locust Valley Garden Club
The Locust Valley Garden Club will not be meeting at the Locust Valley Library on Aug. 20 as previously announced. All visitors and potential new members are welcome to the next meeting. Participate in "Tatakizome - Japanese Hammer Art," led by program chair Jane Benstock. Use garden blossoms to create beautiful small pieces of art at the hands-on session. Bring a hammer, all other materials are provided. The "themed" lunch is "Back-to-School-Lunchbox" plates, sides, snacks and desserts. All gardening lovers are welcome!

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.

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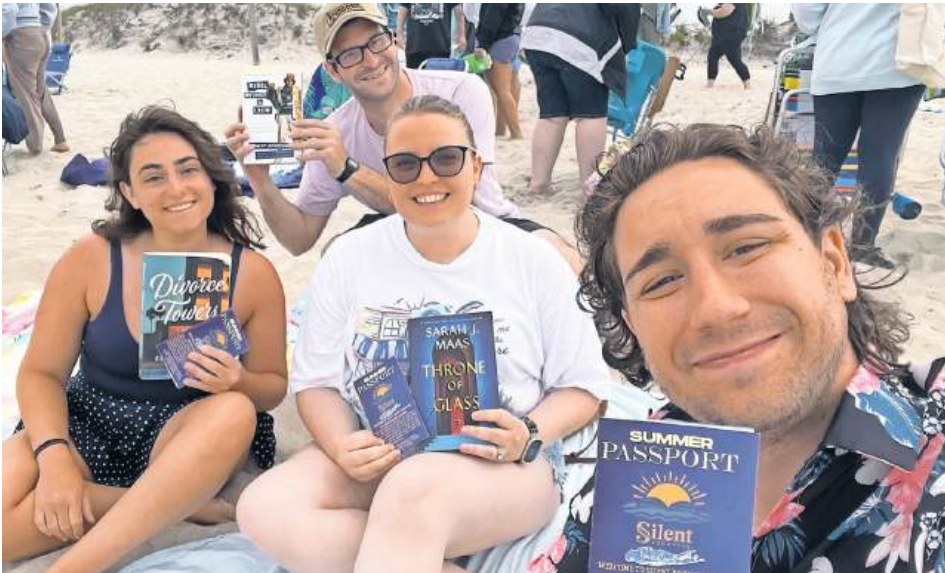
By LUKE FEENEY
lfeeney@liherald.com

Members of Silent Book Clubs were able to enjoy a reading adventure at locations across Long Island due to a new program created by the host of Sea Cliff's chapter.

The Silent Book Club Summer Passport was formed by Robin Baldwin, host of the Sea Cliff chapter, and allows participants to get a passport that gets "stamped," at 15 participating chapters: Sea Cliff, Glen Cove, Bayshore, Huntington, Garden City, Farmingdale, Port Washington, Babylon, Wantagh, Stony Brook, Sayville, Riverhead, Patchogue and Medford, Rockville Centre as well as West Hampton.

The goal of the passport, Baldwin said, was to "encourage people to check out new chapters, meet new friends, and explore all the different spaces that make Long Island's Silent Book Clubs so unique."

At the end of the summer, the amount of stamps collected becomes raffle tickets for a prize basket. Participants who collect five stamps and gain one entry, those with 10 stamps are allotted three entries, and those with all 15 stamps have



Members of Silent Book Clubs were able to enjoy a reading adventure at locations across Long Island due to a new creation by Sea Cliff chapter host Robin Baldwin.



Photos courtesy Robin Baldwin

According to Baldwin, the book club passport encourages people to check out new chapters, make friends, and explore Long Island's Silent Book Clubs.

ets for a prize basket. Participants who collect five stamps and gain one entry, those with 10 stamps are allotted three entries, and those with all 15 stamps have

five chances to win a basket with books, gift cards, and treats from local authors, bookstores, and coffee shops.

Tiffany Santarelli moved to Sea Cliff from Elmont in March and began attending meetings at the Sea Cliff chapter of Silent Book Club. The 29-year-old was one of the over 300 people who signed up for the passport and attended five separate chapters this summer.

"I love the idea of the silent book club," she said, "You read your own book, you can socialize, you don't have to socialize. I love the whole concept." The passport, Santarelli explained, introduced "a level of fun," to meetings this summer.

Baldwin, 31, added that Silent Book Club's social media presence has grown, with over 2,000 people following the chapters across social media platforms. Seeing the enthusiasm from both members and the local businesses was extremely exciting, according to Baldwin.

The only challenge Baldwin identified while reflecting on the summer program was coordinating the quantity of passport holders that were needed to be accounted for. "When you have that sheer amount of people participating in something, you really need to have a very concrete plan," she said, acknowledging that "we didn't have that initially, so we had to develop that as the meetings went on."

Baldwin designed the first version of the passport and shared the idea with the other 14 Long Island chapters. Cindy Hernandez, the host of Silent Book Club in Glen Cove, worked with Google Sheets, creating both a physical sign-up sheet and a shared online tracker to update attendance after each meeting.

"The passport turned every meetup into a bigger adventure," Hernandez said, comparing it to collecting chapters in a story. "I've connected with readers I never would have met otherwise," she said, adding that some of the readers she met over the summer have begun attending meetings at the Glen Cove chapter of Silent Book Club.

Every chapter pitched in from there, editing the design, helping with logistics, and gathering donations for the prize basket.

The passport, Hernandez said,

showed her that Silent Book Club is not just local; it's part of a much larger network of readers. "Every chapter feels like a space where I already belong," she said, "which is why I'll keep visiting even after summer."

Vincent Cacchione, Baldwin's husband and co-host of Silent Book Club, recalled his wife pitching the idea to him and immediately piquing his interest. "I'm really open minded," he said, "I know Robin well enough that if she says, this is something cool, let's do it. I'm totally in."

Cacchione and Baldwin said they visited 10 different chapters this summer. Both credited the program for allowing them to expand their horizons and connect with members in chapters throughout Long Island. "We've connected with so many more people," he said, "It's a big community now."

Silent Book Club started in San Francisco in 2012 and has since grown into a global community of readers, with more than 1,500 chapters in 54 countries around the world led by local volunteers. Meetings are typically held in public at bars, cafes, bookstores, libraries, and online for attendees to read together. The events are free and designed to support local businesses.

At Silent Book Club, there's no assigned reading for the group. Instead, all readers are encouraged to bring whatever material they are reading whether it's ebooks, audiobooks, textbooks, comic books or anything else. The organization's website refers to it as "BYOBook"

For the Sea Cliff chapter, each meeting begins at 7 p.m. with a half an hour dedicated to socializing, then at 7:30 p.m. a quiet reading hour begins followed by optional socializing from 8:30 p.m. to the end of the club at 9 p.m.

Baldwin confirmed that she is already working on a new summer reading challenge for next summer, with the number of participants set to increase due to the chapters on Long Island increasing from 15 to 20. "We are going to do something similar," she said, "but with a twist, and we're planning on making it bigger."

HERALD LGLE1 0828 PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NASSAU
THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, AS TRUSTEE, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR GREENPOINT MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2004-1 MORTGAGE LOAN PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-1, -against- SHEILA A. ZEINETH, ET AL.
NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Nassau on May 27, 2025, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, AS TRUSTEE, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR GREENPOINT MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2004-1 MORTGAGE LOAN PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-1 is the Plaintiff and

ZEINETH, ET AL., are the Defendants. I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public RAIN OR SHINE at the NASSAU COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 100 SUPREME COURT DRIVE, NORTH SIDE STEPS, MINEOLA, NY 11501, on September 9, 2025 at 2:00PM, the premises known as 24 MAPLE AVENUE, GLEN COVE, NY 11542 and the following tax map identification 31-22-28. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF GLEN COVE, COUNTY OF NASSAU AND STATE OF NEW YORK
Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 614113/2023; Fabiana Talarico, Esq., as Referee; Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES. 154915

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT. NASSAU COUNTY. LOAN FUNDER LLC, SERIES 36093, Pltf. vs. AMERICAN DREAM RENOVATION'S LLC, et al, Defts. Index #619325/23. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered July 22, 2025, I will sell at public auction on the North Side steps of the Nassau Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY on September 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. premises k/a 9 Capobianco Street, Glen Cove, NY a/k/a Section 21, Block 4, Lot 30. Approximate amount of judgment is \$495,267.38 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. BRIAN DAVIS, Referee. DEUTSCH & SCHNEIDER, LLP, Attys. for Pltf., 79-37 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385. File No. LF-484 - #102435 154913

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NASSAU MTGLQ Investors, L.P., Plaintiff AGAINST Adventure Corp.; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered August 13, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee,

will sell at public auction at the North Side Steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court at 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on September 22, 2025, at 2:00PM, premises known as 53 Robinson 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 in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau, State of New York, Section 21 Block 19 Lot 129. Approximate amount of judgment \$660,029.98 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 015093/2007. Foreclosure auction will be held "Rain or Shine" Maria Sideris, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: August 6, 2025 For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2831 155302
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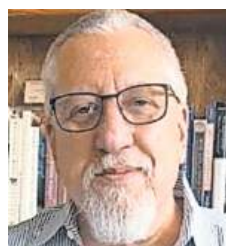
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OPINIONS

Glen Cove's mayoral election mirrors national politics

If you think local politics in Glen Cove are somehow separate from the national storm, you haven't been paying attention. While the scale may be different, the themes, tactics and tensions in the city's mayoral election are unmistakably familiar to anyone who's followed a presidential race. What's playing out on the streets and in the council chambers of Glen Cove is not just a local contest — it's a mirror of the national political landscape.



MICHAEL BLITZ

Incumbent Pamela Panzenbeck and her challenger, Councilwoman Marsha Silverman, represent two sharply different visions for the city, much like what we see in national elections. One leans on experience and steady stewardship, the other on reform and systemic change. Panzenbeck's emphasis on balanced budgets, infrastructure improvements and stable leadership echoes the incumbents' advantage in national elections — the pitch that things are on track and should be kept in steady hands. Silverman, meanwhile, positions herself as the challenger who's not afraid to question the status quo and push for more transparent, data-driven governance.

It's the same dynamic that defines nearly every national contest: continuity versus change.

The rhetoric and strategy aren't much different, either. Both sides talk about fiscal responsibility, public safety and quality of life — but the language is layered with political cues. One candidate's support for law enforcement becomes a broader signal about order and tradition. The other's push for transparency and more inclusive public meetings hints at frustrations over power dynamics and representation. These aren't just talking points; they're narratives designed to mobilize voters not just logically but emotionally — just as in any presidential campaign.

Even the controversies feel nationally scripted. Take the recent debates over noise ordinances and their impact on religious observance, or the city's handling of tax breaks and zoning decisions. On the surface, these may sound like local issues, but beneath them lie the same cultural and economic anxieties fueling national debates about fairness, equity and who holds power.

And just as in national elections, Glen Cove's political divisions are no longer cleanly defined by party registration. Though the city leans Democratic, Republicans have made significant

gains in recent cycles, flipping control of the mayor's office and the City Council. It mirrors what's happening in suburban districts across the country: Historically moderate and "blue" areas are shifting in response to broader political winds, economic uncertainty or cultural polarization. Efforts to influence voter turnout patterns, campaign messaging and coalition-building in Glen Cove all resemble national electoral strategies — only with local roads, parks and schools at stake.

Perhaps the strongest point of comparison is the significance of leadership symbolism. A mayor, like a president, sets the tone for how government interacts with residents. It's about more than policies — it's about the ways in which leaders and candidates foster trust and make public shows of competence, and presence. When residents see their mayor in public, hear her responses to a crisis, or feel seen and heard in civic meetings, they aren't just feeling the effects of local government — they're evaluating and judging what kind of leadership they believe in. That symbolic power mirrors the role presidents, and presidential candidates, play on the national stage. Political strategists rely on the fact that voters often make their choices based as much on candidates' symbolic acts as on

It's local, but also reflects questions Americans are asking everywhere.

their policies.

And just like national elections, this mayoral race is increasingly shaped by social media, image management and rapid-response messaging. Public opinion now forms and shifts quickly, and both mayoral campaigns must adapt not just to issues, but to narratives — the same challenge every presidential candidate faces, just scaled down.

What's at stake, though, is anything but small. While presidential decisions often take years to materialize, mayors control the most immediate levers of government. A change in City Hall leadership can alter city budgets, neighborhood development, police oversight and tax policy — within months. That kind of power affects residents' daily life far more directly than anything happening in Washington. Decisions made here are felt on the ground faster and more personally.

So yes, Glen Cove's mayoral election is local. But it's also a reflection of the pressures, patterns and questions Americans are asking everywhere: Who gets heard? Who gets served? In some ways, a mayoral race is the national political story told in miniature. But there is nothing tiny about the ways in which the mayor we elect will have an impact on our daily lives.

Michael Blitz is professor emeritus of interdisciplinary studies at the City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

The Blakeman administration governs in secrecy

As many may know, I was raised in a family that was deeply involved in politics and government. My father, Donald DeRiggi, served as mayor of Glen Cove, a finance commissioner, a city councilman and a Nassau County court judge before he retired.



DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

For as long as I can remember, he taught us that it was a privilege to be a public servant, and that, even though governance may sometimes be contentious, it was important to govern fairly and in the best interests of the people, regardless of political affiliation.

The three and a half years of the administration of County Executive Bruce Blakeman have therefore been a jarring experience for me. His administration has erected countless roadblocks to shield itself from scrutiny — so much so that my colleagues Scott Davis and Debra Mulé were forced to sue the county executive to secure information about

his armed "militia" — including simple details about how its members are being trained, equipped, supervised and paid.

Similarly, Blakeman's administration has refused to say how the future of the Nassau University Medical Center would be protected. This regional hospital network is an essential safety net for the community, and must not be neglected. To get any answers, we've had to resort to using the Freedom of Information Act. It has been such a challenge that, after Matthew Bruderman was fired as the NUMC's board chairman following the mysterious break-in and alleged theft of sensitive documents from his Centre Island home, we had no other recourse but to call on the FBI to conduct a probe and to demand a criminal investigation.

As NUMC's board spiraled out of control, the hospital's leadership was accused of taking advantage of the public. After learning this summer that former CEO Meg Ryan was ousted after allegedly giving herself and 12 other employees \$1 million in wages and leave payouts they were not entitled to, News-

day revealed that members of the top hospital brass were treating themselves to lobster dinners on the taxpayers' dime while this essential facility was on the verge of collapse.

He doesn't appear interested in fair, equitable and responsive government.

You might think that Blakeman would rightly condemn such damaging behavior by appointees in such crucial roles, but to date his silence has spoken volumes. His actions have similarly sent a clear message demonstrating a lack of interest in fair, equitable and responsive government.

We are continuing to fight for fairness in the distribution of Community Revitalization Program grants, where Blakeman's partisan bias is obvious. To date, districts represented by Republicans have had a staggering 50 grant requests approved, while districts served by Democratic members have received zero approvals through the normal legislative process. In fact, the only grants we received came after we successfully leveraged our votes for the 2025 capital plan — which required a 13-vote supermajority to pass — to force Blakeman to add funding for 14 CRP grants for

first responders, totaling \$1.3 million, into the capital plan bond ordinance.

More than 30 Democratic CRPs remain caught in the blockade. Specific to District 11, this includes \$350,000 to improve Pascucci Field in Glen Cove, \$275,000 for an all-ability playground in Port Washington, \$110,000 to upgrade Maccaroni Stadium in Glen Cove and \$100,000 for a local history center at the Port Washington Library. These funds are not being held up on their merits. Rather, they're being held up over partisan politics.

During my two decades as a public servant and an elected official, I have learned that effective leaders, regardless of political affiliation, must not operate in secrecy. They must not demand political allegiance — and they must not unilaterally shut out opposition voices.

To operate in a purely partisan manner, as the Blakeman administration has done for the past three and a half years, betrays the spirit of community service and our duty to fight for the greater good of the people — *all* of the people.

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

OPINIONS

Democracy in action that my students will never forget

I'm extremely fortunate to have a talented group of summer students participating in a program that introduces them to how government functions. They work together as a think tank, researching and discussing the pressing issues of the day. We have plenty of those.

We have analyzed the Declaration of Independence, the 14th Amendment's guarantee of birthright citizenship, and researched President Theodore Roosevelt's beliefs about what it means to be an American. It is no surprise that the students have different and opposing views.



CHARLES LAVINE

My objective is to collaborate with them to provide a space in which their views can be considered in a meaningful and civil exchange. As part of the program, we attended the Nassau County Legislature's session on July 28. We met with Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, Legislators Olena Nicks, Seth Koslow and Scott Davis, and Democratic staff.

One of my fondest memories of visiting the Legislature was when my friend Norma Gonsalves, then the presiding officer, took time out of her busy day to

speak at length with my students about the importance of civic responsibility and bipartisan relationships. That was truly meaningful to all of us, and an experience none of those students will ever forget.

After touring the Theodore Roosevelt Executive Office Building, the students and I went to the legislative chamber to see democracy in action. What we witnessed, however, left me with cause for concern.

When the time for community comment began, Presiding Officer Howard Kopel noted that many in the audience were there to speak about immigration. He stated that the Legislature had absolutely nothing to do with that issue. His attitude was dismissive, and sent the message that he had no interest in their statements.

We heard several people express their heartfelt concerns about the effect of ICE raids on their communities. They spoke of fear for their neighbors and the damage to our economy. Fernanda Mejia spoke with great emotion. Her father, Fernando, managed the Schmear Bagel & Café in Port Washington. Although looking for someone else, ICE arrested him.

Another speaker compared what ICE is doing to events in Nazi Germany. Kopel became visibly upset, and said

that such comments were out of place. He threatened to remove the speaker. Undeterred and unintimidated, the speaker continued. Kopel then announced that he was suspending the session, stood up and left the chamber,

followed by every other Republican legislator. Even though the microphone had been turned off, members of the community approached the lectern and continued to speak.

In all the years that I have served in public office, I have never seen anyone denied their constitutional right to speak at a government hearing. The First Amendment guarantees "the right of the peo-

ple peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." New York's own Constitution guarantees free speech and the right to petition government.

Kopel had unknowingly set a trap for himself when, at the beginning of the open comment period, he announced that the Republican-dominated Legislature had nothing to do with immigration. He must have forgotten that County Executive Bruce Blakeman ordered the county Police Department to assist ICE. He must have forgotten that Blakeman had stated, "There is no reason to be afraid because they're only going after people who have committed rapes

and burglaries." That statement was certainly cold comfort to Fernanda Mejia, whose father had been in the United States for 20 years, contributed to our economy, provided for his family and committed no crime.

The Legislature approves the executive's budget, and therefore has the inherent authority to reject or reduce his spending requests, and the power to influence his decisions and exercise independent action. Kopel must also have forgotten that the very purpose of having a Legislature is to serve as a check and balance on the executive — in this case, the county executive.

As James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 51 in 1788: "The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive and judicial in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

Matters worsened when Kopel intentionally censored a citizen from speaking her mind. That wasn't just demeaning and disrespectful; it was un-American.

I am proud of our fellow citizens who spoke truth to power, and of the many citizens there to support them. I am also sure that my summer students got to experience democracy in action, something they will never forget.

Charles Lavine represents the 13th Assembly District.

Even in the County Legislature, citizens can't always speak their minds.

Finding the car keys in the refrigerator

There comes a time in family life when the balance of responsibility begins to shift. After decades of caring for our infants, toddlers and teens, and launching our children off to careers and relationships — and if we're lucky, a decade or two, or even three, of joyful independence — we



RANDI KREISS

realize that we're slowing down a bit.

The grown children have their own years of freedom before new responsibilities as caregivers arise. Adult children begin to realize that they have aging parents. Older parents need an occasional hand up. But

when to step in, exactly, and how much?

Hear me: The critical factor is for kids to offer help without diminishing their parents. When your kids start checking up on you, if they want to do no harm, they best have a light touch and a sense of humor.

Recently, one of our grown kids visited. "You're walking really well, Mom," he said. OK, I thought; he must have

read an article about older people having mobility issues. However, I am not one. I walk just fine. And fast. And steady on my feet. I let the moment pass.

The next day he offered to arrange my pillbox. "What's to arrange?" I said. I take two pills, and one of them is Vitamin D.

On another visit, my daughter examined the house for "fall risks." Despite her good intentions, I was *not* going to let her toss the Tabriz rug I personally carried back from Istanbul.

There were other moments, like the kids saying, "You already told me that story," or "Why not leave your car keys in the same place every day so you won't keep looking for them?" My son-in-law spent at least an hour going through my pantry and tossing anything with an expired date.

All of these intrusions come from a place of good intentions, but chuck that. It feels like hovering to me, and patronizing and ageist. I'll know when I need help, and I won't hesitate to ask. And yes, I realize this sounds slightly unreasonable.

On the other hand, I am very grateful

to be living in a multigenerational family that keeps a watchful eye on us and visits often, even when we aren't that much fun. We all know that millions of older people don't have the blessings

conferred by caring children. They may not get to go out or eat the right foods or enjoy the support of family and friends. I'm speaking from a point of privilege in that regard.

This is tricky emotional terrain on all sides, best negotiated openly and with a light touch. With that in mind, I am ready now for my kids' next visit/inspection next month. I put my shoes in the fridge and four cans of refried beans in the bathtub.

Finding humor in advancing age isn't always easy. Toward the end of my mother's life, she lived with us for a few months. She had a helper who took her to the supermarket, where she enjoyed picking up a few things. One day they walked in the front door with a fresh challah bread. "Look at this bread," my mom beamed. "It's a beauty."

She forgot she had bought the same bread the day before. But before I could summon the grace required in the moment, I said, "That's the second

bread you bought for tonight." That was seven years ago, and I can still see the flustered embarrassment on my mother's face. We might have made a joke of it, but my tone was chiding, and I regret not summoning my better angels.

Now that I am in my eighth decade, heaven help the kid who says, "You told me that already" or shows impatience when I can't find my phone or walks around my house dimming the bright lights. The landscape of older age holds perils for me and some of my fellow boomers who may have replaced hips or knees or failing eyesight or chronic pain. Some of us can remember everything just fine. Some can remember everything, but not right away. Some can't remember much.

Kindness lies in not pointing out the lapses, but listening to a story a second time. When we're among our own kind (that would be other older people), we make jokes about fading memory and increasing wrinkles. When our kids point out any diminishing capacities, it feels like a rebuke.

My advice and wish: Walk more slowly, kids, when you walk alongside us; soon you will be walking in our footsteps.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

A school year of excitement and uncertainty

As August winds down, another academic year is approaching for Nassau and Suffolk's 124 school districts. Yellow buses are getting their final inspections, teachers are setting up classrooms, and families are shopping for supplies with that mix of excitement and anxiety that marks the end of summer vacation.

But this coming school year carries more uncertainty than usual. Long Island schools are preparing students for a world that seems to shift beneath our feet daily.

Kindergartners are beginning their educational journey in schools grappling with fundamental questions about the future of education itself. While 5-year-olds will still learn to read and write, they will also encounter technology that was science fiction just a few years ago. Artificial intelligence is already reshaping how students access information, complete assignments and develop skills.

The question isn't *whether* AI will transform education — it's how quickly, and whether our schools can adapt fast enough to harness its power while teaching students to think critically about its limitations. Teachers will learn alongside their students, figuring out when to embrace AI tools and when to insist on traditional methods. Administrators will write policies for technology they don't yet fully understand. Parents will try to help with homework that involves apps and platforms they've never seen.

We're all on this learning curve together, and that's not something to be embarrassed about — it's the reality of living through a technological revolution.

Perhaps nowhere is this uncertainty more acute than in our middle schools, where students are forming their first serious academic interests and beginning to imagine their futures. These young people will eventually graduate from high school and college into a job

market where artificial intelligence may have eliminated entire career categories while creating others we can't yet envision. How do we prepare seventh-graders for careers that don't exist? How do we teach them to value human creativity and critical thinking in an age of machine learning?

Long Island's high schools face an even more complex challenge. They must prepare students for college admissions that increasingly emphasize authentic achievement over test scores, in an environment where the priorities of colleges and universities have become politically charged.

The specter of federal education cuts adds another layer of complexity. The proposed elimination of the Department of Education could reshape everything from special education funding to college financial aid. Programs that have supported Long Island students for decades — from Title I funding in our most challenged districts to federal student loans that make college accessible — face an uncertain future. Combined with rapid technological changes, the gap between Long Island's poorest and most affluent school districts — sometimes right next door to one another — could expand to unthinkable size. We must not lose sight of districts that need resources the most.

These potential cuts extend beyond education budgets. Federal research funding that has sustained STEM careers could evaporate. Environmental programs that employ thousands of Long Island residents hang in the balance. Government functions that provide stable middle-class employment may be transformed or eliminated.

These challenges are causing real anxiety for families across the Island. Parents wonder whether they're preparing their children adequately for an unknowable future. Students feel pres-

sure to make educational choices without knowing which paths will lead to viable careers. Teachers question whether their expertise remains relevant as technology advances.

And all of this is compounded by the new statewide cellphone ban, whose consequences on learning, behavior and social dynamics are nervously anticipated by students, parents and teachers.

The anxiety is valid and understandable. Rather than pushing these concerns aside or pretending everything is fine, our communities need to create spaces where families can voice their worries and seek support. School counselors, parent groups and community organizations must be prepared to help families navigate not just academic decisions, but the emotional toll of living with constant uncertainty.

Success in this coming year won't be measured solely in test scores or college acceptance rates, though those remain important. The real measure will be whether our students graduate with the adaptability to thrive amid constant change, the critical thinking skills to navigate an information landscape increasingly shaped by AI, and the resilience to build meaningful careers even as traditional paths disappear.

Long Island has faced uncertainty before and emerged stronger. The key has always been acknowledging challenges honestly while focusing on what unites us: Ensuring that every child develops not just knowledge, but wisdom.

As classroom doors prepare to open, we must acknowledge that we're sending our children into uncharted territory. Our job — as parents, educators and community members — is to give them the tools to draw their own maps.

School bells are about to ring. The future is speaking a language that we're all still learning.

LETTERS

Extremism, too, will affect the world's future

To the Editor:

Re Peter King's column last week, "Isolation, antisemitism will affect the world's future": It seems the world has to wait for those who have survived the horrors of war to pass into history before it can be primed for the same mistakes to be made again. Ignorance or agenda rule the day, and people, as ever, are easily led by demagoguery.

I find it frightening that neither party practices common-sense, moderate approaches to problems. Whereas once upon a time, the two political parties orbited closely around a center point, those halcyon days are but a dim memory. Nowadays, each party orbits far, far away from a center that I believe is the American character. The answer to our problems will not be



OPINIONS

All that glitters isn't gold: a closer look at county finances

Affordable living in Nassau County is a great concern for most residents. As a former member of the Legislature's Finance Committee who now serves on the Rules Committee, I have kept an eye on wasteful expenditures, missed opportunities for substantial revenue, and employment-generating projects.

Nassau County residents deserve to know how their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent. So let's take a closer look.

The county has lost two major development opportunities this year, one at the Uniondale Hub and another on the Nassau Community College campus. In April

2023, County Executive Bruce Blakeman, with great fanfare announced an agreement with Las Vegas Sands for a \$6 billion project at the Hub anchored by a casino and resort. According to Blakeman, it was a can't-miss opportunity that would transform the property occupied by Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

That can't-miss opportunity missed. This April, the Sands abruptly announced that it was no longer pursuing this project.

Also in 2023, NYU Langone, the coun-

ty and NCC commenced negotiations to build a \$3 billion medical facility on campus. Blakeman boasted that the project would create "the number one hospital in America." This March, NYU Langone unexpectedly withdrew from the project, stating that "external factors" made the project "too burdensome to proceed."

With that, \$9 billion in projected growth for Nassau's future, thousands of construction jobs, employment opportunities and millions in tax revenue to sustain vital services were erased.

Critical investments for the greater good continue to stagnate. Since 2022, the county has accrued nearly \$100 million in opioid lawsuit settlement funds, but only \$9.1 million has been disbursed to agencies for prevention, treatment and recovery services. The prevalence of opioid use requires an immediate and sustained response, and utilizing these settlement proceeds increases the likelihood of long-term success, which in turn lessens crime as well as the societal and financial burdens of addiction borne by us all.

As for wasteful expenditures, Blakeman has nearly tripled the amount of money spent on outside counsel contracts to represent the county instead of using the county attorney's office. According to *Newsday*, some of these

contracts went to firms that have donated to Republicans, including Blakeman. The cost of these contracts increased from \$6 million in 2022 to over \$20 million in 2024. Last year alone, the county spent nearly twice as much on outside counsel than on the entire county attorney's office.

In early 2024, with a Republican majority vote, the county's \$200,000 annual contract for legal advertisements with *Newsday* was canceled and replaced by the *New York Post*, even though *Newsday* published over 1,600 articles about Nassau County in 2024, whereas the *Post* published only 155.

In January, *Newsday* sued the county, alleging First Amendment violations and retaliation for news articles and editorials that county officials considered unfavorable. In May, the Republican majority in the Legislature authorized up to \$1.7 million to retain a Manhattan-based law firm to defend the lawsuit, at a rate of \$1,400 to \$2,200 an hour.

The administration and the legislative majority have also approved \$3.2 million to fight a court ruling that Nassau County wrongfully charged more than \$400 million in red-light camera ticket fees. They have not planned for the possibility that the county will be forced to return millions of dollars to impacted drivers.

Then there's Blakeman's provisional

deputy sheriff program, known as his "militia." After he did not respond to our requests for basic information, in the interest of public safety and protecting taxpayers from exposure to financial liability, Legislator Debra Mulé and I sued Blakeman — which could have been avoided if he had simply followed the law. It is important to note that, while our counsel in that case is pro bono, the administration has again retained outside counsel, at a cost of up to \$200,000.

As for county finances, the independent, nonpartisan Office of Legislative Budget Review recently reported that the Blakeman administration would be on pace to run a \$100 million deficit in 2025, if not for the use of reserves made possible by last year's one-time infusion of money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. In doing so, they have created the illusion of a balanced budget while, in fact, they are spending more than they are taking in.

As we move forward, it is imperative to eliminate unnecessary expenditures and make fiscal decisions based on reasonable revenue projections. Blakeman is now crafting the 2026 budget during a time of tremendous uncertainty in which significant federal funding cuts are likely. We must be more fiscally prudent and not risk the county's financial health by gambling on potential revenue sources that can disappear on a whim.

Scott M. Davis represents Nassau County's 1st District.



SCOTT M. DAVIS

LETTERS

found in jackboots, nor will they be discovered in those wearing flowers in their hair, but somewhere in between.

RICHARD PETERS
Merrick

'Hochul's partisan war' started in Texas, Jake

To the Editor:

Re Assemblyman Jake Blumencranz's op-ed in the Aug. 14-20 issue, "This ain't Texas: We must end Hochul's partisan war," decrying the push for redistricting in New York: It's hard to disagree with Mr. Blumencranz's statement that "voters should choose their representation — not the other way around." But then what, exactly, should New York do to counter Texan efforts to subvert that very principle with their blatant attempt to create more Republican districts so that the House of Representatives represents only one party?

We should certainly be above such partisan tactics. But we cannot passively be held to a higher standard while others are pushing us toward one-party rule. This is "Hochul's partisan war"? I suggest that Mr. Blumencranz address his valid concerns to the Texas lawmakers.

RICHARD SCHWARZ
Bayville

Are those in power aware of seniors' struggles?

To the Editor:

Senior citizens like me have had to adapt our purchasing habits, often choosing less expensive alternatives or forgoing some foods, like beef, completely. As reported, the major driver of the rise in the cost of beef is drought. So, what does President Trump do? He ends all initiatives that would curtail climate change.

That and imposing taxes (tariffs) on the beef we import has made seniors on fixed incomes think twice, not about whether they can afford steak, but hamburger meat. Couple that with the deportation of America's ranch hands and meat-packers, and some seniors are facing food insecurity for the first time.

This disregard for senior citizens is apparent in local government, as well. A staggering 12.1 percent increase in Hempstead's tax levy at a time when many seniors are having a hard time brings it to a crisis level. While seniors struggle for sustenance, it is unconscionable that the town spends our tax dollars on raises to undisclosed friends and family and utilizes public funds for partisan campaign mailers. For the town to then hand out T-shirts that prominently list their candidates' names at senior events shows a pro-

FRAMEWORK by Caroline Opinsky



A summer day on the Mediterranean — Tel Aviv, Israel

found insensitivity to their plight. Reminds me of when Trump tossed paper towels to hurricane victims in Puerto Rico, underscoring the disconnect between those

in power and the communities they serve.

CLAUDIA BORECKY
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