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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Assemblyman Charles Lavine, left, organized the Nov. 13 vigil at the Glen Street Long Island Rail Road station, where ICE arrests took place early this year. Angel Reyes Rivas, right, spoke about immigrant families living in fear. Beside him was his daughter, Zoe, 6.

Glen St. vigil pans ICE raids

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

When Angel Reyes Rivas approached the microphone at the Glen Street Long Island Rail Road station last week, he barely got a few sentences out before his voice cracked. The 35-year-old Glen Cove resident — known to many as “the phone repair guy” — wiped away tears as he looked over the crowd of neighbors, faith leaders and advocates gathered under the station lights.

Rivas has lived in Glen Cove since he was a teenager. He came to the city from Peru to reunite with his mother and brother, and enrolled at Glen Cove High School “I came to Glen Cove High School started as an ESL student, level one,” he recalled. “It took me a

couple years, but I always fell in love with the language. And that’s also why I became an English major.”

Rivas’s life here, however, has been shaped by the precariousness of immigration status. He arrived with a visa at age 15, and later overstayed it. For years, he said, he had “no sort of notion of what it means to be undocumented” — until the system crashed into his family. His mother, who had missed court dates for traffic tickets out of fear of being deported, was ultimately arrested, detained at the Nassau County jail and sent back to Peru. Angel was 18, a junior in high school, when it happened.

“That was the first big thing that opened my eyes to the system,” he said. Forced to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

G.C. Special Ed PTA plans a restart in 2026

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

For the first time in seven years, the Glen Cove School District has reinstated its Special Education Parent Teacher Association, marking a significant shift in parent advocacy and special education engagement in the community. The revival became official on Oct. 16, following months of behind-the-scenes organizing led by Glen Cove parent and educator Marisa Damiano, who will serve as SEPTA’s new president. For Damiano, the return of the association was not only overdue — it was personal.

Damiano, a second-grade teacher at E.M. Baker School, in Great Neck, and the mother of four children in the Glen Cove district, said she began asking questions when her youngest child, Nicholas, who is autistic, and has attention deficit disorder and speech and language needs, entered Deasy Elementary School last year as a first-grader. “I asked, is there a SEPTA? And they said

no,” Damiano recalled. “I’m the type of person that I don’t take no very lightly.”

SEPTA, she learned, had been dismantled seven years earlier because no one was willing to run it. Attempts to re-establish it were delayed by PTA rules requiring a multi-year waiting period before a dissolved unit could return. Parents of children with disabilities continued

These enhancements reflect our commitment to research-based instruction.

ALEXA DOESCHNER
Superintendent

asking for its revival, but with no leadership stepping forward, the district remained without the support group.

Damiano began reaching out to colleagues and PTA contacts until, by chance, a teacher friend connected her with Kate Kelly, an associate of Nassau Region

PTAs, who specializes in helping districts launch or restore special education PTA units. “Everything was aligned,” Damiano said. “I was meant to bring it back.”

As she navigated the reinstatement process, she also began raising concerns with district administrators about how

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Drivers needed for senior program

A volunteer-run transportation program that has been a lifeline for Glen Cove's senior and disabled residents for nearly five decades is now facing a serious shortage of drivers — and its future may depend on new volunteers stepping forward.

Founded in the late 1970s as Glen Cove Rotary Rides, the free service helps those without reliable transportation get to and from medical appointments. It serves residents in Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Glen Head, Glenwood Landing, Locust Valley, and parts of Old Brookville, providing door-to-door rides Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Riders are picked up from their homes, taken to their appointments, and brought back home or to the Glen Cove Senior Center afterward.

The program is coordinated by Phyllis Burnett, who has managed dispatch and scheduling since 2012. It currently provides transportation for roughly a dozen residents each week, many of whom rely on it regularly. However, a decline in volunteer drivers has made it difficult to meet growing demand.

"We're looking for people who can just give a few hours a week," Burnett said. "Even one more driver would make a difference."

The service, which uses a decommissioned Chevrolet Crown Victoria police vehicle, operates on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings, traveling as far as Northern Boulevard for appointments. Riders are asked to schedule their trips at least a week in advance, but with limited volunteer availability, securing a ride has become increasingly challenging.

Volunteers can choose which day or days they are available, and no special qualifications are required beyond a valid driver's license and the ability to pass a background check. Drivers are asked to transport clients to appointments and provide a phone number where they can be reached for pickup afterward.

"This program has been part of our community for decades," Burnett said. "It's a small commitment, but it makes a huge difference in people's lives."

Those interested in volunteering or seeking more information can call (516) 676-2846 or visit the Glen Cove Senior Center, located at 130 Glen Street, Glen Cove, where applications are available.

Without new volunteers, a service that so many depend on could soon struggle to operate.

—Roksana Amid

Christmas tree donation needed

The City of Glen Cove is once again calling on residents to help bring the holiday spirit to life downtown by donating a locally grown tree for the city's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The festive tradition, hosted in Village Square, has long been a symbol of community pride and togetherness, drawing hundreds of families each year to share in the glow of the season.

The celebration will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6, with the tree lighting scheduled for 4:45 p.m. as part of the Downtown Business Improvement District's Holiday Festival, which runs from 1:30 to 5 p.m. The event will transform the heart of downtown Glen Cove into a winter wonderland, complete with free horse and carriage rides, photos with Santa, live music, and a hot cocoa bar.

For many residents, the lighting of the city's tree marks the official start of the holiday season. City officials are now seeking a family or property owner willing to donate a tree that will serve as the centerpiece of the celebration. The chosen tree will stand in the middle of Village Square throughout the holidays, welcoming visitors and spreading cheer to everyone who passes by.

"Each year, we look for a beautiful, healthy tree grown right here in our community to represent Glen Cove's spirit during the holidays," said a representative from the Mayor's Office. "It's a wonderful way for local families to take part in a tradition that brings so much joy to our city."

Families interested in donating a tree are encouraged to reach out to the Mayor's Office for more information or to submit their tree for consideration by calling 516-676-2004 or emailing Roni.Jenkins@glencoveny.gov or sgtripp@glencoveny.gov. Submissions may also be mailed or delivered to 100 Village Square, Glen Cove, NY 11542. The selected tree will serve as the shining centerpiece of this year's holiday festivities — a living reminder of Glen Cove's community spirit and the magic of the season. Officials are seeking a wekk rounded tree between 25 to 35 feet tall. The tree should be located on private property within about 15 to 20 feet of driveway or roadway to allow for easy removal and must be free of overhead wires or major obstructions. Property owners must provide written permission for the city to remove the tree. The Department of Public Works will oversee professional removal and transportation at no cost to the donor.

—Roksana Amid



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1322529



The Glen Cove High School Nassau County championship baseball team.

‘Mr. Trav,’ a mentor who shaped generations

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

The Glen Cove community is mourning the loss of Salvatore R. “Mr. Trav” Travatello, a cherished educator, coach and mentor whose influence spanned more than six decades. Travatello, 91, died in his sleep on Oct. 25 after what his family described as a brief illness. The outpouring of support at his services reflected the lasting impact he made on generations of students, athletes, colleagues and neighbors.

“The Glen Cove community came out in full support to show their love for Dad. It was just so heartwarming,” his daughter, Lisa Travatello, said of the funeral, held on Monday, Oct. 27. The crowd, she said, included former players, former students, colleagues and families who felt shaped by his guidance, humor and unmistakable raspy voice — the result of decades of throat surgeries that became an endearing trademark.

Born in the Bronx in 1934 and raised in Harlem before moving to Queens, Travatello graduated from Bryant High School in 1952. After one year of college, he entered the U.S. Army and served for two years at Fort Benning in Alabama during the Korean conflict. In 1956, he entered Long Island University on a four-year scholarship, quickly earning a reputation as a standout basketball player known as the “backcourt general” for his shooting expertise. He later earned a master’s in guidance from Columbia University and a district administrator’s certificate from LIU.

Travatello began student teaching in the Glen Cove School District in 1960, launching a 31-year career that would define his life — and the lives of many others. He served as a phys ed teacher, driver’s ed instructor, baseball, basketball and bowling coach, and ultimately the district coordinator of physical activity and athletics. He retired in 1991 but continued to substitute teach and



Photos courtesy Lisa Travatello

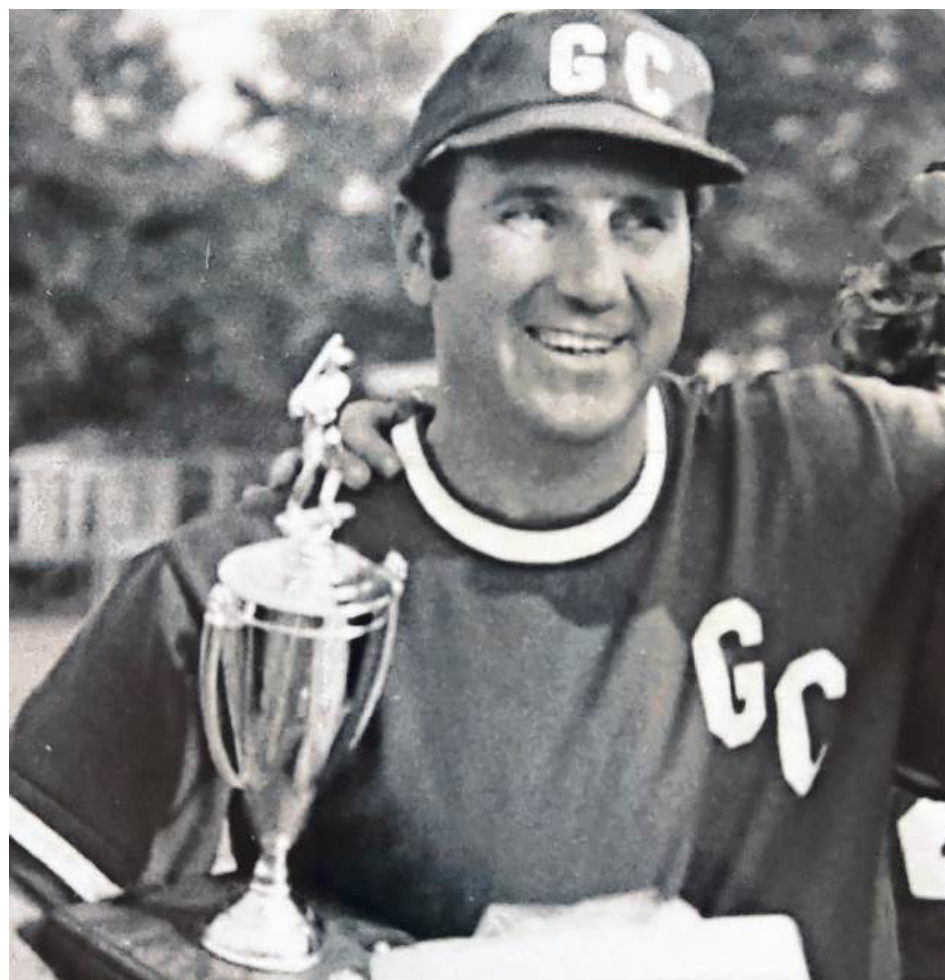
Travatello, 91, died in his sleep on Oct. 25 after what his family described as a brief illness.

proctor exams, refusing to fully step away from the students he loved.

His passion for athletics was lifelong: he coached Glen Cove’s 1975 Nassau County Championship baseball team, earning Coach of the Year honors from the Daily News and the New York State Coaches Association. He was inducted into the Glen Cove Hall of Fame in 2003.

Colleagues describe him as a natural mentor whose priority was always the well-being of students. Joseph Polizzi, who worked alongside him beginning in the 1970s, recalled Travatello as a supportive, steady presence who guided teachers and coaches as much as he guided teens.

“He was always very supportive, and he looked out for the well-being of the kids,” Polizzi said. Even when substituting after retirement, Travatello “didn’t just stand up there — he tried to do something constructive with the kids.”



Travatello began student teaching in the Glen Cove School District in 1960, launching a 31-year career that would define his life — and the lives of many others

Polizzi was also part of a close-knit foursome of colleagues who played basketball, golfed and traveled together for decades. Their friendship endured until Travatello’s later years, when dementia made it harder for him to recognize old companions. “He wasn’t Sal anymore,” Polizzi said, recalling the sadness of watching a once-vibrant friend decline. Still, memories of laughter, travel and golf — where he was nicknamed “Pitchin’ Putt Sal” for his consistency around the greens — remain vivid.

To his children, he was equally influential. Lisa and her brother Bob

described a father who was endlessly encouraging, deeply involved in their activities, and a mentor not just to them but to their friends — many of whom he taught to drive. His signature advice, passed down through generations, was: “You can’t get up with the eagles and fly with the owls,” a reminder to stay disciplined and balanced.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, once his driver’s ed student, remembered the fun — and the confidence — he instilled. “Everybody loved being in the car with Mr. Trav,” she said. “He was a great teacher ... fun, decent, a great guy.”



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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 31-year-old Wyandanch man was arrested on Nov. 17 for aggravated harassment, bribing a witness and criminal contempt on Bridge Street.
- A 29-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 12 for criminal contempt in Village Square.
- A 30-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 8 for DWI, drinking alcohol in a motor vehicle and unsafe lane change on Continental Place.
- A 55-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 8 for petit larceny on Glen Street.
- A 42-year-old Wyandanch man was arrested on Nov. 8 for two counts of criminal contempt and criminal obstruction of breathing on Putnam Avenue.
- A 34-year-old Glen Head man was arrested on Nov. 7 for trespassing on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 29-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 6 for a warrant for criminal possession of a controlled substance on Knott Drive.

- A 60-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 5 for eight counts of possession of a gambling device, unlicensed bottle club, unlicensed warehouse (liquor storage) and manufacture and sale of an alcoholic beverage without a license on Forest Avenue.
- A 59-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Nov. 4 for two counts of assault, menacing, criminal possession of a weapon and criminal mischief on Circle Drive.
- A 56-year-old Flushing man was arrested on Nov. 4 for grand larceny, unlawful possession of personal ID, criminal possession of stolen property and four counts of possession of a forged instrument on Glen Head Road.
- A 20-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 2 for multiple arrest warrants including criminal possession of a controlled substance, driving while intoxicated, aggravated driving while intoxicated, aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding on Glen Street.

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

NEWS BRIEF

Hispanic chamber to host turkey give away.

The North Shore Hispanic Chamber, in collaboration with the North Shore High School Key Club, is bringing its Annual Thanksgiving Drive & Give Away this Sunday at North Shore High School. The event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., offers people the chance to give back to their community and to families in need. Anyone looking to donate is encouraged to bring perishable goods such as rice and canned goods, as well as essential sanitary products like diapers. People are also encouraged to donate frozen turkeys to help ensure that everyone can celebrate this Thanksgiving.

For more information on the chamber and the work they do, visit their website at NSHChamber.org

Let us Know

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

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— George Bernard Shaw

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— John Wooden

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— Leo Buscaglia

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one's heart and some laughter on one's lips is a sign that the person down deep has a pretty good grasp of life."

— Hugh Sidey

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— Kahlil Gibran

"The three factors that seem to have the greatest influence on increasing our happiness are our ability to reframe our situation more positively, our ability to experience gratitude, and our choice to be kind and generous."

— Dalai Lama

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— William Shakespeare

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— Helen Keller

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New effort to help special-needs students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

special education curriculum was meeting — or failing to meet — the needs of students. She said she noticed that children in special education classes were being taught the same reading and writing programs as general education students. “If he’s in this restrictive environment, his program should be tailored to his needs,” Damiano said. “We’re not differentiating instruction if we’re giving them the same program.”

After she spoke at a Board of Education meeting last spring, the district adopted a specialized program for special education students, and provided her son with one-to-one reading instruction before school. “I don’t know if it had a lot to do with the fact that I did speak up at a board meeting,” she said, “but they knew this parent is advocating, and she’s not going away.”

District Superintendent Dr. Alexa Doeschner said that Glen Cove has been realigning its literacy practices over the past three years to follow the science of reading, adding new reading intervention programs and a dedicated high school reading class. “These enhancements reflect our commitment to research-based instruction,” Doeschner said, noting that special education accounts for about 20 percent of the district’s total budget. She added that the district “was pleased to participate throughout the process” of bringing SEPTA back, and looked forward



Courtesy Marisa Damiano

SEPTA’s new president, Marisa Damiano, far left, First Vice President Maria Ruffini, Second V.P. Claudia Napolitano, Superintendent Alexa Doeschner, Treasurer Luz Hurtado, Recording Secretary Luz Maria Simmons and Malena Ballon Hoefling.

ward to collaborating with families to strengthen programming this year.

For many parents, the return of SEPTA is more than organizational — it’s emotional. The association’s treasurer, Luz Hurtado, who joined the effort after seeing a post on Facebook by Damiano, said she, too, had been trying to figure out how to resurrect the organization before the two women connected. “We both really wanted to bring this back,” Hurtado said. “We just happened to meet each other through Facebook . . . and then we took it from there.”

Hurtado, whose 10-year-old son, James, is at Connolly Elementary School, said that navigating services has long been overwhelming for many families. James was diagnosed with autism at age 2, and today he receives occupational therapy, school-based speech services and home-based behavior intervention four times a week.

Still, Hurtado said, she and other parents often struggle to understand their children’s rights and options. “There’s a lot of information that most of us parents don’t have,” she said. “We have over

100 paid members already, which shows how much this was needed.”

Both Damiano and Hurtado said that many families — especially immigrant parents or those with limited English proficiency — feel unprepared during the Individualized Education Program process and uncertain about what accommodations or supports they can request. One of SEPTA’s first long-term goals will be hosting informational workshops on topics such as “Understanding Your IEP,” led by Nassau Region PTA representatives in the spring.

Beyond advocacy, Damiano hopes SEPTA will help fund practical tools to support students emotionally and academically, including sensory rooms in every school, sensory bins in every classroom, adaptive physical education programming and expanded extended-school-year hours for students. She also wants SEPTA to foster a sense of community through events and parent support groups.

“Everybody just wants to be heard,” she said. “I’m not just advocating for my son — I’m advocating for all the students in the district.”

While the SEPTA board is still completing required training and paperwork before scheduling its first official meeting — likely in mid-January — both leaders say the momentum is already strong. “We’re very excited,” Hurtado said. “This is going to help so many families.”



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6 Dazzling display returns to Eisenhower Park

November 20, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By JORDAN VALLONE

jvallone@liherald.com

The LuminoCity Festival, a popular holiday lights extravaganza, is back at Nassau County's Eisenhower Park this winter with an all-new theme and attractions.

This year's theme, "Fantasy Winter Fairyland," transforms 14 acres of the park into one of the largest immersive walk-through light festivals in the country, featuring dazzling light displays, towering sculptures, and countless photo opportunities.

"Each time we return to this remarkable venue is yet another opportunity to deliver on a promise we renew annually — to create indelible holiday memories for each and every one of our guests," Xiaoyi Chen, founder and chief executive of LuminoCity said. "We are proud to partner with Nassau County once more to present this showcase event, and are beyond thrilled that it has become a tradition for so many in the community. Long Island is our home, and there is no place like home for the holidays."

Among this year's attractions are a spectacular 50-foot "Castle in the Sky" — one of the tallest light sculptures in North America — a four-story Christmas tree, and millions of LED lights, enough to blanket the Brooklyn Bridge. The festival will also feature winning submissions from the annual Lumi's Utopia children's art initiative, now in its fifth year. In partnership with the Long Island Children's Museum, the program transforms kids' hand-drawn creations into illuminated 3D sculptures.

"I am proud to welcome LuminoCity's Holiday Lights Festival back to Nassau County's Eisenhower Park for the 2025 winter season," said Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman. "Each year, this spectacular attraction draws tens of thousands of visitors from across Long Island and beyond, boosting our local economy and showcasing Nassau County as a premier destination for family-friendly events. Whether you're a lifelong resident or visiting for the first time, I invite everyone to come experience the magic of LuminoCity right here in Eisenhower Park."

The Eisenhower Park event remains LuminoCity's longest-running signature festival. Since its debut in 2022, more than 160,000 guests have attended.

For more information, visit LuminoCityFestival.com.



Tim Baker/Herald Photos

The LuminoCity Festival is back in Eisenhower Park this fall and winter, featuring a dazzling lantern and light display — perfect for the holiday season.



The lantern display features the artwork of local children. Kemal Yigiter, 7, from Dix Hills, in front of his drawing of 'Marshmallow' — all lit up.



County Executive Bruce Blakeman joined elected officials and community leaders to cut the ribbon, opening the festival on Nov. 7 in the park.

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Herald honors environmental leadership

By ABBEY-ROSE SALVEMINI

asalvemini@liherald.com

Across Long Island, a growing number of businesses are leading the charge toward a cleaner, more sustainable future. From small family-owned shops to large companies embracing environmentally conscious practices, local enterprises are proving that environmental responsibility and economic success can go hand in hand. These efforts not only help reduce the region's carbon footprint but also strengthen the local economy by inspiring innovation and creating green jobs.

Nearly 30 local businesses gathered at the Heritage Club in Bethpage for an event hosted by the Herald, celebrating sustainability and community impact on Oct. 29.

The ceremony began with welcoming remarks from Stuart Richner, CEO of Richner Communications, who emphasized the importance of recognizing businesses that prioritize sustainability and help shape a greener future for Long Island.

"It is a pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural GreenBiz Awards, where we come together to celebrate the businesses and individuals who are leading the charge for a more sustainable future, right here on Long Island," he said. "Tonight, we honor those who are driving real change. Reducing waste, conserving energy and protecting the natural beauty that makes Long Island such a special place to live, work and raise our families."

The evening's emcee, Jill Conway, is a former New York television news reporter and anchor with more than 20 years of experience. She is the founder of Powerful Women USA and host of the award-winning podcast Secrets of Powerful Women, and helped facilitate the event's program.

Part of the event's ticket proceeds support Save the Sound, an organization dedicated to protecting Long Island and Connecticut's land, air and water through science, legal action and community initiatives.

Honoree Christine Kiourtsis, president of Renewable Recycling, Inc., was recognized in the Recycling category for her innovative work in textile and material recovery. Inspired by the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, she began recycling discarded mattresses and box springs, discovering that up to 90 percent of their materials can be reused. Through Renewable Recycling, Kiourtsis helps keep waste out of landfills, reduce transport costs and save taxpayer money.

"It's really important to utilize tax money in a better way than putting it in the dump," Kiourtsis said.

Marshall Brown, president and co-founder of Long Island Conservancy Spadefood Ecosystem Solutions, was honored in the Environmental Innovation category. Brown helped create a film called A River Between Us that led to the largest environmental restoration project in U.S. history. His upcoming



Tim Baker and Holden Leeds/Herald photos

The team from Reworld.

ing project focuses on implementing water treatment solutions for areas with wastewater or surface water.

"We grow microbes on site, strains of common soil bacteria, but with special properties like what they eat in the absence of oxygen," Brown said. "We take a sewage treatment plant, the microbes get to work, and half of the sludge, at least, gets eaten away." Brown believes that the return on investment is a couple of months.

President/LEED AP of Merritt Environmental Consulting Corp., Chuck Merritt, was recognized in the Environmental Consulting category.

"On Long Island, we all drink the groundwater underneath our feet. So, we all have a responsibility to protect that natural resource," said Merritt, who added that MECC is involved with a large developer in Mastic who is looking to redevelop land about a half a mile long.

In the Waste Solutions category, Reworld is recognized for providing innovative and environmentally responsible waste management services to communities worldwide. Representative Ed Sandkuhi said that Reworld is expanding its engagement with local schools, teaching students about composting.

"We raise dead vegetable gardens and use the compost to grow vegetables and not use fertilizers that are highly water soluble," Sandkuhi said, adding how rewarding it is to see the children's enthusiasm.

Carrie Meek Gallagher, CEO of the Long Island Power Authority and a honoree in the Utilities category, notes that Long Island is particularly vulner-



Chuck Merritt from Merritt Environmental Consulting

able to the effects of severe weather and climate change. "We are still trying to promote the adoption of solar, electric vehicles and heat pumps that are going to help us move towards a clean energy future," she says, emphasizing LIPA's ongoing commitment to supporting sustainable solutions for the region.

Paraco Gas was honored in the Utilities category. Representative Dan Scicutella said that propane is a very

clean-burning fuel. For areas on the East End that don't have access to natural gas, propane is a substitute.

"We're looking to expand and grow on the East End, companies from Route 112 and further East," he said, noting that the company remains committed to environmental stewardship and community involvement.

Recognized in the Engineering category, M&J Engineering is a multi-disciplinary engineering firm that provides a wide range of professional services.

"As an engineer, we're at the forefront of a lot of research studies," M&J Representative Mohammad Malik said. "It's our job to do what's right for society and develop new ways to reduce carbon emissions," Malik notes that M&J is involved in coastal resilience projects and highlights a Patchogue initiative that promotes green infrastructure.

The Herald GreenBIZ Awards catalyze environmental stewardship and sustainable business practices. The event highlights and honors forward-thinking businesses and educators committed to eco-friendly practices, proving that sustainable operations can thrive alongside financial success.

Gold sponsors of the event include The Long Island Conservancy, Reworld and Scott's Miracle-Gro. Silver sponsors include the New York Offshore Wind Alliance, GreyMart, M&J Engineering, R&M Engineering, Stony Brook University, Edgewise Energy, GreenbergTraurig, Emtec, Merritt, Paraco, and Molloy University.

View event photos on our website, RichnerLive.com/greenbiz-awards/photos/



Marlon Taylor from New York & Atlantic Railway.



Ecosystem Solutions with Herald Publisher Stuart Richner.



Carrie Meek Gallagher from the Long Island Power Authority.



Neal Lewis, left, from Molloy University Sustainability Institute with Herald Publisher Stuart Richner.



Nick Guariglia, left, from ACE NY / NYOWA with Herald Publisher Stuart Richner.



Richard Murdocco, left, from Stony Brook University with Herald Publisher Stuart Richner.



Adrienne Esposito from Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Charles Vigliotti from Long Island Compost, Todd Kaminsky from Greenberg Traurig, LLP, and Charlie Barone from Long Island Compost.



Christine Kiourtsis from Renewable Recycling, Inc.

Rising anxiety over immigration raids

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

support himself and his 13-year-old brother, Rivas left school, later earning his high-school equivalency diploma and a math degree from Nassau Community College. When the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, was created in 2012, he finally gained work authorization. He worked in a supermarket meat department, then at AT&T, where he was promoted to store manager and district manager, and later at Geico.

Alongside those jobs, he threw himself into organizing, working with LatinoJustice on a lawsuit involving Suffolk County police, coordinating a worker center with the Rural & Migrant Ministry on the East End, and helping push for the Farmworker Labor Relations Act, which in 2019 gave farmworkers in New York the right to unionize and earn a weekly day off. Most recently, he helped lead national DACA defense advocacy in advance of a Supreme Court case.

Now Rivas runs a small tech-repair business in Glen Cove and lives in a mixed-status household. As a DACA recipient, he knows he, too, could be targeted. “I only have DACA, so I could be targeted by ICE, because a lot of DACA recipients have been targeted around the nation,” he said.

That personal history is what brought him to the vigil at the Glen Street station on Nov. 13, where roughly 200 people gathered to denounce recent immigration raids and show solidarity with immigrant residents.

A vigil against fear

The event, organized by Assemblyman Charles Lavine, featured clergy from several faiths and volunteers from the North Shore Rapid Response Network, which monitors immigration enforcement activity on the North Shore.

Lavine told the crowd that the gathering was an effort to stand together against the “dehumanizing immigration policies of the Trump administration” and to show support for families in the community who have been affected.

“I have seen firsthand the devastating impact that these policies are having on our families and on innocent people — people who are hardworking people, mothers and fathers,” he said, “and we must stand together to fight for justice. The mere fact that armed and masked intruders have taken over our streets is something that’s very frightening.”

The vigil took place at the same station where, in June, four unidentified people were taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

“Fear is being used to divide neighbors, to dehumanize hardworking people and to justify policies that target the vulnerable, and it’s not a new story,” the Rev. Jesse Lebus, of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Sea Cliff, said. Referring to a 1996 episode of “The Simpsons,” he described how immigrants in the show become scapegoats for unrelated problems — satire that he said has aged a little too well.

“The truth is that fear has always been good at convincing people to stay in their corners, to build walls and to decide who belongs and who doesn’t,” Lebus said. But he noted the crowd of residents and religious leaders “from traditions that once kept their distance” now standing together.

The Rev. Roger Williams, of First Baptist Church in Glen Cove, placed the current moment in the context of earlier American injustices, recalling his grandfather’s stories of Black codes that allowed authorities to arrest formerly enslaved Black men simply for standing together on street corners. “Our immigrant communities now are under siege because of what they look like and who they are,” Williams said.

“Our God is not coming back for a nation with secure borders,” Williams told the crowd. “God is coming back for a people who believe in him and who have been baptized in his love. And that’s what you’re showing here today — love.” Offering a variation on words



Roksana Amid/Herald photo

Terence Price listened to the pleas of community leaders who advocated for an end to ICE raids.

from the Declaration of Independence, he concluded, “We hold these truths to be self-evident that every immigrant in the world that comes to this nation is created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Let’s stand on that tonight. Let’s make our voices known.”

‘People are afraid’

For Rivas, those rights feel distant for many of his neighbors. Life in Glen Cove, he said, has grown more fearful for immigrant families amid stepped-up enforcement.

“People are not coming out,” he said. “People are taking the taxi just to go do the things that would take them five minutes. They don’t want to walk two blocks to get a phone card, deposit some money downtown. They don’t want to do that, and it’s difficult. People are afraid.”

Rivas described seeing ICE agents outside La Placita, in Glen Cove, approaching people randomly because they “looked Latino.” That, he said, contradicts federal claims that enforcement is narrowly focused. “When they say that they’re going after criminals and they’re going after people with records, that it’s just targeted arrests for people with deportation orders, that’s not true,” he said. “ICE is in our community, going after people that look Latino, and that needs to be said.”

Though speaking out is risky, Rivas said that remaining silent would betray both his community and the ideals he believes the United States was meant to embody. “I believe that the only way to advance justice and to really accomplish an improvement of society comes through the community speaking up,” he said. “Even though I wasn’t born in the U.S., I still think that the U.S. was (meant) to welcome people to pursue happiness and a better life. I think it is part of my responsibility as an immigrant to continue that and to fight for that, which is, I believe, the essence of America.”

Watching ICE — and helping families

Members of the North Shore Rapid Response Network were scattered through the crowd. The volunteer network mobilizes when ICE is reported in the area, trying to document what happens and connect families with help.

Roger Street Friedman, of Sea Cliff, a musician, a network volunteer and the grandson of immigrants from Russia and Poland, told the crowd that the immigration debate has left the realm of reality and become driven by fear, myths and political theater.

“We need to talk about what a rational solution looks like, one that respects the rule of law, strengthens our economy and honors the dignity of the people who are already part of the national fabric,” Friedman said. “We are for a rational approach that starts with this simple truth. We cannot deport our way out of this problem, and we shouldn’t try.”

In an email to the Herald, Friedman said that the network has likely responded to between 10 and 20 ICE encounters in and around Glen Cove, though not all resulted in arrests, and data is scarce. “ICE does not provide any transparency on who’s been taken, or how many people have been detained, or their status,” he said. Volunteers, he added, have yet to see agents produce a warrant in any encounter they’ve witnessed.

When ICE is spotted, group members try to get to the scene quickly to document what’s happening, determine whether agents have legal authority to be there, and, if someone is detained, get their name and alert family members. The network also distributes Know Your Rights information, connects families with immigration attorneys and is building the capacity to offer services like food delivery and walking children to school for parents who are afraid to leave home.

In a statement to the Herald, Osman Canales, who works with rapid response networks across Long Island, described an incident in Glen Cove on Sept. 11 in which an immigrant walking to work was detained in an ICE operation, despite having “no criminal background and no record, according to his family.” Volunteers saw him in the back of an ICE vehicle, noted his name and address and notified his family.

“I am happy to report that the father messaged me today to tell me he has been released and will be returning home to his family,” Canales said, adding that without the network’s intervention, “he could have been improperly and unjustly deported.” Canales said that another man, who was detained in a separate encounter that day, and told agents his work authorization was inside his home, is still being held in another state while he fights his case.

City Hall response

Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said she didn’t know the vigil was taking place until she saw photos online afterward. She said she speaks regularly with the city Police Department about ICE activity in the city.

“As far as we know, there has been no ICE activity for the last couple of weeks,” Panzenbeck said. “We believe it has quieted down at this point. But ICE is just not arresting people because they’re Hispanics. They’re being arrested for reasons. They are not just coming and picking people up out of nowhere. They are looking for specific people.”

Advocates at the vigil stressed that what happens on Glen Cove’s streets is tied to larger systems. Online reports show that under an agreement struck in February between Nassau County and ICE, the county has rented out 50 jail cells at the Nassau County Correctional Center in East Meadow, where it held more than 2,100 ICE detainees between February and October.

Rivas told the crowd that he believes moments like the Glen Street vigil matter. “I’m in contact with families that have been impacted, people that have been detained without a criminal record,” he said, “even kids with special needs that need their dad.”

BY THE NUMBERS

Five things to know about this new clinical trial at NYU Langone

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

- 1

First-of-its-kind clinical trial begins at NYU Langone.

NYU Langone Health recently performed the first surgery in a groundbreaking clinical trial testing a gene-edited pig kidney transplant—known as the UKidney—in patients with end-stage renal disease. The study aims to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of this xenotransplantation procedure as a potential alternative to human donor kidneys.
- 2

The UKidney has 10 genetic modifications.

The investigational kidney comes from a pig with 10 gene edits designed to improve compatibility with humans. Six human genes were added to help the body accept the organ, while four pig genes were inactivated to reduce rejection risk and prevent overgrowth.
- 3

The study could reshape transplant medicine.

- Led by Dr. Robert Montgomery, director of the NYU Langone Transplant Institute, the trial—called EXPAND—seeks to address the national organ shortage crisis. More than 100,000 Americans are currently waiting for kidney transplants, and thousands die each year before receiving one.
- 4

The trial will follow participants for life.

Patients in the study will be monitored for 24 weeks after their transplant and then followed for the rest of their lives to track the UKidney’s function and detect any infections. Safety and efficacy results from the first six participants will determine whether the trial expands to additional centers.
- 5

A history of innovation at NYU Langone.

This marks the ninth xenotransplant surgery performed by NYU Langone. Dr. Montgomery previously led the world’s first gene-edited pig-to-human organ transplant in 2021 and continues to pioneer research aimed at expanding the supply of viable organs for patients in need.



Herald file photo

A first-of-its-kind clinical trial began at NYU Langone.

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THINGS TO KNOW LIPA'S PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Highlights of the utility's spending plan for next year

By ANGELINA ZINGARIELLO

azingariello@liherald.com

The Long Island Power Authority has released its proposed 2026 budget, emphasizing affordability, grid reliability and clean-energy investment. The plan also details stronger oversight of Public Service Enterprise Group Long Island under a renewed management contract, and continued cost-saving measures that aim to lower bills for customers across Long Island and the Rockaways.

1

The LIPA-PSEG relationship

LIPA is a nonprofit public utility that owns the electric transmission and distribution system serving Long Island and the Rockaways, and PSEG Long Island operates that system under contract. Since 2014, PSEG has handled daily grid operations, maintenance and customer service on LIPA's behalf. The new five-year contract extension, effective Jan. 1, enhances oversight and accountability while maintaining the operational partnership.

The agreement reduces management fees by an estimated \$17 million and expands cost-control requirements. It also increases the number of measurable performance metrics, covering reliability, customer experience and fiscal management. LIPA officials say this framework ensures that PSEG's performance will better align with affordability and clean energy goals through greater transparency and operational discipline.

2

Core spending plan and bill savings

LIPA's proposed 2026 operating budget totals about \$4.4 billion, alongside a \$1 billion capital plan supporting reliability, grid modernization and clean-energy infrastructure. The typical residential customer is projected to see a 3.3 percent decrease in their electric bill, roughly \$6.53 less per month than in 2025. This reduction reflects a projected \$219 million drop in power supply costs, driven by lower on-island generation, decreased Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative allowance expenses and savings from the new Power and Fuel Management Services Agreement.

The capital budget will rise roughly 3.1 percent, mainly due to refueling costs tied to LIPA's 18 percent ownership stake in the Nine Mile Point 2 nuclear power plant. Despite inflation and higher labor costs, LIPA projects flat overall operating expenses, while maintaining around \$1 billion in annual reliability investments.

3

Long-term plan, and public hearings

LIPA's long-term fiscal sustainability plan aims to reduce its debt-to-asset ratio from a projected 78 percent in 2025 to 70 percent by 2030, supporting stronger credit ratings and long-term financial health. The 2026 budget reflects roughly \$1.4 billion in cumulative cost savings, equal to about 33 percent of customer bills, the result of over a decade of cost-control initiatives. The budget also includes \$7.5 million for weatherization projects benefiting low- to moderate-income households, helping to reduce energy usage and improve affordability.

Public hearings will be held on Nov. 24, at 10 a.m., at the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge; and the same day, at 6 p.m., at LIPA headquarters in Uniondale, with a virtual option available. Written comments are due by Nov. 28, and the LIPA board of trustees will vote on the final budget on Dec. 17.



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County legislators say 'no' to corporate tax hike

By JOSEPH D'ALESSANDRO

jdalessandro@liherald.com

Nassau County's legislative leaders have a message for Gov. Kathy Hochul about New York City's Mayor-Elect Zohran Mamdani's tax plan: this would not be good for the state.

To oppose the Democratic-driven plan to increase New York's corporate tax rate, the officials — all Republicans — formed the new Long Island Coalition of Business and Political Leaders, a collection of elected officials and business organizations.

"This is bad for New York state, and we are going to fight very hard against that," County Executive Bruce Blakeman said on Nov. 17.

The mayor-elect's plan is to increase to the corporate tax rate in New York City, bumping the top rate from 7.25 percent to 11.25 percent, aiming to support social programs with money sourced from the region's highest earning businesses.

Blakeman bristled at the thought, expressing concern that higher taxes will drive out business, jobs and residents.

"We are on the border of New York City," he said, "many of our people commute to the city to do business. What I'm concerned about is the deleterious effect that this will have on Nassau County and the rest of the state."

Blakeman alleged that tax increases would be passed along to consumers and



Joseph D'Alessandro/Herald

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, center, led a group of other elected officials and business leaders to form the Long Island Coalition of Business and Political Leader to oppose corporate tax increases.

has heard some business leaders threaten to leave the city if taxes increase, which in turn could be a financial burden to the city's middle class residents. He suggested the state and city cut spending on undocumented migrant programs as an alternative method to retain revenue.

"We don't have a deficit in Nassau County," he said. "For the past four years, we've had surpluses because we know how to manage money in Nassau County, and we've gotten seven bond upgrades, but that's one of the ways that we can spend money on programs that benefit our residents."

Sarafina Chitika, the spokesperson for the Hochul campaign, disputed the County Executive's assertions.

"Governor Hochul cut middle class taxes while putting inflation refund checks in New Yorkers' pockets," she wrote in a statement. "Bruce Blakeman is the number one fanboy for Trump's tariffs that are raising costs for families and making everything more expensive for small businesses — while the governor remains laser-focused on lowering costs, Blakeman's shilling for Donald Trump's tariff tax hikes."

Meanwhile, Matt Cohen, president and

CEO of the Long Island Association, called the tax proposal "a real problem."

"It's really incumbent upon us to push back against this plan as much as possible," he said. "We have an affordability crisis in this country, but nowhere is it more acute than here on Long Island. And when you're driving out businesses, when you're driving out jobs, that's going to make it worse, not better."

Frank Camarano, president of the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, highlighted the way New York City policies affect neighboring counties and businesses.

"Small businesses don't have the wherewithal to try and work around this," he said. "A strong New York City is a strong Nassau. If New York City is gonna propose things like this, it's gonna be like an everyday occurrence, trying to work around it, and it's going to be difficult."

State Sens. Jack Martins, Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Steve Rhoads joined the chorus of critics.

"This is dumb, plain and simple," Martins said. "The fact that the governor is even thinking about this is a disgrace. We urge the governor to say no. We urge the leaders in Albany to say no."

The coalition supports a move towards a 5 percent corporate tax rate, according to Blakeman. The fiscal year for the state will begin on April 1, and no business tax policy changes have been confirmed.

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OBITUARY

Mark W. Dunham

Mark W. Dunham, 74, of Sea Cliff, died on Oct. 13. Beloved husband of Patricia; loving father of Christina (Noah Barker) and Chelsea; proud grandfather of Gavin. Also survived by

many loving friends. Mr. Dunham was a lifelong hockey player and enjoyed playing guitar. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

Annick Leballeur

Annick Leballeur, 87, formerly of Glen Cove, died peacefully on Oct. 3. Beloved wife of the late Jacques J. Leballeur; devoted mother of the late Mary Ann Williams; cherished grandmother of Nicole Rhea (Jim), Kelly Pardue (Nick), and Casey Williams; loving

great-grandmother of David, Lily and Jack Rhea. Born in Cherbourg, France, Annick loved cooking French meals, spending summers with her granddaughters, and traveling to visit family abroad. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.

Elizabeth T. "Betty" Doxey

Elizabeth T. "Betty" Doxey, 92, of Glen Cove, died on Oct. 10. Beloved wife of the late Louis P. Sr.; loving mother of

Pamela Ann Tashman (late Stewart), Tina Marie

McCauley (Wally), Bridget E. Perillo

McCauley (Wally), Bridget E. Perillo (Frank), and the late Louis P. Jr.; proud grandmother of Brittany, Frankie Jr. and Katelyn Holzkamp; great-grandmother of Elizabeth, Layla, Jace and Aria; dear sister of Josephine LaCorte Hughes and the late Anthony LaCorte.

Also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Betty was active at St. Rocco's and St. Patrick's parishes, and worked as a school aide helping children with disabilities. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.

Vincent P. Taylor

Vincent P. Taylor, 59, of Glen Cove, died on Sept. 27. Loving husband of Nereida; beloved father of Yolanda (Keith), Joslynn and Jasmine; proud grandfather of Keionna, Keith Jr. and

Carter; adored great-grandfather of Mila; dear brother of six. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.

Obituary notices

Obituary notices, with or without photographs, can be submitted by individuals as well as local funeral establishments. They should be typed and double-spaced.

The name of the individual or funeral establishment submitting the obituary should be included. A contact phone number must be included. There is no charge for obituaries.

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VIEWFINDER • How to cook a turkey

Compiled by Herald staff

Kennedy Schoell –
Age 4, Oceanside

Butter, salt and pepper, stuff it with some stuffing, sprinkle it with love, and put it in the oven til it's done.

Photo courtesy Donna Kraus



Isabel Culver –
Age 7, Rockville Centre

I don't know, I would put it in the oven.

Alyssa R. Griffin/Herald



Landon Blinder
Grade 1, Massapequa

You have to catch the turkey, take the feathers off, season it and cook it.

Photo courtesy Massapequa School District



Ace Ortiz
Age 8, Inwood

If I had to cook a turkey I would buy a turkey, put the season stuff on it and put it in the oven!

Photo courtesy Angela Ortiz



Cosette Farr
Age 6, Lynbrook

Get a turkey from the farm, put him in the oven. The oven has to be hot and you cook it for 7 minutes and 8 seconds. Then it's turkey that we can eat."

Photo courtesy Lynbrook Public Schools

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STEPPING OUT



A gallery view of the exhibition.

Photos courtesy Heckscher Museum of Art

Carving out her place

The untold story of sculptor Emma Stebbins

By Abbey Salvemini

History gets a powerful rewrite at the Heckscher Museum of Art's latest exhibition. "Emma Stebbins: Carving Out History" is a landmark installation that spotlights a pioneering neoclassical artist whose legacy has been long overlooked. Known for sculpting Central Park's iconic Bethesda Fountain (immortalized in film and TV), Stebbins — a trailblazing female artist — was the first woman to receive a public art commission from New York City. Yet despite her accomplishments, her name has largely vanished from the art world's narrative.

Now Stebbins receives the recognition she has long deserved. "Carving Out History" firmly reestablishes her place at the forefront of 19th century American sculpture. It explores Stebbins's bold artistic vision, her barrier-breaking career and her personal life — including her relationship with the renowned Shakespearean actress Charlotte Cushman at a time when such a relationship defied social norms.

Stebbins' works focused on unprecedented imagery of laborers, incisive depictions of literary and biblical subjects and moving portrait busts of her chosen family. Her sculpture was celebrated in the press and sought after by collectors in the mid-19th century. Since then, however, Stebbins fell into relative obscurity.

Among the exhibit's outstanding components, New York City comes to Long Island — via an immersive Virtual Reality experience. Visitors can "walk around" Central Park's iconic Bethesda Fountain, bringing Stebbins's most celebrated work to life in an entire new way.

A special VR station gives everyone the illusion that Bethesda Fountain is right in front of them in Heckscher Park — through the use of their phones — offering a striking, life-sized view of Stebbins's most iconic creation. Photos and selfies are encouraged!

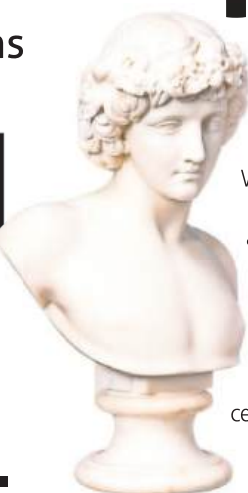
For many, this will be their first time learning the name behind the fountain — even if you've seen it countless times in person and on screen.

The exhibit title — "Carving Out History" — reflects both Stebbins's sculptural practice and the curatorial team's broader goal: to reclaim and reframe her place in the American canon. This first-of-its-kind exhibit — reshapes how we understand one of our most groundbreaking — and overlooked — artists.

"The exhibition itself is carving out a place



- Now through March 15
- Open Thursday through Sunday, noon-5 p.m.
- Heckscher Museum of Art, 2 Prime Ave., Huntington
- Visit Heckscher.org or call (631) 380-3230 for information on related programming



Emma Stebbins's marble statue *The Lotus-Eater* (1863) purports to illustrate Alfred Tennyson's poem of the same title, in turn derived from an episode in the *Odyssey* of Homer. Museum Purchase: Town of Huntington Art Acquisition Fund.

incredible detail rendered in marble. The sculpture draws inspiration from a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

As Wurzelbacher explains: "The line 'the angel gathers the prayers where he stands, and they turn into flowers in his hands' captures the heart of the work. She paints a vivid image of the archangel holding a garland of flowers — each bloom symbolizing the prayers of the people."

One of the most significant outcomes of her research into Stebbins's career has been the "discovery" of sculptures whose locations were previously unknown to scholars (one was found in the hallway of the Belfast Central Library!). Two significant works, *The Lotus Eater* (1863) and the aforementioned *Sandalphon* (1866), had been in a private collection for decades before being acquired by the museum. Both pieces underwent extensive conservation efforts, including cleaning their discolored marble surfaces and making careful repairs.

For curators and staff, this exhibition is not only a professional milestone — it's personal.

"Even though we have a relatively small staff, we can still contribute to writing the story of American art history and bringing these overlooked figures to the public is something we take very seriously," Wurzelbacher shares.

Whether you're familiar with these sculptures or someone encountering Stebbins for the first time, this exhibit invites you to look again — at a familiar fountain, at forgotten stories and at the enduring power of carving out one's place in history.

for Stebbins' story," Chief Curator Karli Wurzelbacher says.

The Heckscher's deep connection to the artist makes the venue especially significant. Museum founder August Heckscher had a family link to Stebbins — his uncle commissioned two of her major works, *Commerce* and *Industry*, which have been part of the museum's collection for over a century.

Stebbins wasn't just a woman succeeding in a male-dominated field — she also lived openly with her partner at a time when same-sex relationships were taboo. Their partnership was both romantic and deeply collaborative, and it informed much of Stebbins's work and worldview.

They were "the power couple of their time," according to Wurzelbacher.

Among the many highlights, Wurzelbacher points to *Sandalphon*, which captures the depth of Stebbins's artistry. It depicts an archangel with



Sandalphon (also known as *Angel of Prayer*, 1866), like *Lotus Eater*, has been in a private collection and likely have not been on public view in more than 100 years. Museum purchase: Town of Huntington Art Acquisition Fund.



BeauSoleil

For 50 years, two-time Grammy winner BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet has been hailed as the best Cajun band in the world. They've been making some of the most potent and popular Cajun music on the planet. Born out of the rich Acadian ancestry of its members, and created and driven by bandleader Michael Doucet's spellbinding fiddle playing and soulful vocals, BeauSoleil is notorious for bringing even the most staid audience to its feet. Their distinctive sound derives from the distilled spirits of New Orleans jazz, blues rock, folk, swamp pop, Zydeco, country and bluegrass, captivating listeners from the Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, to Carnegie Hall, then all the way across the pond to Richard Thompson's *Meltdown* Festival in the U.K. They are joined on this special tour by their good friend Thompson. An iconic figure in British folk-rock, Thompson — one of the founding members of Fairport Convention — is arguably the genre's greatest triple threat: a dazzling guitarist, an outstanding songwriter, and a strong and evocative vocalist.

Sunday, Nov. 23, 7 p.m. \$75, \$65, \$55. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org or (516) 767-6444.



Adam Pascal

Get ready for a powerhouse night with Broadway legend Adam Pascal — the original voice of Rent's Roger (Broadway and film) and one of musical theater's most electrifying performers. With a rock-and-roll edge and soul-stirring vocals, Pascal commands the stage in an unforgettable evening of showstoppers, storytelling, and pure star power. From "Rent" and *Aida* to "Chess," "Chicago," "Something Rotten!" and beyond, Adam brings the house down with iconic hits, guitar licks and rock tunes — all fueled by the raw passion that made him a Broadway icon. The Tony-nominated actor-musician didn't grow up with aspirations of becoming a Broadway star. But when his childhood friend Idina Menzel asked if he would audition for an off-Broadway musical called "Rent," he thought "Why not?" and the rest is history. Pascal shares insights into his personal journey with his audience, bringing with him a wealth of experience and plenty of personal anecdotes.

Sunday, Nov. 23, 7 p.m. Tilles Center, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or tillescenter.org or (516) 299-3100.

YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD

CALENDAR

NOV 21 **Little Learners: Woodland Creatures**
Planting Fields Little Learners series continues with an animal adventure. Step into the forest and meet the furry, feathered, and sometimes hidden animals that call it home! Begin with an enchanting story that introduces the world of woodland creatures, followed by hands-on creative activities. Then, head outdoors to explore Planting Fields, spotting real animals and engaging in playful activities that mimic their natural habits. For ages 2-5. Registration required. \$15 per child.

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

NOV 22 **On Exhibit**
Nassau County Museum of Art invites visitors into a world where reality is uncertain, dreams take shape and the line between fact and imagination disappears. From dreamlike landscapes and uncanny portraits to images so exact they look like photographs, works in “Real, Surreal, and Photoreal” challenge what we see and what we believe. Before abstraction took the spotlight in the mid-20th century, American art was defined by Realism as artists captured the world as they saw it. This exhibit explores how artists across generations have reimagined “the real” in strikingly different ways. Works from both American and European artists are featured, On view through March 8.

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

Native American Fall Festival
Join in the annual holiday event. The popular longstanding tradition honors the spirit and traditions of Long Island’s early residents at Garvies Point Museum and Preserve timed to coincide with Thanksgiving. Varied activities include tool and pottery-making, spear-throwing and the use of the atlatl (a spear-throwing tool), primitive fire building (without matches!) and on-site campfire cooking. Sample some authentic native foods and learn about the process of creating “dugout” canoes. Also see displays of artifacts from the museum collection and an authentic reproduction of a wigwam, scavenger hunt, and more.

- **Where:** 50 Barry Drive, Glen Cove



DEC 11 **Mark Tremonti Sings Frank Sinatra ‘Christmas Special’**
From redefining rock to reimagining Sinatra, Grammy-winning musician Mark Tremonti, backed by members of Frank Sinatra’s original orchestra, brings his timeless swing and holiday spirit to the Paramount. The lights go down. Familiar horns pipe up from a world-class orchestra as piano twinkles like the jackpot lights on a winning slot machine. Then, the voice kicks in. It has all of the smoky splendor those first few notes hinted at, but it ain’t Ol’ Blue Eyes. In a tailored suit with microphone in hand, it’s Mark Tremonti. The multiplatinum musician sounds just as at home paying homage to the catalog of Frank Sinatra as he does fronting Tremonti or shredding his soul out as the guitarist for Alter Bridge and Creed. Moreover, he’s doing it for a reason that would make the Chairman of the Board proud. Accompanied by surviving members of Sinatra’s band as well as various top-notch players, Tremonti cut 14 classics for his Tremonti Sings Sinatra album, which he gifted to the National Down Syndrome Society as part of his new organization Take A Chance For Charity. All album proceeds go to NDSS to help those with developmental disabilities. With over 40 million albums sold, chart-topping releases, sold-out arenas, and countless appearances on television and magazine covers, Tremonti’s influence on rock music is undeniable. Now, witness a new side of his artistry as he pays heartfelt tribute to the legendary Frank Sinatra. This is Tremonti like you’ve never heard him. Join in for a feel-good evening of classic jazz and seasonal favorites. \$108.75, \$86.50, \$71.25, \$59.75, \$54.25, \$43.75.

- **Where:** The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington
- **Time:** 8 p.m.
- **Contact:** ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com

- **Time:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; also Nov. 23
- **Contact:** garviespointmuseum.com or (516) 571-8010 or (516) 571-8011

Introduction to Reiki
Join instructor Kathleen Gunning at Glen Cove Public Library. She guides participants through Reiki, a gentle energy-healing practice that uses light touch to promote relaxation, stress relief, and overall physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. The session is open to adults and welcomes newcomers interested in exploring this restorative practice.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave.
- **Time:** 10–11 a.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

NOV 23 **Hempstead House Tour**
See the grand rooms inside the massive 50,000-square-foot Tudor-style mansion at Sands Point Preserve, the former summer residence of Howard Gould (1912-1917) and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim (1917-1930). For adults, but children 5+ are allowed. \$10 per person.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** Noon-2 p.m., also Dec. 14
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserve.conservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

NOV 25 **Genealogy and Local History Roundtable**
Explore your family history and connect with Glen Cove’s past at Glen Cove Public Library’s monthly Genealogy and Local History Roundtable. This welcoming group is the perfect place to share research tips, discover new resources, and hear others’ stories. Whether you’re an experienced genealogist or just beginning your search, all are invited to join the discussion and learn more about local heritage.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 7-8:45 p.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130

Social Club Game Day
Join in a lively afternoon at Glen Cove Senior Center, where laughter, friendly competition, and great company take center stage! Play a variety of board and

card games, perfect for all skill levels and interests. Also enjoy a mocktail crafted to refresh and delight. It’s the perfect setting to socialize, relax and make new friends in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

- **Where:** 130 Glen St.
- **Time:** 1 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 759-9610

NOV 27 **Turkey Trot 5K**
Participate in the Glen Cove Education Foundation’s annual Turkey Trot 5K, starting at Glen Cove High School.

- **Where:** 150 Dosoris Lane
- **Time:** 8:30 a.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 801-7680

DEC 4 **Storytime**
Bring the little ones, 18 months-age 5, to Glen Cove Library. Storytimes focus on simple books, concepts, music, early literacy, and child/caregiver interaction. This engaging program encourages a love of reading and learning through fun and connection. Program limited to Glen Cove cardholders.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave.

- **Time:** 10:30–11 a.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

Monthly meditation
Sands Point Preserve’s historic mansions and waterfront grounds are the backdrop for an evening of nature-based mindfulness and meditation with Hildur Palsdottir, first Thursday monthly. Classes are held in the beautiful rooms of the Preserve’s mansions, or in the Hempstead House Garden when weather permits. Explore techniques specifically aimed at stress reduction. Hildur adapts ancient Buddhist teachings to modern applications for calming the mind. With transformative practices you will access wisdom and clarity to live a more compassionate life. In addition to facilitating these monthly groups, Hildur offers support with establishing a home meditation practice. No feeling is final. \$17 per class.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 6-8 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserve.conservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

DEC 5 **First Friday: Holiday Magic**
Experience the magic of the holiday season at Planting Fields’ Main House! On this guided tour participants be awed by the ornate decorations that are pulled directly from the grounds of Planting Fields. Beginning with a brief stroll through the Synoptic Garden that highlights featured materials used in holiday decor and ending inside the Main House, tour-goers will learn about what goes into preparing the 65-room Tudor Revival museum for its festive transformation. \$20 per person.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

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.



Photos courtesy Frank Maiorana Jr.

Atlantic Steamer Fire Company welcomed its two newest trucks with a traditional wet down.

Welcoming two new trucks to Atlantic Steamer

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

Hoses were out and spirits were high on Nov. 2 as the Atlantic Steamer Fire Company of Oyster Bay christened two new fire trucks during a traditional wet down ceremony at the Boathouse parking lot in Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park.

The wet down, a longtime fire service tradition, marks the official welcome of new apparatus into a department's fleet. Neighboring fire departments joined the celebration by spraying water over the new vehicles, a symbolic baptism that has been part of firefighting culture for more than a century.

"It's basically a christening," said 2nd Assistant Chief Frank Ozol. "We invite other fire departments to surround our trucks and spray them down. It's a way to welcome them into service."

Six neighboring departments took part in the ceremony, including the Oyster Bay, East Norwich, Bayville, Syosset, Locust Valley, and Jericho fire companies. More than 200 people attended the event, which included a blessing by Father Walter Kedjerski of St. Dominic Church and remarks by Atlantic Steamer Chief Francesco Barbera. Local officials, including Nassau County Legislator Samantha Goetz, Town of Oyster Bay Councilmembers Vicki Walsh and Andrew Monteleone, Oyster Bay Cove Mayor Charles Goulding, and Cove Neck Village Clerk Kathy Zoller, also joined the celebration.

The company's two new trucks, a Pierce Ascendant 107-foot aerial ladder and a Kenworth Rosenbauer 3,500-gallon tanker, replace older vehicles that had served the department for decades.

The ladder truck carries a 500-gallon water tank, a 1,500-gallon-per-minute pump, and a roof-mounted water monitor known as a deck gun. It replaces a



Dozens of firefighters, friends, family members and elected officials gathered in Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park for the wet down.

29-year-old, 75-foot ladder truck that had long been a workhorse for the company.

"It's a major upgrade for us," Ozol said. "With 107 feet of reach, we can access roofs and upper stories much more easily, even when we can't get close to a building."

The new tanker, meanwhile, fills a critical need for firefighting in areas without fire hydrants, such as Cove Neck and Oyster Bay Cove. The 2024 Kenworth model, equipped with a custom Rosenbauer body, holds 3,500 gallons of water, seven times more than a standard pumper truck, and features a 1,500-gallon-per-minute pump and roof-mounted deck gun.

"In some areas, the tanker is the hydrant," Ozol said. "We're one of only two fire companies in Nassau County, along with Bayville, that have a tanker like this."

The event concluded with a commu-

nity barbecue, giving residents and visiting firefighters a chance to celebrate together.

"It was a beautiful day, and a great

turnout," Ozol said. "It's always exciting to see the community come out to support us and to welcome new equipment that helps us protect them better."



PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that a Public
Hearing shall be held
on Tuesday, November
25, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.
in the Council Chamber
at Glen Cove City Hall,
9 Glen Street, Glen
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with the City Clerk for
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Tina Pemberton
City Clerk
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NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that a Public
Hearing shall be held
on Tuesday, November
25, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.
in the Council
Chambers at Glen Cove
City Hall, 9 Glen Street,
Glen Cove, NY to
discuss a Local Law
adding Chapter 80:
Public Use of
Marijuana to Glen Cove

City Code.
All interested parties
will be given an
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heard.
Tina Pemberton
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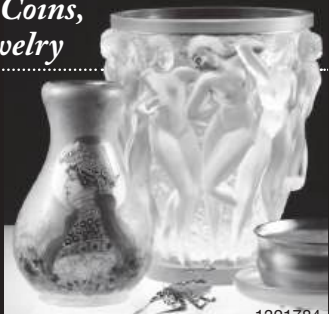
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OPINIONS

When will we learn that shutdowns help no one?

With each passing day of the government shutdown, the impact was being felt on Long Island in many ways, by many people. To be clear, the situation superseded politics. Shutdowns of the federal government have the same impact on all of us, regardless of which

side we lean toward on Election Day.

As the situation dragged on, much attention was focused on the hold on funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which sustains nearly 3 million people in New York state, including 183,000



CHARLES LAVINE

on Long Island. Gov. Kathy Hochul was correct when she called it nothing less than “a public health crisis that puts the lives of nearly one million New York children and over 800,000 older adults in our state at risk.”

While the money the governor fast-tracked to assist food banks throughout the state helped, it never came close to the more than \$7 billion the state relies on annually from the federal government for SNAP. With Thanksgiving approaching, and demand for SNAP

benefits at record levels, there was an added emphasis on the dire need for the situation to be resolved — but Thanksgiving is just one day. Food insecurity is all too real for average families just trying to meet their loved ones’ most basic needs.

With Thanksgiving come colder weather and the need to keep our homes warm. That’s something most of us take for granted, but not those who rely on programs like the Home Energy Assistance Program. Like SNAP, funding for HEAP was also held up, delaying the ability of those most in need to apply for and receive assistance to heat their homes. Last year, about 70,000 Long Islanders received \$19 million from the program. They will be left out in the cold the next time we have to go through this.

The shutdown highlighted just how reliant Long Island’s economy is on federal spending. According to an estimate published in *Newsday*, the loss of federal employee wages alone would amount to 1 percent of Long Island’s total GDP for as long as the shutdown lasted.

What do these numbers actually mean in terms of our everyday lives? Well, beyond eating and keeping warm, there are many other impacts, as illustrated in a letter written to the members

of Long Island’s congressional delegation during the shutdown by the Association for a Better Long Island. It noted that a federal government shutdown “is not a harmless administrative pause,

but an active drain on our local economic health,” adding, “The ongoing impasse, regardless of the policy disagreements driving it, is creating serious, tangible, and far-reaching economic repercussions for the residents and businesses of Long Island.”

ABLI pointed out the effects in many areas of the economy, some of which were already being felt, while others surely would have been had it dragged on even longer. Those included the retail sector, with an anticipated reduction in consumer spending impacting businesses large and small, as well as local municipalities, which rely on the resulting tax revenue; Long Island’s 31,000 federal employees whose duties are deemed “nonessential” and were placed on leave or furloughed, and faced the possibility of losing their jobs permanently; delays in the processing of Small Business Administration loans and loan guarantees, starving businesses of necessary operating capital, stifling job creation and paralyzing growth initiatives; infrastructure and development uncertainty

resulting from the freezing of federal grants and programs for essential improvements, including transit, clean-energy projects and environmental remediation; residential real estate, with closures or staffing shortages at federal agencies resulting in problems for people seeking to obtain mortgages and flood insurance; research institutions, including Cold Spring Harbor National Laboratory, which saw federal research funds drying up; and air travel, with delays and disruptions due to shortages of air traffic controllers that strained operations across the national system.

As ABLI pointed out, a government shutdown compromises workers’ financial security, weakens the viability of large and small businesses, and undermines the public trust in governing institutions.

This wasn’t the first government shutdown, and with just another continuing resolution by Congress essentially kicking the can down the road — yet again — it will certainly not be the last. It was, however, the longest and most impactful. And the most eye-opening.

For everyone’s sake, now is the time for both sides to put their differences aside and find a way to work together to prevent this from happening again.

Charles Lavine represents the 13th Assembly District.

This one highlighted just how reliant Long Island’s economy is on federal spending.

In the fight of our lives, all over again

In November 2020, in the maw of the pandemic, I wrote a column about Thanksgiving dinner with my husband, dinner for just two. Our kids and grandkids and friends were isolating, in hiding from a novel viral enemy.

Looking for a historical precedent, I compared the fear crisscrossing America to what it must have felt like in Berlin after World War II, when Stalin’s troops cut off the city. The plan was to choke the Berliners into capitulation to Russia.



RANDI KREISS

On the ground, it looked hopeless and inevitable. Then, in an audacious countermove, the United States launched

the Berlin airlift, and for 15 months planes dropped food, medicine and fuel — 2 million tons of supplies — until Stalin blinked in 1949 and lifted the blockade. We didn’t know it would succeed when we began. We did it because it was what was needed to save Berlin from Stalin’s tyranny.

I was inspired by this bit of history because it speaks to America’s ability to

meet the moment. Ingenuity and courage are homegrown assets, and we never needed these strengths more than we did during the pandemic, more than we do now.

In that Thanksgiving 2020 column, I wrote, “Our new enemy is Covid-19, which is rampaging through our cities and states, killing people in increasing numbers and threatening our well-being and our prosperity. We need to summon the courage to win this war . . .

“We have missed the chance to get ahead of the firestorm, but we still have agency. Don’t gather at parties or bars or family events. It won’t be forever, and it might save someone you love . . .

“This Thanksgiving we must accept the sacrifice of a simpler holiday, without expecting family to board planes or sit around a table for 15 or 20. We can do this. We can do it this year, in the hope that next year we can be thankful for lives saved.”

One year later, the world had turned. I wrote, “All of us have had our Covid vaccines and boosters; we are brought back to normal by the moonshot of

modern medicine, the development of an effective vaccine in 18 months . . .

“Today we are back to our jobs. Kids are back in school. This Thanksgiving we will sit down with our family to start reweaving the ties that have stretched thin over the months of this pandemic . . .

“I have often written about gratitude for the small things that charge our days with interest and pleasure. This year my gratitude is singular, profound and unending. I am so thankful to the researchers and scientists and companies and governments and leaders who took on

Covid-19 and dug in for the fight . . .

“I thank everyone who brought us to this day, from the doctors and nurses to the supermarket workers to the teachers and parents of young children, to the bench researchers who put in the hours, day after day and month after month . . .

“This year at our Thanksgiving there will be a too-big turkey and stuffing and cranberry sauce. Leaves and grains for the vegetarian. We will hug and kiss our kids and grandkids, feeling safe enough with our jabs and boosters. Then we will

feast on my apple cranberry crumble with a topping of gratitude for this country and countries everywhere where scientists are educated, supported and honored because the work they do alleviates suffering and perpetuates life on earth.”

This week, as we approach Thanksgiving 2025, it is, quite unbelievably, our very democracy that is under threat. We are in a season of political instability, irrational attacks on our institutions, and a drift toward authoritarianism. As we witness the trampling of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, the military occupation of our cities and the willingness to sacrifice American laws and values for personal gain and power, we know that this threat, too, has gone viral.

And, irony of ironies, our government leaders are questioning the efficacy of the original lifesaving Covid-19 vaccine and all the life-saving vaccines that have kept us and our children alive.

When we sit down to Thanksgiving dinner this year, my prayer will be for America to find its footing, to support leaders who will launch a political moonshot or Berlin Airlift to save our souls and our country.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Rekindling community with face-to-face talk

In an age when digital arguments erupt faster than we can refresh our screens, it has become almost instinctual to dive into online debates with strangers. Facebook threads balloon into battlegrounds, discussions on X collapse into insults and Reddit comment chains can devolve into tribal shouting matches. For many, this ritual has become a daily habit — almost a sport. Yet it leaves most people feeling drained, angry, unheard and oddly isolated.

There's a healthier, more human alternative: step away from the glowing screen and go meet your neighbors face to face. It sounds old-fashioned, almost quaint, but that simplicity is exactly what makes it powerful.

When we talk to people in person — people who live next door, down the street or across the hall — we're reminded that disagreements do not automatically make someone an enemy. You hear their tone of voice, notice their expressions and see the full, complex person behind the viewpoint. The humanity that gets flattened into a five-word comment reappears. And so does your own.

Online, a single sentence can turn someone into a villain in your mind. A meme can become a stand-in for an entire group you've never actually spoken to. Algorithms feed outrage because outrage keeps you scrolling. But face-to-face conversations break that cycle.

They prioritize curiosity over hostility, nuance over certainty, and listening over scoring points.

This shift is good for both civic and personal health. Psychologists have long known that real-world social interactions reduce anxiety, increase life satisfaction and strengthen emotional resilience. Sitting with someone, even someone who has different opinions, calms the nervous system in ways digital communication never can. You breathe more slowly. You think more clearly. You remember that disagreements don't have to be disagreeable.

There's also something grounding about being part of a physical community rather than a virtual crowd. The person you're talking to isn't a random stranger with an anonymous avatar; they're someone who shares your sidewalk, your grocery store, your weather and your local challenges. That shared context encourages mutual respect. You might still disagree — honestly, you probably will — but the disagreement becomes a conversation, not a war.

And consider the ripple effects. When neighbors talk, they build trust. When trust grows, communities become stronger, safer and more resilient. People are more likely to help one another, support local initiatives, and intervene when someone is struggling. Civil discourse becomes possible again — something increasingly rare in a world where

shouting has replaced dialogue.

Face-to-face conversations also make room for humility. Online arguments often are myopic and pernicious. In person, you're more likely to acknowledge what you don't know, to soften your stance or to revise your thinking.

Most surprisingly, you might even discover that the "other side" isn't as far away as the internet insists. Maybe you share concerns, values or experiences. Maybe you're both frustrated by the same problems, even if you imagine different solutions. Or maybe you simply end up respecting each other enough to continue the conversation later. And you may learn something new about an issue or about your community — or even about yourself.

That's the heart of a healthy society — not unanimous agreement, but constructive connection.

If we truly want better conversations, less stress and stronger communities, the solution isn't another heated thread or another algorithm-driven argument. There are many ways to move from behind the screen and interact with others in real life.

It's going out to dinner with friends, joining a club, becoming part of a sports team or taking a continuing education class. The internet may connect us instantly, but only face-to-face interactions remind us why connection matters in the first place.



OPINIONS

The college search: Are you seeking prestige or 'fit'?

At this time of year, many families with high school students visit colleges. Some visit nearby campuses that are within reach academically and financially, while others travel to what they consider more prestigious institutions. Whichever the choice, it's imperative for parents and prospective students to plan carefully.



ROBERT A. SCOTT

Students and their families should consider how far from home is acceptable. Will the student be most comfortable in a large city, a suburban setting or a rural area? Will he or she live on campus, in the town or at home?

How large a campus is acceptable? Some universities have 50,000 or more students, and some colleges have fewer than 1,500. The best fit is one that is not only challenging for academic and personal growth, but also caring and focused on student achievement.

The cost of tuition, fees, room, board, books and supplies is another consideration. Some families are willing to borrow to send their child to a prestigious college. If a good education and preparation for life are the goals, that isn't

necessary. It's better to find the best fit for the student.

Families and students should use publicly available information such as college guides and the federal College Scorecard to decide on a list of colleges to visit and examine more closely. A high school guidance counselor should have a library of materials, and should know about where former students have gone to college.

According to the National Survey of Student Engagement 2017-23, students at most colleges, the least selective as well as the most selective, rate their campus experience about the same on measures of critical thinking and analysis, quantitative reasoning, collaboration with peers, access to diverse perspectives and student-faculty interactions. On the following measures, however, more selective colleges provide the biggest impact: internships, leadership opportunities, working on research with faculty, and studying abroad.

The federal College Scorecard can be a useful tool for examining general data about colleges and comparing institutions, but it cannot convey the personality of an institution. A publication such as the "Fiske Guide to Colleges" gives a fuller picture of a campus.

After deciding on where to visit, call

for an appointment, ask to sit in on a class, talk to a faculty member and current students, tour a residence hall, and check out the dining facilities. Afterward, reflect on the following:

- **Feel:** Were the students, faculty and staff you met on campus friendly and spontaneous, or were they cold and scripted?
- **Admissions:** What weight is given to test scores? Of what influence are athletic prowess or alumni connections in the admissions process?
- **Academics:** Are students assigned a faculty adviser? How easy is it to

change majors? Who provides guidance on graduate studies and careers?

- **Who teaches?** Do full-time faculty teach undergraduates, or is most instruction done by graduate assistants?
- **Enrollment:** Is the student body economically diverse?
- **Financial aid:** Will financial aid awards be adjusted for tuition increases?
- **Health and safety:** Does the campus have a health center? Does the college provide transportation to go shopping off campus?
- **Housing and food service:** Is there

sufficient residential-hall space to house all undergraduates, or must students live in fraternity and sorority houses or off campus? Does the dining hall offer meals three times a day, seven days a week when classes are in session?

■ **Social life:** Does the campus offer a rich cultural life and support a variety of clubs and organizations, or do Greek societies dominate the social scene? Do many students leave campus on the weekend?

■ **Career placement:** Does the career office offer information about jobs on campus and in the summer? Does it have information on internships, both paid and voluntary? Who are some successful alumni in the student's fields of interest?

While college graduates have improved outcomes in income, employment, health and civic engagement, college requires an investment of time, energy and intellect as well as money. So it's important that the college and the student "fit" together in a way that is not only challenging but supportive. The right fit is more important than prestige. College is intended to enrich your life as well as your wallet.

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

It's such an important decision, and the answers to so many questions figure into it.

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At the Rock Hall Museum's Edgar Allan Poe-themed Masquerade Ball – Lawrence

Neighbor to Neighbor

Our world often moves too quickly, but there are particular moments that remind us of the extraordinary power of human kindness. ***Our community has been deeply moved by the compassion of a young local teacher who offered a living gift - the donation of her kidney - and in doing so, gave another person a chance to thrive.***

Without seeking recognition or praise, she chose to act out of pure compassion and selflessness, embodying the very best of what it means to be part of this community. Her courage and generosity extend far beyond one person; they ripple outward, inspiring all of us to see the beauty in giving, the strength of empathy, and the boundless potential of love and humanity.

We are humbled by her example - by the quiet heroism of someone who teaches not only in the classrooms, but through her actions, what it means to make a difference. This remarkable act of kindness reflects the spirit of our entire community: one defined by care, connection, and the willingness to lift one another up in time of need.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank this extraordinary woman for her gift, her courage, and her light. She reminds us that within our community, there are everyday heroes among us - and that ***one person's generosity can change a life forever.***

A grateful community says Thank You!

If you've been inspired by this extraordinary act of kindness, we invite you to learn more about living kidney donation at the National Kidney Registry

www.kidneyregistry.com

Or more locally, connect with

Libbie Binkiewicz, LMSW, Living Donor Ambassador at Northwell Health.

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