



A Thanksgiving dinner
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Roksana Amid/ Herald

At a special City Council meeting on Nov. 18, council members and Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck congratulated Chris Ortiz, front center, on his new position as police chief. Former Chief William Whitton, front right, mentored Ortiz.

Ortiz sworn in as new police chief

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

The City of Glen Cove marked a historic transition this month as Police Chief William F. Whitton retired after 41 years of service, including 18 years as head of the department. His retirement is especially significant for a department that has had only nine chiefs since the city's founding.

Within hours of Whitton's ceremonial walkout on Nov. 14, Deputy Chief Christopher Ortiz, a lifelong Glen Cove resident, was sworn in as the city's 10th chief of police.

At a special City Council meeting on Nov. 18, Ortiz was unanimously appointed and sworn in. Whitton addressed the council, reflecting on the rarity of the moment. "In the history of Glen Cove, there have only been 10 chiefs, and that's something to be proud of," he said. Whitton added that he and Ortiz spent more than a decade "traveling and training together," time that revealed Ortiz's character. "I know Chris to be highly intelligent, with a great moral

compass, loyal and logical, and he has the attributes needed to succeed in this job. I know he will take this place to greater heights."

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck praised both men. "I never have to worry when it comes to our Police Department," she said. "They handle every situation with expertise and calm, and when Chris says he's taking care of something, he does. I'm grateful to serve as mayor during this moment, and we fully support you. Thank you for taking on this responsibility, and for keeping Glen Cove safe."

Panzenbeck added that the city "commends Chief Whitton for his years of extraordinary service, and proudly supports Chief Ortiz as he leads the department forward."

For Ortiz, 52, who grew up in Glen Cove, a future in law enforcement was not always a given. After graduating from Glen Cove High School, he attended John Jay College, unsure of his career path. A friend majoring in criminal justice spoke enthusiastically

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Controversial AT&T antenna proposal nixed

By ROKSANA AMID

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A proposal to install an AT&T wireless antenna atop the Glen Cove Shopping Center, on Forest Avenue, was denied on Nov. 18, ending six months of contentious public hearings and intensifying debate over cell service needs and their potential impact on city neighborhood.

The application — a request for a special-use permit and site plan approval — drew dozens of residents to Planning Board meetings in September and earlier this month. Many urged the board to reject the project, citing health concerns, potential declines in property value and what they argued would be a permanent change to the character of the neighborhood behind the shopping center.

Board members Philip Pulaski, Andrew Kaufman, Michael Corigliano, Richard Maccarone and Ellen Pantazakos voted against the application. Kenneth Weinstein and James M. Greenberg were

absent.

AT&T sought to install a canister-style tri-sector antenna extending roughly 20 feet above the existing roofline, a total height of roughly 41 feet. Utilities would have run through existing conduits, with no ground disturbance. According to AT&T, the landlord, Bruce Waller, deemed the

If I thought it was harmful to the neighbors I wouldn't do it.

BRUCE WALLER
Landlord

Northwest corner of the shopping center roof the only viable location.

Attorney Anna Mercado Clarke, representing AT&T, said the antenna would be the "least intrusive means" of addressing what she described as an "undisputed" gap

in the carrier's wireless coverage.

"This facility consists of essentially a 16- by-2-inch tri-sector canister antenna," Clarke explained, noting that the visible portion would be painted to blend in with the building and be minimally noticeable. "It is the least intrusive means to meet this gap."

AT&T, Clarke said, had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Board members of the club served dinner.

Thanksgiving dinner at Boys and Girls club

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

More than 350 people filled the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club on Nov. 25 as the organization celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Thanksgiving Community Dinner — a tradition that has grown into one of the city's most cherished holiday gatherings.

Families entered through the Pearson Teen Center, where long buffet tables were lined with turkey, stuffing, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, salads, desserts, and the event's popular sundae station. The annual dinner is made possible entirely by Elegant Affairs, the Long Island catering company that has donated and prepared the full Thanksgiving meal for all 25 years.

"We're delighted to welcome the community and their families to join us for this special Thanksgiving dinner, with Retired Police Sergeant Jack McDougal leading the blessing," said Franca Trunzo, the Club's executive director. Trunzo noted that the dinner has become a meaningful tradition for families who rely on the Club not only for after-school care, but for connection and support during the holidays.

Elegant Affairs President Andrea Correale said the Boy & Girls Club dinner has long been a priority for her team. "Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club holds a special place in my heart. As neighbors and friends, it's our pleasure each year to cater this very special event," she said in the press release.

Among the attendees was Jessica Banos of Glen Cove, who arrived with her husband, Jorge, and their three sons — Aiden, 9; Lucas, 5; and Jacob, 18 months. Banos said attending the dinner felt full circle, sharing that she herself had been a Boys & Girls Club member growing up.

Her oldest son has now been in the



Members of the Glen Cove Senior Center also attended the Thanksgiving dinner.



Cecelia, Michele, Anthony, and Serafina Difato volunteered their time to serve ice cream.

Club's after-school program for five consecutive years. Banos said she appreciates how many activities the program offers, including sports, a computer center, and seasonal programming that keeps her son engaged and excited to return each day. "He literally never wants to leave," she said, recalling days when she'd pick him up only to turn around and come back later because he

wanted to stay longer.

"It means everything to know he's in a safe place where people care for him," she said.

Trunzo said that many staff members began as Club members themselves before returning as youth development professionals — a cycle she described as meaningful for the organization and the families it serves.



Among the attendees was Jessica Banos of Glen Cove, who arrived with her husband, Jorge, and their three sons — Aiden, 9; Lucas, 5; and Jacob, 18 months.

During the Thanksgiving season, the Club also distributes holiday baskets to local households. Trunzo said more than 150 baskets were assembled and given out this year, with families able to pick them up at the end of the dinner.

The annual celebration also included raffles, door prizes, and the opportunity for families to connect with neighbors and staff before the start of the holiday season. For Trunzo, the milestone year underscored the purpose of the event — creating a space for gratitude and togetherness.

"It's a time for us to remember and be grateful for everything we have in terms of our families and our parents, and to offer them a special meal," Trunzo said. "It's a really nice way for us to give back to the community and come together."

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Elder Law Estate Planning Misconceptions

One of the most common and devastating misconceptions about elder law estate planning is that it is too late to save money from nursing home costs. On the contrary, there are crisis planning tools that may save substantial assets from being spent on nursing home costs, even after the client has already entered the nursing home. Almost always, if there are assets left, much can be saved.

There are only three ways to pay for nursing home costs – your own assets, long-term care insurance (owned by less than five percent of the population), or Medicaid provided by the government.

Many people know about the "five-year look-back period" and assume nothing can be done without advance planning. The five-year look-back rule means that if you gave any gifts away within the last five years, when asking for Medicaid to pay for nursing home costs, the gift amount creates a penalty period, which results in a period of ineligibility for Medicaid coverage.

Despite the five-year look-back, New York

law allows people to protect assets from nursing home costs, even without pre-planning. For single applicants, you may be able to save about half of the assets through the "gift and loan" strategy. For married couples, where one spouse needs a nursing home, "spousal refusal" may protect substantial amounts of assets for the spouse at home. These techniques are discussed in detail at trustlaw.com, under "Practice Areas", then "Medicaid Strategies".

The five-year look-back rule does not affect eligibility of Medicaid home care, also known as "community" Medicaid. Currently, an applicant may transfer their assets out of their name and still qualify for home care in the next month.

Many assets, such as retirement accounts, rental properties and even the family home in certain cases, are exempt from Medicaid. The bottom line is that if someone you love is in failing health, the sooner you consult an elder law attorney the more you will likely be able to save assets.

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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

■ A 49-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 19 for aggravated unlicensed operation 2nd degree, unsafely changing lanes and unlicensed operation on Glen Cove Ave.

■ A 55-year-old Sea Cliff woman was arrested on Nov. 20 for aggravated DWI and DWI on Glen Cove Ave.

■ A 23-year-old Locust Valley man was arrested on Nov. 20 for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unlicensed operation, improper exhaust system, and arrest warrants for aggravated unlicensed operation of a

motor vehicle, unlicensed operation and improper exhaust system on Titus Road.

■ A 45-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 20 for criminal contempt 2nd degree on Mercadante Place.

■ A 31-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 20 for aggravated DWI, DWI and passing a red tsl on Miller Street.

■ A 55-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 24 for criminal contempt 1st degree, criminal mischief 4th degree and menacing 2nd degree on Bridge 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

German Christmas traditions

The Glen Cove Public Library will host a virtual program, Unwrapping the Charms of German Christmas Traditions, on Monday, Dec. 1, from 7 to 8 p.m. Historian Anette Isaacs will guide participants through a journey of Germany's unique holiday customs and explain how these traditions have influenced Christmas celebrations around the world.

The program is presented through the North Shore Programming Consortium, a collaboration of six local libraries—Bayville, Glen Cove, Gold Coast, Locust Valley, Oyster Bay, and Sea Cliff—designed to provide a wider variety of adult programming in a more cost-effective manner. This session is hosted by the Oyster Bay/East Norwich Library, one of the Consor-

tium's participating institutions.

Participants can attend the program from home via Zoom, with login details emailed to registered attendees prior to the event. The session is free and open to adults, offering a chance to learn about history, culture, and holiday traditions in an engaging virtual format.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Those interested in joining the program can sign up through the Glen Cove Public Library's website. The library encourages community members to take advantage of this opportunity to explore holiday traditions from Germany and gain new insights into the festive season.

—Roksana Amid

Let us Know

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

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6 Independent pharmacies warn of collapse

November 27, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By AINSLEY MARTINEZ

amartinez@liherald.com

Howard Jacobson sat in his car outside a Long Island rehab center, holding a box of medication that cost him more than he would be reimbursed to dispense it. The longtime pharmacist, who owns Rockville Centre Pharmacy and West Hempstead Pharmacy, said that moments like this have become routine in an industry he once believed had room for sustainable community care.

For Jacobson, a pharmacist for nearly four decades, the crisis is no longer abstract. It is existential.

Independent pharmacists across New York describe the same pattern: reimbursement rates from pharmacy benefit managers — the middlemen known as PBMs — frequently fall below the cost of the drugs they dispense. PBMs negotiate prices on behalf of insurance plans, adjudicate claims and determine how much pharmacies get paid. But with three companies controlling nearly 90 percent of the national market, pharmacists say they have little leverage.

“They pay me what they want,” Jacobson said. “Many times now they’re paying us below my cost of the medication.”

Jacobson said that as a result, he has cut hours, trimmed staff and subsidized losses out of his own pocket.

On some drugs, he said, the reimbursement rates defy logic. “Yesterday I



Courtesy Office Judy Griffin

Assemblywoman Judy Griffin joined dozens of pharmacists at Rockville Centre Pharmacy on Nov. 18 to urge fellow lawmakers to pass the Patient Access to Pharmacy Act.

did a prescription for 46 cents,” he said.

State lawmakers, backed by hundreds of pharmacists, are now pushing the Patient Access to Pharmacy Act, which would establish minimum reimbursement standards for commercial insurance plans and increase oversight of PBMs. Legislators say it mirrors a cost-plus model that New York’s Medicaid program implemented in 2023, and that independent pharmacies credit with stabilizing state spending.

Assemblywoman Judy Griffin said she had heard the same warnings from

pharmacists in her district for years. “They really have limited incomes, like our seniors,” Griffin said, referring to the patients who rely most heavily on local pharmacies. “Getting the drugs at a cheaper price is really important.”

Griffin is co-sponsoring the bill, which has more than 80 supporters in the Assembly. Pharmacy closures, she said — including dozens on Long Island — have already strained communities that depend on them for guidance, delivery and everyday care. “It’s nice when your pharmacist knows you,” she said.

The bill would set a minimum reimbursement rate tied to the cost of acquiring and dispensing medication, and impose transparency requirements on PBMs and restrict practices that critics say steer patients toward PBM-owned mail-order pharmacies or chains.

At a rally last week outside Rockville Centre Pharmacy, Jacobson warned lawmakers plainly: “No business can afford to operate at a loss.”

“We’re offered one-sided contracts, and it’s take it or leave it,” he added. “If you leave it, then not only are you telling your patients you don’t care about them, you’re leaving a network.”

Critics of the bill — including some insurers, employer groups and PBMs — argue that mandating reimbursement floors could increase premiums, reduce negotiating flexibility and drive up pharmaceutical spending. They warn that cost-plus models can weaken market competition, and could ultimately shift financial burdens onto employers and consumers.

CVS Caremark, the PBM owned by CVS Health, did not respond to a request for comment.

Griffin said she sees the legislation as part of a broader effort to protect not just small businesses, but a key piece of the state’s health care infrastructure.

“I am really at my wits’ end on how to keep my business going,” Jacobson said. “I don’t want to concede defeat.”



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Ortiz becomes G.C.'s 10th police chief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about policing, which sounded to Ortiz like a field in which he could make a difference.

Not everyone agreed, however. His father, José Ortiz, an immigrant who worked factory jobs near Garvies Point in the 1980s, worried about the risks. But Chris moved ahead and took both the New York City and Glen Cove civil service exams. The NYPD accepted him first, and then, just two weeks after he graduated from its six-month academy program, he got a call from the Glen Cove department. He completed the Nassau County Police Academy training, and began his career as a patrol officer in his hometown.

The job changed the way he viewed the community. "Seeing how much the police are involved with people, whether it be handling domestic violence calls, helping people who are lost — whatever it is — there are a lot of officers in this city who do have involvement," he told the Herald in 2023. "When you actually become a police officer here, you try to really make an impression on people's lives."

Ortiz continued his education alongside his police work. He earned a master's from Long Island University in 2001, and was promoted to sergeant in 2006. He completed his Ph.D. in criminal justice at John Jay and taught courses in police conduct and psychology at the New York Institute of Technology.

In 2012 he was promoted to lieutenant, and later attended the FBI National Academy, a highly selective leadership program. He was named deputy chief in 2015.

Beyond policing, Ortiz has been active in community programs. He served as president of the Glen Cove football and cheerleading organizations and helped establish a mentoring program through the Glen Cove Youth Bureau to connect officers with local teens.

His policing expertise gained international attention as well. Four years ago, he was invited by the Armenian National Police to help modernize their law enforcement structure. While in Yerevan, the country's capital, Ortiz noticed a park bench in which someone had carved the names of two Black

American women who had died in shootings, Breonna Taylor and Renisha McBride. Taylor, a medical worker, was shot by police officers who forced their way into her apartment. "Sometimes police violence and police misconduct can have repercussions and ripples around the world," Ortiz said.

At last week's meeting, Councilman John Zozzaro who has known Ortiz since high school, said that no one was more deserving of the appointment. Councilwoman Marsha Silverman thanked him for his years of collaboration, and Councilman Kevin Maccarone called his vote to appoint Ortiz "an absolute honor."

In his remarks, Ortiz thanked his family, including his 86-year-old father, who had long hoped to witness this milestone. He also paid emotional tribute to Whitton, saying he "taught me basically everything."

"To the people of Glen Cove, thank you for entrusting me in this important position," Ortiz said. "I will never let you down, I promise you that."

I will never let you down, I promise you that.

CHRIS ORTIZ
Police chief



Courtesy Chris Ortiz

For Ortiz, 52, who grew up in Glen Cove, a future in law enforcement was not always a given.



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J Goy/Herald photos

Bruce Blakeman presented the award to Major Samuel Nahmias , the mayor of the Village of Lawrence.

HMTC marks 30 Years of tribute dinners

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County held its 30th annual Tribute Dinner on November 20, 2025, at the Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation, where Lawrence Mayor Samuel Nahmias was honored for his contributions to the community and support of Holocaust education and remembrance. The event also recognized musician John Ondrasik, known as “Five for Fighting,” as the evening’s Pillar of Courage, and presented the Chartan Maier Founder’s Award to HMTC Vice Chair Jolanta Zamecka. The program featured remarks and appearances from author Jonny Daniels, marketer and author Aliza Licht, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, IDF paratrooper and Gaza War veteran Sam Fried, and Syrian-Jewish refugee and attorney Abraham Hamra, bringing together civic leaders, activists, and community members in a shared commitment to honoring Holocaust memory and promoting tolerance.

—Roksana Amid



Assemblyman Jake Blumencranz welcomed County Executive Bruce Blakeman to the stage.



Singer Daniel Frankel sang the national anthem.



Howard Maier presented the Chartain Maier Founders Award to Jolanta Zamecka.



During a standing ovation, Holocaust survivors in the crowd were recognized. Leo Ullman is one of the last remaining Holocaust survivors.

Locust Valley honors lifesaving coaches

11

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

Days after a student collapsed during varsity basketball tryouts, the Locust Valley Central School District publicly recognized the employees whose quick response saved his life. At Wednesday night's Board of Education meeting, administrators, coaches and first responders described the emergency two days earlier and praised the teamwork that brought the student back within minutes.

As the Herald went to press, the student was recovering in a local children's hospital, and the district had not released his name or information on the cause of his collapse.

Superintendent Kristen Turnow opened the meeting by recounting what she called one of the most difficult moments of her career.

"A little bit before 7 p.m. I received a phone call from the head of our security to immediately get over to the high school gymnasium, as a student was nonresponsive," Turnow said. "When I arrived on the scene, our coaches (and) our head custodian were actively providing CPR to one of our students," using an automated external defibrillator.

Paramedics from the Locust Valley Fire Department had just arrived, and began administering medication to the student. Once they detected a pulse, he was lifted into an ambulance.

Turnow rode with the student to Glen Cove Hospital, where she met with his family, along with hospital staff.

She said that the high school's head custodian, Arthur "Artie" Sandstrom — who happens to be the LVFD's 1st deputy chief — had already left work for the day, but "heard the message on our new district 911 notification, and immediately came to the high school." His presence was "vitally important," Turnow added, to both the student and the staff treating him.

The next morning, administrators met with the students who had taken part in the tryouts, and assured them, Turnow said, that "we are all there for them anytime." Later that day, administrators held an emergency meeting to review proce-



Courtesy Locust Valley Central School District

Scott Sila, a paramedic with the Locust Valley Fire Department, praised coaches and staff members who helped revive a student who collapsed during varsity basketball tryouts on Monday night.

dures. Turnow said they determined that the district needed to purchase seven additional AEDs for the middle school and high school.

Athletic Director Danielle Turner offered what she called "the best type of recognition" for the coaching staff, although she said the coaches "want none of this."

Turner explained that state law requires all public-school coaches to be certified in CPR, first aid and use of an AED, and that Locust Valley does not hire coaches without those certifications. But she stressed that training alone doesn't prepare someone for the emotional shock of a real emergency.

"They don't teach you how to push your emotions aside when a child collapses," Turner said. "These men behind me did not hesitate. They did not freeze, and as one of them said to me afterwards, 'It was fight or flight, and we had no choice but to fight.'"

Turner told the board that she had received a call on Wednesday from Tyler Robinson, who oversees AED inspections for the district. He reviewed the data from the device that was used Monday night.

"He said to me ... the readout looked like a textbook example of a perfect emergency response," Turner recalled. "Their CPR was impeccable, their use of the AED was flawless. They saved a child's life."

ty basketball coach Andrew Siegel, assistant coach Benjamin Martinez, JV assistant coach Andrew Bock, varsity baseball coach Brian Larusso, teaching assistant and track coach Michael Sabatino and girls' volleyball coach Elliot Aramini.

"For me, coming into a scene and seeing these gentlemen before you is what made the difference," Turner said. "We couldn't be prouder."

LVFD paramedic Scott Sila, who responded to the call, also addressed the board, and said that everything he needed was already underway when he arrived.

"Within two minutes of being on scene, we had the student back," Sila said. "By the time we got him on the stretcher, he was talking to us. By the time we got him into the ambulance, it was almost like the event never happened."

He urged the district to recognize the emotional toll on everyone involved, adding that in tough situations like this one, having trained, calm people at the scene is essential to saving lives.

"These are the calls that terrify us," Sila said. "(The staff) acted better than some of the times when I roll up on scenes and I have trained first responders."

Board trustees and parents also expressed their gratitude. Trustee Krystina Tomlinson, whose son was taking part in the tryouts when the incident occurred, thanked the coaches.

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Rejection of NCC leader sparks opposition

November 27, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By **HERNESTO GALDAMEZ**

hgaldamez@liherald.com

Nassau Community College's board of trustees and local leaders expressed strong opposition after State University of New York trustees formally rejected the nomination of Maria Conzatti as the college's next president. The unanimous 12-0 vote on Nov. 14 — the first of its kind in SUNY history — has heightened tensions over governance, autonomy and college leadership.

"SUNY does not comment on personnel issues," a spokesperson told the Herald. "Community colleges are essential engines of student success and upward mobility, and SUNY is committed to excellent leadership for all of our campuses."

Jerry Kornbluth, NCC's vice president of community and governmental relations, called the decision "extremely upsetting," citing Conzatti's accomplishments during her tenure. Under her leadership, Kornbluth said, the college eliminated \$14 million in debt and increased enrollment by 3 to 7 percent annually. As previously reported in the Herald, NCC also secured full eight-year accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

"Here you have a president who has done everything possible to move the college forward, implementing all the things SUNY would want her to do,"

Kornbluth said. "The board and most of the faculty are fully behind her."

County Executive Bruce Blakeman also criticized SUNY's decision. "Once again, SUNY has taken local control away from the suburbs by refusing to confirm the duly selected president, Maria Conzatti, put forth by the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees," Blakeman stated in a news release. "This is a slap in the face to every local board in New York State. Maria has done an excellent job educating our students and increasing enrollment at our college."

NCC has been without a permanent president since 2022, and Conzatti has led the college since January of that year, despite SUNY guidelines recommending that temporary appointments last no more than six months. In the spring of 2023, the NCC board gave her an "iron-clad" five-year contract, extending through Dec. 31, 2028, which remains in effect.

Despite the SUNY vote, NCC Trustee Elliot Conway confirmed the board's full support for Conzatti.

"I find it an upside-down world where the leader of the college with the highest enrollment increase is deemed unacceptable by the SUNY board," Conway said.

In June, SUNY trustees began implementing a rule that would limit interim appointments of an administrator-in-

charge to one year, effectively blocking Conzatti from continuing in her role. Conway has voiced concerns about what he calls state overreach into local governance.

Speaking at a SUNY listening session in August, Conway said, "SUNY's proposed rule, giving the chancellor final say over presidential appointments, salaries and contracts, is unnecessary overreach. Centralizing control would harm responsiveness, equity and the partnership that makes our programs succeed."

At the session, Conway highlighted Conzatti's contributions, including balancing budgets, adding vocational programs and improving campus civility. He also noted that Nassau County contributes more funding to the college than the state, asserting that local trustees should retain oversight.

"If it's not broken, don't fix it," Conway said, calling for SUNY to confirm Conzatti as president.

The dispute unfolds amid a long-running, bitter conflict with the faculty union, which has opposed Conzatti's leadership, citing department consolidations and other governance changes.

"The Board of Trustees' decision is a responsible and necessary step toward restoring stability and confidence in Nassau Community College leadership," Melinda Person, president of New York State United Teachers, said in



Herald file photo

Maria Conzatti has been leading Nassau Community College in an interim capacity since January 2022.

a statement. "Visionary, sustainable leadership cannot be built on prolonged interim arrangements."

SUNY has sent a letter to NCC regarding a new presidential search, and a SUNY representative will work with the campus on the process.

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Hispanic chamber tradition feeds families

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

More than 100 local families received Thanksgiving meals at North Shore High School Sunday during the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's sixth annual Turkey Giveaway, an event that chamber president Connie Pinilla says has grown out of both community need and community generosity.

According to her, the chamber managed to raise roughly 115 turkeys to distribute, along with hundreds of bags of fresh and non-perishable food and sanitary products like diapers.

The chamber first launched the program in 2020, at the height of the pandemic, when widespread job losses and shuttered businesses intensified food insecurity across the North Shore.

"We started this precisely because of covid and the food insecurity," Pinilla said. "At the beginning, like May of 2020, I had my first food drive with the chamber because there was a lot of food insecurity, and a lot of the small businesses were not getting any income or money."

Those early pandemic efforts quickly expanded. A nonprofit partner provided thousands of boxes of food that year, and the organization's leader offered turkeys for distribution that November.

This year's event included far more than turkeys. The chamber partnered with the North Shore High School Key Club, whose student volunteers held a food drive outside Holiday Farms three weeks before the giveaway. Shoppers donated pasta, cereal, canned vegetables, toiletries and diapers. The students also raised about 500 dollars, which went toward purchasing onions, garlic, potatoes and rice. Additional donations of organic bananas and potatoes came from the Glen Cove grocery store Rising Tide Natural Market.

On the day of the giveaway, about 10 Key Club students helped organize and distribute the bags.

"I can't be more grateful to them," Pinilla said, "because they were amazing and make my job, obviously, much easier."

Families primarily came from Glen Cove, Sea Cliff and Glen Head, though some traveled from Queens and Hempstead, where pastors collected turkeys to

There's nothing better than giving and getting a smile back from these people.

CONNIE PINILLA
president, North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



Will Sheeline/Herald

North Shore High School students in the Key Club spent the weeks leading up to the giveaway raising money to buy food for the event.

distribute to residents who could not drive to the event. Leftover goods were also donated to local organizations. "These are people that have, people that do not drive, that don't have cars, that cannot come to us," Pinilla said.

Pinilla said rising food costs have increased demand again this year, with

rising inflation and political issues causing food prices to rise.

Even so, she said the community's response has remained strong.

"It is heartwarming for me," Pinilla said. "There's nothing better than giving and getting a smile back from these people."

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STEPPING OUT



Courtesy Leggz Ltd.

The Snow Queen (Ella Titus, Miami City Ballet) and Snow King (Mauricio Vera Nunez, National Ballet Of Cuba) begin Clara's Dream.



The Snowflake Corps dazzle in the intricate Waltz of the Snowflakes, the grand finale of Act I.

'Nutcracker' sweets

Decades of holiday magic with Leggz Ltd. Dance

By Abbey Salvemini

Tis the season: Those Sugar Plum Fairies and various figments of a young girl's imagination come alive once again on local stages.

Sacred Heart Academy started it all off recently with its student-run production, now the holiday classic is thrust into the spotlight throughout December.

Rockville Centre-based Leggz Ballet, with Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts, brings sparkle to the Madison Theatre stage as 'Nutcracker' season dances on. This year's production is especially meaningful for the studio's founder Joan Hope MacNaughton, her staff and students: Leggz celebrates 30 years bringing this beloved classic to life. With MacNaughton's artistic direction and choreography, accompanied as always by the beloved South Shore Symphony Orchestra, the theater is filled with the wonder of the delightful ballet that showcases Tchaikovsky's mesmerizing score. You might say it's one of the most memorable holiday soundtracks ever composed.

With over four decades leading Leggz, the 30-year milestone is both deeply personal and artistically meaningful for MacNaughton.

"Something that was a dream many, many years ago to have my own Nutcracker came true," she says.

MacNaughton reflects on how the production has grown in scale, professionalism and reach since its first performance, then on the South Side High School stage in Rockville Centre.

"From the costumes to all the dancers, it evolved dramatically. It started with dancers from my studio doing the solo parts. Then, I brought in professionals from the dance world to fill the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy, Dewdrop and Snow Queen."

Dancers from renowned companies — including Boston Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, also Broadway — are now integral to the production.

MacNaughton — who danced professionally prior

to opening her studio — attributes their interest in joining her production to her both network and her artistic standards.

"I have a lot of friends who are dancers in Manhattan, so I reached out to them for professional roles," she says.

Yet, the heart of the show remains the young dancers, who include talented kids residing in Rockville Centre, Oceanside, Baldwin, among other communities. A cast of over 50 young dancers in all, from throughout the metro area, join the guest dancers in this dynamic staging.

"It doesn't matter what school they come from," MacNaughton emphasizes. "They all really love dance and know what a quality production is like."

Performing alongside the South Shore Symphony adds another layer of magic. The orchestra, MacNaughton explains, elevates the performance for both dancers and the audience, adding a unique energy and richness that recorded tracks can't match.

"There's nothing more exciting for a dancer than performing with live music. Watching the musicians play is a treat, you're getting both the dance and the music."

Her goal is that kids in the audience or who step onto the stage for the first time will continue to find inspiration in "The Nutcracker." Keeping the beauty of dance alive is what's behind MacNaughton's decades of running her studio and producing the show each year.

Among the newest generation of dancers is 7-year-old Emma Lavas, of Rockville Centre, who's making her first appearance in the ballet, continuing a family tradition. Her mom, Meg Guido, danced in the very first Leggz production, continuing for 12 years. Recalling the thrill of being on stage, she's delighted, of course, that her daughter is now stepping into that role.

"It's such a beautiful thing to see her dancing and smiling," Guido says.

"She teaches me a lot of moves," Lavas says, about her mother, as she carries forth with the family legacy.

Another Rockville Centre dancer, 14-year-old Analiese Cartier shares: "I'm so grateful for the opportunity to do this each year."

For 15-year-old Paige McDaid, who also lives in Rockville Centre, the show has been as much about friendship as dancing.

"I've built some of my life-long friends and I'm so grateful for them."

She wants audiences, whether returning or seeing it for the first time, to feel that same magic she experiences onstage.

"It's such a beautiful performance, and we put so much effort into it," McDaid adds, enthusiastically.

Celebrating three decades of Nutcracker, Leggz Ltd. has filled the Madison Theatre with music, movement and holiday spirit. From the youngest dancers to world-class professionals bringing the choreography to life, the production captures the essence of the season. It explains why this timeless performance continues to draw everyone back each year.



Tim Baker/Herald

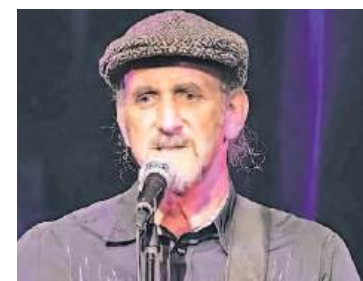
Evelyn Strouse and Paige McDaid in rehearsal.



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 multi-platinum 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. 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.

Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. \$108.75, \$86.50, \$71.25, \$59.75, \$54.25, \$43.75. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [paramountny.com](https://www.paramountny.com).



Just 'Wild About Harry' redux

Everyone has another chance to go "Wild About Harry" when over 30 of Long Island's top musicians and songwriters gather for another concert in tribute to the beloved Harry Chapin. Groove along to 18 acts — including concert organizer Stuart Markus and his trio Gathering Time — that perform Chapin classics including "Taxi" and "Cat's in the Hat," plus many lesser hits and fan favorites like "Mr. Tanner." The concert is considered a "Birthday Bash," as Chapin would have turned 83 on Dec. 7. As they've done for the past 20 years, participating artists are encouraged to put their own interpretations on his songs. Long Island music "royalty" is turning out in force to support this most worthy cause. All revenues above production costs will be donated to Long Island Cares, the food bank Chapin founded. Long Island Cares will also be collecting non-perishable food donations.

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. Minimum \$20 suggested donation per ticket. Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at [landmarkonmainstreet.org](https://www.landmarkonmainstreet.org) or (516) 767-6444.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

**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 — 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

DEC 4 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:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.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



DEC 7 Allman Betts Family Revival

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music at the 9th Annual Allman Betts Family Revival! This extraordinary live music experience is hosted by Devon Allman and Duane Betts, the sons of Allman Brothers Band legends Gregg Allman and Dickey Betts. Inspired by the legendary Last Waltz, this tour features a revolving cast of top-tier artists from the realms of blues, Americana, country, and rock, all coming together to honor the timeless legacy and rich catalog of the Allman Brothers Band. This year's amazing lineup features the Allman Betts Band, the iconic Jimmy Hall, former Wet Willie singer and Allman Brothers alumni; alongside Robert Randolph, Amanda Shires, G. Love, Judith Hill, Jimmy Hall, Cody & Luther Dickinson, Alex Orbison, and others. Special guests may also join in. Set against the backdrop of the famous Allman Brothers Brotherhood of Light show, blending electrifying music with stunning visuals. This unforgettable night that honors the rich history and timeless catalog of the Allman Brothers Band is a musical family reunion that promises to lift your spirits as you enjoy an authentic Allman Brothers musical experience. \$108.75, \$64.75.

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

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

DEC 6 Holiday Festival

The Glen Cove BID invites all to its annual Holiday Festival. Enjoy entertainment, horse and carriage rides, photos with Santa, train rides, children's activities, hot cocoa bar, and a holiday craft fair. The annual tree lighting follows at 4:45 p.m.

- **Where:** Village Square, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 1:30-4:45 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 759-6970

Glen Cove Senior Center Candlelight Dinner

Enjoy a festive evening at the Glen Cove Senior Center's annual holiday gathering.

- **Where:** 130 Glen St.
- **Time:** 5-8 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 759-9610

DEC 7 Holiday tales at Hempstead House

Visit Sands Point Preserve's grand Hempstead House some holiday cheer. Fireplaces roar and the festive spirit comes alive in the beautiful, cozy rooms of the cherished estate. Family activities include story times (1, 2 and 3 p.m.), meet and take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, seasonal crafts, Dreidel Corner, jazz and holiday music with Port Jazz Project, "nutty" holiday scavenger hunt, reading nook with holiday and winter stories. \$15 children, \$5 adults.

- **Where:** Hempstead House, 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 1-4 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

Film screening

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County welcomes all to a rare screening of the documentary "The Vow From Hiroshima." It follows survivor Setsuko Thurlow's 75-year journey from age 13 after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima to her global efforts for nuclear disarmament. The film is followed by a discussion with producer/writer Mitchie Takeuchi.

- **Where:** 100 Crescent Beach Road, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 1-2:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** hmtcli.org or (516) 571-8040

Art talk

Join contemporary artist Eric Dever at Nassau County Museum of Art. His vibrant, process-driven paintings explore material, movement, and transformation. Drawing inspiration from Surrealist techniques like decalomania and grattage, pioneered by Max Ernst and Jean Dubuffet, Dever reveals unexpected textures and forms that merge chance with intentional expression. \$20, \$15 seniors, \$10 students (members free). Limited seating, register in advance.

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

DEC 8 Holiday House Tour

There's no place like the Main House at Planting Fields for the holidays! Step inside this magnificent 65-room historic house-museum and experience the season at its most enchanting: where

history, nature, and imagination come together in dazzling displays of holiday décor. This year's Holiday House Tours highlight the beauty and sustainability of the estate of Planting Fields. Natural materials gathered from the 409-acre grounds take center stage, with invasive plants transformed into elegant garlands, vibrant citrus and pinecones adding color and warmth, and table settings created to honor each member of the Coe family. Each room tells a story, blending past traditions with the future of Planting Fields. \$25 guided tour, \$20 self-guided.

- **Where:** Main House, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** Varied for guided and self-guided tours, through Dec. 28
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

DEC 14 Ecotherapy Walk

Focus on deep rest and reflection as the year comes to a close with certified guide Linda Lombardo on an Ecotherapy Walk at Sands Point Preserve. Ecotherapy, also known as Forest Bathing, is not simply hiking in the woods, or a walk on a beach. The focus is on connection and relationship, allowing the heart to open to the beauty of the natural world, and at the same time, understand our belonging in that world. Register for individual walks or a series of three. \$135 for series of 3, \$120 members; \$49 per session, \$44 members.

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

DEC 31 Downtown Sounds New Year's Eve Music Crawl

The Glen Cove Downtown BID hosts a Downtown Sounds New Year's Eve Music Crawl. Concerts will be offered at various locations throughout downtown Glen Cove. Guests can enjoy performances and celebrations leading up to the New Year.

- **Where:** Downtown Glen Cove.
- **Time:** 5 p.m.-1 a.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 759-6970

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.

Israel's new book pits Einstein against Nazis

By WILL SHEELINE
wsheeline@liherald.com

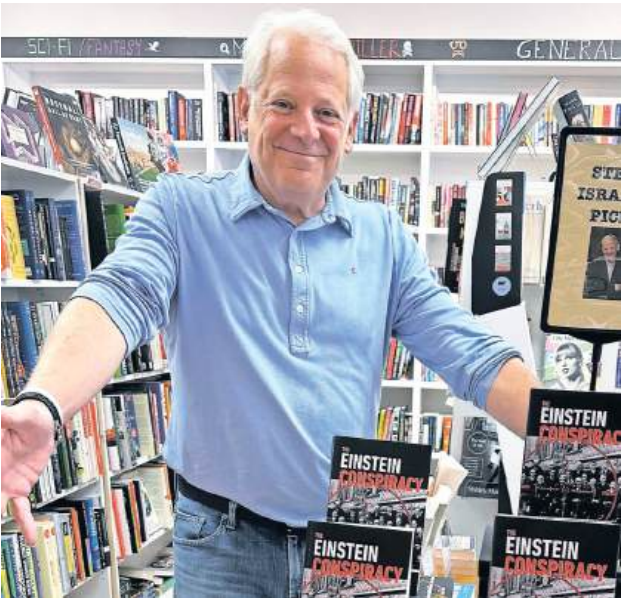
Steve Israel, the former congressman and owner of Theodore's Books on Audrey Avenue, has released a new novel that blends local history, international espionage and one of the most consequential scientific warnings of the 20th century. "The Einstein Conspiracy," which released on Nov. 18, follows a Nazi spy network on Long Island in 1939 as it attempts to stop Albert Einstein from alerting President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Germany's pursuit of an atomic bomb.

Israel, who represented Long Island in Congress for 16 years, said the story began with a moment of unexpected discovery. Several years ago, he was driving on the North Fork when he came across a small cottage he had never noticed. A nearby marker explained that Einstein had lived there briefly in 1939. In that cottage, the physicist drafted the letter that urged Roosevelt to accelerate American research into nuclear fission, a document that helped launch what became the Manhattan Project.

"Literally sitting in my car looking at that cottage the story came to me," Israel said. "I began thinking about what would have happened had he not sent that letter."

The novel imagines a team of Nazi agents operating in New York as the FBI races to stop them. Israel said the premise is rooted in fact. Israel said his research revealed details that surprised even him. He had long known of fascist sympathies in the United States before World War II, but was struck by how widespread the movement was.

"A rally at Madison Square Garden attracted 20,000 people," he said. "There was a community in Yaphank where the streets were named Adolf Hitler Street and Joseph Goering Street and swastika flags flew next to



Courtesy Theodore's Books

Steve Israel's new book, 'The Einstein Conspiracy,' follows Albert Einstein as Nazi agents try to prevent him from warning President Roosevelt about Germany's work on the atomic bomb.

American flags."

He also found an extensive Nazi spy network in the region.

"They were penetrating our military bases and our defense plants right here on Long Island," he said. "They would be ferried in and out by German ocean liners. They were so active that J. Edgar Hoover and Roosevelt made a decision that the FBI had to focus on them."

Einstein himself posed a challenge for Israel as a nov-

elist, who he said was often caricatured in American cultural memory. He wanted to portray a complex figure whose brilliance coexisted with stubbornness and human flaws.

Some of Einstein's lighter quirks also found their way into the book. He owned a fourteen foot sailboat he kept on Long Island's Peconic Bay, despite lacking the skills to manage it. "People had to go out and rescue him," Israel said, "because he could not manage the sailboat."

"The Einstein Conspiracy" is Israel's third book, but his first work of historical fiction. His earlier books were political satires written while he was still serving in Congress. He said the shift in genre required a different mindset.

"Political satire is writing with your tongue in your cheek and using humor to make a point," he said. "Historical fiction, particularly involving spy craft, is much different. You have to keep the reader on the edge of his or her seat, but it has to be plausible and feasible."

A major challenge was maintaining accuracy without slowing the pace of the narrative.

"When you write historic fiction, you risk writing nonfiction," he said. "Every day I had to be conscious of keeping the story moving without cheating the actual history."

Israel said he spent a full year researching the book and continued to reference source material as he wrote. His reading included works on Einstein, Nazi covert operations in America and Germany's own nuclear program. Much of the story unfolds across Long Island, a choice that Israel said feels natural given his own connection to the region.

"It is not just history. It is a thrilling adventure, but it rests on actual historic events that changed the world," he said. "And so much of it is local to Long Island."

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Neighborhood concerns sway Planning Board

November 27, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

explored a number of alternative locations, but other property owners were not interested or would have required taller, more intrusive structures that violated zoning laws or necessitated additional variances. In a Nov. 3 supplement, the company also submitted new radio-frequency data, responses to public comments and additional photo simulations.

She emphasized that the antenna met federal and local health standards for radiofrequency, or RF, emissions. According to the RF report submitted with the application, exposure levels would be 4.17 percent of the general-population limit at ground level and 21.40 percent on the rooftop.

"The Telecommunications Act ... provides that no state or local government ... can regulate on the basis of health and safety concerns if the RF limits are met," Clarke told the board, adding that Glen Cove's code mirrors FCC thresholds.

She also noted that objections based on property values are legally insufficient unless supported by substantial, empirical evidence — a standard Clarke said residents had not met. She cited several cases in New York and federal courts rejecting generalized fears as a legally sound reason for denial.

Planning Board Chairman Andrew Kaufman pushed back on AT&T's visual impact simulations.

"If you went into any of the backyards of those homes, the simulation would be quite different," Kaufman said of houses near the shopping center. "Taking a picture from across the street where the house blocks the view ... is not much of a simulation."

He also noted concerns that federal RF limits were based on "actual scientific study ... from the mid-1990s." While acknowledging that the limits are binding, he said that the age of the data was worth noting



Roksana Amid/Herald

A proposal to install an AT&T antenna on the roof of the Glen Cove Shopping Center, on Forest Avenue, was denied by the Planning Board.

on the record.

City consultant Joseph Macy said that he and Clarke had discussed alternatives earlier that day, including relocating the antenna toward the southeast corner of the roof or exploring architectural enclosures to reduce its visual impact.

"We did have a very productive discussion," Macy said, adding that both party's engineers were willing to continue evaluating adjustments. He also explained that the "shot clock" — a federal deadline for local review — had been extended by mutual agreement several times, but was set to expire on Nov. 18, raising the possibility of litigation if the board delayed action further.

Nearly a dozen residents spoke, many reiterating concerns expressed at prior meetings.

Lia Leone, a Glen Cove school district trustee who lives nearby, said she was alarmed by the antenna's proximity to the Gribbin School, which serves children ages 4 to 7.

"This decision is going to have impacts on our health and safety, our property values and the character of our community," Leone said. She urged the board to "err on the side of caution," adding, "We simply cannot have this tower in our backyard shadowing our children as they play on the playground."

Councilman-elect John Perrone questioned AT&T's photo simulations, and argued that Wi-Fi calling reduces the necessity of rooftop antennas in dense neighborhoods.

"The photographs that were submitted had no antennas on them," he said. "They were taken from areas so far away that ... I had to zoom in."

Perrone also warned that once a single carrier is approved, others typically follow — creating what he called an "antenna farm."

In September, Waller defended the proposal, telling the Herald that he signed the lease five years ago to address what he called a "dead area" for service stretching from Deasy School all the way to Locust Valley.

"It's in the back of the Rite Aid in the corner, and the trees are much higher than the antenna," Waller said, adding that he believed better service would benefit customers as well as emergency responders.

"If I thought it was harmful to the neighbors, I wouldn't do it," he said.

After its discussion, the board voted 5-0 to deny the application. While members acknowledged the increasing demand for wireless capacity, they said that the visual, neighborhood and siting concerns outweighed the benefits of the proposed location.

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Glen Head man has safety plan for cider mill 19

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

For decades, Glen Head resident Fritz Trinklein has watched cars line the shoulder of State Route 106 as crowds flock to the historic Jericho Cider Mill each fall. To Trinklein, the scene isn't simply one of seasonal congestion. It is a dangerous pattern that nearly cost his family dearly.

"My brother was almost killed," Trinklein said. "He was in the hospital a long time."

Really, what we're trying to do is save lives.

FRITZ TRINKLEIN
Glen Head

Fritz's then 25-year-old brother Hans was driving from his home to the family Thanksgiving gathering in Brookville in 1984 when a

vehicle leaving the cider mill broadsided him. After recovering from the accident, Hans left his accounting job to become a Lutheran pastor and professor, and now works at a ministry in Indiana. Fritz, 71, is an entrepreneur.

In the decades since the accident, Fritz said, nothing has been done to make parking in the area safer.

"We always go by there, especially around Thanksgiving, very nervous, because of all those cars all along the road there, and moms are pushing baby buggies and old people are walking," he said. "Meanwhile, cars are going 60 miles an hour past them."

The mix of speeding traffic on the route no available off-road parking and crowded pedestrian crossings has made the attraction a longstanding safety concern for the community.

Muttontown Mayor James Ligouri, who was one of the elected officials Trinklein has reached out to in an effort to address the problem, acknowledged the chronic traffic problems in the area, especially around the holidays.

"It's just the parking for it is right on 106 during busy times like now — at Thanksgiving and Halloween you just have enormous traffic, and there's not adequate parking," Ligouri said of the cider mill, which is known for 200 years of local apple and cider production. "It's right on 106, so it's always a safety issue."

Trinklein said he believes there is a solution. For more than a year, he has pushed local and state officials to support the creation of a dedicated parking area on a preserve of county-owned land adjacent to the cider mill. The land, he noted, is unused and currently inaccessible to the public.

"The preserve there doesn't have any parking, so the public really even can't get to the preserve," he said. "There's no parking area for the preserve."

Trinklein said he took the concept to county and state representatives, including Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, State Sen. Jack Mar-



Courtesy Fritz Trinklein

Fritz Trinklein's proposal would convert part of a currently unused and inaccessible preserve into a parking lot, with a stop light added on Route 106.

tins, members of the Assembly, county staff members and Muttontown village officials. Trinklein added that he was told by Deputy County Executive Joe Muscarella that the county has committed to the project. Blakeman's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The proposed parking area, Trinklein explained, would allow visitors to enter and exit at an existing traffic light that serves Jericho High School, eliminating the need for pedestrians to traverse Route 106.

County officials, he said, told him the project would require clearing brush and leveling a small rise on the preserved property. The parking surface would consist of grass pavers similar to those in another section of the Muttontown Preserve.

"There's another parking area that was put into another part of the preserve," Trinklein said. "They put these pavers in — if you've seen them, grass kind of grows between the pavers. It's a similar concept."

State officials have warned that they may need to ban parking on the shoulder entirely because Route 106 is a state road. Trinklein said that such a decision would be devastating.

"They're going to clamp down and not let anybody park on that shoulder because it's so dangerous," he said. "But that would be really deleterious to the cider mill, because there's no parking. I didn't want to advocate for closing down the cider mill for public safety."

In conversations with residents and officials, Trinklein has countered that his proposal would not intrude deep into the nearby protected woods. He



Will Sheeline/Herald

Fritz Trinklein, whose brother was nearly killed while driving past the Jericho Cider Mill on Thanksgiving 1984, has a proposal to make parking and exiting there safer, so what happened to his brother doesn't happen again.

added that the lack of existing public access to the preserve undermines its purpose.

He also emphasized that although the project would use public funds in support of a private business, everyone stands to benefit by making parking nearby safer.

"The parking area is to serve the public if it's in close proximity to the cider mill," he said. "Really, what we're trying to do is save lives."

The safety issue, he stressed, is visible daily. He has used drone footage to show the extent of the traffic buildup,

and during a recent visit to the site, he pointed out drivers darting across lanes to reach available shoulder space.

"See that guy, how he just came out and cut over to there?" he said. "That is a very dangerous move," he said.

Trinklein said he never expected to lead a public safety initiative, but he firmly believes in preserving the cider mill. "We love the cider mill," he said. "We want them to survive and to excel and grow. But there's an impediment here, and there's a solution to the impediment. And that's why I got involved."

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OPINIONS

Thanksgiving couldn't come at a better time

The spirit of Thanksgiving is particularly welcome and needed this year. Times are turbulent. Discord appears to be almost everywhere. Prices are still too high. The federal government has just gone through its longest and most bitter shutdown ever, with another one threatened

in less than three months.

The political divide continues, as Democrats scored overwhelming victories across the country, while Nassau Republicans, led by County Executive Bruce Blakeman, swept every countywide office and retained control

of the county's three towns and two cities — including Long Beach, where the GOP won every elective office for the first time since 1971. And while Nassau was voting bright red, New York City went deep blue, electing a committed socialist, Zohran Mamdani, as its mayor, promising to upend the city's political and social structures as we've known them.

Ideally in a time of discord and stress, the citizenry turns to sports as an escape, as an island of refuge in a sea

of turmoil. This time, though, no such luck. At least not yet. The Yankees were eliminated in the second round of the playoffs, while the Mets, with their astronomically high payroll, didn't even make it to the postseason, eliminated for the final playoff slot by the unheralded, low-income Cincinnati Reds.

Granted, there was temporary relief for baseball fans, as the World Series confrontation between the Dodgers and Blue Jays provided intense drama right down to the final out of the climactic seventh game. But that moment of escape was soon overtaken by what portends to be Major League Baseball's biggest and worst gambling scandal since the Black Sox scandal in 1919: Two relief pitchers for the Cleveland Guardians were arrested and charged with colluding with organized crime on "micro bets" — wagers on what type of pitches they would throw. This scandal, like the NBA betting scandal that preceded it just weeks earlier, is expected to expand, because of professional sports' extensive, and misguided, business dealings with the gaming industry.

Thank God for the arrival of Thanksgiving! Taking time to celebrate the spirit of the holiday, which gives us the opportunity to step back and reflect on

what we should be thankful for, is a true American tradition. As we learned in our early school days, legend has the earliest Thanksgiving being celebrated in 17th-century Colonial times between by the Pilgrims and native Indians in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The national celebration of Thanksgiving in November was proclaimed by President George Washington in 1789.

During the darkest days of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln certified the final Thursday of November as the official day for celebrating Thanksgiving. Later, after Americans endured the

depths of a Depression and as we got involved in the tragedy of World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt reaffirmed the significance of Thanksgiving while officially declaring the fourth Thursday of November to be the day of celebration. These actions by Lincoln and Roosevelt should be guideposts for Americans. Neither the absolute horror raging through our country during the Civil War, nor the economic devastation of the Depression, nor the carnage and suffering of World War II, would prevent Americans in those years from being thankful for, and appreciating, the blessings of living in this great land.

Not to minimize our current hard-

ships, but we should take the time to show our thanks for all that we do have. America is not at war. It provides more opportunity for its people than any other country on earth, as demonstrated by the tens of millions of people from all over the world who want to live here.

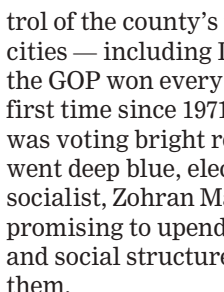
During my years in Congress, I traveled to many countries, mainly in Europe but also in parts of Asia and North Africa. There was no country that could match America for our ingenuity, industriousness and opportunity for generations of people to move upward and thrive. Often we fail to remember that the United States was the first nation to experiment with democracy since Greece many centuries ago, and how that experiment has worked so successfully.

There are reasons why America has the world's strongest economy and strongest military. That success results from our commitment not just to free enterprise but to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press and freedom of opportunity, which allow the human spirit to fully develop and thrive. So let's enjoy our blessings and give thanks for living in this great land. Happy Thanksgiving, and God bless America.

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



PETER KING



JERRY KREMER

late Paul Jackson, gave me an assignment: to read all of the social announcements and to distill them into a few short paragraphs.

By the time I turned 15, I was a paid employee, enjoying my \$10-a-week stipend, and I went on to become the principal reporter for the Independent and

the Long Beach Life. Later, during my years in the Assembly, I kept close working relationships with all of the weekly papers in my district, and assigned a full-time staff member to keep the weekly papers informed about my activities in Albany.

Every Friday, I make it a point to look for the latest news in the Herald. I read about the goings-on in five or six communities and read the opinion pages. I offer these details because many residents of our region don't always take advantage of the many items published in their local papers that are genuinely of interest.

While I have the greatest respect for the mass media, I learn from the weeklies about local athletes who may someday wind up on the national sports pages. Today's high school track star could eventually become a member of an Olympic team. People complain a lot about high taxes, but if they read their local paper, they would know that 60 percent of their tax bill is for the operation

of our schools.

I like to stay in touch with old friends, and sometimes I find out that they have experienced some great family

events thanks to my weekly paper. I also frequently learn that some potential countywide political battle has its roots in an action taken by a village or another municipal entity. So many people would be surprised to learn how much they can find out about local politics by subscribing to a weekly.

On a more somber note, I learn from weeklies that someone I met and liked has died. Too often we learn about family tragedies weeks and months after they occur, and realize that if we'd checked out a weekly paper, we would have known much sooner to reach out to the bereaved family.

When I meet some young man or woman who has decided to run for public office, one of the first things I tell them is not to ignore their weekly newspaper, and to make an effort to meet with its editors so they know about their

When you're a news junkie like me, you reach out for a large variety of sources of information. Finding and digesting the offerings of all these many outlets takes a lot of time, but there is one resource that I constantly rely on:

the weekly newspaper.

My love for the weekly goes back as far as when I was a bold 12-year-old who walked into the offices of the Long Island Independent and offered my services as a writer. Rather than usher me out the door, the publisher, the



late Paul Jackson, gave me an assignment: to read all of the social announcements and to distill them into a few short paragraphs.

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National news is great, but I learn the important stuff from the weeklies.

Weekly newspapers are a great community asset

just to budding candidates. I frequently advise federal and state officeholders to keep in touch with their weeklies.

A few years ago, a large group of weekly newspaper owners and editors converged on Albany in an effort to change how state laws govern those local weeklies. Not surprisingly, they were welcomed by members from both sides of the aisle who had learned well and understood the power of those news outlets.

If you want to do the right thing, subscribe to your local paper. (If you're reading this, I'd like to think you already have.) And if you're a local business owner, think about buying an ad.

I've been fortunate enough to be an unpaid columnist for the Herald for over 20 years, and I've wanted to write this tribute to weekly papers for the longest time. They need your support, and like any business that serves the community, they also merit your help in keeping them as a great asset.

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

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HERALD EDITORIAL

This Saturday, shop local

Held each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving — Nov. 29 this year — Small Business Saturday encourages consumers to shift their attention from big-box and giant online retailers to the locally owned businesses that are the backbone of our neighborhoods. These local businesses create jobs, spark innovation and keep more dollars circulating in the local economy, strengthening the very places we call home.

Founded by American Express in 2010 and embraced by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Small Business Saturday has grown into a nationwide tradition. It's nestled between the commercial frenzy of Black Friday and the digital deals of Cyber Monday, and it's crucial that all of us make a concerted effort to shop at our favorite corner store or buy a gift card for our beloved neighborhood restaurant.

The impact of Small Business Saturday, of course, reaches far beyond economics. When people support a local bookstore, bakery, boutique or service provider, they're investing in relationships and affirming the value of personal connection — the friendly wave from a shop owner who knows your name, the sense of pride in discovering a one-of-a-kind product crafted nearby, the feeling of belonging that comes from familiar streets buzzing with activity. These are experiences you simply can't replicate

with anonymous online transactions.

Small Business Saturday reminds us that thriving communities don't happen by accident — they grow through intentional support and shared commitment. By shopping local, we help build vibrant neighborhoods where businesses and residents lift one another up, strengthening the community fabric, one small shop at a time.

Small businesses account for a significant portion of job creation across the country, and on Long Island they are essential to the economic ecosystem. When shoppers choose small over large, more money stays in the community. Studies show that when you shop at a small, locally owned business, more of your money stays here on Long Island — supporting infrastructure, schools and friends, and even reducing your tax burden. For every \$100 spent at a small business, about \$67 stays in the community. At a large chain, only about \$43 does.

But most importantly, small businesses help define the identity of a place. Neighborhoods with bustling local shops tend to have stronger social ties, safer streets and greater civic engagement. Choosing to support a local business is choosing to support a stronger, more connected community.

Participating in Small Business Saturday is simple and enjoyable. Consumers explore local shops, take part in spe-

cial promotions, share their experiences on social media and leave positive reviews of their favorite spots. Spot a great bargain? Tell a friend! These small actions have big ripple effects, helping local entrepreneurs gain visibility, attract new customers and employ local workers.

Business owners can prepare for Small Business Saturday by using free marketing materials provided by the SBA and American Express, such as fliers, posters and social media graphics. Local governments, chambers of commerce and community groups also do their part by organizing events, hosting holiday markets, and creating interactive maps to guide residents to participating businesses. Many of the best local businesses and deals can be found right here, on the pages of the Herald, or at LIHerald.com.

This Saturday, Long Islanders have the opportunity to demonstrate what makes our communities so special: We show up for our neighbors and they show up for us. Our local small businesses are the ones donating to school fundraisers, sponsoring youth sports teams, hosting community events, providing teenagers with summer jobs, and paying taxes that help keep our local downtowns alive.

So shop local, Long Island — because when small businesses thrive, we all prosper.

LETTERS

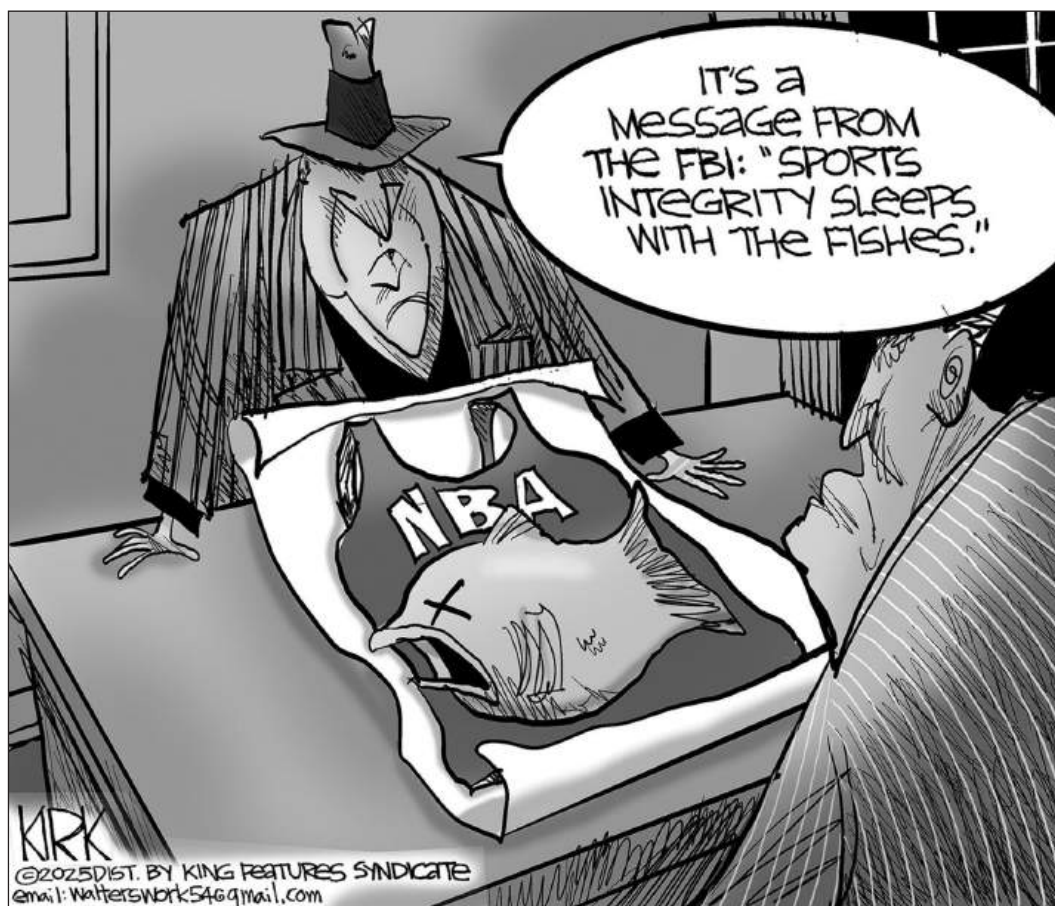
Grateful for your continued support

To the Editor:

With the 2025 election behind us, I wanted to thank the voters of District 11 for re-electing me to serve another term as your Nassau County legislator.

Your support empowers me to lead the Democratic caucus in the fight to preserve the Legislature as a coequal branch of county government, combat the opioid crisis, prevent wasteful spending, preserve and protect the environment, and ensure that every community receives the attention and resources it needs from county government to thrive.

My public service journey during the last two decades has been one of the most fulfilling chapters of my life, and I am deeply humbled that you have once again entrusted me with the opportunity to advocate for your needs in 2026. I wish you, your families and your loved ones a blessed and abundant holiday season, and I look forward to working with you in the new



OPINIONS

Trump's wrecking ballroom

Imagine: You co-own a lovely 233-year-old home, furnished with heirlooms, with property and gardens admired by all. You and your co-owners love this house. In keeping with longstanding tradition, you allow an employee and his family, selected by the majority of your group, to live in it.

The terms are that the tenants may live in the house rent-free as long as they welcome visitors, bar criminals from the property and, when the rental period is over, vacate the premises.

A few months after moving in, however, the latest tenant, without permission or consultation,

demolishes one-fifth of the house and hires contractors to build an addition that will be used for his private parties. He tells the contractors not to worry; the house really belongs to him. And he tells you and your co-owners that when the time comes for him to move out, he may simply decide to stay.

You are in a bind. If you object, some will see you as being overly critical of a bold and adventurous man. If you say

nothing, you have in effect given him permission to demolish the home, discard its contents and history and thumb his nose in contempt at the people who are letting him live there.

You know where this is heading.

To be fair, Donald Trump is not the first president to make dramatic modifications to the White House. In 1902, Theodore Roosevelt built what is now called the West Wing to accommodate a rapidly growing executive staff and to create separation between the workspace and the Roosevelt family's private quarters.

In 1942, Franklin Roosevelt authorized the construction of the East Wing. The government's day-to-day operations had expanded exponentially during World War II. There was a need for more space for larger international conferences. The East Wing also had offices for the first lady's staff, areas for public events, and a shelter for wartime security.

By 1948, the 156-year old White House was in need of significant repairs. Wooden beams were rotting and the entire infrastructure needed updating. President Harry Truman called for steel beams, concrete, mod-

ern wiring and plumbing. The renovations were not without controversy. When builders installed the "Truman Balcony," some objected to the \$16,000 price tag (around \$215,000 today); others argued that it wasn't a good look to

add a private terrace to the world's most public house. But every president since then has enjoyed using the balcony for relaxation and for greeting people gathered on the South Lawn.

Back to the present.

Trump recently authorized the demolition of the East Wing. He wanted a ballroom that could hold 650 people; the price would be around \$200 million.

Then he announced that the new space would be "slightly larger" — 90,000 square feet, to accommodate 900 guests, at a cost in excess of \$300 million. Trump has often said that for major events, he wants a permanent, grand space similar in size and style to his Mar-a-Lago ballroom. His guests, Trump says, will pay "a lot of money" for the privilege of gathering in "my beautiful ballroom."

Protests have come from Republicans and Democrats who question both the stated exclusivity of the new space and its exorbitant cost at a time when people

are losing health insurance, food-assistance programs and general buying power. Trump has responded that he doesn't need anyone's permission to change one of the world's most historically significant national monuments.

Asked whether he intends to name the ballroom after himself, Trump has replied that he hasn't "really thought about it." About the price, he has said repeatedly, "I'll pay for it myself." But the fact is, he won't. Wealthy patrons have already stepped in to cover the cost, treating the renovation as an open invitation to buy influence.

Trump has always called himself a builder. But builders strengthen foundations; they don't bulldoze symbols of public life to erect shrines to themselves. He seems to have no interest in building *on* the past to create something lasting for others; instead he is building *over* it, as if erasure were the surest form of legacy. The question isn't how to undo the demolition work, but how long Americans can afford to pretend that it doesn't matter. The Trump ballroom will open, the guests will arrive and the message will be that the People's House has less and less room for the people who own it.

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



**MICHAEL
BLITZ**

LETTERS

year to make Nassau County an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
*Minority leader,
Nassau County Legislature
Glen Cove*

Jack Martins got
No Kings all wrong

To the Editor:

I read State Sen. Jack Martins' piece in the Nov. 13-19 issue, "There are no kings here," with amusement — and annoyance. Martins completely mischaracterized the point of the recent No Kings demonstrations, in which I and many I know participated, without input from "deep-pocketed special interests."

We understand and accept

(sadly) that Donald Trump was elected. It is his behavior — his blatant attempt to circumvent or neutralize the supposedly co-equal branches of government, his disregard for virtually all norms, his embrace of autocrats and their methods, his vulgar disparagement of anyone who disagrees with him — that makes his imperial aspirations clear.

No, he is *not* a king, but he wishes he were, and that anything he says and desires should become de facto reality. He has even mused about a third term.

The protests were intended to express opposition to his tendencies, which, if not opposed, will certainly lead to the diminution of civil discourse and democratic processes.

RICHARD B. SCHWARZ
Bayville

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Singing "Master of the House" in Hewlett High School's production of "Les Misérables."

**Comments about our stories?
Send letters to the editor to
execeditor@liherald.com**

A GREAT REPUTATION IS EARNED

If you want a broker who “gets it,” stop scrolling and call Molly — she knew when to push, when to pull back, when to tell me to breathe...She was right every time.

Molly handled the search, negotiation, and closing with a level of professionalism that made me feel like I had a Navy SEAL of real estate on my side. She respected my time, understood my chaos, and worked with the kind of efficiency and clarity that made the entire process shockingly smooth.

If you’re looking for someone who is honest, smart, responsive, deeply knowledgeable, and genuinely invested in getting you the right home, Molly is the real deal.

-C. Moss



PERSONAL SUCCESS OF 2025:

SOLD

13 HANSEN PL, SEA CLIFF
\$2,015,000

41 GLEN AVE, SEA CLIFF
\$1,745,000

15 BRANDING IRON LN, GLEN COVE
\$1,010,000

4 CHESTNUT AVE, GLEN HEAD
\$988,000

36 HARWOOD DR, GLEN COVE
\$1,099,000

71 PARK PL, SEA CLIFF
\$725,000

100 GLEN COVE RD, GREENVALE
\$1,400,000

5 BERKELEY PL, SEA CLIFF
\$1,200,000

43 SCUDDERS LN, GLEN HEAD
\$985,000

180 BROWN ST, SEA CLIFF
\$649,000

31 9TH AVE, SEA CLIFF
\$760,000

PENDING SALE

5 MARINA LN, EAST PATCHOGUE
Last Ask: \$1,379,000

9 MAPLE AVE, SEA CLIFF
LAST ASK: \$1,299,000

7 RANSOM AVE, SEA CLIFF
LAST ASK: \$899,000

16 LAMARCUS AVE, GLEN COVE
LAST ASK: \$1,299,000



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