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**Holiday Wrapping Paper Inside**  
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**The season of giving**  
Page 8



**Cider Mill has all the fall flavors**  
Page 10

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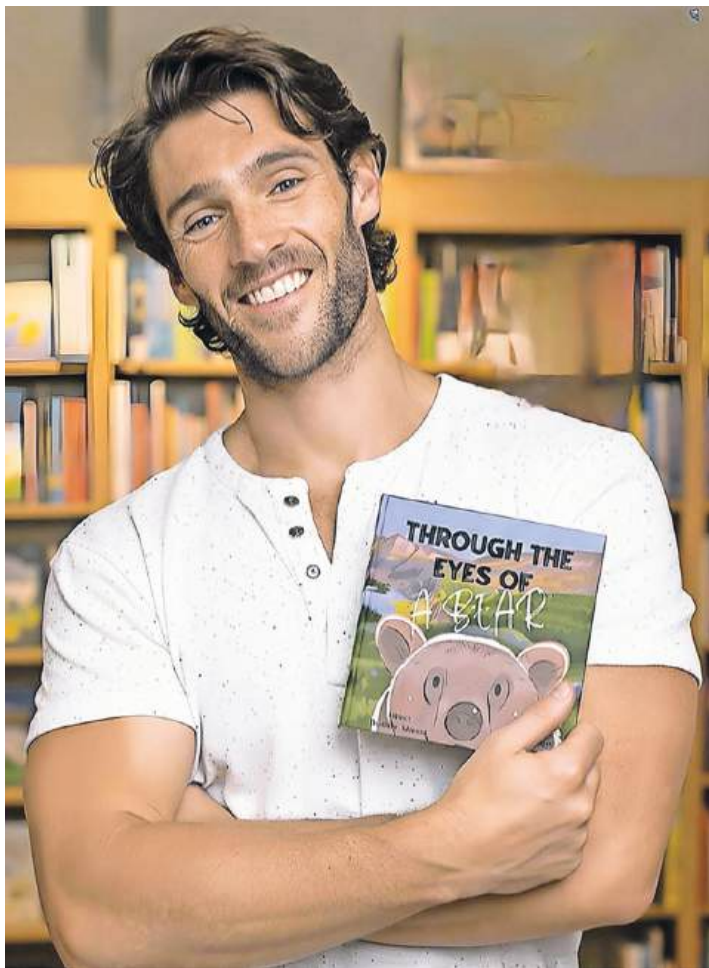
VOL. 34 NO. 49

DECEMBER 4 - 10, 2025

\$1.00

## Officer turned author debuts heartwarming book

In celebration of his book's official launch, Derek Valance, an officer in the Glen Cove Police Department, held a book signing on Nov. 18 at The Shoppe by Trubee Hill in Glen Cove, where he sold 99 copies. Story, Page 3.



Courtesy Derek Valance

## City Council is split as stalled Villa project earns extension

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

For the third year in a row, the Glen Cove City Council narrowly approved a building permit extension for the long-stalled Glen Cove Villa apartment complex — an increasingly controversial project that has left a massive excavation pit on Glen Cove Avenue with little visible progress. The 4-3 vote on Nov. 25 once again pushed forward the \$65 million, 176-unit rental development, with Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck casting the deciding vote.

The project, led by Glen Cove Villa LLC, was first approved in 2021. Since then, work at the

site, at 135 Glen Cove Ave., has stalled repeatedly as funding issues, ownership restructuring and missed milestones have fueled public frustration. Several council members who voted no echoed sentiments heard throughout the community, said they saw no meaningful progress to justify granting yet another extension.

Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, who voted against the measure, reminded her colleagues that the same debate took place a year ago.

"I also want to see something built," she said. "I am sick of looking at this hole. I think this whole community is sick of looking at this hole."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

## Is a cannabis smoking ban coming soon?

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

A proposal to ban public marijuana smoking and vaping in Glen Cove has drawn strong opinions from residents, law enforcement officials and public health advocates as officials weigh local regulation that are opposed to New York state's legalization framework.

The City Council introduced the measure at its Nov. 25 meeting, with members agreeing to keep the public hearing open until Dec. 9 to allow additional feedback. The proposed law states that "no person shall smoke or vape any marijuana or cannabis product in any outdoor public place within the jurisdictional limits of the city." Violations would carry a penalty of community service or a fine of up to \$250.

City Attorney Tip Henderson explained that the legislation would apply to outdoor public spaces, including private businesses that make their premises accessible to the pub-

lic. Henderson noted that the city's SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, which is dedicated to substance-use prevention, had convened several times to craft the language.

Detective Brian Glennon, of the Glen Cove Police Department, who also serves on the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition told

**I think there are greater issues that Glen Cove should be looking at.**

**LESLIE LEMPEL-FERRANTE**  
Resident

council members that officers have seen a significant increase in public marijuana consumption. He likened the proposed restriction to existing laws prohibiting open alcohol consumption. "Alcohol is intoxicating. Marijuana, in a different way, is also intoxicating," Glennon said,

adding that the goal is to minimize exposure, particularly around children and families.

The discussion comes at a time when marijuana use is steadily rising nationwide. According to the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 22.3 percent of people age 12 or older — 64.2 million Americans — reported using

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# FORGOT WHERE YOU PUT YOUR WALLET?

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# Derek Valance debuts new children's book <sup>3</sup>

By DANIEL OFFNER

Special to the Herald

Derek Valance, a lifelong Glen Cove native, police officer and former Navy SEAL, can now add published children's author to his list of accomplishments.

Valance, 36, recently released his debut children's book, "Through the Eyes of a Bear," which follows a bear on an adventure that teaches young readers about curiosity, courage and the natural world.

He said the idea came to him when he was in high school, but that he wasn't really driven to pursue publishing it at the time.

"When you're a kid in high school you don't really think about that stuff," he said. "So, I didn't do anything with it. Time went by and life went on."

Eventually, he found time to spare between leaving the Navy and beginning a career in law enforcement, and decided to revisit the concept.

Valance said he set out to write the story in the kind of voice children are typically read to.

"So I started writing it in that sense, and it came somewhat naturally to me," he said.

He got cracking and began researching different animals and their character traits. Out of all the animals he considered, Valance said that the bear felt the most relatable.

"I liked the bear because it's independent and strong, but also cuddly and approachable," he said. "Kids can connect with it, and parents have no problem sharing it with them."

Bringing the book to fruition required persistence and a lot of help. After going through the process of getting it copyrighted and edited, he was able to secure a publisher and worked with an illustrator to bring his vision to life.

The motivation, he said, was simple — stop putting things off.

"I told myself if I didn't do it now, I might never do it," he said. "Tomorrow never actually comes. It's always today."

In celebration of his book's official launch, Valance held a book signing at The Shoppe by Trubee Hill in downtown Glen Cove, on Nov. 18, where he sold 99 copies. The store's owners, Ian and Adam Siegel, helped promote the event and continue to carry the book.

Valance said his first book is dedicated to his mother, Jean Anne, whom he describes as a "ray of sunshine," and that he plans on dedicating his next book to his father, who died nearly 10 years ago.

"I learned a lot about these animals while writing, and I thought it would be fun for kids to learn too," he said.

Before becoming a children's book author and police officer, Valance spent eight years as a Navy SEAL, during which he was stationed around the world — from Switzerland to Somalia, Italy to Cameroon.

"Seeing the world was one of the main reasons I joined the Navy," he said.

He transitioned directly into law enforcement at the end of 2019, grateful to begin a stable career without a gap between paychecks. Although he valued his time in the Navy, he said it wasn't a lifestyle conducive to starting a family.

Back in Glen Cove, everything began to fall into place. He is now engaged and living in the house where he grew up, with family nearby — including his brother Owen, who followed him into both the Navy and the police force and now lives just up the street.

Valance has also been recognized for his service



The Shoppe owners Ian and Adam Siegel, left, with Glen Cove City Mayor Pam Panzenbeck and children's book author Derek Valance.

Photos courtesy Derek Valance



Valance and his fiancée, Kerri Martin, at the book-signing event at The Shoppe on Nov. 18.



Valance is joined by his nephew, Archer Valance, at his book-signing event on Nov. 18.

and leadership.

In February 2024, he received the Tribute & Honor Foundation's Impact Award for his contributions to both country and community.

He and Owen have twice completed a 22-mile kayak journey across Long Island Sound to raise funds for veterans and first responders. He has also been formally recognized by the New York State Senate and continues to mentor young people, veterans and first responders.

In addition to writing and policing, Valance returned to school to pursue a master's degree in psychology and a mental health counselor license. He hopes to specialize in trauma therapy for veterans,

first responders and others coping with high-stress experiences.

Valance already has plans for a follow-up book, which will focus on either a pigeon or a wolf. "I want to keep exploring animals that kids see every day, or maybe a creature they wouldn't expect," he said. "The goal is to make learning about the world fun and engaging."

Through his book, Valance said he hopes to inspire children to stay curious, embrace learning and find courage in their own lives.

To learn more about Valance and his new children's book, "Through the Eyes of a Bear" visit [DerekValanceBooks.com](http://DerekValanceBooks.com).



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### Estate Planning for the Estranged Child (Part One)

All too often a client comes in with a sad tale about an estranged child. Naturally, they are at a loss as to what to do about the situation when it comes to leaving that child an inheritance.

Years ago, the famous advice columnist Ann Landers wrote that her all time most requested column for reprint was on this very subject. Ann wrote that an inheritance should be considered a gift and that if the gift is not deserved one should not be expected. While that may have been good advice at the time and perhaps still is in most cases, like many things it is more complicated today.

In practice, we find that many of these once loving sons and daughters have married individuals with borderline or narcissistic personality disorders. Their spouses are manipulative and controlling. They seek to separate the loving son or daughter from their family so as to better control their spouse. The estranged child knows from experience that going against the wishes of their narcissistic spouse is like throwing

gasoline on a fire — so they go along to get along.

Why does this happen? The manipulator has an enormous advantage over the clients' son or daughter. The manipulator is a professional, having been this way all their life, honing their skills. The estranged son or daughter is an amateur — they have no experience in being manipulated. It may take years for them to even understand they are being manipulated and then more years, if ever, to build up defenses to the manipulation.

When young children are involved, the estranged child well knows the adverse consequences of having any normal relationship with their children should they seek a divorce from the narcissist.

Our advice is to try to understand and be compassionate with an estranged son or daughter in this situation. An Inheritance Protection Trust (IPT), that may only be used for them and your grandchildren, managed by either a sibling or a professional, may be the answer to such a heart-rending situation.

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## CRIME WATCH

### ARRESTS

■ A 35-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 26 for criminal mischief and menacing on Ridge Road.

■ A 28-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Nov. 27 for driving while intoxicated and operating a vehicle without a license on Brewster Street.

■ A 49-year-old Bayville woman was arrested on Nov. 27 for driving while intoxicated and unsafe lane change on Frost Pond Road.

■ A 19-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Nov. 28 for driving while

intoxicated, illegally tinted windows, unsafe lane change, and obstructed vision on The Place.

■ A 31-year-old Port Washington man was arrested on Nov. 29 for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, criminal possession of a controlled substance, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, nontransparent windows, no inspection, and no insurance on Albin Street.

■ A 35-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Dec. 1 for petit larceny on Dickson 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 BRIEFS

### Holiday house tour returns to Oyster Bay

Planting Fields Arboretum is celebrating the season with its annual Holiday House Tour, now open through December 28 at the estate's historic Main House in Oyster Bay. The 65-room mansion, once home to the Coe family, has been adorned with festive décor that blends tradition with environmental mindfulness.

This year's theme emphasizes sustainability, featuring decorations crafted from natural materials gathered across the estate's 409 acres. Invasive plants have been transformed into elegant garlands, while citrus, pinecones, and other seasonal elements bring color

and warmth to each room. Special table settings honor individual members of the Coe family, adding historical context to the visual displays.

Visitors can choose from guided or self-guided tours, priced at \$25 and \$20, respectively. The experience offers an engaging way to explore both the architectural beauty of the Main House and the estate's commitment to ecological stewardship.

For details, visit [plantingfields.org](http://plantingfields.org) or call (516) 922-9210.

—Roksana Amid

### Screening of The Vow From Hiroshima

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County will host a rare screening of The Vow From Hiroshima, a documentary tracing survivor Setsuko Thurlow's experience from the 1945 atomic bombing through her lifelong advocacy for nuclear disarmament.

A discussion with producer and writer Mitchie Takeuchi follows the film. The event takes place Dec. 7 from 1–2:30 p.m. at 100 Crescent Beach Road, Glen Cove. Contact: [hmtcl.org](http://hmtcl.org) or (516) 571-8040.

—Roksana Amid

GLEN COVE

# HERALD

### HOW TO REACH US

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The Glen Cove Herald USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Subscriptions: \$52 per year auto pay or \$65 one time payment within Nassau county (excluding qualified zip codes) or \$76 outside of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 Copyright © 2025 Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

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# 6 New York Islanders support families in need

## Islanders' Children's Foundation, UBS distribute 200 meals to locals ahead of the holidays

By JORDAN VALLONE  
jvallone@liherald.com

The New York Islanders' Children's Foundation, in partnership with UBS, purchased and distributed 200 meals on Nov. 24 to local families ahead of Thanksgiving. The Islanders' Children's Foundation partners with local community groups and nonprofit organizations, including Island Harvest, Long Island Cares, Veteran Beacon House, Gateway Youth Outreach and Rock and Wrap it Up, to identify families in need.

The distributed meals were purchased from Stew Leonard's and included a turkey, four sides, dessert and dinner rolls. Volunteers from UBS and members of the New York Islanders, including former player Butch Goring, and Islanders defenseman Ryan Pulock, as well as other significant others were onsite to distribute meals.

In a press package, shared with the Herald by the New York Islanders, Pulock said, "It's special to have this opportunity just to do something small, make people smile, make families be able to come together and have a nice meal together. That's what it's all about."

The Islanders Children's Foundation, a registered nonprofit, was created in 2003 under the leadership of late-Island-



Butch Goring, center, legendary player with the New York Islanders, helped distribute 200 meals to local families on Nov. 24.

ers owner Charles Wang, who had a passion to help children and provide them with the best opportunities to live happy, healthy and successful lives.

Its mission is dedicated to serving local communities, now and in the future. It supports, educates and develops area youth while investing in local

families and community wellbeing. The foundation also supports nonprofit organizations that share its common mission, developing programs that create a lasting legacy.

Current ownership shares Wang's values, and is committed to being a leader in the philanthropic causes that continue to make the Children's Foundation a staple in the Long Island community. The Children's Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2023.

Goring, in a video package shared with the Herald, said the appreciation of community members served was "very obvious."

"Everybody is very thankful to be able to go home and share a meal, not only with themselves, but certainly with friends," he said.

Athletes, he added, are in a position to give back.

"I think all of us athletes, we recognize that we're fortunate," he said. "We don't have to worry about our next meal. It's going to be there for us. There are many people who are less fortunate, so when you can help out and make Thanksgiving, which is such a special day, and you can make that a little more special for them — it has a lot of merit."

For more on the work of the Islanders Children's Foundation, visit [NHL.com/Islanders](https://nhl.com/Islanders).

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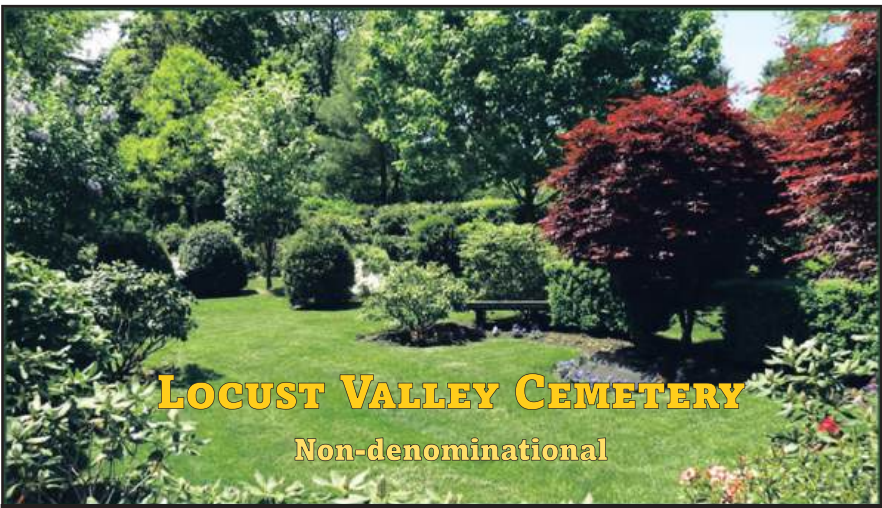
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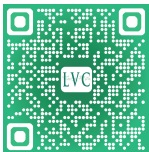
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Courtesy North Shore Kiwanis

The organization, located at 15 Hill Street in Glen Cove, delivers groceries to hundreds of families each week and distributes specially prepared “NOSH Bags” filled with wholesome food.

# N.S. Kiwanis donates to NOSH Delivers

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
[ramid@liherald.com](mailto:ramid@liherald.com)

The North Shore Kiwanis Club recently demonstrated its commitment to addressing food insecurity in the community by donating \$1,000 to NOSH Delivers, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting families in need. Founded in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, NOSH Delivers continues to provide critical assistance to families who struggle with access to nutritious food.

The organization, located at 15 Hill Street in Glen Cove, delivers groceries to hundreds of families each week and distributes specially prepared “NOSH Bags” filled with wholesome food. These efforts ensure that families facing economic challenges have access to healthy meals, especially during difficult times.

The Kiwanis Club’s donation was presented during a recent gathering attended by both Kiwanis members and NOSH Delivers leadership. Pictured at the presentation are Kiwanis President Chris Salmon; Distinguished Past President (DPP) John Kle; NOSH Delivers Executive Director Margaret Myhan; Kiwanis member Barbara Black, who also volunteers weekly with NOSH; Kiwanis Vice President Chris Bartlet; and DPP Doug Barnaby.

NOSH Delivers relies on the generosity of local organizations, volunteers, and community members to maintain its programs. Contributions like the one from the North Shore Kiwanis Club help sustain grocery deliveries, expand outreach, and provide families with essential resources throughout the year.

For more information about NOSH Delivers or to learn how to volunteer or donate, visit: [noshdelivers.org](http://noshdelivers.org).



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## OBITUARY

# James A. Dunne

March 7 1955 -November 18, 2025

Beloved son of the late James R. and Natalie M. Dunne  
Brother of Patricia Yeomans (Michael Bono), and the late Carol A. Caggiano (the late Vincent J. Caggiano) Uncle of David Caggiano, Carrie Rieder (John) and Raymond Yeomans, Great Uncle of Seraphina, Luke, and Olivia.

Visitation was Friday November 28, 2025 at 10:30am.  
McLaughlin Kramer Megiel, 220 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY  
Private Internment at L.I. National Cemetary

1326743



## OBITUARIES

### Giovani Vilella

Giovanni Villa, 87 of Glen Cove, died on Nov. 22. Beloved husband of Ida; loving father of Domenico, Joseph (Anna), Gianni (Deborah), Marianna (Christopher), and Sarina (Michael); proud

grandfather of Julia, Sophia, Giavanna, Cristina, Alexandra, Serena, Maxwell, Molly, Rocco, Emilia, and Michael. Services entrusted to Dodge Thomas Funeral Home.

### Sandra Janosick

Sandra Janosick, 70, died on Nov. 25. Beloved wife of Gary; adored mother of Rachel and the late Robert; also survived by her loving mother, Anise Cherry, and predeceased by her father, the late Robert. Dear sister of Debra Horow-

itz and Laraine Cherry; proud grandmother of Emily. Sandra was an avid knitter who enjoyed music and word searches. Services entrusted to Dodge Thomas Funeral Home.

### Mary Jane Collins

Mary Jane Collins, 78, of Glen Cove, died on Nov. 22. Wife of James P.; mother of Christian Sr. and Jason; grandmother of Stephanie, Christian Jr., Taylor, Melanie, Zachary, and Hunter; great-grandmother of Amaya and Jas-

mine. Visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 3-5 p.m., with reflections commencing at 4:30 p.m. Services entrusted to Dodge Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove.

### Moe Bordwin

Moe Bordwin, 89, died peacefully on Oct. 30. Beloved husband of 68 years to Rochelle; loving father of Harold (Julie), Janet (Eric Gallant), and Matthew (Danielle); cherished grandfather of Jesse (Gwendolyn Towers), Simon (Robbie Blue), Charlie (Arden Kreeger), Ethan (Rebecca), Jared, Izzy (Peyton Don), Callie, and Mia; and proud great-grandfather of Madelyn Paige and Sophia Rose.

A Bronx native, Moe built a meaningful life in Glen Cove, was devoted to Congregation Tifereth Israel, and enjoyed lifelong ties to Surprise Lake Camp. He had a distinguished career in real estate bankruptcy and was respected for his generosity, wisdom, and care for others. Services entrusted to Dodge Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove.

### Maria D. Di Gesu

Maria D. Di Gesu, 97, of Glen Cove, died on Nov. 21. Beloved wife of the late Basilio; loving mother of Pasquale (Lina), Rose Sullivan, and the late Cathy (Nick Condoleo); dear sister of Gaetano

Valenti; proud grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of twelve. Services at Dodge Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove.

### Rowell T. Bencio

Rowell T. Bencio, 54, of Glen Cove, died on Nov. 16. Loving father of Cassidy; dear brother of Rodrigo (Joy), Rolando (Norma), Rowena (Bernie), and Rodel

(Dolly); also survived by many nieces and nephews. Rowell was a proud employee of Glen Cove High School for 36 years and enjoyed traveling, singing,

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Photos courtesy Lora Cusumano

Members of the Glen Cove Beautification Commission and Shore Road Neighbors unveil the newly installed gateway features—complete with pilings, native plantings.

# New gateway transforms Shore Road entrance

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

The long-awaited transformation of the Shore Road and Glen Cove Avenue intersection has officially taken shape, unveiling a nautical-themed gateway that residents say marks a defining moment for one of the area's most heavily traveled waterfront corridors. The project—supported by a nearly \$10,000 grant from the PSEG Long Island Community Thrive Program—was spearheaded by the Glen Cove Beautification Commission and Shore Road Neighbors, the community group founded by Glen Cove resident Lora Cusumano.

Cusumano, who also serves as chair of the Beautification Commission, created Shore Road Neighbors to bring attention, collaboration, and improvements to a roadway shared by both Glen Cove and the Village of Sea Cliff. She said seeing the new landscaping and signage finally installed felt like a milestone years in the making. “This is what I always envisioned and just in time for Thanksgiving—and it feels like a dream come true and I am so grateful,” she said. “Our mission has always been about bringing Safety, Beauty, and Enjoyment to our waterfront community. This project is not only a celebration of that vision, but a powerful symbol of community pride.”

The upgraded gateway includes custom-carved welcome signs, nautical-style pilings wrapped with rope, perennial drought-resistant plantings, ornamental grasses, and more than 500 spring bulbs that will bloom in 2026. The installation was completed by Laderer & Sons Landscape. “Bill Laderer went above and beyond. He’s not only a professional, but a Shore Road Neighbor who cares deeply about our area,” Cusumano said. Additional support



New nautical-themed landscaping and custom “Welcome to Shore Road” signage now anchor the corner of Shore Road and Glen Cove Avenue, marking a major beautification milestone for the waterfront corridor shared by Glen Cove and Sea Cliff.

came from local property owners who allowed the enhancements on their corners, A+ Graphics & Signs, and RXR Realty, which donated leftover piling materials.

Cusumano explained that she had imagined a sign at the corner long before forming Shore Road Neighbors. “I’ve always dreamt about doing the sign, since I started, before I started even doing Shore Road Neighbors,” she said. “I just thought it would always be nice to have something there because the corner was not the most attractive.” Beyond beautification, she said the updated design may discourage tractor-trailers from mistakenly cutting through Shore Road, a persistent problem for the narrow residential corridor. “I felt like [the sign] would make it look more residential, and maybe some of the tractor trailers would think twice before cutting through the street... then they end up backing down our road

because they can’t do the hairpin turn at the end,” she said.

Residents and officials say the new gateway also serves a broader purpose: setting the tone for what lies ahead. As Nassau County, Glen Cove, and Sea Cliff prepare for the upcoming Nassau County Shore Road Drainage, Paving, and Streetscaping Project—one of the largest infrastructure investments in the county—Cusumano said this new landmark reflects the type of environment the community hopes to see expanded throughout the corridor.

The grant itself represents the kind of partnership PSEG Long Island aims to foster. “PSEG Long Island’s Community Thrive grants provide business community organizations the ability to finance projects like this one to enhance their community,” said Veronica Isaac, Manager of Customer and Community Partnerships. “We are excited to see the positive impact this new landmark will



The corner of Shore Road and Glen Cove Avenue before the project, marked by sparse landscaping and an uninviting streetscape.

have on the community.”

The gateway also marks the launch of the Glen Cove Neighborhood Beautification & Awareness Program, introduced by the Beautification Commission in summer 2025. Cusumano said she used Shore Road Neighbors to pilot the effort. “I actually used Shore Road Neighbors as like a guinea pig... to start to get it going for other neighborhoods around the area,” she said. The initiative encourages residents citywide to form beautification teams, apply for microgrants, organize cleanups, plant native species, and—if they choose—even create gateway signs of their own. “We want to be able to help them be Glen Cove Beautification,” she said.

Cusumano said she hopes the new sign inspires improvements far beyond Shore Road. “We’d love to see teams form in neighborhoods across Glen Cove,” she said. “Shore Road Neighbors is just the beginning.”





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\$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 9<sup>TH</sup> AVE, SEA CLIFF**  
\$760,000

### PENDING SALE

**5 MARINA LN, EAST PATCHOGUE**  
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LAST ASK: \$1,299,000

**7 RANSOM AVE, SEA CLIFF**  
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**16 LAMARCUS AVE, GLEN COVE**  
LAST ASK: \$1,299,000



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## 12 Cider mill continues two centuries of tradition

By WILL SHEELINE & ROKSANA AMID

wsheeline@liherald.com

Jericho Cider Mill, a landmark business that has pressed apples for more than two centuries, continues to draw crowds as it blends tradition with new offerings under the stewardship of its current owners, the Ketsoglou family.

The Town of Oyster Bay recently dedicated a historical marker at the mill in October, celebrating its documented history dating back to 1820. Supervisor Joseph Saladino called the mill “a true legacy and a piece of our Town’s heart and soul,” noting that while equipment has changed, its commitment to fresh ingredients and preservative free recipes has not.

Owner Kerry Ketsoglou said being part of that legacy has been both meaningful and humbling.

“It is great, because there are not that many places like this that exist anymore,” he said.

He noted that the mill predates the Jericho post office and still holds two official addresses as a result. The recognition, he said, reflects how deeply the mill is woven into the community’s history.

Ketsoglou and his father, Ted, took ownership of the mill 11 years ago after a fellow member of the Jericho Fire Department connected them with the previous owner, who was looking to retire. The family had long been local



All of the mill’s apples come from New York State exclusively according to owners.

customers. Ketsoglou grew up in Jericho, attended high school across the street and recalls waiting in line during Thanksgiving season “just like everybody else.”

Though neither had farm experience, the family brought a background in ice cream manufacturing. They used that knowledge to expand the mill’s offerings, which now include homemade ice cream, scooped ice cream in the summer and an expanded selection of jams, jellies and baked goods.

“We now offer homemade ice cream apple cider donuts, which is a huge kick,” Ketsoglou said. “That is definitely one of our biggest items.”

One of their first major changes after

taking over was expanding the store from a walk up counter into a larger indoor space where customers can shop. The mill now remains open year round, a shift driven by the popularity of its newer products.

“We introduced ice cream and kind of expanded on that end,” he mentioned. “It’s been kind of a hit.”

Despite the updates, the heart of the operation remains the cider. The mill sources all of its apples from New York, primarily from farms in Milton near Newburgh.

Generations of loyal customers continue to go to the mill, such as Glen Cove resident Giuseppe da Tolo. da Tolo and his granddaughter, Anella,



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Glen Cove resident Giuseppe da Tolo and his granddaughter Anella said they love coming to the mill to get apples.

explained that they love the experience of getting fresh apples from the mill.

“I’ve known this place for a long time,” da Tolo. “I don’t have time to go apple picking in the field, so I like to come over here.”

The cider mill’s ownership has passed through only a handful of families, from early proprietor John Hicks, for whom Hicksville is named, to the Zulkofske family, who ran the business for more than five decades and relocated it to its current site in the 1950s. The Ketsoglous say they are proud to continue that chain.



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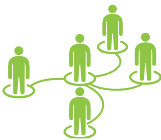
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# STEPPING OUT



Courtesy Angel A. Perez

New York City Ballet soloist Brittany Pollack and principal dancer Daniel Ulbricht return to NYDT's production of "The Nutcracker."



Courtesy MCA Photos

The climax of the first act is the battle between Clara's toy soldier army, led by her beloved Nutcracker doll come to life, against an army of larger than life mice and their Mouse King.

## A holiday treasure

### Immerse yourself in New York Dance Theatre's 'Nutcracker'

By Roksana Amid

For more than four decades, New York Dance Theatre's production of "The Nutcracker" has marked the arrival of the holiday season for thousands of Long Island families. This year, the 43rd annual performance — set for Dec. 20 and 21 at Hofstra University's John Cranford Adams Playhouse — promises to deepen that legacy with an expanded immersive experience, celebrated guest artists and a renewed emphasis on the history that defines the company.

Since 1982, New York Dance Theatre, in partnership with the Ohman School of Ballet, has staged the full-length classic each December. Rooted in the Balanchine tradition handed down from founder Frank Ohman — a former student and soloist under George Balanchine — the production has grown into one of the region's most recognizable

holiday events. Yet for Executive Artistic Director Nicole Loizides, its staying power is not simply about technique or spectacle. It's about belonging.

"We really feed ourselves in tradition," Loizides says. "Especially around the holidays, people want a place where they can feel comfortable to come home, rest, relax and celebrate together. Our Nutcracker stays rooted in that."

Long before the overture begins, audience members are invited into the world of the Silberhaus family — the setting of the ballet's opening scene. When guests enter the Playhouse lobby, costumed Victorian performers greet them, musicians play seasonal melodies and the scent of apple cider wafts through the air.

Children are invited to hang ornaments on a Christmas tree, one of many ways the production blurs the line between audience and story.

Loizides describes it as a "semi-immersive pre-show experience," one the company has been refining for several years. This season, the lobby experience expands through a new partnership with the Long Island High School for the Arts, whose student musicians perform as audiences arrive.

"As soon as people enter our lobby doors, they're invited in by characters from our very first act," Loizides says. "We serve warm apple cider, we have

live music from some of our most talented youth on Long Island, and we try to capture the spirit of the season of giving within our community. Our audiences are growing tenfold because of that comfort."

The lobby transformation mirrors the company's mission: to create a space that feels familiar, nostalgic, and welcoming — something Loizides believes people crave amid today's fast-paced, hyper-digital world.

"So many things get wrapped up in what's new on social media or what's trending," she says. "But this time of year, people want tradition. They want to feel grounded. That's what we offer."

This year's production — as always — features an impressive roster of professional dancers. Brittany Pollack, a soloist with New York City Ballet, and Daniel Ulbricht, a principal dancer with the company and artistic advisor for NYDT, take on the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. Broadway performers Joseph J. Simeone and Samuel Colina also appear, joining New York Dance Theatre soloists Sandra Cieslak, Olivia Fohsz, Trevor Montgomery, and Craig Wasserman.

Loizides also returns to the stage, portraying Frau Silberhaus. It's a moment she describes as both personal and symbolic, especially as the company prepares to enter its 50th anniversary year.

North Shore Village Theatre Artistic Director Christopher Moll returns for his third season in the featured roles of Lead Father and Mother Ginger, contributing to the intercompany collaboration that has become a production hallmark.

Children's roles are danced by students of the Ohman School of Ballet and the School of American Ballet, the official training academy of New York City Ballet. For many young performers, "The Nutcracker" is their first experience dancing alongside professionals, a tradition that honors Frank Ohman's commitment to nurturing the next generation.

NYDT's devotion to tradition is not abstract — it lives in the steps, sets, props, and costumes that have shaped the production for decades. Ohman secured permission from the George Balanchine Trust to use the original Sugar Plum Fairy pas de deux, grounding the show in Balanchine's distinctive style. He also created supplementary scenes and dances that appear in no other staging, adding 10 to 15 minutes to the ballet and expanding opportunities for young dancers.

"What Frank added doesn't exist anywhere else," Loizides says. "It gives more solo moments to our youth, especially the young Clara, and it brings additional cultural dances into the second act. It's something very special."

Many of the costumes and props used onstage were gifted directly from Balanchine and former New York City Ballet crew members and are now entering formal archival preservation. Some pieces, Loizides notes, are still durable enough to appear in performance.

"That tradition dates back over 50 years," she says. "These items are a direct link to Balanchine himself. They're part of our history."

As the company prepares to embark on its 50th anniversary, she is focused on balancing innovation with the artistic values that first shaped the organization.

"For us, even with new opportunities and initiatives all year, the Nutcracker stays rooted in tradition," she adds. "This is where our community gathers. It's where people feel at home."



Courtesy MCA Photos

In the opening Christmas party scene, Herr Silberhaus (Chris Moll of Glen Cove) leads the children in a festive dance.



### Allman Betts Family Revival

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music at the 9th Annual Allman Betts Family Revival! This extraordinary concert 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 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, it's an unforgettable night that honors the rich history and timeless catalog of the Allman Brothers Band.

Sunday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. \$108.75, \$64.75. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [paramountny.com](https://www.paramountny.com).



### 'Home for the Holidays'

Swing into the holiday season with Home for the Holidays with the Future of Jazz Orchestra presented in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center. Under the musical direction of Joe Block, expect to hear refreshing takes of your favorite holiday tunes. Joining the orchestra are vocalists Katie Oberholtzer and Imani Rousselle. Oberholtzer, a recurring figure at Birdland, the Jazz Club at the Aman, and Dizzy's Club, has captivated audiences with her cross-genre performances. Rousselle, recently seen in Broadway's "Good Night and Good Luck," is celebrated for the warmth and poise she brings to stage. The Future of Jazz Orchestra is a young big band collective curated by Jazz at Lincoln Center that is comprised of musicians at the start of their jazz career. Pulling from local education programs at Juilliard, Temple, Manhattan School of Music, and more, the orchestra showcases musicians who are fresh on the jazz scene in NYC.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Tilles Center, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [tillescenter.org](https://www.tillescenter.org) or (516) 299-3100.



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

CALENDAR

DEC 4

**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. 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](http://nassaumuseum.org) or (516) 484-9337

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](http://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

an 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

**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 16

**Elon Gold**

Close out 2025 with some laughs with comedian Elon Gold, best known for his relatable takes on being Jewish and getting through the weirdness of life. Considered by many to be this generation’s Borscht Belt King, he’s no stranger to those who watch Netflix. His act brings laughs to both Jews and non-Jews alike all over the world, including sold out shows in England, Sydney and Johannesburg. He’s made dozens of memorable appearances on late-night talk shows and TV series, especially his hilarious recurring role as Head of Hulu on “Curb Your Enthusiasm” opposite Larry David. His one hour Netflix stand-up special, “Elon Gold: Chosen & Taken” received wide acclaim from audiences and peers alike and is currently streaming on Amazon Prime. He has made ten appearances on the “Tonight Show” and recently performed on “The Late Late Show with James Corden.” His routines have gone viral and are shared by millions around the globe. He has starred in FOX’s “Stacked” and developed and starred in the NBC series, “In-Laws.” Prior guest star credits include “Crashing,” “Frasier,” “Chappelle’s Show,” and “Chelsea Lately” among others. He was also a writer/performer on ABC’s “The Dana Carvey Show.” Most recently, Elon can be seen in a recurring role on Season 11 of HBO’s “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” and will be in the upcoming Kal Penn feature, “Trust Me, I’m A Doctor.” He has also just wrapped filming the titular role in the upcoming feature “The Badchan,” from renowned Israeli director Gidi Dar. \$76.25 and \$54.25..

- **Where:** The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or [paramountny.com](http://paramountny.com)

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](http://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](http://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](http://nassaumuseum.org) or (516) 484-9337

**Long Island’s ‘Messiah’**

For many, the holiday season officially begins with the Long Island Choral Society’s performance of George Frederic Handel’s Messiah, Part 1 and highlights from Parts 2 and 3. Celebrate the season at the holiday concert. \$25, \$10 youth.

- **Where:** Christ Church Manhasset, 1351 Northern Blvd.,

- Manhasset
- **Time:** 4 p.m.
- **Contact:** [lics.org](http://lics.org) or (516) 652-6878

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](http://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](http://sandspointpreserveconservancy.org) or call (516) 571-7901

**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.
- **Contact:** [sandspointpreserveconservancy.org](http://sandspointpreserveconservancy.org) or call (516) 571-7901

DEC 15

**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](mailto:kbloom@liherald.com).




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# Site of proposed Villa remains 'this hole'

December 4, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There's nothing here that indicates this is the real deal this time." Fugazy Scagliola added that she hoped for more transparency and communication about the project moving forward.

Councilman John Zozzaro, who also voted no, agreed that too little had changed. "I wasn't presented enough progress to say yes," he said.

Councilwoman Marsha Silverman abstained.

Panzenbeck, whose vote ultimately pushed the extension through, said she did not want to leave the site in its current condition indefinitely. "We need to get this project moving forward," she said.

City Building Director Scott Grupp acknowledged that "not a lot has transpired" since last year's extension was approved. He added, however, that the developer had spent the past year attempting to secure a joint-venture partnership — something the Glen Cove Industrial Development Agency required before advancing tax-incentive considerations.

"Unfortunately, their funding had dried up, and they're looking to re-establish that and go forward," Grupp said of Glen Cove Villa. He noted that the new investment company now involved, who he did not name at the meeting, "seem(s) to have a lot more depth," describing it as a national firm with

substantial experience in major multi-family developments.

Grupp also offered an update on the work that was completed before funding stalled. All required drainage has been installed; pile-driving is "pretty much completed"; and the main excavation has reached the elevation where the parking garage would be built. Still, he acknowledged the obvious: "Nothing has been built."

## Bond tripled as a protective measure

Councilman Kevin Maccarone raised questions about the project's performance bond, which saw a significant increase last year.

Grupp explained that the original bond covered only public improvements such as sidewalks and curbs. With a deep excavation now sitting idle, the city insisted on increasing the bond to cover the cost of refilling and restoring the site if the project falls through.

"By more than tripling the value of the bond, their premiums go up significantly," Grupp said. "They've been carrying it for two years." He added that Manoj Narang, the project's majority partner, "has a significant amount of

money invested," including the cost of renewing the permit and maintaining the bond.

Maccarone said the higher bond amount serves as a safeguard for the city and a show of commitment on the developer's part. "By them paying this, it's a show of good faith moving forward," he said.

## IDA begins due diligence on PILOT request

Before the council meeting, the Industrial Development Agency held a preliminary meeting to discuss the Villa project and consider the next steps on Villa's application for a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement. The meeting became difficult to follow when the livestream malfunctioned —

which Fugazy Scagliola said prevented her from getting clarity on what transpired.

Ann Fangmann, executive director of the IDA, acknowledged the technical issues. "It was unfortunate," she said. "We'll always have my personal computer from now on as a backup."

Fangmann clarified what the IDA did — and did not — approve. Contrary to public assumptions, it did not vote on a PILOT itself.

"So tonight we did four things," she said. "We did a preliminary resolution, which means we'll start taking a look into SEQRA for the project," she added, referring to the State Environmental Quality Review Act. "It authorizes staff to move forward with setting up a public hearing. We will begin the due diligence reports — the third-party consulting reports we typically get done for all these projects."

Villa has submitted a PILOT application, Fangmann confirmed, but the board will not vote on it until after a public hearing and at least one additional board meeting.

Representatives of the developer — including principal Jay Fisher, of Sim Group; Narang, attorney Dan Deegan and an additional project team member — attended the IDA meeting and answered questions about financing and project status.

## A long history of extensions and community frustration

This latest extension comes less than a year after the council imposed strict conditions on the developers in January, requiring the removal of liens, the resolution of litigation, the closing of property loans and the submission of a revised construction budget within tight timelines.



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Photos courtesy Hive Market &amp; Gallery

The sanctuary, located on Hamilton Avenue in Oyster Bay, is marking 50 years since founder Patricia Ladew purchased the property for the care of cats.

# The purrfect charity show for cat lovers

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

Artwork from dozens of local artists is on display at Hive Market & Gallery to benefit the Ladew Cat Sanctuary. The Call to heArt exhibit, which remains on display through Dec. 6, raises money for the sanctuary's Have a Heart Fund, which supports cats with heart disease and helps cover medical costs for adopters.

The sanctuary, located on Hamilton Avenue in Oyster Bay, is marking 50 years since founder Patricia Ladew purchased the property for the care of cats. Liz Cousins, a caretaker, behaviorist and outreach coordinator at the sanctuary, said the art show was created as a tribute to Ladew, who was also a visual artist.

"Seeing as it's our 50-year anniversary of when she bought the house and started the sanctuary, we thought, 'what better way to honor her than to have a cat art show,'" Cousins said. She presented the idea to Hive owner Laura Escobar about a year ago. "She was immediately supportive. She was like, 'yeah, let's do it.'"

Cousins said she first connected with the Hive after moving to the area in 2020 and recognizing a song playing inside the shop. Since then, the two organizations have partnered on craft events, including fleece blanket workshops for the sanctuary's cats. "They're the connector of all the cool creative things in town," she said.

The open call for artwork drew 33 paid submissions, including several paw painted creations made by sanctuary

cats, affectionately called "Ladewbies." Most pieces, however, were created by human artists.

"People love cats, and we're very fortunate that they always tend to have a good turnout," Cousins said. She added that the exhibit helped introduce the Hive's regular visitors to the sanctuary and vice versa. "Everybody won, and that's the way we like it."

**E**verybody won, and that's the way we like it.

**LIZ COUSINS**  
caretaker,  
Ladew Cat Sanctuary

At the Hive, Gallery Director Sue Herbst helped organize the show and manage the submissions. She said the open call reached artists across the region. Entries came in a wide range of mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, pen and ink, oil on canvas, colored pencil and diamond art.

"We had 24 artists and 35 artworks," Herbst said. "Everything was cat-themed, since it was a cat art show."

Some of the pieces are still for sale and range in price from about 50 to \$1,000. A portion of each sale supports the sanctuary. Artwork can be purchased directly at the Hive while the exhibit is still hanging.

Herbst said events like Call to heArt reflect the Hive's mission to support local artists and collaborate with community organizations. The gallery, created after the Hive's outdoor market gained momentum in 2020, has since hosted exhibitions tied to local non-profits.

"When we collaborate with small not-for-profits," Herbst said, "we can really help create community and bring awareness of those not for profits to the general public and to other artists."



Some of the pieces are still for sale and range in price from about 50 to \$1,000. A portion of each sale supports the sanctuary. Artwork can be purchased directly at the Hive while the exhibit is still hanging.



Paintings by local artists, including some four-legged pieces, are on display at Hive Market & Gallery through Dec. 6 for purchase, with all funds benefiting Ladew Cat Sanctuary in Oyster Bay.



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## OPINIONS

# Health care's short-term fix and long-term solution

**T**he biggest issue around most Thanksgiving tables last week — other than gratitude — was just how expensive everything seemed. Costs have risen sharply in the past few years, and people are looking for answers.

People are sick of politicians' petty partisan attacks. They're asking, "What

can you do to make life more affordable?"

Some things are straightforward: tariffs make groceries, clothing and Christmas presents more expensive. The growing federal debt is driving up interest rates. Demand for energy to power A.I. data

centers, combined with the cancellation of a bunch of green-energy projects, is driving up energy costs. Fewer workers on farms and in industrial plants, hospitality and health care due to deportation — or being scared to show up for work — increases overtime costs.

Rising health care costs are at the top of the affordability crisis list, but addressing those costs is extraordinarily complex.

First, we need an immediate fix in

the next few weeks to extend premium tax credits to avoid an explosion in health insurance premiums for millions of Americans. Then, over the next two years, we need to develop a bipartisan plan to reduce hyperinflated health care costs meaningfully.

Right now, over 20 million Americans rely on the Affordable Care Act's enhanced Premium Tax Credits to afford health insurance. These credits, which expire at the end of the year, require a person buying health insurance to pay 8.5 percent of their income for coverage, with the rest covered by the federal government. If Congress fails to fix this soon, those millions will see their premiums jump by hundreds, even thousands, of dollars, overnight. For many, that would mean losing coverage altogether. Even those who don't use the credits would be affected: When the risk pool shrinks, premiums rise for everyone.

First, the immediate fix: I recently introduced the Bipartisan HOPE Act. It would extend the premium tax credits for two years, and institute a salary cap to target assistance to those most in need.

The act also includes strong guardrails to combat fraud, with protections that safeguard taxpayers, restore trust

in the system and ensure that the program functions as intended.

This bill isn't perfect, but no bipartisan compromise is. Time is running out, and my colleagues and I haven't seen anyone else stepping up with a truly bipartisan plan. So we did.

Next, the long-term solution: Over the next two years, we need a bipartisan effort to address the decades-long rise in health care costs. Health care is too expensive. Insurance is too expensive. The Affordable Care Act achieved its objective of insuring tens of millions of Americans who had never been insured. Before the ACA, 50 million people were

uninsured; today, that number is less than half.

In a litany of steps we need to take to improve our system, a few stand out. The government desperately needs to lower prescription drug costs. The Biden administration passed legislation that allowed Medicare to negotiate prices on 25 drugs, but we need more. President Trump said himself that Big Pharma is "getting away with murder."

We need to do a much better job on preventive care. People need to be healthier, and medical issues must be addressed long before they spiral out of control. Doing so will save money and

increase life expectancy. Smoking, alcohol, improper diet and lack of exercise are the leading avoidable causes of premature death. We have made significant strides in addressing smoking; we need to do the same with obesity. We must do better! Let's emphasize healthy eating and exercise, de-incentivize alcohol, and get the medical community more focused on prevention and early detection.

Doctors should be guiding treatment, not insurance companies. Physician payments have fallen dramatically, while doctor expenses have risen by even more. In a world where doctors are subject to burnout, excessive lawsuits and spending more time on defensive paperwork than patient care, our physician pool is hemorrhaging.

I've been in public service for the better part of 30 years, as the mayor of Glen Cove, Nassau County executive, and now in Congress. I've learned that one-party solutions are fleeting, easily replaced. We need a bipartisan fix now, and over the next two years I pledge to work with my colleagues in the Problem Solvers Caucus — a bipartisan group of members that I co-chair, that is committed to solving complex problems — to develop a robust health care framework that lowers costs for generations to come.

*Tom Suozzi represents the 3rd Congressional District.*



**TOM  
SUOZZI**

**I**n a litany of steps we need to take to improve our system, a few stand out.

# How tackling racism broadened my horizons

**A**s a Mepham High School student in Bellmore in 2021, I joined ERASE Racism's Student Task Force. I remained an active member of the task force up until I started college in the summer of 2023. I was never surprised by how meaningful my work was, but what surprised me

was how many ways I benefited from my time at ERASE Racism. I'm still benefiting, as a student on a full scholarship at the University of Richmond, where I'm now on a semester abroad, studying cities through people, planning and politics. The

Long Island region is benefiting as well, as more homegrown leaders prepare to take the lead.

ERASE Racism's Student Task Force is composed of high school students from across Long Island who are passionate about racial justice and making positive change in their schools and communities. It helps students develop their leadership skills, identify their

strengths and assets, and build alliances with students of different racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds as well as across school districts. Its members work collaboratively on projects that further racial justice.

One of the best parts of the task force was getting to meet students from across Long Island with diverse backgrounds whom I never would have met otherwise. One such friend was a student at Baldwin High School at the time, and is now at Columbia University. We still get together during college breaks.

Working with a wide variety of students from different districts, my perception of myself as a leader grew. Together we explored challenges to racial justice, shared our experiences and insights, and considered how best to overcome barriers. Together we organized events like the annual Long Island Leaders of Tomorrow Conference and, for three summers, prepared and presented at the Reimagining Education Summer Institute at Teachers College. I also became part of the Mepham School and Commu-

nity Leadership Program.

Those activities inspired my passion for multiculturalism, and the experience that I gained in the process made me a

stronger candidate for college. In my college applications, I drew on my experience with two Long Island Leaders of Tomorrow conferences and three Reimagining Education institutes. Based on those applications, I earned two college scholarships, which together cover my entire tuition, room and board. Today I am both a Richmond Scholar and an Oliver Hill Scholar at Richmond.

Now, as an Ambassador for the Richmond Scholars program, I read applications of scholar candidates and understand even better how compelling experiences like the ones I had as a Student Task Force member can be. I even return each year to ERASE Racism to talk with task force members about college essays.

Now studying abroad, I'm continuing to explore my passion for multiculturalism. My studies are taking me to Argentina, Spain and South Africa, as I conduct a research project on migration in urban settings.

**I** benefited in so many ways as an ERASE Racism Student Task Force Member.



**ALLI  
ALVAREZ**

High school students on Long Island have many benefits on which to draw, but Long Island remains one of the 10 most racially segregated metropolitan regions in the United States. That segregation is reinforced in education by the fact that suburban Long Island's two counties are divided into 125 school districts that reflect the racial segregation in housing. The districts in turn prevent students even in neighboring villages from knowing one another and benefiting from their diverse perspectives.

High school students should look for ways to overcome that barrier. The absurd number of school districts — and the extraordinary waste of taxpayer money involved — may not change soon, but students can take steps to cross those boundaries and get to know one another.

ERASE Racism's Student Task Force is one avenue. The resulting friendships and the insights shared are vital to the region's future. Many more Long Island high school students may just find, as I did, that working to advance racial justice will create a new generation of leaders who seek to overcome existing barriers. They may just discover that they become those leaders themselves.

*Alli Alvarez, who lives in Bellmore, is a junior at the University of Richmond.*



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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Dialing down the holiday stress

**T**he holiday season carries a reputation for joy, connection and celebration, yet for many adults it also reliably delivers stress, pressure and emotional overload. Between family dynamics, financial expectations, packed schedules and the internal push to be relentlessly cheerful, it's no surprise that mental health can take a hit.

This year, consider a more intentional approach by reclaiming this time with strategies that help you thrive, not just survive.

Our culture is saturated with glossy versions of holiday perfection: immaculate homes, harmonious families, gourmet meals and coordinated pajamas. Social media amplifies it, encouraging comparison even when we know better. But perfection is both impossible and unnecessary. A successful holiday isn't measured by aesthetics or extravagance; it's defined by what feels meaningful, peaceful and manageable for you.

One of the healthiest mental shifts you can make is letting go of other people's expectations, whether it's your extended family's traditions or the imaginary audience in your Instagram feed. Give yourself permission to scale down, choose differently, or avoid what drains you. The real "perfect" holiday is the one that supports your well-being.

If there is one skill that reduces holiday stress more than anything else, it's

boundary-setting. The season often arrives with invitations, obligations and emotional expectations that stack up quickly. Saying yes to everything is unsustainable and usually unnecessary.

A "polite no" doesn't require elaborate excuses. Try simple scripts such as: "I appreciate the invite, but I'm keeping things low-key this year."

"That sounds meaningful, but I can't take on anything extra right now."

Setting limits isn't unkind — it's responsible. Boundaries protect the energy you need for the commitments and people that genuinely matter.

Holiday spending is one of the biggest, and most underestimated, sources of December stress. Gift-giving can be joyful, but only when it's grounded in reality rather than guilt or comparison.

Create a budget before you shop, not afterward. Consider setting price caps for group exchanges, opting for homemade gifts or planning shared experiences rather than material items. Most important, reject the mindset that whippers that love must be proven through financial sacrifice. Some of the most meaningful gifts cost nothing: time, connection and attentive presence.

During a season of constant invitations, the most radical choice you can make is protecting your routine. Sleep, movement and downtime are the foundation of mental stability. Schedule "empty time" the same way you would

schedule an appointment. Leave room for rest, flexibility and the ability to say yes to what genuinely nourishes you.

If you rely on therapy, journaling, medication or meditation, guard those habits fiercely. You don't have to abandon mental health routines simply because the calendar gets festive.

For those experiencing grief, loss or estrangement, the holidays can magnify pain. There is no correct way to "handle" grief during a season of what often feels like forced joy. Give yourself permission to feel whatever arises — sadness, anger, numbness or even unexpected happiness. Create rituals that honor lost loved ones, allow yourself space to step back from celebrations, or connect with others navigating similar emotions. You are not required to "perform" cheerfulness.

January often hits like emotional whiplash. Build in recovery time rather than expecting yourself to launch into new-year productivity immediately. Plan a quiet weekend, revisit your budget, reset your sleep schedule and re-establish routines that ground you. The goal is to ease into the new year, not crash into it.

The holidays don't need to be an endurance test. With realistic expectations, thoughtful boundaries and a commitment to your mental well-being, you can transform the season from chaotic to intentional.

## UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS





## OPINIONS

# A new term, and so much to do

**N**ow that Election Day has passed and all the votes are counted, I want to thank the Glen Cove community for re-electing me and showing their confidence in both my abilities and in the work that we have done together for the



**PAMELA  
PANZENBECK**

city that I love and where I have lived my entire life. As your mayor, I hope you all consider me to be someone that you can approach as a friend and neighbor. It is through the support of all of our residents that I have been able to make the number of improvements to our parks and recreational facilities. The recognition and positive commentary on these projects has made the effort even more enjoyable, but we must remember that we can't relax and rest on our laurels.

city that I love and where I have lived my entire life.

As your mayor, I hope you all consider me to be someone that you can approach as a friend and neighbor. It is through the support of all of our residents that I have been able to make the number of

There is more to come. I promise to continue to be fiscally aware and responsible in managing and spending your tax dollars wisely. I will continue to search for new sources of revenue to take the tax burden off residents.

My focus during this upcoming term is to continue to make Glen Cove a wonderful community in which people choose to live. We will continue to work on our mission: improving all of our parks and recreational facilities as well as working on infrastructure.

The early part of 2026 will focus on completion of the golf course sprinkler system. We are looking to create some long-awaited surprises that residents have requested. Not glamorous, but so necessary, our water systems will all be getting upgrades, one by one. We continue to work to stay ahead of federal and state mandates and requirements regarding water quality.

We are aware that everyone loves a

newly paved road and continue along that trail. And we have a wonderful senior center and youth bureau, offering something for everyone.

Part of my mission was to get people out and about, enjoying all the benefits that a city such as ours has to offer. Enhancing special events will continue to be a main focus.

I must thank the employees of Glen Cove for my four years of success as mayor. From the in-house department heads who assist with major advice and decision-making, to the Department of Public Works and Water Department members who keep our services running smoothly, to our wonderful Police Department, Fire Department, EMS, Auxiliary Police and Harbor Patrol, who secure our safety and well-being, I am in awe and tremendously grateful. There are no better people, and as mayor, I am so appreciative of their efforts. Any leader knows that it takes a team to create success; no

person can run a city alone.

Glen Cove is in my heart. I have deep roots, and "see" my grandparents, parents and children everywhere I go. Service to my city has been ingrained in me. Glen Cove is the place that my ancestors made their home, beginning in the mid-1800s. Members of my family served as commissioners of public works in the old days, and others were involved in the community in many different capacities.

My Uncle John Donaldson's memories were preserved on a tape made before his death in 1989, and published by members of the Glen Cove Public Library. About living in Glen Cove, Uncle John said, "I suppose I could sum up all of my memories by just saying there was no other place like it to live. I lived my life to the fullest in a heavenly corner of the North Shore, Glen Cove."

So many of us feel that way today. As I always say, "I love Glen Cove, and it shows!" Thank you once again for allowing me to serve as your Mayor.

*Pamela Panzenbeck is the mayor of Glen Cove.*

**I'll continue  
to search for  
new sources of  
revenue to take  
the tax burden  
off residents.**

## LETTERS

### SUNY errs in rejecting Conzatti appointment

To the Editor:

Re last week's story "Rejection of NCC leader sparks opposition": As a former member of the Nassau Community College board of trustees, I take exception to the arbitrary and meritless decision by the SUNY board of trustees in denying the application of the college's chief administrative officer, Maria Conzatti, for a permanent position.

SUNY's board voted 12-0 to reject Ms. Conzatti's application without a scintilla of reason or justification for such a monumental decision, impacting almost 18,000 students and over 800 faculty members. By creating this crater in leadership at the college, when public educational institutions face so much uncertainty and financial challenges, SUNY is overtly causing an unnecessary and counterintuitive crisis that could have been avoided.

I have known Maria Conzatti for almost 14 years, and she has demonstrated a clear and unequivocal track record as an effective, dedicated and professional administrator who has earned the trust of the students, faculty and administration over a multi-decade career at NCC.

As a legislator, I, along with my colleagues, have an obligation to ensure that our contribution to the college's budget is being applied judiciously and appropriately. For SUNY to now leave the college rudderless until a perma-

nent leader is found — which, in my experience, can take up to a year — is irresponsible and concerning to me and the taxpayers of Nassau County.

ARNOLD W. DRUCKER  
*Plainview*

*Arnold Drucker is the deputy minority leader of the Nassau County Legislature, and was a member of the Nassau Community College board of trustees until 2016.*

### Curtis Sliwa didn't keep Andrew Cuomo from winning

To the Editor:

I was surprised, when reading Peter King's op-ed "Local triumphs on a night Republicans didn't expect" (Nov. 13-19), by his statement, "Curtis Sliwa siphoned off votes that might have made the difference."

Even when adding Sliwa's 7.1 percent of the vote to Andrew Cuomo's 41.6 percent in the New York City mayoral election, they still fall significantly short of Zohran Mamdani's decisive victory. I'm not sure why there's the need to minimize Mamdani's popularity. Clearly he's resonating with a lot of people, and I don't think pretending that he's not will be useful or productive for the next election cycle.

GARY FERRAR  
*Franklin Square*

### FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



An annual fundraising display on Messick Avenue — Oceanside






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