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**Blakeman talks county issues**  
 Page 2



**A vision of photos on display**  
 Page 6

VOL. 35 NO. 11 MARCH 12 - 18, 2026 \$1.00



Courtesy Gill. Associates Photography

## A new year of events by the Glen Cove BID

Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck swore in members of the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District board during the BID's annual meeting at Tocolo Cantina on March 5.

# Calls for transparency linger on ICE

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
 ramid@liherald.com

Concerns about federal immigration enforcement in Glen Cove dominated the public comment portion of Tuesday night's City Council meeting, with several residents urging city leaders to take a more active role in supporting immigrant community members who they say are increasingly living in fear.

Eight speakers addressed the council, sharing personal experiences, data and appeals for local leadership to respond to the impact of Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in the city. Council members listened to the speakers, but did not respond. Under New York's Open Meetings Law, they are not required to.

The Rev. Roger Williams, of First Baptist Church of Glen Cove, reflected on the values that drew him to the city over two decades ago.

admired from the outset was the diversity that the city had," Williams, who moved to the community from Baton Rouge, La., in 1999, recalled.

Recent reports of immigration enforcement activity in the city have troubled him deeply, he said. Drawing parallels to

**O**ne of the things that I admired from the outset was the diversity that the city had.

**THE REV. ROGER WILLIAMS**  
 First Baptist Church of Glen Cove

historical injustices, he urged local officials to consider the broader moral implications.

"What we are dealing with is making sure that people who were not born in this country are still respected as human beings," Williams said. "Glen Cove is a city that can be an example that shows everyone that that is what we're all about."

Another speaker, Nabil Azamy, described what he said are measurable impacts that federal immigration enforcement may be having on schools, businesses and public services.

"More than a third of Glen Cove's population is Hispanic," Azamy said. "Over 40 percent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# District faces \$4.7M budget gap

## Declining enrollment affects amount of state aid

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
 ramid@liherald.com

The Glen Cove City School District is facing a multimillion-dollar budget gap for the upcoming school year, driven by rising costs, declining enrollment and limited increases in state aid, district officials said at a Board of Education budget workshop last week.

"As of today, we do not have a balanced budget," Theresa Kahan, the district's assistant superintendent for business and operations, said.

The district is projecting a gap of roughly \$4.7 million for the 2026-27 school year, Kahn said, with expenses expected to exceed revenues unless adjustments are made in the coming weeks.

"There are several factors that contribute to this shortfall," she said, "including the rate of

inflation, rising costs for items such as health insurance, special-education services and transportation, limited foundation aid increases, and declining enrollment."

District officials presented updated state aid projections during the March 4 workshop. According to Kahan, the district now expects a state aid increase of just under \$1.15 million — less than the nearly \$1.28 million increase estimated at the district's budget presentation on Feb. 11.

Kahan noted that the figures are based on Gov. Kathy Hochul's preliminary state budget, and could change. Final state aid totals will not be confirmed until the state adopts its spending plan, which is expected in April.

The district is proposing a tax levy of just over \$81.5 million in 2026-27, an increase of 2.42 percent — the maximum allowed under the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# Blakeman touts safety, finances in county

## Democrats challenge county executive claims

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman delivered an upbeat State of the County address Monday night, portraying a region he called “the safest county in America” and highlighting investments in public safety, fiscal management and community services.

Blakeman, who is the Republican candidate for governor, opened with gratitude “to thank God, Hashem,” and said Nassau remains “the most desirable place to live in New York” and “the most affordable county with the lowest poverty rate in New York state.”

He emphasized a continued focus on crime reduction, noting that “major crimes continued their journey with downward trend last year falling by 10 percent over the previous year,” and touted recent law enforcement actions including “the largest gang takedown in our history” and “the largest drug bust in county history.”

Blakeman praised the Nassau County Police Department, saying safety “would not be possible without the brave men and women” of the force, and highlighted the hiring of 600 police and corrections officers during his tenure. He also celebrated the opening of the Harry Singvola Police Training Village,



Tim Baker/Herald

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman delivered his State of the County address on Monday, emphasizing public safety and fiscal stability.

calling it “state of the art” and asserting the investment “guarantees that Nassau’s police are the best trained and best equipped.”

On immigration, Blakeman reiterated that Nassau “is not a sanctuary county,” citing collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and that he said removed “over 200 illegal migrants who have committed crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, carjacking, drug

dealing and human trafficking.”

He also promoted work on a “guest worker program” for “hard working, law abiding immigrants,” which he called “compassionate” and “common sense.”

The county executive tied economic strength to “fiscally conservative decisions,” stressing, “I have not raised taxes one penny in four years.” He highlighted “seven bond upgrades” and said

the county is “more financially stable than ever.”

Blakeman also detailed initiatives in opioid prevention —“overdose related deaths dropped by over 16 percent”—historic preservation, parks improvements, and expanded support for minority- and women-owned businesses. He reaffirmed his stance on youth sports, saying, “In Nassau County boys play with boys and girls play with girls.”

After the speech, Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, a Democrat, issued a sharply critical response.

“Tonight we heard a polished speech filled with promises,” she said. “But Nassau County residents deserve results,” noting that “the gap between Bruce Blakeman’s rhetoric and reality couldn’t be clearer.”

DeRiggi-Whitton said Blakeman “promised to fix Nassau’s broken assessment system” but instead “kept assessment rolls frozen,” and added, “He promised tax cuts. Not one has been delivered.”

She criticized the use of federal relief funds, saying millions went to “politically connected lawyers, parades, and galas,” and warned that “police staffing is below required levels” and “911 operator positions remain dangerously understaffed.”

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Roksana Amid/Herald

Last year, the Glen Cove Baseball & Softball Association presented a \$30,000 check to the Friends of the Glen Cove Youth Bureau to fund the new backstop at Field 2.

# Honoring local sports leaders on March 19

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Community leaders, coaches and volunteers will gather later this month to celebrate the people who have helped shape youth athletics in Glen Cove during the fifth annual Glen Cove Youth Recreation Dinner, a fundraising event supporting local sports programs and facilities.

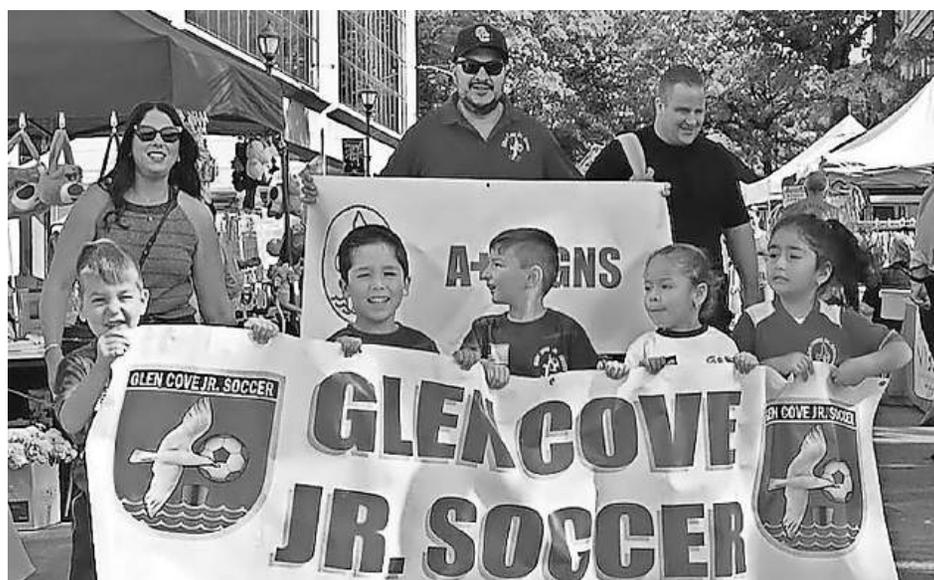
The event will take place on March 19, at 6 p.m. at the Crescent Beach Club, located at 333 Bayville Ave. in Bayville. Tickets are \$125 per person and include dinner and an open bar. Raffles will also be sold during the evening. Proceeds from the fundraiser support youth sports programs and improvements to recreation facilities across the city.

The dinner was co-founded by City Councilman Kevin Maccarone and the city's head of the Department of Youth Services and Recreation shortly after Spiro Tsirkas became director. Tsirkas said the idea came from a conversation about how to recognize the many residents who have devoted their time to coaching, organizing and supporting youth sports.

"The concept and the thought came about five years ago when now, before he was in councilman, Kevin Macaron and I sat down when I moved into this position and we wanted to find a way to try and honor people in the community that have given back to a particular sport and or youth sports in the city of Glen Cove," Tsirkas said.

The event is organized with the help of the Friends of the Glen Cove Youth Board, which serves as the department's fundraising arm. According to Tsirkas, the money raised is reinvested directly into local recreation programs.

"We've raised some really good



Courtesy Roni Jenkins

In September, the Glen Cove Jr. Soccer league kicked off its season with a parade.

money that goes directly back into our recreational facilities, but in the form of equipment, uniforms, field maintenance or upgrades, and just basically giving back and helping the city so we have the best facilities possible," he said.

This year's honorees represent a wide range of youth sports programs in Glen Cove. Those being recognized include Dan Mariano for baseball and softball; Tip Henderson for golf; Kerry Catanzano, posthumously, for junior basketball; Joe and Lisa Marconi for junior football and cheer; Scott and Jessy Kaff, posthumously, for junior lacrosse; Paul Dennis, posthumously, for junior soccer; Jerry Cornelis for lifetime achievement; and Susan Discala as parent volunteer of the year.

Local sports leaders say the dinner has become an important opportunity to recognize the volunteers who help sustain the city's youth leagues while also

supporting improvements to athletic facilities.

"A couple of years ago, Spiro founded these dinners, and it's been a good way to get families together and to honor past and present, and people that have given back to our community, to our leagues and to our sports," said Peter Cappiello, president of the Glen Cove Baseball and Softball Association.

Funds raised through the event have contributed to several improvements at local fields, including renovations to backstops and installation of new scoreboards.

"We've done now five backstops with three that are going to be done this year," Cappiello said. "So we'll have renovated all eight backstops down there. We've brought new scoreboards down. So it's been a lot of progress."

For Cappiello, the effort reflects the strong community ties that youth sports



Courtesy Spiro Tsirkas

Youth players compete during a Glen Cove recreation basketball game.

create.

"I played on these very fields," he said. "Sports have given me everything in life that I could ever ask for."

City Councilman John Perrone said the dinner highlights the spirit of collaboration that supports Glen Cove's recreation programs.

"This fantastic event actually shows how a community can come together for a common goal — the youth of our community," Perrone said. "This is a testament to the resolve of our community and all the volunteers that coach, commit and foster the youth. Our recreation department has been instrumental in the success. It's my honor to still be involved and work with our recreation commission."

Tickets can be purchased by emailing [kfoster@glencoveny.gov](mailto:kfoster@glencoveny.gov).

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## CRIME WATCH

### ARRESTS

- A 24-year-old Lindenhurst man was arrested on March 3 for Glen Cove arrest warrants for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, nontransparent windows, unlicensed operator and no inspection on Dutch Broadway in Elmont.
- A 31-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on March 3 for driving while intoxicated, unsafe lane change, drinking alcohol in a motor vehicle on a highway and obstructed view on Elm Avenue.
- A 22-year-old Brooklyn man was arrested on March 4 for unlawfully selling fireworks with a value of \$500 or more on Laurel Avenue.
- A 30-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on March 6 for aggravated family offense and criminal contempt on the grounds of Nassau University Medical Center.
- A 37-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on March 8 for driving while intoxicated, obstructed view and no exhaust system on Donahue Street.
- A 44-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on March 8 for two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, criminal possession of a narcotic drug, criminal possession of a firearm, criminal possession of a weapon, driving while ability impaired, driving while intoxicated, making a terroristic threat, insufficient tail lights and obstructed view on Glen Street.
- A 27-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on March 8 for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, facilitating aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unlicensed operator and no seat belt on Glen Street.
- A 41-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on March 9 for petit larceny on Bridge Street.
- A 47-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on March 10 for two counts of criminal trespass on St. Andrews Lane.

*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

### Blood drive at fire dept. on March 28

A community blood drive will be held at the Glen Cove Fire Department on March 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 10 Glen Cove Ave., to help replenish the region's critically low blood supply. The event is organized in partnership with the New York Blood Center and coordinated locally by volunteer firefighter Pete Prudente.

Donors will be served breakfast prepared by members of the Glen Cove Fire Department. Garvies Point Brewery will also participate by offering a "pint for a pint" promotion, giving donors a voucher for a pint of beer in recognition of their blood donation. Residents can schedule an appointment by contacting Prudente at (516) 606-0014 or by scanning the QR code on the event flyer.

The drive comes as the New York Blood Center has declared a blood emergency across the region. Blood donations have fallen nearly 40 percent below the level needed to meet hospital demand, leaving hospitals with less than a two-day supply of blood. The shortage has been attributed to winter illnesses, severe weather, holiday travel and the cancellation of blood drives during the colder months.

Health officials say regular donations are essential because blood has a limited shelf life and is needed daily for surgeries, trauma care, cancer treatment and other medical needs.

—Roksana Amid

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## Protecting Your Future with Michael and Suzanne Ettinger Attorneys-at-Law

Please join attorney Michael Ettinger for a live webinar, "Four Advantages of Using Trusts," on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Register in advance at [trustlaw.com](http://trustlaw.com).

### The Three Year Review in Estate Planning

A few years ago, your writer was listening to a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course with a panel of "experts" — defense counsel, ethics counsel and elder law counsel — advising that upon completion of your estate plan we should send you a letter that goes something like this: "Thank you for your patronage. This concludes our representation of you in this matter." The purpose of this letter, they explained, was that it would start the statute of limitations running so that, in case you, the lawyer, made a mistake, after a few years the client (or their heirs) would not be able to sue you. This made me think about how lawyers are trained. Not only are lawyers trained to be risk-averse, but a lot of risk-averse people go into law. These lawyers seem more concerned with the one in a thousand clients who might sue them than with the nine hundred and ninety-nine that won't.

The problem with this approach, as we see it, is that it treats the estate planning process as a transaction instead of what we feel it should be — a relationship. For this reason we do just the opposite. Once your plan is completed we don't

say "thank you very much, goodbye." Instead we say "welcome to the firm." Going forward we will not charge you for phone calls or emails and encourage you to stay in touch with any questions or concerns you have. We also let you know that we will contact you every three years to have a meeting, in person, by phone or by Zoom, for a free review of your plan. Very few firms offer a free review.

When we set out, over thirty-five years ago, to offer the review, we decided it had to be free of charge. If we charged for the review, a common practice among those few firms that offer this service, we would have two tiers of clients — those whose plans were up-to-date and those whose plans weren't.

Life is constantly in flux. We believe it is essential to look at your estate plan regularly to take into account the many things that can happen to people and to their assets. It should not be up to you to make sure your plan is up-to-date so it will work when you need it. By using this system you, like many others, can be free from worry about serious future problems being overlooked.

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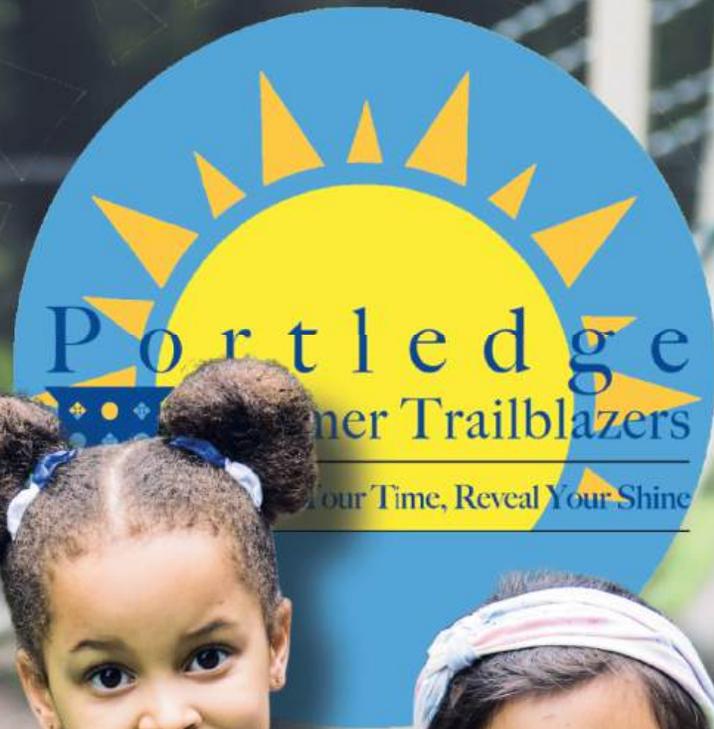
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# HERALD SPORTS

## Confident Hofstra brings high hopes

By ANDREW COEN

sports@liherald.com

The Hofstra women's lacrosse team fell one game short in its quest for a conference tournament spot last season and is determined this spring to be on the championship stage.

The Pride were picked to finish fifth in the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) preseason poll, which would leave it once again on the outside looking in for reaching the four-team league playoffs. Hofstra placed fifth last year with a 4-4 CAA mark to finish one game behind Elon for the final tourney spot.

"We want to do everything we can to get into the CAA playoffs to give us an opportunity to play for the CAA championship, and an opportunity to win and get into the NCAA tournament," said 14th-year Hofstra head coach Shannon Smith. "The only way to do that is by playing a very competitive non conference schedule to prepare us for a conference play."

Leading the charge to bring Hofstra into the postseason is red-shirt junior attacker Nikki Mennella, who tallied 99 points on the strength of 62 goals and 37 assists last year. The reigning 2025 CAA Attacker of the Year registered six goals and seven draw controls in a 14-8 win at Marist on Feb. 26.

"She is a warrior out there on the field," said Smith of Mennella, a USA Lacrosse preseason All-American selection who registered 24 goals and 11 assists through Hofstra's first seven games. "She's electric and has and can shoot the ball very well but more importantly she celebrates her teammates' success even that much more and gets so excited for their big plays and goals, which is really fun to see."

The Pride also returned sophomore attacker Kayleigh Bender, who was named the CAA Rookie of the Year as a freshman after recording 41 points on 31 goals and 10 assists. The Huntington High School product tallied a season-



Nikki Mennella found the back of the net 62 times last spring and tallied 99 points.

high four goals in Hofstra's 12-7 Valentine's Day victory at Quinnipiac.

Hofstra's offense has featured multiple scoring weapons early in the season including junior midfielder Natalie DeMeo (10 goals) and junior attacker Kristen Redding (seven goals). Freshmen Charli Joyce and Shannon Steck, a Massapequa native and Saint Anthony's graduate, have also shown offensive potential early in their collegiate careers.

The defense is anchored by junior defender Christine Dannenfesler, who was named to the All-CAA First Team as a sophomore with 42 ground balls and 24 caused turnovers along with 58 draw controls.

"She's everywhere on the field," said

Smith of Dannenfesler. "She plays very inspired and with a sense of urgency."

Dannenfesler leads a defensive unit that features juniors Evin Terzioglu and Natalie Little. Local freshmen Grace Varley, a Babylon native, and Brigid Smith, a Wagner transfer who was an All-County player at Wantagh High School.

Senior goalie Luchianna Cardello patrols the net for her final college season this spring. The former Massapequa High School standout recorded 12 saves in a 16-9 home loss to third-ranked Maryland on March 4 and eight stops in the Quinnipiac triumph.

"Lulu is seeing the ball very well," said Smith of Cardello, who also had 12 saves in a 17-7 setback at Big Ten foe



Photos courtesy Hofstra Athletics Communications

Massapequa native Luchianna Cardello patrols the crease for the Pride.

Rutgers on Feb. 28. "She is a senior so she has seen all sorts of different game scenarios and different shots."

Hofstra opens up CAA play at home this Saturday against Elon at noon before hosting Ivy League Power Princeton Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. The Pride conclude the CAA regular season at home on April 25 against William & Mary before what they hope will be a conference semifinal game the following week on April 30 hosted by defending league champion Stony Brook.

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## CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 12, 2026 — GLEN COVE HERALD

# Empowering and assisting the county's libraries

By **MADISON GUSLER**

migusler@liherald.com

The Nassau Library System is a cooperative of 54 libraries throughout the county. While each one is supported by local taxes and governed by its own board of trustees, the NLS provides services, materials and programming to all member libraries.

"One of the largest services we provide are delivery services five days a week," NLS Director Caroline Ashby said. "We enable libraries to share resources with one another. So when a patron in Levittown wants to use a book only owned by the Elmont library, we'll pick it up from Elmont, sort it in our facility and send it to Levittown the next day for the patron to check out.

"We save Nassau taxpayers thousands of dollars a year," Ashby added, "by resource-sharing this way."

Ashby, a native of Port Washington, began her library career with the New York Public Library while studying for a master's in library and information sciences at the Pratt Institute. "I was a volunteer in the adult literacy center as a tutor," she recalled. "These were people from their 40s to their 70s who'd made it that far without real literacy skills."

At the center, Ashby built relationships with patrons and learned about the challenges they faced, such as a lack of technology skills. She decided to teach those as well, helping with internet browsing, setting up emails and teaching them Microsoft.



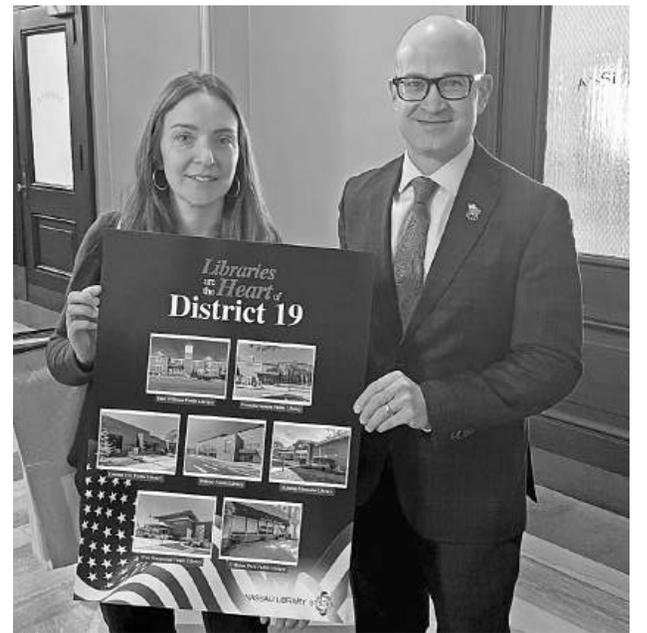
"Because to be able to work," she said, "you need to have a resume, submit your application over email, and know how to use Word."

After finishing her degree, she worked at the Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library, in Manhattan, part of a nationwide network that provides reading materials to patrons who are blind or visually impaired. Ashby, who worked with patrons by phone and email, and suggested braille and audio materials, credits this experience for broadening her perspective of library services.

In 2014 she was hired as assistant director of the NLS. "I wanted to come back home and serve a community closer to my heart," Ashby said. In 2019 she was promoted to director.

NLS delivers more than materials to local libraries. Technology is a major aspect of its service, as it provides libraries with broadband internet service and organizes the shared-material catalog. The online catalog allows any cardholder in the county to view materials available at system branches.

NLS offers continuing education for library staff. "We provide training to library trustees on their governance responsibilities, we provide training to library administrators on management and legal compliance topics, and training for public-facing staff on outreach and best practices," Ashby explained. Through its networking opportunities, she added, the NLS encourages librarians to "learn from one another so the service provided at public libraries in Nassau



Courtesy Caroline Ashby

**Caroline Ashby, director of the Nassau Library System, with Assembly Minority Leader Ed Ra at the 2025 Library Advocacy Day in Albany.**

can be as consistent as possible."

She also leads NLS's advocacy work, connecting with local and state elected officials to ensure that libraries receive the funding and support available.

"The more NLS can do to support member libraries," Ashby said, "the more freedom those libraries have to serve their communities in close, responsive ways."

# Opening doors for the next generation of women

By **ALLYSON FERRARI**

aferrari@liherald.com

A leader helping Long Island girls find their voices traces that mission back to a childhood shaped by an immigrant's perseverance and a belief that girls deserve the same opportunities to lead and succeed.

Now, as executive director of Girls Inc. of Long Island, Patricia Charlemagne works to expand opportunities and leadership pathways for girls across the region.

Charlemagne, 52, grew up in Queens before her family moved to Baldwin when she was 11. Now she lives in Baldwin with her husband of 15 years, Frank, and their two children, Alix, 13, and Taylor, 11.

Her parents, immigrants from Haiti and the Dominican Republic, prioritized education above everything else. Growing up in a working-class immigrant household, Charlemagne said she was surrounded by opportunities that helped shape her interests and ambitions.

"Education continues to be the most important thing to my family," she said. "They were very committed to my education."

Despite her family's modest means, she took part in activities including ballet and piano lessons, after-school sports and school programs focused on the visual and performing arts. At the time, she said, she didn't fully realize the sacrifices her family made to provide those opportunities.

Those experiences later reinforced her belief that all children — regardless of economic background — deserve access to activities that help them grow and thrive.

After graduating from high school, Charlemagne attended Wesleyan University, where she earned a



Courtesy Patricia Charlemagne

**Patricia Charlemagne at the Girls Inc. of Long Island fall gala in November, which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the organization.**

bachelor's degree before following it with a law degree from Temple University's Beasley School of Law and a doctorate in educational and organizational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania.

During her studies, she developed an interest in how laws and workplace systems treated women differently, particularly women of color — which eventually led her to a career in nonprofit leadership.

Girls Inc. offers girls mentorship, leadership development and exposure to career pathways often dominated by men. Industries such as the trades and technology still have a relatively low representation of women, she said, something she hopes to change by introducing girls to those fields early.

"My journey to Girls Inc. of Long Island has been a full recognition that when girls are given resources, when girls are given opportunities, when girls are made to feel safe and a sense of belonging," Charlemagne said, "there is no limit to what they can do."

In addition to youth programming, the organization has begun partnering with companies working to diversify their workforces. The goal, she said, is to help businesses create environments in which women feel supported and encouraged to pursue careers in under-represented fields.

Charlemagne believes women and girls should be included when decisions are made, rather than having programs and policies created for them without their input. Her perspective has been shaped by challenges she has faced as a woman in the workforce, including disparities in pay and having her ideas overlooked.

"You share an idea and no one hears it," she said. "Then a man repeats the idea, and all of a sudden it makes perfect sense."

Those experiences, she said, reinforced the importance of helping girls develop confidence and learn to advocate for themselves.

For Charlemagne, empowering girls also means encouraging women to support one another and prioritize their well-being. "Take care of yourself first," she said. "You cannot do anything for anyone else if you're not taking care of yourself."

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**Ownwell**  
Save on Property Taxes

# Nearly 40% of LI Isn't Fighting High Property Taxes

Ownwell explains why Long Island homeowners are likely paying more than they should.

If you're a Long Island homeowner or property owner, there's a strong chance you're overpaying on your property taxes. And if you're not filing a tax grievance, you're likely paying even more than you should. A recent survey<sup>1</sup> of Long Island homeowners by Ownwell finds that 62% of Nassau and Suffolk County homeowners have filed a property tax grievance — nearly triple the national rate of 22%. This isn't just savvy financial planning; it's become a necessary defense against a property tax system that many homeowners say is broken.

### A System That Penalizes Non-Filers.

Perhaps the most troubling finding from the survey: 93% of Long Island homeowners agree that the current property tax system negatively affects those who don't file grievances. Here's how it works: When a significant portion of property owners successfully appeal their assessments, the overall tax burden doesn't disappear; it shifts to those who didn't appeal. This means homeowners who trust their initial assessments aren't aware they can appeal, or find the process too confusing, and end up subsidizing tax reductions for those who do file. "This isn't how a fair property tax system should function," said Colton Pace, Founder and CEO of Ownwell. "Homeowners shouldn't need insider knowledge to pay their fair share."

### The Affordability Crisis

Nassau County homeowners pay a median of \$3,678 annually, and Suffolk County residents pay \$13,740, both far exceeding the national median of \$2,400.<sup>2</sup> It's no surprise that 95%

of Long Island homeowners express concern about the long-term affordability of owning a home here due to property tax increases. These aren't just numbers on a tax bill. They represent real financial pressure on you and neighboring families trying to stay in the communities they love.

**Why Nearly 40% Still Haven't Filed.** 75% of Long Island homeowners believe their county's property tax system is either inaccurate and outdated or inefficient. Despite these concerns and the clear financial benefits, nearly 4 in 10 Long Island homeowners have never filed a property tax grievance. Among those who haven't filed, 41% were unaware they could challenge their assessment, and 13% found the process confusing. This knowledge gap is costing homeowners thousands of dollars annually. The need for reform (or, at a minimum, accessible appeal options) has never been clearer.

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property tax firms and boutique law firms that charge a higher percentage of savings and don't cover SCAR filing fees, if your case is escalated. Also, Ownwell has strong results. They've achieved 6.6% to 8.8% average reductions for properties valued between \$300,000 and \$3 million at the pre-SCAR level.

They've achieved 4% to 24% higher reductions than other Nassau County property tax firms for properties valued between \$300,000 and \$1 million at the pre-SCAR level.

Ownwell combines advanced data analysis with local expert representation to build the strongest property tax appeal case using hundreds of comparable data points. They manage all paperwork, complex filings, and advocacy for you.

**Time Is Running Out: Important Deadlines.** If you're considering filing a property tax grievance, time is critical. Ensure you file before the deadlines!

**Nassau County:** Deadline is March 31, 2026. **Suffolk County:** Deadline is May 19, 2026. **Westchester County:** Ongoing deadlines vary by town from January

21 to November 17, 2026. Missing these deadlines means waiting another year and continuing to overpay on your property taxes.

**Don't Let Your Neighbors' Grievances Cost You More.** The data is clear: Long Island's property tax system has created an environment where filing a grievance isn't just smart financial planning — it's necessary to avoid overpaying. When the majority of your neighbors are successfully appealing their assessments, not filing means you're likely shouldering more than your fair share of the tax burden. Ownwell makes the process simple, affordable, and effective. Visit Ownwell.com to see if you qualify for a reduction. With no upfront costs and payment only upon successful savings, there's no risk. Only potential savings. In a property tax system where knowledge and action determine who pays their fair share, Ownwell levels the playing field.

**Don't let another year of overpayment go by. Your deadline is approaching!**

**Footnotes:**  
<https://www.ownwell.com/insight/long-island-homeowner-property-tax-survey/>  
<https://www.ownwell.com/trends/new-york/nassau>

This isn't how a fair property tax system should function. Homeowners shouldn't need insider knowledge to pay their fair share.

**COLTON PACE**  
Founder and CEO of Ownwell

Ownwell	Other Traditional LI Firms
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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Children in costume take part in the youth costume contest during the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District's annual Halloween Parade.

# Downtown BID reflects on year of growth

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@lherald.com

The Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District highlighted a year of events, marketing initiatives and beautification efforts during its annual meeting on March 5 at Tocolo Cantina, while also acknowledging the challenges facing local businesses.

The evening included a presentation summarizing the BID's work in 2025 and celebrating the organization's continued efforts to bring visitors and residents into the downtown district. Executive Director Jill Nossa opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and thanking Tocolo Cantina owner Lloyd Rosenman for hosting the gathering.

Nossa, who has served as executive director since the spring of 2023, said the BID's day-to-day operations are handled by a small staff, including Assistant Director Leah Dwyer, and guided by a 15-member board of directors that meets monthly to discuss issues affecting the district.

"The BID is made up of property owners and commercial tenants within the downtown geographic district," she said. "Every business within this area is automatically a part of the BID, and therefore entitled to its benefits."

The organization provides supplemental services to the city, including public events, marketing initiatives, capital improvements and beautification efforts. These efforts are funded primarily through a special assessment paid by property owners within the district.

According to Nossa, the BID receives about \$200,000 annually through that assessment and supplements those funds through grants and sponsorships.

"Last year, nearly \$68,000 was raised above the assessment," Nossa said, explaining that the additional funds are largely directed toward special events such as Downtown Sounds and other



Trish Melek and Trish Roberts, sisters who share the same first name, also own a business together.

programming intended to attract visitors to the area.

Maintaining and improving the appearance of downtown remains another important part of the BID's work. Nossa said the organization oversees several small green spaces and seasonal beautification efforts throughout the district, including planting flowers, maintaining landscaping and installing decorations during the fall and winter months.

Among the improvements last year were additional plants installed in the courtyard between 1-3 School St., expanded holiday decorations along upper School Street and Brewster Street and new photo boards featuring a family of reindeer placed at two locations for visitors to use during the holiday season.

The BID also partnered with the city's Department of Public Works and the Glen Cove Public Library to place a bench that had been in storage for several years onto the library lawn, creating a small seating area for visitors.

In addition to physical improve-

ments, the BID continues to focus heavily on marketing and promotion. Nossa said the organization expanded its online presence throughout the year, promoting downtown businesses and events through social media and digital campaigns.

The BID also updated its restaurant guide and created additional guides for retail and beauty businesses, which are available online and distributed during events such as Downtown Sounds.

Events remain the organization's most visible effort to bring people downtown. The BID produces several major events each year, including the Downtown Sounds summer concert series, the Halloween Parade and Festival and the annual Holiday Festival held in conjunction with the city's tree lighting.

"Thousands of people came downtown in July and August to hear the outstanding bands perform," Nossa said of Downtown Sounds, which featured eight concerts last summer.

The event, which has been running for nearly three decades, continues to

draw large crowds and relies on partnerships with the city, Nassau County and numerous sponsors, as well as volunteers who assist with everything from setup to distributing promotional materials.

The BID also hosted its second Downtown Sounds New Year's Eve Music Crawl, bringing live music to nine different downtown establishments.

While highlighting the successes of the past year, Nossa also acknowledged the challenges currently facing some downtown businesses.

"So far this year, a handful of downtown businesses have closed, two of them just in the past week," she said. "This is disappointing, particularly because it felt like things were on the upswing just last year."

Despite those setbacks, Nossa said the organization remains optimistic that new businesses and upcoming projects will help strengthen the district, including the planned North Shore Village Theatre at 19 Glen St., which is expected to bring additional visitors downtown.

"We are optimistic that The North Shore Village Theater will stimulate business," Nossa said.

The evening also included recognition of London Jewelers, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Founded in Glen Cove in 1926 by Charles London, the family-owned business has grown into a regional jewelry company while maintaining its roots in the city.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck praised the company's longstanding connection to the community.

"So many of our families have walked through their doors to mark an engagement, an anniversary, a milestone," Panzenbeck said. "Longtime residents still remember the warmth of Fran Udell, who greeted every customer like they were coming home. That spirit lives on."

# Advocates call for roundtable discussion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of our households speak a non-English language at home. When that community is afraid to participate in daily life, the consequences don't stay contained."

Azamy recalled a June enforcement operation near the Glen Street train station in which four men were arrested, noting that the Glen Cove Police Department previously confirmed that it had no advance notice and did not assist in the operation. Local networks monitoring immigration enforcement activity, Azamy said, have documented additional encounters in and around the city since then.

He also pointed to declining school enrollment as a potential indicator of broader community fear.

"Superintendent [Alexa] Doeschner reported that Glen Cove's enrollment has fallen to 3,059 students, the lowest in 12 years," Azamy said, adding that the school district is facing a projected budget gap next year.

Azamy asked the council to convene a roundtable discussion involving city leadership and the Police Department to examine how federal enforcement activity may be affecting the city.

"A serious, focused conversation among the people responsible for governing this city," he said. "Our residents need to know what to expect."

Karen Lori Papasergiou, a Sea Cliff resident and a Glen Cove native, recounted an incident she said occurred on Feb. 12, on Grove Street, while she was observing suspected immigration enforcement activity.

Papasergiou said she volunteers as part of a rapid response network that monitors ICE activity and

informs residents of their rights. While she was sitting in her car that day, she said, a man in a vehicle approached her and identified her by name.

"He said, 'Hello, Karen. I see that you're Greek, and I know where you live,'" she told the council.

Papasergiou said the man claimed that he and others were on the lookout for a reported child molester. She later reported the interaction to the Police Department, which she described as supportive and respectful during her visit.

After Tuesday's meeting, Glen Cove police confirmed that ICE was looking for a man "who, while in public, was arrested for exposing himself and was masturbating in front of three different women."

Papasergiou urged city officials not to remain neutral on the issue. "These are your constituents," she said. "These are members of your community who also chose Glen Cove for a reason."

Michael Israel, a longtime resident and a former principal of Landing School, said he chose to raise his family in Glen Cove because of the city's cultural diversity, and he believes local leaders have a responsibility to ensure that residents feel safe.

"We have an obligation to our community to protect and make people feel safe, no matter what background they're from," Israel said.

After the meeting, the Herald asked Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck to respond to the attendees' comments. In a written statement, Panzenbeck said, "Allowing people to come to City Council meetings to express their opinions is what makes Glen Cove so special."

"The common theme I heard last night," City Council

**O**ur residents need to know what to expect.

**NABIL AZAMY**  
Glen Cove resident



Roksana Amid/Herald

The Rev. Roger Williams, of First Baptist Church of Glen Cove, addressed the City Council during Tuesday night's meeting, urging local leaders to support immigrant residents and uphold the city's tradition of diversity and respect for all community members.

cilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola wrote to the Herald, "is that this group wants to have a discussion with the city to discuss [ICE] in our area. I am always for keeping lines of communication open with our residents."





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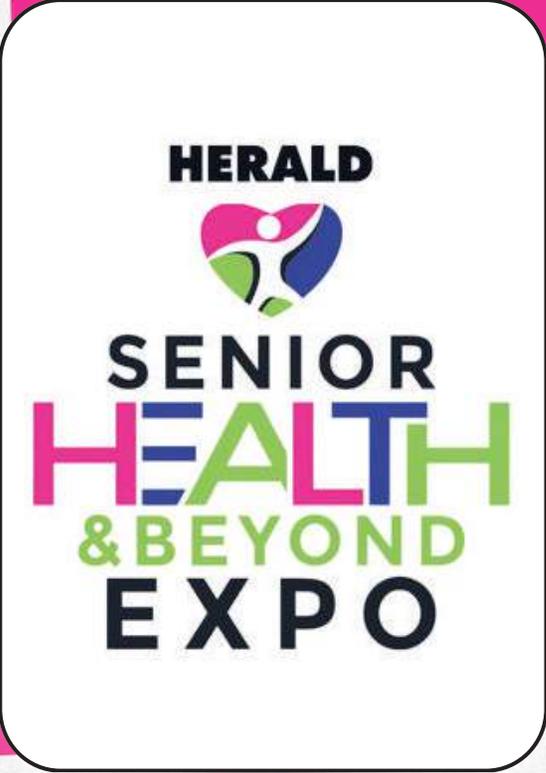
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# Enrollment decrease tied to state aid funds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

state's tax cap formula.

Kahan also outlined the program component of the budget, the largest portion of district spending, which includes teacher salaries and the cost of classroom materials, textbooks and educational equipment. This category of spending also encompasses special-education services, occupational and physical therapy, BOCES career and technical-education programs, school libraries, guidance departments, psychological services, social work services and extracurricular activities.

Transportation and employee benefits are also major cost drivers for the district. Transportation and health insurance costs are both projected to rise by roughly 10 percent next year, Kahan said.

Overall, expenditures for the budget's program component are estimated to total just under \$104.4 million.

To help offset expenses in recent years, the district has relied on financial reserves. According to Superintendent Alexa Doeschner, the district withdrew roughly \$2.98 million in reserves during the 2021-22 school year, \$1.88 mil-

lion in 2024-25 and \$2.6 million last school year to help balance the budget. Doeschner warned, however, that repeatedly drawing from those reserves is not a long-term solution.

"Reserves is another name for a savings account for a school district," Doeschner said during the presentation. "They are not limitless funds, and they're not recurring revenue. Every dollar drawn today is another dollar unavailable for tomorrow's emergency," she added.

Declining enrollment has also contributed to the district's financial challenges. "Enrollment has fallen to its lowest point in the last 12 years," Doeschner said, "which has a direct implication for our state aid calculations."

The district had 3,273 students in the 2016-17 school year, but as of last month, enrollment has declined to

3,059.

Doeschner explained that lower enrollment affects the district in two ways: fewer students means less state aid, and also increases the district's calculated "wealth per pupil," which can further reduce aid.

The superintendent said that district

**A**s of today, we do not have a balanced budget.

**THERESA KAHAN**  
Assistant superintendent for business and operations, Glen Cove City School District



Herald file photo

The Glen Cove City School District is facing a budget gap of rough \$4.7 million in 2026-27 as rising costs, declining enrolment strain aid.

leaders are evaluating potential ways to close the budget gap while trying to minimize the impacts on students and staff.

In an email after the meeting, Doeschner wrote that district officials are examining a number of categories of spending.

"As we review the budget, we are looking carefully at both staffing and programmatic expenditures to determine where adjustments can be made," she wrote, "while minimizing the impact on students and staff."

The budget review will continue in

the coming weeks, and will include an analysis of staffing needs across the district's schools, and whether additional reserves can be used.

Another budget workshop is scheduled for March 18, when administrators expect to provide further updates, including the status of the district's capital projects and any changes tied to updated state aid figures.

The Board of Education is expected to adopt a proposed spending plan later this spring before it is presented to voters on May 19.

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## THINGS TO KNOW DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

# Clocks spring forward as debate over practice continues

By **BRIAN KACHARABA**

bkacharaba@liherald.com

Daylight saving time returned during the early morning hours of March 8, when clocks across most of the United States move forward one hour at 2 a.m. The seasonal shift, designed to extend evening daylight, signals the unofficial start of longer spring days, while also renewing debate about its history, purpose and whether the practice should continue.

### 1

#### ■ How a wartime measure became a yearly tradition

Daylight saving was first widely adopted during World War I as a way to conserve fuel and energy by making better use of natural daylight. Germany introduced the concept in 1916, and the United States soon followed. The practice ended after the war but returned during World War II before becoming standardized nationwide under the Uniform Time Act of 1966. Observance was not uniform, and for decades most of Indiana opted out, creating a confusing patchwork of time rules within the state until statewide adoption in 2006. Over time, the practice shifted from an energy-saving strategy into a widely observed lifestyle tradition, influencing commerce, recreation, daily routines, and cultural events, becoming an ingrained part of modern life.

### 2

#### ■ Springing forward can leave you a little sleep deprived

The spring transition to daylight saving time is often associated with sleep disruption and temporary fatigue, as people effectively lose one hour of rest overnight. Studies have linked the change to short-term increases in workplace accidents, traffic incidents and difficulty concentrating during the following days. However, supporters argue that extended evening daylight encourages outdoor activity, shopping and community events, benefiting local economies and public well-being. Schools, businesses and transportation systems must also adjust schedules twice each year, requiring coordination nationwide. Many health experts recommend gradually adjusting sleep routines before the change to reduce its impact on both children and adults alike.

### 3

#### ■ Should daylight saving time become permanent?

In recent years, lawmakers at both the state and federal levels have debated whether daylight saving time should become permanent or be eliminated altogether. Supporters of permanent daylight saving time argue that later sunsets improve quality of life, reduce crime and boost economic activity. Critics counter that darker winter mornings can create safety concerns for students and commuters. Several states have passed legislation supporting year-round daylight saving time, but federal approval is required before changes can take effect nationwide. Public opinion remains divided, and despite repeated proposals in Congress, Americans continue to adjust their clocks twice a year while the debate remains unresolved.

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# STEPPING OUT



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## Get your Irish on for St. Patrick's Day

### A taste of the Emerald Isle

By Karen Bloom

With hints of spring beginning to emerge (or so we hope), St. Patrick's Day arrives like a cheerful burst of green, bringing with it a welcome dose of celebration and comfort. The beloved holiday is about more than festive attire and lively parades — it's a chance to gather with family and friends, savor time-honored traditions and, of course, enjoy the rich flavors of Irish cooking.

From the hearty satisfaction of corned beef and cabbage to the warm, inviting aroma of freshly baked soda bread, St. Patrick's Day offers the perfect excuse to bring a little Irish spirit into the kitchen.

Naturally, no St. Patrick's Day table would be complete without one of Ireland's most beloved staples: Irish soda bread. This simple, satisfying quick bread — made with baking soda rather than yeast — has been a household favorite for generations. Whether you prefer the classic loaf or a modern twist, such as soda bread muffins, there's a version to suit every taste and skill level. Best of all, it's easy to make, making it a perfect recipe to add to your seasonal repertoire.

#### Classic Irish Soda Bread

The "real" Irish soda bread consists simply of flour, baking soda, salt and buttermilk. At the other end of the spectrum is Americanized Irish soda bread, a white, sweet, cake-like confection filled with raisins or currants and caraway seeds. Both are equally delicious!

- 3 1/2 cups unbleached all purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon Kosher salt
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk
- Salted butter (preferably Kerrygold)

Preheat the oven to 450°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

To a large mixing bowl, add the flour, salt, and baking soda. Whisk to combine thoroughly. Using a wooden spoon, make a well in the

center of the dry ingredients. Add the buttermilk to the dry ingredients in the well. Use the wooden spoon to gently stir the ingredients together, starting at the center of the bowl and slowly working out. The dough will be very shaggy, that's perfect!

Lightly flour a work surface, and pour the dough out onto the surface. Use your hands to gently knead the dough about 4 times, until it comes together, and the surface is slightly smoother. Use the palms of your hands to shape into a round loaf.

Transfer the loaf to the prepared baking sheet. Lightly sprinkle the top with flour. Use a sharp chefs knife to slash a large X on the top of the dough.

Transfer right away to the oven and bake for 15 minutes at 450°. Lower the temperature to 400°F, rotate the pan 180° in the oven, and bake for another 25-30 minutes until deeply golden brown. Allow the bread to cool for at least 20 minutes, then serve warm with salted butter.

#### Irish-American Soda Bread

This classic quick bread recipe also brings great taste into your home.

- 5 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, cut into cubes, room temperature
- 2 1/2 cups raisins
- 3 tablespoons caraway seeds
- 2 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 1 large egg

Preheat oven to 350° F. Generously butter heavy ovenproof 10- to 12-inch-diameter skillet with 2- to 2 1/2-inch-high sides.

Whisk first five ingredients in large bowl to blend. Add butter; using fingertips, rub in until coarse crumbs form. Stir in raisins and caraway seeds. Whisk buttermilk and egg in medium bowl to blend. Add to dough; using wooden spoon, stir just until well incorporated (dough

will be very sticky).

Transfer dough to prepared skillet; smooth top, mounding slightly in center. Using small sharp knife dipped into flour, cut 1-inch-deep X in top center of dough. Bake until bread is cooked through and tester inserted into center comes out clean, about 1 hour 15 minutes.

Cool bread in skillet 10 minutes. Turn out onto rack and cool completely. (Can be made 1 day ahead. Wrap tightly in foil; store at room temperature.)

Serve with hot tea and organic jam, Irish stew, traditional Irish cabbage dishes, or enjoy on its own!

#### Cheese Soda Bread

This modern savory twist is another winner.

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons caraway seed
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper, ground
- 1/2 cup shredded Irish Cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups buttermilk

Preheat oven to 350° F. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and seasonings in large bowl. Stir in cheese. Set aside. Mix eggs and buttermilk in medium bowl. Add to dry ingredients; stir until well blended. Spread in lightly grease 9-inch round cake pan.

Bake 30-40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack.

Tip: This recipe also lends itself well to a muffin version. Prepare dough as directed and divide among 12 greased muffin cups. Bake 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.



#### Celtic Woman

The Grammy-nominated global music sensation returns with their new tour, Celtic Woman — A New Era. The show, featuring Mairéad Carlin, Muirgen O'Mahony, Ciara Ní Mhurchú, and new singer Caitríona Sherlock, fuses the ensemble's signature sound with fresh orchestrations, dynamic stage production, and a contemporary spark that honors Ireland's rich musical and cultural heritage while embracing Celtic Woman's continued evolution. The concert promises to be a mesmerizing blend of timeless tradition and modern storytelling, a spellbinding tribute to the enduring power of Irish music and the extraordinary talents of the performers. Audiences can expect an unforgettable and energetic evening with renowned and breathtaking harmonies, stirring original compositions, and instrumental virtuosity brought to life, reflecting the vibrancy of modern Ireland and its heritage.

*Sunday, March 15, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or [paramountny.com](http://paramountny.com).*



#### Josh Joplin with Jeffrey Gaines

Alternative rock mainstay Josh Joplin returns to the stage for an intimate, can't-miss evening alongside acclaimed singer-songwriter Jeffrey Gaines at My Father's Place.

Joplin spotlights songs from his latest full-length release, GpYr ("gap year"), a deeply personal project that arrives after a 12-year hiatus. It marks a bold new chapter in Joplin's career. A deeply personal project, it's an introspective musical journey that, via Joplin's own experiences, allows us to ponder all of life's transitions. Jeffrey Gaines brings his own brand of soul-baring musicianship, heralded for his soul-searching lyrics and his powerful live performances. Armed with little more than his voice and an acoustic guitar, He's built an international following on the strength of his deeply felt lyrics. His stripped-down sets create an atmosphere that is at once intimate and electrifying.

*Thursday, March 19, 7:30 p.m. \$43. My Father's Place 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. Tickets available at [mfproductions.com](http://mfproductions.com).*

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## CALENDAR

**MAR 12** This special performance celebrates the power of music to unite people of all faiths and backgrounds. Paganini

Competition winner Simon Zhu performs as principal soloist, with rising star Jeffrey Dokken conducting. The program also includes a major work by Long Island composer Alexey Shor, joined by a local choir for an evening of reflection, resilience and hope. Violins of Hope, a collection of restored instruments owned and played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust — some performed in ghettos and concentration camps, others belonging to musicians who did not survive are featured. Proceeds support the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Molloy University and Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County.

- **Where:** Madison Theatre, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre
- **Time:** 8 p.m.
- **Contact:** madisontheatre.org or (516) 323-4444

**MAR 15** **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 and 1:30 p.m.; also March 29
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

**MAR 17** **Library Board of Trustees meet**

Glen Cove Public Library Board of Trustees hold their monthly meeting. All are welcome.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave.
- **Time:** 6:45-8:45 p.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

**MAR 19** **Youth Recreation Dinner**

The 5th Annual Glen Cove Youth Recreation Dinner raises funds in support



**MAR 24** **Three Italian Tenors**

Direct from Rome, the Three Italian Tenors stop at Tilles Center on their North American Tour debut. Everyone will be captivated by Giovanni Maria Palmia, Ugo Tarquini, and Alessandro Fantoni accompanied by pianist Fabrizio Mocata. Their salute to the great Italian tenors — Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Mario Lanza and Enrico Caruso — is an exhilarating and unique musical event. It features original arrangements and universally loved Italian songs and tenor arias, fusing Italian wit and charm with romanticism, lyricism, dramatic flair and operatic style. From "Nessun Dorma" to "O Sole Mio" to "That's Amore" and more, the trio perform the songs that define Italian musical brilliance. You will be swept away by operatic gems like "E lucevan le stelle," "La donna è mobile" and "Nessun dorma," alongside timeless Neapolitan songs such as "Torna a Surriento," "O surdato 'nnammurato" and "Funiculi Funicula." Their repertoire also includes romantic ballads like "Musica Proibita" and "Dicitencello vuje," a tribute to Dean Martin with Volare, and a lively piano medley of popular Italian tunes — all culminating in a thrilling celebration of vocal artistry and Italian musical heritage. You're sure to be enthralled by the stunning program that voyages through nostalgia with favorite memorable classics. Experience their rich vocals, heartfelt emotion and the golden tradition of Italian vocal artistry.

- **Where:** LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Contact:** tillescenter.org or (516) 299-3100

of Glen Cove Youth Sports. The evening includes dinner, an open bar, raffles, and the presentation of 2026 awards. \$125 per person. RSVP required.

- **Where:** Crescent Beach Club, 333 Bayville Ave., Bayville
- **Time:** 6 p.m.
- **Contact:** Email kfoster@glencoveny.gov

**MAR 21** **Dinner Detective**

Participate in the interactive true crime dinner show featuring a mystery to solve alongside a full meal.

- **Where:** The Mansion at Glen Cove, 200 Dosoris Lane
- **Time:** 6 p.m.
- **Contact:** TheMansionatGlenCove.com/events

**Children's concert**

The Northwinds Symphonic Band visits Hempstead House for an afternoon of music fun for families with children of all ages. Conductors Helen P. Bauer and Brandon Bromsey have put together a program designed to engage young listeners and

aspiring young musicians. The program includes well-known selections from "The Sound of Music" and a medley of music from Disney movies. Band members introduce and demonstrate their instruments, and the children in attendance will be given the opportunity to take the podium as guest conductors! \$10, \$5 children.

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

**On Exhibit**

Nassau County Museum of Art joins in the celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Its landmark exhibition explores how Long Island has reflected and shaped the story of American art. From Revolutionary-era portraiture and folk art to nineteenth-century landscapes, Impressionism, and the bold innovations of Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art, the exhibition highlights how every major art movement found expression here. From Brooklyn to Montauk, Long Island's natural beauty, coastal light, and close connection to New York City

inspired generations of artists and gave rise to thriving art colonies and postwar creative communities. Featuring paintings, decorative arts, and historical objects displayed together in immersive settings, 250 Years of Art on Long Island celebrates the region's enduring influence and its rich artistic legacy. Opens March 21, on view through July 12.

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

**MAR 22** **Book Talk: 'Beneath the Lightless Sky'**

Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County hosts a discussion of the powerful memoir "In Beneath the Lightless Sky" with Doron Keren, the author's grandson. Ignacy Chiger recounts how his family survived Nazi persecution by hiding for 14 months in the sewers of wartime Lvov, Poland.

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

**St. Patrick's Day Parade**

The 2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade steps off at 1 p.m. through the streets of Glen Cove, celebrating Irish heritage and community spirit. An after-parade party will follow at St. Patrick's Parish Hall at the end of the parade route. Parking is available at Glen Cove's downtown municipal parking garages and at St. Patrick's Parish lot, and a shuttle bus will circulate among parking, formation, and spectator areas.

- **Where:** Parade route through Glen Cove; after-party at St. Patrick's Parish Hall
- **Time:** 1 p.m.
- **Contact:** Glen Cove City Hall at (516) 676-2000

**Ecotherapy Walk**

Join certified guide Linda Lombardo on an Ecotherapy Walk at Sands Point Preserve. Celebrating the Spring Equinox with balance, renewal and growth. 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

**MAR 24** **City Council meets**

The City Council holds its next session. Participate to be updated on important issues.

- **Where:** Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St.
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-2000

**Having an event?**

Items on the Calendar page are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to kbloom@liherald.com.



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# General Store set to host book signing

By JULIA CAPITELLI

jcapitelli@liherald.com

The Sea Cliff General Store is preparing to host Peloton Instructor Hannah Corbin on Saturday for a signing of her book "Did You Stretch Tho: 52 Stretches to Increase Flexibility, Balance, and Performance" as well as a meet and greet and Q and A session. Tickets have been on sale at Eventbrite.com, and General Store Owner Laura Bonelli said more than 50 people are expected to attend.

Corbin has been a Peloton instructor for 12 years. Her book is a 52-card deck and guidebook box set guiding people through different stretches. She said that aside from her love of stretching, people asking questions about what they can do alongside intense training to alleviate discomfort inspired her to put the book together.

"It started with longer winded responses of, 'have you been taking rest days? Have you been stretching? Have you been foam rolling? Have you been doing anything other than the really intense exercise?'" Corbin said. "And then, as it whittled down, it turned into a very simple 'did you stretch, though?'"

The book was released on Nov. 4, and Corbin has visited several different places since then. While some of these trips have been to bookstores, others have included a dive bar in Oregon and an interior design store in Texas.

Corbin said that she is "pumped" to visit the Sea Cliff General Store because her country background has given her a love for gen-

eral stores. She added that she enjoys supporting local businesses.

"I want to continue to meet people," Corbin said, "to share the joy of stretching and also to go to some fun environments."

Laura and Ralph Bonelli have hosted events, like live music, at their store since it opened in November. They connected with Corbin through Ralph's job at Peloton.

In addition to the book signing, meet and greet and Q and A, refreshments will be offered and some tote bags will be given out.

"We know that so many people in this area are very health conscious, into yoga, and the book is all about stretching," Laura said. "So we just thought it would be a great fit." She added that they feel honored that Corbin is coming to Sea Cliff.

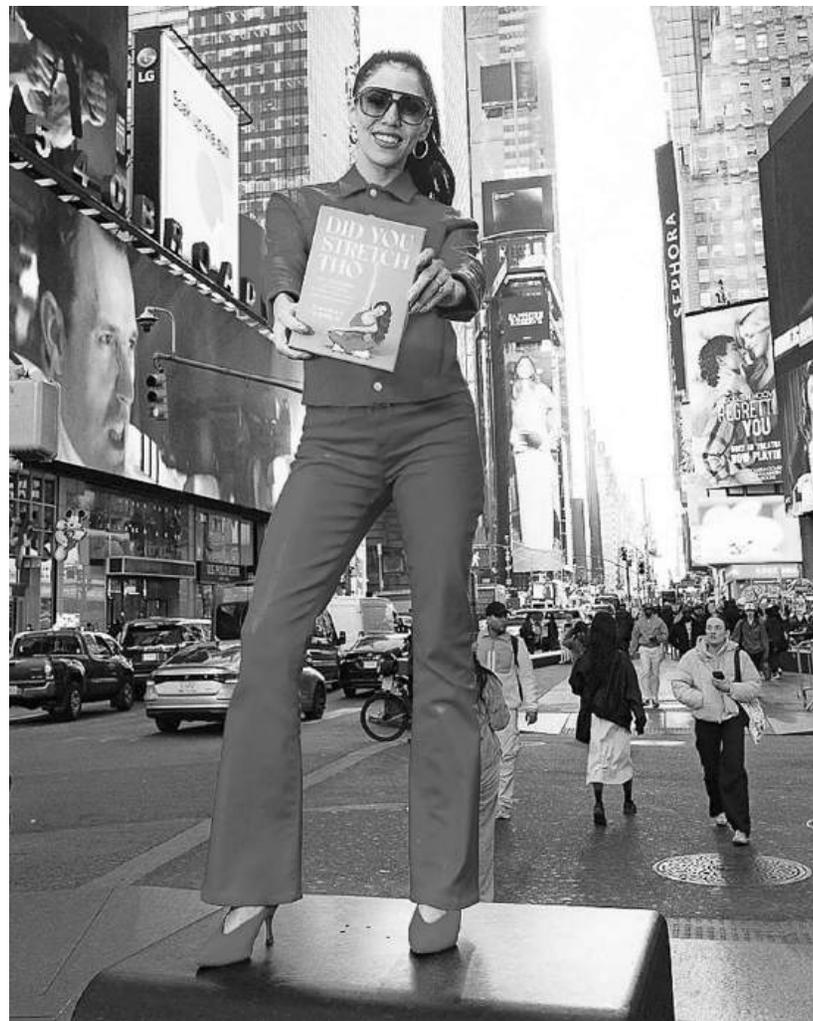
Corbin said that she is excited for the event, particularly conversing with attendees.

"I do love a good Q and A," she said, "I'm going to do a chat at the top of the evening."

Laura said that all of the money from ticket sales goes to Corbin and that she and Ralph are happy to put together events for the community.

The General Store will be participating in the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor's Crawl for a Cause on March 21. The Bonellis will also host a Girl Scout Troop selling cookies on March 22.

Hannah Corbin's book "Did You Stretch Tho: 52 Stretches to Increase Flexibility, Balance, and Performance" was released on Nov. 4.



Courtesy Team Hannah Corbin

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# Where curiosity meets a microscope

40 children take advantage of a \$600K museum initiative

By STACY DRIKS

sdriks@liherald.com

Children climbed aboard a new, all-electric mobile laboratory — dubbed the BioBus — at the Long Island Children's Museum in Uniondale, peering into high-powered microscopes and examining samples of insects and organic matter during a hands-on demonstration.

The museum held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Feb. 16 on the mobile science lab, which travels to schools across Long Island, New York City and Boston, and will now make several stops at the museum each year for special events. The expansion is supported by a \$600,000 investment from the National Grid Foundation over the next three years.

During the ceremony, about 40 children helped cut the ribbon, and then they crowded inside the mobile lab, taking turns looking at microscopes and asking scientists questions as parents tagged along.

The BioBus's interior was separated into two stations, one was "focus" and the other "hands on." Children leaned over microscopes, adjusting the focus as magnified images of cells, tiny organisms and worms came into view. Ben Dubin-Thaler, a scientist and BioBus co-founder, explained to them what they were examining.

"My favorite one was the bee," 7-year-old Eoien Callan said. "It was actually so cool because you can see the pollen on it, and I never gotten to really do it before."

Co-founder Latasha Wright said the bugs were chosen for inspection based on what they thought would look good under the microscope, she laughed.

Sisters Rae, 2, and Ami, 5, accompanied by their mom, Freeport resident Lennaxia Brathwaite, found the worm station fascinating, looking at the insects under a microscope with a bright light and watching them in their environment moving in dirt.

Brathwaite expressed appreciation



Children cut the ribbon at the Long Island Children's Museum, officially welcoming the BioBus mobile science lab for hands-on STEM learning.

for the experience, noting that such opportunities weren't available to her growing up.

"This is awesome, I always loved science," Brathwaite said. "I want them to experience it, to be able to be tangible and to touch things, to explore anything hands-on."

"The visuals and the tangibles, they're going to have a lasting impression on this. She's going to remember this," she said of Rae, who stayed by the earthworm station most of the visit.

Brathwaite explained that her daughters have read books about worms from Raz-Kids, a website where they could choose what they want to read, and the trip to the BioBus made the literary experience come to life for her kids.

Built upon a strong partnership between the Long Island Children's Museum and National Grid, the BioBus is set to return throughout the year. Organizers expressed hope that the hands-on experience will continue

sparking curiosity — and perhaps inspire the next generation of scientists.

National Grid's partnership with the museum goes back more than three decades, when community members and spouses Roni Kohen-Lemle and Robert Lemle established the museum. The partnership later expanded with the support of Bob Catell, 89, former chief executive of KeySpan, who attended the ceremony, and through development efforts led by Edward Smits of Nassau Heritage.

"In 2010, that partnership deepened with the STEM initiatives," Erika Floresca, the museum's president, said at the Feb. 16 ceremony. "National Grid became the initial sponsor of Westbury Schools' partnership, a green team environmental leadership program and our annual STEM weekend."



Stacy Driks/Herald photos

Seven-year-old Eoien Callan peered through a microscope aboard the BioBus, exploring magnified views of insects and other specimens.

Floresca said the continued support allows the museum to expand programming for students K-12, including special education services and bilingual instruction to ensure broader access.

"We know, and National Grid understands, if you spark curiosity early, if you nurture children's confidence in asking questions, solving problems and testing ideas, you open opportunities," she said. "Waiting until high school, if often too late, early engagement matters — National Grid gets this."

Robert Simmons, head of the National Grid Foundation, addressed the attendees and invited Matthew Aromero, 7, and his brother, Jayden, 8, of Glen Cove, to the podium to share their excitement about the BioBus.

"I'm always ready," Matthew said, eager to begin exploring.

Jayden Aromero, 8, of Glen Cove, and Ami, 5, and Rae, 2, with their mom, Lennaxia Brathwaite, of Freeport, huddle over a microscope at the BioBus, watching worms wriggle through soil with the help of one of the scientists.



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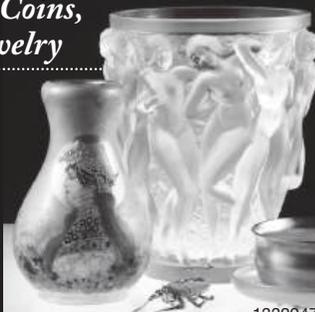
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## OPINIONS

# Blakeman's ICE policy offers a Get Out of Jail Free card

**W**hile President Trump promised us that his approach to immigration would rid us of the “worst of the worst” undocumented criminals, the reality is that some of the worst have become the president's biggest fans. And several have become the biggest admirers of Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, the Republican gubernatorial candidate. Wilfredo Blanco Molina is one of their most ardent supporters.



**CHARLES LAVINE**

It was 3:40 in the morning of Oct. 27, 2024, when Blanco Molina, driving very drunk and high on cocaine, struck and killed

69-year-old Robert McCarthy in Westbury. McCarthy, who was riding his bicycle, was thrown into a telephone pole. Fleeing the scene of the crime, Blanco Molina was arrested a few minutes later. There was cocaine in his pocket.

Last September, Blanco Molina entered into a plea agreement with the Nassau County district attorney's office.

In exchange for a sentence of no more than 21 years in prison, he admitted to the serious felonies of aggravated vehicular homicide, manslaughter, assault, aggravated driving while intoxicated, driving impaired, and leaving the scene of an accident. Prosecutors negotiated the plea agreement with the consent of McCarthy's grief-stricken family.

Blanco Molina must have been amazed and delighted to escape from serving any prison time, thanks to Blakeman's signing on to Immigration and Customs Enforcement's 287(g) program, which gives county police and probation departments the authority to collaborate with ICE.

As always happens when a defendant is to receive a lengthy prison sentence, Blanco Molina remained in custody after he pleaded guilty, and was taken to the Nassau County Probation Department to be interviewed for the purpose of the preparation of a pre-sentence report. This report is reviewed by the judge before the imposition of sentence.

We are left to imagine Blanco Molina's pleasant surprise when Blakeman's Probation Department immediately

delivered him to ICE, which sent him back to El Salvador. Blanco Molina was the happy recipient of an unanticipated Get Out of Jail Free card.

This was a staggering abuse to Robert McCarthy, his family and the Westbury community, which I am privileged to represent in the State Assembly.

**C**ounty police and probation departments are collaborating with the agency.

Our American concept of due process is explicit in the Constitution's 14th Amendment. It is often viewed as a right guaranteed to defendants in criminal cases. That right, however, is much more expansive, and protects every one of us: “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Due process means that all of us are guaranteed “equal protection of the laws.” You and I and the McCarthy family were denied equal protection of the laws when Blanco Molina was unfairly freed from the lengthy prison sentence he so richly deserved. The public had

the right to know that he had been fairly prosecuted and that he would pay a substantial price for having violated our laws and having taken the life of a fellow American.

Nor is Blanco Molina's treatment an isolated instance of this gross abuse of Americans' due process rights. In December, ICE permitted Jeson Nelon Presilla Flores, who had been charged with committing a \$100 million jewelry theft of a Brink's armored truck in Los Angeles, to self-deport to his native South Africa. The heist was believed to be the largest in American history. Flores's trial was scheduled just days before he got *his* Get Out of Jail Free card.

Many others now evading prosecution throughout the United States have been given similar beneficial treatment. Sent back to their own countries without serving prison sentences, they are free to return to the U.S. and continue their criminal careers. Trump, and Blakeman, extend them unequal protection of the law, to the prejudice and detriment of the rest of us. We are denied equal protection and due process when those in power help criminals evade prosecution and, when warranted, prison sentences.

*Charles Lavine represents the 13th Assembly District.*

## For now, New York City is alive and well

**F**or the past two months, many skeptics of the administration of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani have been anticipating an exodus of residents because of the new mayor's policies. For now, anyone who tells you that people are leaving New York City in droves is indulging



**JERRY KREMER**

in wishful thinking. But it's useful to examine Mamdani's short history to see what he's doing and whether there are any warning signs ahead.

First of all, it's worth talking about trends when it comes to people leaving the city and the state.

Overall, the state is losing population due to the high cost of living and people's desire to live in warmer climates. In the case of New York City, the only numbers available to date are from July 2024. At that point the city had gained 87,000 new residents in the previous year, the result, demographers explained, of a combination of an increase in the birth rate and wealthy

people from other parts of the world continuing to come to the Big Apple.

The international arrivals are the well-to-do who buy high-cost apartments and buildings. Take a trip to Manhattan's 57th Street and you'll find towering buildings with breathtaking Central Park views. New York is a very attractive place for these big-money people who can't find the kind of attractions they're seeking in their native countries.

Mamdani has appointed many people who have had previous government experience at the federal and state level. His first deputy mayor, Dean Fuleihan, was my chief of staff in the Assembly when I was chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and the budget director for Mayor Bill de Blasio. Fuleihan is smart, and knows the city's fiscal issues.

The mayor was fortunate to be able to keep Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, and she'll stay as long as he doesn't meddle in police operations.

The recent snowstorms were a big test for Mamdani, but by the second big storm, last month, the cleanup was a lot smoother. Snowstorms have always

been a big deal in the city, and especially since the days of Mayor John Lindsay. After the first major snowstorm of his administration, the city failed to plow any streets in Queens, and that

damaged Lindsay's reputation for years. And de Blasio had a horrific first snowstorm experience when he decided to keep the plows out of key sections of Manhattan.

The most important issue facing the mayor is his multi-billion-dollar budget deficit. Mamdani has suggested that the state allow the city to tax the earnings of millionaires and billionaires, but

that proposal has gotten a cold shoulder from Gov. Kathy Hochul, who's running for re-election this year. In the past few weeks, a number of progressive groups have been in Albany, pushing for that increase, but any legislation that creates such a tax is sure to be vetoed by the governor.

Since the mayor began talking about the deficit, the state has found an extra \$1.4 billion that will help the city. One new proposal that would help raise at least another \$1 billion is to add more parking meters around the city. That

idea might not be very popular, but it's better than the mayor's proposed 9.5 percent citywide increase in the real estate tax. There is some support from Albany progressives for the idea, but it would have to get through both houses of the Legislature.

So what will a 34-year-old, first-term mayor have to do to balance the budget? There is such a thing as cutting some expenditures, though that hasn't been attempted by any recent mayors. The 2025 city budget was an estimated \$112.4 billion. Having chaired a legislative fiscal committee, I believe that an honest effort should be made to trim some unnecessary spending in order to persuade the state to help close the city's budget gap.

At this point there hasn't been any so-called “Mamdani effect.” There are lots of things that could happen, but so far, so good. When you manage a government as large as New York City's, however, there are many land mines ahead, any one of which could do a new, young mayor in.

*Jerry Kremer was a state assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He currently chairs the Capitol Insight Group, a government relations firm. Comments? jkremer@liherald.com.*

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**OFFICE**
2 Endo Boulevard  
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Phone: (516) 569-4000

Fax: (516) 569-4942

Web: glencove.liherald.com

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Hundreds of students are sick, unseen, left behind

What if we told you that in every school district across Long Island, an average of 200 students are silently suffering from a condition that has left them barely able to get out of bed? That these children miss school at more than twice the rate of their peers? That they are twice as likely to struggle to learn, concentrate and remember?

What if we told you that these students suffer from depression at three times the rate of their healthy school-mates? That, unlike the flu, their illness doesn't dissipate with rest and time, and in many cases gets worse? That it can take months or years for a family to find a doctor who understands the disorder — and that when they do, that doctor often has no treatment to offer?

If we told you a crisis of that scale was playing out in every Long Island school district, you would expect emergency meetings of school boards, action from Albany and, at minimum, that someone in a position of authority was paying attention.

Yet, tragically, this crisis is real, and almost no one is paying attention.

An estimated 25,000 children across Long Island are living with long Covid — the little-understood condition that develops when a Covid-19 infection does not fully resolve. Formally known as post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2, it is defined as symptoms that persist or newly arise more than three months after infection — and many of the 23 million Americans with long Covid have been suffering for over half a decade.

“Long haulers” experience a unique combination of more than 200 potential symptoms, including crushing fatigue, brain fog, heart palpitations, pain with

no clear origin, and immune dysfunction that standard blood tests cannot detect. The National Institutes of Health's RECOVER Initiative determined that roughly 4 percent of children who contracted Covid-19 later develop the condition — translating to 200 students per district in Long Island's 125 school districts. And because Covid continues to circulate, new cases are being added every day.

Harvard economists have estimated the total cost of long Covid to the United States at \$3.7 trillion. For a family with a seriously affected child, navigating years of visits to specialists, lost parental income and insurance companies that routinely deny claims, the financial burden can easily reach six figures. This is not a minor post-pandemic inconvenience. It is one of the largest ongoing public health and economic crises in American history.

A situation of this magnitude should be impossible to miss. School boards should have data. Superintendents should have plans. Doctors should have answers. Instead, these children are largely invisible — and the reasons are worth understanding. Long Covid carries no definitive diagnostic test, its symptoms overlap with conditions doctors are quicker to define, and families often spend a year or more cycling through specialists without answers. Many of these families suffer quietly at home, unaware of others going through the same thing, with no community, no organized voice, no constituency demanding to be heard.

Parents describe a particular kind of helplessness. They watch a child who was active, engaged and social withdraw from everything that once defined them. They fight insurance companies, drain

savings and search online late at night for anything that might help. They sometimes pursue ineffective — and dangerous — therapies offered by unscrupulous people preying on their desperation. More than anything, they wait for a return to normalcy that medicine has not yet figured out how to deliver.

Teachers watch capable students quietly disappear. The hand that was always first in the air goes still, and half-done work replaces finished assignments. Without the training to recognize the symptoms of long Covid, too many educators mistake it for disengagement or a behavioral problem. It is neither.

Children are being left behind in ways that cannot always be recovered — the reading level never reached, the travel team never made, the Homecoming never attended, the college essay never written. Childhood has a timeline, and long Covid does not respect it.

If your child has been struggling since a Covid infection — however mild or even asymptomatic — long Covid may be the explanation no one has yet offered. Ask your pediatrician. Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital, Northwell Health and Stony Brook University Hospital all have long Covid clinics — world-class resources waiting to help, right in our backyard.

This Sunday, March 15, is Long Covid Awareness Day. But awareness without action is futile. So let's commit to making this the year long Covid gets the recognition, coverage and funding it so sorely needs. Our children deserve nothing less.

Are you or your child suffering from long Covid? *We want to hear your story, which we will keep anonymous. Email us at [longcovid@liherald.com](mailto:longcovid@liherald.com).*

## LETTERS

### News literacy should be required in schools

To the Editor:

As a superintendent and a proud educator for over 25 years, I couldn't agree more with the editorial in the Feb. 26-March 4 issue, “Long Island students need news literacy.” In fact, I believe it should be mandated in all K-12 school districts.

In today's digital world, especially in the age of A.I., where fake images and misleading headlines often come across as “authentic,” developing strong news literacy skills is more important than ever. With a competitive 24-hour “breaking news” cycle coupled with the constant flow of social media feeds, the singular, more traditional news sources are long gone. Now audiences, including young and impressionable adolescents, often rely on media outlets and websites that may be unverified or deceptive.



## OPINIONS

## A heart-stopping hockey victory was marred by politics

The U.S. men's hockey team's 2-1 sudden death, overtime win over Canada to win the Olympic gold medal set off a wave of patriotism that few people anticipated. There was, of course, the usual hope of victory when the Americans won their first four games in Italy. That hope increased when they advanced to the final against

Canada, the clear favorite.

It wasn't a David vs. Goliath match like the fabled 1980 Miracle on Ice, in which an American team comprising a bunch of amateur college kids defeated the Soviet Union, which was acknowledged to be the over-

whelming favorite. But this year's gold medal game, too, was an instant classic. The winning goal came less than two minutes into overtime on a rocket-like shot by Jack Hughes.

There was exultation among the American fans in the arena, and the many millions watching on TV across the country. On the ice, the players were euphoric, overcome with absolute joy. The exuberant Hughes topped it all off

by giving credit to his teammates and exclaiming, "I love the USA. I'm so proud to be an American!"

His words were obviously genuine and sincere — a raw, unfiltered expression of Americanism that would have had a visceral impact on many Americans at any event. But they came against the backdrop of other American Olympians criticizing the United States and President Trump. The attacks by these athletes against their own country on foreign soil, at an international event, infuriated and disappointed countless Americans regardless of whether or not they supported the president.

The reaction of many progressives in politics and the media was that these statements were merely free speech. No one, of course, was denying that the athletes had the right to say what they did. But just because you have the right to say something doesn't make it right. Nor should you say it in another country, when you're representing the United States.

Whenever I traveled overseas as a congressman, I never said a critical word about my country or the president, whether he was Democrat or Republi-

can. I believe that politics stops at the water's edge. Besides, I can think of no country that offers more opportunity for more people or has done more good for the world than the United States.

For whatever the reasons, the several days after the Olympics ended saw a wave of unabashed patriotism and expressions of love of country spread across the land. It peaked when Trump presented the hockey team at his State of the Union address. And then Hughes got a heartwarming welcome when he returned to play his first home game for the New Jersey Devils.

Unfortunately, there were the naysayers. An op-ed in The New York Times claimed that the American had allowed themselves to be politicized, and had gone from heroes to zeros. The genesis of the criticism of the players was their acceptance of Trump's invitation to visit the White House and be his guests at the State of the Union. The invitation had been made by way of FBI Director Kash Patel, who had celebrated with the players in the locker room and held his phone so they could hear Trump's congratulations.

The president's call to the locker room was described as a political intru-

sion, though it's customary for presidents to make such calls. When President Jimmy Carter called to congratulate the 1980 gold medal winners, Coach Herb Brooks not only accepted the call, but also told Carter he supported his controversial decision to boycott that summer's Olympics in Moscow. Back then there wasn't a word of complaint from the media.

Though Trump also invited the American women's gold medal-winning hockey team to the White House and the State of the Union, he was assailed for prefacing the invite with the friendly jibe, "I guess I have to invite the women." Talk about political correctness run amuck! Lighten up!

Similarly, there was the criticism that the men were the object of more public acclaim than the women, ignoring the fact that the women's team had been favored from the start and has now won three gold medals since 1998, while the men hadn't won in 46 years.

We must put aside stridency and needless political division to enjoy such moments of national patriotism, and celebrate that we are fortunate to live in the greatest nation in the history of the world. USA!

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



**PETER KING**

**N**obody complained about Herb Brooks's chat with Jimmy Carter in 1980.

## LETTERS

The ability to critically analyze and question the information we encounter is no longer optional; it's an essential life skill. This is why the Baldwin Union Free School District has implemented a robust news and media literacy curriculum for several years now. Beginning in sixth grade, news literacy skills are embedded into our middle and high school social studies and English coursework. Our high school seniors are also required to complete College Civics and News Literacy, a dual-credit course through our partnership with Stony Brook University's Center for News Literacy. We even hosted a workshop to educate parents about misinformation, since becoming news-literate is important for everyone.

News literacy is much more than distinguishing between true and false. Students acquire skills to identify credible sources and misinformation, recognize bias, assess evidence and sources, and critically evaluate the influence of media on individuals and society, including online "trolls." Teaching these skills in our classrooms prepares students not only for higher education and future careers but also to become thoughtful, informed citizens who are trusted sources of information.

ANTHONY MIGNELLA  
Superintendent,  
Baldwin Union Free School District

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## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At last month's inaugural Wlnterfest — Rockville Centre



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