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Recognizing veterans' PTSD
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Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Chad Ryals, left, and Tony Jimenez met in 2018, at a Memorial Day event. They became close friends, bonding over their experience with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Tony Jimenez, who served in Vietnam and City Hall, dies

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Tony Jimenez's older brother, Phil, still remembers a moment that defined who his brother was long before Glen Cove came to know him.

"I didn't know what to do," Phil recalled of a childhood encounter when a group of kids tried to take their bicycles. "I was ready to give them the bicycles. My brother — no, these are ours. You're not taking them. And he just stood up strong ... he just knew what to do, instinct."

Anthony "Tony" Pasquale Jimenez, a dec-

orated Vietnam veteran, a longtime Glen Cove public servant and a fixture in the community, died last Sunday, at age 74.

Born on July 12, 1951, Jimenez was raised in Lower Manhattan's Alphabet City, growing up in the projects with his siblings. "It was a 14-story building," Phil said, recalling their early years, before the family moved to Levittown in search of a safer life. "We lived on the seventh floor."

Even as a child, those close to him said, Jimenez had a quiet confidence, and an instinct to protect others. "He helped so many people and did so much without fan-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Kidney donor is an 'angel' to man she saved

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

What began as a celebratory birthday dinner at a popular Glen Cove restaurant led to a life-altering moment when Susanne Deegan, of Sea Cliff, told La Bussola manager David Geliashvili, of Locust Valley, that she would get tested to see if she could donate a kidney.

Deegan and her husband, Daniel, were celebrating his 60th birthday on July 8, surrounded by family and friends at the Italian restaurant. As Susanne was enjoying a favorite dish, stuffed artichokes, the evening took a serious turn when Geliashvili revealed troubling news.

"He told us at the table he said, 'I'm sick and I need a kidney,'" Deegan recounted. "I said, 'I'll get tested.'"

At the time, it was a spontaneous response. But months later, that pledge became a reality. After a series of medical evaluations, Deegan, 55, learned in February birthday that she was a blood type

match with Geliashvili, 51. On March 10, they both underwent surgery at North Shore University Hospital, in Manhasset, and they reunited days later with the transplant team, marking the success of a procedure that ended over a year of uncertainty and physical stress for Geliashvili.

The real solution is to find a living donor.

DR. ELLIOT GRODSTEIN

North Shore University Hospital

"There are not enough words for me to thank Susanne," he said. "I call her my angel. There are angels among us."

Geliashvili's journey to a transplant began in the fall of 2024, when he began experiencing fatigue and shortness of breath. He initially believed he had the flu. But by December 2024, his condition had worsened, and he went to the emergency room, where doctors diagnosed him with polycystic kidney disease — a condition that had also affected members of his family.

Within days of his diagnosis, he began dialysis treatments, a demanding process in which he spent four hours every other day connected to a machine.

"Fourteen months, every

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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Herald file photo

Residents of Glen Head have been outspoken against battery energy storage systems, and have supported prior moratoriums

Oyster Bay approves sixth moratorium

By WILL SHEELINE wsheeline@liherald.com

The Town of Oyster Bay board voted unanimously to extend its moratorium on battery energy storage systems for another 12 months, citing ongoing safety concerns and continued public opposition during a recent meeting.

The resolution passed with six votes in favor and none opposed as part of a broader action calendar approved by the town board during their regular April 14 meeting. It is another win for the anti-battery storage movement in the Glen Head community, which rallied around opposition to the Oyster Shore Energy Storage, a now-cancelled project by Jupiter Power in Glen Head which the moratorium was initially created to prevent.

Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino said the decision was driven by public safety considerations and the lack of effective methods to combat fires involving large-scale battery storage systems.

"We feel very strongly about we've heard; we've held hearings, listened to the professionals in firematics, in community safety," Saladino said during the meeting. "People have done research about these issues and fires throughout the country and beyond, and it has been very clear to us, based on the data giving given to us, that the firematic professionals have informed us that there is not a way as of yet to put out these massive fires."

The moratorium applies to battery energy storage systems, often referred to as BESS, which are increasingly proposed as part of renewable energy infrastructure. While supporters say the systems are critical for energy reliability and sustainability, critics have raised concerns about fire risks, environmental hazards and emergency response capacity.

Residents who spoke during the meeting supported extending the moratorium. Doug Augenthaler of Glen Head said recent incidents highlight the dangers associated with lithium-ion battery technology.

Fuller also pointed to the recent four-alarm fire at a Big Valley Nursery, a hardware store in Glen Head, arguing that a similar response to a battery facility fire could overwhelm local resources.

"It's not a matter of the training that the state wants us to focus on," he said. "It's a matter of we don't physically have the manpower to address these fires period."

Town officials acknowledged the limits of their authority under state law but emphasized their willingness to continue pushing back on projects they view as unsafe. Saladino noted that the town has previously taken legal action when necessary and would continue to stand with residents.

"We stand with our residents 100 percent," he said.

Christine Panzeca of Glen Head thanked the board for what she described as a proactive approach to protecting the community. She cited recent action by the City of Long Beach to restrict battery storage capacity and prohibit utility-scale systems as an example of municipalities responding to similar concerns.

She also urged the town to consider long-term zoning solutions, warning that companies may seek variances that could introduce additional hazardous materials near residential areas and waterways.

"Putting thousands of gallons of petroleum distillate and other hazardous chemicals in the ground," she said, "in tanks near our waterways, near our wells, is probably not environmental and it's not a smart move."

During the discussion, officials also addressed concerns about marketing materials related to energy projects that appeared to suggest town support. Saladino said the use of images of town officials in such materials does not indicate endorsement.

As the vote concluded, board members reiterated that the moratorium is intended to give the town additional time to study the issue and develop regulations that prioritize safety.

City leads effort on suicide prevention

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

The City of Glen Cove has been recognized as the first municipality in the nation to formally acknowledge the veteran suicide crisis as a designated Suicide Awareness and Remembrance City, officials announced.

The designation was marked during an April 16 ceremony at City Hall, where the city received the Mental Health Advocate Award on be from the Long Island Marine Corps League, in partnership with the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Suicide Awareness & Remembrance initiative.

“Supporting our veterans does not end when their service does,” Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said. “It is a life-long responsibility, and one we are proud to carry forward in Glen Cove.”

The recognition reflects Glen Cove’s broader commitment to supporting veterans through education, outreach and mental health programming. Among those efforts is “Talk Saves Lives,” a community-based initiative that teaches residents how to recognize warning signs and support those in crisis.

Councilman John Zozzaro said the initiative builds on long-standing work already taking place in the community.

“The Long Island Marine Corps League Mental Health Advocate City Initiative recognizes communities not for what they are beginning today, but for what they have already done, and for the commitment to continue that work moving forward,” Zozzaro said.

“With its more than 350-year history of caring for our veterans, Glen Cove is not starting something new,” he added. “We are leading the nation by example.”

Major Fred Nielson, commandant of Dan Daly Detachment 225, said the Marine Corps League launched the initiative to recognize communities taking meaningful action.

“We’re starting to recognize those who have taken mental health seriously and have chosen to do more than talk about it, chosen to do something about it,” Nielson said.

He noted that while Glen Cove is the first municipality to receive the designation, others are beginning to follow.

“Yes, Glen Cove, our city, is the first, but there are already 18 others that are political districts or their campuses or hospitals or their cities or their towns,” Nielson said. “We are indeed the first, and so we are leading in that way up front.”

Anne Morrison Pascarella, executive director of the Long Island chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, emphasized the importance of local education and outreach.

“We can make a difference and speak about suicide and suicide prevention by just having conversations,” Pascarella said.

She highlighted the impact of the “Talk Saves Lives” program, which equips residents with tools to recognize warning signs and connect individuals



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck received a proclamation on behalf of the city during the April 16 ceremony at Glen Cove City Hall recognizing the city as a Suicide Awareness and Remembrance City.



During the April 16 ceremony at Glen Cove City Hall, the American flag is folded as part of a tribute recognizing the city’s designation as a Suicide Awareness and Remembrance City.

with resources.

“So one of the initiatives that I have been really excited to see take off ... is our Talk Saves Lives education program,” she said. “It really is giving people ... ways for you to identify if somebody might be struggling with their mental health.”

The ceremony also included a tribute to veterans, including remarks from Howard Stillwagon, commander of James E. Donahue VFW Post 347, who spoke about fellow veteran Joe Moores and his service.

“This recognition is not just a

moment in time,” Stillwagon said. “It is about a lifetime of service, sacrifice, and quiet strength.”

To qualify for the designation, Glen Cove met several criteria, including being recognized as a Purple Heart City, demonstrating awareness of veteran mental health challenges, and maintaining ongoing mental health programming within the community.

Officials said the city’s designation sets a national example, underscoring the importance of sustained commitment to veterans long after their service ends.



Elijah Goodine performed the national anthem during the ceremony.



Anne Morrison Pascarella highlighted the importance of community awareness and suicide prevention efforts.

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Health Benefits of Forgiveness

Each one of us experience countless injustices in the course of everyday living. Like other experiences, it is not the experience itself so much that counts, but how you process it. The Mayo Clinic addresses the health benefits of “forgiveness” which they define as “an intentional decision to let go of resentment and anger”. Letting go of grudges and bitterness can lead to:

- Healthier relationships
- Improved mental health
- Less anxiety, stress and hostility
- Fewer symptoms of depression
- Lower blood pressure
- A stronger immune system
- Improved heart health
- Improved self-esteem
- Better sleep

Everett Worthington, Profession Emeritus of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University, provides a free workbook at evworthington-forgiveness.com to aid those for whom forgiveness may be difficult (most of

us!), focusing on the REACH method.

Recall: Recall the hurt. Look at the incident in an objective way and don't try to push aside your feelings.

Empathize: Empathize with the offender without excusing the action or invalidating your own feelings. Maybe the person was having a bad day or was raised in dire circumstances.

Altruistic gift: Give the altruistic gift of forgiveness. Think about a time when you were rude or harsh, and recognize that everyone has shortcomings.

Commit: Make a decision to forgive. You can write a letter that you don't send to help yourself make the commitment.

Hold: Hold on to forgiveness. Memories of the transgression or event won't change. But how you react to those feelings will.

“Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned”.

— Buddha

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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- Officer Jahrae O'Neil arrested a 58-year-old Glen Cove man on April 9 and charged him with DWI, Improper Left Turn, and Obstructed View on Charles Street.
- Officer Eric Caruso arrested a 35-year-old Glen Cove woman on April 9 and charged her with Criminal Mischief in the 4th degree on Bridge Street.
- Detective Brian Glennon arrested a 43-year-old man from Quincy, Massachusetts on April 9 and charged him with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd degree, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 2nd degree, Possession of a Forged Instrument 3rd degree, and Unsafe Lane Change on Pratt Boulevard.
- Officer Kevin Telese arrested a 33-year-old Glen Cove woman on April 10 and charged her with Harassment 1st degree on Bridge Street.
- Officer Andres Sican arrested a 51-year-old Bayville man on April 13 and charged him with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th degree, Improper Left Turn, Passed Red Traffic Light, and Nassau County District Court Arrest Warrants for Aggravated Family Offense, Criminal Contempt 1st degree, and Criminal Contempt 2nd degree on the Arterial Highway.
- Officer Jahrae O'Neil arrested a 36-year-old man from Washington State on April 13 and charged him with DWI, Drinking Alcohol in Motor Vehicle on Highway, and Obstructed View on Forest Avenue.
- Officer Darren Pittman arrested a 30-year-old Glen Cove man on April 14 and charged him with Petit Larceny on School Street.
- Officer Andrew Mozer arrested a 30-year-old Glen Cove man on April 16 and charged him with Glen Cove Court Arrest Warrants for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th degree on Central Avenue.
- Officer Jahrae O'Neil arrested a 34-year-old Glen Cove man on April 20 and charged him with Aggravated DWI, DWI, Two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Failure to Properly Restrain Child Passengers (ages 2-4), Unsafe Lane Change, and Failure to Use Designated Lane on Brewster Street.

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

NEWS BRIEF

Charged with breaking Leandra's Law

A 34-year-old Hempstead man was arrested early April 20 and charged with driving while intoxicated, including an aggravated count under Leandra's Law, according to Glen Cove police.

Police said Officer O'Neil conducted a traffic stop at approximately 1:26 a.m. on Glen Cove Avenue. Following an investigation, the driver, identified as Pedro E. Marcia Maldonado, was charged with driving while intoxicated, aggravated driving while intoxicated

under Leandra's Law, two counts of failure to properly restrain a child, two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, and additional vehicle and traffic violations. Authorities said two children, ages 2 and 4, were in the back seat with their mother at the time and were not properly restrained. Maldonado is scheduled to be arraigned in District Court.

—Roksana Amid

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Adelphi business school rises to top spot

Adelphi University's Robert B. Willumstad School of Business ranked first among Long Island institutions in the 2026 Poets & Quants Best Undergraduate Business Schools ranking, the university announced March 23.

Adelphi climbed 17 spots, from No. 102 in 2025 to No. 85 this year, marking the largest increase among all colleges and universities included in the ranking. The improvement was driven in part by gains in career outcomes, which rose from No. 103 to No. 79, and admissions standards, which increased from No. 97 to No. 83, according to Poets & Quants.

The publication evaluates undergraduate business programs nationwide using a composite index that includes surveys of alumni two years after graduation, as well as school-reported data on admissions, academic experience and employment outcomes.

Adelphi officials pointed to the school's Willumstad Winning Edge program as a key factor in the rankings jump. The two-course sequence pairs each student with faculty and career-readiness advisers while emphasizing hands-on professional experience and career preparation.

"While we are extremely proud of this ranking, it is what is behind the ranking that really sets Adelphi apart," said MaryAnne Hyland, dean of the Willumstad School of Business, in a press release sent to the Herald. "Our commitment to student success is reflected in high alumni satisfaction and strong internship and job placement rates that give our students the competitive edge necessary to thrive in today's economy."

Hyland added that recent graduates have reported high satisfaction with their experience, and that the school's focus on career readiness has contributed to improved internship and job placement outcomes.



Courtesy Adelphi University

Adelphi University's Robert B. Willumstad School of Business ranked No. 1 among Long Island institutions in the 2026 Poets & Quants Best Undergraduate Business Schools ranking.

The recognition comes as Adelphi prepares to expand its business offerings in New York City. Later this spring, the university will open a new Manhattan Center at 529 Fifth Ave., near Grand Central Terminal. The three-floor, 51,000-square-foot facility is designed to serve working professionals seeking advanced degrees or certifications.

Beginning this fall, the Manhattan Center will offer the Willumstad School of Business's Flex MBA and Professional Accelerated MBA programs. University officials said the programs can be completed in as little as one year.

—Allyson Ferrari



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6 Tony Jimenez ‘kept everyone glued together’

April 23, 2026 – GLEN COVE HERALD

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fare,” his brother said.

After graduating from high school, Jimenez joined the U.S. Army in 1969, served as an infantryman in Vietnam and eventually became a sergeant. Like many veterans, he rarely spoke about his experiences. “It wasn’t until these last four or five years ... that he really started talking about the Vietnam days,” Phil said.

When he came home in March 1971, his family celebrated in a way that reflected how deeply he was missed. “We didn’t have our Christmas until then,” Phil said. “Mom said, ‘No, we’re not having Christmas without him.’ We kept the tree up ... and then in March, we had that Christmas.”

Jimenez moved to Glen Cove in 1980, where he built a life centered on service. He worked as a surgical technician for 26 years, and became a City court officer in 1988. He joined the Glen Cove Fire Department as an emergency medical technician in 1994, assisted in the delivery of seven children over the years, and went on to serve as EMS chief.

Jimenez served on the City Council from 2000 to 2014, and returned to the council role after the death of Councilman Nick DiLeo in 2014 Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said their relationship grew from one of political partners to close friends.

“When I ran for City Council, we ran together and we became very, very close,” she said.

DeRiggi-Whitton recalled how Jimenez’s openness about living with Type 1 diabetes changed her perspective as a parent. “He casually told me he had Type 1 diabetes ... I was so amazed he was able to accomplish so much having that,” she said.

Jimenez was deeply involved in community efforts — from food distribution with NOSH to environmental cleanups and veterans advocacy. “Whatever it was, he was always part of it,” DeRiggi-Whitton said.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck described him as “such an honorable man ... such a patriot,” adding that “he genuinely and truly cared about everyone else more than himself.”

Jimenez’s dedication to veterans remained a defining part of his life. He served as the city’s director of veterans affairs and was active in the American Legion, where he spent decades supporting fellow service members.

David Hubbard, of the American Legion, said that Jimenez’s leadership helped unify the organization. “Tony kept everyone glued together,” he said.

Chad Ryals, a former U.S. Army Ranger and VFW Post 347’s acting chaplain, said that Jimenez helped him adjust after he moved to New York. “He was always there when I needed him, no matter what time I called him,” Ryals said. “He always knew what to say, knew what to do.”

Ryals added that Jimenez’s support extended to his family. “He helped my wife ... cope with me and my PTSD,” he said, describing Jimenez as “the biggest, kindest-hearted person that anyone could know.”

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, Jimenez took the ferry from Glen Cove to Lower Manhattan



Photos courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Tony Jimenez was part of many events in Glen Cove, including those that honored veterans. He always saluted monuments throughout the city, including the one on Elm Avenue.



Jimenez, far right, would join members of the Young-Simmons Post to visit veterans memorials. With him were, from left, Paul McDermott, William Richardson and David Hubbard.

and worked for weeks at ground zero. According to his brother, he joined others “with just bare hands ... try-

ing to find anybody, anything at that point,” and later working daily in the recovery effort.

Those experiences, along with his military service, left lasting physical and emotional impacts. Jimenez’s daughter, Nina, said he faced numerous health challenges in later years.

“He had multiple different health issues from diabetes pulmonary edemas and then he also suffered from Agent Orange,” Nina said.

Despite those challenges, she said, he remained deeply committed to helping others. “He just wanted to give everyone the best that they could have,” Nina said, noting his involvement with community organizations and veterans’ causes.

She described a different side of her father at home, that not everyone saw. “He was very silly and funny, but he would never really show that to a lot of people,” she said.

For Phil, that balance defined his brother’s life. “He was never [that] guy out there but he was the warmest guy in the world,” Phil said. “Quite a combination.”

In addition to his brother and daughter, Jimenez is survived by his wife, Katherine; a son, Christopher; and a grandson, Kurt.

In his decades of service — from Vietnam to Glen Cove City Hall, from emergency response to quiet acts of kindness — those who knew him said Jimenez consistently showed up when it mattered most.

“I’ve looked up to him all through my life,” Phil said. “He was my hero.”

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FASNY sounds alarm for new recruits

By CAROLYN JAMES

cjames@liherald.com

As part of a statewide effort to address declining volunteer firefighter enrollment, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York launched its 17th annual RecruitNY campaign with a news conference and a live firefighting demonstration at the Melville Fire Department April 15.

The initiative comes as the number of volunteer firefighters across the state has dropped by roughly 33 percent over the past two decades, from about 120,000 in the early 2000s to 80,000 today — even as emergency calls continue to rise. Recent data compiled by FASNY shows a 16 percent increase in house fires and a 37 percent jump in overall fire calls over that time, putting added strain on departments.

“It is very important for all of our communities to understand that fire and rescue service is staffed by volunteers who are will-

ing to go out 24/7 and respond to medical and fire emergencies as needed,” the association’s president, Gene Perry, said. “While some departments are doing very well, others face challenges and are trying to get more people and younger people involved.”

Nearly 90 percent of fire departments statewide — including about 70 in Nassau and 100 in Suffolk — rely on volunteers, making recruitment a growing public safety concern.

As part of RecruitNY, departments across Long Island opened their doors for demonstrations and outreach events aimed at attracting new members. Officials said the effort is critical to maintaining staffing levels and emergency response capabilities.

At the Long Island kickoff, FASNY representatives joined local officials and firefighters to highlight recruitment efforts and encourage residents to consider volunteering. They also conducted a demonstration on how firefighters extinguish



Carolyn James/Herald photos

Melville firefighters demonstrate procedures used in putting out a car fire safely at press conference April 15.

dangerous car fires.

In a survey conducted by the association two years ago, 49 percent of New York residents expressed an interest in becoming volunteer firefighters. As well, 66 percent of respondents said they would visit their local fire station to learn more, and 55 percent reported that they would begin with an online search for information.

“What we need are more incentives to encourage people to volunteer, like tax

breaks on homes and priority for affordable housing for volunteers,” Assemblyman Steve Stern said. “These are critically important, but we need to go much further, and I want you to know that we see it and we hear it, because not having enough volunteers is a direct hit on us all — our families and our communities — and it puts our safety at risk.”

For more information on volunteering, contact your local volunteer fire department or visit fasny.com.



FASNY President Gene Perry speaks at press conference about the importance of recruiting more volunteers to local volunteer fire departments across the state.

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Birthday dinner pledge saves a friend's life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other day," Geliashvili recalled. "It's tough, but I kept it to myself."

Dialysis, transplant surgeon Dr. Elliot Grodstein, of North Shore University Hospital, explained, takes a significant toll on a patient's daily life. "Dialysis drains blood out of your arm, the blood is cleaned by a machine, and then your entire circulating blood volume is replaced back into your body," Grodstein said. "After such an extreme experience, you're left feeling tired. Many patients feel nauseous, and they spend the rest of their day in bed."

Despite the strain, Geliashvili continued working and maintaining as much of his routine as possible. He was placed on the transplant waiting list — one of more than 700 patients in the Northwell Health system and part of a national list exceeding 80,000 people.

The long wait times highlight the importance of donors, Grodstein said. "The real solution is to get a living donor," he said, adding that patients can otherwise wait years for a transplant.

Dr. Aaron Winnick, who assisted with the surgery, said that living-donor transplants offer immediate benefits. "Once the kidney is in, it works immediately," Winnick said.

Finding a living donor, however, can be the most difficult part of the process. "It's a tough ask to say to somebody, 'Are you willing to undergo a surgery to save my life?'" Grodstein said.

That challenge is something Northwell's Living Donor Ambassador Program is designed to address. Libbie Binkiewicz, a living donor ambassador, helps patients navigate conversations about donation and reach out to their communities.

"We've started an amazing program here at the transplant center, which allows really very unique and

personalized support that's given to our recipients," Binkiewicz said. "It's a big ask to ask for an organ, but we're not necessarily asking for an organ. We're asking people for help."

Binkiewicz said that Geliashvili stood out from the beginning. "He was motivated, and I knew that this was a guy that wanted to live," she said.

Deegan and Geliashvili are more than just casual acquaintances. For over 20 years, her family had celebrated milestones at La Bussola, where he was a familiar and welcoming presence.

Deegan knew little about living donation, but was surprised to learn that patients often wait six to seven years for a kidney.

After about four months of testing, she and her husband were told that she and Geliashvili were a match, and they shared the news with him over FaceTime.

"I kind of lost it," he said. "How do you react [to] that? It's very hard to describe the feeling."

For Deegan, the decision to donate an organ was deeply personal. "I would say that it's one of the greatest things I've ever been able to do in my life," she said.

She took issue with the idea that organ donation should be limited to close family members.

"A lot of people say, 'Well, how could you do that?'" Deegan said. "I would say that every person is a stranger . . . they have their own loved ones. You're not donating to a stranger. You're donating to somebody's mother or son or brother or wife or husband or grandmother."

Since the surgery, and both donor and recipient have recovered well. Geliashvili said that aside from a follow-up hospital visit, his recovery has been smooth.

Now, both he and Deegan are encouraging others to consider living donation, hoping their story will inspire similar acts of generosity.



Roksana Amid/Herald

David Geliashvili, left and Susanne Deegan at a news conference Tuesday following their successful kidney transplant at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset. Deegan donated a kidney after offering to be tested at a birthday dinner at La Bussola, in Glen Cove.



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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Alan Kriegstein, Alan Mindel Shelly Binder and Meris First about the history and impact of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising sculpture unveiled

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

More than 150 people gathered in the rain on Sunday, April 19, as a long-stored Holocaust memorial sculpture was unveiled at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County in Glen Cove.

The roughly 8-foot bronze work, Monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, now stands in the center's garden at the county-owned Welwyn Preserve. Created in 1976 by Polish-born Holocaust survivor and artist Natan Rapoport, the tableau depicts four figures shielding a child while resisting with a menorah, a pistol and Molotov cocktails.

The installation coincided with the anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, when Jewish residents launched a rebellion against Nazi forces during the liquidation of the ghetto. The monthlong resistance, though ultimately crushed, remains the largest Jewish revolt against Nazi Germany during World War II and a defining symbol of courage and dignity.

"It was the greatest act of resistance by Jews during the Holocaust as the Nazis prepared to completely liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto," said Zachary Graulich, an educator at the museum.

The sculpture has traveled a long path to its current home. Commissioned by the Workers Circle, it stood at the group's New York City headquarters until 2011, when it was placed in storage during a move. It remained there until Alan Kriegstein, of Huntington, discovered it was being kept about a mile from where he volunteers in Farmingdale and arranged for its transfer to the museum on a 50-year loan.

Kriegstein, whose family knew Rapoport personally, reflected on the artist during the ceremony. He described the sculptor as a "warm, humble and kind



Bernie Furshpan and his wife Joanne sand from the audience during the unveiling ceremony at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County.

soul" with surprisingly soft hands: "I would later realize that those hands perfectly reflected him — gentle in touch, yet capable of immense creative force."

Rapoport, who fled Poland to the Soviet Union during World War II, later immigrated to Israel and then to New York City in the late 1950s. His work commemorating the uprising can also be found in Warsaw and at Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust museum.

Speakers emphasized the monument's relevance beyond remembrance. Bali Lerner, the center's executive director, told attendees the sculpture "stands as a true testament to strength and to resistance — the kind that truly transforms ordinary people into heroes when they rise to defend dignity and humanity."

Alan Mindel, the center's chairman, urged vigilance and pride in identity. "Let this memorial be more than stone and bronze. Let it be a promise. We promise, we will not hide, we will not bow our heads, we will not accept a future in which our children are afraid to be who they are," he said.

Workers Circle CEO Ann Toback framed the sculpture as a call to action. "Remembrance has never been something you observe," she said. "It's always been a mandate for action."

The unveiling also marked the opening of a temporary exhibition highlighting Rapoport's work and the individuals who participated in the uprising, further grounding the monument in both history and present-day relevance.



The Monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, a bronze sculpture by Natan Rapoport, stands on display at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County.

Glen Cove schools adopt \$122.3M budget for 2026-27

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

The Glen Cove City School District Board of Education unanimously adopted a \$122,314,624 budget for the 2026-2027 school year on April 15, after addressing a multi-million-dollar shortfall through a combination of reserve funds and targeted reductions.

Here are three key takeaways from the adopted budget:

1

■ Budget approved with tax levy increase under cap

The \$122.3 million budget includes a 2.42 percent tax levy increase, which does not pierce the state’s tax cap. District officials said staying within the cap was a priority as they worked to balance rising costs with the impact on local taxpayers. The district is currently operating under a \$118.1 million budget for the 2025-26 academic year, marking a year-over-year increase in overall spending.

Officials have noted that cost drivers such as contractual obligations, health insurance increases and inflation put pressure on the district’s finances.

Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed budget on May 19, when the Glen Cove community heads to the polls.

2

■ Officials closed a \$7.57M gap using reserves and cuts

District officials entered the budget process facing a \$7.57 million shortfall. By applying \$4 million from reserve funds, the gap was reduced to \$3.57 million, according to Superintendent Alexa Doeschner.

To further address the deficit, the district outlined a series of reductions. These include cuts to the Summer Academic Program, student-teacher conferences, the Twilight Program, curriculum writing, and the fine arts coordinator position. Additional changes involve teaching assistant and monitor reassignments, along with reductions in supplies and postage.

The middle school will also shift from a nine-period day to an eight-period schedule as part of the district’s cost-saving measures.

3

■ Key programs preserved despite financial pressures

District officials emphasized efforts to preserve core programs and services. Priorities included maintaining the Special Education Extended Year Program, class sizes, Advanced Placement and dual-enrollment courses, staff positions, and arts and extracurricular offerings.

Foundation aid normalized after several years of growth, the district expects a 2.04 percent increase for the upcoming school year — an amount that does not keep pace with rising costs. Declining enrollment has also impacted funding, dropping from 3,273 students in 2016-17 to 3,059 as of February.

The district’s financial position is shaped by decisions to levy below the allowable tax limit, leaving roughly \$1.7 million in potential revenue.

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Jennings focuses on reliability, cost as he leads PSEG Long Island

By ANGELINA ZINGARIELLO

azingariello@lherald.com

Scott Jennings was appointed president and chief operating officer of PSEG Long Island in January, overseeing electric service for about 1.2 million customers. He joined PSEG in 1998 after starting at Deloitte, and held leadership roles in finance and energy investments. He helped develop PSEG's Long Island agreement, leading to its 2014 launch, and most recently served as senior vice president of finance, planning and strategy. He earned a degree in business administration and an MBA in accounting from Pace University.



SCOTT JENNINGS

■ **Q:** From a business degree in accounting, how did you get into the power industry?

A: I started with Deloitte, and PSEG was one of my clients.

The engagement showed me how critical the energy industry is to the overall economy and every family. At PSEG I've been able to see every part of the business as I moved into several different roles in finance supporting the overall company, and directly managed a number of

our business areas.

■ **Q:** Having been involved in creating PSEG Long Island's operating structure in 2014, how does that influence your current priorities?

A: Yes, it was a great experience to lead our pitch to LIPA to serve as the operator more than a decade ago, and I'm really happy to move out here and join and lead the PSEG Long Island team. I think this public-private partnership brings great value to the customers of Long Island. With the utility system owned by LIPA, they have access to FEMA funding to recover the costs of storms and support grants for investments, they don't pay federal or state taxes, and they have access to low-cost debt financing. That's real value. And then engaging a private company, like PSEG, brings the expertise to operate the utility efficiently and effectively. So my first priorities are aligned with that: leading the utility to bring value to our customers by providing strong reliability and customer service at an affordable price.

■ **Q:** Being responsible for PSEG-New Jersey's high standard in the industry, how do you lift PSEG Long Island to that level?

A: Over our first 12 years on Long Island, we've made great strides — this is a very, very different electric system and process compared to the past.

Reliability has greatly

improved — PSEG Long Island is now in the top 10 percent of the country for reliability, just behind our sister in New Jersey. We see this in fewer sustained outages, fewer momentary outages, and lesser impacts and quicker responses during recent storms.

Similar on the customer satisfaction front. When we took over in 2014, the Long Island utility had the lowest customer satisfaction in the industry. Since then, PSEG Long Island has been recognized as having the most improvement in the entire country, and was even ranked No. 1 in the 2025 J.D. Power Business Customer Satisfaction Study among large utilities in the East.

And finally I'd point to affordability. When we took over, Long Island electric rates were about the highest in the country. Since then, through good cost control, New York state actions on property taxes and LIPA refinancing its debt, our rates are now lower than our neighboring utilities in NYC and Connecticut.

So we've made great progress, and my focus will be to continue to improve our service while managing costs.

■ **Q:** From your 30 years of experience, what lessons are

most relevant as you take on this position?

A: It's about putting the right people in the right positions and keeping focus on what is most important for customers: reliability, service and cost.

■ **Q:** Under your leadership, what does success look like, and how can PSEG Long Island help strengthen the L.I. region?

A: I look for success in two timeframes. First is the near-term of maintaining continued strong reliability and customer service while managing costs effectively. The second is positioning the Long Island electric utility for long-term success. We're making additional system reliability investments so the strong reliability performance we've recently delivered can be maintained. Similarly, we'll be assessing our long-term energy needs and the generation supply needed to meet them reliably and affordably, while also balancing environmental considerations. These actions and more will position Long Island for reliable and affordable service for years to come, which will help support the region's continued economic development and great communities for our families.



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Garden Party fundraiser set for May 14

The Glen Cove Beautification & Litter Prevention Commission will host its annual Garden Party fundraiser on Thursday, May 14, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at The Metropolitan, located at 3 Pratt Blvd. in Glen Cove.

The event will raise funds to support efforts to improve and enhance public spaces throughout the city. Tickets are \$95 and include a selection of small plate appetizers, as well as beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee and dessert. A cash bar will also be available for cocktails.

Organizers are encouraging community members and local businesses to participate through sponsorships and donations. Sponsorship levels range from \$500 to \$2,500 and include benefits such as event tickets, logo placement and banner recognition. Gift basket donations are also being accepted for the fundraiser.

All proceeds from the event will go toward beautification initiatives, including maintaining green spaces, planting projects and litter prevention programs across Glen Cove.

The commission, a 501(c)(3) organization, said the annual event plays a key role in supporting its ongoing work in the community.

For more information or to get involved, residents can contact Beauti-



Courtesy Lora Cusumano

The Glen Cove Beautification Commission will hold its annual garden party fundraiser on May 14.

fication Commissioner and event chair Barbara Peebles at bpeebles@optonline.net.

—Roksana Amid

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VIEWFINDER What is the best rainy-day activity when April showers hit?

Compiled By Herald Staff

Charlotte Jacobs -
Massapequa Park

I like to do doodles and to color with my mom and my sister. Sometimes my sister gets markers on my pictures, but that's okay.



Aviana Mannino
Lynbrook, age 12
Calling my friends and playing Roblox and watching Hannah Montana.
Tim Baker/Herald



Mackenzie Alessandro
Glen Cove, age 11

I like to go to Claymation and paint.
Tim Baker/Herald



Charlie McDonald -
Rockville Centre, age 8

I like to go to the library and play on my iPad and look for books.
Tim Baker/Herald



Alannah Joggy
East Meadow

I love being in my room listening to the rain while playing music and falling asleep.
Abbey Salvemini/Herald

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STEPPING OUT



Rooted in springtime Blossoming out at Planting Fields

By Abbey Salvemini

As spring moves forward towards its peak, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay bursts into a vivid celebration of color, nature and community. This weekend, April 25–26, the inaugural Branches in Bloom Festival invites visitors to stroll beneath sweeping canopies of magnolias, cherry blossoms and other flowering trees.

Blending longstanding tradition with new experiences, the festival refreshes the site's beloved Arbor Day celebration of years past. Guests can explore the historic estate in colorful bloom while enjoying guided tours, live entertainment and family-friendly activities, making it an easy spring highlight for visitors of all ages.

The new festival is both a tribute and a transformation.

"Branches in Bloom is a reimagining of a 40-year-old tradition here at Planting Fields," Communications and Marketing Manager Kayla Cheshire says. "It's still in honor of Arbor Day, but now we're really able to focus on our spring flowering collection, something thousands of visitors come to see each year."

That shift is most visible in the festival's new setting. Instead of hosting activities away from the colorful trees, organizers moved the entire event to the West Lawn, placing everyone directly among the site's most stunning seasonal displays. That change will have an immediate impact, according to Stewardship Director Lilly McGurk.

"The focus on the spring blooms is really going to knock everybody's socks off," she says with enthusiasm.

The refreshed format also reflects a broader push to make the festival more engaging and accessible to all audiences. While hands-on tree education and environmental programming remain at its core, the expanded offerings are designed to be inviting for families, younger visitors and those discovering the grounds for the first time.

"We wanted to create something that feels contemporary and welcoming to all," McGurk explains. "People are looking to get outside, enjoy nature and spend time together. This brings in that wellness aspect while still celebrating the environment."

Over the course of the weekend, the festival

blends learning with leisure, offering something for both the curious and the casual visitor. Guided tours led by expert horticulturalists, including Arboretum Director Vincent Simeone, provide behind-the-scenes insight into the site's celebrated collections, while interactive demonstrations and displays offer practical inspiration for gardeners at every level.

Music, magic shows, jugglers and roaming performers keep the grounds buzzing with energy throughout the day. Anchoring the schedule are performances by Strummin' and Drummin' (spanning late morning into the afternoon), complemented by face painting, caricatures and a lineup of food trucks offering plenty of casual bites and treats.

For families, interactive experiences are a major draw. The Kids Tree Climb run by longtime sponsor Wonderland Tree Care + Landscapes returns as a centerpiece activity, giving children the chance to safely scale trees under professional supervision. Due to high demand, last entry is at 2:30 p.m. to ensure all finish by the 4 p.m. close.



- Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Admission is \$30 per car, or if taking the LIRR to Oyster Bay, \$5 per person (kids under 3 free); learn at plantingfields.org
- 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay

Craft stations include simple coloring and imaginative projects like wearable "bee crowns," designed to spark creativity and connect visitors to nature.

"We design activities with everyone in mind," McGurk says. "There are things for kids, adults and families to enjoy together."

The festival also underscores the broader mission of the Planting Fields Foundation, which works in partnership with New York State Parks, to preserve and maintain stewardship of the site. Beyond its celebrated horticulture, the organization continues to highlight the estate's layered history, art and culture — threads that run throughout the programming and shape the visitor experience.

"There's so much more here than just the plants," Cheshire adds.

"There's history, there's art, there's culture. Events like this allow us to

showcase all of that while making the site accessible to people of all ages and abilities."

Accessibility remains a priority. This year, organizers pilot a shuttle from the Oyster Bay LIRR station making it easier for visitors from throughout the region to attend without a car. Supported by a state tourism grant through I Love New York, this expands the festival's reach.

"We want everyone to feel welcome here," Cheshire says. "This is about creating access not just to the festival, but to green space and nature in general."

Even with its expanded offerings, Branches in Bloom remains firmly rooted in its Arbor Day heritage. Tree giveaways, educational exhibits, a plant sale, and environmental partnerships continue to anchor the festival, preserving its mission-driven focus while allowing it to evolve and resonate with a new generation.

With blooms in full display, immersive activities and a renewed focus on community connection, organizers aim for the festival to take root as a lasting seasonal celebration.

"It's a new take on a tradition that means a lot to us. At the end of the day, it's about bringing people together, celebrating the season and sharing this incredible place with as many people as possible," Cheshire says.



Photos: Visitors wander the West Lawn at Planting Fields as spring blooms frame a weekend of music, art and family activities.

Photos courtesy Planting Fields



Harry Chapin's Greatest Stories Live

In the long tradition of American roots music family groups, the Chapin family holds a distinctive place. Tom Chapin, Steve Chapin, Jen Chapin, and The Chapin Sisters (Abigail and Lily Chapin) are all accomplished artists with a shared commitment to family and music that connects deeply with audiences. Their performances together bring that spirit into focus in a powerful and personal way at this special concert honoring Harry Chapin's legacy. Two generations of his family come together to perform his songs, joined by The Harry Chapin Band, featuring Big John Wallace and Howard Fields. His iconic works are performed with the energy and intimacy they were written with in mind. In keeping with Harry's lifelong commitment to fighting hunger, everyone is encouraged to bring non-perishable items, to be donated to a local food bank.

Friday, April 24, 8 p.m. \$91, \$71, \$51.
Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org or (516) 767-6444.



Wild days in the Bronx

Chazz Palminteri returns with his electrifying solo performance of "A Bronx Tale," the autobiographical one-man show that launched his career. Raw, riveting and deeply personal, the play draws on his bruising childhood in the Bronx, including the moment — at just nine-years-old — when he witnessed a gangland killing that forever shaped his world-view. Onstage, Palminteri inhabits 18 vividly drawn characters, seamlessly shifting between friends, foes and family members to conjure an entire neighborhood with nothing but his voice, physicality and storytelling prowess. First written and performed in 1989, A Bronx Tale quickly became a sensation, hailed as one of the most sought-after stage properties since Rocky. The original production paved the way for the acclaimed film adaptation — directed by Robert De Niro—and later a hit Broadway musical.

Sunday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. The Paramount. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.

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CALENDAR

APR
23**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, the exhibit celebrates the region's enduring influence and its rich artistic legacy. On view through July 12.

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

APR
24**Knitting/
Crocheting
Club**

Meet up with other knitters or crocheters at Glen Cove Public Library on Fridays. Whether you're new to knitting or you've been doing it for years, it's always more fun with friends! Start a new project or bring a current one. Participants should bring their own needles and yarn.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Contact:** glencoverlibrary.org or (516) 676-213

APR
25**Earth Day
Community
Cleanup**

The Glen Cove Beautification Commission encourages everyone to participate in the city-wide cleanup. Groups will be assigned to Landing Area, Austral Park and Brewster Street.

- **Where:** Meet at Morgan Park, Germaine St.
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-noon
- **Contact:** Lora Cusumano at (516) 721-7394

Earth Day Exploration

Join certified guide Linda Lombardo on a spring walk at Sands Point Preserve. Celebrate

MAY
2**George Thorogood and The Destroyers**

For the past five-plus decades, over 8,000 live shows and more than 15 million albums sold, George Thorogood and The Destroyers have been "The All-American Rock & Roll Party Band" (Goldmine Magazine). In celebration of 53 years of "playing rock 'n roll hot enough to melt the polar icecaps and flood the world's major population centers" (Rolling Stone), the group continues The Baddest Show On Earth Tour — a stage-shaking, roof-raising, guitar-snarling blast. For an artist whose music honors the blues, rock and country legends of the past, Thorogood's forward momentum is now stronger than ever. And along with longtime Destroyers Jeff Simon (drums), Bill Blough (bass), Jim Suhler (guitar) and Buddy Leach (saxophone), they continue "to slap a custom flame paint job onto those classic sounds" (Blues Blast Magazine) like never before. The band has always delivered on their promises. In 1976, they debuted as the most explosive indie breakthrough act of the decade. Throughout the '80s/'90s MTV era, Thorogood was the epitome of snakeskin and shades guitar-slinger cool. And with chart-topping hits like 'One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer', 'Move It On Over', 'Who Do You Love?', 'I Drink Alone', 'Get A Haircut' and the ultimate badass anthem 'Bad To The Bone', the band soon became undeniable cornerstones of classic Rock. Meanwhile, their album catalog continues to dominate streaming charts worldwide.

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

Earth Day on the trails searching for the signs of spring all around us. Look for swelling buds, emerging wildflowers, animal tracks in the soil, newly built nests, and other clues that the season is changing. Along the way, discuss what these discoveries tell us about the plants and animals that call this place home — and how everything is connected in early spring. \$15 (\$10 members). \$5 children (member children free).

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 10 a.m.-noon
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

'Artful Earth'

Bring the family to Nassau County Museum of Art to celebrate Earth Day by immersing everyone in the wonders of spring. This is a joyful afternoon of creativity, discovery and connection with nature. Explore the grounds on a guided nature walk, meet Animal Ambassadors in an interactive wildlife session, and try your hand at interactive outdoor art projects. Families can dive into eco-friendly STEAM activities, build their own wind chimes, take part

in a nature-inspired photo treasure hunt, and enjoy a guided bird walk. Artful Earth is a celebration of imagination, curiosity, and the beauty of the natural world; perfect for artists, nature enthusiasts and curious minds of all ages. \$20 adults, \$10 members and children; includes museum admission. Registration required.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** 1-4 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

APR
28**BOE meets**

Glen Cove Board of Education holds their next meeting at Glen Cove High School. An executive session is scheduled prior to the public portion of the meeting.

- **Where:** 150 Dosoris Lane
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Contact:** glencoveschools.org or (516) 676-2000

APR
29**Narcans
Training/
Cannabis
Presentation**

Glen Cove Rotary Club hosts a free

Narcans training and cannabis education presentation, featuring guest speakers and a focus on mental health. Participants who complete the training will receive a Narcans kit.

- **Where:** Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 7-9 p.m.
- **Contact:** Rev. Richard Wilson at (516) 909-7588

APR
30**Anatomical
Donation
workshop**

Learn about the vital role of anatomical donation in advancing medical education at the Glen Cove Public Library. Meredith Taylor, Chair of the Ethics Committee in the Department of Anatomy at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine, explores the history of anatomical donation in the U.S., its importance in training future physicians, and the benefits to donors and their families, including no-cost cremation.

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

MAY
1**First Friday:
Behind the
Bloom –
Spectacular
Rhododendron**

This special walking tour offers a rare opportunity to explore one of Planting Fields' most celebrated living collections: rhododendrons! Since the Coe family purchased the estate in 1913, rhododendrons have been a defining feature of the landscape. The Coes delighted in collecting and cultivating some of the most beautiful hybrids of the era, creating a collection that has captivated visitors for more than a century. Today, the legacy continues. The Planting Fields team and their collaboration with rhododendron experts has led to the restoration, propagation and expansion of this remarkable collection. Get an inside look at the work behind the blooms — from rare plants to innovative propagation projects — and learn how these spectacular rhododendrons are cared for and preserved for future generations. \$25.

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

MAY
14**Garden Party**

The Glen Cove Beautification Commission hosts its annual Garden Party at The Metropolitan, featuring small plate appetizers, beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee, and dessert. A cash bar will be available for cocktails. Gift basket donations and sponsorships are welcomed. \$95 fee.

- **Where:** 3 Pratt Blvd., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 6-8:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** Barbara Peebles at bpeebles@optonline.net

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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MAY 1 • 10AM-12:30PM

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- Enjoy lively entertainment, fitness demonstrations and interactive experiences
- Hear from experts during a panel discussion with Q&A
- Win raffles, prizes, and giveaways
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*Boxed lunches for first 150 attendees

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- AGENDA:**
- VISIT EXHIBITORS**
 - EXPERT PANEL + Q&A**
 - RAFFLE DRAWINGS**
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

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PUBLIC NOTICES

April 23, 2026 - GLEN COVE HERALD

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE GLEN COVE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT GLEN COVE, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual School District Election and Budget Vote for the qualified voters of the Glen Cove City School District, Glen Cove, New York, will be held in the following locations:

School Election Districts A, B, C, D
Location of Polling Place
Glen Cove High School,
150 Dosoris Lane, Back
Gym - Door # 13
Connolly School, 1 Ridge
Drive - Back Gym

in said district Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:00 a.m. prevailing time, at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting machine upon the following items between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time.

PROPOSITION 1 -
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET
To adopt the annual budget of said school district for the fiscal year 2026-2027 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

ELECTION OF BOARD
MEMBER(S)
To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education of said School District as follows:

A. Two (2) members to be each elected for a term of three (3) years, commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

B. AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that for the purpose of voting at such meeting, on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, the polls will be open between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. prevailing time to vote upon such propositions by voting machine.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Glen Cove High School Auditorium, 150 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove, New York prior to the regular Board of Education meeting.

AND FURTHER NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. prevailing time with the District Clerk of said School District at the temporary location of Deasy school new extension, 1 Forest Avenue, Glen Cove, New York, on or before Wednesday, April 29, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. prevailing time. Such petitions must be directed to Ida Johnson, District Clerk and must be signed by at least one hundred (100) qualified voters of the district; must state the name and residence of the candidate.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the District may register between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. with the District Clerk located in the temporary location of Deasy school new extension, 1 Forest Avenue, Glen Cove. The final date to register for the annual meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, is Tuesday, May 5, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (personal registration day). If a voter has heretofore registered pursuant to the resolution of the Board of Education, and has voted at any Annual School District Election and Budget Vote or special district meetings within the last four (4) years or if he or she is eligible to vote under Article 5 of the Election Law, he or she is also eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register. Any person will be entitled to have his or her name placed on such register, provided that he or she is known or proven to the satisfaction of the District Clerk, Ida Johnson, and the Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at such Annual School District Election and Budget Vote for which the register is prepared and that the register is prepared pursuant to Education Law and the registration list prepared by the Board of Elections of Nassau County will be filed in the Office of the District Clerk of the Glen Cove School District, in the temporary location of Deasy school new extension, 1 Forest Avenue, Glen Cove, New York, and will be

open for inspection by any qualified voter of the district between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. prevailing time, on and after Tuesday, May 5, 2026, and each of the days prior to the date set for the Annual School District Election and Budget Vote, except Saturday and Sunday, including the day set for the meeting. Any person otherwise qualified to vote who is not currently registered under permanent personal registration in the District by the last date found on the original or duplicate registers, or records, or list furnished by the Nassau County Boards of Elections, and has not voted at an intervening election, must, in order to be entitled to vote, present himself or herself personally for registration or otherwise register with the Nassau County Board of Elections.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Registration of the District will also meet from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026, at each of the polling places to prepare the register for meetings and elections held subsequent to such annual meeting or election.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that applications for absentee and early mail ballots for the election of a school board member and proposition(s) may be applied for at the Office of the District Clerk at the temporary location of Deasy school new extension, 1 Forest Avenue, Glen Cove, New York, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., prevailing time on any school day. Applications for absentee and early mail ballots must be received by Ida Johnson, District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days before the election. Furthermore, such application must be received by Ida Johnson, District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter or his/her designated agent. Upon receiving a timely request for a mailed absentee or early mail ballot, Ida Johnson, District Clerk will mail the ballot to the address set forth in

the application no later than six (6) days before the vote. No absentee or early mail ballot shall be canvassed unless it is received in the office of the District Clerk (Thayer House at 154 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove, New York) of the said School District no later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the date of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee and early mail ballots shall have been issued will be available in the said office of the District Clerk on each of the five (5) days prior to the day of the election, during regular office hours until the date of election.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for the ensuing year for

school purposes may be obtained by any resident in the district during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding such Annual School District Election and Budget Vote except Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, and at such Annual School District Election and Budget Vote at the Administration Building - 154 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove High School - Dosoris Lane; Robert M. Finley Middle School - Forest Ave; Deasy School - Dosoris Lane; Gribbin School - Walnut Road; Landing School - McLoughlin Street; and Connolly School - Ridge Drive, Glen Cove, New York during regular school hours; and on the Glen Cove City Schools website (www.glencoveschools.org).

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as a qualified voter of the school district. Military voters who are qualified voters of the school district may submit an application for a military ballot. Military voters may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail in their request for such registration, ballot application or ballot. Military voter registration forms and military ballot application forms must be received in the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2026. No military ballot will be canvassed unless it is (1) received in the Office of the District Clerk (Thayer House - 154 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove, New York) before the close of the polls on election day and showing a cancellation mark of the United States postal service or a foreign country's postal service, or showing a dated endorsement of receipt by another agency of the United States government; or (2) received by the Office of the District Clerk (Thayer House - 154 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove, New York) by no later than 5:00 p.m. on election day and signed and dated by the military voter and one witness thereto, with a date which is associated to be no later than the day before the election.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for the ensuing year for

school purposes may be obtained by any resident in the district during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding such Annual School District Election and Budget Vote except Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, and at such Annual School District Election and Budget Vote at the Administration Building - 154 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove High School - Dosoris Lane; Robert M. Finley Middle School - Forest Ave; Deasy School - Dosoris Lane; Gribbin School - Walnut Road; Landing School - McLoughlin Street; and Connolly School - Ridge Drive, Glen Cove, New York during regular school hours; and on the Glen Cove City Schools website (www.glencoveschools.org).

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with the rules adopted pursuant to 2035 of the Education Law, any qualified voter may have a proposition or an amendment placed upon the ballot, provided that such amendment (a) be typed or printed in the English language; (b) that it be directed to Ida Johnson, District Clerk of the said School District; (c) that it be submitted to Ida, Johnson, District Clerk no less than sixty (60) days preceding the date of the Annual School District Election and Budget Vote, i.e. no later than Friday, March 20, 2026, 3:00 p.m. prevailing time, at the District Office, at the temporary location of Deasy school new extension, 1 Forest Avenue, Glen Cove, New York; and (d) that it be signed by at least one hundred (100) qualified voters of the district. However, the school board will not entertain any petition to place before the voters any proposition for the purpose of which is not within the powers of the voters to determine, nor any proposition or amendment which is contrary to law.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Real Property Tax Exemption Report prepared in accordance with Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law will be annexed to any tentative/ preliminary budget as well as the final adopted budget of which it will form a part; and shall be posted on District bulletin board(s) maintained for public notices, as well as on

the District's website.

Dated: Glen Cove,
New York
April 2026
Ida Johnson
District Clerk
Board of Education
Glen Cove City School
District
Glen Cove, New York
159415

LEGAL NOTICE
AVISO SOBRE LA
ELECCIÓN ANUAL DEL
DISTRITO ESCOLAR
Y LA VOTACIÓN DEL
PRESUPUESTO DEL
DISTRITO ESCOLAR DE
LA CIUDAD DE GLEN
COVE
GLEN COVE, NUEVA
YORK

POR EL
PRESENTE, SE NOTIFICA
que la Elección anual
del distrito escolar
y la votación del
presupuesto de votantes
calificados del Distrito
escolar de la ciudad
de Glen Cove, Nueva
York, se realizará en los
siguientes lugares:

Districtos electorales
escolares
A, B, C
D
Lugar de votación
Escuela Secundaria
Glen Cove, 150 Dosoris
Lane, gimnasio de atrás,
puerta n.º 13.
Escuela Connolly, 1
Ridge Drive, gimnasio
de atrás

en el mencionado
distrito, el martes 20
de mayo de 2025 a
las 6:00 a. m., hora en
vigor, horario en el cual
se habilitarán las urnas
para votar mediante una
máquina de votación
sobre los siguientes
asuntos entre las 6:00 a.
m. y las 9:00 p. m., hora
en vigor.

PROPUESTA
I: PRESUPUESTO DEL
DISTRITO ESCOLAR
Adoptar el presupuesto
anual de dicho distrito
escolar para el año fiscal
2026-2027 y autorizar
que la parte requerida
de este se recaude
con impuestos sobre
la propiedad sujeta a
tributación del Distrito.

ELECCIÓN DEL/DE LOS
MIEMBRO(S) DE LA
JUNTA
Elegir dos (2) miembros
de la Junta de Educación
de dicho Distrito escolar
de la siguiente forma:

A. Dos (2)
miembros que serán
elegidos cada uno para
cumplir un cargo de tres
(3) años desde el 1 de
julio de 2026 hasta el 30
de junio de 2029.

POR EL PRESENTE,
TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA

que, con el fin de votar
en dicha reunión, el
martes 19 de mayo de
2026, las urnas estarán
abiertas desde las 6:00
a. m. hasta las 9:00 p. m.,
hora en vigor, para votar
sobre las mencionadas
propuestas mediante
una máquina de
votación.

POR EL
PRESENTE, TAMBIÉN SE
NOTIFICA que se llevará
a cabo una audiencia
del presupuesto el
miércoles 6 de mayo
de 2026 a las 7:00 p.
m., en el auditorio de
la Escuela Secundaria
Glen Cove, 150 Dosoris
Lane, Glen Cove, New
York, antes de la reunión
habitual de la Junta de
Educación.

POR EL PRESENTE,
TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA
que las solicitudes para
nominar candidatos
para el cargo de
miembro de la Junta
de Educación se deben
presentar entre las 9:00
a. m. y las 5:00 p. m.,
hora en vigor, ante de
la secretaria del Distrito
escolar en la ubicación
temporal de la nueva
ampliación de la escuela
Deasy, 1 Forest Avenue,
Glen Cove, New York, a
más tardar el miércoles
1 de mayo de 2026 a las
5:00 p. m., hora en vigor.
Dichas solicitudes deben
estar dirigidas a Ida
Johnson, secretaria del
Distrito, y deben estar
firmadas por, al menos,
cien (100) votantes
calificados del distrito, y
deben incluir el nombre
y la residencia del
candidato.

POR EL PRESENTE,
TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA
que los votantes
calificados del Distrito
se pueden registrar
entre las 9:00 a. m.
y las 2:00 p. m. en la
oficina principal de
cada uno de los edificios
escolares del distrito
y en el despacho de la
secretaría del Distrito en
el edificio administrativo
durante el año escolar,
y en el despacho de la
secretaría del Distrito
únicamente durante
los meses de verano de
julio y agosto. La fecha
límite para registrarse
en la reunión anual que
se celebrará el martes
19 de mayo de 2026 es
el martes 5 de mayo
de 2026, de 9:00 a. m.
a 7:00 p. m. (día del
registro personal). Si
un votante se registró,
hasta ahora, según la
resolución de la Junta
de Educación y votó
en alguna Elección
anual del distrito
escolar y votación del
presupuesto o en una
reunión especial de
distrito en los últimos

POR EL PRESENTE,
TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA
que la Junta de Registros
del Distrito se reunirá,
además, el 19 de mayo
de 2026 de 6:00 a. m.
a 9:00 p. m., en cada
uno de los lugares de
votación para preparar
el registro para las
reuniones y elecciones
que se celebren después

cuatro (4) años, o si
la persona es elegible
para votar en virtud
del artículo 5 de la Ley
de Elecciones, también
es elegible para votar
en esta elección. Todas
las demás personas que
deseen votar deben
registrarse. Cualquier
persona tendrá derecho
a que su nombre
se incluya en dicho
registro, siempre que se
sepa o se demuestre,
a satisfacción de la
secretaría del Distrito,
Ida Johnson, y de la
Junta de Registros, que
tiene o tendrá derecho a
votar en dicha Elección
anual del distrito
escolar y votación del
presupuesto para la que
se prepara el registro. El
registro debe prepararse
de conformidad con
la Ley de Educación
y la lista de registro
preparada por la Junta
Electoral del condado
de Nassau se presentará
en el despacho de la
secretaría del Distrito
escolar de Glen Cove, en
la ubicación temporal
de la nueva ampliación
de la escuela Deasy,
1 Forest Avenue, Glen
Cove, New York. Estará
disponible para la
inspección de cualquier
votante calificado del
distrito entre las 9:00
a. m. y las 3:00 p. m.,
hora en vigor, desde
el martes 5 de mayo
de 2026 y cada uno
de los días anteriores
a la fecha establecida
para la Elección
anual del distrito
escolar y la votación
del presupuesto,
excepto el sábado y el
domingo, incluido el
día establecido para
la reunión. Cualquier
persona que de otra
manera califique para
votar y que no esté
actualmente inscrita
en un registro personal
permanente en el
Distrito hasta la última
fecha que se encuentra
en los registros
originales o duplicados,
o en los archivos, o en la
lista proporcionada por
las Juntas Electorales
del condado de Nassau,
y que no haya votado en
una elección intermedia,
debe, para tener derecho
a votar, presentarse
personalmente para
registrarse o inscribirse
de otra manera en
la Junta Electoral del
condado de Nassau.

POR EL PRESENTE,
TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA
que la Junta de Registros
del Distrito se reunirá,
además, el 19 de mayo
de 2026 de 6:00 a. m.
a 9:00 p. m., en cada
uno de los lugares de
votación para preparar
el registro para las
reuniones y elecciones
que se celebren después

de dicha reunión o elección anual.

POR EL PRESENTE, TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA que las solicitudes de boletas electorales por ausencia y boletas electorales anticipadas por correo para la elección de los miembros de la junta escolar y las propuestas se pueden solicitar en la oficina de la secretaria del distrito en la ubicación temporal de la nueva ampliación de la escuela Deasy, 1 Forest Avenue, Glen Cove, New York, entre las 9:00 a. m. y las 3:00 p. m., hora vigente, en cualquier día escolar. La secretaria del distrito, Ida Johnson, deberá recibir las solicitudes de boletas electorales por ausencia y boletas electorales anticipadas por correo no antes de los treinta (30) días previos a la elección. Además, la secretaria del distrito, Ida Johnson, debe recibir esta solicitud al menoscabo de los días antes de la elección si la boleta electoral se enviará por correo al votante, o el día antes de la elección, si la boleta electoral se entregará personalmente al votante o a su representante designado. Al recibir una solicitud oportuna para enviar por correo una boleta electoral por ausencia o una boleta electoral anticipada por correo, Ida Johnson, la secretaria del distrito, enviará por correo dicha boleta a la dirección indicada en la solicitud a más tardar seis (6) días antes de la votación. Los votos por ausencia o las boletas electorales anticipadas por correo se escrutarán a menos que se hayan recibido en la oficina de la secretaria de dicho distrito escolar antes de las 5:00 p. m., hora vigente, del día de la elección. Durante los cinco (5) días anteriores al día de la elección, en horario de oficina hasta

la fecha de la elección, en dicha oficina de la secretaria del distrito se encontrará a disposición una lista de todas las personas a quienes se les hayan emitido boletas electorales por ausencia o boletas electorales anticipadas por correo.

POR EL PRESENTE, TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA que los votantes militares que no estén registrados actualmente pueden solicitar registrarse como votantes calificados del Distrito escolar. Los votantes militares que sean votantes calificados del Distrito escolar podrán enviar una solicitud de boleta electoral militar. Estos votantes pueden indicar su preferencia de recibir un registro de votante militar, una solicitud de boleta electoral militar o una boleta electoral militar por correo postal, fax o correo electrónico en su pedido de dicho registro, solicitud de boleta electoral o boleta electoral. Los formularios de registro de votantes militares y los formularios de solicitud de boleta electoral militar deben recibirse en el despacho de la secretaria del Distrito antes de las 5:00 p. m. del 5 de mayo de 2026. Las boletas electorales militares no serán escrutadas a menos que (1) el despacho de la secretaria del Distrito las reciba antes del cierre de la votación el día de la elección y tengan una marca de cancelación del servicio postal de los Estados Unidos o del servicio postal de un país extranjero, o un endoso fechado de recepción por parte de otro organismo del gobierno de los Estados Unidos, o bien, (2) el despacho de la secretaria del Distrito las reciba antes de las 5:00 p. m. el día de la elección, y estén

firmadas y fechadas por el votante militar y un testigo de ello, con una fecha asociada que no sea posterior al día previo a la elección.

POR EL PRESENTE, TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA que cualquier residente del distrito podrá obtener una copia de la declaración de la cantidad de dinero que se requerirá el próximo año para fines escolares durante los catorce (14) días inmediatamente previos a la Elección anual del distrito escolar y la votación del presupuesto, excepto sábados, domingos y feriados, y en dicha Elección anual del distrito escolar y votación del presupuesto en la ubicación temporal de la nueva ampliación de la escuela Deasy, 1 Forest Avenue; en la Escuela Secundaria Glen Cove, 150 Dosoris Lane; en la Escuela Intermedia Robert M. Finley, 1 Forest Ave.; en la Escuela Deasy, 1 Dosoris Lane; en la Escuela Gribbin, Walnut Road; en la Escuela Landing, McLoughlin Street, y en la Escuela Connolly, Ridge Drive, Glen Cove, Nueva York durante el horario escolar habitual, y en el sitio web de las escuelas de la ciudad de Glen Cove (www.glencoveschools.org).

POR EL PRESENTE, TAMBIÉN SE NOTIFICA que se adjuntará un Informe de exención fiscal sobre los bienes inmuebles de acuerdo con la Sección 495 de la Ley de Impuestos sobre los Bienes Inmuebles a cualquier presupuesto preliminar o tentativo, como también al presupuesto definitivo adoptado del cual forme parte. Este se publicará en los tableros de anuncios del Distrito que se usen para avisos públicos y en el sitio web del Distrito.

Fecha: Glen Cove, Nueva York
Marzo de 2026
Ida Johnson
Secretaria del Distrito
Junta de Educación
Distrito escolar de la ciudad de Glen Cove
Glen Cove, Nueva York
159417

Richner Communications, Inc. public notice rates will increase at a minimum of 9% for all notices published on or after May 1, 2026, to reflect rising production and distribution costs. To place a public notice contact 516-569-4000 x232.

Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232

ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

Takeout for Mona Lisa

Mona Lisa's "half-smile" can be interpreted in many ways. Here's my interpretation: after posing for so many hours, Mona Lisa must have been hungry. Instead of asking for a lunch break, I imagine she continued to try her best to smile while dreaming of an egg salad sandwich. If Mona had only known of the four eateries I visited this month with new twists on takeout, she might have enjoyed a great meal and returned with a huge smile on her face.

Angies (550 Plandome Rd., Manhasset)

I like Caesar salads and order them often. However, when I'm halfway through the bowl, the mounds of lettuce make me feel like a cow chewing her cud. I'm happy to say this is not the case in this new, contemporary

American restaurant. The Caesar salad includes small, elegant balls made of cream cheese and everything bagel seasoning. They make every bite of the crisp romaine lettuce, toasted croutons and creamy Caesar dressing a delightful treat.

I also ordered vegetarian chicken parmigiana. The smooth-as-silk, plant-based cutlet basking under a blanket of old-school vodka sauce was delicious. Of course, I noticed the dishes ordered by other customers as well. Everything ranging from lobster caviar bites to white clam flat bread, to filet mignon kebabs seemed to be prepared with imagination and great care.

Green Eats (17 Bridge St., Glen Cove)

There are always new specials in this café filled with fresh, healthy salads, warm bowls, sandwiches and smoothies. I was lucky to walk in on a day when three types of avocado toast were making their debuts: street corn with avoca-

do; banana; and balsamic. I've eaten avocado toast countless times, but never with street corn. I gave it a try.

My meal arrived in a paper container. When I opened it, the ingredients seemed to swoon, "We're here!" A graceful mountain of street corn combined with creamy parmigiana crumbles sat atop a generous, thick spread of avocado. Sourdough bread, a sprinkle of dressing, and arugula held it all together. This is my new favorite version of avocado toast.

The Audrey: Kitchen & Bar (30 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay)

While Stellina's Bakery & Café is closed for renovations, their wine bar, right next door, is open for breakfast and lunch. I stopped by and ordered the breakfast pizza. If a painting from The Museum of Modern Art could be made of food,

this would be it. I was served a long, rectangular slice of Roman-style pizza dough. A rich layer of mozzarella oozed elegantly over the crust. Morsels of scrambled eggs, each with its own artistic shape, sat across the top of the pizza as if part of a painting. It was wonderful eating a piece of modern art. The menu also includes frittatas, waffles, gourmet sandwiches on baguettes, additional creative pizza choices, sliders and salads.

Dessertino -The Crafty Spoon (227 Glen Cove Ave., Sea Cliff)

In this international-style bakery/café, I found four 3D mini-cakes which were shaped like animals. A cheesecake shaped like a panda bear, a strawberry tart bear, a grizzly bear mousse cake, and a chocolate cake bear were waiting to be eaten. I tried the pink bear tart. The fluffy, sweet, pudding-ish dessert definitely would have made Mona Lisa smile.

See you next month!



CATHI TUROW



Courtesy office Pamela Panzenbeck

200 pounds of unused medications

Representatives from SAFE, the Glen Cove Mayor's office and the Glen Cove Police Department collected more than 200 pounds of unused medications during the annual "Shed Your Meds" event on April 18, while also distributing disposal kits provided by the New York State Office of Addiction Services.

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OPINIONS

The tumor was malignant – but then it was gone

Three years ago this week, I had what I've called my "unexpected medical adventure." As I described to readers then, it was a life-altering experience with a very good ending.

It all began innocuously enough, with a routine endoscopy for acid reflux in the summer of 2017 by my gastroenterologist, Dr. Michael Barth. As expected, the procedure turned up nothing, and Barth simply prescribed a medication, which I took regularly. Over the next few years, I had few symptoms, and put off my five-year follow-up endoscopy.



PETER KING

Finally, at Barth's insistence, I scheduled another endoscopy in March 2023. I had no concern. Just closing the loop. Just another test guys my age go through. Imagine my surprise when I woke up from the procedure and Barth told me that he'd found a protrusion in my stomach wall. While he thought it was benign, he recommended that I see Dr. Arvino Trini-

dade, a specialist at Northwell, who scheduled a biopsy at Long Island Jewish hospital.

Melissa Zimmerman, a retired Nassau County Police Department detective who'd been on my security detail when I was in Congress, offered to drive me and Rosemary to the hospital. Before I was taken into the operating room, Trinidad told me he thought there was nothing there. But when I woke up, he told me there was a tumor, and it was probably malignant. Four days later, Barth and Trinidad called to confirm it. But they were confident of a good outcome, and told me the surgery would be done at LIJ by Dr. Matthew Weiss, a premier cancer surgeon.

That afternoon, Weiss called and told me I should be confident of complete success. He casually told me to "enjoy the weekend." That evening, Rosemary and I had dinner at an Italian restaurant in Manhattan with Zimmerman and her husband, Lance.

The following week, I had appointments at Northwell, saw my cardiologist in Manhattan to get his sign-off on the operation, did several radio shows at the

WABC-AM studios in Manhattan and attended a political dinner at King Umberto's in Elmont. I told almost nobody about the upcoming surgery. With a day to go, I began a liquid diet, with Jell-O being the closest thing to solid food.

I've become more aware of those who receive more severe diagnoses than mine.

Early Monday morning, Zimmerman again drove us to the hospital. By 6:30 I was ready for showtime. Lying on a gurney with an intravenous tube in my arm, I was wheeled into the operating room, a science fiction-style enclosure crowded with doctors, nurses, bright lights and a table filled with knives and scissors. An epidural was painlessly inserted in my spine, and an anesthesia mask placed over my face.

The next thing I knew, I was in the recovery room, and Rosemary was telling me that Weiss said that all had gone well. I had no significant pain — unless I moved or reached for something. Each day the pain receded, and I was able to walk a little more. When I was discharged the following Saturday, I walked from the hospital to the car.

At home I was able to eat regularly, felt nothing more than soreness at the

incision site and, after a week or so, was outside, walking a few more blocks each day. As the doctors had predicted, all follow-up tests showed complete success.

I recounted much of this to readers at the time. Now, having had three years to reflect and put it all in perspective, I appreciate more than ever how fortunate I've been: Barth urging me to get the "routine" endoscopy; Trinidad and Weiss being ultimate professionals; and having strong family support from Rosemary; my son, Sean; my daughter, Erin; and my sister, Barbara, who's a nurse. There were also the friends who took the time to visit me in the hospital or call to wish me luck.

I've also become increasingly aware of the many people who receive much more severe diagnoses than I had, which do not end well. I was also fortunate to have access to outstanding medical care at a first-rate hospital. (To the naysayers and critics, I didn't have any congressional or federal health insurance.) I'm also grateful that I broke loose from the traditional Irish suspicion and distrust of doctors and hospitals.

Yes, I'm a lucky guy!

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

Trying desperately to avoid the stress of TV news

These nearly two months of war in Iran have me, and countless others, more on edge than we have ever been. The idea that a conflict in the Middle East could become World War III is very unsettling. When a war is that far away and the parties themselves have a long history of bickering, our lives become unsettled, and we need diversions.

To blot out the talking heads on Fox, MS Now and CNN, I found myself looking for other distractions beyond my work as a government-affairs specialist. I watched some sports events, tuning to

NCAA basketball's Final Four, hoping to relax. To my surprise, those games could ruin your sleep if you watched every upset. I was rooting for St. John's, and when the junior point guard Dylan Darling sank a driving, buzzer-beating layup to beat Kansas and send the Red Storm to their first Sweet 16 in 27 years,

I almost fell off my chair.

A lot of the other games had surprise endings, and when the final ended with a Michigan victory, I realized that watching the tournament wasn't the best way to avoid nail-biting. So I turned to other sports, and anything that would distract me from all the news about the Israelis killing Iranian leaders one by one. I got some initial relief watching a women's pro hockey game between New York Sirens and the Seattle Torrent at Madison Square Garden. It was nice to watch a no-nonsense game that attracted a record crowd of 18,000.

I also watched the women's basketball national championship. There were quite a few nervous moments until the final game, when UCLA won its first national title.

Then I decided to do some casual reading, and started with Louisiana Sen. John Kennedy's new book, titled "How to Test Negative for Stupid, And Why Washington Never Will." Most of its 224 pages are a lot of fun, thanks to Kennedy's folksy humor, but the last 30

pages unnerved me, when he lavished praise on the recently ousted attorney general, Pam Bondi.

Rather than move on to a new book, I turned my attention to my streaming

St. John's basketball. Women's hockey. Testing Negative for Stupid – and more.

television services, Netflix, Amazon and Hulu, in the hope of finding some feel-good movies. When I opened them up, they offered me such calming films as "Supernatural," "Scream," "Send Help," "Sinners" and "The Substance." I know there are other offerings, but most of the feel-good movies are old and I've already seen them.

All my life, I've loved good comedy. I cherish the great old names like Jackie Mason, Henny Youngman, Buddy Hackett, Jerry Lewis, Jackie Gleason, George Carlin, Don Rickles and Lenny Bruce. Occasionally I stumble on one of these legends on Facebook, and try to share their comedy with people around me. Regrettably, there are no comedians these days that give me the same belly laughs that I got from those giants. My grandson in Los Angeles heads up a unit of Netflix that promotes a number of comedians, but I

haven't adapted to their new style.

So where do I go for some badly needed diversion? I'm a devout Knicks and Yankees fan, but there's no way I can get a Knicks playoff ticket without paying big dollars. I love going to Yankees games, too, but their tickets are getting pricier, so I limit my purchases to no more than three games. I enjoy watching major golf tournaments, but sometimes you feel as if the announcers will put you to sleep with their commentary. I am looking forward to the U.S. Open in June, though.

Some of us are lucky to have hobbies that help us escape the pressures of today's headlines. I love writing and making speeches, but neither lulls you into a peaceful state of mind. Short of moving to Antarctica, where I imagine you can avoid the daily news horrors, I'll keep trying to find some other relaxing activity. I still watch TV for the weather reports, but goodbye to the other channels.

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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HERALD EDITORIAL

Playground safety for kids requires vigilance

As spring returns and families stream back to neighborhood parks, playgrounds quickly reclaim their place as a focus of community life. They are where children test their limits, build confidence and simply enjoy being kids.

But beneath that joy lies a sobering reality: More than 200,000 children, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, are injured on playgrounds each year in the United States — many in ways that are preventable.

That's why National Playground Safety Week, April 20-24, should be treated as more than a symbolic observance. It is a necessary prompt for parents, caregivers, schools and local officials to refocus on safety as playground use surges.

Playgrounds were never meant to be spaces for careless behavior. In fact, they were created with safety and development in mind. In the 19th century, educators such as Friedrich Fröbel promoted the idea of structured play as essential to childhood growth, helping to instill cooperation, coordination and social skills.

As cities grew more crowded and streets more dangerous with the rise of motor vehicles, playgrounds became protected environments where children could play away from traffic and other hazards. Early efforts by civic groups and park advocates helped establish designated play areas as a public safety measure — a mission that still resonates today.

In the U.S., the Outdoor Recreation League funded the building of playgrounds on parkland after newspapers reported on the high number of children run down by cars in New York. One of the first recreational areas in America was built in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park in 1887.

Yet even within these safer spaces, risks remain — especially after months of winter wear and limited use. Equipment may have loosened, surfaces can degrade, and aging structures may no longer meet modern safety standards. The playgrounds' young users, meanwhile, return with pent-up energy, eager to climb higher and move faster than conditions safely allow. Caregivers often distracted by cell phones only add to the challenge.

Preventing injuries doesn't require diminishing the joy of play, but does require managing the environment around it. The National Program for Play Area Safety is a nonprofit organization that emphasizes practical, research-based strategies that communities can adopt. Chief among them is active, attentive supervision. Its "ABC" model — Anticipating hazards, Behaving in ways that guide safe play and Considering the unique needs of each playground — makes clear that safety is not passive. It is intentional.

The program builds on a 30-year initiative started at the University of Northern Iowa to help communities and organizations ensure safe, high-quality

playgrounds. It promotes best practices grounded in research, guidelines and standards while collaborating with agencies at the local, state, national and international levels.

Equally important is age-appropriate design. When younger children use equipment meant for older users, the risk of falls and misuse increases. Clear guidance and thoughtful layout can help families make safer choices without limiting exploration.

Communities must also prioritize proper surfacing and regular inspections, particularly in early spring. What lies beneath a child's feet can determine whether a fall results in a minor scrape or a serious injury.

Safety extends further still. Accessibility ensures that all children can benefit from outdoor play, while attention to thermal comfort — such as shaded areas and heat-safe materials — helps protect children from high temperatures.

National Playground Safety Week offers a timely reminder, but it should also serve as a starting point. The original purpose of playgrounds — to give children a safe place to grow, learn and play — demands ongoing attention.

A quick inspection, a watchful eye and a renewed awareness can go a long way. With thoughtful action at the start of the season, communities can ensure that playgrounds remain what they were always meant to be: spaces of safe discovery, not preventable harm.

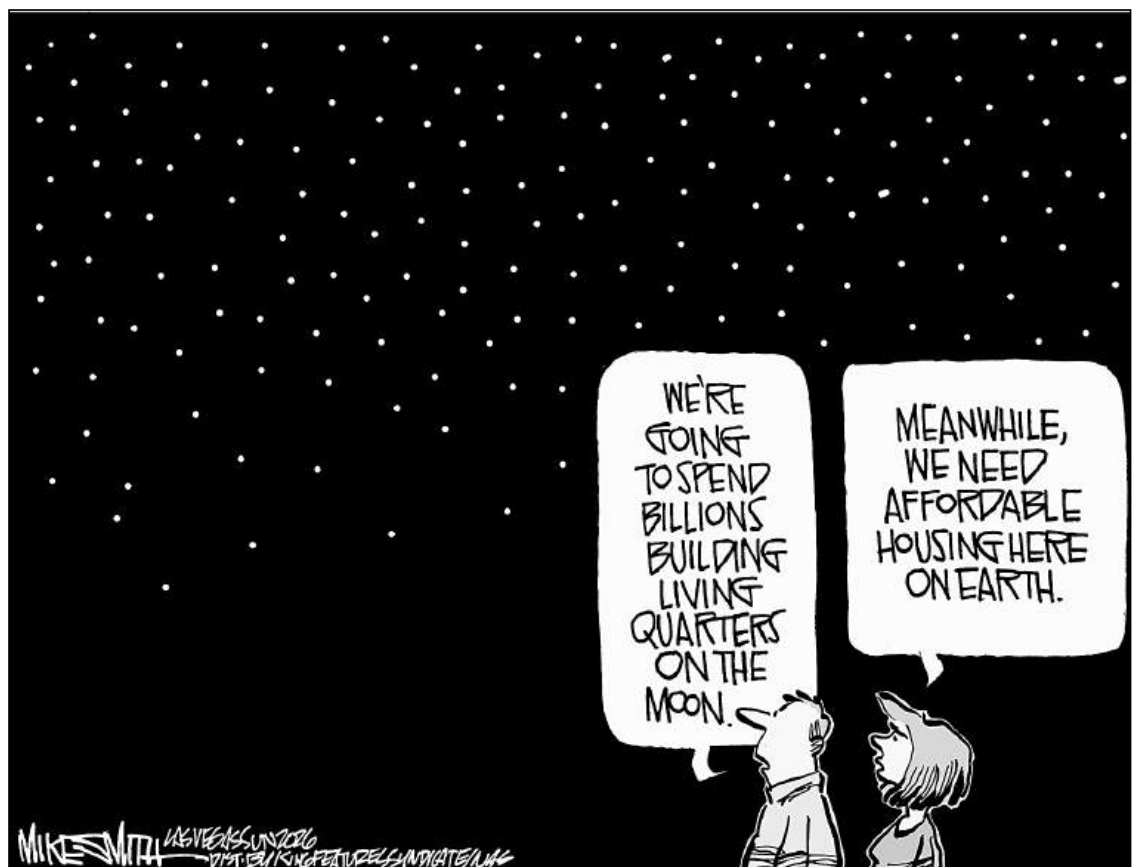
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OPINIONS

Long Island's 'hidden workforce' has visible needs

Long Island's "hidden workforce" of family caregivers faces very visible challenges. The term is frequently used to describe family caregivers who, while not employed by our health care system, play a critical role in it. They don't wear uniforms or ID badges, but this massive workforce of more than 329,000 Long Islanders provides over 307 million hours of unpaid care, valued at \$5.7 billion, per year, according to AARP New York data released in February.



**CHARLES
FUSCHILLO**

Nationally, nearly one in four American adults provided ongoing care to an adult or child with a complex medical condition or disability in the past year, a 2025 report, by AARP and the National Alliance for Caregiving, found. Almost 25 percent of those people reported giving more than 40 hours of care per week, the equivalent of a full-time job, for free.

Taking on the unpaid labor of love of caring for a family member can be both extremely rewarding and enormously straining. Emotionally, caregivers may struggle with stress, anxiety, guilt and social isolation. Physically, they may

increase their own health risks with the stress and exhaustion of helping loved ones with daily activities they can no longer manage alone.

Financially, that can cause hardships such as reduced work hours, loss of employment or new debt to cover care-related expenses, especially for middle-aged people balancing their caregiving responsibilities with the demands of jobs and raising children.

The workload is even greater for the 60,000-plus Long Island families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or another dementia-related illness. Roughly 80 percent of people living with dementia receive care at home, primarily from unpaid family members. Along with assisting with medication management, bathing, dressing, transportation, meal preparation and financial oversight, dementia family caregivers also face unique challenges caused by the disease's impact on a person's memory, behavior and independence. Sufferers may forget who their loved ones are, manifest personality changes like agitation, aggression and hallucinations, and wander from safety. Their caregivers face higher risks of anxiety, depression, burnout and declining quality of life.

Like all workers, family caregivers need breaks, but they frequently forgo their own needs to prioritize someone else's. Repeatedly making this sacrifice, while well-intended, is ultimately detrimental for both them and their loved ones. Self-care is a necessity, not a luxury.

When it comes to caregiving, Rosalynn Carter couldn't have said it better.

One of the most important things caregivers can do is take advantage of support resources. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America offers free caregiver support groups at its AFA Barbara Rabinowitz Education & Resource Center in Amityville, where people caring for loved ones with dementia can connect and share with others who are going through similar experiences. Caregivers can learn more and register by calling the Center at (631) 223-4000. AFA also has a free Helpline — (866) 232-8484 — that provides caregiver support seven days a week.

Nassau and Suffolk counties' Offices for the Aging are available to provide support and guidance to family caregivers about local, state and federal assistance programs. Local nonprofit organizations, libraries and religious institutions often have caregiver services available, which can include support groups, educational and training pro-

grams or financial assistance.

Finally, don't be afraid, reluctant or embarrassed to ask for, or accept, help. Seeking help is a sign of neither weakness nor failure; it is an essential step toward sustaining the ability to care for a loved one. Other relatives or friends are often eager to help but don't know exactly how; embrace these offers and explain specific things that would be helpful, such as spending time with the person so you can run errands, assisting with meals or providing transportation. Offering options allows the volunteer to decide what they are comfortable doing, while ensuring that it's something that will be helpful.

If you know someone who's a family caregiver, check in on them periodically and offer your help. Seemingly little things can make an enormous difference.

Former first lady Rosalynn Carter, a lifelong caregiver advocate, once said, "There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers." Her words reinforce the crucial need to support and prioritize Long Island's "hidden workforce" that all of us will either be part of or depend on one day.

Charles J. Fuschillo Jr. is president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America and a Merrick resident.

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