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Roksana Amid/Herald

Riders on the Oyster Bay line saw trains resume Tuesday afternoon after representatives of LIRR's unions and the MTA reached an agreement.

## After three-day disruption, L.I. Rail Road strike ends

By **ROKSANA AMID & BRIAN KACHARABA**

of the Herald

The three-day strike by the Long Island Rail Road ended late Monday, after five unions and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority reached a tentative agreement, restoring train service following days of disruptions that affected thousands of commuters across Long Island, including many on the North Shore.

The shutdown began at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, after negotiations between the MTA and union representatives failed to produce an agreement before a federally mandated cooling-off period expired. The strike halted train service across the LIRR system for the first time since 1994, forcing commuters to scramble for alternate transportation options while businesses and local governments activated contingency plans.

Among those impacted was Shenel Etheridge, a Glen Cove resident who commutes four days a week from the Glen Street station to her job in Manhattan. Etheridge said that the uncertainty surrounding the strike created stress not only for her commute, but also for her family responsibilities.

Etheridge typically takes the 7:16 a.m. train into the city and the 3:57 p.m. train home. She and her husband have a 9-year-old daughter who attends Landing School and takes part in an after-school child care program.

"We are literally up in the air waiting right now," Etheridge said before the agreement was reached, explaining that city employees had not yet received guidance on whether they would be permitted to work remotely if the strike continued.

Etheridge said that driving into Long

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## School district passes budget

Maria Venuto and Robert Nosek win seats on G.C. Board of Education

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@lherald.com

The Glen Cove City School District's proposed \$122.3 million budget for the 2026-27 school year passed Tuesday night, earning strong support from voters despite months of discussions surrounding a multimillion-dollar budget gap, planned program reductions and ongoing concerns about rising school costs.

The spending plan passed by a vote of 668-388. Voting took place at both Connolly School and Glen Cove High School, where the budget received 116 yes votes and 88 no votes at Connolly, and 552 yes votes and 300 no votes at the high school.

The spending plan is 3.55 percent larger than the current school year's budget, and includes a 2.42 percent tax levy increase, which is the district's allowable cap under state law.

The approved budget follows

last year's voter approval of the district's \$118.1 million 2025-26 spending plan, which passed by a vote of 850-389, with 1,239 residents casting ballots. That budget represented a roughly \$4.7 million increase over the previous year's spending plan.

**S**ince the budget passed, we know that the community feels confident in the work that we're doing.

**ALEXA DOESCHNER**  
Superintendent

District officials previously described the 2026-27 budget process as one of the most difficult in recent years as inflation, contractual obligations and health insurance increases continued to put pressure on district finances. Foundation aid growth has also slowed significantly after several years of larger increases from the

state.

In the Board of Education race for two open seats, incumbent Maria Elena Venuto, 60, received the highest number of votes with 547, followed by Robert Nosek, 58, with 510, securing both seats on the board. Challenger Angela Raimo received 470 votes, and there

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



## Asthma and allergies

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

As spring allergens continue to circulate and asthma rates remain high across the country, health advocates are encouraging residents to learn more about respiratory health during National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month in May. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, more than 106 million people in the United States live with asthma and allergies, making them among the nation's most common chronic health conditions.

Here are three things to know about asthma, allergies and the growing focus on education and prevention.

### 1

#### ■ Asthma impacts millions of Americans

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America says nearly 28 million Americans have asthma, a chronic disease that causes the airways to become swollen and inflamed, making breathing difficult. Symptoms can include coughing, wheezing, chest tightness and shortness of breath.

While asthma has no cure, health experts say it can often be managed with medication, avoiding triggers and following an asthma action plan developed with a doctor.

Common asthma triggers include pollen, dust mites, mold, smoke, pet dander, air pollution, exercise and respiratory illnesses such as colds and the flu. Seasonal allergies can also worsen asthma symptoms for many people during the spring and summer months.

### 2

#### ■ Allergies are among the country's most common chronic conditions

Allergies occur when the immune system reacts to a normally harmless substance, known as an allergen, as though it were dangerous. Common allergens include pollen, mold, pet dander, foods, dust mites, insect stings and certain medications.

Symptoms can range from sneezing and congestion to itchy eyes, rashes and breathing issues. In more serious cases, allergic reactions can become life-threatening and require emergency medical treatment.

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America reports that more than 100 million Americans experience allergies each year. The organization encourages people to monitor pollen forecasts, and improve indoor air quality

### 3

#### ■ Research and public education remain major priorities

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America says research continues to play a critical role in improving treatment, prevention and quality of life for people living with asthma and allergies.

In addition to supporting scientific studies and patient education, the organization focuses on improving healthcare access, addressing environmental triggers and raising awareness about health disparities connected to respiratory disease.

AAFA, which was founded in 1953, describes itself as the oldest asthma and allergy patient advocacy organization in the world. The nonprofit regularly publishes educational materials, research reports and public health resources.



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# Club celebrates 135 years of sailing

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

For generations of Long Islanders, summers at the Hempstead Harbor Club in Glen Cove have meant long days on the water, children racing across docks and sunsets overlooking Hempstead Harbor.

Now, the historic waterfront club is celebrating 135 years on Glen Cove's shoreline, continuing traditions that members say have remained largely unchanged since the club was founded in 1891.

Tucked away at the end of Garvies Point Road, the Hempstead Harbor Club is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the United States and is known for its historic clubhouse built directly over the water. The club offers sailing programs, racing events and social gatherings for members and their families.

The club's waterfront location has long made it a destination for sailors and boating enthusiasts across Long Island. In addition to organized racing events and regattas, the club provides launch service to moored boats, winter boat storage and space for kayaks, paddleboards and small sailboats. The organization also operates a Junior Sailing program certified by the Junior Sailing Association.

Bayville resident Dave Rapelje said his family's connection to the club spans four generations. His grandfather, Jacob Rapelje, joined the club in 1942 after moving from Queens to Glen Cove for work at Columbia Ribbon and Carbon Manufacturing Company.

"My father started his sailing career and later became a commodore of the club," Rapelje said. "And then my brother also became a commodore as well."

Rapelje said he practically grew up at the club during the 1950s and 1960s.

"The club was really our second home," he said.

He recalled spending nearly every day at the waterfront clubhouse during the summer months, often from morning until night alongside dozens of other children.

"It was just a great place to be," Rapelje said. "It was very family oriented."

Rapelje said the club became deeply tied to his family's identity and memories of growing up on Long Island. His brother's daughter is now a fourth-generation member of the club.

"When I think of Long Island," he said, "it's the club."

Past Commodore James Riordan, who led the club in 2009 and 2010, said one of the organization's defining features is the strong sense of community among members.

"We're a completely do-it-yourself club," Riordan said.

Each spring, members volunteer during work weekends to repair, clean and prepare the property for the boating season.

"We have carpenters, we have plumbers, we have electricians," Riordan said. "We keep the club and bring it back every year."



Photos courtesy Peter Budraitis

## The Hempstead Harbor Club and its board with past commodores.

Riordan compared the atmosphere during work weekends to "an old-fashioned Amish barn raising," with dozens of members working together while others prepare meals for volunteers.

Unlike many modern yacht clubs that focus heavily on luxury amenities, Riordan said Hempstead Harbor Club has remained centered on boating, sailing and waterfront recreation. The club hosts weekly races throughout the summer and welcomes a variety of boating interests, including powerboats, sailboats, kayaks and paddleboarding.

During his time as commodore, Riordan said the club successfully secured landmark designation from the City of Glen Cove.

"Our club is a landmarked building, property and way of life, actually," he said. "The club has operated the same way for 135 years."

The clubhouse itself is among the club's most unique features. Built over the water, the structure allows tides to flow directly underneath it.

"At high tide, the water comes up underneath the club," Riordan said.

Current Commodore Christopher Gioia said preserving the club's traditions while maintaining the aging property remains a major responsibility for leadership.

"It's a gem on the North Shore," Gioia said. "We owe it to the heritage to make sure that we keep it fresh and young and healthy financially and just steeped with the traditions that it has."

Gioia said the club attracts members from communities across Long Island, many of whom are drawn to the natural beauty surrounding Hempstead Harbor and Garvies Point Preserve.

"We're looking at a beautiful nature preserve," Gioia said. "You see the osprey and the egrets and all the birds fishing and it's all wonderful."



For generations of Long Islanders, summers at the Hempstead Harbor Club in Glen Cove have meant long days on the water, children racing across docks and sunsets overlooking Hempstead Harbor.



Tucked away at the end of Garvies Point Road, the Hempstead Harbor Club is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the United States and is known for its historic clubhouse built directly over the water.

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### “Joyspan” by Dr. Kerry Burnight

Subtitled “The Art and Science of Thriving in Life’s Second Half”, this book reflects the natural progression of our desire to increase our lifespan (the number of our years), to increasing our healthspan (the number of our healthy years), to increasing our joyspan (the number of our joyful years). The author defines joy as an inner feeling of well-being or contentment, as opposed to happiness, which comes and goes, often according to external circumstances.

Burnight writes, “To thrive in old age means to live a fulfilling, purposeful, and satisfying life despite the challenges of aging. It involves maximizing physical health, cognitive function, emotional well-being, social connections, and a sense of meaning. Thriving doesn’t mean being free of all health problems or challenges, rather, it emphasizes resilience, adaptability, and the ability to find joy and value in life.”

Research shows that those who thrive late in life:

**Grow:** They continue to explore and expand  
**Connect:** They put time into new and existing relationships

**Adapt:** They adjust to changing and challenging circumstances

**Give:** They share themselves

As a Professor of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, Dr. Burnight was struck by the radical difference in how people experienced their own aging process. “For some it is a frustrating, degrading, painful trajectory of ever-increasing decline. For others, there is visible delight, spirituality, and joy in occupying their eighth, ninth, and tenth decades.”

The thieves of joy are (1) comparison with others (2) frustration with health and mobility limitations (3) feeling like you are a burden (4) feeling heartbroken over the loss of a loved one, and (5) feeling defeated as if your best days are behind you. Nevertheless, she says, “Like the sun, joy is always there. But when it’s hidden by clouds, we mistakenly say it’s gone. Joy is resilient and can break through the clouds because it’s an innate part of the human experience.”

“One might say that following this doctor’s prescription will increase your “joyspan” and decrease your “oyspan”!

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## ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

# Traditional vs. Nontraditional Takeout

The best part of picking up takeout for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day is a “meal” can be defined as anything that will fill me up. So, if I stop in a café at 10 a.m. and my taste buds make a beeline for the lamb kebabs, oatmeal and cupcakes, they can become a perfectly acceptable breakfast. Yes, it would be a nontraditional meal, but who cares? Are you a traditional takeout person, a nontraditional takeout person, or somewhere in between? Check out the new “meals” I enjoyed around town this month to determine your “to go” category.

### Elite Pastries (671 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head)

I found a way to create a somewhat nontraditional meal in this new bakery that includes a host of authentic Greek specialties. When you enter this charming café with eight tables, you’ll be surrounded by shelves filled with everything from slices of triple-decker carrot cake to mini cream puffs to chocolate mousse cheesecake to a wonderland of cookies. Other shelves are filled with traditional Greek baked goods such as baklava, tsoureki and galaktoboureko. I ordered the fresh-out-of-the-oven spinach pie as my first course. For dessert, I munched on toasted coconut macaron cookies. The filling tasted like a creamy, elegant version of marshmallow fluff. What a wonderful surprise.

### Griffin (1512 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn)

It’s a pleasure eating a meal in this new, chic restaurant where contemporary twists on American classics dance on the menu. Entrees that include roasted organic chicken with apricot glaze, salads with Manchego, a premium pork schnitzel with chicory-arugula salad, and baked macaroni with spicy vodka and burrata, are all sprinkled with unexpected flavors that raise them to

the “OMG, this is amazing” level.

I ordered the honey glazed king salmon with my usual request: make it “ridiculously well done.” The chef magically created a juicy version. Broccolini and lentil vinaigrette complemented the salmon’s chili glaze perfectly. For dessert, the Banana Bourbon Tiramisu was a masterpiece.

### Ocean (333 Bayville Ave., Bayville)

This stunning indoor/outdoor waterfront restaurant has reopened for the season. I ordered the new coconut crusted tofu dish with soba noodles, vegetables and miso broth. The tofu wore a light, toasted coconut overcoat which was a perfect date with the noodles. The new salmon with soba noodles is equally delicious. This season, a different type of flat bread is offered daily. The day I was there, a duck confit flat bread was the chef’s choice.



CATHI TUROW

### The Sunset Club At Tappen Beach (494 Prospect Ave., Sea Cliff)

This fun, beachy, classy café is open for the season. Last summer’s raw bar, shareables, tacos, salads, handhelds and entrees are back. I wait all winter for the return of the grain bowl (ancient grain blend, sundried tomatoes, kalamata olives, artichoke hearts, red onion, lemon herb vinaigrette). I topped mine with chicken and it was enough for two traditional meals.

### AMC Movie Theatre (5 School St., Glen Cove)

My most satisfying, nontraditional meal was in the movie theatre. The big news is you can purchase mini jars of popcorn seasonings (ranch, white cheddar, kettle corn or chili lime). I bought a bucket of popcorn, sprinkled it with white cheddar, and sipped Coke Zero. It was a perfect dinner as I watched “The Sheep Detectives.”

GLEN COVE

# HERALD

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# Venuto and Nosek will join board next term

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was one write-in vote cast.

Venuto, who was first elected in 2015, said she plans to continue prioritizing building improvements and arts programming throughout the district.

“The most important priority that I think has been the most impactful, but also the most important to continue is facilities, improving school buildings,” Venuto said. “I want to keep pushing for the arts and support of the arts.”

Venuto has previously pointed to continued improvements needed at Connolly and Gribbin elementary schools as well as Finley Middle School. She has also emphasized the importance of maintaining student mental health supports and expanding opportunities for students after graduation.

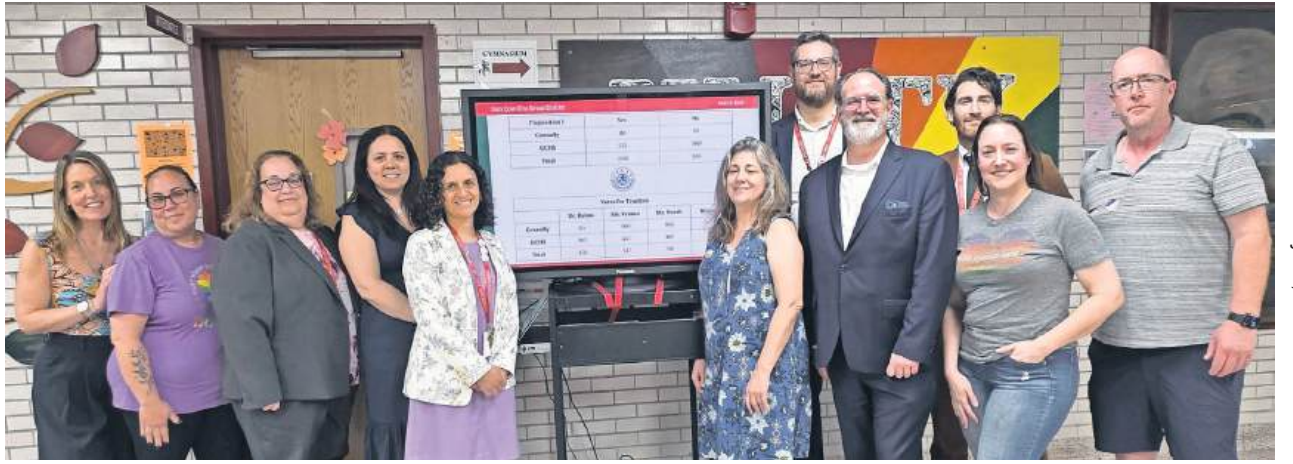
Nosek, an attorney and parent of twin daughters at the high school, said he hopes to strengthen communication throughout the district as he begins his first term on the board.

“One of the priorities that I have seen is enhancing and or further developing an overall communication policy for the district,” Nosek said, “so that we can make sure that we’re properly communicating from buildings to schools, to the parents, from the district out to the community.”

Nosek previously said his professional background in litigation and transactional law, along with his involvement in the PTA and the district’s Technology Committee, would help him navigate the district’s financial and governance challenges.

Superintendent Alexa Doeschner, who is completing her first year leading the district, said the outcome reflected community confidence in the district despite the difficult financial decisions that were made during the budget process.

“Since the budget passed, we know that the commu-



Roksana Amid/Herald

District administrators and board members were happy that next year’s budget passed Tuesday night.

nity feels confident in the work that we’re doing,” Doeschner said. “We want to make sure that we continue to communicate transparently and openly and listen to the community so that we can move forward in the right direction.”

Doeschner said that district officials will now move forward with staffing decisions, course planning and several capital projects included in the budget.

“We are really looking at staffing positions, making sure that we have everything that we need in terms of courses for students and supplies,” she said. “We can start working on the capital outlay projects that were part of the budget.”

Those projects include bathroom upgrades across the district, improvements to pre-kindergarten spaces and playground renovations.

The Board of Education unanimously adopted the

budget in April after working to close an initial \$7.57 million budget gap. District officials used \$4 million from reserve funds to reduce the deficit to \$3.57 million while implementing several reductions to help balance the spending plan.

Among the reductions were cuts to the Summer Academic Program, student-teacher conferences, the Twilight Program, curriculum writing and the fine arts coordinator position. The district will also shift the middle school from a nine-period day to an eight-period schedule.

District officials said they worked to preserve key programs and services despite the financial pressures. Priorities included maintaining Advanced Placement and dual-enrollment courses, special education programs, staffing positions, arts programming and extra-curricular activities.

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# Sea Cliff residents enjoy Porchfest music

May 21, 2026 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By JULIA CAPITELLI

[jcapitelli@liherald.com](mailto:jcapitelli@liherald.com)

More than 1,000 residents and music lovers strolled the streets of Sea Cliff as 22 local bands performed on porches throughout the village on Saturday.

The event was organized Sea Cliff-based nonprofit Love Your Neighbor Project. It serves as a yearly fundraiser for the organization. This year, roughly \$30,000 were raised, according to Jaime Teich, Love Your Neighbor Project's founder.

"The growth," Teich said, "not only from the amount of financial support, but the amount of people support was tremendous this year."

The nonprofit's work includes giving scholarships to students in the community, giving grants to community members for impactful projects, helping neighbors in need and contributing to Go Fund Me's opened by neighbors.

Teich explained last week that the money raised during Porchfest plays a large role in the organization's ability to support the community.

Not only local residents showed up. People from Westchester, Brooklyn, as well as elsewhere on Long Island attended, according to Teich.

"I heard so many people say, 'I met this person, I met that person,'" she said, "and there's something special about that."

Porchfest ran from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. with two bands performing simultaneously throughout the first four hours. Performances were divided into a "North tour" and a "South tour." The tours combined at 3 p.m. with only one band playing at a time for the rest of the night. Sea Cliff resident Sean Llewellyn puts together the Porchfest schedule each year.

Teich said that this year's Porchfest was particularly well-received.

"There was something different about this year, we heard that a lot," she said, "and nobody can quite put their finger on it. It was as if the laughter was louder, and the smiles were brighter, and the crowd was mellow, and so into being in it."

Food trucks were parked near Clifton Park for attendees to eat on the go. Restaurants and other businesses in the village were also open.

Love Your Neighbor Project has partnered with dancer and environmental



Julia Capitelli/Herald photos

Paumonok Stompers brought jazz to Porchfest with their performance at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.



Matt Pinto and the Matt Pinto Family Band rocked the stage at their Porchfest venue on Sea Cliff Avenue.



Sea Cliff residents Heidi Hunt, right, and Joe Hughes are regular musicians at the village's Porchfest.



Mae Curiale, left, performed alongside her father, Matthew.

activist Martita Goshen to present "The Way of the Whale," including a workshop and dance performance on June 5.

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# Work stoppage left commuters uncertain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Island City wasn't an ideal option because in traffic, the trip can take nearly two hours each way. The strike, she said, would likely make congestion significantly worse.

"I'm definitely not taking the bus," she added.

The disruption also threatened to complicate her family's schedule. Etheridge said she would likely need to leave work by 3 p.m. in order to reach her daughter's after-school program before its 6 p.m. pickup deadline. Her husband's work schedule generally prevents him from helping with pickups.

Despite the inconvenience, Etheridge expressed support for the workers involved in the labor dispute.

"I feel like the workers definitely deserve an increase," she said. "The cost of everything is going up, so why shouldn't they have a salary and a pay that reflects that?"

Following Monday night's agreement, Etheridge said she was relieved the disruption would soon come to an end. "I'm glad the MTA and unions were able to reach a deal that will benefit them in the long run," she said. "I'm also glad that the strike is over without too much disruption to the lives of commuters like myself."

At a Monday-evening news conference, Kevin Sexton, vice president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engi-



Roksana Amid/Herald

Among those impacted by the strike was Shenel Etheridge, a Glen Cove resident who commutes four days a week from the Glen Street station to her job in Manhattan.

neers and Trainmen and the spokesman for the Long Island Railroad Bargaining Coalition, announced the tentative agreement. Sexton said the specific terms of the deal would not immediately be released, because union members must still review and vote on

the agreement during a 30-day ratification process.

Gov. Kathy Hochul said the agreement balanced fair wages for workers with protecting commuters from additional fare or tax increases.

"At a time when everything is going

up, I'm not going to allow taxes or fares to go up," Hochul said.

The Nassau County Legislature's minority leader, Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, said the strike had been "profoundly disruptive for thousands of families," especially in communities heavily dependent on the railroad. Before the agreement was reached, DeRiggi-Whitton had written to NICE Bus CEO Jack Khzouz, requesting temporary shuttle service from the Glen Cove and Port Washington stations in the event that the strike continued.

State Assemblyman Charles Lavine said the work stoppage underscored the importance of mass transit on Long Island. "The strike reminds us of the value of mass transit, particularly the LIRR," Lavine said.

The strike also renewed discussion about Glen Cove's ferry terminal. On May 12, the City Council approved resolutions allowing New York Water Taxi to use the terminal to transport employees of NYU Langone Health to and from Manhattan in the event of a prolonged shutdown. The terminal was originally built with \$16.6 million in federal grant funding that required the city to operate ferry service for at least two years.

Neither NYU Langone nor New York Water Taxi responded to Herald inquiries about whether the ferry arrangement for hospital workers would continue following the end of the strike.

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# Beach officially reopens after 17 years

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

After 17 years of closure from bacterial contamination, Crescent Beach officially reopened to swimmers on May 15, marking a milestone that local leaders and residents said took years of environmental work, government cooperation and community determination to achieve.

Dozens gathered at the beach for a reopening ceremony celebrating the return of one of Glen Cove's longtime shoreline destinations. Nassau County officials, city leaders and community members reflected on the lengthy effort to restore water quality and make the beach safe for public use again.

"This was a day that was hard to envision at times, but the faith, the hard work, and the support really made it happen," Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said during the ceremony.

The Nassau County Department of Health approved reopening the beach in April after reviewing water samples collected in 2024 and 2025 that showed significantly reduced bacteria levels. Officials also determined that mitigation measures implemented at the site had successfully addressed the source of the contamination.

The beach had been closed since June 2009, when county health officials deter-



Roksana Amid/Herald

After 17 years of closure caused by bacterial contamination, Crescent Beach officially reopened to swimmers on May 15.

mined that elevated bacteria levels in the water posed a public health risk to swimmers.

Over the years, officials conducted dye testing, septic inspections and environmental surveys to determine the source of the contamination. During the mid-2010s, the Environmental Protection Agency became involved in testing efforts and concluded that much of the bacteria originated from animal waste rather than failing sewer infrastructure. That finding shifted the remediation strategy toward environmental improvements and stormwater management solutions.

According to DeRiggi-Whitton's

office, nearly \$1 million in county bonding was secured to help fund the cleanup and infrastructure work necessary to reopen the beach.

The City implemented several improvements as part of a remediation plan approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Those measures included installing Helix filtration systems and a box culvert near the base of the stream, planting vegetation designed to naturally absorb bacteria and constructing a new conduit system intended to better manage stormwater and runoff entering the beach area.

"It took a lot, but it was that desire to

give this beach back to the Glen Cove community that kept us all going," DeRiggi-Whitton said.

Steven Martinez, a representative from Gov. Kathy Hochul's office on Long Island, praised the collaboration among local, county and state officials that helped bring the project to completion.

"Today is a testament to the true partnership of different levels of government," Martinez said.

The ceremony also brought together four current and former Glen Cove mayors, underscoring how long the effort to reopen the beach has spanned across multiple administrations.

Pamela Panzenbeck said the reopening carried personal significance for many longtime residents, including herself.

"This really is a tremendous county, city, and community project," Panzenbeck said, recalling memories of swimming at Crescent Beach as a child.

For DeRiggi-Whitton, the reopening was equally personal. She said Crescent Beach has long been woven into the community's history and identity.

DeRiggi-Whitton also credited past Glen Cove mayors, members of the City Council, the Nassau County Legislature, the city's Department of Public Works, engineers involved in the remediation effort and Spiro Tsirkas for helping bring the long-running project to completion.

GLEN COVE HERALD - May 21, 2026



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Tim Baker/Herald photos

Cliff Krauter, Nadia Vee, Dr Maxine Mayreis, Judith Rivera and Matt Nartowicz all helped to plan and organize one of the most cherished events on the North Shore.

# A 'delightful' evening with the chamber

Hundreds of residents, business owners and local leaders gathered at The Mansion at Glen Cove on May 18 for the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce's 28th annual Culinary Delights event, an evening that showcased the city's vibrant restaurant scene and strong sense of community. Guests sampled food and drinks from a wide range of local eateries while networking, supporting chamber initiatives and celebrating the businesses that help define Glen Cove's downtown and culinary culture. Organizers said the longtime tradition continues to bring the community together while highlighting the diversity and growth of the city's dining scene.

—Roksana Amid



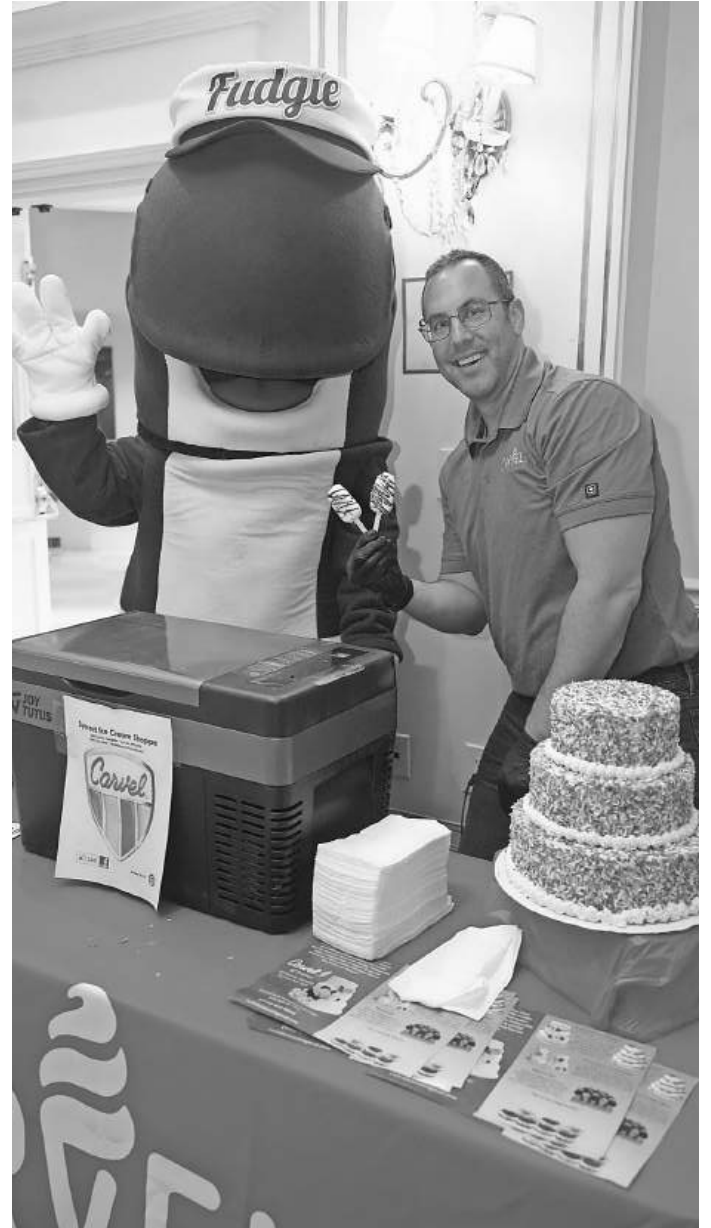
Antonio Velasquez and Rodrigo Bernal, who work for the Glen Cove Mansion, offered some of the mansion's iconic dishes.



Carlo Lubrano from La Bussola Ristorante in Glen Cove.



Gillian Villalobos and Alison Diaz served frozen treats from Scoop N Fruit in Glen Cove.



Fudgie the whale and Jared Jacobson from Carvel served creamy frozen delights.

# Theatre program earns national recognition

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

The theatre program at Glen Cove High School has earned national recognition after being named a Premier Community for Theatre Education by the Educational Theatre Association.

The distinction, announced on May 19, recognizes schools and communities that demonstrate a strong commitment to providing high-quality theatre education and broad access to arts opportunities for students.

The Educational Theatre Association said the recognition is awarded to schools that prioritize theatre education by investing in the staffing, resources and institutional support needed to sustain successful arts programs and create meaningful opportunities for students.

“This recognition affirms what we have known in Glen Cove for a long time,” Alexa Doeschner, superintendent of the Glen Cove City School District, said in a statement. “The arts are not extra, they are essential. Our theatre program is a place where students take creative risks, find their voice, and grow alongside one another, and this honor really belongs to the students, educators, and families who have built it into what it is today.”

To qualify for the distinction, Glen Cove High School completed a comprehensive application documenting the



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

The Glen Cove High School earned national recognition being named a Premier Community for Theatre Education by the Educational Theatre Association.

district’s support for theatre education in several areas, including curriculum, instructional time, funding, student participation, facilities, teacher development and institutional commitment to the program. The Educational Theatre Association reviewed the submission and verified all supporting documentation before granting the designation.

The application process was designed to evaluate whether schools provide consistent access to theatre education

and whether arts programming is treated as a meaningful part of the overall student experience. Schools were required to provide official records and evidence supporting each section of the application.

Jared Ross, the school’s theatre teacher and director, credited students and the broader school community for helping the program succeed.

“Our theatre students are the most dedicated young artists you can find,”

Ross said. “Our work in the theatre department is successful largely due to their leadership and commitment. This recognition is a testament to their hard work and the value that our District and community place in arts education. We have the best team of educators and students here in Glen Cove!”

The Educational Theatre Association said research continues to show that theatre education can help students develop confidence, creativity, collaboration, resilience and responsibility, while also strengthening communication skills and academic engagement.

The organization cited studies indicating that drama-based instruction can help students connect more deeply with classroom material and noted that 95 percent of school administrators believe theatre experiences improve students’ academic skills overall. The association also said participation in theatre programs can help students develop a stronger sense of belonging within their school communities.

“Theatre education gives students the opportunity to discover their voice, build confidence, and develop skills that serve them for life,” Jay Gerlach said in a statement. “This recognition celebrates communities that understand theatre is not extracurricular in the traditional sense, but an essential part of a well-rounded education.”

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# Balboni returns to Adelphi as its president

May 21, 2026 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By ALLYSON FERRARI

aferrari@liherald.com

Adelphi University has named Michael Balboni, a former state lawmaker and a longtime public servant, as its 11th president.

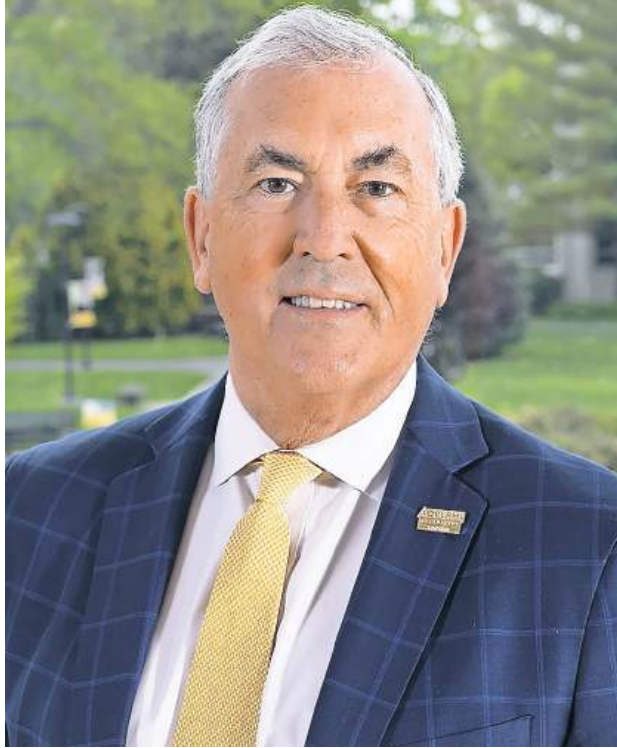
Balboni, who will take office June 1, is the first Adelphi graduate, the first Adelphi parent and the first Long Island native to lead the Garden City university. He succeeds Interim President Christopher K. Storm Jr., who will move into the newly created role of senior executive vice president of academic affairs and provost. Christine M. Riordan was Adelphi's 10th president.

"This transition is a homecoming for me, a true full-circle moment," Balboni said. "Because I know Adelphi from almost every possible angle, I have an intimate understanding of the DNA of this university and the transformative power of the education it provides."

Balboni graduated cum laude from Adelphi in 1981 with a degree in biology, and has remained closely connected to the university, including as an adjunct faculty member and, most recently, as chair of the board of trustees. He built a career in law, government and public safety, serving in the Assembly and State Senate and later as New York's deputy secretary for public safety.

Balboni said he plans to serve as Adelphi's "chief external advocate," using his experience in government, law and public policy to raise the university's profile, expand partnerships and pursue new funding.

"I plan to leverage my professional network and my knowledge of the legislative landscapes in Albany and Washington, D.C., to elevate our institutional visibility," he said.



Courtesy Adelphi University

Michael Balboni will take office June 1 as Adelphi University's 11th president. He will be the university's first graduate, the first Adelphi parent and the first Long Island native to hold the position.

He added that he will pursue state and federal grants, build corporate partnerships and work to raise Adelphi's regional and national profile.

William Fuessler, acting chair of the university's

board of trustees and chair of the presidential search committee, said Balboni's background makes him well suited to lead the university at a challenging time for higher education.

"To thrive, Adelphi requires an innovative leader and a proven executive capable of navigating complex financial and operational headwinds," Fuessler said. "Michael Balboni brings precisely this expertise."

Fuessler added that Balboni's public- and private-sector experience will help the university secure resources and support institutional growth.

Balboni takes over as colleges and universities nationwide face pressure from shifting enrollment patterns, rising costs and growing scrutiny over the value of a college degree. Adelphi, he said, is entering that period in a position of strength.

Adelphi received a record 17,000 first-year applications for the upcoming fall semester, and has posted record first-year enrollment in two of the past three years, Balboni said. The university also has a balanced budget, a stable financial outlook and a \$282 million endowment, up 69 percent since 2016.

"For workforce readiness, proving the return on investment of a degree is critical," he said.

Affordability, efficiency and new partnerships will be central to his presidency, Balboni explained, as Adelphi works to demonstrate the value of a college degree. The university will focus on aligning programs with market demand in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and health care, while expanding internships, externships, job shadowing and study abroad opportunities.

"I want to make sure our students all have the experiential opportunities through internships, externships, job shadowing and study abroad," Balboni said, "so they have real-world experiences employers want."

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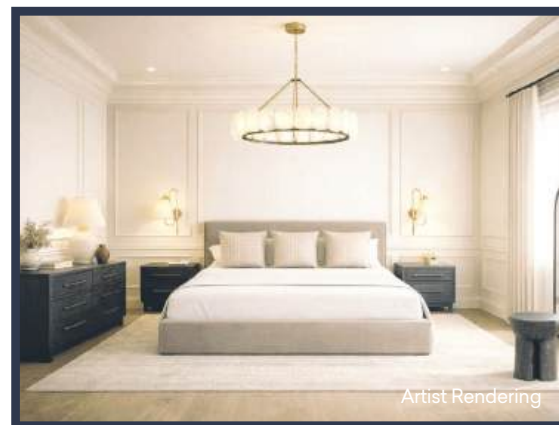


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# County panel kicks off anti-fraud campaign

Experts detail deceitful practices that cost unsuspecting consumers hundreds of billions of dollars

By JOSEPH D'ALESSANDRO

jdalessandro@liherald.com

Throughout the country, an easily overlooked category of crime has become a multi-billion-dollar industry: Insurance fraud costs consumers \$806 billion every year, taking financial bites out of construction, transportation, real estate and other industries. Long Island's local business leaders are sharing their strategies to avoid contributing to that statistic.

Some 160 business owners and employees welcomed advice from elected officials, security firms and fellow business people at a panel at the Morrelly Homeland Security Center in Bethpage on May 13.

This was the first panel connecting government agencies and local businesses to share information about fighting insurance fraud, according to John Capece, Nassau County's consumer affairs commissioner.

"This is the first time in Long Island history that we have a meeting with all the building departments and the Department of Consumer Affairs to host a seminar for training and for communication," Capece said.

The panel, sponsored by the Long Island Builders Institute, is intended to be the first of many. Capece conceived of the idea to kick off a larger effort to improve consumer safety by helping community members and local businesses identify and avoid malicious actors.

"We want to stop them because they prey on the elderly and the vulnerable people that don't understand contracts ... they get sucked into something where they think they're going to save so much money and they don't," Capece said. "We want to educate the



Joseph D'Alessandro/Herald

Panelist Gina Farese and Nassau Consumer Affairs Commissioner John Capece advised more than 160 community members about the risks of insurance fraud.

public."

Panelists discussed the optimal ways of handling everything from home improvement contractor licensing, permitting, solar installations and contracting oversight to responding to fraudulent insurance and

training certificates and staged construction accidents, as well as other topics impacting homeowners and the building industry.

Panelist Gina Farese is a solar energy entrepreneur and a member of Nassau County's Home Improvement Advisory Committee and many other groups in the industry. She has seen many cases of improper business dealings, ranging from roofing coverage to workers who aren't on a contractor's official payroll.

"There's a lot of things that are broken and so far gone, and I'm seeing so many homeowners get, unfortunately, taken," Farese said. "So many people just care about their bottom line ... at the end of the day, it's just making sure that the homeowners are protected properly, and educating people."

Mary Harkins serves as counsel to the county's Department of Consumer Affairs. She advises Capece and the department on the interpretation of local laws, with a focus on contract violations.

"Now we're able to address it more proactively, rather than just reacting," Harkins said. "Our licensing division is about, like, six people, some part-time, and we're dealing with 10,000 licenses plus about 800 new applications per year. It's a lot of responsibility, but in reality, we're moving on it."

"We're trying to uncover the really great contractors out there," Harkins added. For bad actors in the industry, the department, she said, is "trying to identify them and take corrective action."

The number one way to protect yourself against risk, Capece said, is to verify that any contractor in your home is legitimately licensed.

For more information, call Nassau County Consumer Affairs at (516) 571-2465.

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# STEPPING OUT



**Spicy Mustard Chicken Kebabs**



**Grilled Pineapple with Lime Dip**



**Grilled Lemon Chive Corn**

## Sizzle into summer Fire up Memorial Day

By Karen Bloom

The holiday weekend may feel a little different this year with the beloved FourLeaf Air Show shifting to over to Fourth of July as part of the celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Still, there's no shortage of ways to celebrate the unofficial start of summer, including a patriotic drone show to fill in for the annual flying spectacle that will illuminate the night sky over Jones Beach on May 24.

No matter how the weekend unfolds, one tradition remains firmly in place: gathering around the grill for a barbecue with family and friends.

Of course, no Memorial Day barbecue would be complete without the familiar favorites — juicy burgers sizzling over an open flame, hot dogs nestled in toasted buns and steaks grilled to smoky perfection. But today's cookout offers far more than the traditional staples. By adding dishes with bold marinades, fresh seasonal ingredients and unexpected sweet-and-savory flavors, hosts can bring new energy to the holiday barbecue while still honoring the classics everyone loves.

The beauty of grilling is its versatility. From colorful kebabs and charred vegetables to caramelized fruit and herb-infused sides, even the simplest ingredients take on extra flavor over the fire. The tried-and-true will always remain a go-to, but the holiday is also the perfect opportunity to refresh the menu with creative twists and crowd-pleasing additions that may just become new favorites.

### Spicy Mustard Chicken Kebabs

Kabobs add sizzle to the season. With their easy preparation and quick cooking time, kabobs are a simple way to enjoy many of your favorite fresh flavors.

- 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon spicy brown mustard
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 1 pound raw boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/4 teaspoon each of salt and black pepper
- 1 medium red onion, cut into 1-inch chunks

To make sauce, place 3 tablespoons mustard in medium bowl. Add oil and garlic powder, and whisk until uniform. Cover and refrigerate.

To make marinade, in small bowl, combine vinegar with remaining 2 tablespoons mustard. Stir until uniform.

Season chicken with salt and pepper. Place chicken and marinade in large sealable plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal. Gently knead marinade into chicken through bag. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

Meanwhile, if using wooden skewers, soak 4 in water for 20 minutes to prevent burning.

Alternately thread marinated chicken and onion chunks onto 4 skewers. Bring grill to medium-high heat.

Brush both sides of kebabs with sauce. Grill kebabs for 5 minutes with grill cover down.

Flip kebabs and grill for 6 to 8 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through. Enjoy.

### Grilled Pineapple with Lime Dip

Enhance the flavor of fruits and veggies at your barbecue. Try another way to eat pineapple by grilling it and pairing with a lime dip for a tasty treat.

- 1 pineapple
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 3 tablespoons honey

### Lime Dip:

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 teaspoons lime zest

Peel pineapple; cut into wedges.

In resealable plastic bag, combine brown sugar, lime juice and honey. Add pineapple wedges, seal bag and turn to coat. Refrigerate 1 hour.

To make dip: In small bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Beat in yogurt, honey, brown sugar, lime juice and lime zest. Cover and refrigerate.

Heat grill to medium heat.

Remove pineapple wedges from plastic bag; discard marinade. Grill pineapple wedges, covered, 3-4 minutes on each side, or until golden brown.

Serve with dip.

### Grilled Lemon Chive Corn

Grilling adds an extra special flavor to corn on the cob. Try it with a lemon chive butter topping.

- 4 ears fresh sweet corn, in husks
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon chopped chives
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Pull back husks from each ear of corn, leaving husks attached to base. Remove corn silk. Fold husks back around corn; tie at end of each ear with string or strip of outside corn leaves. Soak in cold water 30 minutes. Drain.

Place corn on grill, uncovered, 20 to 30 minutes or until tender, turning often. Meanwhile combine butter, chives and lemon juice.

Serve corn with lemon-chive butter.



### 'Cold Beer on a Saturday Night'

Spring blooms with a taste of summer as Jimmy Kenny and the Pirate Beach Band bring their "Ultimate Beach Party Tribute" to the Paramount stage, celebrating the music of Kenny Chesney, Jimmy Buffett, and Zac Brown Band. Long Island-based and led by Paul C. Cuthbert (aka Jimmy Kenny) on lead vocals and acoustic guitar, the group also features Linn DeMila (Lovely Linn) on lead and backing vocals, Luis Rios on guitar, Frank Stainkamp on keyboards, Dan Prine on bass, and Mike Vecchione on drums. Together, they've spent more than a decade channeling the laid-back spirit of beach-country favorites. With a setlist built for singing along, the band blends crowd-pleasing hits with an easygoing, sun-soaked energy that evokes margaritas, ocean breezes and carefree nights where, as they like to say, it's always "5 o'clock somewhere."

Saturday, May 23, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or [paramountrny.com](http://paramountrny.com).



### Decoration Day

Step back into time to when Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day at Old Bethpage Village Restoration. Throughout weekend, the living-history site comes alive with the sights, sounds and traditions of the 19th century, offering visitors an immersive glimpse into how Long Islanders once marked the occasion. Stroll the village while enjoying period craft demonstrations, storytelling and stirring brass band concerts that echo through the historic streets. The weekend culminates with the signature Decoration Day observance, re-creating the holiday as it was first commemorated in the early 1870s. Costumed Civil War "veterans" lead a patriotic parade and heartfelt ceremony honoring departed soldiers, capturing the spirit, pageantry and reverence of an earlier era. The parade and ceremonial program begin at 2:15 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, May 23-24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 1303 Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage. Visit [oldbethpagevillagerestoration.org](http://oldbethpagevillagerestoration.org) or call (516) 572-8409.

YOUR  
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## CALENDAR

**MAY 21** **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

**MAY 22** **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:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

**MAY 24** **Ice House Jams**

Enjoy live music (free with park admission) at Sands Point Preserve's new outdoor gathering space in the woods behind Castle Gould: the Ice House! Curated by Homebrew Music, these sessions bring the best local artists to the cozy pond-side spot for select Sundays all spring and summer. Relax on lounge furniture, explore the trails and let the music set the mood. Weather permitting.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** Noon-3 p.m.; also May 31
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

**JUN 16** **Gary Clark Jr.**

Blues-rock guitarist, singer, and songwriter has built a reputation as one of the most exciting live performers of his generation. Blending electric blues, rock, soul, R&B, and hints of hip-hop, his sound is both rooted in tradition and boldly modern. His guitar tone often recalls legends like Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan, but his songwriting, socially aware lyrics, and willingness to experiment make him stand out as a contemporary artist. On stage, he is known for extended solos, dynamic arrangements, and emotionally charged vocals that move from soft falsetto to gritty growls, making every Gary Clark Jr concert feel unforgettable. Anyone who has listened to a Gary Clark Jr. album or watched the four-time Grammy Award winner perform live knows that he's a gifted multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and performer. And never more so than on his last album, 2019's illuminating *This Land*. But while *This Land* signaled a breakthrough in displaying his musical versatility beyond the blues, his latest album, *JPEG RAW*, represents a quantum leap.

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

**Memorial Day  
Observances**

The City of Glen Cove hosts Memorial Day observances honoring fallen service members, including a tribute to John "Jack" Niles McCarthy. Events include a military banner ceremony followed by wreath layings at multiple monuments across the city.

- **Where:** Morgan Memorial Park, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 11:30 a.m.
- **Contact:** GCMemorialDayParade@gmail.com

**Hempstead House  
Tour**

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

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** Noon and 1:30 p.m.; also May 31
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

**MAY 25** **Glen Cove  
Memorial Day  
Ceremony &  
Parade**

Glen Cove's annual Memorial Day ceremony and parade honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice, including a special remembrance of John "Jack" Niles McCarthy. The ceremony is at Monument Park, followed by the parade through downtown.

- **Where:** Parade route begins at Cottage Row and Forest Avenue
- **Time:** Ceremony at 11 a.m.; parade at noon
- **Contact:** GCMemorialDayParade@gmail.com

**MAY 30** **Deep Roots  
Market**

The weekly farmers market returns with fresh produce and local goods at Garvies Point.

- **Where:** Garvies Point Road
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** deeproots@glencovechamber.org

**Notes In Nature:  
String Quartets**

Visit Planting Fields for the next

concert in the "Notes in Nature" series. Celebrate the coming of summer under the open sky at the Main House's Cloister Garden with a captivating evening of string quartets inspired by nature and romance. Experience the vocal and virtuosic essence of the Long Island Chamber Music collective set against the picturesque backdrop of Planting Fields. \$45 per person in advance, \$50 at the door if seats are available. Includes a complimentary glass of wine.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 7-8:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

**Mammograms  
available**

The Nassau University Medical Center mobile unit visits Glen Cove Library, offering free mammograms. Appointments are required and must be scheduled in advance. Eligibility requirements include being 40 years of age or older. Women without health insurance are eligible to participate, and those who do have health insurance must bring a prescription from their healthcare provider. To schedule an appointment, call (516) 444-8752.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

**Art explorations**

Converse, collaborate and create with kids at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators at the Manes Center to explore and discover different materials to create your own original artwork. Kids and adults connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. \$20 adult, \$10 child. For ages 2-14. Registration required. \$20, \$10 child; members free.

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

**JUN 4** **Monthly  
meditation**

Sands Point Preserve's historic mansions and waterfront grounds are the backdrop

for an evening of nature-based mindfulness and meditation with Hildur Palsdottir, first Thursday monthly. Classes are held in the beautiful rooms of the Preserve's mansions, or in the Hempstead House Garden when weather permits. Explore techniques specifically aimed at stress reduction. Hildur adapts ancient Buddhist teachings to modern applications for calming the mind. In addition to facilitating these monthly groups, Hildur offers support with establishing a home meditation practice. No feeling is final. \$17 per class.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 6-7 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

**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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## THE GREAT BOOK GURU

# Marriage derailed

**D**ear Great Book Guru, I was at the Love Your Neighbor Project's Porchfest last weekend. What fun! With twenty-two bands and close to a thousand people attending, the event was a huge success. While listening to one of my favorite bands - Hunt and Hughes - I overheard someone going on about a book she had just read - set on Martha's Vineyard and in Manhattan, it was a tale of a fairytale marriage abruptly ended. Any thoughts?

Porchfest Fan

Dear Porchfest Fan, "Strangers" by Belle Burden is a fascinating memoir. Burden had been happily married twenty years to James, a very successful attorney when she learns he has been involved with a much younger woman and wants a divorce. The couple and their three young children were sheltering during Covid in their home on Martha's Vineyard when this is

revealed.

The story itself is compelling as she tries to understand how they had once been so happy and now were strangers, but Burden's family lineage brings this book to a different level of interest. She

comes from immense wealth and is a descendant of a host of iconic figures such as John Jay, the first Supreme Court Justice, the Vanderbilts, and the Paleys. As she goes through the various stages of grief, she finds solace in work and her children, but she remains plagued by the realization she knew so little about this

man with whom she had shared such happy moments.

It's a beautifully written "memoir of a marriage." Highly recommended!

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at [annmdipietro@gmail.com](mailto:annmdipietro@gmail.com).



**ANN  
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1342561

**TICKETS FROM \$59**

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 YOU'LL REACH FOR YOUR BEST FRIEND!"

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**BEACHES**

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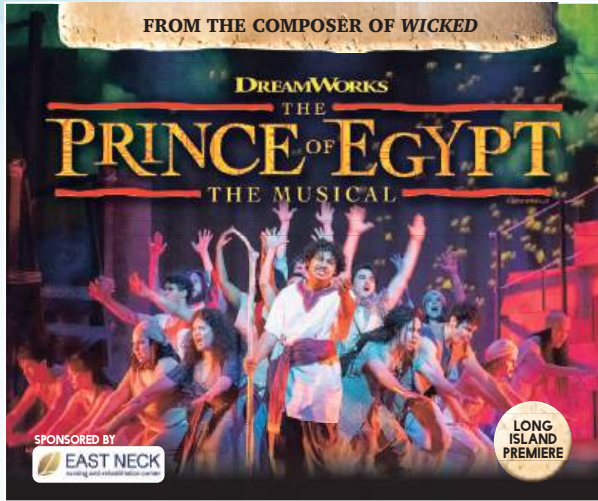
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1346802

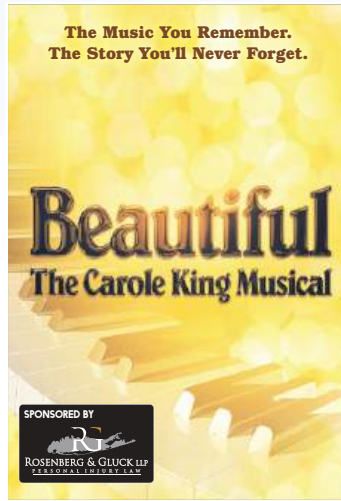
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APR 16<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> 2026



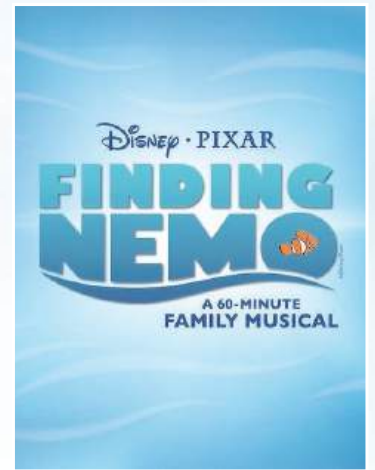
JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> - AUG 30<sup>TH</sup> 2026

## CHILDREN'S THEATRE 2025/26 SEASON REMAINING SHOWS

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APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> 2026



JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> - AUG 30<sup>TH</sup> 2026

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LEGAL NOTICE  
AVISO DE REUNIÓN  
ESPECIAL DEL  
DISTRITO  
BIBLIOTECARIO DE  
GLEN COVE EL 2 DE  
JUNIO DE 2026 PARA  
VOTAR SOBRE EL  
PRESUPUESTO DE LA  
BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA Y  
ELEGIR A UN  
MIEMBRO DEL  
CONSEJO DIRECTIVO  
DE LA BIBLIOTECA  
PÚBLICA DE GLEN  
COVE

POR LA PRESENTE SE  
NOTIFICA que se  
celebrará una reunión  
especial de los votantes  
calificados de la  
Biblioteca Pública de  
Glen Cove de  
conformidad con las  
disposiciones de la  
Sección 260 y 2007 de  
la Ley de Educación del  
Estado de Nueva York  
en la Biblioteca Pública  
de Glen Cove, 4 Glen  
Cove Avenue, Glen  
Cove, Nueva York, en  
dicho distrito el 2 de  
junio de 2026, entre las  
9 a.m. y las 9 p.m.  
Dicha reunión se  
celebrará con los  
siguientes propósitos:

RESUELTO que el  
presupuesto propuesto  
para la Biblioteca  
Pública de Glen Cove,  
Distrito Escolar de la  
Ciudad de Glen Cove,  
preparado por los  
Fideicomisarios de  
dicha Biblioteca  
Pública, para el año  
2026/2027, y según  
haya sido enmendado,  
queda aprobado por la  
presente; y que el  
monto del mismo,  
menos los ingresos, se  
recaude mediante la  
imposición de un  
impuesto sobre los  
bienes inmuebles  
gravables en dicho  
distrito escolar.

Con el propósito de  
elegir a un (1)  
Fideicomisario para la  
Biblioteca Pública de  
Glen Cove por un  
período de cinco (5)  
años.

La votación sobre los  
asuntos antes  
mencionados se  
realizará mediante  
papeleta en una urna.

POR FAVOR, TOME  
NOTA ADICIONAL que  
la Junta de la  
Biblioteca de  
conformidad con las  
disposiciones de las  
Secciones 260 y 2007  
de la Ley de Educación  
por la presente  
convoca dicha reunión  
especial del distrito.

SE NOTIFICA LO  
SIGUIENTE que las  
peticiones que  
nominan al candidato  
para el cargo de

Fideicomisario de la  
Biblioteca Pública de  
Glen Cove deben  
presentarse ante el  
Secretario de la  
Biblioteca entre las 9  
a.m. y las 5 p.m., a más  
tardar e 15 de mayo de  
2026, En ese momento,  
el candidato nominado  
será elegido. Cada  
petición de nominación  
deberá dirigirse al  
Secretario de la  
Biblioteca, deberá estar  
firmada por al menos  
veinticinco (25)  
votantes calificados del  
Distrito, deberá indicar  
la residencia de cada  
firmante y deberá  
indicar el nombre y la  
residencia del  
candidato.

Se pueden obtener  
modelos de formularios  
de solicitud en la  
oficina del secretario  
de la Biblioteca Pública  
de Glen Cove, ubicada  
en 4 Glen Cove  
Avenue, Glen Cove,  
Nueva York.

SE NOTIFICA LO  
SIGUIENTE que una  
copia de los gastos  
estimados propuestos  
para su votación estará  
disponible en la  
Biblioteca Pública de  
Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove  
Avenue, Glen Cove,  
Nueva York, entre las 9  
a. m. y las 5 p. m.  
todos los días, excepto  
sábados, domingos y  
días festivos, durante  
los catorce días  
anteriores a dicha  
reunión.

SE NOTIFICA LO  
SIGUIENTE que la Junta  
Directiva de la  
Biblioteca Pública de  
Glen Cove celebrará  
una audiencia especial  
sobre el presupuesto el  
martes 19 de mayo de  
2026, en la Biblioteca  
Pública de Glen Cove, 4  
Glen Cove Avenue,  
Glen Cove, Nueva York,  
a las 19:00 horas.

SE NOTIFICA LO  
SIGUIENTE Los  
votantes calificados del  
Distrito pueden  
registrarse entre las 9  
a.m. y las 4 p.m. en la  
Biblioteca de Glen  
Cove, 4 Glen Cove  
Avenue, Glen Cove,  
Nueva York. La fecha  
límite para registrarse  
para la reunión que se  
llevará a cabo el 2 de  
junio de 2026 es el 19  
de mayo de 2026. Si un  
votante ha votado en  
alguna elección en los  
últimos 4 años (2022) o  
si es elegible para votar  
según el Artículo 5 de  
la Ley Electoral, es  
elegible para votar en  
esta elección. Todas las  
demás personas que  
deseen votar deben  
registrarse. La lista de  
registro preparada por

la Junta Electoral del  
Condado de Nassau se  
archivará en la Oficina  
del Secretario de la  
Biblioteca Pública de  
Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove  
Avenue, Glen Cove,  
Nueva York, y estará  
disponible para su  
consulta por cualquier  
votante calificado del  
distrito entre las 9 a.m.  
y las 4 p.m., hora local,  
cualquier día después  
del martes.19 de mayo  
de 2026, y cada uno de  
los días anteriores a la  
fecha fijada para las  
elecciones de la  
biblioteca y la votación  
del presupuesto,  
excepto sábados,  
domingos o días  
festivos, incluida la  
fecha fijada para la  
reunión.

POR FAVOR, TOME  
NOTA ADICIONAL Se  
puede solicitar una  
boleta de voto en  
ausencia para las  
elecciones y la votación  
del presupuesto de la  
Biblioteca en la Oficina  
del Secretario de la  
Biblioteca Pública de  
Glen Cove, ubicada en  
4 Glen Cove Avenue,  
Glen Cove, Nueva York.  
Dichas solicitudes  
deben recibirse al  
menos siete (7) días  
antes de las elecciones  
si la boleta se enviará  
por correo a los  
votantes, o el día  
anterior a las  
elecciones si se  
entregará a  
personalmente al  
votante. No se  
contabilizará ninguna  
boleta de voto en  
ausencia a menos que  
se haya recibido en la  
Oficina del Secretario  
de la Biblioteca Pública  
de Glen Cove, ubicada  
en 4 Glen Cove  
Avenue, Nueva York, a  
más tardar a las 5:00 p.  
m., hora local, del día  
de las elecciones.

Ida Johnson  
Auxiliar de biblioteca  
159571

LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL  
LIBRARY DISTRICT  
MEETING ON JUNE 2,  
2026 OF GLEN COVE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY TO  
VOTE ON THE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY BUDGET AND  
ELECT ONE TRUSTEE  
OF THE GLEN COVE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY  
GIVEN that a special  
meeting of the  
qualified voters of the  
Glen Cove Public  
Library will be held  
pursuant to the  
provisions of Section  
260 and 2007 of the  
Education Law of the  
State of New York at  
the Glen Cove Public  
Library, 4 Glen Cove

Avenue, Glen Cove,  
New York, in said  
district on June 2,  
2026, between the  
hours of 9 a.m. and 9  
p.m. Said meeting will  
be held for the  
following purposes:

RESOLVED that the  
proposed budget of the  
Glen Cove Public  
Library, Glen Cove City  
School District, as  
prepared by the  
Trustees of the said  
Public Library, for the  
year 2026/2027, and as  
the same may have  
been amended, by and  
hereby is approved;  
and that the amount  
thereof, less receipts,  
be raised by the levy of  
a tax upon the taxable  
real property in the  
said school district.

For the purpose of  
electing one (1) Trustee  
for the Glen Cove  
Public Library for a five-  
year (5) term.

The vote on the  
aforesaid matters will  
be cast by ballot in a  
ballot box.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER  
NOTICE that the Library  
Board pursuant to the  
provisions of Section  
260 and 2007 of the  
Education Law hereby  
call said special district  
meeting.

FURTHER NOTICE IS  
HEREBY GIVEN that  
petitions nominating  
the candidate for the  
office of Trustee of the  
Glen Cove Public  
Library must be filed  
with the Clerk of the  
Library between the  
hours of 9 a.m. and 5  
p.m., no later than May  
5, 2026, at which time  
the candidate so  
nominated is to be  
elected. Each  
nominating petition  
shall be directed to the  
Clerk of the Library,  
must be signed by at  
least twenty-five (25)  
qualified voters of the  
District, shall state the  
residence of each  
signer, and must state  
the name and  
residence of the  
candidate.

Sample forms of the  
petitions may be  
obtained from the Clerk  
of the Library at the  
Glen Cove Public  
Library, 4 Glen Cove  
Avenue, Glen Cove,  
New York.

FURTHER NOTICE IS  
HEREBY GIVEN that a  
copy of the proposed  
estimated expenditures  
to be voted upon shall  
be made available at  
the Glen Cove Public  
Library, 4 Glen Cove  
Avenue, Glen Cove,

## Deep Roots Farmers Market returns

The 2026 Deep Roots Farmers Market season in Glen Cove will run for 23 weeks, beginning May 30 and continuing through Nov. 7 at Garvies Point Park along the waterfront. The market operates Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine, at 100 Garvies Point Road.

The market is managed by the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, which assumed operation in 2025 following the death of founder Amy Peters. Chamber officials have said they are committed to preserving Peters' vision of a community-centered market focused on supporting local farms and small businesses.

According to the market website, the 2026 season will feature local and organic foods, fresh produce, baked goods, prepared foods, arts and crafts vendors, live music and family-friendly activities overlooking Hempstead Harbor. Organizers are currently accepting vendor applications for the season.

Vendors listed on the market's website include Garden of Eve Organic Farm, Oregon Road Organics Farm, Jessy's Empanadas, The Cheese Guy,

Winter Cove Farm, Three French Hens Bakery and Dom's Honey, among others. The market maintains a policy that products must be locally grown, hand-made or produced by local businesses, and does not permit resold merchandise or political tabling.

Deep Roots Farmers Market began in Sea Cliff in 2014 with a single vendor before expanding into one of Long Island's best-known farmers markets. In 2021, the market relocated its summer operation to Glen Cove's waterfront at Garvies Point Park. Organizers said the market continues to serve both as a shopping destination and community gathering space, drawing residents and visitors from across the North Shore each season.

—Roksana Amid

## HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

New York, between the  
hours of 9 am and 5  
p.m. each day other  
than Saturday, Sunday  
or holidays, during the  
fourteen days  
preceding such  
meeting.

FURTHER NOTICE IS  
HEREBY GIVEN that the  
Board of Trustees of the  
Glen Cove Public  
Library will hold a  
special budget hearing  
on Tuesday, May 19,  
2026, at the Glen Cove  
Public Library, 4 Glen  
Cove Avenue, Glen  
Cove, New York at 7:00  
p.m.

FURTHER NOTICE IS  
HEREBY GIVEN that the  
qualified voters of the  
District may register  
between the hours of 9  
a.m. and 4 p.m. at the  
Glen Cove Library, 4  
Glen Cove Avenue,  
Glen Cove, New York.  
The final date to  
register for the meeting  
to be held on June 2,  
2026, is May 19, 2026.  
If a voter has voted in  
any election within the  
last 4 years (2022) or if  
he or she is eligible to  
vote under Article 5 of  
Election Law, he or she  
is eligible to vote at  
this election. All other  
persons who wish to  
vote must register. The  
registration list  
prepared by the Board  
of Elections of Nassau  
County will be filed in  
the Office of the Library

Clerk of the Glen Cove  
Public Library, 4 Glen  
Cove Avenue, Glen  
Cove, New York and  
will be open for  
inspection by any  
qualified voter of the  
district between the  
hours of 9 a.m. and 4  
p.m. prevailing time on  
any day after Tuesday  
May 19,2026, and each  
of the days prior to the  
date set for the Library  
Election and Budget  
Vote, except Saturday  
and Sunday or holiday,  
including the date set  
for the meeting.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER  
NOTICE that an  
application for an  
absentee ballot for the  
Library election and  
budget vote may be  
applied for at the Office  
of the Library Clerk, of  
Glen Cove Public  
Library, 4 Glen Cove  
Avenue, Glen Cove,  
New York. Such  
applications must be  
received at least seven  
(7) days before the  
election if the ballot is  
to be mailed to the  
voters, or the day  
before the election if  
the ballot is to be  
delivered personally to  
the voter. No absentee  
voter ballot shall be  
canvassed unless it  
shall have been  
received at the office of  
the Library Clerk, Glen  
Cove Public Library, 4  
Glen Cove Avenue,  
New York, no later

than 5:00 p.m.,  
prevailing time, on the  
date of the election.

Ida Johnson  
Library Clerk  
159569

LEGAL NOTICE  
SUPREME COURT OF  
THE STATE OF NEW  
YORK  
COUNTY OF NASSAU  
PHH MORTGAGE  
CORPORATION,  
-against-  
EDWARD MAXWELL,  
AS HEIR AND  
DISTRIBUTE OF THE  
ESTATE OF THOMAS  
MAXWELL, IF LIVING,  
AND IF SHE/HE BE  
DEAD, ET AL.  
NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS  
HEREBY GIVEN  
pursuant to a Final  
Judgment of  
Foreclosure entered in  
the Office of the Clerk  
of the County of  
Nassau on June 25,  
2025, wherein PHH  
MORTGAGE  
CORPORATION is the  
Plaintiff and EDWARD  
MAXWELL, AS HEIR  
AND DISTRIBUTE OF  
THE ESTATE OF  
THOMAS MAXWELL, IF  
LIVING, AND IF SHE/HE  
BE DEAD, ET AL. are  
the Defendant(s). I, the  
undersigned Referee,  
will sell at public  
auction RAIN OR SHINE  
at the NASSAU  
COUNTY SUPREME  
COURT, NORTH SIDE  
STEPS, 100 SUPREME

COURT DRIVE,  
MINEOLA, NY 11501,  
on June 3, 2026 at  
2:00PM, premises  
known as 16 KEMP  
AVENUE, GLEN COVE,  
NY 11542; and the  
following tax map  
identification:  
21-251-8.  
ALL THAT CERTAIN  
PLOT, PIECE OR  
PARCEL OF LAND WITH  
THE BUILDINGS AND  
IMPROVEMENTS  
THEREON ERECTED,  
SITUATE, LYING AND  
BEING IN THE CITY OF  
GLEN COVE, COUNTY  
OF NASSAU AND  
STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will  
be sold subject to  
provisions of filed  
Judgment Index No.:  
618505/2022. Ellen  
Durst, Esq. - Referee.  
Robertson, Anschutz,  
Schneid, Crane &  
Partners, PLLC, 900  
Merchants Concourse,  
Suite 310, Westbury,  
New York 11590,  
Attorneys for Plaintiff.  
All foreclosure sales  
will be conducted in  
accordance with  
Covid-19 guidelines  
including, but not  
limited to, social  
distancing and mask  
wearing. \*LOCATION  
OF SALE SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE DAY OF IN  
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## OPINIONS

# Honoring service and sacrifice

I believe I can safely say that spring is finally here. As you're out and about, take time to notice the beauty of our city, especially at this time of year. Properties are greening up and flowers are blooming everywhere.

Glen Cove is celebrating many successes. We have received notice that we are ranked the third-safest city in the state of New York, with crime rates significantly below the state average. This reflects the strong partnership between our Police Department and our residents. Congratulations to the men and women of our fabulous department.

In addition, Glen Cove has been recognized by the Long Island Marine Corps League Long Island Area as the first Mental Health Advocate City in the nation. We received this award at a very poignant ceremony in City Hall chambers. Attendees were joined by the Long Island Military Order of the Purple

Heart, the Veterans Council of Glen Cove, and an SAR flag family.

U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Joe Moores and Howard Stilwagon, Commander of VFW Post 347, were recognized for their service and veteran advocacy. Just a note: Both are lifelong Glen Covers. We are pleased that our love for and dedication to our veterans was recognized. Whenever you see a veteran, take the time to thank them for their service. They have given so much of themselves to guarantee the freedoms we all appreciate.

As we celebrate the 250th birthday of the nation, the Memorial Day Parade committee is hard at work. This year, as we remember our war dead at our Memorial Day festivities, we honor John "Jack" Niles McCarthy, a young man who gave his life for his country.

McCarthy made a sacrifice that still feels impossible to measure. He was barely out of high school when he volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1969. He served as an infantry indirect fire crewman with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade —

a role that placed him directly in the harshest realities of the Vietnam War.

Jack was just 20 years old when he was killed in action on May 24, 1969, in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. In the short time he served, he earned a Purple Heart, a Combat Infantryman Badge, a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal and a Vietnam Campaign Medal. Those honors speak to what he faced, but they don't fully capture the young man behind them.

What stays with us is the person McCarthy was — a son, a friend, a neighbor whose future should have stretched far beyond that year. His loss is part of Glen Cove's story, woven into the lives of the people who knew him and the community that continues to honor him. His name reminds us that freedom carries a cost, and that every inscription on a memorial belongs to someone who once laughed, hoped, planned and dreamed.

This Memorial Day will carry special meaning for many in our community as we also remember Anthony "Tony" Jimenez — a decorated Vietnam veteran, former Glen Cove city councilman,

EMS chief, director of veterans affairs, and someone whose entire life was shaped by helping others. Jimenez spent decades looking out for veterans, supporting our residents, and stepping in whenever someone needed him. Through his military service, his years as an EMT, his leadership in the American Legion and other veterans groups, and the many quiet things he did without any expectation of recognition, Tony showed us what genuine service looks like.

People knew Jimenez as someone who always put others first. He made sure veterans were never forgotten, and he made sure anyone who was struggling had someone they could turn to. His kindness, his steady presence, and his commitment to this community leave a legacy that will stay with Glen Cove for a long time.

As we come together this Memorial Day, let's remember all who served and all who never came home. And let's honor them not only with ceremonies and parades, but by carrying forward the gratitude, compassion and respect that shaped their service and shaped the lives of both McCarthy and Jimenez in ways this community will never forget.

*Pamela Panzenbeck is the mayor of Glen Cove.*



**PAMELA PANZENBECK**

Heart, the Veterans Council of Glen Cove, and an SAR flag family.

**G**len Cove will remember Jack McCarthy and Tony Jimenez this weekend.

# Heralding a new dawn at Crescent Beach

For roughly 17 years, Glen Cove's Crescent Beach has been closed to swimmers. The cause was initially fleeting; the solution was complex, and the process at times was extremely frustrating.

Now that nearly two decades have come and gone, the project has come to fruition and the beach is open for the summer, so it's a good time to reflect on how we got to this moment.

The cause of the closure wasn't the beach at all — it was the stream that runs west of the beach. When Ralph Suozzi was mayor, Nassau County began testing Crescent Beach for bacteria in the water, and detected levels 1,000 times higher than the permissible amount.

At the time, I was a city councilwoman, and the city's Parks Department began its investigation with various dye tests to determine if faulty septic systems were the culprit. While Glen Cove is 90 percent sewered, some neighborhoods near the beach were not, which made it a logical starting point.

Becoming a County Legislator in 2012 gave me the chance to delve further into the issue. Based on the initial hypothesis, I secured \$12 million in Nassau's capital plan to expand sewer service. While we didn't use most of this funding, subsequent studies determined that two new pump stations, along with miles of sewer lines, would be needed to fully sewer this portion of Glen Cove at a cost of more than \$30 million.

As our probe continued, engineers discovered roughly 20 pipes in a stream near the beach, and bacteria levels were very high at the mouths of two of those pipes. Further testing determined that the source of the bacteria was animals, not humans. So I met with former Mayor Tim Tenke and the homeowners, who agreed to purchase Helix filters to purify the water coming out of the pipes from their properties. We're all so grateful to those homeowners, whose cooperation set us on a path toward resolving the issues at Crescent Beach.

Another concern that needed to be addressed was water runoff — it crossed a wooded area in what was almost a natural viaduct. Because the pathway was so carved out, any bacteria

that accumulated remained in the water when it reached the stream. Natural, bacteria-reducing plantings were added there as a solution.

The last major hurdle was cleared with a \$250,000 project to upgrade a culvert near the stream that was almost entirely blocked. The Department of Public Works, which has done yeoman's work at Crescent Beach, also regraded sand to prevent runoff, and installed signs reminding residents to keep dogs away from the stream.

Slowly but surely, bacteria levels in the county Department of Health's routine sampling began to drop. By the end of last summer, we received optimistic signals that the beach could soon be able to open. Last month, we got the news we'd all been waiting for — Crescent Beach could welcome swimmers again!

There are so many people to thank for their efforts and support for this project. Four mayors — Suozzi, Reggie Spinello, Tenke and Pamela Panzenbeck — were involved, and they worked tirelessly, Democrats and Republicans alike, to achieve this outcome. The city contributed greatly by improving the parking lot and bathrooms. Vinnie Martinez,

Mario Calderon and Rocco Graziosi, of the DPW, and Recreation Director Spiro Tsirkas were true forces of nature in getting this done.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation; the county Department of Health; Eric Swenson, executive director of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee; and Dr. Sarah Meyland, who guided us in selecting the plants for filtration, were instrumental partners, as was former Sea Cliff Mayor Bruce Kennedy, who literally put on his boots to help me inspect outflow pipes. I also want to thank retired Nassau DPW Commissioner Ken Arnold, who always took meetings with me to discuss this beloved beach, and Steve Hearl, vice president of H2M Architects & Engineers, for his expert assistance.

After being asked countless times, "When are you going to open the beach?" I can finally say that day has come — and it is truly an example of levels of government working together and never giving up. It's a model for what can be achieved through cooperation in pursuit of a common goal that prioritizes the environment and our quality of life.

*Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, of Glen Cove, represents Nassau County's 11th Legislative District and is the Legislature's minority leader.*



**DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON**

**A**fter nearly two decades of work, the beach is open for swimming again.

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(516) 569-4000**HERALD EDITORIAL****Memorial Day means more than barbecues**

**M**emorial Day weekend arrives each year with familiar signs that summer is finally at hand. Beaches begin to fill. Backyard grills fire up. Families and friends gather after months of work, school and routines that too often keep them apart. Across Long Island, from Jones Beach to Montauk, the holiday has long marked the unofficial beginning of a season people eagerly await.

There is nothing wrong with celebration. In many ways, that freedom to enjoy ordinary moments with the people we love is part of what generations of Americans fought to preserve.

But Memorial Day asks something more of us as well.

Especially as the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Americans should remember that Memorial Day is not simply another three-day weekend on the calendar. It is one of the country's most solemn observances — a day set aside to honor the men and women who died while serving in the United States military.

That distinction matters.

Veterans Day honors all who served. Armed Forces Day recognizes those currently in uniform. Memorial Day is specifically for those who never came home.

Their sacrifice stretches across every generation of American history. From the Revolutionary War to the Civil War,

from the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Afghanistan, over 1 million service members gave their lives believing the country they defended was worth that sacrifice.

Many came from communities across Nassau and Suffolk counties. Their names appear on memorial plaques, downtown monuments and flags lining local streets. Long Island itself carries deep connections to America's military history.

Roughly 1,180 Long Islanders died in World War II: 855 from Nassau and 325 from Suffolk. At least 552 service members lost their lives in the Vietnam War. After the Sept. 11 attacks, 56 Long Islanders died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

From Revolutionary War sites to Gold Star families who sacrificed during the wars of the past two decades, our region has long contributed to the nation's service and sacrifice. Memorial Day offers communities an opportunity not only to recognize that history but also to share it with those of younger generations.

As America prepares to commemorate 250 years of independence in July, this Memorial Day carries even greater weight. Anniversaries often invite celebration, reflection and pride. But they should also invite humility. The freedoms Americans treasure did not sustain themselves across two and a half centuries. They endured because generation after generation answered a call to serve, often at extraordinary personal cost.

It can be easy for the deeper meaning of Memorial Day to become overshadowed by travel plans, social gatherings and retail sales. Modern life moves quickly, and holidays increasingly blur together into commercial events disconnected from their origins. But Memorial Day deserves more intentional remembrance — and that does not always require grand gestures.

Attending a local parade or remembrance ceremony before heading to a barbecue is one way to honor the fallen. Visiting a veterans' memorial or cemetery and taking a few quiet moments to read the names engraved there is another. Americans can also observe the tradition of flying the flag at half-staff until noon, and share stories with children and grandchildren about relatives who served, ensuring that those stories are not lost.

Honoring sacrifice does not diminish the joy of the weekend. In fact, it deepens it. Gratitude gives meaning to celebration. A nation that remembers its fallen understands more clearly the value of the freedoms it enjoys. This year, amid the sound of waves, fireworks and laughter that will soon define the summer season, Americans should make room for remembrance, too.

Memorial Day is not ultimately about the start of summer; it is about the cost of freedom, the weight of service and the obligation of a grateful nation never to forget those who gave everything in its defense.

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## OPINIONS

## Some in Washington say all's well. Families know better.

**T**he sticker shock Americans are feeling at the gas pump, in the grocery store, opening their utility bills and paying for health care aren't some abstract political talking points. The high cost of living is a daily reality for many families trying to

make it through the week.

Gas prices surged 15.6 percent this month, with regular gas sitting above \$4.50 per gallon. Grocery prices made the biggest one-month jump in nearly four years in April. Inflation is up to 3.8 percent, the highest in three years.

For the first time since 2023, it's outpacing wage growth. For millions of Americans, every trip to work, school, the grocery store or a doctor's appointment now comes with a painful reminder that the cost of living keeps climbing.

Just last week, President Trump was quoted as saying, "I don't think about

Americans' financial situation — I don't think about anybody." Previously, he has called affordability, or a lack thereof, a "hoax." Despite what he refuses to see, the cost of living is the defining issue facing this country right now.

The numbers tell the real story very clearly. A new Marist poll found that most Americans think their cost of living is not very affordable (44 percent) or not affordable at all (12 percent). More than six in 10 Americans do not believe the economy is working for them. Those aren't partisan numbers. Those are kitchen-table realities.

Gas prices are a major reason why. The same poll confirmed that a whopping 81 percent of Americans say that current gas prices are putting at least some strain on their household budget. One-third say the strain is major. Only 19 percent say they feel no strain at all.

It's not just gas prices, either; a reckless tariff policy has caused prices on everyday goods to skyrocket. Gutting green-energy projects has raised utility

prices by cutting supply so it can't meet demand. Our historic debt, created by the "One Big Beautiful Bill," has massively driven up interest rates, making everything more expensive. Sky-high inflation has hit families from every direction.

All of these cost drivers, when put together, can feel insurmountable. Families are facing hard choices, and being forced to think twice about expenses they never considered before. For some that means cutting back on summer travel. For others it means buying less food at the grocery store. And for workers with long commutes, it means watching more and more of each paycheck disappear before they even get home.

Administration officials who continue to deny affordability as a major issue for Americans only grow more and more disconnected from what ordinary people are experiencing. Telling Americans to hit the road when gas is hovering above \$4.50 per gallon, as our transportation secretary did two weeks ago,

is a little like telling struggling families not to worry about grocery bills while food prices continue to rise.

For many people, this debate is no longer about ideology. It's no longer about Democrat vs. Republican, liberal vs. conservative, left vs. right. It's about survival. Can they afford groceries this month? Can they afford their commute? Can they afford a family vacation, or even a weekend getaway?

That's why affordability remains the central issue in the country today. Not political slogans. Not cable television arguments. Real life.

Washington can debate statistics and messaging strategies all day long. But families don't experience the economy through press releases. They experience it every time they swipe a credit card, fill up their tank or open a utility bill.

And right now, too many Americans feel like they're falling further behind. Now we must come together and work across the aisle to bring costs down for the American people. There is no mission more urgent.

*Tom Suozzi represents the 3rd Congressional District.*



**TOM  
SUOZZI**

**F**or many people, the affordability debate is about survival, not ideology.

## FRAMEWORK by Ellen Jaret



Overlooking Mgarr Harbour on the Mediterranean island of Gozo, Malta



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