



LOOK INSIDE
2026 GRADUATES



A rematch
in November
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Photos courtesy Gaitley Stevenson Mathews

Polish pride takes center stage at Miss Polonia coronation

Emily Czerwonka was crowned Miss Polonia 2026 during the Polish National Home of Glen Cove's annual Miss Polonia Coronation and Marshal Presentation on Saturday. Bottom: Members of the GALOPKA Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble perform traditional Polish dances, adding color, energy and cultural pride to the evening's celebration of Polish heritage. Story, more photos, Page 10.



Music unites community at Morgan Park

By **ROKSANA AMID**
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As the United States marks its 250th anniversary this year, the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival is preparing to return for another summer of free waterfront concerts, continuing a Glen Cove tradition that has brought residents together through music for nearly seven decades.

The all-volunteer, nonprofit festival will celebrate its 67th season beginning July 5, with nine concerts scheduled through Aug. 30 in Morgan Memorial Park. Supported entirely through donations from individuals and local businesses, the festival has become one of Glen Cove's most enduring cultural institutions.

Festival chairman Tom Suozzi said the series offers something many Americans are seeking in a time of political and social division.

"I think what people in America need right now, and certainly right here in our hometown is places for people to come together because every-

body's so divided," Suozzi said. "And I'm really hoping that certainly the 250th anniversary and events like the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival are a great way for people to come together."

The festival traces its roots to 1959, when then-Mayor Joseph A. Suozzi proposed holding free concerts in Morgan Park and enlisted Laura Parsons Pratt to help make the vision a reality. What began as a single performance, eventually expanded into a full summer concert series featuring nationally

known musicians, tribute acts, orchestras and theatrical productions.

Over the years, attendance grew and the park's gazebo became too small for larger performances. Longtime festival chairwoman Marguerite "Marge" Suozzi and a dedicated team of volunteers launched fundraising efforts that resulted in the construction of the current stage, which, like the festival itself, was funded entirely through private donations.

Tom Suozzi succeeded his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

I'm very proud to be an American.

RICHIE CANNATA
musician

New gazebo dedicated to first responders

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Construction is underway at Pratt Park on a new gazebo that will be dedicated to Glen Cove's first responders during a July 4 ceremony marking America's 250th anniversary.

The 12-by-20-foot structure, led by the Glen Cove Beautification Litter Prevention Program Inc., began taking shape this week after a concrete foundation donated by McGowan & Sons of Sea Cliff was installed earlier this month. Workers from Amish Country Gazebos in Pennsylvania arrived and began assembling the structure, including framing.

The project has an estimated value of roughly \$45,000 and is being funded through community donations, local sponsorships and two beautification fundraisers. Additional improvements are supported through a PSEG Long Island Community Thrive Grant, which helped expand landscaping and site enhancements around the gazebo area.

Planned upgrades include a patriotic red, white and blue perennial garden, stepping-stone walkways, updated park signage, a public trash receptacle and a spring daffodil bulb planting along Glen Cove Avenue. Organizers said the perennial plantings were selected so they will return each year, creating a lasting seasonal display.



Courtesy Lora Cusumano

The 12-by-20-foot structure, led by the Glen Cove Beautification Litter Prevention Program Inc., began taking shape this week after a concrete foundation donated by McGowan & Sons of Sea Cliff was installed earlier this month.

Lora Cusumano, president of the Glen Cove Beautification Litter Prevention Program Inc. and chair of the city's Beautification Commission, said construction is progressing quickly. "The gazebo is really moving right along," Cusumano said.

Officials said the gazebo will be for-

mally gifted to the City of Glen Cove and dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for 11 a.m. July 4, following the city's annual bike parade.

Councilman Michael Ktistakis, who serves as liaison to the Beautification Commission, said the project carries special meaning during the national milestone celebration. "The new gazebo

is a magnificent and enduring tribute to America's 250th celebration," he said.

Barbara Peebles, vice president of the nonprofit organization, said Pratt Park's existing 9/11 Memorial adds deeper significance to the project and the planned dedication. "Pratt Park already carries deep meaning for Glen Cove because of its 9/11 Memorial, and that makes this dedication even more special," she said. "As we approach the 25th anniversary of September 11th and celebrate America's 250th Birthday, this gazebo becomes more than a beautiful addition to the park. It becomes a place of gratitude, remembrance, and community pride — honoring Glen Cove's First Responders and recognizing the courage and sacrifice that define public service."

Pratt Park sits along Glen Cove Avenue near the Glen Cove Fire Department and serves as a gateway between downtown Glen Cove and the Garvies Point waterfront. Organizers say the park's location makes it a natural connector between residential neighborhoods, business districts and waterfront attractions.

The project aims to enhance that corridor by improving aesthetics, walkability and public access, while also encouraging greater use of the park as a community gathering space. Officials say the addition of the gazebo and surrounding landscaping is intended to strengthen civic pride and create a more welcoming entry point into the city.

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NEWS BRIEF

New Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The City of Glen Cove has expanded its electric vehicle infrastructure with the installation of a new public charging station at the Brewster Street South Garage.

The ChargePoint dual-output Level 2 charging station is located on the second floor of the garage, near the movie theater level, and includes two dedicated parking spaces for electric vehicles. The station is now available for public use and is intended to provide residents and visitors with a convenient option for charging their vehicles while visiting downtown Glen Cove.

City officials said the project is part of Glen Cove's ongoing efforts to modernize public infrastructure, support sustainable transportation and encourage the adoption of electric vehicles throughout the community.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said the new charging station reflects the city's commitment to investing in improvements that benefit residents while promoting environmental sustainability.

"This new charging station is another step in making Glen Cove a forward-thinking and environmentally responsible community," Panzenbeck said. "As mayor, I care deeply about investing in improvements that truly serve our residents—both today and in the years ahead. Together, we're building a com-

munity that cares for each other and for our environment."

The city received \$47,774.10 in grant funding through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program to purchase and install the charging station. The funding also includes a temporary charging subsidy that will help offset costs for public users for a limited time.

"DEC is pleased to support the City of Glen Cove with funding as part of our Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Grants program to install an electric vehicle charging station for public use," said Cathy Haas. "This addition expands EV charging options in the city for residents and visitors, advancing the transition to electric vehicles and improving infrastructure for cleaner and greener communities in New York State."

City officials said the charging station is part of a broader commitment to reducing emissions, expanding access to clean transportation options and enhancing amenities for residents and visitors. The installation also aligns with statewide efforts to support electric vehicle adoption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through investments in charging infrastructure.

—Roksana Amid

LiPetri wins primary, will rematch Suozzi

By **WILL SHEELINE** and **ROKSANA AMID**
wsheeline@liherald.com

Former New York State Assemblyman Mike LiPetri won the Republican primary for New York's 3rd Congressional District on Tuesday, earning a second consecutive opportunity to compete for one of the nation's most competitive congressional seats.

The race was called with less than 30 percent of votes counted. By press time on Wednesday, LiPetri had defeated attorney and Air Force veteran Greg Hach, receiving roughly 83 percent of the vote, with 9,025 votes for the Farmingdale native against Hach's 1,843 according to the Nassau County Board of Elections.

In a statement released following the newswire's calling of the race, LiPetri criticized his general election opponent Tom Suozzi, accusing him of being "asleep on the job."

"It's time for a next generation common sense New Yorker," LiPetri wrote, "to have a seat at the table."

LiPetri, 35, campaigned on affordability, immigration enforcement, public safety and infrastructure improvements, arguing that Republicans are positioned to win the district in 2026 after coming within two percentage points of victory in the previous election cycle.

LiPetri entered the race with endorsements from President Donald

Trump and members of House Republican leadership, who posted on Truth Social, "It is my Great Honor to endorse MAGA Warrior, Mike LiPetri, who is running to represent the fantastic people of New York's 3rd Congressional District."

Throughout the primary, LiPetri called for tax relief, support for first-time homebuyers, stronger penalties for violent crime and increased resources for law enforcement. He also highlighted Long Island water quality and drinking water infrastructure as priorities.

Hach, a Hicksville attorney and Air Force veteran, ran a campaign focused on reducing costs, supporting small businesses, enhancing cybersecurity protections and strengthening public trust in government.

"I feel like we ran an amazing campaign, and all indications that we had were very positive for us, exceptionally positive," Hach, 55, said. "So, this kind, this incredible disparity is doesn't make any sense, but it doesn't surprise me given the corruption in the local party."

The victory sends LiPetri into a general election contest in New York's 3rd Congressional District, which spans portions of Nassau County and northeastern Queens and has become one of the country's premier congressional battlegrounds.

Following the primary night victory, Republican National Committee Chairman Joe Gruters released a statement praising LiPetri as someone who will work hard for the 3rd Congressional District.

"Congratulations to Mike LiPetri," the statement read, "who will be a tireless fighter for Nassau County."

Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck congratulated LiPetri on his primary victory after the city council meeting on Tuesday. City Councilman Mike Ktistakis also praised LiPetri's message on economic issues and taxpayer concerns.

"We're looking to move forward with some relief knowing that there's someone out there representing us that keeps our pocketbooks in check," he said. "We all work very hard, and we want someone out there to protect our investment."

LiPetri was the Republican nominee in 2024, when he narrowly lost to Suozzi. Since then, he has argued that changing political conditions and expanded Republican support have improved the party's chances of winning the district.

National political organizations from both parties are expected to invest heavily in the race over the coming months.

LiPetri will face Democratic nominee Suozzi for a rematch in the Nov. 3 general election.



Herald file photo

Former State Assemblyman Mike LiPetri won the Republican primary.

Suozzi wins primary by a wide margin

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

Congressman Tom Suozzi secured the Democratic nomination for New York's 3rd Congressional District on Tuesday, defeating challenger Danielle Welch in a decisive primary victory and setting up a rematch with Republican Mike LiPetri in November.

With more than 80 percent of precincts reporting and over 13,000 votes cast as of press time, unofficial results showed Suozzi receiving roughly 81 percent of the vote to Welch's 19 percent.

Suozzi was the only Long Island House incumbent to face a primary challenge this year. Welch, a public defender from Bayside, Queens, mounted her first campaign for federal office, running on a platform that emphasized expanded health care access, stronger labor protections and other progressive priorities.

The result positions Suozzi to seek another term representing a district that spans much of Nassau County's North Shore and portions of northeastern Queens. The district has drawn national attention in recent election cycles as both parties view it

as critical to the battle for control of the House of Representatives.

In a statement released after the election, Suozzi thanked voters and pledged to continue focusing on affordability and bipartisan problem-solving.

"I am devoted to public service and am grateful for this result," Suozzi wrote in a statement. "Right now, I am fighting every day to lower costs, make health care more affordable, protect Medicare and Medicaid, and stand up to the White House's reckless tariffs and costly wars."

He added that the nation's challenges are "too important for partisan games" and called for Democrats and Republicans to work together on what he described as common-sense solutions.

Suozzi, a former Glen Cove mayor and Nassau County executive, returned to Congress in February 2024 after winning a special election to replace former Rep. George Santos, who was expelled from the House. He later won a full term that November, defeating LiPetri by fewer than four percentage points in one of the country's most closely watched congressional contests.

The race has already begun attracting national attention. Last week, Vice President JD Vance appeared at an event in Bethpage where he endorsed LiPetri and sharply criticized Suozzi. During the appearance, Vance referred to Suozzi as "the worst congressman in the entire United States" and urged voters to support LiPetri's campaign.

The following day, Suozzi requested a federal investigation into whether taxpayer dollars were improperly used for political purposes during the event. In letters sent to federal officials, Suozzi argued that the appearance was promoted as an official government function focused on rooting out waste, fraud and abuse but largely resembled a campaign rally.

"If taxpayer dollars were used to finance this political event, it would be a misuse of congressionally appropriated funds and violate the law," Suozzi wrote.

Suozzi also alleged that the bulk of Vance's remarks focused on campaign-related rhetoric and promotion of his recently published book. He requested what he called a full accounting of taxpayer funds used in connection with the event and a review of whether any laws or regulations were violated.



Herald file photo

Congressman Tom Suozzi secured the Democratic nomination.

NEWS BRIEF

June 25, 2026 — GLEN COVE HERALD



Herald file photo

The Class of 1976 from Glen Cove High School will celebrate its 50th reunion on Friday, Aug. 1, from 7 p.m. to midnight at The Metropolitan.

Class of 1976 reunion will be held Aug. 1

The Class of 1976 from Glen Cove High School will celebrate its 50th reunion on Friday, Aug. 1, from 7 p.m. to midnight at The Metropolitan.

Organizers said the reunion will offer classmates an opportunity to reconnect with former friends, share memories of their time at Glen Cove High School and celebrate their shared history.

Organizers noted that the reunion is open to classmates and guests, with additional details available through event coordinators.

For more information or to RSVP,

alumni may contact organizers at ibefore@gmail.com or MontauK41@hotmail.com.

The event highlights a longstanding tradition of class reunions that continue to bring together generations of Glen Cove graduates, strengthening community ties and celebrating the school's history.

—Roksana Amid

ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

The Underdog Takeout Awards

Many food critics on Long Island announce their choices for “the best burger,” or “the best pizza.” But what about the smaller categories? Shouldn't there also be awards for the best Chinese takeout, the best naan, and the best beachside bites? I think so. This month, I found winners in each of these categories in new cafes. Check out the award winners along with other exceptional bites on the café menus.

Wokobowl (2 Glen St., Glen Cove)

In this new, modern Chinese restaurant, congratulations to the Black Truffle Fried Rice as the grand winner of the Chinese takeout award. The dish is a combination of beef, mushrooms, peas, carrots, corn, and butter with black truffle flavor. The light truffle dressing smiles in the background, which gives the other ingredients a chance to shine through. What a spectacular ensemble performance. If you grab the dish to go, it will be placed in a large paper bowl filled with enough rice for several meals.

Wait. I think I've changed my mind. The House Special Lo Mein (made with ham, chicken, shrimp, cabbage, scallops, and shredded carrots) should be the winner. On the other hand, maybe the Kung Pao Chicken, with red peppers, jicama, celery, dried chili, and peanuts, should win for originality. Okay, here's my final answer—it's a three-way tie. They all win the Chinese takeout award.

The Sand Box (63 Larrabee Ave., Oyster Bay)

The funnel fries win the “best beach bites” award. They're freshly fried in this new, beachside café. Sit down at a table or on a bench beside the water

and munch on these crunchy, buttery, sweet treats made of funnel dough. They look like French fries, but each nibble is a sugary sensation alongside a cup of chocolate dipping sauce.

The fries can share a plate with beach bites including burgers, hot dogs, quesadillas, onion rings and more. But wait. Maybe the 35 different milk-

shakes should win the beach bites award instead. Each one has a vanilla or chocolate soft ice cream base, a puree, a topping, and has an original name such as brownie bite dough, or soy sauce caramel. The outrageously delicious tiramisu milkshake is my absolute favorite. Okay, I've made up my mind. The milkshakes and funnel fries both win the beach bite award. It's a tie.

Dawat Indian Cuisine (611 Port Washington Blvd., Port Washington)

This new restaurant features a plethora of creative Indian meals such as lamb chops marinated in nutmeg, cinnamon and Indian spices; lobster marsala; and ginger pumpkin soup with turmeric, crème fraiche and toasted pumpkin seeds. However, I was so taken with the nine different types of naan on the menu, I stuffed myself with those during my first visit. So, I'd like to officially announce the award goes to Malai Naan. The bread is covered with cream cheese, cilantro, jalapeno and bell peppers. All ingredients huddle beneath a blanket of creamy tomato sauce. It's amazing. Although...the naan filled with crushed nuts and dried fruit was also incredible. Hold it. What about the naan with mint and butter glaze? It was delightfully light and refreshing. Okay, it's a three-way tie.

Clearly, I have trouble making up my mind. But I do know what I love to eat. See you next month!



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1. Protects your assets from being eaten up by long-term care costs. No estate plan is complete without a plan to protect it from having to “spend down” your assets if you need care at home or a nursing home. If you don't qualify for long-term care insurance, due to medical or economic reasons, you should consider setting up trusts to protect your assets from long-term care costs.

2. Allows you to protect the inheritance from children's divorces, lawsuits and creditors. With middle class people often leaving hundreds of thousands of dollars to their children, doesn't it make sense to protect the inheritance from the high rate of divorce? By leaving assets to your children in an Inheritance Protection Trust, you may not only protect them from a divorce but, in many cases, also from creditors in the event your son or daughter ever gets sued.

3. Makes sure your estate will pass by blood instead of by marriage. Most estate plans leave the money to the children. So let's say that you have left \$500,000 to your son and \$500,000 to your daughter. Now if they

die (remember this is after you're gone) who inherits from them? In many cases it's your son-in-law or daughter-in-law. Can they get remarried and share your \$500,000 with a complete stranger? Sure. Happens all the time. By leaving your assets in a trust for your children, you can give them complete control over their inheritance (so you're not “ruling from the grave”) while at the same time providing that, when they die, whatever they didn't spend goes to your grandchildren.

4. Guarantees you will be protected if you become disabled. An ever-increasing percentage of people today have a period of disability before they die. Without a plan, you risk getting the state's plan where they appoint a legal guardian for you who (1) may be a stranger (2) may change your investments (3) may be unable to protect your assets if you need long-term care, and (4) may make it difficult to get back control of your assets if you recover from your disability. When you set up a living trust, you avoid a guardianship proceeding, put the persons you choose in control and allow them to transfer and protect assets.

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Celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mother as chairman in 2015 and said the festival's appeal lies in its ability to unite people from different backgrounds through a shared experience.

"We all sing the same songs together or, you know, clap our hands or stomp our feet together," Suozzi said. "It's kind of like, you know, we all care about a lot of the same things."

This year's lineup opens July 5 with Richie Cannata and The Lords of 52nd Street performing the music of Billy Joel. The concert will also feature the Glen Cove High School Select Chorale.

Other performances include Marvin Floyd D'Votion's Earth, Wind & Fire tribute on July 12, Real Diamond's Neil Diamond tribute on July 19, Plaza Theatrical Productions' Broadway revue "The World Goes 'Round" on July 26, The Allmost Brothers on Aug. 2, country and rock performer Jessica Lynn on Aug. 9, Big Band Royalty on Aug. 23 and a Grateful Dead tribute on Aug. 30.

A centerpiece of the season will be an Aug. 16 performance by the Massapequa Philharmonic Orchestra celebrating America's 250th anniversary.

Cannata, who has lived in Glen Cove resident for nearly 40 years, and estimates this will be his seventh or eighth appearance at the festival and this year's, said the national's anniversary is a milestone worth celebrating.

"We should be celebrating the 250



Tim Baker/Herald

Katherine Torrivilla, the singer for the Miami Sound Revue, put on an energizing performance for the closing show at Morgan Park Summer Music Festival last August.

years," Cannata said. "I'm very proud to be an American."

The 77-year-old musician said his appreciation for the country has grown through years of travel and experience.

"It's amazing that we have 250 years under our belt," he said. "I've traveled most parts of the world and there's no comparison."

Cannata also expressed pride in the community he has called home for decades.

"I love living in Glen Cove," he said.

"We keep moving forward in the right direction."

He expects a large crowd when The Lords of 52nd Street take the stage on opening night and encouraged residents to take advantage of the free event.

"It's a free concert," Cannata said. "It's going to be a lot of people there. Get there early, bring a chair, and we'll have a great show for everybody."

The festival continues to rely on community support to keep admission free. Local businesses and residents contrib-

ute annually to help fund the performances.

Among those supporters is Rallye Motor Company, whose connection to Glen Cove dates back 65 years. In recent years they made a \$1 Million donation to the festival.

"Our first dealership, Rallye Motors, made Glen Cove its first home 65 years ago," Juliana Terian, president and CEO of Rallye Motor company wrote in a statement. "I appreciate that the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival has provided free concerts to the people of Glen Cove and surrounding areas. It's an honor to help fund this important cultural institution in the community that has given so much to us."

"Our first dealership, Rallye Motors, made Glen Cove its first home 65 years ago," Juliana Terian, president and chief executive officer of Rallye Motor Company, said in a 2023 statement. "I appreciate that the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival has provided free concerts to the people of Glen Cove and surrounding areas. It's an honor to help fund this important cultural institution in the community that has given so much to us."

As organizers prepare for another summer season, Suozzi said the festival's role remains unchanged: bringing people together through music and community.

"And we're all in it together," he said.

GLEN COVE HERALD - June 25, 2026

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HERALD SPORTS

Long Island tops NYC in All-Star Classic

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellisimo@liherald.com

New York City just complete its best possession of the 2nd Annual National Football Foundation's All-Star Football Classic, driving 60 yards on 11 plays following a takeaway to cut Long Island's lead to four points with 4:51 remaining in the third quarter.

However, it didn't take long for momentum to swing back in favor of Long Island.

Thirteen seconds, to be exact.

Mount Sinai's Dontae Spadaro took the ensuing kickoff in stride and blazed down the sideline 73 yards for a touchdown to extend Long Island's advantage to two scores and it held on for a 21-13 victory before a crowd of 1,500 at Hofstra University's Shuart Stadium June 17.

"It meant a lot to me to score that touchdown and help our team win," Spadaro said. "It's pretty emotional."

Long Island won last year's inaugural All-Star Classic, 33-15, as the senior showcase game made its return for the first time since the Boomer Esiasion Foundation's Empire Challenge completed a fantastic 24-year run in 2019.

The new version, with a special touch featuring some of college football's most renowned rivalries (Long Island wore Notre Dame uniforms; New York City wore USC), also honors Esiasion, a former East Islip High School and NFL star quarterback, with the game's MVP trophy named in his honor.

East Islip's Jovan Bonilla was named MVP. He had a tremendous night leading a Long Island defense that allowed only one touchdown — Eagle Academy quarterback Aaron Smith's 20-yard run up the middle that brought NYC within 14-10 before Spadaro's special teams heroics. Bonilla batted down a pass on the opening play of the second quarter to hold NYC to a field goal and racked up 8 tackles.

"It was a great experience," Bonilla said. "Our defense was relentless the whole game. The energy was high and I'm just grateful for the opportunity."

Long Island's first scoring drive answered the first of two Jake Borrowes (Monsignor Farrell) field goals. Quarterback Simmon Blisset (Northport) directed a 10-play, 57-yard drive capped by his 6-yard touchdown pass on a backfield screen to Huntington's Yasir Jones. It was 7-3 after kicker Justin Jones' (Chaminade) first of three successful extra points.

Carle Place's Ryan Leary kept the drive alive, hauling down a 16-yard pass from Blisset on fourth-and-8 from Long Island's 45. Jones added a 22-yard reception.

"There was so much talent on the field," said Leary, who had three recep-



Derrick Dingle/Herald photos

William Floyd's Ja'Quan Thomas, right, had a 23-yard touchdown reception in Long Island's 21-13 victory.

tions for 43 yards. "One thing that struck me was the size of the linemen. It was a lot of fun and great to be targeted."

Long Island led 14-3 at halftime following an impressive 89-yard touchdown drive that culminated with a 23-yard scoring strike from Miller Place quarterback Shane Kiernan to William Floyd running back Ja'Quan Thomas.

It was back to a one-possession game with 6:18 remaining in the fourth quarter after Borrowes nailed a 24-yard field goal. New York City got the ball back with 3:22 left, but East Islip's PJ Gannon's interception sealed the outcome.

"The kids were class acts for weeks, became a team and really showed up and played for each other," said longtime Wantagh coach Keith Sachs, who along with Garden City's Dave Ettinger, Roosevelt's Joe Vito, Massapequa's Kevin Shippis, St. Anthony's Joe Minucci, Ward Melville's Chris Boltrek, Cold Spring Harbor's John Mendreski, Bayport's Mike Zafonte, East Islip's Sal Ciampi, Smithtown West's Craig Perrino, West Islip's Steve Fasciani was part of a Long Island staff led by Sayville's Rob Hoss.

Carle Place's Ryan Leary, right, had three receptions for 43 yards.




These two moms opened a spa. It had one big, *beautiful effect* on the community.



Mery Seminario and Cindy Catalan, ISSI Beauty Spa, Port Washington



Mery and Cindy always knew they wanted to open a spa to bring beauty to customers. Little did they know it would have the same effect on the community. And Business First was there. We provided \$23,000 in grants to help with much-needed renovations so Mery and Cindy could bring their vision to life.* Now, not only does their spa impact clients in a beautiful way, it gives the community an economic lift as well.

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*Incentives, grants, and savings will vary with every project.



J Goy/Herald photos

Some of the estimated 2 million people — not counting the crowded side streets — who attended the Knicks' championship parade in Lower Manhattan on June 18.

Knicks parade draws huge, celebratory crowd

By NOAH PERETZ

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New York City held a ticker-tape parade celebrating the Knicks' NBA championship win over the San Antonio Spurs last week — the Knicks' first title since their 1973 win over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Lower Manhattan was packed on June 18, with parade-goers clamoring for space along the route up Broadway from Battery Park to City Hall. Each Knicks player had his own float, atop which he and a group of team staff celebrated.

Star center Karl-Anthony Towns had a special guest on his float: Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who gave a speech congratulating the team at a ceremony at City Hall after the parade, where the team was presented with keys to the city.

Mamdani told the crowd that the odds-makers had given the Spurs a 99.6 percent chance of winning Game 4 of the championship series. "A 99.6 percent chance of tying up the series 2-2 ...," the mayor said. "But there is one thing that the pundits don't get about this city: It is in that .4 percent that we go to work."

"It's in that .4 percent that the Knicks do what New Yorkers have always done when we are told that something is impossible," Mamdani added. "We find a way. We win."

Actor Timothée Chalamet, film director and Knicks superfan Spike Lee, and rapper Fat Joe were also on floats with the Knicks players.

According to city officials, the parade attracted a crowd of over 2 million, but when the estimates of the number who didn't make it into the viewing area are included, the approximate totals were much larger. Among those in both categories were a number of Long Islanders, who took the LIRR into the city to support the team's historic win.

Brothers Bryan and Christian Rosado, of Long Beach, made it into Manhat-



Knicks Captain Jalen Brunson in the foreground as the confetti fell.

tan by 6 a.m., but that wasn't early enough for them to get a good view of the parade. But they said they appreciated the experience nonetheless.

"I'd love to say we stayed to watch the whole thing, but we really weren't going to see much," Bryan Rosado said. "It might have felt like hell on earth, but it was worth celebrating the Garden becoming Eden again."

"The parade was an unorganized mess — it was so chaotic," his brother said. "I still think being with so many other New Yorkers, laughing, chanting and celebrating, made it worth it." The unity Christian described spread through the streets, and many Knicks fans were wearing Yankees and Mets caps as well.

Jacquelle Lainez, of Freeport, managed to get a better view than the Rosados. Her plans were also altered by how early parade-goers began gathering in

Lower Manhattan. "My friend I was supposed to go with said her phone fell off her nightstand, lost power and died before her alarm could go off," Lainez said. "I waited for her from 4 to 5:30 a.m., but after that I just went. It's her loss."

The unity was palpable on Church Street, parallel to the parade route. Fans who couldn't get a view of the parade flooded the street, climbing on sanitation trucks, crowding subway entrances and climbing lampposts. Chants of "Knicks in 5!" "Let's go Knicks!" and "Jalen Brunson" rang out regularly.

Even after the parade, Lower Manhattan was still full of Knicks fans buying shirts from street vendors, getting much-needed drinks at delis, and congratulating one another as if all were members of the team. New Yorkers' connection to the Knicks was clearly as strong as it has been in decades.



Guard Josh Hart, who, like each of the players, had a float of his own, looked comfortably well-equipped.



Actor and Knicks superfan Timothée Chalamet joined in the championship parade festivities.

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The Allmost Brothers
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Morgan Park overlooks the harbor at Germaine Street between Landing Road and McLoughlin Street in Glen Cove. Bring chairs or blankets, and a picnic if you wish. Children are welcome.

Morgan Park Summer Music Festival is a not-for-profit organization, administered by an all-volunteer team. No taxpayer money is used or requested for these concerts. Our seasons of professional, family-oriented performances are funded entirely through tax-deductible contributions.

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All concerts are subject to change.



Photos courtesy Gaitley Stevenson Mathews

Dancers from the GALOPKA Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble performed in formation during the Polish National Home of Glen Cove's annual Miss Polonia Coronation.

Emily Czerwonka crowned Miss Polonia

Polish pride, tradition and community spirit were on full display Saturday evening as the Polish National Home of Glen Cove hosted its annual Miss Polonia Coronation and Marshal Presentation, celebrating a new generation of cultural ambassadors while honoring those who have dedicated themselves to preserving Polish heritage. Emily Czerwonka was crowned Miss Polonia 2026 and Victoria Rajkowski was named Jr. Miss Polonia 2026 before an audience of family, friends and community members. The ceremony also marked the conclusion of Julia Jon's reign as Miss Polonia 2025 and recognized the service of Edward Podsiadło as the 2025 Polish National Home Marshal. Continuing a longstanding tradition, Anna Czerwonka was presented as the 2026 Polish National Home Marshal, while Dr. Iwona Korga was recognized as Grand Marshal of the 2026 Pulaski Parade, one of the nation's most prominent celebrations of Polish American heritage. The evening blended pageantry, recognition and cultural pride, highlighted by a spirited performance from the GALOPKA Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble, whose colorful costumes, traditional music and energetic dances brought the rich history and enduring traditions of Poland to life.

—Roksana Amid



Guests gathered during the Polish National Home of Glen Cove's annual Miss Polonia Coronation and Marshal Presentation on Saturday. The evening celebrated Polish heritage, community pride.



Members of the GALOPKA Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble performed traditional dances.



Victoria Rajkowski, the newly crowned Jr. Miss Polonia 2026, gathered with family, friends and supporters following the Polish National Home of Glen Cove's annual Miss Polonia Coronation.



Members of the GALOPKA Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble entertained guests with a vibrant traditional dance performance.

Propel NY project continues permit process

By JULIA CAPITELLI

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The Propel NY Energy project, the installation of nearly 90 miles of underground transmission lines across a number of counties in New York state, is continuing the process of securing permits from the state. Representatives of New York Power Authority and NY Transco, the partners on the project, have provided an update on its progress and outlined the next steps.

Developers are required to secure a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need from the state Public Service Commission. Propel has not yet received that certificate, but Transco Project Director Steve Hatchard said the team is aiming to receive it by summer's end.

Construction on the \$3.2 billion project is slated to begin later this year and expected to last four years, with completion anticipated in May 2030. Crews are expected to progress 50 to 150 feet per day.

The new transmission lines would augment existing lines. In 2023, the New York State Independent System Operator chose the project as a solution to problems like increased demand on the state's power grid and its vulnerability in severe weather.

A NYISO report from June 9 highlighted the challenges of aging infrastructure. "This report made it clear

that modernizing and expanding our transmission network is essential for long-term reliability," Tia Santoro, NYPA's senior director of government and community affairs, said, "especially in the downstate region."

New York has 11,000 miles of transmission lines, including 241 miles of underground 345-kilovolt lines similar to those proposed for the Propel project.

The new transmission lines would not be built to carry energy generated by any one source. The energy that flows on the lines would be determined by NYISO.

A joint proposal — an agreement among Propel, state agencies and other parties that determines site, environmental impact and construction requirements to which the project must adhere — was filed with the Public Service Commission in April. The next step is the creation of a series of Environmental Management and Construction Plans, which must demonstrate compliance with the parameters established in the joint proposal. They will be opened for public comment before they are reviewed by the PSC. Hatchard said that if there is feedback that needs to be incorporated into the plans, they will be amended and a new public comment period will open.

Other components of the plans include descriptions of construction methods, emergency response proce-



Herald file photo

The Propel NY Energy project will span several downstate counties.

GLEN COVE HERALD — June 25, 2026

dures and the responsibilities of contractors, inspectors and environmental monitors.

"The purpose of the environmental monitors," Hatchard explained, "is to be a third-party set of eyes out there that is ultimately responsibility to the regulators from an environmental compliance perspective."

There are five proposed phases of Environment Management and Construction Plans, each dealing with a different aspect or location of the project. Pre-filings have already been submitted for the first two phases.

"We have started to receive some

comments back on the E.M. and C.P. Phase One," Hatchard said, "and we are looking forward to the comments back for Phase Two as well."

The plans are scheduled to be filed for public comment this summer, and Hatchard said the team is planning for approvals to begin in the fall. Construction is slated to start late this year on part of the project in New Rochelle, in Westchester County, followed by work in the Town of Oyster Bay.

Hatchard said that during construction, residents can receive information through the mail, text messages and updates from the Propel NY Energy app.

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Juneteenth blends music and reflection

June 25, 2026 – GLEN COVE HERALD

Hundreds of residents gathered at Eisenhower Park on June 18 for Nassau County's annual Juneteenth celebration and summer concert, an evening that combined live entertainment, community engagement and health resources.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and informed enslaved African Americans that they were free — more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The day is recognized as the nation's oldest celebration of the end of slavery and became a federal holiday in 2021.

The celebration, hosted by Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and the Nassau County Department of Parks, featured performances by Earth, Wind & Fire tribute band D'Votion, MJT and a gospel choir. Families gathered on the lawn at Parking Field No. 6, bringing chairs and blankets to enjoy the free outdoor concert.

Before the music began, attendees had the opportunity to visit the Black Family Health Expo, which offered health information, wellness resources and community services. The expo featured vendors and organizations providing educational materials and interactive opportunities focused on improving health outcomes and promoting wellness.

The event highlighted the significance of Juneteenth while bringing res-



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Fans were entertained by several musical performances, including an Earth, Wind & Fire tribute.

idents together for an evening of music, culture and community celebration. Organizers said the annual gathering serves as both a commemoration of freedom and an opportunity to recognize the contributions and achievements of Black Americans throughout history.

—Jordan Vallone



Families from many communities — festively dressed in blue and orange for the New York Knicks, whose championship parade was earlier in the day — flocked to the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre.

Congratulations to
Sofia and Vanessa Gullo,
 twin daughters of Celeste Gullo of the Celeste Gullo Insurance Agency in Glen Head, on their **Kindergarten Graduation!**

1552518



Performances continued well into the evening, with many attendees up on their feet during the festive performance.

LIA panel urges bipartisan cooperation

Rahm Emmanuel and Kevin McCarthy take part in spirited political discussion

By NOAH PERETZ

nperetz@liherald.com

The Long Island Association hosted its Centennial Spring Luncheon with Rahm Emmanuel, former White House chief of staff for President Barack Obama, former mayor of Chicago and the 31st United States ambassador to Japan, and Kevin McCarthy, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, were guest speakers on the June 15 panel with LIA President and CEO Stacey Sikes.

Sikes, Emmanuel and McCarthy discussed the American political climate and the standing of the Democratic and Republican parties. They spoke about how each party can improve itself, work toward collaboration, and “reach across the aisle” rather than stoke further division.

Sikes asked McCarthy about President Trump’s potential influence over the upcoming midterm elections, and how that influence is more prominent than most previous presidents. “He controls the party — he can make you win or lose by an endorsement alone,” McCarthy said. “He governs differently. Most presidents want to do everything through the House and Senate, but he’s happy doing executive orders.”

Emmanuel and McCarthy were asked



Courtesy Long Island Association

Kevin McCarthy, left, Stacey Sikes and Rahm Emmanuel discussed elections, political division and ways to improve the country.

about how the suburban vote could swing the midterms, particularly on Long Island.

“Democrats control urban elections and seats; Republicans control rural,” Emmanuel said. “The battleground will be in the suburban districts. That has been the truth for the last 20 and 30 years.”

“I’d have never been speaker if it wasn’t for the guys up in Long Island, and suburbs everywhere else,” McCarthy said. “Democrats have the advantage now, but anything can happen.”

Emmanuel decried the negative impact of political division, and how it is a detriment to America’s performance on the global stage. “While

we’re spending all our time, all our energy on redistricting and trying to figure out how to screw each other, China’s doubling their research funding,” he said. “They’re spending money on research in China, and we’re spending primary resources on redistricting. You tell me, which one’s going to get you ahead?”

Sikes asked the panelists about the political brand the Democratic party has built up over the past decade, and what they think Democrats can do to remake that brand. “Across the country, 48 to 49 percent of the country describes themselves as independents,” Emmanuel said. “It’s basically a rejection of both parties.”

McCarthy agreed, but extended the criticism to the Republican party. “Both parties aren’t solving problems,” he said. “That’s why you’re getting flips in control — that’s why people aren’t believing in the system. I like campaigns about ideas.”

Despite the talk of division and political strife, the conference ended on a positive note when Emmanuel said, “Whatever our experiences are, we both know one thing: We won the lottery ticket of life. This is the greatest country in the world, as long as we don’t turn our back on what makes it the greatest country in the world.”




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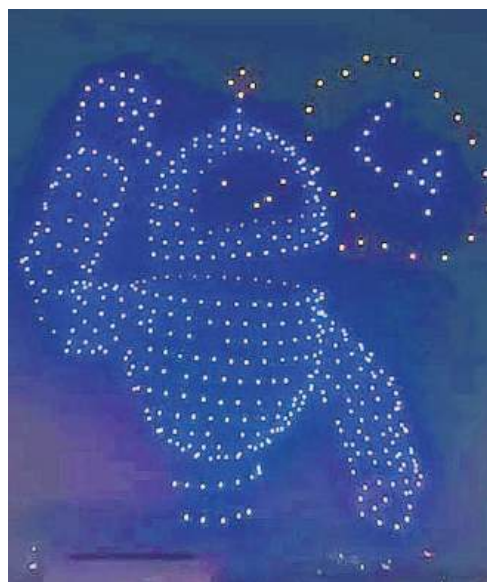
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STEPPING OUT



Photos Courtesy Cradle of Aviation Museum
Extraterrestrial characters are part of the experience. Cosplayers will enchant visitors with a UFO dance party before the 300 drone light show.



A 300-drone light show serves as the day's finale. The displays are inspired by aviation, space exploration and extraterrestrial lore.



Visitors learn how E.T. travels by creating a comet and launching film-canister rockets powered by dry ice and Alka-Seltzer while exploring the science of propulsion and space travel.

Investigating the 'unknown'

At the Cradle of Aviation UFO curiosity meets science

By Stacy Driks

Some questions have a way of capturing the imagination no matter how much time passes. Are we alone in the universe? What lies beyond our understanding of the cosmos? For those drawn to such mysteries, the Cradle of Aviation Museum offers an opportunity to explore the unknown through presentations, discussions and stories that examine some of the most intriguing phenomena ever reported.

The museum hosts "UFOlogy: Close Encounters at the Cradle," on Saturday, a daylong event featuring investigators, astronomers, interactive exhibits and a 300-drone light show. Visitors can examine reports of unidentified aerial phenomena while exploring the curiosity, science and speculation that have fueled interest in the subject for decades.

"We thought it was a good opportunity because there's been so much in the news and media over the past few years," says Jen Baxmeyer, the Cradle of Aviation's executive director. "Everyone's been talking about it. We said, 'Let's use this as an opportunity to talk about some of the science and technology occurring out there and even some of the fun science that goes into investigating these things.'"

Throughout the day, everyone can explore demonstrations involving drones, astronomy and investigative technology. Activities range from comic-book creation and face painting to an alien autopsy — an alien-themed version of the classic game Operation.

Many of the elements Baxmeyer noted, are designed to disguise STEM lessons inside entertaining experiences.

"They're not going to realize that they're actually learning science," she says.

One station demonstrates the physics of buoyancy and air pressure through a hovering UFO-inspired craft, while others allow visitors to experiment with drones and discover how modern aerospace technology works.

The event also has a distinctly Long Island flavor. Organizers intentionally selected local experts to participate.

Featured speakers include UFO investigator Ben Hansen, who discusses how researchers draw on fields such as physics, meteorology and mathematics to analyze sightings and videos, including cases from New York City and Connecticut.

Long Island-based researchers the Tedesco Brothers showcase the cameras, sensors and field equipment they use to document and study unusual aerial observations, offering visitors a firsthand look at the technology behind modern UFO investigations.

"We're trying to keep it Long Island," Baxmeyer says. "Most of our organizations are local, and they'll be talking about incidents that are very specific to Long Island."

Among those participating are members of the Amateur Observers' Society, who will set up solar and nighttime telescopes for public viewing. Visitors have an opportunity to learn more about astronomy while observing celestial objects through equipment operated by local enthusiasts.

As daylight fades, attention will shift outdoors for one of the day's most anticipated attractions: a 300-drone light show produced by Grizzly Entertainment, the company behind the recent aerial display at Jones Beach on Memorial Day.

The synchronized drones create a series of aviation, aerospace and space-themed images in the night sky, with a few extraterrestrial surprises

mixed in.

"We're going to have some fun, exciting stuff," Baxmeyer says. "We'll have a DJ, we're going to have our own E.T. doing kind of a kickoff dance party."

"A lot of people in the sciences shy away from talking about these types of topics. But people are interested in them. They're talking about them on social media. Why not have the conversation here and give everyone the opportunity to learn about the science too?"

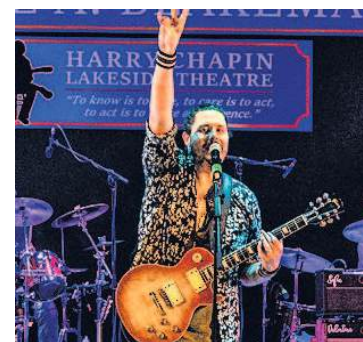
Visitors will also enjoy watching — or re-watching — "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," participate in themed activities and meet costumed characters inspired by popular science-fiction franchises and other extraterrestrial characters.

The museum also welcomes everyone to a pre-show on Friday, when visitors can screen "Spaceballs," the 1987 sci-fi parody.

While UFOlogy makes its debut this year, museum officials are already looking ahead. A strong turnout could pave the way for the event to become an annual fixture on the museum's calendar, much like the widely attended Cradle-Con convention.

"We'll probably give it a few years to catch on," Baxmeyer adds. "If people enjoy it and it grows, we'd love to keep doing it."

For now, she — and her team — are betting that a mix of curiosity, discovery and a little extraterrestrial fun is enough to bring everyone together for a day that is, quite literally, out of this world.



The Allmost Brothers

Keep your summer of music rolling along with a killer evening of jams with the Allmost Brothers Band at the iconic Lakeside Theatre at Eisenhower Park. They're part of a double bill with Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute band Sons of Skynard. The Allmost Brothers headlines at 8:30 p.m. with their rocking vibe. The popular progressive tribute act honors the tradition of the legendary Allman Brothers Band. Working within the framework of ABB's incredible and vast songbook, The Allmost Brothers inject something new, fresh and exciting into the material. In a matter of words: high level musicianship, authentic improvisational interplay, dedication to the high octane performance, and power that established the original ABB back in 1969, and sustained their 45-year career. Bandmates Sean McGrath and Dave Filloramo on lead guitars, Joe Wasserman on vocals and keys, Dave Losee and Dan Roth on drums, and Tom Hooker on bass truly consider themselves a band of brothers. They thrive on chemistry and improvisation, bringing a unique fire to the song book of the ABB during every performance.

Friday, June 26, 7 p.m. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. Contact nassaucountyny.gov for more.



Gladys Knight

Hop aboard that "Midnight Train to Georgia" when the legendary soul chanteuse returns Westbury Music Fair. Gladys Knight is without a doubt one of the most influential, beloved, and important living singers on the planet. And while the Empress of Soul may have been in the business for more than 60 years now, that hasn't stopped her from continuing to rock that beat as only she can do. The great ones endure, and Knight has long been one of the greatest. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee's fierce vocal power, elegant precision, and heartfelt performances have cemented her as one of music's unquestionable icons. For sure, very few singers over these many years have matched her unassailable artistry. If you're a fan of her classic Motown-style R&B, then you'll surely want to see her perform — on more time. You know all her hits, now hear her bring them to life once again in her inimitable style.

Saturday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at livenation.com. Flagstar at Westbury Music Fair, 960 Brush Hollow Rd., Westbury.

YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD

CALENDAR

JUN
25**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

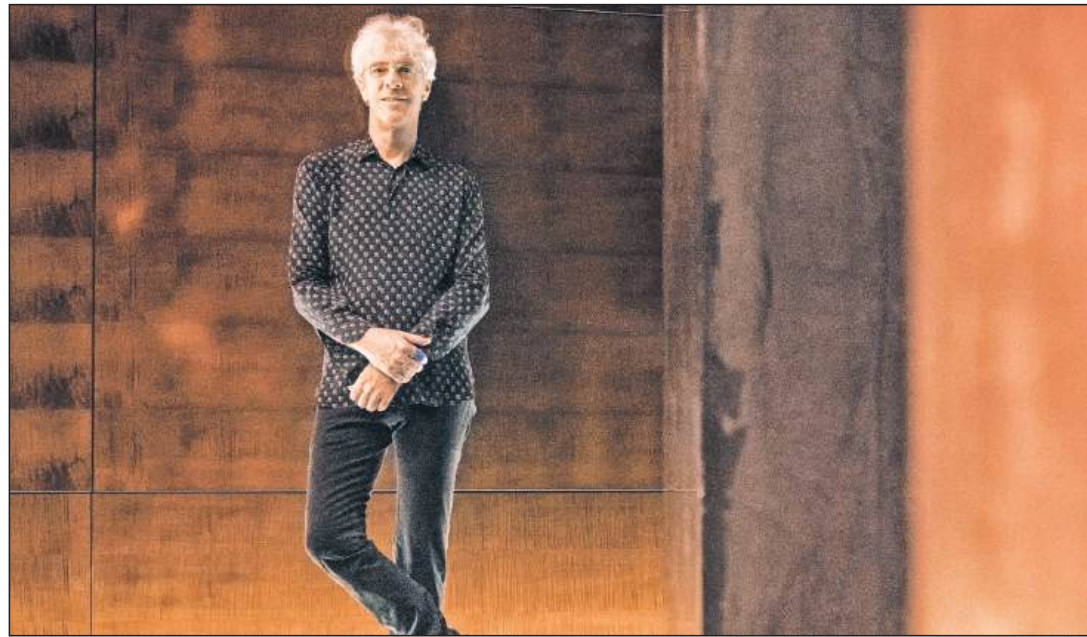
JUN
27**Ecotherapy Walk**

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

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

JUN
28**Kiwanis Bicycle Challenge**

Ride in support of others. The 30th Anniversary Nassau Bicycle Challenge (formerly Nassau to Suffolk Bicycle Challenge) supports the work of the Kiwanis Club of North Shore Foundation. It supports charities such as Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center, Pediatric Lyme Disease

JUL
14**Stewart Copeland's 'Have I Said Too Much'**

Stewart Copeland, world-famous drummer, founder of the most successful rock band of the 1980s, The Police, heads out on his first American spoken-word tour: "Have I Said Too Much - The Police, Hollywood, and other adventures." The accomplished frontman, also a composer of film scores, video games and operas — in addition to his accolades as multi-Grammy winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, writer and film maker — is ready to talk about it all in his usual funny, intelligent, sharp, and unique way. He became an all-time great after recruiting Sting and Andy Summers into his band in 1977. They enjoyed four consecutive number one studio albums, winning Grammy and BRIT Awards, and selling a cool 75 million records. Enjoying number-one hits with "Message In A Bottle," "Don't Stand So Close To Me" and the multi-platinum "Every Breath You Take." Copeland has spent the subsequent near-four decades at the forefront of contemporary music, as a rock star and acclaimed film composer, and across the worlds of opera, ballet, chamber and world music. There were two books that dealt with his remarkable life, which are all part of this evening of conversation, with photos, videos and a Q&A.

- **Where:** The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com

Foundation, Kamp Kiwanis, NOSH, Boys and Girls Club and charities aligned with those of Kiwanis International "Serving the Children of the World," including Kiwanis' signature programs of Klothes 4 Kids. The beautiful ride through the Gold Coast features picturesque vistas and and idyllic waterfront settings. Choose from a 25-mile loop with 1,060 feet of vertical climb or the more challenging 35-mile ride. Routes are clearly marked and ride is equipped with a rest stop. Snacks and water provided. Sponsorships also available. Online registration is closed but walk-ins are welcome. Day of registration is \$60.

- **Where:** Starting at Harry Tappen Beach, Sea Cliff
- **Time:** Staggered starts, 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m., rain or shine
- **Contact:** n2nbc.org

Princess Day at the Castle

Families can step into a real-life storybook on a journey through the castle at Sands Point Preserve on a magical adventure! Guests are welcomed into the majestic Hempstead House, where they meet their first princess who sends them on a magical quest to become a true princesses (or prince!). Along the way, collect stickers to fill a

personal badge and take individual photos with each princess. Once badges are complete, bring them to the Fairy Godmother, who rewards visitors with a tiara (or crown!) signifying the completion of their royal adventure. Finally each guest is crowned in a special coronation ceremony by a princess. Ticket includes access to the grounds, so be sure to enjoy a picnic, walk through the trees or play at the playground to enjoy a full day of magic! Limited ticket availability. \$70 per child, adults free.

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

Gallery tour

Join docent and photography specialist Sue Ptacek for a guided tour of Influence and Identity: Twentieth Century Portrait Photography from the Bank of America Collection now on view in Nassau County Museum of Art's intimate second floor galleries. While the daily docent tours cover the entire museum, this unique tour focuses on this single exhibition. Featuring portraits by such renowned artists as Richard Avedon, Yousuf Karsh, Gisèle Freund, Edward Steichen,

and Antony Armstrong-Jones, this exhibition explores how photographers have shaped the public image of several of the 20th century's most recognizable and admired figures. Free with admission.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** 1-2 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

JUN
30**Mad Science: Fire & Ice**

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- **Where:** Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St.
- **Time:** 1:15 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 759-9610

Harmonize with Long Island Harmonizers

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Harmonizers. The chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is a chorus of more than 20 singers, now welcoming new members. The ensemble performs four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style, entertaining audiences at libraries, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and local events. All are welcome to visit one of their weekly rehearsals. Come listen, meet the chorus, and — if you'd like — join in and sing. No musical experience is necessary, just a love of singing and a desire to have fun making music together.

- **Where:** Faith Lutheran Church, 231 Jackson Ave, Syosset
- **Time:** Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** Call: Rich, (516) 521-4779, or Dennis, (516) 680-8036, or visit longislandharmonizers.org

JUL
1**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

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- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** Noon and 1:30 p.m., also July 15
- **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.

VIEWFINDER What is on your summer 'must-do' list this year?

Compiled by Herald Staff

Verna Smith, —
Hewlett, age 7

To take our boat to the city
with our dogs.
Tim Baker/Herald



— Emree Tucker,
Freeport, age 6

I would like to go on a bike
ride at Jones Beach and to
go on a boat this summer to
see lots of fishes.
Tim Baker/Herald



— Pia Tallarico,
Rockville Centre, age 9

I want to go to sleep-away camp for the first time and I
love to volunteer to help kids with special needs if I can.

Tim Baker/Herald



— Dylan Shuman,
Glen Cove, age 11

Going to my hockey camps, swimming in the pool, going to
the beach and spending time with friends and family.

Courtesy Eric Shuman



— Joe Reilly,
Massapequa, age 3

To go in the pool.

Christie Leigh Babirad/Herald



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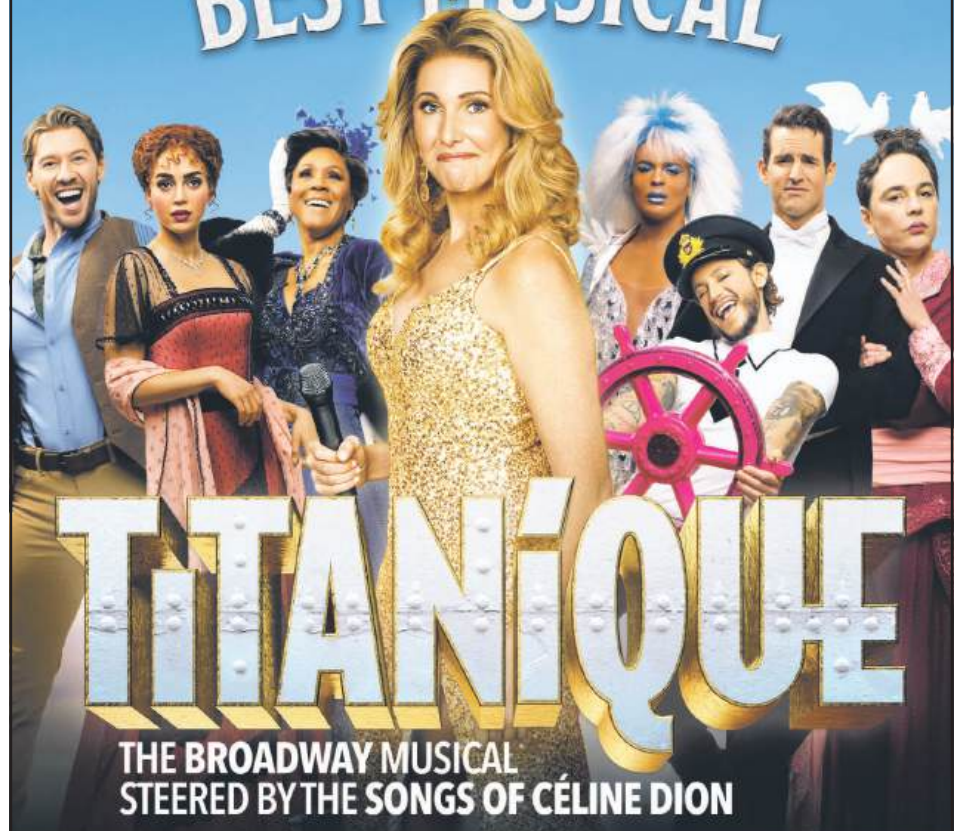


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LGBTQ Pride Stride returns to Sea Cliff

By JULIA CAPITELLI

jcapitelli@liherald.com

Sea Cliff's Love Your Neighbor Project is set for its third annual Pride Stride, bringing the community together for a parade and family-friendly celebration. Sunday's parade will begin at the village's Memorial Park and end at Clifton Park, with an after-party at Still Partners.

When the nonprofit first held the event in 2024, attendees marched from Sea Cliff Beach into Glen Cove to merge with the city's flag raising, spearheaded by then Councilwoman Marsha Silverman. Jaime Teich, founder of Love Your Neighbor Project,

It sends a clear message about who we are and how we embrace diversity in this town.

BRUCE CASTELLANO
PFY Gala Committee chair

explained that the organization began Pride Stride in response to reports that North Shore Pride lawn signs were being destroyed.

"Our feeling about it was," she said, "if our organization evolves with our community's needs, as those needs are occurring, then this is a place where we can step in."

Teich added that organizers received requests for the parade to walk through Sea Cliff after the initial event in 2024. Pride Stride began at Clifton Park and ended at the village green in its second year.

Sea Cliff resident and Chair of Pride For Youth's Gala Committee Bruce Castellano described Sea Cliff having its own Pride event as "fantastic." PFY offers many programs and services to support the LGBTQ+ community including legal support, counseling, sexual health services and gender affirming services.

"I see (Pride Stride) as a great accomplishment, not just for the LGBTQ community in Sea Cliff, but for the entire community of Sea Cliff," he said. "It sends a clear message about who we are and how we embrace diversity in this town."

Castellano added that when he and his husband, Gerald Anders, moved to the suburbs, Sea Cliff was where he wanted to be.

More than 530 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in the United States this year. Castellano thanked straight allies for helping to fight this legislation across the country. He added that he believes it is important to be aware of legal changes while celebrating with Pride events.

"It has to be a celebration of our accomplishments," he said, "and a time to take action."

This year's Pride Stride will also include a North Shore middle and high school Gay Straight Alliance presence. Love Your Neighbor Project has been



Herald file photos

Love Your Neighbor Project will hold its third Pride Stride this year.



This year's Pride Stride will begin at Memorial Park and end at Clifton Park with an after party at Still Partners.

working with the GSA in both North Shore's middle and high school on an initiative where teachers at both schools can purchase North Shore Pride t-shirts to show their support.

According to Teich, more than 130 teachers across both schools purchased t-shirts this year. Teachers wore the shirts on June 1 to kick off Pride Month and on each Friday throughout the month. Teich added that the initiative will be expanded to elementary schools next year.

She shared her experience growing up as a child of two mothers, not feeling safe to let people know who her family was.

"We want to make sure that every single child," Teich said, "regardless of their family makeup, regardless if

they're queer, if they're questioning, if they don't understand it, if they come from a home who is against it, we want

to make sure that there's education and safety, and that these children also know that they are seen and that they belong."

Teich emphasized that the goal of Pride Stride continues to be about building community and showing every neighbor that they belong. She added that she feels it is "an honor" to be able to bring the community together with this event.

"We hope that there is healing that comes from this, that there's celebration that comes from this," she said, "and that there's unity that comes from this, and some education for some who may not understand it, or who may not agree with it."

Castellano expressed a hope that this year's Pride Stride turnout will be equal to or higher than the 2025 turnout. He said he was surprised by how many people filled Clifton Park last year.

"It sends a clear message not only to all of Sea Cliff," he added, "but the surrounding communities, that together we are strong."

Pride Stride begins Sunday at 2 p.m. at Memorial Park. To learn more about Love Your Neighbor Project, visit LYNP.org.

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OPINIONS

Nassau deserves gas tax relief — not more excuses

County Executive Bruce Blake-man has started to talk about affordability.

He talks about it at press conferences, in speeches, and whenever there's a camera nearby. But when county residents actually need relief — real relief at the gas pump — his administration goes silent.



**DELIA
DERIGGI-
WHITTON**

That's hypocrisy, plain and simple, and in my opinion, it shows a disconnect with those of us who pay for our own gas.

Nassau families already pay among the highest property taxes in the country.

They pay more for groceries, insurance,

utilities, child care and nearly everything else. Small businesses are being squeezed. Commuters are paying more to get to work. Seniors on fixed incomes are watching every receipt.

And every time gas prices rise, Nassau County collects more sales tax.

Under the current system, the county charges a 4.25 percent sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel. When fuel prices spike, tax collection spikes, too. Residents and small businesses pay more, and government gets a windfall.

That is wrong. When people are struggling, government shouldn't be profiting from their pain.

That's why Legislator Cynthia Nunez, with the support of our Democratic caucus, proposed a common-sense bill to temporarily cap the taxable price of gasoline and diesel at \$3 per gallon for six months. The county did this in 2022, when fuel prices surged after Russia invaded Ukraine. It worked then, and it can work now.

The idea is simple: If gas prices rise above \$3 per gallon, the county would not keep charging sales tax on every penny above that amount.

The savings may seem modest to some politicians, but dollars and cents matter to working people. They matter to the nurse driving to an overnight shift, the contractor filling a work truck, the home health aide visiting patients, the delivery driver, the teacher, and the parent driving children to school, practice, appointments and part-time jobs.

In Nassau County, driving isn't a luxury. For most families, it's a necessity. We don't have a subway system connecting every neighborhood to every workplace. Many communities have limited transit options, and many workers have no choice but to drive. When gas prices

rise, the pain is immediate. It's evident every time someone pulls into a gas station and watches the numbers climb.

So where is the Blakeman administration? Nowhere.

This bill hasn't been allowed to come before the Legislature for a vote. There has been no serious explanation. No meaningful counterproposal. No fiscal argument showing that the county can't afford it. No operational concern, because Nassau has already done this before.

Instead, we get silence.

That's especially insulting because this administration constantly boasts about so-called budget surpluses. We hear that the county is flush with money, that finances are strong. But when residents ask for a little relief at the pump, there's silence.

You can't claim to be the champion of affordability while blocking a bill that would make life a little more affordable. You can't brag about surpluses and then refuse to spare a few dollars and cents for the people who actually pay the bills.

You can't take victory laps over County finances while residents are paying among the highest property taxes in America and getting nicked-and-dimed at the gas pump.

Affordability isn't a slogan. It's action.

This proposal is reasonable, temporary and proven. It would create no new bureaucracy, and require no long-term commitment. It would simply prevent Nassau County from collecting extra tax revenue off unusually high fuel prices. That shouldn't be controversial.

Democrats and Republicans fill their gas tanks at the same pumps. Small businesses in every community feel the same pressure. Families across Nassau are asking the same question: Why is everything so expensive, and why won't government do something practical to help?

Blakeman should take our constituents' budgets seriously and let the Legislature vote. If he opposes gas tax relief, he should say so. If he believes the county needs to keep collecting extra taxes from inflated fuel prices, he should explain that to residents.

But he shouldn't continue pretending to be for affordability while blocking one of the clearest affordability measures on the table.

Nassau has done this before. Many other counties across New York are doing it today. The only thing missing is the political will. Let the Legislature vote. Cap the gas tax. Give Nassau residents relief now.

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton represents Nassau County's 11th Legislative District.

When people are struggling, government shouldn't be profiting from their pain.

Surviving the end-of-year overwhelm as an L.I. parent

Sometime around May, something shifts for Long Island parents. One morning you glance at your phone and realize that between now and the last day of school, you're expected to attend a spring fling, coordinate field day gear, buy a prom



**NEELA
MUKHERJEE
LOCKEL**

corsage, RSVP to three birthday parties, survive finals week alongside a teenager who sleeps until 2 p.m. — or a toddler who wakes up at 2 a.m. — label 14 pairs of camp socks with permanent marker, and, somewhere in there, actually exhale.

As a mom of two and as someone who works alongside Long Island families every day, I want to say plainly: This is a lot. Joy stacked on top of more joy, on top of logistics, on top of a full-time job and dinner and everything else — that's not a celebration. That's a stress response in a party hat.

Parental stress doesn't stay tucked inside. It moves through families. The short-tempered answer at dinner, the

argument over a permission slip, the exhaustion that makes it hard to be present for the moments you've been looking forward to — these are the quiet consequences of end-of-year overwhelm. And yet we've normalized it to the point where parents feel guilty for being overwhelmed.

That's why the EAC Network's Long Island Parenting Institute exists. LIPI has been offering free and low-cost workshops and classes to parents across Nassau and Suffolk counties for years — practical, judgment-free spaces to build skills, find community, and be reminded that the village is still out there. You just sometimes need an invitation. Last year, LIPI served nearly 750 parents across the region.

Its programming director, Kathryn Cannino, helps oversee programs on positive parenting, child development and strengthening family relationships. Asked about parents feeling stress this time of year, Cannino's response was, "End-of-year stress is real, but parents don't have to push through it alone, or perfectly. The families we work with often find that turning point is treating

themselves with the same compassion they offer their loved ones — recognizing burnout is a signal to slow down and ask for support. Reaching out for support is a strength, and it also helps build the kind of connected village and supportive community that so many parents are longing for."

So if you're not the one managing the balancing act right now, look around. Someone near you probably is. Here are three simple ways to support parents in your community this season.

1. Be specific when you offer to help. "Let me know if you need anything" is easy to say, and almost impossible to act on. Instead, try, "I'm picking up dinner Friday — I'll grab extra for you," or "I can take the kids to Field Day." Specific offers get accepted. Vague ones get politely declined by people who are too tired to ask.

2. Check in on the parent who seems like they've got it together. They don't. At least not entirely. The parent who shows up at every event with snacks and a smile is often running on fumes by 9 p.m. Texting, "How are you actual-

ly doing?" can mean more than you know.

3. Say the quiet part out loud. We love our kids, and will do anything for them — but that doesn't mean we have to do everything all the time, or that we have to do it silently and alone. When one parent names the overwhelm, others feel less alone in it. You don't need to fix anything. Just being willing to say, "This time of year is genuinely hard" is a gift.

The LIPI team and community may be one of the best-kept secrets on Long Island, but the programs they offer are open to all. If you're looking for your village, consider joining us for the six-week Common Sense Parenting workshop series in July. Learn more and register at eac-network.org/li-parenting-institute.

The end of the school year is supposed to feel celebratory — and it can, once we stop pretending the sprint to get there is effortless. So hang in there. Check on your people. Go to the concert. Cry a little at graduation. And when you're ready to come up for air, we'll be here.

Neela Mukherjee Lockel is president and chief executive officer of EAC Network and a Long Island mother of two.

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HERALD EDITORIAL**Stronger together as America turns 250**

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, there will be no shortage of celebrations. There will be fireworks, parades, concerts, historical exhibits and ceremonies commemorating the nation's founding. Those traditions are important, but the semiquincentennial should also be a moment to reflect on something deeper: the ideas, institutions and values that have enabled the United States to endure for two and a half centuries.

That reflection was encouraged recently at a Long Island Association event featuring former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican, and Rahm Emanuel, a Democrat whose career has included service in Congress, as mayor of Chicago, ambassador to Japan and chief of staff to President Barack Obama.

The two men represent different political philosophies, and often disagree on public policy. Yet they shared a stage, exchanged ideas and demonstrated that debate does not require hostility, and disagreement does not require contempt.

In today's political climate, that lesson is worth revisiting.

The United States was never intended to be a nation of uniform opinions. From the earliest days of the republic, Americans have argued over the role of government, economic policy, foreign affairs and social issues. The nation's founders themselves often disagreed vigorously.

What made the American experiment remarkable wasn't the absence of conflict, but the ability to manage it with democratic institutions, civic engage-

ment and a commitment to a larger common purpose.

As the country turns 250, Americans would benefit from remembering that principle.

The strength of the U.S. has never come from everyone thinking alike. It comes from people bringing different experiences, perspectives and beliefs to the table while remaining invested in the success of the nation as a whole. Diversity of thought is not a weakness to overcome; it is one of the country's greatest assets. It fuels innovation, challenges assumptions and helps communities solve problems that no single viewpoint can address alone.

And a healthy democracy requires more than debate. It requires its citizens to respect one another. That doesn't mean surrendering convictions or avoiding difficult conversations. It means recognizing the humanity of those with whom we disagree. It means listening before responding. It means accepting that reasonable people can reach different conclusions while still caring deeply about their communities and their country.

Americans see examples of that shared connection every day, often outside politics. They gather to support local businesses, volunteer at food drives, coach youth sports, attend school concerts and celebrate community milestones. They cheer together when their favorite teams compete for championships. They fill venues like Jones Beach for summer concerts. They rally around neighbors after storms, tragedies and hardships. Those moments matter because they remind us of a simple truth: We need one another.

No individual succeeds entirely alone. Families depend on support networks. Businesses rely on workers and customers. Communities thrive when residents contribute their time, talents and energy. The same principle applies to the nation. America's greatest accomplishments have been achieved when people from different backgrounds worked toward a common goal despite their differences.

The story of the United States is, in many ways, a story of perseverance. Generations have faced wars, economic downturns, social upheaval, natural disasters and political divisions. Each challenge tested the country's resolve. Time and again, Americans found ways to adapt, rebuild and move forward.

That spirit remains essential today.

The metaphor is simple but powerful: We are all in the same boat. Some may sit on different sides. Some may prefer a different course. Some may disagree about how fast to move or where to steer. But if everyone rows in opposite directions, the boat goes nowhere. Progress requires effort, cooperation and a recognition that our destinies are linked.

As America celebrates 250 years, the occasion should inspire more than nostalgia. It should renew our commitment to civility, perseverance and community. The ideas that divide Americans from one another are not the ideas that will shape the nation's future.

Citizens who engage respectfully, work together and share the belief that the next chapter of the American story can be even stronger than the last will build that future. Ours is a legacy worthy of celebration.

LETTERS**Do state leaders need to speak out on world affairs?**

To the Editor:

Re Kevin Kelly's letter, "Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Brown are silent on Israel," in the June 11-17 issue: Kelly is sympathetic to the need for stronger measures to protect the Jewish community "from harassment and the threat, or actuality, of violence." He references opinion pieces in the Herald by Assemblyman Ari Brown and State Sen. Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, and he notes that neither of those state officials "offers the slightest criticisms of the Israeli government's military response" to Hamas's attacks on Oct. 7, 2023.

As a New Yorker who votes in statewide elections, I don't see the need for any of our state or local elected officials to comment on issues of international import. Concern for local matters, including protection of the residents of New York, including the Jew-



OPINIONS

Declaring victory before victory

Victory used to be something that happened before anyone announced it. Increasingly, the order has been reversed.

In sports, the concept remains reassuringly clear. The game ends. Officials post the score. The winner (How 'bout those Knicks?) celebrates. The loser explains. Fans may dispute a referee's

call, but nobody expects a news conference to change the outcome.

Beyond sports, however, victory has become remarkably elastic.

Political leaders launch wars with grand objectives and sweeping promises.

Months or years later, after spending enormous amounts of blood, treasure and political capital and often achieving far less than they promised, those same leaders still claim victory. They point to a ceasefire, a withdrawal, a temporary calm or a return to the conditions that existed before the conflict began and call it success. In some cases, the conditions that prompted the war remain unchanged. The victory speech, however, arrives right on schedule.

The pattern extends beyond warfare. Governments champion policies that

disproportionately benefit the affluent, and market those policies as victories for working families. Advocates promote programs that fail to meet their stated objectives, and then redefine success around some narrower achievement.

Military officials destroy a handful of targets while leaving a much larger criminal enterprise intact, and then describe the operation as a victory over the enterprise.

Politicians lose elections and declare victory anyway. Some candidates refuse to acknowledge defeat, cast the winners as impostors and recast themselves as the rightful victors.

Different arenas, same strategy: When reality fails to cooperate, just redefine success.

Somewhere along the way, victory drifted away from accomplishment and attached itself to assertion. Public figures learned that they no longer needed to achieve victory before claiming it. They only needed to persuade enough people that victory had occurred. The announcement became the accomplishment.

For most of human history, victory and defeat described opposing conditions. One side won because another side lost. The concepts depended on each other.

Today, the candidate who wins claims

victory, as does the candidate who loses. The nation that prevails claims victory, and the nation that withdraws claims victory because it has endured. The official who succeeds claims victory, and the official who fails does so, too,

because the effort itself was noble.

We have not expanded the meaning of victory. We have abolished its opposite.

The legendary football coach Vince Lombardi famously declared, "Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing." Today that means something entirely different: When I win, I win. When I lose, I win. When I fail, I win. When I withdraw, I win. When I refuse to compete, I win. When my actions harm others, I still win.

Victory no longer describes an outcome. It has become an entitlement.

George Orwell saw the danger nearly 80 years ago. In "1984," citizens drink Victory gin, smoke Victory cigarettes, and hear incessant reports of triumph while enduring scarcity, deprivation, surveillance and endless war. The irony extends beyond the products themselves. Orwell's Party has detached the word "victory" from any recognizable condition. It no longer describes success, achievement or conquest. It simply means whatever the Party needs it to mean at any given moment.

The regime has not expanded the

meaning of victory. It has dissolved meaning itself.

That insight reaches far beyond Orwell's fictional world. Today's most consequential victories often occur not on battlefields, in legislatures or even at ballot boxes. They occur in the narrow space between an event and the carefully crafted narrative that follows it.

The contest no longer centers on what happened. It centers on who gets to define what happened. We once assumed that victories produce compelling stories. These days, the stories themselves — whether true, false, wild, even idiotic — produce the victories, or at least the appearance of them.

Maybe that explains the enduring appeal of sports. The scoreboard remains stubbornly indifferent to rhetoric. No coach can transform a loss into a win through messaging alone. No athlete can claim a championship into existence. Reality gets the final vote.

Much of public life now operates according to a different principle. There, assertion masquerades as accomplishment. Narratives compete with outcomes. Leaders claim victory before they achieve it, or after they fail to achieve it, or even when the opposite has occurred.

Which raises an uncomfortable question: If everyone is victorious, who, exactly, is winning?

Michael Blitz is professor emeritus and former chair of interdisciplinary studies at City University of New York.



**MICHAEL
BLITZ**

Contests no longer center on what happened, but on who defines what happened.

LETTERS

ish community, is their responsibility. They are not elected to opine on international matters.

But even if they were to do so, why do they have to criticize a foreign government in order to provide a safe environment for citizens in our state? Is Kelly suggesting that the actions of a foreign government give people in New York the right to act in violation of the law, and to harass or commit violence against others here in New York? If so, he is misguided.

Regardless of how any person in New York feels about the actions taken by the State of Israel or any other matter, political or otherwise, and whether of local, state, national or international import, that person is entitled to protection from harassment and violence in New York.

PAUL HANAU
Woodmere

Comments about our stories?
Send a letter to the editor to
exeditor@liherald.com.

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At Indian American Night in Eisenhower Park — East Meadow



LIVE MUSIC

your local lineup

Summer 2026

Sea Cliff

Glen Cove

Sunset Serenade

Clifton Park | Thursdays at 6:00pm

- 06.25: LARRY MARTONE & FRIENDS
- 07.02: RUSTY STRING BAND
- 07.09: HUNT & HUGHES
- 07.16: LIVESTOCK
- 07.23: CHICKEN HEAD
- 07.30: SEA CLIFF PORCH PICKERS
- 08.06: LOVE/PEACE
- 08.13: SPOOKY PARK
- 08.20: ONE SQUARE MILE

Downtown Sounds

Village Square | Fridays at 7:30pm

- 07.03: SOCIAL GOLD
- 07.10: DR. K'S MOTOWN REVUE
- 07.17: DECADIA
- 07.24: MISSION PROG
- 07.31: POP DIVAS THROUGH THE DECADES FT. THE CHICLETTES
- 08.07: GRUPO HIPNOSIS
- 08.14: THE INCREDIBLE AM/FM TIME MACHINE
- 08.21: HEAD OVER HEELS
- 08.28: THAT '70S BAND

Summer Music Series

Sea Cliff Beach | Fridays at 7:00pm

- 06.26: KINGFISHER
- 07.03: JAZZ NIGHT WITH WILL WINCHESTER
- 07.10: ROGER STREET FRIEDMAN
- 07.17: TRILOGY
- 07.24: CASH EVANS BAND
- 07.31: THOSE DAYS
- 08.07: MATT PINTO
- 08.14: SIOBAN ESPOSITO
- 08.21: TRASH BOYZ

Morgan Park Music Festival

Morgan Park | Sundays at 7:30pm

- 07.05 RICHIE CANATA AND THE LORDS OF 52ND STREET
- 07.12 MARVIN FLOYD D'VOTION
- 07.19 REAL DIAMOND
- 07.26 PLAZA THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS
- 08.02 THE ALLMOST BROTHERS
- 08.09 JESSICA LYNN
- 08.16 MASSAPEQUA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
- 08.23 BIG BAND ROYALTY CONCERT
- 08.30 HALF STEP

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Happy Summer!

To my clients, neighbors, and the community I'm so grateful to be part of — thank you.

There's something truly special about life on the North Shore. Maybe it's the early mornings by the water, the summer nights spent boating with family and friends, the quiet beauty of our beaches, or the feeling of coming home to a place that feels grounded and timeless.

Helping people find their place here is more than my job — it's a privilege. Thank you for trusting me to be part of your stories, your moves, and your milestones. I'm endlessly grateful to live, work, and raise my family in a community that values connection, tradition, and the beauty around us.

Here's to another season of sunsets, salt air, and calling the North Shore home.



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