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Roksana Amid/Herald

Lighting the path for a brighter future

Tammy and Tommy Lanham attended the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's Lights of Hope celebration at Morgan Memorial Park last Saturday.

Woolsey Ave. homes just keep flooding

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Heavy rain once again sent water rushing down Woolsey Avenue and surrounding Glen Cove streets last Sunday morning, flooding yards and basements and once again raising questions about whether recently completed drainage improvements are enough to address a problem residents say has persisted for decades.

The storm brought intense rainfall to the city, with residents scrambling to clear drains and protect their property. They sent the Herald more than a dozen videos showing water flooding their lots and neighborhood streets.

Stephen Melbinger, a Woolsey Avenue resident, said the water in his backyard was about a foot deep, and there was an inch of water in his basement as well. "We're getting good at it," Melbinger said, "because this is the 13th time

in 25 years that has happened."

The flooding came shortly after the city completed drainage work on Chestnut Street and Poplar Place — improvements stemming largely from a 2024 engineering study of the Woolsey Avenue drainage system by IMEG, formerly Cameron Engineering, a firm in Rock Island, Illinois.

The study confirmed that Woolsey sits at a relative low point in the surrounding watershed, causing stormwater from neighboring streets to flow toward it. IMEG's modeling concluded that the existing system could generally handle a 10-year rainfall event, but would begin to "surcharge" — fill beyond its capacity — during more intense storms. The report evaluated improvements ranging from modifying roadway inlets to multimillion-dollar expansions of the underground drainage network.

Glen Cove's director of public works, John P. ...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Residents, officials question Propel project's ties to politics

By **WILL SHEELINE**

wsheeline@liherald.com

The \$3.26 billion Propel NY Energy project is facing renewed scrutiny over its extensive network of lobbyists, consultants, contractors and political connections as residents and local officials question how the project is being advanced and whether their concerns are receiving adequate attention.

New York Transco, the developer behind Propel, has spent more than \$1.9 million lobbying state and local officials on Propel and other utility matters since 2022, including more than \$327,000 in the first six months of this year.

Propel spokeswoman Marykate Guilfoyle

wrote in an email that the spending reflects the scale and complexity of the project.

"Propel NY is designed to avoid brownouts and blackouts while strengthening the local economy and lowering the cost of power," Guilfoyle wrote. "New York Transco prioritizes safety, proactive education, regulatory compliance, and transparency in all project activities. As such, like other infrastructure developers, we retain experts to ensure state and local officials, municipalities, and other stakeholders have accurate and timely information about this complex and vital project. These expenditures are paid for by New York Transco."

Guilfoyle said that lobbying expenditures are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

HERALD
Community Newspapers



The Nicholas Pedone 5K

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

The Nicholas Pedone Foundation will hold its 13th annual 5K Run/Walk in Glen Cove on Aug. 30, bringing the community together to honor a local boy whose courage continues to inspire support for children battling cancer. Here are three things to know:

1

■ The race falls on Nicholas’s 21st birthday

This year’s event carries special significance because, for the first time, the race will take place on Nicholas Pedone’s birthday. Nicholas, who was born Aug. 30, 2005, would have turned 21 this year.

The Glen Cove boy died May 26, 2013, at age 7 after battling neuroblastoma, a form of childhood cancer. His family established the Nicholas Pedone Foundation that year to preserve his legacy and help other children facing cancer.

Known affectionately as “Sweet Nicholas,” he was remembered for the smile and strength he maintained throughout his illness. His spirit inspired the foundation’s message, “Fight Hard Smile Big.”

2

■ His legacy supports children fighting cancer

The Glen Cove-based Nicholas Pedone Foundation provides support to children with cancer and their families.

The organization distributes “smilePAKs” containing gifts and comforting items to children undergoing cancer treatment. It also works with hospitals through its HOP4Kids outreach program and advocates for greater awareness and funding for childhood-cancer research.

The foundation reports that it has raised more than \$1.5 million since its establishment. The annual 5K has welcomed more than 8,000 participants over its first 12 years, averaging roughly 750 attendees each year.

3

■ The race begins at Glen Cove High School

The event will be held Sunday, Aug. 30, at Glen Cove High School, at 150 Dosoris Lane. Check-in begins at 7 a.m., followed by a children’s fun run at 8:15 and the 5K Run/Walk at 9. Runners and walkers are welcome.

The 3.1-mile course begins in front of the high school, winds through Glen Cove and finishes behind the school near the football field and track. An awards ceremony, music, refreshments and entertainment will follow.

All proceeds will benefit the Nicholas Pedone Foundation. The event also helps usher in September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, with participants encouraged to wear gold, the color representing childhood-cancer awareness.

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Lighting the way in the fight against cancer

3

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

For Peter O'Connor, the glowing bags that line Morgan Memorial Park represent far more than a fundraising campaign. Behind the lights are the family members he has lost to cancer — and the medical advances he credits with giving him a different prognosis.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network held its second annual Lights of Hope celebration at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove, bringing together cancer survivors, caregivers, advocates and families to honor those affected by the disease and remember those who died.

“Cancer hits just about every family,” O'Connor, an ACS CAN volunteer, said.

For his family, the losses have been extensive. O'Connor said his father died of brain cancer when he was a teenager. His mother later died of kidney cancer, his brother of myeloma and his wife after her own battle with cancer.

O'Connor has also faced cancer himself. He has twice been diagnosed with prostate cancer and said he was diagnosed late last year with an early stage of myeloma — the same disease that killed his brother.

But the experiences of the two brothers have been dramatically different, he said, in part because of advances in cancer research and treatment.

When his brother had myeloma, O'Connor recalled, the family was essentially told there was nothing that could be done. His own cancer, however, was detected early, and doctors told him numerous treatments are now available.

“I learned that with myeloma, it went from being a terminal disease to a treatable, manageable disease,” O'Connor said. “There's been so many advances.”

That experience has made protecting cancer research funding one of his priorities.

“People's lives depend on that,” O'Connor said. “I probably wouldn't be standing here today without that change.”

Lights of Hope is ACS CAN's signature fundraising and awareness program. Participants purchase and decorate illuminated bags in honor or memory of people affected by cancer. The organization is the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society and works with lawmakers on issues including cancer research, screenings, patient access to care and Medicaid coverage.

For Diane Porcello, participating this year became especially personal. Her 75-year-old brother, Charles Haug, was recently diagnosed with kidney cancer, while his wife, Ellen Williamson, was diagnosed with breast cancer within the past several years.

Porcello decorated a bag for the couple, who live in North Carolina, and even baked brownies as an incentive for others to support the fundraiser.

“That's basically why I'm here, for



A participant lit a tea light inside a bag during the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's Lights of Hope celebration at Morgan Memorial Park.



Illuminated Lights of Hope bags lined Morgan Memorial Park during the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's annual event.

support,” Porcello said, “and then to have a bag to encourage my brother and his wife.”

Lexy Mealing, ACS CAN's New York state lead ambassador, said the organization seeks to give patients, survivors,

caregivers and volunteers a voice in government decisions affecting cancer care.

Those decisions, advocates said, can determine whether patients receive screenings, can afford treatment or



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Peter O'Connor spoke about his family's experiences with cancer and the importance of continued advocacy for cancer research and care.



Attendees purchased \$10 white bags with tea lights.

gain access to potentially lifesaving resources.

O'Connor said his own experience illustrated those disparities. He had access to specialists and advanced diagnostic technology, choices he said are not equally available to everyone.

“There are people on Medicaid who can't do that,” he said. “And they suffer the consequences for it.”

That is why, for O'Connor, the lights filling Morgan Memorial Park carry a message extending beyond remembrance.

“That's what we're involved in,” he said. “That's what we're advocating for.”

CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- Police Officer O'Neill arrested a 51-year-old Glen Cove man on Aug. 23 for trespassing on Glen Street.
- Police Officer O'Neill arrested a 35-year-old Glen Cove man on Aug. 22 for DWI and unsafe lane change on Glen Cove Avenue.
- Police Officer O'Neill arrested a 22-year-old Glen Cove man on Aug. 22 for violation of parole on School Street.
- Police Officer Vezza arrested a 72-year-old Glen Cove man on Aug. 21 for assault in the second degree, assault in the third degree, and endangering the welfare of a child on Brewster Street.
- Police Officer Caruso arrested a 34-year-old Glen Cove woman on Aug. 19 for City of Glen Cove Court warrants for endangering the welfare of a child and assault in the third degree on East Beach Road.
- Police Officer Phile Grella arrested a 46-year-old Glen Head man on Aug. 19 for assault in the third degree on Bridge Street.
- Police Officer Levantis arrested a 31-year-old Glen Cove man on Aug. 16 for three counts of aggravated family offense and three counts of criminal contempt in the first degree on Smith Street.
- Police Officer Caruso arrested a 25-year-old Glen Cove man on Aug. 15 for unlicensed operation, obstructed view, and illegal tint on Continental Place.
- Police Officer Caruso arrested a 42-year-old Brooklyn man on Aug. 14 for possession of a forged instrument (registration plate), unlicensed operator, aggravated unlicensed operator, covered registration plate, and illegal tint in Village Square.
- Police Officer Guastella arrested a 31-year-old Glen Cove man on Aug. 14 for aggravated unlicensed operation in the second degree, inadequate lights, and unlicensed operation on Elm Avenue.
- Police Officer Fernandez arrested a 33-year-old Glen Cove man on Aug. 13 for possession of a forged instrument (license plate), improper plates, no insurance, no inspection, and unregistered vehicle on Glen Cove Avenue.

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



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What happens if you have an accident or an illness whereby you are unable to handle your legal and financial affairs? Many people incorrectly believe their spouse is legally able to handle their affairs. Similarly, a parent has no legal authority to handle the affairs of a child, once the child attains the age of majority – eighteen years.

Without a power of attorney, you would have to apply to a court to be named a legal guardian. These proceedings are expensive, time-consuming and fraught with peril. The judge has no obligation to name the spouse or parent as legal guardian and may appoint a stranger. For example, the judge may feel that the spouse or parent has a conflict in that they are the beneficiary of the incapacitated person's assets, or the judge may decide that someone else has more knowledge and experience in handling such matters.

Who should you choose as your "agent"? In our experience, the vast majority of powers of attorney name the spouse first and one or more of the children second. While on its face this seems reasonable, experience has shown it

may not be a good idea. We often need to use the power of attorney when the client is quite elderly and infirm. Often, so is the spouse at that time. Son or daughter wants to step in and help out with bill paying, etc. only to find they are unable to use the power of attorney for dad unless they can prove that mom can't.

How do you prove she can't? First you have to get the doctor to write a letter that mom is unable to handle her legal and financial affairs. Will the doctor write the letter? Will the letter be clear and unequivocal? Will each of the third parties you have to deal with accept the letter? These are not easy hurdles to overcome.

We believe there is a better way. We simply say either mom, or son, or daughter may act as agent. The problem is eliminated. You are protected from son or daughter misusing the power of attorney by the fact that they do not have the document – you keep it in your possession and make it available if and when they need to use it. Bottom line: all adults should have a power of attorney and healthcare proxy/living will.

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THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Tormented trio

Dear Great Book Guru,
As summer comes to an end, I have started thinking about getting into a good reading regimen. A literary mystery is always a favorite - any recommendations?

Settling into September

Dear Settling into September,

I just finished a novel you might like: "Heather" by Caitlin Mullen. Set in 1990 and 2023, it is told from the perspectives of three women.

Callie is a newly commissioned superintendent of police in a small village on the outskirts of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Annabelle is a twin who has been missing for many years, Blair is a young woman whose role remains a mystery for most of the book.

The story opens in 2023 with Callie's arrest of her mother, Jennie, on drunk driving charges. As the first woman police commander in the village, Callie

is a victim of subtle and not so subtle acts of insubordination. This arrest only complicates a very awkward situation.

We then go back in time to 1993 and the disappearance of twin sisters, Annabelle and Sabrina. Many of the same characters from this time still play active roles in village life.

As Callie learns more about the present drug dealings and coverups, she sees connections to past crimes. The town she thought she knew so well harbors many frightening secrets.

The Pine Barrens' history as a place of violent endings serves as yet another character. Throughout, we wonder how these many disparate characters and

crimes will come together. Recommended.

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at annmdipietro@gmail.com.



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

NEWS BRIEF

Coastal cleanup marks 40 years

The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor will bring volunteers together at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove on Saturday, Sept. 19, for its annual International Coastal Cleanup.

The cleanup will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will remove litter from the park and shoreline while helping document the types of debris they collect. The information gathered through international cleanups helps identify common sources of marine pollution and supports efforts to prevent trash from entering waterways.

The event is part of the coalition's continuing work to protect Hempstead Harbor and the communities surrounding it. Founded in 1986, the Sea Cliff-

based environmental nonprofit uses citizen science, advocacy, education and restoration projects to address threats to the harbor. Its programs include water-quality monitoring, oyster gardening, horseshoe crab monitoring and shoreline cleanups.

The coalition has participated in the International Coastal Cleanup since 1992 and organized its first harbor-wide version of the event in 2022. The coalition celebrates 40 years this year.

Morgan Memorial Park is at Germaine Street in Glen Cove. More information is available at coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org or by calling the coalition at (516) 801-6792.

-Roksana Amid

GLEN COVE

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Officials voice their concerns about Propel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accounted for separately from ratepayer costs, and represent less than 0.06 percent of the total project cost. The project team, she added, must provide information to more than 14,000 project “abutters” and 35 municipalities along the 90-mile project footprint.

Assemblyman Charles Lavine, whose district includes much of the North Shore route, said that New York’s lobbying disclosure laws provide transparency into such spending.

“Well, the law is such, and we helped pass that law, that lobbyists have to report the amounts they’ve spent, and who they’ve spent that funding on, and with whom they have interacted,” Lavine explained. “So the transparency is there. I’m not altogether sure what more could be done to provide greater transparency, and the fact that these issues are well known by the public indicates that there is sufficient transparency.”

Lavine’s son, Gregory Lavine, works for McBride Consulting and Business Development Group, which Propel has retained for stakeholder outreach and regulatory matters. Guilfoyle wrote that Gregory Lavine does not work on the Propel project.

Charles Lavine said he has taken steps to communicate the concerns of Propel’s opponents to state regulators. His office, he said, has submitted oppo-

nents’ petitions to the state Public Service Commission, and he has sent his own letters expressing concern about the project.

Glen Head resident Christine Panzeca, a prominent opponent of Propel, said that the project’s political relationships raise questions about whether residents’ concerns are receiving sufficient attention.

“I think that our three town supervisors here in Nassau County have done a wonderful job in representing the interests of their residents, whether it be battery storage or whether it be the lack of transparency and accountability related to Propel, based upon the press release that they issued,” Panzeca said, “and I feel very fortunate that we have members of our legislature here in Nassau County that represent our interests and have spoken out publicly with regards to Propel.”

Panzeca specifically praised U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, Assemblyman Jake Blumencranz and Nassau County legislators who have opposed or questioned aspects of the project.

Suozzi’s office provided a statement

saying that he opposes the project in its current form. “Congressman Suozzi believes the Propel proposal does not address the legitimate concerns raised by local residents,” it reads, “including:

(1) protecting the harbors that the community and he have worked so hard to restore; (2) the impacts on surrounding neighborhoods and businesses; and (3) whether reasonable alternative routes have been fully considered. After listening closely to community members, Congressman Suozzi opposes the proposal in its current form because too many critical questions remain unanswered and too many potential impacts have yet to be fully evaluated.”

Sea Cliff Village Administrator Bruce Kennedy said the village’s concerns extend beyond lobbying and political relationships to what he described as a lack of direct communication.

“Neither Propel nor their representatives have ever directly reached out to the Village of Sea Cliff for anything,” Kennedy said. “They’ve never asked for a meeting.”

Kennedy said that the village has received mailings and legal notices, but

has not been directly consulted about its concerns.

“The applicant has no respect for any of the potentially affected individuals, organizations, municipalities, businesses,” he said. “They have proceeded forward as if this was all a predetermined outcome, and that they’re just going through the motions.”

Propel disputes that characterization. Guilfoyle wrote that the project team has engaged with local communities for over two years, and has modified the project in response to stakeholder input, including moving portions of the route off a residential road on the North Shore and limiting construction near schools during bus arrival and dismissal times.

The project also remains subject to regulatory approvals. Construction cannot begin, Guilfoyle said, until required approvals are obtained, including a state certificate, Environmental Management and Construction Plans and a notice to proceed, in addition to federal permits.

Panzeca, however, said the project’s pre-construction activity sends a different message.

“Propel is trying to move this project forward,” she said. “They’re giving pre-contracts and are having those who stand to benefit financially from the projects now go out and lobby for the project as well.”

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HERALD SPORTS

Hofstra looks to kickstart winning season

By ANDREW COEN

sports@liherald.com

Hofstra University's women's soccer team encountered plenty of gridlock during last year's 6-5-7 season that featured seven straight ties and is seeking a breakthrough fall that yields a deep postseason run.

The Pride's historic draw streak lasted a month from Aug. 28 to Sept. 28 as part of a frustrating campaign in which Hofstra finished 3-3-3 in the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) and qualified for the conference tournament with a 3-2 win at Stony Brook in the regular-season finale. The Seawolves ended Hofstra's season four days later with a 2-1 overtime win in the CAA North Division quarterfinals created plenty of hunger for the Pride's 14 returning players.

"They were disappointed in the way it ended," said 21st-year Hofstra head coach Simon Riddiough. "They have all worked very hard and had good energy in the preseason but we are very young with a lot of new players."

Hofstra will look for more wins with a largely new roster that includes 13 newcomers. The Pride lost nearly 80 percent of last year's scoring.

The top returning scorers are junior forward Hailey Moschitta and senior defender Alexia Des Croisselles, who each tallied two goals apiece.

Riddiough said he hopes for a collective scoring effort this fall with a number of potential goal scorers in Maggie Peterson, Kendyl Peterson and Jadyn Hsu at the forward position along with freshman midfielder Mia Claro, an All-State player from Kellenberg.

Veteran fifth-year midfielder Amy Meadows also could be a key offensive force and she tallied Hofstra's lone goal in a season-opening 3-1 loss at St. Joseph's on Aug. 15. Senior midfielder Alexia Bromfield, who came off bench to score a late tying goal in Hofstra's 1-1 draw with Columbia on Aug. 21, adds to Hofstra's offensive depth.

"We're going to be relying on a collective team effort," Riddiough said. "Set pieces are going to be especially important."

The backline is anchored by senior fender Sasha McTiffin, a preseason All-CAA honorable mention selection. The defense also returns Des Croisselles, junior Emma Johnson and sophomore Jessica Martin.

Senior Jill Conlon, a former two-time All-County player at Calhoun High School in North Merrick, adds depth to the defensive roster after missing last season with an injury. Freshman Ryann Zydor, who earned All-State honors at Oceanside High School, is another local product who could see playing time on



Hofstra's defense is anchored by senior Sasha McTiffin, a preseason All-CAA honorable mention selection.

the backline.

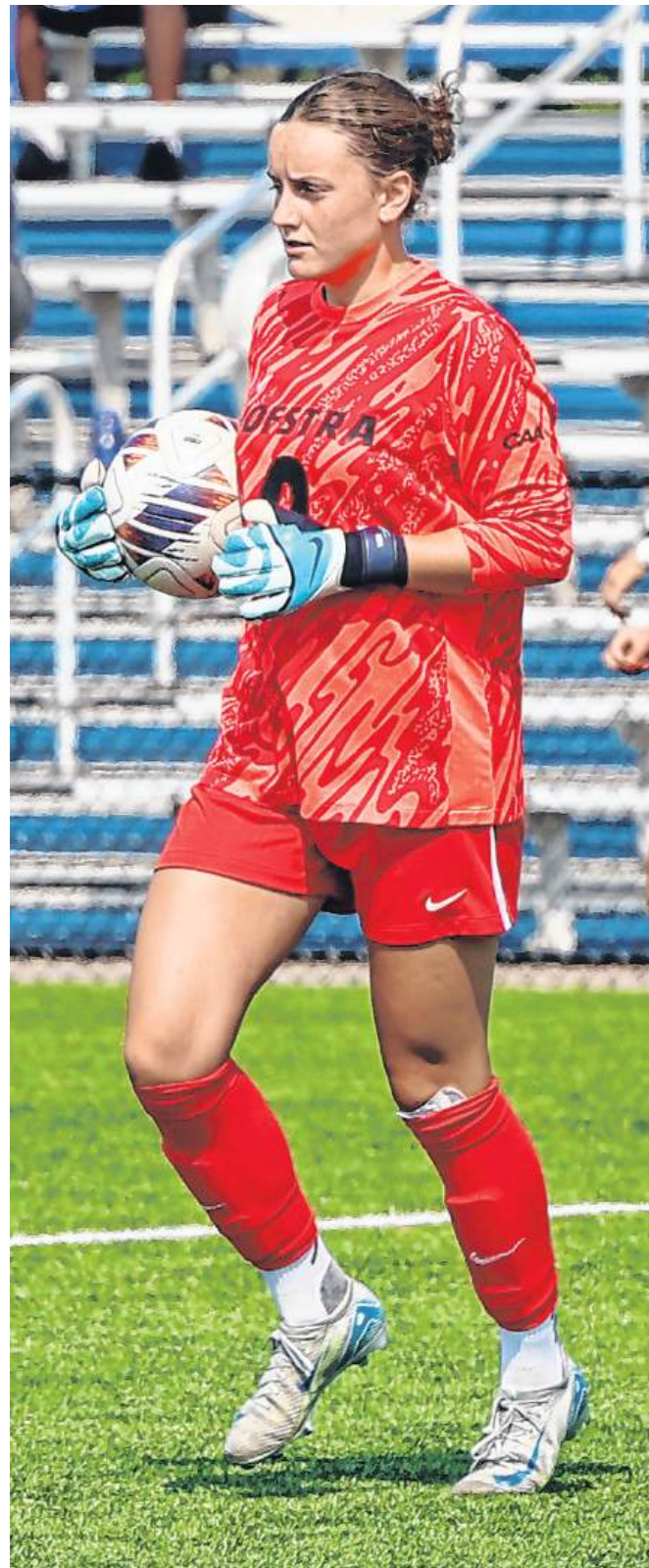
The defense will be aided by the return of junior goalkeeper Lilly Bailey, a Perth, Australia native, who posted four shutouts and 52 saves last season.

"She's very good with her feet and is very athletic," Riddiough said of Bailey. "She needs to become a bit more commanding with her communication, but outside of that I'm pretty content with how she is as a goalkeeper."

Hofstra will next host Fordham Aug.

27 at 7 p.m. and then return home on Sept. 13 to face Ivy League power Brown for a Sunday matinee starting at 1 p.m. The Pride kickoff CAA play on Sept. 20 against Towson at 1 p.m.

The Pride were picked to finish third in the CAA's six-team North Division behind Stony Brook and Monmouth and ahead of Towson, Northeastern and Drexel. A top three standings finish would qualify Hofstra for a 10th straight CAA playoffs and 19th time in 21 years since Riddiough took com-

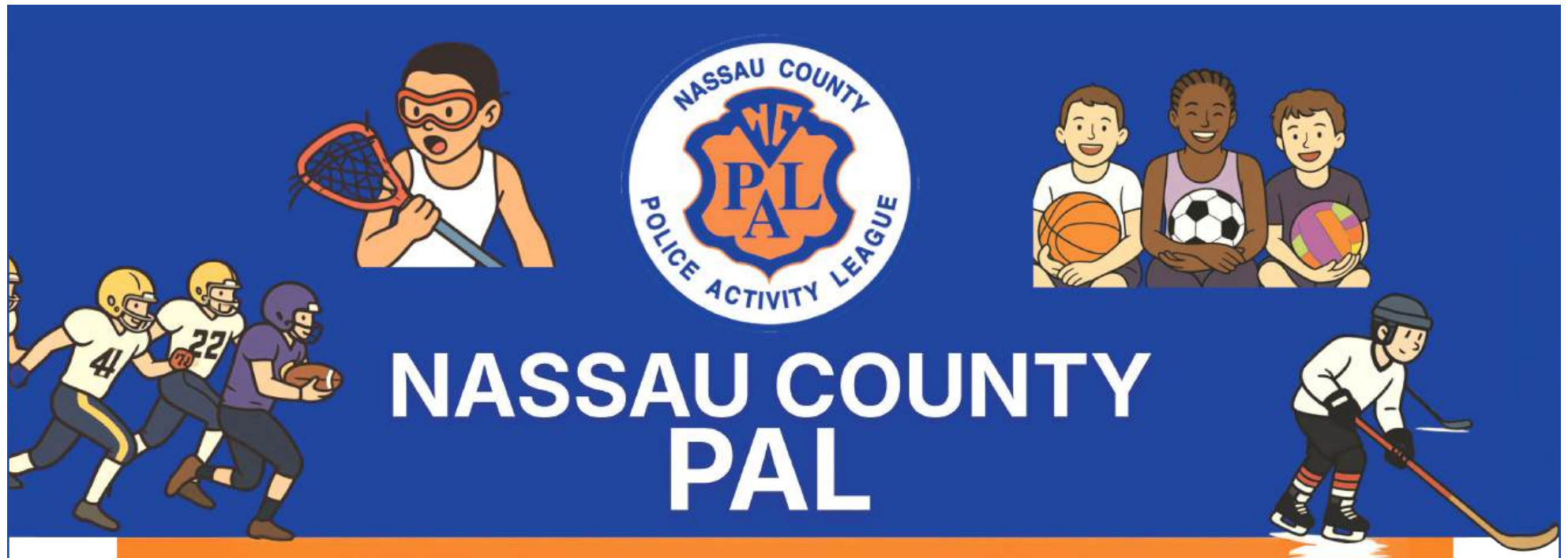


Photos courtesy Hofstra Athletics Communications

Goalkeeper Lilly Bailey posted four shutouts a year ago.

mand of the program with a chance to earn an automatic qualifier into the NCAA Tournament.

"There's going to be a lot of parity and hopefully by the time conference play starts we've got ourselves sorted and we can challenge people and get ourselves into the playoffs again," Riddiough said. "We're a young team and we're going to learn and take our lumps early and hopefully by conference season we'll be ready to get some results."



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Flooding renews worries about drainage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lic works, Michael Yeosock, said that the city has implemented the majority of the study’s recommendations. On Chestnut Street, Yeosock explained, two catch basins near Manning Road had been connected to an undersized 12-inch pipe that was also obstructed by tree roots. The city expanded drainage and doubled the size of the pipe.

“We corrected that situation by installing new drainage on Chestnut Street,” he said.

The city also completed work on Poplar Place, where, Yeosock said, drainage in a recharge area near Beech Court had been obstructed. Crews cleaned out the area, added drainage and installed two dry wells, or leaching basins, because the area’s elevation prevented workers from connecting to a gravity-fed pipe.

But residents contend that those improvements haven’t stopped water from reaching Woolsey. The Poplar basins, Melbinger said, filled in about 15 minutes during the heavy rain, and then overflowed toward Woolsey. He said that residents once again found themselves clearing drains on Sunday morning, including removing sod that Melbinger said came from the recently completed construction.

The repeated flooding has also forced him to alter his property to protect critical equipment. Melbinger said he had raised his oil tank, previously at grass level, several inches, a precaution he said helped protect it during Sunday’s flooding. He recalled an earlier flood in which water contaminated roughly 200 gallons of heating oil, leaving it unusable, and said that another such incident could cost thousands of dollars to remedy.

“The road is dry — not our houses,” Melbinger told Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck at Tuesday’s City Council meeting.



Courtesy Sona Allen

Last Sunday’s storm brought intense rainfall to Glen Cove, and residents scrambled to clear drains and protect their property.

Another resident, Alfredo Martinez, also questioned the effectiveness of the improvements at the meeting, telling officials that his backyard had once again resembled a lake.

“Whatever work the engineers did, apparently, it’s

like nothing happened,” Martinez said. “Those drains filled very quick.”

Panzenbeck said she had visited Woolsey shortly after she received a text from a resident on Sunday morning, and found the road clear by 8:09 a.m. She noted that flooding occurred throughout Glen Cove and neighboring communities during the intense storm. “It came down very fast and furious,” she said.

Another focus is Dosoris Lane, which residents and city officials say contributes runoff to the neighborhood. Melbinger contends that much of the water that floods Woolsey comes from Dosoris, and, he said, the problem worsened after Dosoris, a county road, was repaved several years ago. An earlier road grade, Melbinger said, had helped keep water on Dosoris rather than directing it toward Woolsey.

Panzenbeck said that the city is now working with Nassau County, and was scheduled to hold its third meeting with county officials this week, focusing on Dosoris Lane.

Yeosock added that county officials were examining potential drainage work on Dosoris, although plans remain preliminary.

The IMEG study also contemplated substantial work to resize downstream drainage infrastructure in the Brewster Street area, Yeosock said, but the study described that as a costly, long-term project.

“That hasn’t been implemented yet, but, I mean, that’s still out there,” he said. “We’re talking to the county about that.”

For Woolsey residents, however, another significant storm means another round of protecting their homes while longer-term solutions remain under discussion.

“It does dissipate,” Melbinger said of the flooding, “but it dissipates into our basements, into our backyards.”



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Suozzi backs bills to combat trafficking

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

Two survivors of human trafficking are using their experiences to push for federal legislation designed to prevent others from enduring the exploitation they survived.

Hollie Nadel and Sheena Dume joined U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi at a news conference in Williston Park on Aug. 20 to call for congressional action on two bipartisan anti-trafficking bills focused on prevention, education and protections for survivors.

“It’s happening right here in our backyard,” Suozzi, a Democrat from Glen Cove, said. “This is very real, and it’s happening right here on Long Island every single day.”

Long Island accounts for nearly 70 percent of New York state’s prostitution and unlicensed massage arrests. Nearly 400 spa workers have been arrested for allegedly selling sex in the region since 2021, while the men accused of purchasing sex have largely avoided prosecution.

The news conference came a day after Jacquelyn Comiskey pleaded guilty in Suffolk County Court to sex trafficking a 14-year-old Long Island girl who had been missing for 25 days.

For Nadel, 41, the issue is personal.

Nadel, who grew up in Searingtown and now lives in Virginia, said she was trafficked for more than eight years across 11 states after people who initially befriended her gained her trust. She said her traffickers eventually garnished her wages and forced her into labor and sex trafficking.

“My traffickers befriended me,” Nadel said. “They gained my trust. Initially, they were very kind.”

Nadel said traffickers can identify vulnerabilities



Roksana Amid/Herald

Two survivors of human trafficking are pushing for federal legislation designed to prevent others from enduring the exploitation they survived.

and exploit them, gradually gaining greater control over their victims.

“My traffickers didn’t just exploit me; they forced me to commit crimes on their behalf,” she said. “Instead of recognizing me as a victim, the criminal justice system treated me like a criminal, leading to years of additional victimization.”

Nadel was charged with conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud after, she said, her traffickers opened thousands of accounts in her name. She received a presidential pardon in January.

Now an advocate in Washington, D.C., Nadel worked for passage of the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, which became law in January and helps trafficking survivors clear criminal records stemming from their exploitation.

“Our goal should be to build systems that prevent exploitation before a survivor ever needs a champion,” Nadel said.

Dume, 33, of Connecticut, said she was trafficked for two years after being lured by promises of a modeling career. She now works as an advocacy program manager for Protect All Children from Trafficking.

“The experience showed me how trafficking can exist behind closed doors, in ordinary communities,” Dume said, adding that people involved often do not fit common stereotypes about trafficking.

She said criminalization remains one of the most overlooked obstacles facing survivors, who can be arrested and prosecuted for crimes they were forced to commit.

Suozi is supporting the Preventing Child Trafficking Act and is a co-sponsor of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act.

The Preventing Child Trafficking Act would strengthen coordination between the U.S. Department of Justice and Department of Health and Human Services and improve collaboration aimed specifically at preventing child trafficking. The Senate unanimously passed the legislation in December, but it has stalled in the House.

The Frederick Douglass legislation, introduced by Republican Rep. Christopher Smith of New Jersey, would reauthorize anti-trafficking programs and provide additional assistance for trafficking victims. It, too, has stalled in Congress.

For Dume, moving the legislation forward means recognizing that trafficking is not a distant problem.

“Human trafficking is not confined to one city or one neighborhood,” she said. “It affects communities across Long Island, New York, and every state in our nation.”

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Photos courtesy Glen Cove Senior Center

Members of the Glen Cove Senior Center celebrated the release of the center’s first-ever yearbook, which captured memories from throughout the year.

Senior center celebrates inaugural yearbook

The Glen Cove Senior Center celebrated a special milestone with the release of its first-ever yearbook. At the Yearbook Distribution and Signing Party, hundreds of members received copies and filled the pages with warm messages, signatures and shared memories. The inaugural yearbook served as a vibrant snapshot of the senior center community, featuring activities, trips, clubs, celebrations, friendships and the everyday moments that made the center

feel like home. Members flipped through the pages, smiled at familiar faces and proudly shared the keepsake with relatives, friends and neighbors. The senior center extended its gratitude to the dedicated team that designed, photographed, edited and organized the book, as well as the generous sponsors whose support made it possible to provide the yearbook free of charge to all members.

—Roksana Amid



The Glen Cove Senior Center’s inaugural yearbook highlighted the activities, events and friendships that brought members together.



Members looked through the new yearbook, reminiscing over photos and memories shared throughout the year at the senior center.



The yearbook featured moments from activities, trips, celebrations and other experiences shared by members of the Glen Cove Senior Center.



The first-ever Glen Cove Senior Center yearbook served as a keepsake celebrating the community and the memories made by its members.



Courtesy Swim Across America

Some swam in memory of loved ones. Others were cancer survivors themselves or had watched family members battle the disease. All were helping raise money in hopes that one day, fewer families would have to endure it.

Making waves in the fight against cancer

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

For 166 swimmers who entered the water at Pryibil Beach, crossing the finish line meant more than completing a mile — or several — in the Long Island Sound.

Some swam in memory of loved ones. Others were cancer survivors themselves or had watched family members battle the disease. All were helping raise money in hopes that one day, fewer families would have to endure it.

Swim Across America Nassau/Suffolk Long Island marked its 25th anniversary Aug. 1 with its annual open-water benefit swim in Glen Cove. Glen Cove resident Michael Gadaleta had a front-row view of every swimmer who took on the challenge. A swimmer himself, Gadaleta has volunteered at the event for the past several years, since it moved to Pryibil Beach. This year, he was stationed at the water's edge, recording each participant as they entered and returned to shore.

"You would see the joy on their faces as they crossed that line to exit the water," he said. "Albeit a somber situation for some family members that are there that may have lost loved ones to cancer, those coming out of the water — a joyous occasion, knowing that they've raised the money and they put in the work."

The Pryibil Beach swim raised roughly \$870,000, while the Nassau/Suffolk chapter has raised more than \$1 million so far this year through the open-water event and other fundraisers, according to event director Kevin Shine. Since its inception, the local chapter has raised more than \$16 million.

The Nassau/Suffolk group traces its beginnings to 2001 and held its first Glen Cove swim the following year. Its open-water events have remained in the city ever since, first at Morgan Memorial Park and, more recently, at Pryibil Beach.

For Steven Chestler, the mission is deeply personal.

Chestler's wife, Carolyn, was an accomplished athlete who ran marathons, swam around Manhattan and participated in English Channel relays. After she began experiencing knee pain, an MRI led to a devastating discovery: Cancer had spread throughout much of her body. She died four months later.

Chestler and his children decided they needed to do something in her memory.

"She was a big swimmer," he said. They found Swim Across America and created Team Carolyn. In its first year, the team raised more than \$270,000. Five years later, Chestler said the team had raised more than \$307,000 this year, with additional donations expected.

"It's a very, very special day," he said. "The people there are incredible."

Gadaleta's connection to the cause is also personal. His father and brother, both named Joe, were diagnosed with prostate cancer and survived. His father lived for about 15 years afterward, while his brother remains a survivor.

"It just kind of hit me," Gadaleta said. "We've experienced the same sort of things. He's doing an incredible job to help fight and find a cure."

For Gadaleta, volunteering for one morning is a small contribution to a much larger fight.

"It always is important, I think, to give back a little bit, feel like that you're making a difference in the world," he said. He said the event also demonstrates how Glen Cove has embraced Swim Across America, with the city's police, emergency services, Harbor Patrol and Recreation Department helping support the annual swim.

"The way Glen Cove comes out and supports the event ... shows that they care about not just finding a cure for cancer, but the community getting involved in it," Gadaleta said.



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Dr. Carney to discuss healthy aging

Community members will have an opportunity to learn more about healthy aging, geriatric health care and the issues affecting older adults during an upcoming presentation featuring Dr. Maria Torroella Carney, MD, MACP, AGSF.

Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club, in partnership with Glen Cove Hospital, will host Carney for a discussion and book signing at 6 p.m. Sept. 29 at the club, 135 Forest Ave., Locust Valley. The free educational program is open to community members of all ages and is intended to provide information for older adults and their families.

Carney is president of Glen Cove Hospital and executive director of the Northwell Institute for Healthy Aging, which focuses on improving the health and well-being of older adults and advancing age-friendly care. Glen Cove Hospital has also been recognized for its focus on meeting the health care needs of older adults.

The evening will center on Carney's book, *The Aging Revolution: The History of Geriatric Health Care and What Really Matters to Older Adults*. The book examines the development of geriatric medicine and explores the priorities and concerns that are important to older adults as they age.

During the presentation, Carney is expected to discuss the evolution of

geriatric health care, strategies for healthy aging and the challenges facing older adults and their families. The program will also provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions during a question-and-answer session.

The event is part of an effort to encourage conversations about aging and health as communities continue to see a growing need for compassionate, age-friendly care. Organizers said the program is designed not only for older adults, but also for family members and others interested in learning how health care can better support people as they age.

The evening will conclude with a book signing. The first 24 people who RSVP will receive a complimentary copy of *The Aging Revolution*.

Those interested in attending can reserve a seat by calling 516-759-5437, ext. 214, or emailing Tara Butler-Sahai at tara.butler-sahai@gbbgc.org.

The event will be held at the Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club, located at 135 Forest Ave. in Locust Valley, and is free to attend. Organizers encourage those interested in receiving one of the complimentary books to RSVP in advance, as copies are limited to the first 24 registrants.

—Roksana Amid



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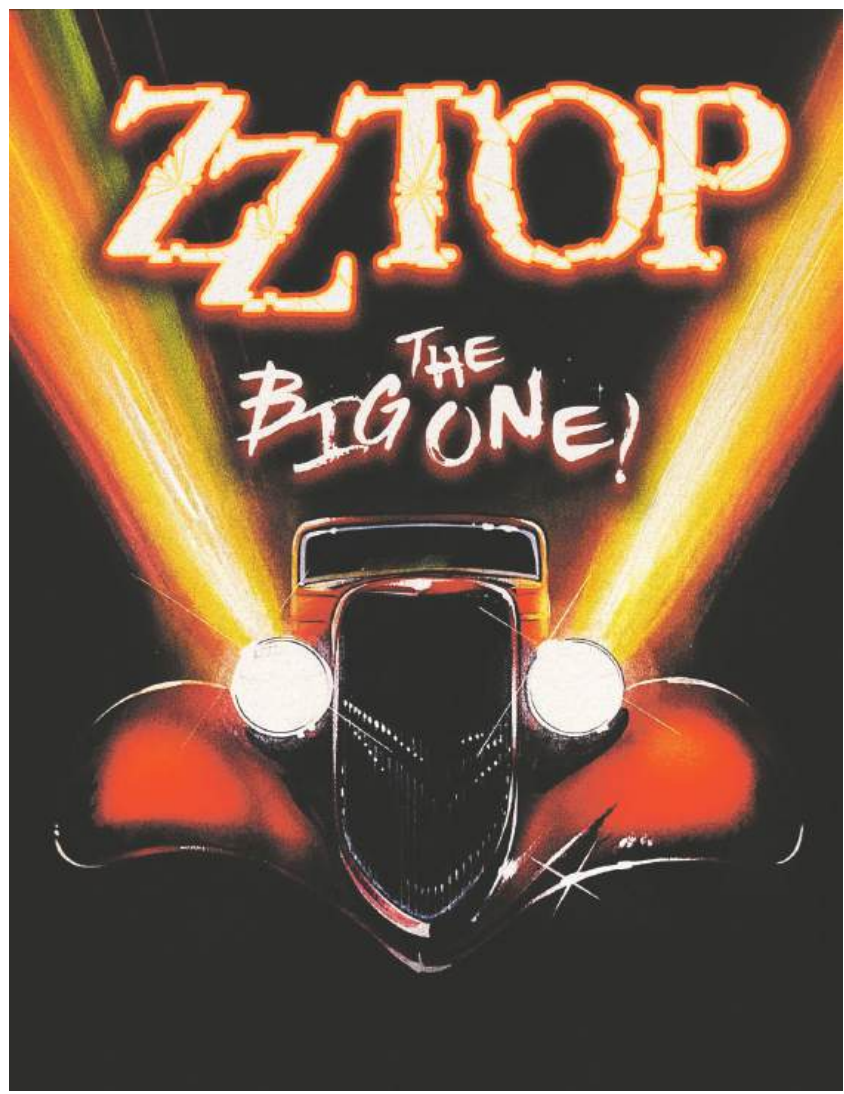
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NEWS BRIEF

Visit the Deep Roots Farmers Market

The Deep Roots Farmers Market is continuing its 2026 season in downtown Glen Cove, giving residents an opportunity to shop for locally produced food, artisan goods and specialty products while supporting small businesses and community vendors.

The market is held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Village Square, 100 Village Square, through Nov. 7. The 23-week season began May 30 and is being managed by the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce.

The market moved to Village Square this year from its previous location at Garvies Point. Organizers said the downtown location provides greater visibility and foot traffic while placing the market closer to local businesses, restaurants and parking. The move also gives shoppers a more central location to visit while spending time in downtown Glen Cove.

Deep Roots features more than 30 local food purveyors and artisans each week, with offerings that include fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, honey, prepared foods, specialty products and handmade items. The market also features live music, arts and crafts and activities for children, making it a weekend destination for families and shoppers.

The market traces its roots to 2014, when it began as the Sea Cliff Farmers Market with a single vendor. It later grew into Deep Roots Farmers Market, which was founded by the late Amy Peters with a mission of supporting local farms, food producers, makers and artisans while encouraging healthy living and community connections. The market has been recognized as the No. 1 farmers market on Long Island in the Long Island Choice Awards in 2021 and 2022.

The Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce assumed operation of the market as Peters' successor and has continued the tradition in accordance with her wishes. The Chamber has said it remains committed to preserving the goals and spirit of the market while welcoming returning vendors and new businesses.

The market operates rain or shine and accepts FMNP and WIC benefits. One exception to the regular Village Square location will be Oct. 31, when the market will return to Garvies Point Park for a special Halloween event.

For more information, contact the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce at 516-676-6666.

—Roksana Amid



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STEPPING OUT

'The Jolson Story' is timeless

Jolson Festival marks 80 years

By Iris Wiener

For many, Al Jolson is forever embraced as "The World's Greatest Entertainer," and honoring his legacy has become an annual tradition. Celebrating him every year is an unmissable moment for so many.

As Jolson himself once said, "A responsive audience is the best encouragement an actor can have." Judging by the enduring enthusiasm for his music and legacy, there will be no shortage of that encouragement at this year's celebration.

Fans of legendary entertainer Al Jolson will travel from as far away as Kentucky, Ohio, Massachusetts, and New Jersey when the Long Island Jolson Festival returns next month, on Sept. 26. The annual celebration takes on added significance as it marks the 80th anniversary of "The Jolson Story," the beloved film that inspired generations of Jolson admirers and serves as the theme of this year's event.

With the 27th festival in a span of more than 32 years, the event has grown into a national gathering for devotees of Jolson's music and legacy. Jan Hernstat, who has served as president of the Al Jolson Society for more than 24 of those years, expects visitors from to make the pilgrimage to Lambrou's Catering Hall in Island Park with gusto. According to Hernstat this year's milestone anniversary has inspired even more people to attend.

"Because this is the 80th anniversary of 'The Jolson Story,' it's really about the movie and the love for Al Jolson," he enthusiastically says.

For Hernstat, the connection is deeply personal. As a child home sick from school, he stumbled upon "The Million Dollar Movie" and repeated television broadcasts of "The Jolson Story," and found himself captivated.

"They used to play the same movie eight or nine times in a row," he recalls. "I must have watched 'The Jolson Story' five or six times, and that was it. I was hooked."

He notes that while Jolson dominated Broadway from 1911 through the mid-1920s, few living fans remember those performances firsthand. Instead, it was the Academy Award-winning film that introduced audiences to his remarkable story and unforgettable songs.

"Nobody's alive to say they saw him on Broadway," Hernstat says. "Why are people alive who can say they are Jolson fans? Because they saw 'The Jolson Story.' That movie took this old guy who was no longer relevant and made him

a superstar all over again."

This year's entertainment lineup has been carefully built around that cinematic celebration. Tony Babino, known as "The Heart of Al Jolson," is back, performing the film's signature hits, while Richard Halpern will sing the songs featured during Jolson's childhood scenes in the movie. Music historian Ed Greenbaum will present rare outtakes and songs that were considered for "The Jolson Story" but never made the final cut, offering fans a glimpse into what might have been. The festival also features Brian Gari, grandson of entertainer Eddie Cantor; Noah Diamond portraying Groucho Marx; Bob Greenberg performing as Lou Costello, curly Howard, Ralph Kramden and Oliver Hardy; Angelo Capone as Jerry Lewis; and comedian Jeff Greenberg. Hernstat especially enjoys his own playful interaction with "Groucho Marx" throughout the annual auction portion of the day.

The inclusion of Jerry Lewis is especially fitting. Lewis and Dean Martin were lifelong Jolson admirers, and Lewis famously said that meeting Jolson was the only time he had ever been speechless. Hernstat relates that Jolson's influence stretched far beyond one generation of entertainers.

"He was the first superstar before the phrase was even coined," he says. "He had universal appeal. He was a star in Europe and all over because of 'The Jazz Singer.'"

Yet even after decades of studying Jolson's career, Hernstat still finds new discoveries.

"You would think I've heard every song he ever recorded, but I haven't. I don't rush to hear and see everything, because when I discover something new, it's exciting."

Looking back over more than three decades of organizing the festival, Hernstat shares that the greatest reward has been the people. He treasures the opportunity to meet classic entertainers who have attended over the years, along with the friendships formed among fans who return annually. He has begun to appreciate the broader impact of his work.

"I am doing something that is making people feel good and helping people," he reflects "I never looked at it like that when I started doing it, but now I know that's what it is."

As the lights go up on another Long Island Jolson Festival, the celebration honors more than an entertainer — it will celebrate the film that ensured his music, charisma, and remarkable story would live on. Eighty years after "The Jolson Story" rekindled America's love affair with Al Jolson, fans continue to gather for the same reason Hernstat did as a child: to relive the movie that first made them believe they were witnessing the world's greatest entertainer.



Courtesy Jan Hernstat

Al Jolson in a scene from his film "The Singing Kid" in 1936. It was his final lead role in a musical film.



Courtesy Iris Wiener

Tony B., joined by Society President Jan Hernstat, left, wows the crowd with his lively take on Jolson standards.



Melissa Etheridge

Known for her confessional lyrics and raspy, smoky vocals, Melissa Etheridge ("I'm the Only One" "Come to My Window," "I Want to Come Over.") has remained one of America's favorite female singers since bursting onto the scene in 1988. Etheridge performs songs from her new album, *Rise*, and her hits. "I chose to survive," she sings on "Being Alive," the powerful, exuberant opening song on her 17th studio album. Her concerts usually move between bigger sing-along songs, slower emotional moments, and the kind of tracks that let her voice really take over the room. That balance is a big reason her live shows connect so strongly with the audience. The *Rise* Tour carries that same feel, with a set that blends the songs fans know best with newer material.

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 8 p.m. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington.



Troy Ramey

Troy Ramey is part troubadour, part crooner and all heart — an artist who blends emotional depth with timeless soul, captivating audiences with every note. With a voice that moves effortlessly between vulnerability and power, Troy doesn't just perform — he shares pieces of his life, inviting listeners into the story with him. Raised in a music-filled household, Troy initially pursued athletics until the sudden loss of his father led him to discover the healing power of music. From singing at open mics in Boston to performing on national television as a Top 12 finalist on "The Voice," Troy's journey has been one of reinvention and resilience.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org or (516) 767-6444. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

CALENDAR

AUG 27

On exhibit
Louis Comfort Tiffany: Artist of the Gilded Age brings together the Nassau County Museum of Art's unparalleled collection of more than 130 oil and watercolor paintings by one of America's most celebrated artists. This landmark exhibition marks the first time the museum presents the full scope of its Tiffany paintings, an extraordinary group made possible through a generous, anonymous gift that represents the largest private collection of Tiffany paintings. While best known for his stained-glass windows, lamps, and decorative objects, this exhibit highlights a rarely seen dimension of his artistic practice: the paintings that he personally created at the beginning of his career. Through Nov. 8.

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

AUG 28

Behind the Velvet Ropes
Step into a bygone era with an exclusive, private group tour of Planting Fields Park's historic Main House, where you'll be guided by an expert docents on a journey behind the velvet ropes to explore the home's stunning rooms up close. This immersive experience will deepen your understanding of the Coe family's fascinating legacy, the iconic estate they built, and the remarkable history that surrounds it. All ages welcome. \$18, \$17 seniors (62+), \$5 children 6-1, children ages 5 and under are free. Registration required.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 1 a.m. and noon, also Aug. 29
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

AUG 29

Deep Roots Farmers Market
Shop fresh, locally grown produce, baked goods, specialty foods and handcrafted products at the Deep Roots Farmers Market. The weekly market brings together local farmers, food vendors and artisans, offering residents a chance to support small businesses while enjoying a vibrant community gathering in downtown Glen Cove.

- **Where:** 100 Village Square, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



SEP 9

Australian Pink Floyd Show
The Australian Pink Floyd Show arrives at the Paramount on The Happiest Days Of Our Lives — Greatest Hits 26 Tour, bringing the complete Pink Floyd Experience with a stunning laser show, massive inflatables, and more! The Australian Pink Floyd Show will take the stage with a collection of greatest hits that resonate deeply with Pink Floyd fans worldwide. Performing the music of Pink Floyd with note for note perfection, this critically acclaimed tribute show has been astonishing audiences worldwide for nearly 40 years. Striving to reproduce the Pink Floyd experience and bring the music to new audiences, the show continues to include a stunning light and laser show, video animations, state-of-the-art LED screen technology and other special effects. Featuring a new stage set and video animation, cutting-edge lighting, precision lasers, massive inflatables, and impeccable live sound, TAPFS promises to offer an unforgettable experience for both long-time fans and newcomers. The Australian Pink Floyd Show gave its first concert in Adelaide, Australia in 1988. Since then, they have performed in over 35 countries worldwide; played at David Gilmour's 50th birthday celebration and were even joined on stage by David Gilmour and Rick Wright. Covering music from every era of Pink Floyd's evolution, this tour highlights TAPFS's unwavering commitment to the legacy of Barrett, Waters, Gilmour, Wright, and Mason, delivering an authentic and heartfelt tribute to the legendary Pink Floyd productions. In addition and in true Pink Floyd tradition, huge inflatables include a giant pig, and their own unique Pink Kangaroo. Reproducing the complete Pink Floyd experience and bringing the music to new audiences, TAPFS inspired a whole new genre of acts. So much more than a tribute band, The Australian Pink Floyd Show is the first Pink Floyd tribute show that took the concept into the worldwide arena circuit.

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

Great Nature Play Day Festival

Celebrate the wonders of the natural world at Planting Fields Park, where curiosity, creativity and the outdoors come together. Kids and families can explore the 409-acre grounds while enjoying hands-on activities, crafts and nature-inspired adventures. Throughout the day, visitors can build a bee hotel to take home, create nature journals and suncatchers, make kindness rocks, explore sensory garden bins, plant seeds and more. Plus plenty more special programming, including storytime session and bird walks. Food trucks are also onsite. Regular admission is \$15 per child, parents and guardians free.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., also Aug. 30
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

Notes In Nature: Summer Symphonies

Visit Planting Fields for the next concert in the "Notes in Nature" series. Experience the vocal and virtuosic essence of the Long Island Chamber Music collective set against a picturesque backdrop. The world-class string players perform iconic string

orchestra works, celebrate orchestral masterworks through a conductorless, chamber-music format. The program opens with Grieg's Praeludium from The Holberg Suite, a vibrant burst of Baroque-inspired brilliance. Holst's St. Paul's Suite follows with its blend of folk tunes and lively dances. The mood turns tender and expressive with Florence Price's Andante Cantabile, a graceful, singing work. The evening closes with Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings, a lush and heartfelt masterpiece whose sweeping melodies and emotional depth create a radiant finale, celebrating the full expressive power of the string orchestra. \$45 per person in advance, \$50 at the door. Limited seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets for additional seating.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 5:30-7 p.m.
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

cancer during the 13th Annual Nicholas Pedone 5K Run/Walk, hosted by the Nicholas Pedone Foundation. The community event includes a 5K run/walk, a fun run for children ages 10 and younger, post-race refreshments and entertainment. All proceeds benefit the foundation's mission to support children and families affected by childhood cancer.

- **Where:** Glen Cove High School, 150 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 8:15 a.m. (Fun Run); 9 a.m. (5K Run/Walk)
- **Contact:** info@fighthardsmilebig.org

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 throughout 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.; through August

• **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

AUG 31

Beauty's Back(pack) to School Bash
Families are invited to Castle Gould at Sands Point Preserve to join Princess Beauty, Rapunzel, and the Mermaid Princess for a magical celebration to kick off the new school year in royal style. The annual event includes princess performances, interactive story time, dancing, games, and more. Each child receives a backpack to decorate and take home — perfect for starting school with a sparkle! Plus, enjoy sweet treats, a royal meet-and-greet, and photo opportunities. Registration required. Limited tickets available. \$55 child, \$17 adult.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-2 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

SEP 1

Harmonize with Long Island Harmonizers
Love to sing? So do the Long Island Harmonizers. The Barbershop Harmony Society chapter 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 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

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.



PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
SUPREME COURT-
COUNTY OF NASSAU.
BONITA WEST LLC,
Plaintiff -against-
ANTHONY DIBLASIO, et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated July 14, 2026 and entered on July 27, 2026, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the North Side steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court "Rain or Shine" located at 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY on September 22, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, Town of Oyster Bay, County of Nassau and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the east side of Maryland Avenue, 296.29 feet southerly from a stone monument set at the intersection of the South line Landing Road and the East line of Maryland Avenue, as measured along the East line of Maryland Avenue; from said point beginning; being a plot 74.46 feet by 40 feet 74.46 feet by 40 feet. Section: 31 Block: 46 Lot: 5 Said premises known as 9 MARYLAND AVENUE, GLEN COVE, NY

Approximate amount of lien \$7,113.42 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index Number 617387/2025. JARED A. KASSCHAU, ESQ., Referee Marc P. Gershman, Esq. Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 263 Mineola Boulevard, Mineola, NY 11501 {* Glen Cove*} 161796

LEGAL NOTICE
SUPREME COURT OF
THE STATE OF NEW
YORK
COUNTY OF NASSAU

U.S. BANK NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION, NOT IN
ITS INDIVIDUAL
CAPACITY BUT SOLELY
AS TRUSTEE FOR THE
RMAC TRUST, SERIES
2016-CTT,

-against-

CARLOS RODRIGUEZ,
HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE
OF THE ESTATE OF
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ,
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 May 19,
2026, wherein U.S.
BANK NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION, NOT IN
ITS INDIVIDUAL
CAPACITY BUT SOLELY
AS TRUSTEE FOR THE
RMAC TRUST, SERIES
2016-CTT is the
Plaintiff and CARLOS
RODRIGUEZ, HEIR AND
DISTRIBUTE OF THE
ESTATE OF CARLOS
RODRIGUEZ, 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 September 25, 2026
at 2:00PM, premises
known as 9 MIDGE
STREET, GLEN COVE,
NY 11542; and the
following tax map
identification: 31-
E-371.

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.:
004087/2016. JJais A.
Forde, 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
ACCORDANCE WITH
COURT/CLERK
DIRECTIVES.
161979

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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF NASSAU
PNC Bank, National
Association, Plaintiff
AGAINST
Richard Salka; et al.,
Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment
of Foreclosure and Sale
duly entered May 22,
2026, I, the
undersigned Referee,
will sell at public
auction at the North
Side Steps of the
Nassau County
Supreme Court at 100
Supreme Court Drive,
Mineola, NY 11501 on
September 28, 2026, at
2:00PM, premises
known as 9 Barlow
Avenue, Glen Cove, NY
11542. All that certain
plot piece or parcel of
land, situate, lying and
being in the City of
Glen Cove, County of
Nassau and State of
New York, Section 31
Block 75 Lot 25. Approximate amount of
judgment \$530,716.73 plus
interest and costs. Premises will be sold
subject to provisions of
filed Judgment Index#
604904/2023. Foreclosure Auctions
will be held "Rain or
Shine."

Ellen Durst, Esq.,
Referee

LOGS Legal Group LLP
Attorney(s) for the
Plaintiff
175 Mile Crossing
Boulevard
Rochester, New York
14624
(877) 430-4792

Dated: July 28, 2026
161975

LEGAL NOTICE
SUMMONS-SUPREME
COURT OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK,
COUNTY OF NASSAU -
GITSIT SOLUTIONS,
LLC, NOT IN ITS
INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY
BUT SOLELY IN ITS
CAPACITY AS
SEPARATE TRUSTEE OF
GITSIT MORTGAGE
LOAN TRUST BBPLC1,
Plaintiff, -against-
MICHALINE LAM A/K/A
MIKKI ANNE LAM AS
HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE
OF THE ESTATE OF
ANN CARUCCI; BOON
WANG LAM AS HEIR
AND DISTRIBUTE OF
THE ESTATE OF ANN
CARUCCI; KIMBERLY
A. LAM A/K/A
KIMBERLY ABBI AS
HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE
OF THE ESTATE OF
ANN CARUCCI; THE
UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-
LAW, NEXT-OF-KIN,
DISTRIBUTEES,
EXECUTORS,
ADMINISTRATORS,
TRUSTEES,
BENEFICIARIES,
DEVEISEES, LEGATEES,
ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,
CREDITORS AND
SUCCESSORS IN
INTEREST AND
GENERALLY ALL
PERSONS AND PARTIES
HAVING OR CLAIMING,

UNDER, BY OR
THROUGH THE
DECEDENT ANN
CARUCCI, BY
PURCHASE,
INHERITANCE, LIEN OR
OTHERWISE, ANY
RIGHT, TITLE OR
INTEREST IN AND TO
THE PREMISES
DESCRIBED IN THE
COMPLAINT HEREIN;
NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
TAXATION AND
FINANCE; UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA
(EASTERN DISTRICT);
"JOHN DOE #1"
through "JOHN DOE
#10" inclusive, the
names of the ten last
name Defendants being
fictitious, real names
unknown to the
Plaintiff, the parties
intended being persons
or corporations having
an interest in, or
tenants or persons in
possession of, portions
of the mortgaged
premises described in
the Complaint,
Defendants - Index No.
605392/2026 Plaintiff
Designates Nassau
County as the Place of
Trial. The Basis of
Venue is that the
subject premises is
situated in Nassau
County. To the above
named Defendants-
YOU ARE HEREBY
SUMMONED to answer
the Complaint in this
action and to serve a
copy of your Answer or,
if the Complaint is not
served with this
Summons, to serve a
Notice of Appearance
upon the Plaintiff's
attorney within twenty
(20) days after the
service of this
Summons, exclusive of
the date of service or
within thirty (30) days
after the service is
complete if this
Summons is not
personally delivered to
you within the State of
New York. If you fail to
so appear or answer,
judgment will be taken
against you by default
for the relief demanded
in the Complaint. That
this Summons is being
filed pursuant to an
order of the court dated
July 27, 2026. NOTICE-
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF
LOSING YOUR HOME - If
you do not respond to
this summons and
complaint by serving a
copy of the answer on
the attorney for the
mortgage company who
filed this foreclosure
proceeding against you
and filing the answer with
the court, a default
judgment may be
entered and you can
lose your home. Speak
to an attorney or go to
the court where your

Love, local ingredients: Sea Cliff's cookie maker

By JULIA CAPITELLI

jcapitelli@liherald.com

For Sea Cliff resident Bill Kocis, baking has always been a family affair. He began his cookie business roughly six years ago and brought it to Sea Cliff when he moved to the village a year and a half ago.

Kocis' business, Sugar Daddy Baker, sells cookies six ounces or larger. Many of the flavor combinations may not be found in the mainstream. Kocis said that coming from an Italian background, his interest in baking began as a "family thing."

"My grandmother was an awesome baker, and my mom is a really good baker," he added. "Some of her recipes have trickled down and sort of became a part of my business now."

Kocis grew up outside New York, in places like Burlington, Vermont and Greenwich, Connecticut. He has lived in New York City and on Long Island. He and his daughter, Maddie, moved to Roslyn after the Covid-19 pandemic. After renting in Sea Cliff, a house on the same street went up for sale, and Kocis bought it.

Sugar Daddy Baker takes online orders and operates as a farm stand-style booth on Sundays. The business is registered and licensed with the New York State Department of Agriculture.

"My daughter hates the name," Kocis joked.

The business was rebranded roughly a year ago, taking on its current name because Kocis is a single dad who loves to bake.

"My daughter calls me Papa," he said. "But I couldn't call it Sugar Papa, so the whole thing just became a play on words."

Kocis bakes cookies while wearing a suit, something he considers a unique and special part of his brand. Coming home from work in New York City, he immediately puts on his apron and gets to work in the kitchen. He started by just baking for his daughter after work.

"And then her friends' parents were like, 'What's that cookie? What's that cookie?'" Kocis said. "So, it became this

whole thing."

It all began with what is now known as the "Big as your head" chocolate walnut chunk cookie, which Kocis refers to as the "launching pad." Kocis explained that the chocolate walnut cookie is a combination of a crispy edge and gooey center, making it "the best of both worlds."

Kocis said there is a lot of experimentation involved with introducing new cookie flavors. Sugar Daddy Baker offers a peanut butter, pickle and pretzel cookie. Kocis joked that the pickle will not have customers saying, "what the hell is that?"

"It's a little after note, but it's definitely there," he said, "and it just adds the nice salty kind of umami situation, and it pairs really well with peanut butter."

Working in real estate in a corporate setting, Kocis described getting to bake once he gets home as "such a relief."

He added that so far, community feedback in Sea Cliff has been positive, and he has gained loyal customers.

"It honestly brings me so much joy," he said. "I'm very grateful for what I get to do. People really have enjoyed the product and the whole story behind it."

Kocis sources his ingredients locally, from businesses within New York State. He said that this is important to him because it helps other local businesses.

"It's a through line for me," Kocis said. "What I put into things personally, kind of comes out in the product."

He added that his goal is to bring his "made-with-love" cookies to the community and offer a spot in Sea Cliff for people to stop by and visit the village.

Kocis described himself as an "artistic soul." With an acting background, he has been on Broadway and "Law & Order." He appeared on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" several times between 2002 and 2024.

"I've had a varied career, let's put it that way," he said. "It's not been boring. So, this all makes sense. Me landing in Sea Cliff, and then this fun little Sugar Daddy Baker pop-up, and it's just all been great."



BILL KOCIS



PUBLIC NOTICES

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action. YOU MUST
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ANSWER ON THE
ATTORNEY FOR THE

PLAINTIFF (GITSIT
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CAPACITY BUT SOLELY
IN ITS CAPACITY AS
SEPARATE TRUSTEE OF
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LOAN TRUST BBPLC1)
AND FILING THE
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COURT. The foregoing
summons is served
upon you by

publication pursuant to
an order of the
Honorable Jeffrey A.
Goodstein A.J.S.C.
Dated: July 27, 2026
Filed: August 6, 2026.
The object of this
action is to foreclose a
mortgage and covering
the premises known as
21 Valentine Street,
Glen Cove, NY 11542.
Dated: March 11, 2026

Filed: March 11, 2026
Knuckles & Manfro,
LLP, Attorney for
Plaintiff, By: Jordan J.
Manfro, Esq., 120
White Plains Road,
Suite 215, Tarrytown,
New York 10591
Phone: (914) 345-3020
161971

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OPINIONS

A morning I will never – ever – forget

In two weeks we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 — the deadliest attack on American soil in the nation's history. Nearly 3,000 innocent people were killed that day, and the death and suffering didn't end there. In the years that followed, thou-

sands more became ill and, in many cases, died from the toxic dust in and around the World Trade Center.

Each year, as Sept. 11 approaches, I think back to that day, and how it began so beautifully and uneventfully. I was in Washington, in a car with my chief

of staff, Rob O'Connor, heading toward the Capitol. The sky was exceptionally clear — great for flying, I thought. I figured my wife, Rosemary's, plane would be right on time.

That night was to be the annual congressional barbecue on the south lawn of the White House — the first of George W. Bush's presidency. Most members of Congress and their spouses

would be there. Rosemary was due to land at D.C.'s Reagan National Airport at about 9:40 a.m.

The morning traffic wasn't particularly heavy. The Capitol dome was in clear sight as I scanned the morning paper. Then Rob's cellphone rang. It was my press secretary, Kevin Fogarty, telling us matter-of-factly that he'd heard on "The Today Show" that a commuter plane had crashed into the World Trade Center.

Then we heard on the radio that the plane had hit high on the north tower, exploding "like a bomb." That didn't sound like a commuter plane. I feared that Rosemary's 8:30 flight out of LaGuardia might have been near Lower Manhattan about the time of the crash.

Kevin called back to say that the flight had been held and was on the runway, but he had no further details. My daughter, Erin, called. She had just spoken with her husband, John, who worked four blocks north of the trade center and had seen the crash. "It's just massive," he told her. "Flames and black smoke shooting out. Debris flying through the air."

I got out at the Cannon Building, walked up to my fourth-floor office and opened the door to the reception area. It was 9:03. I looked up toward the television on top of a bookcase, and watched as a huge jet flew directly into a tower and exploded in soaring flames. At first I thought it was a video of the north tower crash, but then I realized it was a second plane.

Erin called again. John had seen the plane coming in his direction before it hit the south tower, and he began to run down from his 28th-floor office. Still no word from Rosemary. My calls went directly to her voicemail.

I managed to contact my son, Sean, who worked at the Commerce Department. As we were talking, at 9:21, Rosemary called. Having no idea what was happening, she complained about her plane being taken back to the terminal and the airport being shut down. "How am I supposed to get to the White House tonight?" she asked.

"New York is under attack," I told her. "Terrorists have attacked the World Trade Center." Just then I heard the pilot of her plane making that announcement,

and passengers shrieking.

My district office director, Anne Rosenfeld, who was very pregnant, drove to LaGuardia to pick up Rosemary. Erin was concerned that she hadn't heard again from John. But at 9:35 she called with the good news that he had found a cab that took him to the 59th Street Bridge, and was now taking another cab home.

At 9:43, CNN reported an attack on the Pentagon. We were at war. Capitol police were evacuating the Cannon Building, and there was a report of an explosion near the Commerce Department. I called Sean, but his line was dead.

He called at 9:55. The report was false, and I breathed a sigh of relief. For a moment I allowed myself to think all was well. But of course, it wasn't. The next report was of the crash of Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa.

For days, weeks and months there would be news of friends, neighbors and so many more who had died. The funerals were endless. Our lives would never be the same. Most important, though, America never wavered. We fought back, and the struggle continues.

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



PETER KING

The joy of a community that shows up

There is a version of the school budget that gets told every spring on Long Island. Tax levies, state aid figures, reserve balances, percentage caps. That version is accurate, but it's only part of the picture. A school budget is also a statement of what a community values.

This past year was our first working together in our respective roles in Glen Cove, and it tested that idea. A great deal was asked of us as a community. We grieved losses together, and said goodbye to members of our school district who gave so much to our schools. We stood beside families through some of the hardest moments a family can face. We also met emergencies and disruptions that no plan fully prepares anyone for.

Significant storms brought power outages across our buildings. A remote day was pulled together in just a few hours. Three gym floors required emergency remediation. Construction tested our patience and asked all of us to stay flexible. Through every one of these challenges, our staff kept our students calm, safe and learning. Most days, our children never felt the busyness happening behind the scenes.

The budget was its own difficult season. The financial pressures we face are the same ones challenging districts across Long Island and New York. Costs rise faster than allowable revenue. Health insurance and retirement obligations are set far outside any district's control. Special education needs, which are a legal mandate and a moral commitment, cost more every year. Aid formulas don't keep pace with local expenses.

None of this is unique to Glen Cove. What we believe is unique here is how we approached the development of our budget. We built models and ran scenario after scenario, testing what different assumptions would mean two and three years out rather than only this September.

We brought those scenarios to Board of Education meetings, to work sessions, and to faculty and PTA town halls. Residents and staff asked hard questions. Trustees pushed for details. People stayed with the process from the first workshop through the vote in May. When our budget passed, it represented a community deciding together what it was committed to protecting.

So what did our budget protect? It protected the conditions that produced a

remarkable year. Newsday data shows that our elementary schools have climbed 11 spots in regional rankings in just two years, which means we have overtaken 11 districts in state test proficiency. Our AP Scholars and AP Capstone numbers have grown for five straight years. The College Board recognized Glen Cove for our work in expanding access to college-level coursework.

Glen Cove High School was named one of the best high schools in the nation for 2025-26, and a Premier School for Theatre Education by the Educational Theatre Association, one of only 15 schools nationwide to receive that distinction. Our second-grade First in Math team from Deasy School was crowned state champion. Our visual arts, GCTV, performing and instrumental groups, DECA, yearbook and athletic teams brought home honor after honor.

Our budget protected the work that rarely makes headlines. The teaching. The coaching. The meals served, the buildings cleaned, the grounds kept beautiful and the students kept healthy and safe. When our central office clerical staff was displaced by construction,

they kept payroll, transportation, enrollment, facilities, and every other operation running without a single interruption.

We don't pretend that the difficult decisions are behind us. The pressures shaping this year will shape the next several years, here and across the state, and we intend to keep those conversations public, keeping transparency our priority and always sharing real numbers.

This past school year taught us something worth carrying forward. When you give a community the full picture, including the uncomfortable and difficult parts, that community will respond with resolve and support. Our staff, our trustees and our residents did exactly that.

Thank you for a first year in these roles that we will both remember. We are grateful to serve this district alongside people who care so very much for the students and community we serve.

Alexa Doeschner, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Glen Cove City School District, and Theresa Kahan is the district's assistant superintendent for business and operations.



ALEXA DOESCHNER



THERESA KAHAN

**GLEN COVE
HERALD**

Established 1991

Incorporating the
Gold Coast Gazette in 2016

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Published by

Richner Communications, Inc.
2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530
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HERALD EDITORIAL

Solving the who-needs-to-know mystery

Information has never been easier to share — and somehow, it has never been easier to misunderstand.

A text message can reach a dozen people in seconds. Emails can be forwarded with a click. Group chats keep families, friends and co-workers connected. Businesses communicate through websites, social media, apps and automated messages.

Yet confusion remains remarkably common.

Often, the problem isn't that people disagree. It's that they're working with different information.

One person thinks the family gathering starts at 2, while another was told 3. Two employees complete the same task because no one clearly assigned responsibility. A customer expects one thing, because that's what a website says, only to hear something different from an employee. A plan changes, but the people affected never get the message.

Then come the assumptions. People fill in gaps when information is missing. They guess what someone meant. They assume someone else handled a task. When things go wrong, frustration can quickly become anger or resentment.

We should advocate for something simple but too often overlooked: better coordination and clearer communication. That doesn't mean turning every decision into a meeting, copying everyone on every email or creating another group chat. It means being intentional.

Who needs to know? What do they need to know? Who is responsible? Has

something changed? If it has, have the affected people been told?

Consider your family. Planning a birthday party, a holiday gathering or a weekend outing can get complicated when several people make arrangements independently. Maybe someone buys food that someone else already bought. A guest is given one time, while everyone else has another. A few minutes spent making sure everyone has the same information can prevent hours of frustration.

The same applies to friends and co-workers. When plans change, people need to know. When responsibilities are divided, everyone should understand who is doing what. When there's uncertainty, asking a question is almost always better than making an assumption.

Businesses and organizations have a responsibility, too. Customers shouldn't have to navigate conflicting information depending on whether they visit a website, receive an email or speak with an employee. If hours change, services become unavailable or procedures are different, that information should be updated where customers are most likely to find it.

Clear communication also means acknowledging when something has changed. Too often, people continue operating according to an outdated plan because no one made the extra call, sent the email or had the necessary conversation. A few minutes of communication can head off lots of unnecessary work.

Communication is a two-way respon-

sibility. Sending information isn't enough; sometimes we need to make sure it was understood. That can be as simple as asking, "Does everyone understand the plan?" or "Are we all on the same page?"

Clarity builds trust. When people know what is expected, who is responsible and where things stand, they're more likely to feel respected and confident. When information is unclear, people are left to guess — and guessing is where misunderstandings begin.

There's a broader lesson for our communities. Schools, municipalities, civic organizations, nonprofits and businesses are more likely to earn cooperation when people understand what is happening and why. Clear communication makes it easier for residents and customers to participate and understand decisions.

The answer isn't necessarily more emails, meetings or messages. It is better information delivered to the right people at the right time, with clear responsibility for what happens next. Before assuming someone else handled something or becoming frustrated because someone "should have known," we should first ask whether they were actually told.

In our families, friendships and workplaces and our dealings with businesses and organizations, we can all do a better job of making sure the right people have the right information. It takes little effort — and can save us a lot of time, frustration and aggravation.

LETTERS

How much did county residents pay for that presidential rally?

To the Editor:

Re President Trump's rally at the Nassau County Police Department's training facility on Aug. 14 ("A high-profile Blakeman backer pays a visit," Aug. 20-26): The rally's theme was public safety, and how Nassau County is the safest county in the U.S. The truth is that our county first achieved that accolade under the leadership of then County Executive Laura Curran.

As I watched the rally on television, it sure looked like a campaign event, with everyone running for office on the Republican ticket invited up to the stage to receive the president's endorsement. The backdrop for all of this was the hundreds of police officers and trainees who were cheering on the same president who pardoned the folks who attacked police officers on Jan. 6, 2021,



OPINIONS

Traveling the road solo and with no GPS

The last column I wrote was an obituary for my husband, Don, who died in July. This month I hoped to move on to my usual subjects like politics, or the life and times of my grandkids, or the weird and wonderful touchstones of our evolving culture. In 40 years of column

writing, I've never been at a loss for words.

But this loss is different. I discovered that I'm not myself anymore; more challenging, I'm not sure who I am. When you're a partner in a 58-year-long marriage, identity becomes somewhat fluid. We

were a "we" and now I'm an "I."

The reminders are constant, some profound, some silly. When would I ever buy one banana? How do I change the lightbulbs? I'd like to step out to dinner, but I've never sat across from an empty chair. I walk the dog and realize that no one would know if I fell into the bushes and spent the night alfresco.

I'm not feeling sorry for myself, just observing from an emotional distance how the scenery, the characters and the story have changed completely. And I'm not yet sure what part I'm playing.

I explored not doing what I ordinarily do. I ate a sweet potato and a bowl of Haagen Dazs for dinner. No protein-starch-vegetable pyramid. I stayed up all night and slept all morning. I went to the mailbox in our building and realized I couldn't reach it. That was Donnie's job.

Sometimes I find myself wondering where he could've gone. How is this possible? We have A.I. Why hasn't someone figured this out? I see signs in nature and out of nature, like the perfect, long-stemmed red rose that came floating my way in the ocean. I'm a super-grounded person, yet I'm willing to let my thoughts take flight.

Of course, I'm reading all the grief literature and, of course, on Facebook, thanks to its mind-reading algorithms, everything that has ever been published about grief is on my page. I've heard more from Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

in the past month than in my entire life, and she's been dead for 22 years. "Uplifting" poetry and exotic mourning rituals fill my page.

Strangest of all, I've heard from people out of the past — the way, way past. People I knew in college or my first job, people who heard from a friend of a friend and just wanted to say what a champ my Donnie was. How sweet that so many people stop for a moment and write down words that will land in my mailbox and lighten the weight of these days, even briefly.

This is part of what I do now in these early days: I curate the memories of our life together. My kids and I try to figure out the unfathomable. We distract ourselves with activity and open books we never actually read.

My other job is saying yes. According to the experts, I must say yes to every opportunity to see people, even though they may be irritating nudniks who were never part of my life.

And I need to join widows' groups, friends advise. But wait; I want to embrace my old friends. I like the cou-

ples, the women and men with whom we dined and hung out. They, especially, share my memories. No friendship possibility need be exclusionary.

The categorization of women whose partner has died is problematic. I have always had difficulty with the word "widow." There is something about the word, which comes from Old English and meant "lonely," "separate" and "divide." And, of course, the spider.

I don't think we need to be identified by our marital status. Recently I was filling out a form, and it asked if I was married, single, widowed, divorced. And I thought, nobody's damn business. My husband's death should not change my official identity. Except maybe for Social Security.

For my next column, I promise, I'll stay anchored in the everyday world. Maybe back to politics. When I wrote Don's obituary, I received dozens of supportive, loving notes from readers, and I thank you all. This has set a new standard for me. Ordinarily when I open an email, I'm expecting big-time political push back. This was a sweet, healing interlude, connecting with readers heart to heart. Let it be.

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RANDI
KREISS

I'm told I need to join widows' groups. But I prefer the couples we hung out with.

LETTERS

at the U.S. Capitol.

I wonder how much of our county funds, raised by residents' taxes, were spent on salaries and overtime to have those police in the stands, provide protection for the president and close our streets and highways for the convoy of vehicles through our county that day. Is that the wisest way to use our county tax dollars? How does this help our citizens and communities?

BILL YOUNGFERT
Franklin Square

A stronger grid for Long Island

To the Editor:

This month marked the 23rd anniversary of the Northeast blackout that left 50 million residents in the dark. The event is a stark reminder of what can happen when critical transmission infrastructure fails, and why projects like Propel NY are essential.

Electric transmission is the backbone of our energy system, moving electricity long distances from where it's generated to the communities that depend on it. While we have made progress since the 2003 blackout, the lesson from that historic event remains clear: Our grid is only as strong as its weakest link.

The state's grid operator, New York

Independent System Operator, has been sounding the alarm about growing reliability challenges on Long Island and in the downstate region. Winter cold snaps and summer heat waves are putting enormous strain on the grid, requiring emergency procedures to keep the lights on. Without investment, the region faces increasing risk to energy reliability.

Propel NY is a key solution to ensure that Long Island and the downstate region have the necessary infrastructure to deliver power for our growing needs. Put simply, Propel is designed to avoid brownouts and blackouts while strengthening the local economy and lowering the cost of power.

Our transmission network operates like a highway system, and it's now experiencing bumper-to-bumper traffic. Power that could serve the area can't get here efficiently or economically due to bottlenecks on aging transmission lines. Picture the Throgs Neck and Whiteshore bridges at rush hour, with dead-stopped traffic. Propel is the equivalent of adding three new "bridges" between Long Island and the statewide grid to create new pathways for power flows. It will reduce congestion, lower electricity costs and significantly reduce the risk of power interruptions.

Propel doesn't rely on one generation source — whatever power is available and less expensive can move on Propel. This provides the NYISO with more flexibility to power the region with modern underground cables, even under

FRAMEWORK by Emma Bellissimo



On the sand by a beloved amusement park — Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

challenging circumstances.

With growing power demand, extreme weather and grid congestion, investing in modern, resilient transmission systems isn't optional. Every mile of upgraded line and every new

substation bring us closer to a future where blackouts are history.

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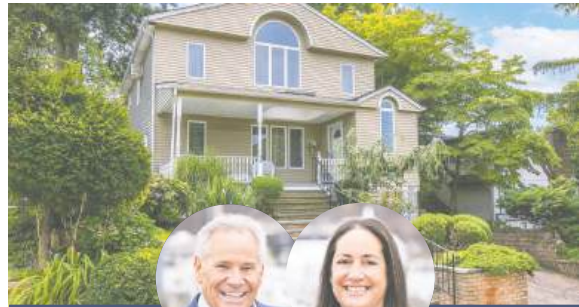
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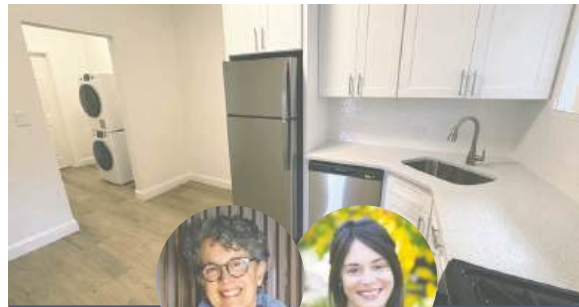
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